

SASKATOON'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2026

BUSINESS VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF

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SASKATOON'S BIGGEST BUSINESS NETWORK



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CHAMBER EVENTS

Big issues. Bold ideas. Best practices. Our event line-up connects you to the people, trends and topics that matter most. Following our social media platforms is the best way to get real-time updates on our latest happenings.



PRESENTS

— the *Chamber* —

POWER UP! SERIES

Power up with practical advice and resources to give you an edge in today's competitive environment.

This dynamic series features industry experts who provide real-world tips and tools to boost your business – right away!



PRESENTS

CHAMBER ON TAP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5PM

LOCATION: *Lucky Bastard* Distillers

CATERING BY: **TASTE.**

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— 2026 —

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Saskatoon's premier business awards program, honouring businesses and non-profit organizations that exemplify excellence, innovation, and achievement in our community.



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Building Momentum Together

It is an honour and a privilege to step into the role of Chair of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. As I look back on the past year, I am genuinely proud of what this organization has accomplished, and deeply excited about what lies ahead.

The numbers tell a compelling story. Through 2025-2026, the Chamber welcomed 119 new members, hosted 28 events, processed 657 Certificates of Origin, and grew our social media community to over 15,800 followers. These aren't just statistics, they represent real businesses, real relationships, and real impact across our city. That our newsletter reaches nearly 3,100 combined subscribers is a testament to how much our members value staying connected and informed.

One of the standout moments of the year was the 30th Anniversary of SABEX, made possible by the generous support of presenting sponsor Conexus Credit Union. Celebrating Saskatoon's best businesses across 11 categories, with Hearth Restaurant taking home Business of the Year; was a reminder of just how much talent and ambition exist in this community. Moments like these are why the work we do matters.

We also took meaningful steps forward on several key initiatives. The launch of the ChamberPerks App brought our member discount program into the digital age, giving both members and the general public access to thousands of savings locally and across Canada. Our partnership with SREDA on the SOAR Indigenous Entrepreneurs Pitch Competition reflected our commitment to economic reconciliation and supporting a broader vision of business success in Saskatoon.

On the advocacy front, your Chamber was active and vocal. From air service and data centre development to the costs of petty crime and the 1st Avenue BRT proposal, we showed up for Saskatoon's business community at every level, local, provincial, and national. This is the voice you trust us to carry forward, and we take that responsibility seriously.

None of this happens without the incredible network of sponsors, partners, and community organizations who stand alongside us. A heartfelt thank you to Conexus Credit Union, SaskTel, Saskatchewan Blue Cross, Chambers Plan, ATB Wealth, BHP, and the many other sponsors and partners whose support makes our programs and events possible. You are the backbone of what we build together.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous leadership of outgoing Chair Louis Aussant, whose passion and dedication have left this organization stronger and more connected than ever. I am grateful to carry that momentum forward.

To our new and returning Board of Directors, Andrea Crittenden, Tyler Case, Stephanie Clovechok, Gavin Conacher, Conrad Ehr, Kimberly Evans, Tara Faris, Milton Greyeyes, Trevor Jacek, Tammy Sweeney, and Cole Wilson; I look forward to working alongside each of you. This is a remarkable group of leaders, and I know our members are in excellent hands.

As we look ahead to 2026-2027, I am energized by the possibilities. Saskatoon is a city on the rise, and the Chamber will continue to be its biggest business network, championing growth, fostering connection, and ensuring the voice of business is heard loud and clear.

Here's to a great year ahead.

Wanda Waldner, Chair
Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce



“

As we look ahead to 2026-2027, I am energized by the possibilities. Saskatoon is a city on the rise, and the Chamber will continue to be its biggest business network, championing growth, fostering connection, and ensuring the voice of business is heard loud and clear.

Saskatoon Chamber Board Chair Wanda Waldner

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Saskatoon Deserves Better Oversight of Its Own Services

By Jason Aebig, CEO, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce



“After benchmarking Saskatoon's municipal service audit function against comparable Canadian cities, the picture is clear: we rank low or last among our peers in service audit capacity. And the consequences are real.”

Saskatoon has a mission: excellence in public service delivery. It's a worthy goal; the kind of commitment residents and businesses rightly expect from a city that collects over a billion dollars in annual revenue and manages the infrastructure, programs, and services that shape daily life here.

There's just one problem. We have no reliable way to know if we're actually achieving it.

That is the uncomfortable truth at the heart of a new report released by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. After benchmarking Saskatoon's municipal service audit function against comparable Canadian cities, the picture is clear: we rank low or last among our peers in service audit capacity. And the consequences are real.

Municipal service audits are how cities verify that public money is being spent wisely and that programs are delivering as promised. A well-resourced audit office identifies waste in procurement, flags underperforming contracts, assesses whether capital projects are on budget, and surfaces fraud or wrongdoing before it compounds. Done well, audit work isn't about finding fault, it's about finding ways to do better. It gives elected officials the evidence they need to make smarter budget decisions, and it gives residents confidence that City Hall is accountable.

Saskatoon has taken some steps in this direction. An Office of the City Auditor exists. We built the launchpad. We just haven't launched the rocket.

Our Office of City Auditor operates with two full-time staff members and an annual budget of roughly \$450,000 or \$1.42 per resident. The peer average is more than \$2.30. Calgary operates with 19 staff. Edmonton, 17. Even Hamilton, a smaller city, fields eight.

The resourcing gap compounds a governance problem. The City Auditor currently reports administratively to the Chief Financial Officer and presents findings through the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. There are no independent public members with audit or risk expertise on that committee. In peer cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, and Toronto, dedicated audit committees meet quarterly and include citizen members with accounting or governance credentials. Every major Canadian city we benchmarked has made room for experts. Saskatoon has not.

The consequences show up in the public record. A financial review planned for late 2023 wasn't finalized until January 2025 — more than a year late. A street sweeping audit planned for 2025 was pushed to 2026. No audit plan was developed at all in 2024. As of this spring, no 2025 annual report exists in the public record. Peer cities had their 2024 reports published by February. Audit findings that arrive after budget decisions have already been made serve no one.

Perhaps the most telling data point involves our whistleblower system. Between April 2021 and December 2022, Saskatoon received 10 complaints. In all of 2023 and 2024 combined, just three.

That isn't a sign things are going well. It likely reflects awareness gaps, scope limitations, and a lack of confidence in anonymity. Compare that to Toronto, which received 679 complaints through its fraud and waste hotline in 2024 alone, identifying \$740,000 in actual losses

and recovering \$421,000. Ottawa fielded 328 complaints. Vancouver, 173. Even Edmonton logged 82 reports, with weaknesses identified and corrective actions taken in cases where allegations ultimately couldn't be substantiated.

A 2022 roadmap to improve Saskatoon's whistleblower program has been repeatedly delayed and now extends to 2026–2027. The policies and communication strategies used by peer cities already exist. We do not have to invent this. We just need to decide to do it.

The Chamber's eight recommendations are practical and grounded in proven practice. We are asking City Council to establish a dedicated Audit Committee with independent public members; commit to a mid-range operating budget with four to five full-time staff; set fixed annual reporting deadlines; launch a structured value-for-money audit program targeting high-cost, high-stakes areas like transit reliability, capital project delivery, procurement, winter road maintenance, and housing; and revive the whistleblower program with quarterly public reporting on outcomes.

Over a dozen major Canadian cities have already adopted a robust Auditor General model. Saskatoon doesn't need to be first but we can be the best. We have the advantage of learning from all of them and building something better.

Service excellence starts with the intention to get insight and invest in success. Council can take steps today to ensure it has the right information, at the right time, to make the right decisions.

For the latest updates on the Chamber's advocacy efforts and issues that matter to you, visit www.saskatoonchamber.com

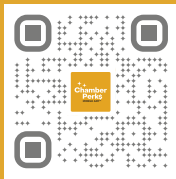
Members Spotlight

Chamber Perk\$

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Aurum Jewellery & Goldsmiths

J. Abraham Gomez is a third-generation goldsmith who proudly carries forward a family tradition of exceptional craftsmanship while embracing modern education and innovation in the jewellery industry. Building on generations of knowledge and experience, Gomez has dedicated himself to refining his skills and expanding his expertise through specialized studies at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), one of the world's most respected authorities in gemology and diamond education.

Since 2021, Gomez has completed multiple GIA courses, gaining advanced knowledge in diamonds, gemstones, jewellery design, and industry standards. In June 2026, he completed his final course and earned his diploma, marking a significant milestone in his professional journey. This achievement further strengthened his expertise and reinforced his commitment to providing clients with the highest level of quality, craftsmanship, and service.

