

the Chamber

GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Business of Science & Technology aims to promote our City's science-based businesses and to bridge the gap between the science and business communities. The committee achieves this through education and the promotion of productive and interactive events, meetings and presentations involving Chamber members, government, industry and academia.

Committee: Business of Science and Technology

Meeting Date: April 27th 2016

Time: 3:15 pm-4:30 pm

Location: Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Chairs: Bill Lewis, Sandra Ribeiro

In Attendance: Bill Lewis, Sandra Ribeiro

Staff: Kent Smith-Windsor, Czarina Catambing, Kevin Meldrum

Introductions and Review of Last Meeting's Minutes

SWOT Analysis Review

STRENGTHS

- ❑ Saskatoon people are generally honest.
- ❑ University and Saskatoon Polytechnic people and facilities
- ❑ Canadian Light Source people and facilities
- ❑ Educated workforce
- ❑ Innovation Place: facility and support for technology entrepreneurs
- ❑ Saskatoon's real lifestyle opportunities

WEAKNESSES

- ❑ Citizens of Saskatoon are unaware of the amount and quality of SCI Tech businesses in Saskatoon
- ❑ Citizens of Canada are unaware of the amount and quality of SCI Tech businesses in Saskatoon
- ❑ Citizens of Earth are unaware of the amount and quality of SCI Tech businesses in Saskatoon
- ❑ More business accelerator activity needed to fill gap in entrepreneurial flight path
- ❑ Saskatoon's poor reputation for lifestyle opportunities within Canada (reputation dominated by winter weather) (businesses and workers reluctant to move here without seeking the facts).

THREATS

- ❑ Regulatory changes that affect SCI Tech businesses
- ❑ Economic downturns

OPPORTUNITIES

- ❑ Internet access allows SCI Tech businesses to locate in Saskatoon
- ❑ Government programs (such as InnovationSask).
- ❑ Saskatoon has become more cosmopolitan.

Events

- Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP)
 - Event link: <https://saskinteractive.com/event/information-session-build-canada-innovation-program-bcip/>
- Meet the ILO, May 5th

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- ILO #1 in IP Licensing in Canada
- Innovation Place, 2:30PM
- 14 non-staff registrants, 2 staff (as of April 27th)
- Send invitation to Prabha, GDI, Indian Equity, Capital Network, Square One

Potential Projects with Innovation Place

- 60 Ideas in 60 Minutes
 - Idea taken from the Chamber of Commerce Conference
 - Giving a platform for tenants at Innovation Place to pitch to the business community
 - Chamber can bring the business community to Innovation Place
- Committee can provide workshops enhancing the “soft business skills” of Innovation Place tenants

Innovation Box

- Producing a white paper will allow the committee to establish brand presence
- Sask party talked about Innovation Box from the Netherlands, capturing innovation product and putting a wall around it for taxation and taxing it at a lower rate. It is not same as SRED credit
- Policy not yet done in North America, so the rule book for has not been written yet (opportunity to set the precedent)
- Saskatchewan can outreach to entrepreneurs
 - Potential people/organizations to contact: Mark Pickard (Infra-ready products), Terry Bergen (IRD), Joe Vidal (Hitachi, Bioriginal), Brennen (Vendasta), Solido, Venmar, Ray Bazler (SED Systems)
 - Questions should be around what the policy should look like, and suggestions can be submitted to government before rules get set
 - Sanj has some ideas he presented at BioteCanada
 - Chamber should know what it should look like, even a white paper will be sufficient
 - Need to have science minds around it, who had experience to know how to improve their business
 - Potential Leads: Andy Melnyk of Innovation Saskatchewan, Sanj Singh from BioteCanada, and Johannes Dyring from ILO
- On June 1st, there will be provincial budget and Kent will be responding to it.
 - Kent: Tentatively yes, but rules are not yet established
 - Committee can contribute their insights and Kent can communicate their stance
 - Would be good to know what has been done, and have an action plan
- **Action plan:** Czarina will reach out to Sanj Singh and Sandra will reach out to Andy Melnyk

Health on Tap

- May be of interest to this committee because Health Opportunities Committee will feature health innovators in the province

MOSO

- One-day conference on June 17th for science, art, technology, and business
- Chamber members can receive discounts for their passes

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Membership Drive

- Czarina will draft email for Sandra to look at
 - Clean up member list
 - Have upcoming events and activities ready

Next meeting:

May 25th 2016

3:15pm-4:30pm

Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce