



**THE VOICE OF BUSINESS**

# NEWSLETTER

2024 SUMMER EDITION

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS:**

- Blackwood Beauty Studio
- Guidebook Consulting
- Studio 20 Fitness

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*Tanya Hutchinson, Visitor Centre Counselor for the WL & District Chamber of Commerce, opened our book launch with a drumming of the "Warrior Woman" song.*

*Photo by Laureen Carruthers Photography*

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[www.wlchamber.ca](http://www.wlchamber.ca)

[www.tourismwilliamslake.com](http://www.tourismwilliamslake.com)

# President's Message



As we enter into the summer season, we're pleased to announce that the Tourism Discovery Centre is now on summer hours. Our friendly staff look forward to greeting tourists and answering questions about our city and surrounding area! Drop by and have a coffee or ice cream or browse our giftware and souvenirs.

Thank you everyone for renewing your membership with the chamber and a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined.

Along with hosting a number of events we have been busy lobbying government on your behalf! We have challenged government on the mandatory sick days and minimum wage! Everyone agrees with the idea of sick days, but our position is there should be a reimbursement of wages back to business. Depending on the number of employees it's a huge cost that is hard to make up, government needs to be fair and ease the hardship on businesses. Also, minimum wage, everyone needs a living wage. But the way this was brought in is unfair to a lot of businesses, especially those that were, or are paying more than minimum wage. The other issue that we believe is very important to Williams Lake and area is Atlantic Power. The Chamber is working hard along side Atlantic Power to have BC Hydro give Atlantic Power a fair rate for their hydro production. It's unbelievable that government would allow this plant to close.

We also share the Tourism Discovery Center with the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and work together to share the regions history and the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame!

On behalf of the Staff and board of directors of the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce, have a safe and joyous summer!

Paul French

President, Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

*Businesses working together to  
make our community even better*

## The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

is "The Voice of Business": Businesses working together towards economic and social well being to make our community a better place to live. We promote the well being of business and foster a work, shop and play at home atmosphere.

# Executive Director's Message

## Greetings Chamber Members

As the warm days of summer approach, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the incredible achievements and events we've experienced together over the past few months. The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce continues to thrive, thanks to your support and active participation.



We kicked off the season with our Business at its Best Social, an evening filled with networking, insights, and inspiration. It was heartening to see so many local business leaders come together to share their experiences, hear incredible stories of achievement and customer services.

Our Ladies Night event was another success, celebrating the remarkable contributions of women in our community. The evening was a perfect blend of empowerment, camaraderie, and fun, that left us all inspired by the stories and achievements shared.

The Chamber Expo showcased the best our businesses have to offer. It was a busy marketplace where local enterprises displayed their innovations and services. The turnout was fantastic, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We're already looking forward to next year's Expo!

In partnership with School District #27, we hosted Guess My Job, an initiative aimed at inspiring our youth and giving them a glimpse into the Trades professions. The engagement from both students and trades professionals was outstanding, making it a truly enriching experience for all involved.

One of the highlights of our season was the 1st Annual Wine Festival, organized in partnership with the Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre. The festival was a delightful evening of fine wine, gourmet food, and community spirit, all while supporting a great cause. We're thrilled by the community's response and eagerly anticipate next year's event.

We have been actively addressing the potential closure of Atlantic Power. In light of the company's notice to close in January 2025 due to challenges in finding affordable fibre options, we submitted a resolution for debate at the BC

Chamber Conference titled, "Viable Fibre Supply Necessary for Carbon-Neutral Producing Power Plants." We attended the policy session May 29th and 30th in Kelowna where our resolution was debated. 92% of Chambers voted in favor of our resolution! Additionally we have sent letters to the appropriate ministers. Our goal is to advocate for solutions that will keep this vital

part of our local economy operational.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these events and initiatives. Your dedication and enthusiasm are what make our Chamber and our community so vibrant and dynamic. Let's continue to support one another and build a prosperous future together.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer filled with success and joy.