Driven by a passion for jewellery making and entrepreneurship, Gomez founded Aurum Jewellery & Goldsmiths in 2024. The business was established with a vision of preserving traditional goldsmithing techniques while offering modern, personalized jewellery

solutions tailored to each client's unique style and preferences. Through a combination of heritage craftsmanship and ongoing education, Aurum has quickly become known for its attention to detail and commitment to excellence.

Aurum Jewellery & Goldsmiths specializes in custom fine jewellery design and personalized creations, working closely with clients to bring their ideas to life regardless of budget. The company offers a carefully selected range of natural and lab-grown certified diamonds, as well as a variety of precious gemstones, ensuring clients have access to options that align with their vision and values.

In addition to custom design services, Aurum provides expert jewellery repairs and restoration work. The company is particularly passionate about transforming heirloom and outdated pieces into new creations, preserving original gold and gemstones while reimagining them into contemporary designs that can be cherished for generations to come.

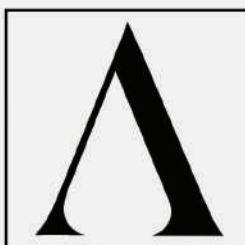
At the heart of Aurum Jewellery & Goldsmiths is the belief that every piece tells a story. More than an accessory, each creation represents a meaningful moment, a treasured memory, and a lasting connection, carefully crafted to become part of a client's personal journey.

aurumsaskatoon.com





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AURUM

JEWELLERY & GOLDSMITHS

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Members Spotlight



Black & McDonald Limited

Black & McDonald delivers fabrication, construction, and facility services across Saskatchewan, supporting local industry with safe, reliable, and efficient solutions.

As an integrated, multi-trade service provider, we bring together the people, expertise, and processes needed to move projects forward. Our teams in Saskatoon and Regina work collaboratively across disciplines, managing each stage from planning through to execution and ongoing maintenance.

We bring deep experience in fabrication and modular construction, delivering precision-built components and efficient project execution. Our Saskatoon fabrication facility operates as a fully integrated, multi-discipline shop, supporting industrial, commercial, and infrastructure projects across Western Canada. Our work includes pressure piping, HVAC duct systems (both welded and low-pressure), custom steel, and structural steel fabrication.

In addition to fabrication, our construction teams deliver a wide range of projects with safety and quality at the forefront. Our service

offerings are designed to support the long-term performance of critical assets, providing reliable support when it's needed. We also support energy efficiency initiatives, helping clients implement practical solutions that reduce impact and improve performance. Our facility services teams provide comprehensive oversight of day-to-day operations, ensuring systems run smoothly and efficiently.

With a long-standing presence in Saskatchewan and a deep commitment to doing the work right, Black & McDonald continues to deliver solutions designed to stand the test of time. blackandmcdonald.com



Honouring our Past, Inspiring our Future!

With nearly 130,000 members, Saskatoon Co-op is celebrating a milestone that reflects the Association's enduring strength and commitment to making a meaningful difference for our communities.

We are owned by our members, we share our profits, and our members help guide how we operate. Their values haven't just aligned with who we are - *they've woven the very fabric of our identity.*

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



Members Spotlight

Capitol Music Club

Since opening its doors in 2014, Capitol Music Club has become a cornerstone of Saskatoon's entertainment and events community. What began as a premier destination for live music has evolved into one of the city's most versatile and sought-after venues, welcoming thousands of guests each year for a wide range of experiences.

Known for showcasing some of Saskatchewan's finest musical talent, Capitol Music Club has built a reputation for delivering memorable live performances in an energetic and welcoming atmosphere. Over the years, the venue has hosted countless concerts featuring local, national, and international artists, helping to strengthen Saskatoon's vibrant arts and culture scene.

Beyond live music, Capitol Music Club has established itself as a premier destination for comedy shows, community gatherings, and private events of all sizes. The venue's flexible layout and professional event services make it an ideal setting for weddings, corporate

functions, holiday celebrations, fundraisers, birthdays, and special occasions. Whether hosting an intimate gathering or a large-scale event, the Capitol team is committed to creating exceptional experiences for every guest.

A key part of the Capitol experience is its outstanding hospitality. Featuring 26 draught beer lines, a fully stocked liquor selection, and a full-service kitchen, guests can enjoy a wide variety of food and beverage options while taking in world-class entertainment. The combination of quality service, excellent amenities, and a unique atmosphere has helped make Capitol Music Club a favourite destination for both locals and visitors alike.

More than just a venue, Capitol Music Club is a gathering place where people come together to celebrate, connect, and create lasting memories. Whether you're attending a live show, planning your next event, or simply looking for a great night out, Capitol Music Club continues to be one of Saskatoon's premier entertainment destinations.

capitolclubbyxe.ca



Ehrenburg Homes

Ehrenburg Homes' momentum in 2026 reflects more than a strong year, it signals a builder operating at scale with purpose. The company was named Builder of the Year in both Saskatoon and Regina, including Certified Builder of the Year for the second consecutive year in Saskatoon; an achievement that reflects consistent performance across both markets.

Alongside these major honours, Ehrenburg's recent rebrand has also gained recognition, with awards highlighting its marketing, website experience, and overall brand execution. At the same time, the company's approach to construction—particularly its focus on innovation, efficiency, and scalable building practices—continues to be

acknowledged within the industry. Together, these recognitions point to an organization that is evolving not just in how it builds homes, but in how it communicates, operates, and delivers value.

With more than 40 years of experience, Ehrenburg has built its reputation on delivering high-quality, thoughtfully designed homes that support real population growth across Saskatoon and Regina. As housing demand continues to rise, the company has taken a clear and practical approach, focusing on building efficiently and at volume to help close the gap between supply and demand. By increasing housing availability in a meaningful way, Ehrenburg is also contributing to improved affordability across the market—

creating attainable options for more people without compromising on quality, durability, or long-term value.

Looking ahead, Ehrenburg remains focused on building communities, supporting growth, and continuing to raise the standard for attainable housing in Saskatchewan.

These achievements are made possible by the trust of Ehrenburg's homeowners, the dedication of its team, and the strong partnerships with trades and suppliers across the province. Ehrenburg extends a sincere thank you to its customers, staff, and partners who make this work possible.

ehrenburg.com



Members Spotlight

Showtime Glass

When Showtime Glass was founded in 2009, its owner was just 26 years old, armed with determination, a willingness to learn, and the confidence to create opportunities through hard work and persistence. Without a large team, significant advertising resources, or a detailed roadmap for success, the business was built one relationship at a time.

The early years were defined by countless introductions, community connections, and a relentless commitment to earning trust. Challenges were embraced as learning experiences, setbacks became opportunities for growth, and each obstacle helped shape the foundation of what would become a thriving local business.

Seventeen years later, those lessons continue to guide Showtime Glass. Today, the company has established itself as a trusted name in automotive glass replacement, advanced vehicle calibrations, and custom-cut glass solutions. While technology and industry standards have evolved significantly over the years, the company's dedication to quality workmanship and exceptional customer service has remained unwavering.

A key part of that success has been the partnership between the owner and Erin, whose contributions have become integral to



the company's day-to-day operations. Together, they have fostered a customer-focused culture centred on continuous improvement and innovation. From investing in advanced equipment and refining processes to creating a welcoming environment complete with massage chairs in the waiting area, the team is committed to making every customer experience a positive one.

Looking ahead, Showtime Glass is focused on mentorship, innovation, and building a lasting legacy. A major priority is developing the next generation of skilled professionals—individuals who can learn the trade, uphold the company's values, and help lead the business into the future. At the same time, several exciting initiatives are taking shape behind the scenes, signalling promising opportunities for continued growth and evolution.

At the heart of the company's journey is the support of the Saskatoon community. For nearly two decades, customers, partners, and supporters have placed their trust in Showtime Glass, helping the business grow from a young entrepreneur's vision into a respected local success story.

The company's story serves as a reminder that success is not defined by the absence of obstacles, but by the ability to transform those obstacles into opportunities. It is a philosophy that has guided Showtime Glass for the past seventeen years—and one that will continue to shape its future.

showtimeglass.com

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Members Spotlight



ALEUS Consulting Group

It's hard to avoid talk of "AI" these days. But how often do "cyber" and "governance" enter that conversation? Likely not as often as they should. That's why ALEUS Consulting Group founder Brennen Schmidt focuses on bridging that gap.

