



Mission Chamber of Commerce **Business**TRACK

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MARCH 2016

Chamber AGM March 17: Bylaw changes and Nominees

On March 17th the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its Annual General Meeting. During this annual networking luncheon, we ask members to endorse by-law changes and yearly financials and elect new Directors to the governing Board and its Executive.

The Mission Chamber is governed by the federal Board of Trade Act under the authority of Industry Canada. Changes to its name, governing region, and bylaws are subject to final approval by the Privy Council of Canada.

To ensure transparency and consistency within the Chamber, two areas of change in our current bylaws were recommended to bring the Chamber in line with standard practices. This year's meeting will include bylaw changes that will be submitted to membership for approval including; a change in the approval process for changes in membership fee, and bringing better clarity of the length of term of the Executive Committee members. In addition to these bylaw changes will be a recommendation to the Membership to approve a one-time adjustment of current 2015 Membership rates.

For information on the bylaw changes and Member rate recommendation go to www.MissionChamber.bc.ca

Nominees

The Board is presently seeking three directors to

fill a two year term and an additional two directors to fill a one year open position on the Board. Nominees are required to be members in good standing of the Mission Chamber of Commerce. The following is a list of nominations presented by the Board of Directors. Additional nominees may be brought forth from the membership during the meeting for consideration.

Nominations that will be presented by the Board of Directors include:

For President, One year term – one candidate to serve until March 31, 2017

Dave Sawatzky, Nutek Sign Creations

Co-Owner of Nutek Sign Creations, David is a Community Minded, Family-Centric Business Professional; experienced in Management & Leadership, Client Relations and Business Development. His strengths include: Team Building, Communications and Short & Long-Term Planning. Fostering change, building consensus, utilizing resources and relationships, contributing to "grass roots" insight affecting day-to-day and long term planning best describe Dave's strengths. Dave sits on the Government Affairs Committee of the Chamber as well as St. James & St. Ann's Catholic School Education Committee, and is member of the Abbotsford Flying Club.

For Vice President, One year term – one candidate to serve until March 31, 2017

Tony Luck, Investors Group

Tony Luck, born in Vancouver and growing up in Richmond is a consultant at Investors Group Financial Services Inc. He joined the company in 2006 after a twenty-seven year career with BC Hydro. He held a number of positions at the crown corporation and changed careers while a business analyst in the call center. Tony has spent numerous years in the past working with various groups and organizations including the Boy Scouts and is currently a director of the Mission Community Foundation.

For Treasurer, One year term – one candidate to serve until March 31, 2017

Sean Melia, Prospera Credit Union

Manager of Mission's Prospera Credit Union since 2004, Sean sees that the Chamber offers value for business in more than just networking. There is also a great deal of value for business in the direction the Chamber is taking to be a business leader and advocate.

For Director, Two year terms - Choose up to 3 candidates

Andrea Walker, Walker Park Media

Andrea Walker is a freelance graphic designer and photographer and has been

operating Walker Park Media, a boutique digital design agency serving small and medium business since 2010. Originating from Maple Ridge, Andrea was chair of Maple Ridge SPAC in 2011 before leaving her position when her family moved to Mission.

Jason Hughes, Taylor, Tait, Ruley and Company

A longtime resident of Mission, Jason graduated from UFV with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice degree in 2000. He attended law school at the University of British Columbia, receiving his Juris Doctor degree in 2014. Jason did his articles at Taylor, Tait, Ruley and Company, completing his articles in June 2015, when he became an associate lawyer at the firm.

Brian Rock, Fraser Valley Real Estate Board

Brian Rock was born in Maple Ridge and moved to Mission before the age of 1. From a close family of four, he attended elementary and high school in Mission and is a proud citizen. Brian joined the family pharmacy business and played a significant role in its growth to five retail outlets. During this time he served on a variety of task forces and committees, ranging from civic initiatives to downtown business improvements. In 2008 Brian obtained his Real Estate License and was recently elected, as a Director

to the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board.

For Director, One year term – choose up to 2 candidates

Asvind Mani, Mission Automotive

Mr. Asvind Mani is the chief executive officer and general manager of Mission Automotive. He founded The Mission Automotive Group (formerly the MMA Group) in 2003 which now includes Mac's Towing and Recycling Corporation and Lakshmi Development Ltd. Mr. Mani began his career working in the automotive industry and has more than 10 years' experience working in the automotive and steel related industries.

JJ Whitley, DV8 Multimedia

JJ has been involved in three areas of Media in the past 20+ years; Websites, Photography-Videography and Animation. Having Clients like FujiFilm USA, Sheraton Hotels, Maynards, YWCA and Pioneer Chrysler Jeep / Signature Mazda etc. He has created a network of people who want their message to be seen through his mediums. JJ has directed at the CBC and been an Exec Producer for 24/7 Films, JJ has created many films and shorts for the 24 Hr Film Race as well.



