

The Benefits of Becoming a Chamber Member

The Peace River Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome you to the Peace River Business Community. The Peace River & District Chamber of Commerce is an advocacy group for local business. The local Chamber was started in 1922 and continues as a strong voice in the community. Together with the Alberta Chamber of Commerce we work to provide support, service & Networking opportunities for local business.

Recent successes for the Peace River & District Chamber of Commerce include:

1. Presenting & passing a policy with the Alberta Chamber to lobby the Provincial Government to make a commitment to Northern Alberta infrastructure, specifically highway 688 & the Highway 2 Bridge through Peace River.
2. Continued discussions with the Town of Peace River Council about the importance of establishing an Economic Development Plan for the community.
3. Hosting Information sessions to the members & community including;
 - a. Provincial Candidates forum prior to the 2015 Provincial Election
 - b. Property tax calculation & appeal process.
 - c. Employment Standards workshop.
 - d. Meeting with the Minister of Energy
 - e. Meeting(s) with the Minister of Finance

There are many benefits to Membership including:

1. Access to group medical benefits and insurance through the Chambers Group Insurance Plan. Even small operations can gain obtain very cost effective benefits through belonging to a group plan.
2. Discounted Credit card rates through Alberta Chambers, and discounted gasoline plans through partnered offerings.
3. Monthly Membership meetings, these meetings provide an opportunity for networking & learning, each month we host a speaker to provide information to our Members. Recent speakers have been the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Minister of Energy and Deputy-Speaker of the House, MLA Debbie Jabbour.

4. Monthly Business Socials, a more relaxed event to highlight local businesses in their place of business. These are a great time to network & learn more about what the community has to offer. Recent socials have taken place at United Floors, MNP, and Fern's Greenhouse. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend these socials.

In addition we host several events throughout the year:

1. **The Davis Awards** – a celebration & recognition of Businesses & Individuals that promote great business practices in the area.
2. **Annual Spring Trade Show** – the real kick off to the busy season, this year attended by more than 3000 consumers. Chamber members receive discounted exhibitor rates.
3. **The Amazing Downtown Dash** - a new fun-filled family event that will bring together business operators and teams of competitors who will compete to complete tasks throughout downtown Peace River. It is designed to let our community know who is behind the businesses we see in our neighborhood every day. Event takes Place on June 4.
4. **Charity Barbeque** – held this year on Heritage Day Weekend celebrating 100 years of the Northern Alberta Railway Station. BBQ is a fundraiser for a new student scholarship the Chamber will present at next Year's Davis Awards.
5. **Golf Tournament** – September 10, Heart River Golf Course – a chance for some outdoor fun and fellowship over a round of Texas Scramble-style golf. Lots of Prizes to be won, even if you are not a great golfer. Even though lost balls do not (generally) count against you in a Texas Scramble, there will be a prize for the golfer who loses the most balls!
6. **Small Business week** – In conjunction with Community Futures we will be presenting a special speaker and supporting business activities hosted by PRCF. This year's Keynote speaker will be Todd Hirsch, Chief Financial Economist from ATB.
7. **Passport to the Peace** – Our annual Christmas Shopping program to promote shopping local. People shopping at participating businesses receive a stamp on their passport for a chance to win the \$500 early bird draw and the main prize of \$2500.

A new program we offer to members, and non-member businesses, is a ribbon cutting and welcome program, where we provide the benefits listed on the attached sheet:

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