Brennen originally planned to teach high school after graduating from university. He began his career with the Government of Saskatchewan before gaining Big Four consulting experience working with clients across North America. He later joined a firm where he split his time between Regina and Washington, DC, while remaining proudly based in Saskatchewan. There, he helped shape strategies to give organizations a competitive edge in complex multi-jurisdictional and highly regulated environments.

Today, Brennen is an independent consultant who is trusted by boards and leadership teams to move beyond conversations on AI and cybersecurity. His work shapes how governance

guardrails can support business outcomes. He also enables executive teams to shift from uncertainty to clear and practical action on AI and cyber risk, with an emphasis on human oversight and professional judgement.

He works with provincial governments, municipalities, and professional bodies across Western Canada to strengthen governance, translate AI into practical use cases, and test incident response readiness. His "cyber fire drill" (Tabletop Exercise) is a highly sought-after service. ALEUS' tailored approach focuses on empowering leaders through hands-on and realistic scenarios. Brennen applies his facilitation skills to help organizations build resilience before incidents occur.

Brennen also makes frequent media appearances with outlets across Saskatchewan and Canada and provides expert commentary that simplifies complex technology topics. He is also an avid reader and a co-author of *Cyber City Safe: Emergency Planning Beyond the Maginot Line*.

aleus.ca.

Cathedral Social, Blue Diamond, and more

Karna Desai is a Saskatchewan-based entrepreneur whose journey from newcomer to successful business owner exemplifies resilience, determination, and visionary leadership.

Born and raised in India, Karna earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree before immigrating to Canada in 2010. After arriving in Toronto, he completed an International Business Management program at Centennial College while working as a dishwasher—his first job in Canada. Like many newcomers, he embraced every opportunity, gaining valuable experience through frontline roles with McDonald's and 7-Eleven before beginning his professional career.

A turning point came in 2013 when a layoff from his position as a Canadian Pacific Railway Conductor led him back to his finance roots. He joined Prairie Branches Enterprises, a government-funded non-profit organization supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities, where he served as Finance Manager. He later advanced to Financial Supervisor with the City of North Battleford, overseeing municipal finance

functions including taxation, utilities, payroll, and financial administration.

Driven by an entrepreneurial mindset, Karna entered business ownership in 2016 with a Quesada Burritos & Tacos franchise. What began as a single venture evolved into a growing portfolio of successful businesses across Saskatchewan. Together with his business partner, Mr. Abhinay Bhatla, he expanded into transportation, hospitality, restaurants, bars, and hotels, building and acquiring respected brands throughout the province.

Among his notable achievements are the acquisition, revitalization, and growth of several well-known hospitality establishments, including Blue Diamond Restaurant, Cathedral Social Hall, Cheese toast Restaurant, and The Flats Eatery & Drinks.

Through strategic leadership, operational excellence, and a commitment to exceptional guest experiences, Karna has helped transform these businesses into valued destinations within their communities. His ventures have created employment opportunities, strengthened local economies, and contributed significantly to Saskatchewan's hospitality industry.

Today, Karna oversees multiple hospitality operations while pursuing expansion



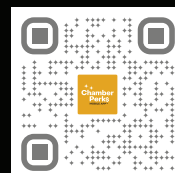
opportunities into Alberta. A proud husband and father of two, he remains deeply grateful to the people of Saskatchewan for their trust, support, and acceptance throughout his entrepreneurial journey. His story reflects the power of hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to building businesses that positively impact communities while inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs.

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Members Spotlight



Green Tree Beauty

Entrepreneurship is often born from identifying a problem and having the courage to create a solution. For Jennilee Cardinal-Schultz, founder and owner of Green Tree Beauty, that journey began with a personal challenge that ultimately transformed into one of Saskatchewan's most respected destinations for conscious beauty.

Founded in 2016, Green Tree Beauty was inspired by Jennilee's own experience developing sensitivities to conventional cosmetic products. As a professional makeup artist, she was determined to find alternatives that delivered exceptional performance without relying on harsh synthetic ingredients. What she discovered was a growing world of natural, cruelty-free, and sustainably sourced beauty products that aligned with both her professional standards and personal values.

Rather than keeping those discoveries to herself, Jennilee built a business around them. Today, Green Tree Beauty offers a carefully curated selection of skincare, cosmetics, and lifestyle products from more than 30 Canadian and international brands, serving customers from its Saskatoon boutique and online across North America.

What sets Jennilee apart is her commitment to education and authenticity. With nearly two decades of experience in makeup artistry spanning bridal, editorial, film, and commercial work, she has become a trusted advisor for clients seeking products that are both effective and aligned with their values. Her philosophy is simple: beauty should be kind to our bodies, to animals, and to the planet.

Beyond retail, Jennilee has become an influential figure within Saskatchewan's fashion and creative communities. She has led makeup teams for major fashion events and collaborated with designers, photographers, and artists to showcase local talent while promoting inclusive and sustainable beauty practices.

As Green Tree Beauty continues to grow, Jennilee remains focused on the values that inspired its creation: sustainability, wellness, and community. Her story is a reminder that successful businesses are often built not simply by selling products, but by creating meaningful change. Through Green Tree Beauty, Jennilee Cardinal-Schultz has done exactly that, helping customers make healthier, more conscious choices while proving that business can be both profitable and purposeful.

greentreebeauty.com



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Members Spotlight

Warman Wolveriness

When the puck dropped on the Warman Wolverines' first ever home game in September 2025, the Warman Home Centre Communiplex was sold out. That night did not happen by accident. It happened because a thousand families and businesses bought season tickets before a single game was played, betting that Warman deserved Junior A hockey of its own.

They were right. The Wolverines are the first SJHL franchise in the greater Saskatoon area since the late 1990s, and in one season they have become something bigger than a hockey team. Billet families across Warman open their homes to players from across Western Canada. Players visit schools and show up at community events, and through the Goals for Good program, every Wolverines goal sends \$10 to KidSport Warman so local kids can afford to play.

President Jonathan Abrametz founded the franchise on a simple premise: this is your rink, your team, your Friday night. Season two delivers more of it, with flexible ticket packages, family packs priced for real households, and corporate hospitality options that turn a night at the rink into the best client entertainment in the region. The organization also has its



eyes on a bid to host the Centennial Cup, Canada's national Junior A championship.

You do not need to know hockey to feel what is happening in that building. Come for one game. Bring the kids, bring a client, bring your

staff. Find out why the loudest barn in the SJHL is fifteen minutes north of Saskatoon. warmanwolverines.com



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Celebrating Business Milestones: Building Saskatchewan's Future, One Legacy at a Time

In business, longevity is never accidental. Behind every milestone anniversary lie thousands of decisions, countless relationships, moments of resilience, and a steadfast commitment to serving customers, employees, and communities. Whether it's ten or eighty years, reaching a significant anniversary is about far more than survival; it's about creating impact that lasts.

As Saskatchewan's business community continues to grow and evolve, these milestone organizations remind us that success is often built on fundamentals: trust, integrity, innovation, and people.

The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize six organizations whose anniversaries reflect entrepreneurship, community leadership, and unwavering commitment to Saskatchewan. From creative storytellers and community builders to trusted service providers and long-standing industry leaders, each has helped shape the province in a unique way.

Sikpics Productions – 10 Years

Ten years ago, Chris Sikorsky took a leap of faith. After five years working in broadcast television with CTV Saskatoon, covering everything from city hall meetings to natural disasters, he realized his favourite stories were always the same: stories about people. Stories of innovation, perseverance, creativity, and community impact. That passion became the foundation of Sikpics Productions. What began as a side hustle, with a camera and a vision, has grown into one of Saskatchewan's most respected production houses, helping organizations tell stories that connect, inspire, and move audiences to action.

In the early days, projects were relatively straightforward. Today, Sikpics manages sophisticated productions spanning strategic planning, scripting, location scouting, drone operations, talent coordination, and multi-platform campaigns. As the business grew, so did the team. Key hires, including Director of Client Delight Kirstin Meadows and Saskatoon Broadcast Legend Derek Watson, helped transform Sikpics from a one-person operation into Saskatchewan's premier visual storytelling architects. "We took it one day and one shoot at a time," says Sikorsky. "But 10 years later, Sikpics has worked with many of the industries and clients on that initial vision board, including tourism, professional sport, national charities, and more."



