

Chamber celebrates Small Business

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures of Central Kootenay are pleased to be celebrating Small Business week.

You are invited to join us for our next Business after Business, Wednesday October 19th at the Community Futures offices, 2nd Floor -514 Vernon Street(above the Post office)

Drop by after work between 5pm-7pm with your work colleagues for appies, a glass of wine, or a Nelson Brewing Company beverage, and a chance to network with other Nelson and area business people.



Community Futures Andrea Wilkey (centre) with staff and Board members at 2015 Business after Business

The Chamber and Community Futures understands the importance of our business sector. Small Business plays a vital role in British Columbia's economy. Small business drives job creation, productivity and economic growth.

Small Business week runs October 16th-22nd

98 per cent of all British Columbia businesses are small businesses, less than 50 employees

83 per cent of those are micro businesses (under five employees)

In Nelson there are close to 1300 business licenses issued annually. There is a true entrepreneurial spirit, that makes our community stronger and more vibrant.

Chamber President Ed Olthof says "Small businesses make up a major part of Nelson's business community and play a critical role in driving our local economy and creating jobs. "Small Business week is a great opportunity for our community to celebrate these hard-working businesses that bring great ideas and entrepreneurial spirit to our area.

As a member of the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Nelson Chamber is part of active advocacy to support small businesses, including:

- Working with the City of Nelson as a key stakeholder for businesses in the downtown Urban Design and Railtown Planning
- working to implement mobile business licences in regions across the province;
- Continued advocacy for lower municipal business taxes and reducing red tape

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce is a dedicated advocate for our small businesses at the City and Regional District level.

Join us in celebrating **Small Business Week** next Wednesday October 19th, 5pm-7pm at Community Futures. Stop by for a glass of wine, your favourite NBC beer and after work appies.

Through our sector consultations and our current Business Retention and Expansion survey with our Economic Development partners, we are able to get the information required to advocate for your business sector.

It's Gala Dinner and Auction time Saturday November 5th

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce is busy gearing up for our annual Gala Dinner & Auction. This year's event will be held Saturday November 5th at the Prestige Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre.

This is our primary fundraiser and one of the year's premier social events. Funds raised from this event go a long way to assisting in our Shop Nelson



“Think Local First” marketing campaigns, the development of the CP Station Plaza, and other Economic Development activities that support the business community including workshops and training opportunities.

As in previous years the event has sold out, although it may have sold out a bit earlier than previous years.

We would also like to thank the many businesses that are contributing to the auction.

On behalf of the Chamber Staff and the Board of Directors, we sincerely hope your business has had a successful year to date and thank you very much for your continued support.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Gala Dinner and Auction.

Sincerely,
Ed Olthof, President

Broadband for Business Workshops October 18th and 25th

The Nelson & Area Economic Development Partnership (NAEDP) presents “**Broadband for Business in Nelson**” workshop and coaching program – to help businesses improve their business performance using technology enabled by broadband communications.

The program consists of:

- a 1-hour **workshop** explaining what broadband is, how companies around the world are using broadband to expand and to improve their business performance, and what broadband services and options are available in the local Nelson area; and
- The program can also provide Nelson & area businesses with a confidential **technology coaching engagement**

The **Broadband for Business in Nelson** workshop will be held twice at Community Futures office at 514 Vernon Street in Nelson from 12:00pm to 1:00pm on Oct 18 and 25. Pre-registration is required as seats are limited. ***There is no charge for the workshop.***

If you would like to take advantage of the **technology coaching engagement**, it will focus on your specific business circumstances and goals in a one on one session with a business technology professional who will provide recommendations on how you can best use broadband-enabled technology to improve your business performance.

For the one-on-one **technology coaching engagements**, up to 8 businesses will be selected from applicants. Businesses who attend the workshop will be given preference for the coaching engagement.

There will be a fee of \$100 for the technology coaching engagements (over \$500 value).

Why attend this program?

As broadband telecommunication has become increasingly available, inventive minds in the business world have created many new ways to use this technology to improve how business is run, to improve service to their customers, and to increase the speed and quality with which staff can perform their jobs. The NAEDP has set a strategic goal of driving technology adoption by local businesses, as we believe that broadband communication is a vital component of the future success of our region. We have created the **Broadband for Business in Nelson** program to help you discover how your business can benefit from this exciting technology.

The Chamber and NAEDP will conduct Business Walks October 18th

The Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership will be conducting Business Walks the afternoon of **Tuesday October 18th 2016, 1pm-4pm as part of Small Business Week**. Small Business is the lifeblood of business in British Columbia with close to 98% of all business being small business.

The Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures, some City Councilors, Work BC, and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training will all have volunteers on hand.

We want to visit businesses primarily in the downtown core, retail, accommodators, food and beverage to get a quick pulse on the business climate

following the summer and heading into the winter and Christmas retail period.

What are Business Walks and Why Do It?

A "Business Walk" is a day dedicated to learning more about your local businesses through face face interviews on their turf.

During the Business Walks, local leaders and key community stakeholders visit a number of businesses with the hopes of gathering the knowledge they need to help their community and strengthen relationships to foster a stronger business and friendlier business climate.

The Business Walk Program will allow all of our organizations;

- Understand the issues and opportunities of our business community
- Quickly diagnose firms on the brink of greatness or that may be at risk
- Build long lasting and effective working relationships between decision makers and local
- Increase awareness of the programs and services offered by the Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures, Work BC, and other business support agencies
- Track the state of the local business community over time and provide local businesses with access to information that can help them grow and expand locally.

We may be dropping into your business when we make the rounds in downtown Nelson the afternoon of **Tuesday October 18th 2016, 1pm-4pm as part of Small Business Week**.

Is your firm paying too much for Insurance

Looking for a cost effective way to purchase health and dental benefits for you or your employees? What makes the Chamber Insurance Plan different? Over 20,000 firms that we cover today each have custom coverage based on the types and amounts of insurance the owner selected. The Chambers Plan lets you control the cost, because you control the coverage you purchase and premiums are a deductible business expense.

The Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan® you can get the most sought-after group benefits; from extended health to dental and vision care.

The Plan offers a full range of employee benefits. Start with life insurance and, for firms with fewer than 5 employees, add either a disability benefit or health and dental. All other coverage is optional, each with a comprehensive list of alternatives so that the benefits you choose fit your company.

- Life Insurance/Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- Dependent Life
- Short Term Disability
- Long Term Disability
- Health Insurance
- Travel Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Orthodontics (for groups of 10+)
- Employee Assistance Counseling
- Vision Care

Let's put the Chambers Plan to work for you!

Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce 2016-2017 Board of Directors

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