Tamara Garreau, Executive Director  
Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce



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## Kim's Korner

### Exciting Visitor Season Begins!

We are all excited about the start of the tourist

season! We have been busy preparing for our visitors by bringing in new merchandise, restocking ice cream, and ordering new brochures. There is a positive energy in the air anticipating the arrival of tourists from near and far.

During the low season, we kept busy with many event rentals and various activities. It was a busy event season, featuring Ladies' Night, Chamber Expo, Wine Festival, and our Golf Tournament. These events brought our community together and kept the spirit of adventure and fun alive throughout the quieter months.

As we step into the bustling tourist season, we look forward to seeing new faces and enjoying interesting conversations with visitors from around the world. The charm of Williams Lake lies not just in its scenic beauty but in the warm, welcoming spirit of its people. We are ready to share our stories, hear about your travels, and make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

If you are looking for information about the local area and upcoming events, please feel free to contact us either in person or by phone at 250-392-5025. We are always eager to help you plan an outing in the great outdoors. Whether it's hiking, biking, or simply exploring the natural wonders around us, we are here to guide you.

Williams Lake boasts a great number of adventurous hikes and bike rides. If you need some direction, please come, and see us. We are here to help you find your adventure. There is a trail beginning right from our parking lot, ready to lead you into the heart of nature. Go out and enjoy the great outdoors!

The start of the visitor season is more than just a busy time for us; it's a celebration of all the things that make Williams Lake special. We can't wait to share our beautiful town with you and create lasting memories together.

Welcome to Williams Lake!

Kim Abel  
Visitor Centre Manager

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# Mayor's Message

As we head into summer, I am happy to provide an update from the Mayor's desk.

I was pleased to attend the Columneetza Pow Wow in January, and I know we are all looking forward to attending the Father's Day Pow Wow hosted by Williams Lake First Nation over the Father's Day weekend.

In February, I attended the Cariboo Cattlemen's Association's AGM. Agriculture is essential to our region, and I am thankful for their dedication to this important industry. From educational sessions to stewardship to dedication to healthy and sustainable cattle, we are all thankful for their ongoing commitment to best practices.

The City of Williams Lake celebrated its 95th birthday with cake and tea at the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin on March 15. It's always a special day to reflect on our beginnings and our progress – special thanks to the Museum for hosting this wonderful event each year.

The Council of Forest Industries held its Convention in Vancouver in April, and I was pleased to represent the City at this informative event. The 2024 program focused on the issues that will define the future of the BC forest sector.

City of Williams Lake Council members attended the North Central Local Government Association's AGM and Conference in Smithers mid-May. It was a powerful opportunity to network and learn about issues affecting all northern BC communities.

The Chamber's Williams Lake Business Expo was a well-attended and informative event. Thank you to the Chamber for hosting this showcase. As well, the annual Job Fair hosted by CCTAEC was a great success again this year. It was wonderful to see the many organizations and employers in our community share information about what they do. Both events were great ways to share the many opportunities right here in our community!

I was honoured to attend the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw's 2024 NStQ Citizen's Assembly on May 22 and 23. The annual event brings together members of the Northern Secwépemc te Qelmúcw in a celebration of culture, tradition and language.

Progress is ongoing for the Glen Arbor expansion, Cariboo Memorial Hospital project, and the Water Treatment Plant construction. Council was pleased to receive an update from Massive Canada on their project, which is expected to add 140 jobs to our community.

Work continues on a community-wide response to help ensure Atlantic Power's continued operations. We will continue to push for a resolution to the challenges they are currently facing.

With the 96th annual Williams Lake Stampede gearing up, I know we are all excited to take in all of the wonderful events from June 28th through July 1st. I am looking forward to seeing Williams Lake show off our amazing hospitality and Stampede spirit!

Surinderpal Rathor  
Mayor, City of Williams Lake

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Grow your business!  
Contact our Business Development partners!