Five core values have guided the company's success: Operate with Honour, Medium Mastery, Exceed Expectations, Contribute to Community, and Celebrate Success. These values are evident not only in their client work but also in their extensive community involvement. From TeleMiracle and Swinging with the Stars to Local Companies That Care, Sikpics has consistently invested its time, talent, and resources back into Saskatchewan. For Sikorsky, the most meaningful projects are those that create lasting impact. "When we can use our skills and our craft to contribute to the community, that's a pretty special feeling," he says. "We can't perform surgery, but we can produce effective fundraising campaigns for life-saving medical equipment."

Looking ahead, the company remains focused on powerful storytelling, meaningful partnerships, and helping make Saskatoon "a little better than we found it," says Sikorsky. Given the stories they've already helped tell, it's safe to say they're well on their way.

Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation – 20 Years



Some organizations measure success by profits. The Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation (DDCDC) measures success by community impact. Established in 2005, DDCDC was founded on a vision rooted in Indigenous leadership, economic sovereignty, and long-term stewardship. Created to reinvest revenues from Dakota Dunes Casino, the organization was designed to ensure that economic success would create lasting benefits for communities and future generations throughout Saskatchewan. Over the past two decades, that vision has translated into meaningful investments in health care, education, youth development, recreation, culture, wellness, and community infrastructure.

One recent example is DDCDC's support for Saskatchewan's first portable pediatric MRI machine at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. This investment is improving care for critically ill children and their families across the province. What distinguishes DDCDC is its commitment to long-term impact. From its earliest days, the organization established a strong foundation of accountability, transparency, and responsible governance. Those principles continue to guide decisions today. "Looking back over the past 20 years, we are most proud of the positive impact DDCDC has had across Saskatchewan," says Executive Director Shirley Greyeyes. "Seeing those investments create real opportunities and improve quality of life for communities and organizations is something we take great pride in," adds Community Engagement Specialist Jamie Yuzicappi.

The organization has also become a respected model of Indigenous-led economic development, demonstrating how community-focused reinvestment can yield sustainable social and economic benefits. Relationships have been central to that success. Through partnerships with First Nations leadership, governments, businesses, charities, and community organizations, DDCDC has broadened its reach and amplified its impact. As community needs continue to

evolve, the organization remains committed to supporting youth leadership, mental wellness, cultural revitalization, education, and sustainable development. "Reaching the 20-year milestone is incredibly meaningful," Greyeyes notes.

"It is an opportunity to reflect on the vision and perseverance that helped establish DDCDC and to recognize our responsibility to continue building strong, thriving communities for future generations." A responsibility they have embraced for two decades and counting.

CJWW – 50 Years



For half a century, CJWW has been part of Saskatchewan's daily soundtrack. Since signing on the airwaves on January 12, 1976, the station has evolved from its original easy-listening format into one of Canada's most recognized country radio stations. Along the way, it has become much more than a broadcaster; it has become a trusted companion for generations of Saskatchewan residents.

With its powerful AM signal reaching communities across the province, CJWW provided a vital connection long before smartphones and social media. For many rural communities, it was the primary source of local news, weather, agricultural information, and entertainment. "It means we have been part of the community and the fabric of Saskatchewan, and we don't take that lightly," says Steve Chisholm, Director of Programming. "We appreciate every moment a listener gives us, and we treat it with respect and value."

Over the years, CJWW has broadcast from farms, harvest fields, sporting events, Briers, World Junior Championships, and countless community celebrations. The station has also played a significant role in supporting Saskatchewan artists and promoting country music across the province. Yet despite dramatic technological changes, the essence of local radio

remains unchanged. "Local radio is and always has been the de facto kitchen table of any community," says Chisholm. "It is the place where people come to find out the latest news, relax with their favourite music, and often simply to have the company of another human voice."

That human connection remains one of the station's greatest strengths. From major radiothons supporting health care and mental health initiatives to Denny Carr's Secret Santa campaign, CJWW has consistently used its platform to support Saskatchewan communities. Millions of dollars have been raised for causes that matter to residents. As media consumption habits continue to evolve, CJWW has adapted by expanding into apps, streaming, websites, smart speakers, and social media. Yet its commitment to local content remains unwavering. "We have doubled down on our commitment to local content," says Chisholm. "We have focused on being genuine, respectful and trustworthy." After 50 years, that's a message Saskatchewan listeners continue to tune into.

Impact Marketing Services Ltd. – 50 Years

In an industry defined by shifting trends, emerging technologies, and ever-evolving customer expectations, one thing has remained remarkably consistent at Impact Marketing: relationships. This year, the Saskatoon-based company celebrates 50 years in business and has built its reputation on trust, service, and a genuine commitment to helping clients succeed.

Founded in the late 50's as an advertising specialty and magazine subscription business, and purchased by the Sebestyen family in 1976, Impact Marketing has grown alongside Saskatchewan's business community, adapting continuously while staying true to its core values. What began as a promotional products company has evolved into a strategic partner that helps organizations strengthen

brand engagement, employee recognition, recruitment initiatives, customer experiences, and community outreach. According to co-owners and sisters, Terri Rassmussen and Sue Sebestyen, reaching the 50-year milestone as a family-owned business is both humbling and inspiring. "It reflects the trust our clients, employees, suppliers, and community have placed in us over five decades," they say. "Few businesses reach 50 years, and we do not take that for granted."

Over the years, Impact Marketing has successfully navigated economic downturns, industry disruption, and technological change. The company has embraced e-commerce platforms, online company stores, digital proofing, and fulfillment programs while continuing to prioritize personalized service. That balance of innovation and human connection has become a hallmark of the business. "We focus on relationships, not transactions," the ownership team explains. "We listen before we recommend. We genuinely care about our clients' success."

The company's culture has also played a significant role in its longevity. Many employees have spent substantial portions of their careers at Impact Marketing, fostering a family-oriented environment built on collaboration, accountability, and kindness. Community involvement has remained a priority throughout the company's history. Through partnerships with charities, educational institutions, municipalities, non-profits, and local businesses, Impact Marketing has supported countless initiatives across Saskatchewan.

As the company looks toward its next chapter, its anniversary theme says it all: The Best Is Yet To Come. "For 50 years, Impact Marketing has been built on relationships," says CEO Lisa Hryciw. "Products, technology, and trends have changed, but Impact Marketing's commitment to people, community, trust, and service has remained constant. That's why we believe the best is yet to come."



Saskatchewan Blue Cross – 80 Years



Eighty years is a remarkable milestone. In Saskatchewan, where businesses are often measured not only by what they do but also by how they show up for their communities, Saskatchewan Blue Cross has built a legacy that extends far beyond benefits and insurance.

Founded in 1946 by seven physicians who believed healthcare should be accessible to all, Saskatchewan Blue Cross has grown into a leading not-for-profit organization serving more than 200,000 members and over 1,000 employers across the province. Despite eight decades of growth and change, its purpose remains firmly rooted in helping Saskatchewan people live healthier lives. "We are most proud of the trust Saskatchewan people and employers have placed in us over the past 80 years," says Kelly Wilson, President and CEO. "That legacy reflects our longevity and our continued relevance and commitment to helping people access the care and coverage they need."

Over the years, Saskatchewan Blue Cross has evolved alongside the province. What began as a healthcare coverage provider has expanded to include health and wellness benefits, travel and life insurance, workplace benefits, virtual care, mental health resources, and digital self-service tools that make accessing coverage easier than ever. For Saskatchewan employers, that evolution has been particularly important. As organizations navigate recruitment, retention, employee well-being, and rising expectations for workplace culture, Saskatchewan Blue Cross continues to provide flexible, affordable benefit solutions that support businesses of all sizes. What truly distinguishes the organization, however, is its commitment to community.

As a not-for-profit organization, Saskatchewan Blue Cross employees know their work helps build healthier communities across Saskatchewan. They are focused on creating a people-first culture that values care, connection and community impact. That commitment has helped the organization earn recognition as one of Saskatchewan's Top Employers and among the Top 100 Companies in Saskatchewan. In fact, the

organization measures its success differently: "Our mission is to empower communities on their journey to whole health and wellness," Wilson explains. "That purpose shapes everything from our products and member experience to our community investment decisions."

Over the past five years alone, Saskatchewan Blue Cross has donated more than \$5.6 million to community organizations across the province. Through partnerships with newcomer-serving agencies, Indigenous organizations, senior wellness initiatives, and programs such as Hope's Home and Swinging with the Stars, the organization has helped strengthen communities in meaningful and lasting ways. Its newest initiative, 80 Years, 80 Grants, reflects that same spirit. To mark its milestone anniversary, Saskatchewan Blue Cross committed \$80,000 through 80 grants to grassroots organizations building healthier, more connected communities. "We wanted to mark our 80th anniversary in a way that reflects who we are," Wilson says. "It was designed to celebrate our milestone by giving back directly to the grassroots organizations that strengthen the province every day."

