

FALL 2023

# Membership Newsletter



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR WINNIPEG CHAMBER CHAIR

*Jeannette Montufar-MacKay*  
MORR Transportation Consulting Ltd.

Welcome back to another year of events at The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Being sworn in as the new Chair of The Winnipeg Chamber this past October 5th was an absolute honour.

Last year was one of transformation and celebration as we celebrated our 150th anniversary. I see 2023/2024 as one to start laying the foundation for the next 150 years with respect to The Winnipeg Chamber's key objectives of leadership, connection, and growth.

The Chamber has had great success leading our Commitment to Opportunity, Diversity, and Equity (CODE) initiative. I see myself continuing to work with the business community to expand CODE to achieve gender equality and equality, including minority groups, particularly at the decision-making level and regarding compensation. True diversity can only be achieved through equality, not just by hiring a diverse workforce.

The changing fabric of Winnipeg's society calls for a connection between newcomers and employers who could benefit from these great resources for continued economic growth. Equally important to Winnipeg's economic growth is connecting with indigenous communities and businesses, as their success is the success of our city. I am looking forward to these connections!

The next 150 years will require a paradigm shift in how we participate as a business community in the business of society. Our world is changing rapidly in many exciting ways – and we can be enablers of change as a business community. I encourage everyone to become the creators of the change they want to see. This will go a long way in retaining great people in Winnipeg and creating a city that makes us proud!



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR WINNIPEG CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

*Loren Remillard*

It's been a year of change, punctuated with a new mayor, and most recently, a new Premier and provincial government. Optimism abounds, albeit measured against the tangible challenges of rising inflation, wages, and debt, compounding the difficulties many in our community face.

As with all change, what lies before us is a profound opportunity for growth and renewal.

Throughout this period of transition and change, your Chamber has remained a steadfast advocate, committed to championing your interests with a focus on the well-being of your businesses and the livelihoods of your employees.

Our purpose is clear; our commitment strong; our value and impact visible.

In collaboration with our members, we have initiated crucial conversations, provided informed perspectives, and tirelessly championed policies that advance the economic health of our community. Advocacy is not merely a role we play; it is a responsibility we shoulder with diligence and dedication.

The Chamber is grateful for your ongoing support and engagement. Together, we have weathered storms, navigated uncharted territories, and emerged stronger. Rest assured, The Winnipeg Chamber will continue to be your unwavering advocate, ensuring your voices are heard, and your interests are prioritized.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of being your champion for that which you value – your business and our community.



## CODE UPDATE COMMITMENT TO OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

*Sanjana Vijayann, Director of Diversity & Inclusion*  
*Veronica Valenzuela, DEI Officer*

**W**e are celebrating two remarkable years of CODE! Reflecting on our collective achievements fills us with gratitude. Let's delve into the highlights that defined our second year.

The CODE Resource Hub has become a cornerstone of knowledge-sharing in the DEI space. From the widely embraced Truth and Reconciliation Roadmap to our latest resources, the hub has garnered a 90% approval rating, with many of you recommending its valuable content.

Our CODE Events have been vibrant and educational gatherings, totalling 24 throughout the year, attended by a fantastic 691 participants. The resounding 94% satisfaction rate underscores the impact and relevance of our initiatives.

The Newcomer Employment Hub, functioning as both a job portal and a matchmaker, boasts a success rate of nearly 50% for those who interviewed. Additionally, our Engage and Employ series drew over 150 participants, with an impressive 85% finding the events highly beneficial.

Our CODE Coalition, consisting of 53 dedicated organizations, demonstrated outstanding commitment, with 98% reporting progress on Commitment #1. Dr. Aynsle Hinds, our CODE Evaluator, continues to ensure transparency and impact assessment.

As we enter our third year of programming, we invite you to stay engaged and connect with us! Visit [winnipeg-chamber.com/code](http://winnipeg-chamber.com/code) to review our upcoming programming. Let's continue our mission to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## POLICY UPDATE: POLICY AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



*Kerry Harris*  
*Director of Policy & Engagement*

**A**t The Chamber, we want to inform strategy and decision-making guided by objective data.

Decision-makers across all governments, industry, and academia must make critical choices that deliver results quickly. With a never-ending array of competing voices, values, and views, gaining consensus and finding objective facts and data can be an arduous, lengthy process without guaranteeing success. Developing policy in this environment is demanding.