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Studio 20 Fitness



Studio 20 Fitness is owned and operated by Cindi Saj, Bianca Cronin and Brandy Links, 3 Women that have a love and passion for fitness and community. They wanted to allow others to be able to come together in a safe space and experience fitness in a fun inviting and welcoming environment and hence Studio 20 was born.

Studio 20 believes that there are many facets to fitness. Fitness is not only physical health but mental health as well. Our goal is to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all abilities and fitness levels to build a happy and healthy body and mind. We want to create a community of like minded people who will support one another and become like a family while training hard in the process.

Studio 20 opened its doors in Dec 2021 with just the 3 of us and has since grown into an amazing community and we now have 12 amazing instructors all with a passion for fitness and fun.

We offer a wide range of classes geared to all levels from beginners to advance and all our instructors are certified and insured. We have

a huge variety of classes to choose from and something for everyone. Classes that we offer include Spin, Yoga, Barre, Strength Training and Muscle Conditioning, as well as specialty and seasonal classes such as Take A Hike and Outdoor Bootcamp. There are classes offered throughout the day starting at 5:15am, Lunch classes and a variety of evening classes starting between 5pm and 6:30pm so that no matter when you can find a class to suit your needs.

Studio 20 also offers special events such as Hike, Yoga and Lunch to a variety of amazing places around the Cariboo. You can find more information about classes and events on our social media pages

Facebook: (5) Facebook

Instagram: Studio 20 Fitness in Williams Lake, BC (@studio.20.fitness) • Instagram photos and videos

And our Website: Studio.20.Fitness  
(studio20fitness.com)



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **Guidebook Consulting**



Guidebook Consulting is a professional counselling service that offers individual, group, and family therapy sessions to individuals of all ages (children, youth and adults). Counselling services are offered in person in downtown Williams Lake and online. Guidebook Consulting is an ideal choice for your counselling needs because Dr. Cindi Saj, PhD and Christa Smith, MACP are highly qualified professionals.

Christa and Cindi provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for clients to explore their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and work towards identifying their strengths, develop coping skills, and promoting positive change. With their extensive education and direct counselling experience, they both offer a wealth of knowledge and practice experience in the field of mental health and wellness.

Working with Christa or Cindi at Guidebook Consulting can provide numerous benefits, including improved mental health and well-being, enhanced coping skills and resilience, improved relationships and communication, increased self-awareness and personal growth, reduced stress and anxiety and improved overall quality of life.

If you're seeking professional counseling services from experienced and compassionate therapists, Guidebook Consulting is a great resource for you.



Come visit Christa and Cindi at 104-235 Oliver Street, Williams Lake, BC. You can book an initial assessment at [www.guidebookconsulting.ca](http://www.guidebookconsulting.ca) or call 778-267-6676. You can also email Christa at [christa@guidebookconsulting.ca](mailto:christa@guidebookconsulting.ca) or reach out to Cindi at [cindi@guidebookconsulting.ca](mailto:cindi@guidebookconsulting.ca)

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## *MEMBER SPOTLIGHT* **Blackwood Beauty Studio**



Blackwood Beauty Studio has been in the Cariboo for 7 years now. For the first couple of years, it was a small home studio on Fox Mountain and known as Kristen Foote Make-up & Hair. But since Kristen's services had expanded to more than just make-up and hair she rebranded as Blackwood Beauty Studio. Shortly after that her home studio moved to it's current location in 150 Mile House. Her services include make-up and hair for weddings, photoshoots and events. Skin care treatments for any skin type, this includes peels and dermaplaning. Waxing, tinting, brow lamination and lash lifts and tints. As well as lessons for any age to learn about make-up, hair styling or skin care!

Kristen studied at Blanche MacDonald and Vancouver Film School. She has diplomas in Esthetic and Make-up design for film and tv. Over her career she has lived and worked in Vancouver, Toronto and Williams Lake. She started in the WLSS Stagecraft class doing make-up for the high school theater productions. From there she worked in spas, a blow dry bar, freelancing as a make-up artist in commercial and TV work and has done over 400 weddings!