As it contemplates the future, Saskatchewan Blue Cross remains focused on innovation, accessibility, and community impact, staying true to the values that have guided it since 1946. After 80 years, its vision remains clear: "to keep showing up for this province and empowering healthy lives." In a world that changes quickly, there is something reassuring about an organization whose purpose has remained constant for eight decades and whose commitment to Saskatchewan continues to grow stronger with every passing year.

Looking Ahead One Milestone At A Time

Milestones offer an opportunity to celebrate the past, but they are equally an invitation to look toward the future. The organizations recognized here have each achieved remarkable longevity through different paths and across various industries. Yet their shared commitment to people, relationships, and community appears to be the common thread underpinning their success. Whether telling stories, building infrastructure, connecting listeners, strengthening brands, supporting wellness, or investing in future generations, these organizations have helped shape Saskatchewan in meaningful ways.

On behalf of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce and the broader business community, congratulations to Sikpics Productions, Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, CJWW, Impact Marketing, and Saskatchewan Blue Cross on reaching their milestone anniversaries. May your next chapters be every bit as impactful as those that brought you to these pages today, and may your success continue for decades to come.

Paladin Energy Plants Roots in Saskatchewan

When a global mining company chooses Saskatoon to expand its Canadian presence, it says something meaningful about both the company and the province. In recent months, Paladin Energy, a uranium producer headquartered in Perth, Australia, has been quietly and deliberately introducing itself to Saskatchewan. Although the company may be new to many in the local business community, its ambitions here are anything but small.







Image supplied

Following Paladin's 2024 acquisition of Fission Uranium, the company established Paladin Canada to advance the Patterson Lake South (PLS) uranium project in northwestern Saskatchewan. The proposed underground mine and mill development represents an investment of more than CAD \$1.6 billion and positions Paladin squarely within Saskatchewan's globally significant uranium sector.

But if company leaders are to be believed, and they have been candid in recent interviews, their strategy is about more than ore bodies and infrastructure; it is also about relationships. "We truly want to be local," said Scott Barber, Paladin Energy's Chief Operating Officer, during a recent visit to Saskatoon. "We want to be really good neighbours and good partners in the community."

That sentiment came through repeatedly during Paladin's recent Chamber luncheon appearance and in subsequent conversations with Chamber staff and Saskatchewan business leaders. There was talk of engineering, workforce development, suppliers and timelines, for sure, but there was also genuine discussion about culture, collaboration and community. And yes, there was even a conversation about the company's

now-famous SaskTel Centre Zamboni sponsorship. For the record, Paladin Energy Managing Director and CEO Paul Hemburrow admitted that 18 months ago he had "no idea what a Zamboni was." One suspects he knows now.

Being a Global Company with Local Intentions

Paladin Energy operates globally, with active uranium operations in Namibia and exploration interests in Australia's Queensland and Western Australia, as well as in Canada, including the Michelin project in Newfoundland and Labrador. The company's flagship producing asset is the Langer Heinrich Mine in Namibia, which recently resumed production after an extensive restart project. That experience in rebuilding a mine, growing a workforce, and establishing strong community relationships is informing Paladin's approach in Saskatchewan. "We had a very deliberate strategy of engaging people in the communities early and hiring locally," Barber explained. "We took the time to recruit locally and helped develop their skills through leadership training programs. More importantly, we took people through team membership programs to ensure we nurtured the right culture from the start."

In Namibia, 98% of the company's workforce is local, and there is a focus on making a meaningful contribution to education, youth entrepreneurship, and community infrastructure. Paladin's workforce there reflects the local population, and the company intentionally invests in initiatives aligned with community and government priorities. That philosophy is now being adapted for Saskatchewan. "We're a very relational company," said Dale Huffman, President of

Paladin Canada, whose head office is now in Saskatoon with oversight of development and operations in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador. For Saskatchewan's business community, that may be one of the most important takeaways.

Providing Opportunities for Saskatchewan People and Businesses

The Patterson Lake South project is expected to become a conventional underground uranium mine and mill operation in the Athabasca Basin region. According to Huffman, the ore body begins relatively shallow at approximately 50 metres below surface and extends to about 300 metres depth. Initial mine life projections currently sit at approximately 10 years, with ongoing exploration expected to expand the resource over time. If development proceeds as planned through the regulatory approval process, Paladin hopes to begin major construction activities around 2028.

The scale of the project is substantial. Paladin Canada expects to increase the size of its Saskatoon based project team by nearly five folds, from approximately 18 employees to roughly 100 in the next 12 months. Longer term, the operation could support approximately 300 direct mine-site positions, alongside hundreds of additional construction, contractor and support jobs. And therein lies one of the province's biggest opportunities and challenges. "We're going to have to make sure we have enough trained people in Saskatchewan," Huffman said plainly. "We're all going to have to lift our collective efforts in the mining industry to ensure there are the skills available to support everyone's ambitions in the years ahead. It does

mean there are good opportunities ahead for workers in the province."

Rather than viewing workforce development as a competitive exercise among mining companies, Paladin appears to see it as a shared provincial responsibility. "We actually don't compete when it comes to that sort of thing," Barber said about industry workforce development. "Let's work together to build an educated and well-trained workforce, and everybody's going to move around anyway."

For example, engineering expertise is already in high demand. "I'm looking for engineers of every flavour, civil, mechanical, chemical, mining, geological and many more disciplines," Huffman said. "And of course, the job opportunities extend well beyond engineering."

For local suppliers, contractors and consultants, Paladin's plans mark the start of what could become a significant procurement and partnership pipeline over the coming years. The company is actively building vendor databases, meeting with Saskatchewan suppliers and participating in industry events, including the recent Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum hosted by SIMSA and the Saskatchewan Mining Association. "We need these businesses, we need these relationships to move forward," Huffman told the audience.

Paladin executives repeatedly emphasized building long-term partnerships with Saskatchewan-based firms that understand



"We're getting into mutual benefit agreements with communities, and they truly are mutually beneficial. It's not a transactional agreement. It's a partnership agreement."

**Dale Huffman,
President Paladin Canada**

Image: Sikpics Productions

ON THE COVER

the North, mining, and the communities where the company intends to operate. They spoke candidly about their approach to Indigenous engagement and the importance of building meaningful, long-term partnerships with northern and Indigenous communities to help shape the future workforce and business ecosystem around the mine. “We’re getting into mutual benefit agreements with communities,” said Dale Huffman. “And they truly are mutually beneficial. It’s not a transactional agreement. It’s a partnership agreement.” Similarly, when discussing the “mutual benefit agreements,” Barber highlighted their reciprocity rather than their transactional nature. “They’re not handouts,” Barber explained. “We really want them to go both ways and deliver real benefits for both parties.”

At this stage, the company is placing particular focus on Indigenous workforce development, youth recruitment and skills training, which it views as essential to the long-term success of the PLS project, particularly as Saskatchewan’s mining sector faces growing labour demands. The company has already begun discussions with institutions such as Saskatchewan Polytechnic on apprenticeships, STEM pathways and skilled trades development for Indigenous youth and has committed to supporting engineering-focused programmes, such as the Robot Rumble for schools.

The message from Paladin was clear: Indigenous communities are not seen as stakeholders on the sidelines but rather as future partners, employees, business leaders and advisors



who will help shape the project from the ground up. Indeed, Barber noted the importance of listening to and learning from northern communities. “Tell us what we don’t know,” Barber said. “There are a lot of things up north that we’re going to learn as we go.”

That philosophy appears likely to shape the company’s approach to overall procurement and local business engagement.

Focusing on Community First, and Not Just in the North

While much of Paladin’s long-term focus will naturally centre on northern Saskatchewan, the company is also making





deliberate efforts to establish itself within Saskatoon's broader community fabric. This includes its Jazz Festival sponsorship, its minor hockey partnerships, provincial baseball championships and, of course, the Zamboni. "We're just getting started," Huffman said.

Those investments may seem modest compared with billion-dollar capital budgets. Still, they signal something important: a company seeking to become visible, approachable and connected within the community before seeking anything in return. "We want people to know who we are, what we do and our approach to being part of a dynamic and growing community," Huffman said.

That approach may resonate particularly well in Saskatchewan, where reputation and relationships often matter as much as balance sheets, and which is a community that Barber says is very similar to its other home in Perth, Western Australia.

