

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE
DE GRAVELBOURG
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Box 5
Gravelbourg, SK S0H 1X0
Phone: 306-648-7559
Fax: 306-648-3463
Email: gravelbourgchamber@gmail.com



OUR MISSION:
TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE GRAVELBOURG
AND AREA BUSINESSES CAN PROSPER

OUR VISION:
TO BE THE VOICE OF GRAVELBOURG AND AREA
BUSINESSES

“Business success isn’t something that just happens – success is learned, success is practiced and then it is shared.”

MAKING GRAVELBOURG A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST

MESSAGE FROM CHAMBER PRESIDENT, FRED HUNDERSMARCK

Is your Chamber Important or Impotent?

Boards cannot afford to settle for dysfunction in today’s world of governance. Rather, they must continually strive to drive results through collaborative efforts in order to succeed. This isn’t always easy to achieve.

The truth is that no one feels the pain of a poor board more than the President. When you spend countless hours every week pouring yourself into leading organizations – without clarity and without competence from the boardroom – it’s like working with a blindfold and handcuffs. Sadly, in the massive amount of advice available on how to go about implementing success in the boardroom, astonishingly few pieces address the role of the President. I’m aware of how we are unwittingly making board dysfunction possible – perhaps even likely – I might know what steps I need to take to turn it around. To implement these steps in a successful turnaround, I have to perform, in order, to follow certain steps, steps not everybody will like. Taking those steps will be my resolution for the year 2015.

As Chamber President I’m keenly aware of how the economy has drastically changed over the last decade. I’ve seen the business world and the communities we serve change as a result. Re-inventing who we are is no longer a luxury but a requirement. But success comes not without obstacles, I need to know and understand those obstacles. So the input of owners of small- and medium-size businesses is the key to Chamber (business) success.

Socialize, network and learn from one another. Join your Chamber and watch your business grow.

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**GRAVELBOURG
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

BUSINESSVIEW

VOLUME 7

DECEMBER 2014

COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Economic Development Office

Strategic Plan Focus & Operations Plan Projects: Priorities for 2015

Project No. 1: Undertake a sector by sector value chain analysis to determine focus for business and industrial attraction strategies.

Project No. 2: Continue pursuit of regional economic development with Gravelbourg Lafleche Regional Alliance (GLRA)

Project No. 3: Move investment readiness score to 90% with initial focus on community profiles and land inventory.

Project No. 4: Develop and implement a Business Retention & Expansion Strategy

Project No. 5: Develop a comprehensive Tourism Strategy including both tourist and tourism product attraction.

TRAIN THE EMPLOYEES YOU NEED WITH A GRANT UP TO \$10,000

The Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant helps you train people to meet your requirements and provides the skills they need to achieve their career goals.

The Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada are offering this program to provide funding – up to \$10,000 per trainee – to train new or existing employees for available jobs.

Program Features:

- You select the people you want to train and the training program.
- You pay at least one-third of the cost and the program funds the rest.
- You provide a job at the end of training.

For more information on this program, visit:
www.economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant

Thank you to TD Canada Trust for sponsoring the December Breakfast Meeting.



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www.gravelbourg.ca

WHAT THE KIDS ARE SAYING

The intent of speaking with the kids from grades 8, 10 & 12 was to gauge their view on the employment situation in Gravelbourg. 4 basic questions were asked: how many students are currently employed; how is work & leisure balanced; is their employment used as a means to an end or used as building blocks to future careers & finally, what 'special features' are there, if any, within the businesses in town.

Grade 8

- *almost half the class have jobs –all assisting family members (farm labour & other family businesses)
- *a few of the students plan to use their current jobs as building blocks for future careers (farming, machinery & veterinary)
- *none had an issue of needing to balance work with leisure
- *Gravelbourg was viewed as having many & varied businesses & the impression is finding employment in town should not be difficult

Grade 10

- *not quite half of the class currently have jobs
- *balancing employment & leisure is not an issue here either - most viewed their employment as a means to an end
- *all felt it was difficult to get a job in Gravelbourg
- *it was mentioned that the business community needs to view youth as equals in terms of both as customers & in their ability to make valuable contributions in the work force

Grade 12

- *over half have jobs or are planning on being employed over the summer
- *employment focus is on preparation for future after high school
- *most of the jobs were viewed as a means to an end & again the focus is on saving money for post secondary education
- *most viewed the balance of job & leisure as not being in conflict but for different reasons – if saving money was a priority then the job took precedence; others chose the leisure activity over the job
- *most found Gravelbourg limited with employment options for youth
- *most felt it was who you know not what you know

DID YOU KNOW....?

- We have scheduled 42 hours of public skating & scrimmage during the Christmas break?
- There is a Public Works Employee on call 24hrs per day 365 Days per Year? Simply call 306.648.3301 and Press #3 for any Public Works Emergency.
- Town office will be open December 24th until 3:00pm and CLOSED December 25th & 26th for the holidays?

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WHAT IS COLLECTIVE IMPACT?

Collective impact is the commitment of a group of individuals from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a complex social problem.

In order to create lasting solutions to social problems on a large-scale, organizations – including those in government, civil society, and the business sector – need to coordinate their efforts and work together around a clearly defined goal.

Collective impact is a significant shift from the social sector's current paradigm of "isolated impact," because the underlying premise of collective impact is that no single organization can create large-scale, lasting social change alone. There is no "silver

bullet" solution to systemic social problems, and these problems cannot be solved by simply scaling or replicating one organization or program. Strong organizations are necessary but not sufficient for large-scale social change.

Not all social problems are suited for collective impact solutions. Collective impact is best employed for problems that are complex and systemic rather than technical in nature. Collective impact initiatives are currently being employed to address a wide variety of issues around the world, including education, healthcare, homelessness, the environment, and community development. Many of these initiatives are already showing concrete results,

reinforcing the promise of collective impact in solving complex social problems.

The Five Conditions of Collective Impact Success

Collective impact is more rigorous and specific than collaboration among organizations. There are five conditions that, together, lead to meaningful results from collective impact:

1. *Common Agenda*
2. *Shared Measurement*
3. *Mutually Reinforcing Activities*
4. *Continuous Communication*
5. *Backbone Support*

SASKATCHEWAN'S LATEST ECONOMIC TRENDS

Following a strong economic expansion since 2003, Saskatchewan's employment advanced 3.4% in 2013 and its estimated output growth was 3.7%, in part reflecting record crop production. This year and next, the pace of Saskatchewan's expansion, though still substantial, is expected to moderate. While the diversification of its resource sector is expected to help sustain the province's momentum, more normal crop output, soft potash prices and a further pullback in housing starts from historic highs are anticipated.

*Pointing to Saskatchewan's economic momentum is its 1.8% population gain last year

*With job creation matching population inflows, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate of about 4%, is the lowest among the provinces.

*Saskatchewan's rapid job creation has been a boom to new housing construction which has risen sharply since 2009

*Saskatchewan's per capita retail sales reached \$16,500 last year

* In dollar terms, the share of Saskatchewan's merchandise exports to the United States has risen from 61% in 2000 to 65% in 2013.

GRAVELBOURG BUSINESS NEWS

Congratulations!

- Jason Kleckner on your new business location & expansion (Jason's Auto Collision 129-6th Ave. W.)
- Snack Shack! Open once again under new management
- Heritage B & B is now open for business!
- Co-op Card Lock and Fuel Station opening December 17th

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