



December 2021



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Give your employees more for less. Health and Dental premiums are a deductible business expense and a TAX FREE benefit for your employees.

Chamber of Commerce President's Christmas Message

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our Members!

It has been another challenging year for our economy and business community. With opens and closures, and new rules to implement in a matter of days, it sure has tested everyone. I want to congratulate and commend the work you have all done to keep your doors open. Having to adapt and apply these rules to all of our different kinds of business is not easy, and it really speaks to how strong willed and resilient the business owners and their staff in the Cold Lake and Lakeland regions are.

On the Chamber end, it has been quiet on the standard event front as we have cancelled them all for the year. The staff were busy implementing the rapid test system to local businesses, planning events for next year, and administering the Security Program in part with the City of Cold Lake. Early feedback has been great from our business and property owners and the pilot funds have expired. They were extended to early 2022, and we are not stopping to advocate and find a solution to funding this program permanently due to its success.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and a prosperous 2022!

Ryan Lefebvre
President

Member Directory



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Chamber Crime Report-October Statistics

- 294 liaison visits.
- 47 Foot patrols.
- 9 Interactions with Intoxicated persons; which includes 11 persons being asked by Watchdog to depart and did so willingly.
- 9 insecurities (after hours) including 1 tractor trailer left insecure, 4 Compound gates left open/unlocked, 2 fence cuts, 1 private vehicle and 1 storage shed.
- 2 requests for assistance including 2 BOLOs by the RCMP, 1 suspicious person who departed on arrival of patrol and several requests for extra patrols. This does not include calls for assistance during nonoperational hours. A liaison visit was conducted for these requests regardless.

6 significant activities:

- Patrol located and reported to RCMP, a vehicle possibly used in conjunction with a criminal event.

- While conducting a Liaison visit at a local Hotel, Patrol observed a domestic dispute occurring in the lobby. RCMP contacted and responded.
- Patrol observed a vehicle previously suspected of fuel theft, in the parking lot of a local Hotel. Vehicle departed in haste, RCMP contacted.
- Patrol observed persons attempting to remove donated items from 2 area thrift stores, in both instances the persons departed when asked to do so.
- Patrol received a complaint of shoplifting from a local merchant. Patrol was in proximity and observed the person in question walking away from the store. RCMP were contacted and advised while the patrol followed the person at a distance. When RCMP arrived, they were informed of the patrol's observation.
- Patrol stopped at a location to assist an intoxicated person, while discussing the event with bar staff, a fight started by departing patrons. Patrol assisted staff in deescalating the disturbance until all those departed the scene.



Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Efforts

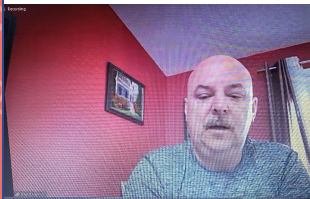
An important part of Chambers of Commerce is the advocacy efforts that are undertaken to ensure that conditions are good for local businesses and the economy. A recent [news article](#) highlights some of the recent advocacy efforts that have been undertaken with regards to the rapid testing program.

The letter sent to the provincial government indicates some suggestions that could be improved with the program namely, that the rapid tests used by a business to screen their employees can not be used by unvaccinated individuals who want to access a place participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program.

Chamber of Commerce Year in Review

With December being the final issue of the Chamber newsletter for 2021, here are some highlights from the past year to look back on.

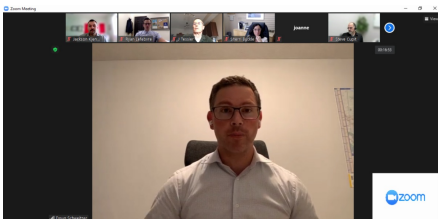
March 2021



March brings our Annual General Meeting. Once again, it was held virtually for the second year in row. However, file this under the unique ideas column with our Chamber having lunches delivered to our members who registered to attend. Thank you to David Hanson, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul for being our guest speaker.



May 2021



Our Chamber hosted the Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation to provide a presentation and take questions from our members. Great to have our members join us for the evening and hear from the Minister.

As of May 1, there are extra eyes and ears watching out for the business community. The launch of this program helps ensure security within the commercial districts of Cold Lake. Positive comments have been received regarding the impact of this program since it has been operating.



September 2021



With both federal and municipal elections taking place this year, the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce conducted forums with the candidates running for Member of Parliament and Reeve in the MD of Bonnyville. In addition to this, one on one interviews were held with City and MD Ward 5 & 6 councilor candidates that were uploaded to YouTube.

October 2021

Small Business Week is an important time to celebrate all the small businesses that are an important piece to our economy. This year, we hosted Michael Kerr, "The Workplace Energizer." Michael's presentation focused on inspiring workplaces and leadership through the use of humour.



Canadian Chamber of Commerce News

- 43% of businesses now say rising costs top concern, Canadian Chamber of Commerce signals caution on government spending
- Canadian businesses still missing clear line of sight to strong, sustained economic growth following throne speech

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