Looking Ahead and Building a Strong Foundation

For a province already globally recognized for uranium-mining expertise, Paladin's growing presence is another important vote of confidence in Saskatchewan's resource sector, workforce and business environment. It also reinforces the increasingly international nature of Saskatchewan's mining

industry. Today's uranium sector is deeply interconnected, with expertise, investment, innovation and people moving constantly across continents. Yet despite Paladin's global footprint, company leaders repeatedly returned to one simple message: they intend to build something truly local. "Help us, and let us help you," Barber said. "The rising tide lifts all boats." In Saskatchewan, that philosophy goes a long way.

For suppliers interested in working with Paladin Canada, the company has launched a supplier pre-qualification portal on its website, enabling Saskatchewan businesses to begin building relationships and identifying future procurement opportunities. The company is also encouraging professionals interested in joining the growing Saskatchewan team to watch for future postings and updates on Paladin Energy's LinkedIn page as hiring ramps up over the coming months and years.

With its Canadian headquarters right here in Saskatoon, Paladin's leadership team is determined to build something distinctly Saskatchewan: collaborative, community-minded and grounded in long-term relationships. That may be the strongest foundation of all for their project and their long-term future in Canada.

Wanuskewin Launches “The Circle,” a Unique Partnership Initiative

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a non-profit, registered charity, and national historic site unlike anywhere else in the world. For more than 6,400 years, this land has been a gathering place for learning, ceremony and connection. Today, the legacy continues through the launch of The Circle, a unique partnership initiative rooted in relationship-building, reconciliation, and shared responsibility. The word wānaskēwin, from nēhiyawēwin, embodies the meaning “seeking peace of mind,” reflecting the spirit significance of this sacred place. Archaeological evidence, alongside generations of oral storytelling traditions, confirms that Wanuskewin has been a site of cultural exchange, hunting and spiritual gathering since time immemorial.

The foundations of Wanuskewin were built through the hopes and leadership of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community partners who envisioned the site as a place where Indigenous youth could come to learn about their ancestors and the remarkable achievements of Northern Plains cultures. Since opening in 1992, Wanuskewin has become one of Canada’s leading cultural destinations and



a powerful space for reconciliation, cultural preservation and education, ecological stewardship, and community connection. Now, Wanuskewin is on the path to becoming the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Saskatchewan, a milestone that would

recognize the site’s extraordinary global significance.

At its heart, Wanuskewin’s mission is “to advance the understanding and appreciation of the evolving cultures of the Northern Plains

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Indigenous peoples," so that "Wanuskewin will be the living reminder of the peoples' sacred relationship with the land." The Circle reflects these guiding principles by inviting businesses to support this work through meaningful and reciprocal partnerships. More than a traditional sponsorship model, The Circle is rooted in respect, relationships building, and *wisawitamowin*, "the act of offering or giving an invitation." Partnerships are designed to align with an organization's values and goals. The initiative creates unique opportunities for businesses to connect employees and clients directly to Wanuskewin through admission, volunteer opportunities, seasonal events, and Wanuskewin's Video Series Learning for Reconciliation Certification Course. At the same time, The Circle, encourages businesses to consider the broader impact they can have in partnership with Wanuskewin by supporting public access initiatives, schools and community programming, helping ensure Wanuskewin remains a place of gathering, learning and connection for everyone.

As Wanuskewin moves toward UNESCO World Heritage designation, The Circle creates opportunities for organizations to participate in a larger story about Northern Plains Cultures, shared history, and the future of Saskatchewan. The foundations of Wanuskewin were built

through the hopes and leadership of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community partners.

As Wanuskewin continues its journey toward UNESCO World Heritage designation, there has never been a more important moment to become part of this story. By joining The Circle, businesses help ensure this place of gathering, learning, and connection continues

for future generations. The opportunity awaits, the vision is clear, and the invitation to join us is yours. If you would like to learn more about partnering with Wanuskewin please reach out to Ally Forand Development and Fundraising Manager, dev.manager@wanuskewin or (306)-931- 9303.



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Building Opportunities:

Five Years Supporting Latino Entrepreneurship



Starting a new life in a new country brings many challenges. Language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliar systems are often the first obstacles newcomers encounter. Yet beyond these visible challenges lies another critical factor that directly influences the success and well-being of immigrant families: economic opportunity.

For many newcomers, entrepreneurship is more than a business venture—it is a pathway to stability, growth, and long-term prosperity. Many arrive in Canada with valuable professional experience, technical skills, and business ideas. Others discover opportunities after settling into their communities. However, one challenge remains common: knowing where to start.

Over the past five years, LATAM.ca has worked to support Latino entrepreneurs, professionals, and small business owners across Saskatchewan by creating opportunities to connect, learn, and grow within the local business ecosystem.

Our experience has shown that business success is not always limited by access to capital. In many cases, entrepreneurs need information, mentorship, networking opportunities, and practical experience before making significant investments. This understanding has shaped our approach.

Through networking events, business forums, mentorship initiatives, and professional development opportunities, LATAM.ca has helped entrepreneurs build valuable relationships and gain access to resources that support business growth. Programs such as the Business Summit sponsored by the Saskatoon Chamber have provided practical insights into entrepreneurship, marketing, branding, leadership, artificial intelligence, and business development strategies tailored to the Canadian market.

Education, however, is only one piece of the entrepreneurial journey. Businesses also need opportunities to connect directly with customers and test their products or services in real-world environments.

For this reason, LATAM.ca has integrated economic development into many of its community events. Celebrations such as Canada Day, Spring Festivals, Summer Festivals, and multicultural community events have become platforms where entrepreneurs can showcase their products, gather feedback, build brand awareness, and gain valuable market experience.

For many participants, these events represent their first opportunity to introduce a business idea to the Canadian public. For others, they provide a cost-effective way to expand their customer base and strengthen their presence in the marketplace.

In addition, LATAM.ca supports business visibility through its online business directory, helping connect entrepreneurs with customers, organizations, and potential partners while encouraging collaboration and local economic activity.

The impact of entrepreneurship extends far beyond individual business owners. Every successful small business contributes to stronger families, creates employment opportunities, and helps build a more diverse and resilient economy.

As LATAM.ca celebrates five years of service, we remain committed to supporting entrepreneurs, fostering meaningful connections, and creating opportunities that strengthen Saskatchewan's business community.

Entrepreneurship does not begin with funding alone. It begins with an idea, a vision, and a community willing to help turn that vision into reality.



Black Business Excellence Awards

Celebrates Entrepreneurship and Community Impact

The Black Business Excellence Awards (BBEA) represent a significant initiative created to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Black entrepreneurs and business owners who are making meaningful contributions to Saskatchewan's economy.

Launched through a partnership between the Saskatoon Black Business Network (SBBN) and the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, the award highlights business leaders whose innovation, resilience, and commitment to excellence inspire others across the province.

The BBEA reflects a growing commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion, and economic empowerment within Saskatchewan's business community. By shining a spotlight on outstanding Black-owned businesses, the award helps increase visibility for entrepreneurs who are creating jobs, driving innovation, and strengthening local communities. It also provides an opportunity to celebrate success stories that often go unrecognized despite their significant impact.

The Saskatoon Black Business Network was established to support Black entrepreneurs by providing access to mentorship, training, networking opportunities, and business development resources. Through initiatives such as the Black Business Expo, pitch competitions, and leadership programs, SBBN continues to build an ecosystem where Black-owned businesses can thrive and grow. The introduction of the Black Business Excellence Award further strengthens this mission by recognizing achievement and encouraging future generations of entrepreneurs.

Beyond individual recognition, the award sends a powerful message about the importance of representation in business leadership. It celebrates the talent, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit that contribute to Saskatchewan's economic prosperity while fostering a more inclusive business environment. As the award grows, it is expected to become an important platform for showcasing Black excellence and inspiring continued business success throughout the province.
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Women Leading Forward:

The Impact and Inspiration of the SHINE Summit 2026



The SHINE Summit, presented by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, took place on April 30, and was a powerful celebration of leadership, connection, and empowerment that brought women from diverse industries and backgrounds together for a day of inspiration and growth. The event created a welcoming space where entrepreneurs, professionals, community leaders, and emerging changemakers could share experiences, learn from one another, and build meaningful connections.

Through engaging keynote presentations, insightful panel discussions, and interactive networking experiences, attendees were encouraged to embrace their strengths, pursue their goals, and support one another in their personal and professional journeys. The summit highlighted the importance of women's leadership in shaping strong businesses, vibrant communities, and a thriving economy.