The Chamber's policy team will help build bridges between various points of view by providing objective, nonpartisan, evidence-based insights—to inform public policy that's effective, equitable, and technically sound. We have learned that when we provide insights early on, the result is policy that enables action and innovation and delivers significant member-interest impact.

To achieve this, we will be establishing a hub for data-driven policy, working in collaboration with our members and strategic partners to leverage expertise to examine policy issues on a wide range of topics, generally falling into three areas: education and workforce development, energy and environment, and economic development and business climate. We must build high-ambition coalitions within these areas to provide recommendations based on real-world impacts, implications, and implementation considerations.

As a result, The Chamber will be a valuable resource for our members and government to draw on for evidence- and experiential-based insights on policy priorities.

Stay tuned over the coming months as we shape our hub and provide data-driven insights through our economic dashboards, policy papers, fact sheets, and op-eds.



## SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

*Casey Clair  
Energy and Climate Advocate*

This fall, The Chamber has been promoting Efficiency Manitoba's Programs for Business to support our business community on their energy efficiency journeys.

The Chamber continues to promote sustainable energy use through Efficiency Manitoba booths at every membership luncheon. As The Chamber's energy and climate advocate, I am readily available for questions on commercial programs, helping you choose the right program for your business, and guiding you through the application process.

A new season at The Chamber also means a new season of Sustainability Spotlights. September featured our Spirit of Winnipeg award winner in the Energy & Environment category, Assiniboine Credit Union. I look forward to promoting more sustainable business activity and the Efficiency Manitoba programs and rebates that will benefit our members the most.

So, let's have a conversation by phone at (204) 688-1304 or by email at [cclair@winnipegchamber.com](mailto:cclair@winnipegchamber.com). Come and have a chat today about the work you've accomplished, or the work you hope to accomplish, in your business for a sustainable future!

**JOIN OUR CHAMBER VOLUNTEER TEAM**

- Mentor to new members**  
Be a friendly face to introduce new members to The Chamber community
- Free tickets to our events**  
Be a part of our dynamic events by helping with setup, registration and welcoming guests
- Professional development**  
Build your leadership and relationship building skills
- Be a part of the community**  
Join our growing team of volunteers and help support local businesses

**WINNIPEG CHAMBER MEMBER TESTIMONIAL**

*"I've seen what it does for businesses... Being an entrepreneur can be very lonely, and it can sometimes feel like you are alone on this deserted island. Being a part of The Chamber gave me that community, a piece I felt was missing before I joined"*

- Amanda Buhse  
Co-founder, Coal and Canary

**The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Healthy Workplaces**

Johnston group | WCB | CPHR Manitoba

Reward your colleagues when they take on that extra task, share a new idea or complete a difficult project – they'll feel appreciated for their efforts and motivated to work even harder than before.

*Healthy Workplace Tip  
Provided by CPHR Manitoba*



## EVENTS UPDATE

**Elizabeth Cron**  
Vice President of Corporate Development & Strategy

Welcome back to another eventful year at The Chamber! Time and time again, our members tell us that they join The Chamber to connect and be a part of community. After a restful summer, our team is happy to jump right back in it to offer you and your team networking luncheons, educational forums and community roundtables.

This event year we're highlighting members who are experts in artificial intelligence, marketing, future workforce trends and sustainability. In addition to connecting with other businesses, our events is your opportunity to stay on top of business trends and learn more effective ways to do business.

As always, if you want to hear more about a specific topic or if you're interested in volunteering for our events, please reach out to me at [ecron@winnipeg-chamber.com](mailto:ecron@winnipeg-chamber.com).

Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you at the next Chamber event!



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**The Chamber**  
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

**VIP LUNCHEON**

**State of the Province**

**Honourable Wab Kinew**  
**Premier of Manitoba**

**THURSDAY**  
**DEC**  
**7**

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg  
Discounted Member Rate: \$110  
Regular Rate: \$220

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