



Policy & Advocacy Information for Board of Director Candidates

KELOWNA CHAMBER POLICY BASICS

Policy and advocacy lie at the heart of the Kelowna Chamber. Kelowna is one of the most active policy-development chambers in BC and in Canada. We have a Policy Advisory Committee – one of Kelowna’s largest and most active committees. We develop policies annually – included here is our “Kelowna Chamber Policy Year at a Glance.” Most importantly, our policies reflect the needs and views of our members, and our support of these initiatives provides one of the most important Chamber membership benefits.

Our two parent Chambers – BC and the Canadian Chamber – are also centered around policy development and interaction with governments around policy change.

You can learn more by checking out the Chamber’s blog at: https://www.kelownachamber.org/news/blog_posts/
Or by reviewing news releases posted on our Media Center at: <https://www.kelownachamber.org/news/media/>

BC CHAMBER

The BC Chamber's grassroots policy-development process is second-to-none in British Columbia. Every year, its membership of businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade develops policies that reflect the on-the-ground needs of BC businesses. Through this process, the membership endorses approximately 40 new policies every year at its Annual General Meeting. The breadth and diversity of the policies reflect its broad-based membership; during any given year, it has policy recommendations for the majority, if not all, of BC’s provincial government ministries. Link to the policies adopted in May 2019 (current for three years):

<http://www.bcchamber.org/policies>

CANADIAN CHAMBER

Advocacy - The Power to Shape Policy

Since 1925, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has connected businesses of all sizes, from all sectors and from all regions of the country to advocate for public policies that will foster a strong, competitive economic environment that benefits all Canadians. Representing 200,000 businesses, the CCC is the largest business association in Canada, and the country’s most influential. Its views are sought after and respected by government, business leaders and the media, thanks to its well-researched reports, analyses, position papers and policy resolutions that reflect a broad business perspective. Here’s just one recent example: response to Minister Morneau’s taxation & finance update December 16, 2019.

<http://www.chamber.ca/media/news-releases/191216-canadas-fiscal-update/>

Link to the CCC policies adopted in September 2019 (current for three years):

<http://www.chamber.ca/advocacy/policy-resolutions/PolicyResolutionsBook2019.pdf>

KELOWNA CHAMBER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose: To provide leadership in identifying and taking action on local, provincial and federal issues of specific interest to members and key stakeholders of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and of concern to the business community at large.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Oversee the strategic priorities as assigned to it by the Board. (Annual goals of the committee)
- Engage members to identify and prioritize local, provincial and federal issues.
- Review requests from members for support on advocacy issues or resolution requests. Report as needed and provide recommended action as appropriate.
- Prepare policy resolutions for approval by the board of directors.
 - Develop and implement local, provincial and federal advocacy plans.
 - Conduct research and meet with experts to seek out expert opinions on specific local, provincial or federal issues as appropriate.

THE CHAMBER POLICY YEAR AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER

Hold member policy development session

DECEMBER

Review policy submission ideas. If new (not on books) proceed with research/writing. Share with Valley Alliance.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Research, draft policies; review by Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), VPA.

MARCH

Submit new policy drafts to BC Chamber Policy Review Committee (PRC). Finalize drafts for Canadian Chamber submission. Share drafts with other chambers to generate support & feedback.

APRIL

BC Chamber PRC gives feedback, generally requiring some re-drafting. Finalize drafts for Canadian Chamber.

MAY

Attend BC Chamber annual Policy Review Session; present, amend, defend, adopt. Submit policy drafts to CCC.

JUNE

BC Chamber Policy Manual published. Copies sent to provincial ministries. Regional BC consultations scheduled; Present to opposition critics. Federal policy review committee gives feedback on federal submitted policies.

JULY-AUGUST

Ministerial sessions held, BC. Final drafts accepted by Canadian Chamber; share with other chambers across country, elicit support, amend as required. Federal Policy Resolution Manual published in English & French.

SEPTEMBER

Attend Canadian Chamber annual Policy Session (Ottawa 2020); present policies to provincial caucus; defend-amend; present to floor. Canadian Chamber presents to govt ministries and opposition critics as applicable.

OCTOBER

Distribute annual Member Satisfaction Survey; include prioritization of policy topics and open-ended question asking for policy topics of interest and feedback on process.

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