One of the most impactful aspects of the SHINE Summit was its ability to foster genuine connections. Participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements, and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing women in today's workplace. These conversations helped create a sense of community and reinforced the value of collaboration over competition. From the moment guests arrived, the details to make them feel like they belonged were evident.

The SHINE Summit demonstrated the power of collective support, shared experiences and creating a life and business that feels aligned. This event inspired attendees, instilled fun, creativity and imagination. Offered delicious food, beverages and sweet treats while encouraging attendees to continue lifting each other up, creating lasting connections and momentum for future success.





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Building Success, Strengthening Community: Two Chamber Members Making Their Mark

Every business has a story. Some span decades of growth, adaptation, and community impact. Others are just beginning their journey, bringing fresh perspectives and new energy to Saskatoon's business landscape.

One of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce's strengths is the opportunity to connect businesses of all sizes and types at every stage of their evolution. Whether a company has served Saskatchewan for years or is taking its first steps as a Chamber member, each contributes to the vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem that helps our region thrive.

In this issue, we spotlight two Chamber members whose stories demonstrate the power of resilience, innovation, and community connection: long-standing member Boyes Group Realty and new member Rebuild & Rise by Ash.

Experience Matters: Boyes Group Realty

For Boyes Group Realty, success has never been solely about buying and selling properties. From the beginning, the company's vision was to create something different: a modern, agent-focused brokerage built on collaboration, innovation, and growth. Founded to fill a market gap, the company set out to provide a local full-service brokerage and transformed into one of Saskatchewan's largest independent real estate companies, with offices serving communities across the province.

"We wanted to create a brokerage that truly supported agent branding, technology, mentorship, and teamwork," says Jordan Boyes, President and Broker. "Our focus has always been on relationships, collaboration, and helping people succeed."

Along the way, the company has celebrated several significant milestones, including surpassing \$1 billion in annual sales, expanding province-wide, growing its property management division, and adopting advanced AI-powered marketing tools. Throughout that growth, Boyes says the company's core values have remained remarkably consistent: "Our focus on relationships, teamwork, integrity, and supporting individual agent success has always remained constant."

The Saskatoon real estate market has changed considerably over the years. According to Boyes, today's market is more competitive, technology-driven, and faster-paced than ever, yet it remains relatively affordable compared to many larger Canadian centres. Factors such as population growth,

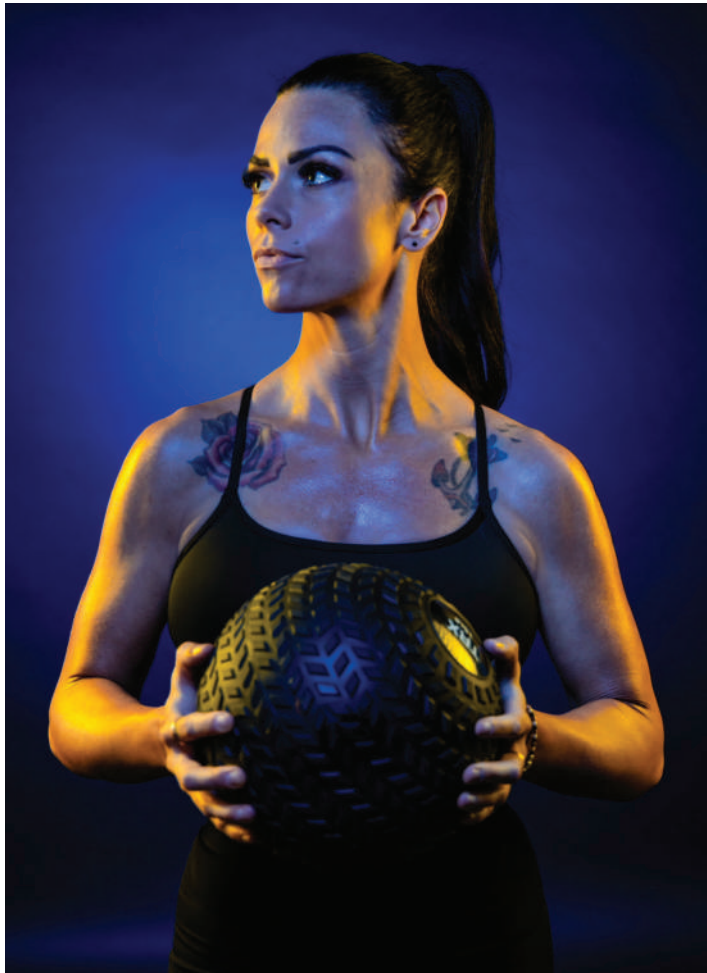


low inventory levels, investment activity, and continued migration into Saskatchewan continue to shape market conditions. For clients navigating today's environment, Boyes emphasizes the importance of staying informed and thinking long-term. "We encourage clients to stay informed, move decisively when opportunities arise, and focus on long-term value rather than short-term market fluctuations," says Boyes.

Community involvement is also a cornerstone of the company's philosophy. Through support for local charities, youth initiatives, children's organizations, and fundraising events, Boyes Group Realty continues to invest in the communities that helped build the business. Perhaps that commitment explains why Boyes identifies culture as the company's greatest accomplishment: "We are most proud of the culture we have created and the success our agents have achieved together as a team."

Looking ahead, the company plans to continue expanding its property management and commercial real estate services while advancing its technology and AI platforms, demonstrating that even long-established businesses never stop evolving. As Boyes summarizes: "Boyes Group Realty is a modern, Saskatchewan-built real estate company focused on growth, innovation, and people. A group where real estate experience matters."

Holistic Consulting: Rebuild & Rise by Ash



While some businesses begin with a market opportunity, others begin with a personal transformation. For entrepreneur and certified personal trainer and transformation specialist Ashten Hiebert, Rebuild & Rise by Ash was born out of one of life's most challenging seasons, a period of significant personal change that ultimately became the foundation for helping other women rediscover their strength.

Although already working in the fitness industry, Hiebert found that fitness, nutrition, structure, and mindset became critical tools in her own healing journey. Through that experience, she recognized a common struggle among women navigating major life transitions: "So many women neglect themselves while trying to be everything for everyone else," she explains. "I felt strongly called to create a system that offered realistic, sustainable steps to help women rebuild their confidence, routines, health, and mindset during some of the hardest periods of their lives."

Today, Rebuild & Rise offers personalized coaching in fitness, nutrition, mindset, and lifestyle to drive lasting change. Services include customized fitness programs, nutrition guidance, accountability coaching, habit development, mindset support, and long-term lifestyle transformation

strategies tailored to each client's unique circumstances. While she serves all types of clients, Hiebert has a particular focus on women who feel disconnected from their true selves while navigating life transitions.

Some may categorize the business as fitness consulting; however, at its core, it is about much more than physical fitness. "This business was never just about weight loss or fitness," says Hiebert. "It was about helping women step back into their power and create a life that feels aligned, healthy, and fulfilling from the inside out."

Her ideal clients are often women experiencing burnout, major life transitions, or a loss of confidence while balancing careers, motherhood, relationships, and personal growth. Through a holistic approach that integrates physical health, mindset, and accountability, Hiebert helps clients rebuild sustainably, step by step. For example, her move to Saskatoon also played a key role in shaping her personal and professional journey. "Saskatoon represents a fresh start for me," she says. "It's a city full of strong community, opportunity, and resilient people, which aligns perfectly with my brand."

As a new Chamber member, Hiebert has already experienced the value of connection and collaboration in Saskatoon's business community: "The business community in Saskatoon has been incredibly welcoming and supportive. Through networking, community involvement, and the opportunity to share my story, I've connected with inspiring people who have encouraged my growth as an entrepreneur."

Looking ahead, she envisions Rebuild & Rise becoming a recognized wellness and transformation brand, expanding through larger programs, speaking engagements, and community events, and continuing to have an impact both within Saskatchewan and beyond. Her message to women, and perhaps to entrepreneurs as well, is simple and powerful: "You're not too far gone. You're not starting from nothing. Even the smallest steps can rebuild a life."

Growing Together

Although the stories of Boyes Group Realty and Rebuild & Rise by Ash may be very different, they share something important: a commitment to growth, community, and helping others succeed.

Whether a business has served Saskatchewan for decades or is celebrating its first year as a Chamber member, the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce exists to foster the connections, resources, and opportunities that help organizations thrive.

As these two members demonstrate, success is rarely achieved alone. It is built on relationships, strengthened by community involvement, and sustained by a willingness to keep learning, adapting, and showing up.