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MARCH 2016 President's Report

Spring is the month for renewal and what better way to renew than to elect a new Chamber Board of Directors! Please join us on Thursday March 17th at our regular luncheon time at the Best Western to celebrate the end of one Chamber year and the beginning of another. Your Chamber board has been very busy putting the final touches on our new strategic plan that will be unveiled at this years AGM.

We have been very busy planning some great events for the coming year including our China Trip in October, monthly Business After Hours events, great educational seminars and our Annual golf event in May. We are very excited to offer a new "Night Golf" networking event in September for those looking for a different experience!

Did you know that our membership is compromised of approximately 10% non profit organizations?

A new British Columbia Societies Act received Royal Assent on May 14, 2015 and will come into place when the new legislation is passed. Non-profit society boards will need to understand the new

realities of their reporting requirements which include but are not limited to majority of independent directors, reporting on director and top 10 employee and contractor remuneration, reporting on financial assistance given by societies, and electronic filing opportunities. It is very important to understand the Society Act as it provides rules for incorporation and governance of approximately 27,000 societies in British Columbia.

The Chamber is pleased to be offering an Education Workshop for Non Profit Boards. The purpose of this training is to provide an interactive and hands-on learning experience for non-profit boards and executive directors in order for them to carry out their work with excellence and in line with best board practices. Our workshop will be held on Tuesday April 26 from 7am until noon (Breakfast included). You can register online for this workshop and space is limited!

As this is my last newsletter as the President of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce I would like



Ann Harper *PRESIDENT*

to thank all of the community for the support you have shown the Chamber over these past few years. I encourage you to get involved with all the exciting new programs and services we will be bringing to you over the next year.

Non Profit Boards That Work: Education Workshop

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting a workshop for non-profit boards and executive directors.

The purpose of this training is to provide an interactive and hands-on learning experience for non-profit boards and executive directors in order for them to carry out their work with excellence and in line with best board practices.

Training Facilitator - Cam Taylor Cam is an Associate Certified Coach (ACC) with the International Coach Federation (ICF) and a Certified Executive Coach (CEC) with the Center for Executive Coaching. He has worked with leaders and teams for over 30 years and coaching and training professionally for eight. He works with leaders, teams, non-profits to provide solutions including strategic planning, succession planning, governance training, and executive level coaching.



Cam Taylor

Date: Apr 26, 2016

Time: 7am-Noon

(Breakfast provided)

Location: 32331 7th Avenue

(Chartwell Cedarbrooke)

Cost: \$45 members

\$55 non-members

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED

Book online at

missionchamber.bc.ca/events

To see a list of all our upcoming Chamber events visit
missionchamber.bc.ca

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Lawyer Vishal Bajpai and office administrator Stacey Bajpai at work at Bajpai Law Corporation, which offers services ranging from family, civil, and corporate law to personal injury and real estate.

PHOTO: CLICK MEDIA WORKS

Spotlight on Business:

Big-city expertise with a Fraser Valley heart: Bajpai Law Corporation

Kathleen Rake

CLICK MEDIA WORKS

Bajpai Law Corporation, with its office in historic downtown Abbotsford, is where Mission resident and lawyer Vishal Bajpai sees his clients.

A graduate of University of Victoria, Bajpai was called to the Bar of British Columbia in July, 2005. He articulated at Shook Wickham Bishop & Field (SWB&F) in Campbell River, where he worked primarily personal injury cases under the mentorship of Sidney S. Shook, QC.

"I've worked corporate law in the big city, where I researched and litigated a number of complex, obscure cases and successfully argued for high-profile corporate clients," explained Bajpai. "My clients here in the Fraser Valley benefit from that experience

because they get what some call big-city expertise, but they don't have to suffer the costs of big-city overhead, which I would have to pass on to recover."

Bajpai has worked cases heard in the Provincial, Federal, and Supreme courts, as well as before the Human Rights Tribunal and Residential Tenancy Branch. Early in his career, he appeared on behalf of the Federal Crown on several occasions and argued for ICBC. After leaving SWB&F, Bajpai practised corporate law, first at a Maple Ridge law firm, and later at a downtown Vancouver law firm, where he concentrated on securities law.

Today, in addition to corporate and real estate work, Bajpai's practice includes personal injury litigation, intellectual property and family law.

"I also enjoy drop-in notarization as it allows me to connect with more people."

"One of the best things about my work," shared Bajpai, "is knowing that I really am helping people. I'll never forget the time I received a thank-you card from a client whose case was turned away by several lawyers; Thank you for believing in me, it said."