She is currently renovating her new location on Oliver Street in Williams Lake where she will be hiring more staff and offering a beauty boutique shopping experience. Her goal is to provide exceptional services with a focus on education. Skin health is for everyone but not everyone learns how to take care of their skin. So that's where Blackwood Beauty comes in! She uses professional products in all treatments and has them available to purchase as well. Currently Dermalogica and Youngblood are her brands of choice but as business grows in the new location, she will be bringing in more skin care, make-up and hair products. Hoping to also bring in bridal accessories and jewellery!

In the new location Kristen is very excited to be able to offer lunch time express treatments, ladies' nights and more classes! With new staff and a bigger location clients will be able to come in and shop anytime! We'll be available for colour matching and skin care advice! Your one stop beauty shop!



# Guess My Job Event

## in Partnership with SD#27

The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with School District #27 ADST Helping Teacher Alison Bos and Principal Kelvin Parent, on April 23rd, hosted an exciting and educational event titled “Guess My Job.” This event, aimed at fostering curiosity and awareness about various careers among grade 7 students, featured an engaging format where students interacted with professionals from the trades industry.

The assembly began with three panelists representing different trades. The unique twist? The students had to guess the panelists’ professions by asking yes or no questions. This interactive approach not only piqued the students’ interest but also encouraged them to think critically about the diverse skills and roles within the trades sector.



After a question-and-answer session, the panelists left the room to change into their work wear and gather equipment related to their trades. Upon their return, the students were thrilled to see the professionals in their full work attire, complete with tools and equipment that illustrated their day-to-day tasks.



The surprise reveal was met with curiosity among the students. They engaged with the panelists, asking questions about their careers, the training required, and what a typical day looks like in their respective fields.

Events like “Guess My Job” are integral to our mission at the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce. By connecting students with local professionals, we aim to inspire the next generation and highlight the importance and diversity of careers in the trades industry. We believe that early exposure to different career paths helps students make informed decisions about their

futures and fosters a greater appreciation for the various professions that contribute to our community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the panelists Danae Moore, West Fraser Electrician, Doug Neufeld, Stampede Glass Glazier and Jodi Prevost, Gibraltar Mine Haul Truck Driver for their participation and to School District #27 for their invite and partnership. Together, we are committed to providing opportunities that educate and inspire our youth.

Stay tuned for more exciting events and initiatives from the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce.



# Celebrating Empowerment: 2nd Annual Ladies Night Event

On March 15th, the Longhouse was abuzz with energy and excitement as we gathered to celebrate the 2nd Annual Ladies Night, a signature event marking International Women's Month. This year's celebration was a remarkable success, bringing together women from across our community to honour their achievements, foster connections, and enjoy an evening of delightful entertainment and camaraderie.

The evening was gracefully emceed by Beth Veenkamp, the City's Economic Development Officer, whose engaging presence and insightful commentary set the perfect tone for the night. Beth's leadership and dedication to economic development in Williams Lake have long been an inspiration, and her contribution as emcee added a special touch to the event.

Our guests were treated to an array of culinary delights catered by Honey & Brie Charcuterie. Their delicious and artfully presented offerings provided a feast for both the eyes and the palate, contributing significantly to the evening's ambiance.

The event's success was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. A heartfelt thank you to Vista Radio, Community Futures, Williams Lake Tribune, Flash Me Photo Booth, Allways Travel, and Amethyst Therapy. Your contributions not only helped us create a memorable night but also underscored the importance of supporting



and uplifting women in our community. The silent auction table was busy with eager bids for the generous donations from local businesses.

Throughout the evening, attendees had the opportunity to connect, share stories, and celebrate the collective achievements of women in Williams Lake. The Flash Me Photo Booth captured joyous moments, creating keepsakes for attendees to remember the evening. The photo booth was a hit, providing fun and laughter as friends posed for pictures.