Chamber Happenings

Chamber on Tap

Big Ideas. Lessons Learned. Advice from those who have started up and started over. It's all on tap in this series of social events where our business community comes together over cocktails to hear from our city's movers and shakers.



Bodnarus Auctioneering & Real Estate



Juniper & Oak



Hearth Restaurant



Seven Sundays



306 Security



**Blackstrap Glamping Resort
& Little Kahuna's Tiki Bar**



Prairie Proud



UNA pizza + wine

Chamber Happenings

PowerHouseSeries

Decision makers. News makers. Business leaders. This series features those who are shaping our local and provincial economy. Informative and interactive, these events deliver high-powered insight on initiatives that affect business and growth in Saskatoon.



**Finance Minister Jim Reiter,
Provincial Budget Debrief**



**Tim Gitzel, CEO of Cameco, It Starts Here:
A Conversation about Nuclear Energy**



Paladin Canada: Powering Up Saskatoon



Tiff Macklem, Governor, Bank of Canada



State of the City with Mayor Cynthia Block, presented by Graham

Chamber Happenings

4th Annual Pins & Pints Presented by Saskatchewan Blue Cross

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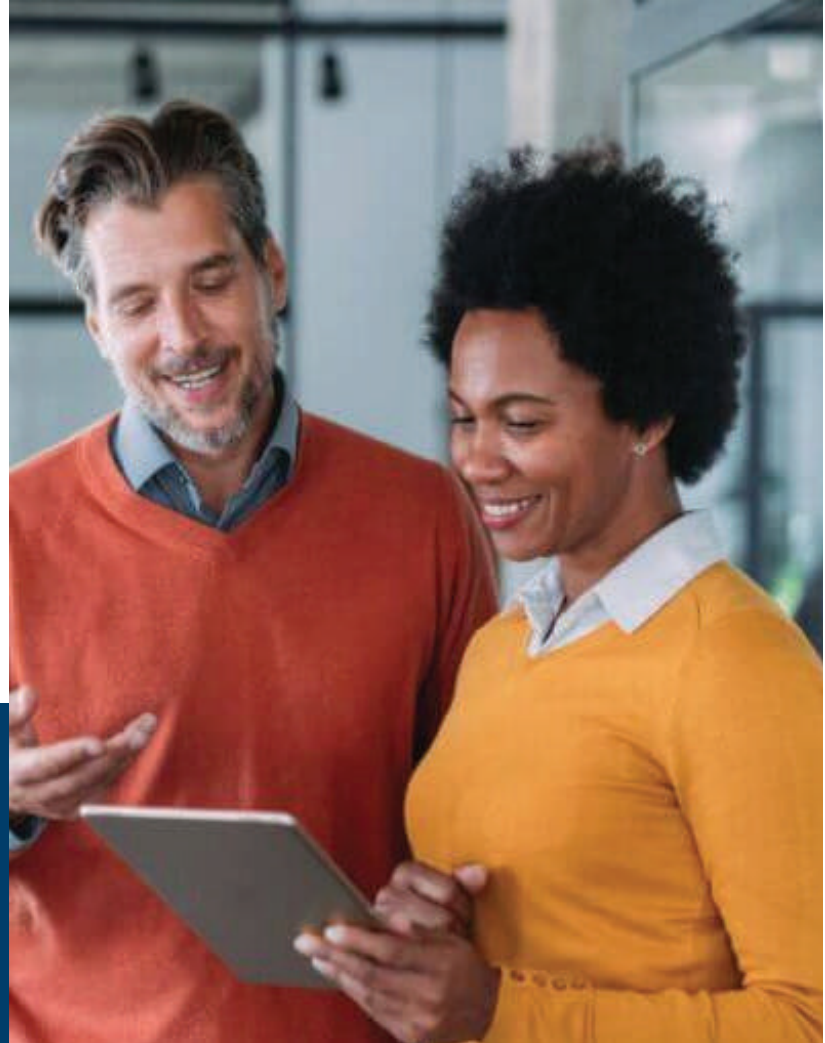


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Celebrating EXCELLENCE: Doepker Industries and the Doepker Family



The Family Business Association Saskatoon proudly celebrates family business at its annual Family Business Excellence Dinner. This year's event, held in the beautiful setting of Crossmount, recognized Doepker Industries and the Doepker family as one of Saskatchewan's leading family enterprises, highlighting their legacy and continued commitment to excellence.

Held as a gathering of business leaders and community members, the event focused on recognizing the unique contributions of family-run organizations. The evening provided an opportunity to network with fellow family business members and hear the stories behind the Doepker Industries success.

The evening started with a carefully curated meal from Crossmount, featuring local ingredients, to set the mood for a wonderful night. Following dinner, the spotlight turned to the Doepker Industries story with remarks from Evan Doepker, President & CEO of Doepker Industries and his son Josh Doepker, who currently is a member of their Sales & Marketing team.

Founded with a commitment to quality and innovation, Doepker Industries has grown from modest beginnings into a respected leader in the trailer manufacturing industry. Through decades of dedication, the company has sustained its reputation for craftsmanship while adapting to the evolving needs of customers across North America.

A defining characteristic of Doepker Industries is the seamless collaboration between generations. The founding generation instilled values of hard work, integrity, and customer focus; principles that continue to guide the current leadership. Today, the next generation of the Doepker family is actively involved in shaping the company's future, bringing fresh ideas while honouring the traditions that built the business. As part of the celebration, the Doepker family was acknowledged for their ability to carry forward a strong foundation while embracing future opportunities. Their story reflects the balance of tradition and progress that defines many successful family businesses.

Throughout the program, we heard from Evan and Josh about the importance of communication between generations, maintaining superior customer relations, and taking advantage of opportunities as they arise. Families like the Doepkers demonstrate how shared responsibility and mutual respect can support both business success and long-term continuity. The evening was highly successful and served as an inspiring reminder of the importance of supporting local, family-owned businesses. The Family Business Association Saskatoon appreciated the opportunity to host the event, which spotlighted a prominent local business that has prospered across several generations.

It was a memorable night, marked by gratitude, community spirit, and shared acknowledgment of success.

FBAS SPONSORS



Women's Business Hub

The Women's Business Hub is a modern, flexible, and collaborative space designed to support entrepreneurs, professionals, organizations, and community groups in Saskatoon. More than just a venue, the Hub provides an inspiring environment where businesses can connect, grow, and bring ideas to life.

Designed with versatility in mind, the Women's Business Hub offers a wide range of rental spaces suitable for board meetings, networking events, forums, workshops, training sessions, business presentations, celebrations, and community gatherings. With flexible room configurations and professional amenities, the Hub creates a welcoming and functional setting for both corporate and community-based events.

The facility also features classroom and training spaces ideal for group learning, mentorship sessions, seminars, and professional development programs. Organizations and facilitators can host engaging sessions in a comfortable and fully equipped environment designed to encourage collaboration and learning.

One of the Hub's standout features is its fully equipped commercial kitchen, which supports food entrepreneurs, caterers, culinary workshops, cooking demonstrations, and special events. The kitchen provides an excellent opportunity for small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs looking for an accessible and professional culinary space. It also offers a unique setting for corporate groups and organizations seeking team-building cooking or baking experiences in a collaborative and engaging environment.

In addition, the Hub offers wellness and creative spaces that support entrepreneurship and community engagement in innovative ways. The dance and wellness studio provides a bright and welcoming setting for yoga classes, dance programs, wellness workshops, and fitness-related activities. The sewing studio supports hands-on learning, creative entrepreneurship, and practical skills development, creating opportunities for participants to grow their talents in a supportive environment.

For entrepreneurs, freelancers, and small business owners, the Women's Business Hub also offers co-working and workspace opportunities within a professional and collaborative atmosphere. Convenient parking availability for renters and guests further enhances accessibility and ease of use for ongoing bookings and events.

As Saskatoon's entrepreneurial and community landscape continues to evolve, the Women's Business Hub remains committed to creating opportunities for connection, innovation, and growth. Whether hosting a professional event, launching a business initiative, delivering training, or building meaningful partnerships, the Hub provides a dynamic space designed to help individuals and organizations succeed.

**Book a tour today or reserve your space
(306) 653-4464 Ext.420
www.womensbusinesshub.ca**



Designed for

CONNECTION COLLABORATION AND GROWTH

The **Women's Business Hub** offers a modern and flexible space designed for entrepreneurs, professionals, and organizations. Whether hosting board meetings, workshops, training sessions, networking events, or culinary experiences, the Hub provides a professional environment tailored to your needs.

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