Bajpai typically sees clients by appointment in his office, but when possible, he works flexible hours to accommodate clients' special circumstances.

Bajpai Law Corporation is at Suite 1 - 33775 Essendene Ave., Abbotsford. Contact Bajpai at (604) 746-2972 or reception@bajpai.ca. Visit www.Bajpai.ca for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17th

CHAMBER MONTHLY LUNCHEON – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us for the year's round up, covering financials and election of new members to the Board of Directors.

Place: Rockwell's Chapel Room

Time: 11:30am-1pm

Price: \$20 members

\$25 non members

March 22nd

BUDGET DEBRIEF WITH MLA SIMON GIBSON

Join MLA Simon Gibson as he runs through the budget and what it means for you.

Place: Mission Chamber of Commerce Boardroom

Time: 12pm-1pm

Price: FREE to members

light lunch provided

SPACE IS LIMITED – Register TODAY

April 13th

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – GRAB A JAVA ROASTERIE

The Business after Business mixer is the best way to make connections within the Mission Business community. Bring your business cards and be ready to network with your fellow members!

Place: 7340 Murray St

Time: 5pm-7pm

Cost: FREE to members

April 14th

CHINA INFO SESSION – Join us for our 2nd info session and get a chance to hear from staff who will be just returning from their own trip to China!!

Place: Mission Chamber of Commerce Boardroom

Time: 5:30-7pm

SPACE IS LIMITED – Register TODAY

April 19th

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE WITH MLA SIMON GIBSON AND MARK DALTON

Place: Mission Chamber of Commerce Boardroom

Time: 8am-10am Continental Breakfast provided

Price: FREE to members

SPACE IS LIMITED – Register TODAY

Get ready for Spring!

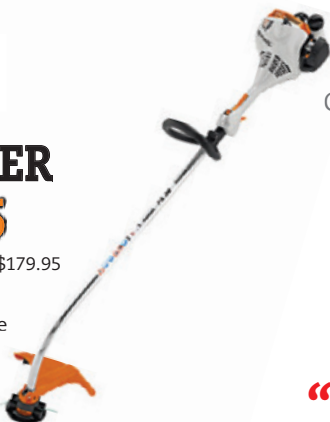
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A Growing Technology Hub

When you think of Mission does high tech spring to mind? More and more, it should.

The Sumas Regional Consortium for High Tech (SRCTec) runs a thriving Technology Centre of Excellence (TCE) and tech-focused venture accelerator right in the heart of downtown Mission, and its bringing tech businesses and entrepreneurs to our community to launch and grow their businesses. Greenhouse Games, Tech Mist and MyGreen Space are some of the recent successes grown out of this exciting project.

Why Mission?

Due to the lower cost of living, costs of doing business, and the growing network of experienced tech professionals involved in SRCTec, provides the right mix for anyone looking to launch a tech venture and finding success.

Consider this, for a couple working and living in Vancouver, Mount Pleasant, the expenses each month for paying for their home, transportation, utilities and taxes leave them \$2,500 behind that same couple in Mission. For entrepreneurs looking to spend their time and money on growing a business, Mission simply makes sense.

The combined programs and services offered through SRCTec and the Technology Venture Accelerator (VAP) operated out of the Tech Centre of Excellence in Mission means entrepreneurs developing new technology businesses have access to world-class skill development, mentorship, funding and connections to experienced leaders in the tech community.

SRCTec is a non-profit organization that is making waves in the tech sector with advocating, educating and giving tech-based entrepreneurs the best tools and resources to establish roots in our budding community.

SRCTec offers programs to help accelerate tech businesses, educational workshops to enhance skills, membership to promote networking and the Technology Centre of Excellence which includes a variety of services to help tech entrepreneurs succeed in Mission. SRCTec has also partnered with the District of Mission to launch Tech Starts Here, a campaign to recruit and retain tech focused businesses. Together, our municipality and SRCTec are committed to fostering technology-led innovation, jobs growth, and education for the region.

There are a lot of exciting plans in the works that will put a mark on Mission, making it the place to do business.

For more information on the programs and services SRCTec offers to tech entrepreneurs, upcoming events and news please visit www.srctec.org or contact us at info@srctec.org. Check out the Tech Starts Here campaign website tech.mission.ca

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Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Chamber: p. 604-457-4599, info@ridgemeanowchamber.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winner of the Trip to China contest was announced - Rahman Shafi won an all inclusive trip to China with the Mission and Maple Ridge Pitt-Meadows Chambers of Commerce.

Kristin Parsons from the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce and Karen Murtagh from the Mission Record pose with trip winner Rahman Shafi.



WELL DONE RAHMAN!

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