Our sponsors and partners played a crucial role in making the event a success. Vista Radio and Williams Lake Tribune ensured widespread awareness and coverage, while Community Futures' ongoing support for

local businesses and initiatives helped us bring this event to life. Allways Travel and Amethyst Therapy provided valuable contributions, adding to the richness of the evening.

The 2nd Annual Ladies Night was more than just an event; it was a celebration of strength, unity, and the remarkable women who make our community thrive. As we look forward to future events, we remain committed to creating opportunities that honor and empower the women of Williams Lake.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this special evening. We are already looking forward to next year's celebration and continuing our tradition of recognizing and celebrating the incredible women in our community.

# 2nd Annual Chamber Expo

The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce held its 2nd Annual Chamber Expo, on April 27th at the Curling Rink. This year's Expo was a success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our local businesses and the generous support of our sponsors.

The event included fun activities for all ages. Mile High Bounce provided bouncy houses that kept the children entertained throughout the day. The face painting station and freshly spun cotton candy sponsored by Gear Locker Rentals were huge hits. The Curling Rink provided burgers fresh off the grill.

The Expo showcased a variety of products and services from our local businesses. It was inspiring to see such a wide range of innovative offerings, from FlashMe photo booth rentals to the Three Sisters Red Light Therapy Pod. The Expo served as a fantastic platform for businesses to connect with the community, share their stories, and expand their networks.

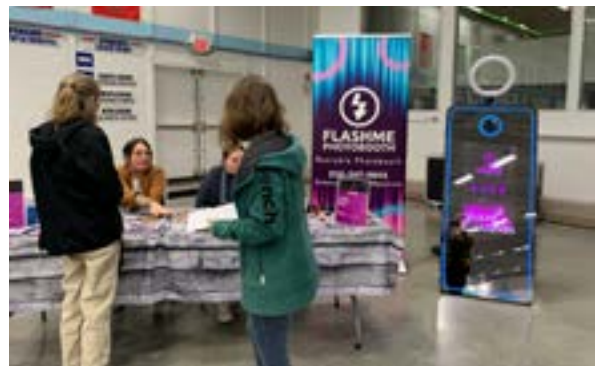
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors,

whose support brought this event to life. MLA Lorne Doerkson, Gibraltar Mines, Work Hog Contracting Ltd. and Gear Locker Rentals played a pivotal role in ensuring the Expo's success. Their contributions underscore their commitment to fostering a vibrant and thriving business community in Williams Lake.

The positive feedback we have received from both exhibitors and attendees is a testament to the event's success. The Chamber Expo not only provided a fun and engaging day for families but also reinforced the strength and unity of our local business community.

We are excited to build on this year's momentum and make next year's Expo even bigger and better. We encourage all members to stay engaged and continue to support our local businesses throughout the year.

Thank you once again to everyone who participated and contributed to the 2nd Annual Chamber Expo. Your dedication and enthusiasm are what make our community truly special.





# Local Authors Shine

The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce had the honor of hosting two remarkable book launches at the Tourism Discovery Centre, showcasing the incredible talent of our local authors.

The first event celebrated the launch of “Finding Your Purpose” by Cindi Saj and Christa Smith. This inspiring book offers insightful guidance on discovering one’s true path in life, filled with personal anecdotes and practical advice. Cindi and Christa’s collaboration reflects a deep commitment to helping readers navigate their journeys with intention and clarity. The event was a success, with a lively discussion and book signing that left attendees motivated and eager to embark on their own quests for purpose. Cindi and Christa are co-owners of Guidebook Consulting, a counselling service that offers individual, group, and family therapy sessions to individuals of all ages.



Our second event was a fundraiser for the Cariboo Friendship Society’s PEACE Program and Chiwid Transition House. We were privileged to host Jeeti Pooni and her sisters Kira & Salakshana for the launch of Jeeti’s book, “The Silent Stoning.” Her book, which follows the impactful documentary film “Because We Are Girls,” explores the harrowing yet inspiring story of resilience and empowerment. Jeeti, is a motivational speaker and social changemaker and a determined advocate for change to the criminal justice system.

Both events were more than just book launches; they were gatherings that highlighted the strength, creativity, and compassion of our community. We are incredibly proud of Cindi, Christa, and Jeeti for their contributions and are grateful to all who attended and supported these events.

Stay tuned for more exciting events in the future!



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# Thoughts from Victoria

Hello Chamber Members!

As the Legislative spring session ends, I am happy to be back in the Cariboo Chilcotin.

The spring and summer will be busy as always for me. My time will be spent trying to meet with the constituents right across the riding. Working in both my offices,

Williams Lake and 100 Mile to keep the important issues moving forward.

I look forward to all the wonderful local events that will bring residents and tourists alike together to appreciate this great area.



From Farmers markets to the incredible

Williams Lake Stampede. You, the chamber members are so invaluable to keeping the drive alive. Thank you for all you do. And I hope to see all of you soon.

Lorne Doerkson - MLA  
Cariboo – Chilcotin  
Williams Lake 250.305.3800  
100 Mile House 250.395.3916



**Lorne Doerkson**  
MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin

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# Todd Doherty, Member of Parliament, Cariboo-Prince George

Dear Friends,

I last wrote to you at the end of December, as we gathered with friends and family to unwind and revel in the joy of the Christmas season.

At the time, I described the highlights and low points of 2023. Now, as we head towards the summer, there are many new developments that I'd like to share with you; some good, some not so good.

In good news, my Private Member's Bill, C-321, passed the House of Commons in February. It's now in the Senate before hopefully becoming law. If assented to, it will consider the assault of a first responder or healthcare professional an aggravating factor during criminal sentencing. This will be a strong deterrent to the violence and harassment that our frontline heroes face on a daily basis.

In 2024, I have also continued my work on the mental health file, meeting with organizations whose goals are to improve the mental wellbeing of Canadians, such as KidSport Canada, The Union of Safety and Justice Employees, the BC Nurses Union, the Concussion Legacy Foundation, End Homelessness Canada, the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada, the International Association of Firefighters, the Ontario Psychological Association, and many more.

In big news, our Conservative team was instrumental in pressuring the Eby government in BC, as well as Prime Minister Trudeau, to end their dangerous drug decriminalization experiment, which has wreaked havoc in British Columbian communities.

After a lot of work on our behalf exposing the severe flaws in BC's decriminalization experiment, Premier Eby finally capitulated and asked Ottawa to adjust the laws. Now, it is once again illegal to consume illegal drugs in public spaces like parks, playgrounds, beaches, and hospitals.

But really, it should never have come to this. BC's drug decriminalization catastrophe is shocking, yes, but it's not surprising. After 9 years of this NDP-Liberal government, policies like this are the

new norm. If we've learned anything over the last 9 years, it's that Justin Trudeau and his NDP partners will always put ideology over good public policy. For our country to thrive again, that must stop.

To that end, I will continue the fight to restore common sense to Canada. In order to stop the bleeding, a new government is urgently needed in Ottawa. Conservatives will restore financial freedom to Canadian taxpayers and business owners by bringing fiscal responsibility back to the federal government. As a result, Canadians will bring home powerful paycheques once again. Only a Conservative government will Axe the Tax, Build the Homes, Fix the Budget, and Stop the Crime.

Wishing you a great summer!

Todd Doherty  
MP, Cariboo - Prince George  
Todd Doherty, MP  
Cariboo-Prince George



## Todd Doherty

Member of Parliament (Cariboo-Prince George)

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# Choose the Tourism Discovery Centre for your next Event!

As the summer season approaches, we are excited to highlight one of the premier locations in our community for hosting events—the Tourism Discovery Centre (TDC). The TDC offers a unique and versatile space perfect for a wide range of events, from business meetings and conferences to weddings and social gatherings.



smoothly. Enjoy internet access, audiovisual equipment, and seating arrangements. Table clothes, chair covers and decorations are also available to make your event perfect! Our team is committed to providing exceptional service, assisting with setup, and ensuring that all technical needs are met.

