

# 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:** May 25<sup>th</sup> 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

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Saskatoon people are generally honest.</li><li>❑ University and Saskatoon Polytechnic people and facilities</li><li>❑ Canadian Light Source people and facilities</li><li>❑ Educated workforce</li><li>❑ Innovation Place: facility and support for technology entrepreneurs</li><li>❑ Saskatoon's real lifestyle opportunities</li></ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Citizens of Saskatoon are unaware of the amount and quality of SCI Tech businesses in Saskatoon</li><li>❑ Citizens of Canada are unaware of the amount and quality of SCI Tech businesses in Saskatoon</li><li>❑ Citizens of Earth are unaware of the amount and quality of SCI Tech businesses in Saskatoon</li><li>❑ More business accelerator activity needed to fill gap in entrepreneurial flight path</li><li>❑ 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).</li></ul>
<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Regulatory changes that affect SCI Tech businesses</li><li>❑ Economic downturns</li></ul>	<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Internet access allows SCI Tech businesses to locate in Saskatoon</li><li>❑ Government programs (such as InnovationSask).</li><li>❑ Saskatoon has become more cosmopolitan.</li></ul>

---

### Innovation Box

- There is an issue about SkipTheDishes receiving a \$3M training grant from the government
- Skepticism towards Innovation Box's ability of capturing economic value was noted
- Government made an announcement about innovation box prior to election

# the Chamber

## GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Questions to be considered: (1) Patent box vs. Innovation box (2) Can you take a patented technology outside of province and still give it a preferred tax treatment in province?  
Companies/technologies that qualify SR&ED will qualify for the Innovation box policy
  - Stance: “One tool will not fix everything”
- Longest established Innovation Box system is Ireland in 2000, and it has been successful
- Committee can encourage the right players in the community to be involved

### Meet the ILO

- The event ran a bit too long
- Attendance of business people were lower than expected
- ILO personnel prefers to do presentations downtown
- Connect ILO to businesses by narrowing down to certain industries (i.e. present to committees, such as Agribusiness, Environmental Sustainability, and Health Opportunities committees)
  - Action item: Invite committee chairs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to view ILO's Powerpoint presentations to pull out items that can be of interest to their committees. Let committees see their availability to have ILO representative present.
  - ILO can bring in researchers
  - Environmental Sustainability Committee has a surprising ability to find market demand

### Engaging Innovation Place Tenants

- Exhibition-type where businesses can set up booths
  - Chamber used to host Chamber After-Hours that is similar to a tradeshow and Innovation Place also hosted Innovation After-Hours
  - Committee can resurrect that project, but need to keep in mind that the host needs to shoulder the cost
- Innovation Place tenants can present to business people
  - Problem: Chamber members might experience event fatigue from networking events
  - Innovation Place people are wanting to get out of the bubble, but are unsure how to do so
- Have a special table reserved for Innovation Place tenants in business networking events and invite them
  - May be great with H.O.T. 4.16

### Next meeting:

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016

3:15pm-4:30pm

Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce