



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHAMBER WEEK NEXT WEEK - FEBRUARY 19-22, 2019 Here's what is on our minds at the Chamber

Kelowna: Every year, chambers across the province celebrate Chamber Week – extra events, speakers, announcements and networking. Kelowna is gearing up, even though the week starts with the newly-moved BC Family Day. The Chamber was opposed to moving it, by the way – we liked it on the second Monday of the month as it benefited the tourism sector.

Tuesday, the Chamber is hosting its monthly “Business Smarts” workshop at noon at the Chamber, “The Power of a Vision - 3 Keys to Mastering Your Results”. It’s described as a thought-provoking, interactive workshop using experiential exercises and multi-media.

The week’s big news story will be the provincial budget on Tuesday, which we’ll digest for our members in a Budget Recap Breakfast Wednesday morning at 7:30 at the Coast Capri with experts from Crowe MacKay interpreting the major moves. We’re keen to see this Government’s second budget.

Also on Wednesday, Chamber President Carmen Sparg will spend time focusing on Bill C-69, along with Chambers across the country. “We’ve already written to the Senate on proposed amendments to the Bill, demonstrating support for Canada’s resources sectors,” says Sparg, “and, we’re asking the federal and provincial governments to do more for the embattled sectors and the Canadians they employ. We remind the legislators in our remarks that Canada’s energy products are some of the most ethically generated and greenest in the world.”

Thursday sees Prospera Credit Union, a long-time Chamber member, play host to our monthly Commerce Connex network event at their main branch on Harvey at Cooper at 5pm.

Finally, a reminder that Chambers play a critical role for the business community – our advocacy and policy work is driven by our desire to see all BC businesses prosper. There are 135 chambers across the province; over the past year:

- We pushed back against the cumulative effects of new taxes on small- to medium-sized businesses such as the Employer Health Tax.
- We asked that PST be removed on machinery, equipment and technology.
- We co-founded “Confidence in Canada” advocating for resources projects to be built in a timely fashion (40,000+ letters to the Prime Minister).
- We advocated for the safety of customers and staff of downtown businesses
- in the face of rising nuisance & criminal behaviours
- We advocated for scrapping the Spec Tax
- We pushed for a clear question on electoral reform, and a fair process.
- And, we tried to move the dial on ridesharing and will continue to push to get it done right.

We help grow the people who power Kelowna.

For more information: Carmen Sparg, President carmensparq@live.com

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