## Why Choose the Tourism Discovery Centre?

**1. Prime Location** Located conveniently along the major routes, the TDC is easily accessible for both local residents and visitors. This prime location ensures that your event benefits from high visibility and ease of access, making it a convenient choice for all attendees.

**2. Versatile Spaces** The TDC offers spaces to suit your event needs. Whether you're planning a small, intimate gathering or a medium-scale event, our flexible venue can accommodate groups of different sizes. The center features a meeting room, a spacious main hall, and beautiful outdoor areas, providing you with numerous options to create the perfect setting for your event.

**3. Modern Amenities** Our facility is equipped with amenities to ensure your event runs

**4. Scenic Beauty** One of the standout features of the TDC is its picturesque surroundings. The natural beauty of Williams Lake and Signal Point serves as stunning backdrops, enhancing the ambiance of any event. The outdoor areas offer breathtaking views, making it an ideal location for outdoor ceremonies, receptions, and photo opportunities.

**5. Support Local Tourism** Booking your event at the TDC not only guarantees a fantastic venue but also supports local tourism. By choosing the TDC, you contribute to the promotion and growth of our vibrant community, helping to showcase Williams Lake as a premier destination for visitors and residents alike.

## How to Book

Book the Tourism Discovery Centre for your next event (250) 392-5025, and our friendly staff will be happy to assist you with your booking and answer any questions you may have.



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[happytrails@cfcdcariboo.com](mailto:happytrails@cfcdcariboo.com)  
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# Celebrating a Successful Wine Festival

I am thrilled to share the highlights of our first-ever Wine Festival, an event that brought together our community in support of the Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre. This event highlighted the collaborative spirit and generosity of our local businesses and residents.

This event supported two non-profit organizations that are committed to making a difference in our community, Child Development Centre & Chamber of Commerce!

Wine connoisseurs and casual sippers alike were delighted by the selection of fine wines, carefully curated by Ginni from South Broadway Liquor. Ginni's expertise and passion for wine shone through each carefully selected bottle, offering a diverse range of flavors that catered to all.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose support made this event possible. The Williams Lake Tribune, Vista Radio, Harbourfront Wealth Management, Heartland Toyota, Taseko/Gibraltar Mines, and South Broadway Liquor all played a role in ensuring the festival's success. Their commitment to our community is truly inspiring and greatly appreciated.

Adding to the excitement of the evening, we had silent auction table featuring an array of items generously donated by local businesses. Bidders eagerly competed for unique items and experiences.

The success of our Wine Festival would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, volunteers, sponsors, and the enthusiastic participation of our attendees. It was a night filled with laughter, connection, and a shared commitment.

We look forward to making the Wine Festival an annual tradition, one that continues to bring our community together in celebration and support of worthy causes. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to this memorable evening. Your involvement truly made a difference.



# 7th Annual Golf Tournament

The 7th Annual Golf Tournament was a sold-out event!  
The little bit of rain did not slow anyone down.

- West Fraser Winning team players Monte Statton, Will Louie, Drent Louie & Markus Bremner
- Most Honourable Team Credit Union Players Amanda Long, Angela Glover Tamara Bremner & Abbi King
- Men's Closest to Pin winner was Rob Gertzen
- Men's Longest Putt winner was Tom Betsill
- Men's Longest Drive winner was Markus Bremner
- Women's Closest to Pin winner was Karen Gertzen
- Women's Longest Putt winner was Jamee Wryghte
- Women's Longest Drive was Chantelle Cheek



*Winning team players Monte Statton, Will Louie, Drent Louie & Markus Bremner*



*Men's Longest Drive winner was Markus Bremner*



*Most Honourable Team Credit Union Players Amanda Long, Angela Glover Tamara Bremner & Abbi King*



*Women's Closest to Pin winner was Karen Gertzen*

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# Introducing Our New Local Chamber Plan Advisor!



