



THE chamber CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2009

Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce Welcomes Readers to "The Chamber Connection"

On behalf of the Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce Executive and Board of Directors, we welcome you to this new publication "*The Chamber Connection*".

In this monthly publication, we will endeavour to pass on information and news about the many small, medium and large businesses and companies who serve residents living in the Assiniboia, St. Charles, Charleswood/Tuxedo, Lindenwoods and St.James/Brooklands areas of West Winnipeg.

Membership in the Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce provides its members, employees and local residents with an excellent opportunity to network with each other and take advantage of the many discounted benefits available. Membership also provides access to an excellent Group Insurance Plan that includes major medical & hospital coverage, dental, prescription drugs, travel health insurance and long and short-term disability coverage. All of these services and membership discounted benefits are available for a yearly fee of \$183.75 and is tax deductible as a business expense.

If you would like more information regarding the Assiniboia Chamber and on becoming a member, please call the Chamber office at 774-4154 or e-mail: info@assiniboiaacc.mb.ca

2009 Budget Message

from the Honourable Steven Fletcher, PC, MP Charleswood-St.James-Assiniboia

Budget 2009 represents a bold multi-year plan that will put more money in the hands of Manitobans and build Canada's economy to ensure we emerge stronger than ever from this period of global economic slowdown.

Through hard work and advocacy we have been successful in having Budget 2009 identify CentrePort Canada as a national infrastructure priority to be expedited over the next two years.


Further, over this and the next five fiscal years Budget 2009 provides an additional \$699.1 million in tax relief to the people and businesses of Manitoba.

*The Hon. Steven Fletcher, PC, MP
Charleswood - St. James - Assiniboia*

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The Honourable Steven FLETCHER, PC MP
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To find out more about our government's Action Plan please contact my office at 984-6432 or visit www.stevenfletcher.ca.



message
from
the Chair...

I am pleased to welcome you to the first edition of our monthly "Chamber Connection". With this new format, we are heading in a new direction that will hopefully be a more interactive tool and allow for feedback from you, the reader.

Christmas and New Year festivities have come and gone in what seemed like a flash. Not the cold weather though, as it continues to hammer us, helping to sprout more snowbirds heading south for some relief.

Talking about snow, and we've had more of it to this point than all of last winter, even some city councillors are not happy with snow removal from residential streets. Tell us how your area was handled by calling our Executive Director, Ernie Nairn at the Assiniboia Chamber office at 774-4154 or email the Chamber office at info@assiniboiaacc.mb.ca

If you have other issues to deal with, let us know and we'll see if we can help. Until our next issue, stay warm and keep well.

George Steciuk
Chair, Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce

 **The Chamber**
The Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce
www.assiniboiaacc.mb.ca

"2009 INCOME TAX CHANGES"

How will Income Tax changes affect you this year?

Chances are, you will not notice the difference at the Provincial level. The biggest change at the Provincial level was a drop in the lowest personal income tax rate from 10.9% to 10.8%. If you earn over \$31,000 in income each year, you will save about \$20 in tax for the year - big deal! The "savings" will be more than wiped out as the NDP has not adjusted our tax system to inflation. Manitoba is only one of three provinces in Canada that has not brought fairness to our tax system. In Manitoba, "bracket creep" allows the NDP to be seen giving you with one hand, yet secretly taking with the other.

At the Federal level, the basic personal exemption, which is the

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amount taxpayers can earn before paying federal income taxes, has increased from \$9,600 to \$10,100. The increase to the exemption is

\$260 above the annual inflation rate. Canadians, and Manitobans, at the Provincial level, will therefore save \$39 per year.

The NDP Government of Manitoba has a long way to go before catching up to the tax relief offered this year to the 2 provinces to our West. At the very least, the Premier would be well advised to end the practice of bracket creep, keep us in line with inflation, and pull Manitoba in line with the rest of the country.

Myrna Driedger
MLA for Charleswood



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Assiniboia Chamber Congratulates Red River Scholarship Recipient Amanda Cantwell

Each year, the Assiniboia Chamber is pleased to award a \$500 scholarship to a Business Administration student entering the second year of studies in this program at Red River College.

The successful applicant for 2009 was Amanda Cantwell. Amanda is majoring in accounting at Red River College and will graduate this fall. She completed her first year of studies with a GPA of 3.9.

Amanda plans to further her accounting career by obtaining a CGA designation. In addition to working at the Canadian Tire Polo Park store for over 4 years, Amanda has also spent time in the past volunteering in the community with activities such as Boo at the Zoo, the Girl Guides of Canada and helping out at the Lions Manor and Discovery Daycare.

The Executive and Board of Directors congratulates Amanda Cantwell on being chosen the recipient of this year's Assiniboia Chamber scholarship and wishes her continued success.

WAA Records Positive Business Year in 2008

The Winnipeg Airports Authority released its fourth quarter and annual unaudited financial report on January 28, 2009 and equalled the record set for enplaned passengers for in 2007. For the twelve months ending December 31, 2008, passenger traffic was 3, 570,033.

Consolidated revenues were \$21.1 million for the fourth quarter, an increase of 29.4% over the previous period in 2007. Operating costs were \$9.9 million for the quarter, an increase of 3.2% from the previous year.

Earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization remained strong at \$11.2 million for the fourth quarter, an increase of \$4.5 million over 2007.

Net income for 2008 was \$6.1 million for the fourth quarter as opposed to \$5.5 million in 2007. Total capital investment to the end of the fourth quarter reached \$143.9 million, primarily on the airport redevelopment program. Airport site redevelopment resulted in 1.3 million construction hours.

The vision for the James Armstrong Richardson International Airport continued to evolve throughout 2008 with construction continuing on the new Air Terminal Building, and new tenant projects which include the new mail distribution centre for Canada Post, the Greyhound Bus Terminal, Standard Aero expansion, and the recent Provincial Government announcement creating CentrePort Canada.

Are you searching to discover your passions and interests in a new career?

Opportunities for Employment Inc. is a non-profit organization offering an exciting new program for Mature Workers over 50 years of age who have left the work force, seeking a career change and want to find meaningful employment.

Free services at OFE include:

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To learn more about this exciting program, call 925-4391. We are located on the 2nd Floor at 352 Donald Street.

Funding for OFE employment services is provided by:

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Your comments are always welcome

Contact The Chamber at
204-774-4201
or visit our site at

The Chamber
The Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce

The February Assiniboia Chamber Luncheon

will be held at the Viscount Gort Hotel,
1670 Portage Avenue
on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

Registration at 11:30 am. Luncheon begins at 12 Noon.

The guest speaker is Meyers, Norris, Penny, Senior Tax Manager
Michael Kukelko.

He will overview the new changes being implemented regarding
filing personal and small business tax returns for 2008 and other
interesting business tax information.

Cost: \$20.00 per person includes GST.

RSVP to Executive Director Ernie Nairn at 774-4154
or email info@assiniboiaacc.mb.ca

Deadline for RSVP is Monday, February 16, 2009

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The Chamber
The Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber Connection is a monthly
newsletter dedicated to provide
informative and useful content to
Chamber and potential members, and is
distributed to 4,000 businesses in the
St. James-Assiniboia area.

Deadline for submissions is the 21st
day of the month prior to publication.
Next Issue's deadline: February 21, 2009

Submissions to be made to:
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The Chamber Connection Contributors:
Design & Layout: J&J Designs 461-1069
Printers: Dave's Quick Print 985-9603