We are thrilled to announce our new local Chamber Plan advisor, Ryan Brink. This is a significant addition, and we are excited to leverage Ryan's expertise to enhance the support we offer to our members.

The Chamber Plan, renowned for being the most popular employee benefits plan for small businesses in Canada, offers comprehensive and affordable benefits tailored specifically for small to medium-sized businesses. With options including health, dental, life insurance, and travel benefits, the plan is designed to help businesses attract and retain talented employees.

Ryan Brink brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the unique needs of businesses in our community. As our dedicated

advisor, he will be available to provide personalized guidance and support to help you navigate and maximize the benefits of the Chamber Plan. Whether you are a new business owner looking for an introduction to the plan or a long-time member seeking to optimize your current benefits, Ryan is here to assist you.

We are confident that Ryan's commitment and local expertise will be a tremendous asset to our Chamber and its members. His arrival marks a new chapter in our ongoing mission to support the growth and success of businesses in Williams Lake and the surrounding district.

Please join us in welcoming Ryan Brink to our Chamber family. For more information about the Chamber Plan and to schedule a consultation with Ryan, feel free to contact Ryan at (250) 302-1152 or email [rbrinkteam@gmail.com](mailto:rbrinkteam@gmail.com)



L to R:  
Diane Baerg, Shannon Pigeon,  
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# Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce: Pioneering Sustainable Energy Solutions

The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the success of our resolution at the recent BC Chamber Conference Policy Sessions. With an overwhelming 93% of Chambers voting in favor, our resolution titled “Viable Fibre Supply Necessary for Carbon-Neutral Producing Power Plants” has garnered strong support, underscoring the critical importance of sustainable energy solutions in British Columbia.

## Championing Clean Energy

At the heart of this resolution is the vital role that biomass power plants play in providing clean, renewable energy. Our Chamber Board President, Paul French, eloquently articulated this during the policy session. He highlighted the significance of bio-mass power plants in our journey towards a carbon-neutral future and the challenges they face due to the current contractual agreements with BC Hydro and the high costs associated with sourcing fibre fuel. We submitted this resolution with the input and support of Sean Gillipsie, Vice President of Operations for Atlantic Power.

## Addressing Provincial Concerns

This issue transcends regional boundaries,

impacting numerous communities across the province. Recognizing the broader implications, our Chamber took proactive steps to refine our recommendations. We emphasized the need to:

1. **Negotiate a Sustainable Fibre Supply:** Ensuring a consistent and reliable supply of fibre fuel for affected biomass facilities is crucial. Without it, the viability of these plants—and their contributions to clean energy—are at risk.
2. **Favorable Power Purchase Agreements:** It's essential to negotiate power purchase agreements that reflect the true costs of transporting available fibre to the power plants. This will enable these facilities to operate sustainably and continue their pivotal role in our energy landscape.

## The Path Forward



## Member to Member

*Any members looking to join the member to member program, or if you have questions about it, contact Tamara at 250-392-5025 or [tamara@wlchamber.ca](mailto:tamara@wlchamber.ca)*

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The passage of this resolution marks a significant milestone for our Chamber and the entire province. It reflects a collective commitment to advancing sustainable energy practices and addressing the logistical challenges that threaten the efficiency and viability of biomass power plants.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the Chambers that supported this resolution. Your vote is not just a nod to the present challenges but a powerful endorsement of a sustainable, carbon-neutral future for British Columbia.

The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce remains dedicated to fostering economic development and environmental stewardship. We believe that our efforts, alongside the collaborative spirit of Chambers across the province, will drive meaningful progress towards a greener and more sustainable British Columbia.

Together, we have set a precedent for proactive engagement and innovative solutions. We look forward to continuing this journey and achieving more milestones that benefit our communities and our environment.

This success story is a testament to what we can achieve when we unite for a common cause. The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce is proud to lead the charge towards a brighter, cleaner future for all.



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