





# The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and



## The Ramada Hotel & Suites

present~

# "Mix and Mingle" Trade Show

Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ramada Hotel & Suites

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Tuesday, April 10, 2007 Ramada Hotel & Suites

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Please attach a cheque and mail to:  
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## WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

(For the months of January & February 2007)

The Chamber Welcomes These New Members and Their Participation

### SURESLIM WELLNESS

1221 2nd Avenue S.  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 0C9  
Phone: 327-2149 (Fax:327-1840)

Representative: Ms. Theresa Molnar/Paula Rogers  
Type of Business: Health & Wellness

### GEO-K PLUMBING

1429 Scenic Drive South  
Lethbridge, AB T1K 1M4  
Phone: 329-0010

Representative: George Konrad  
Type of Business: Plumbing & Heating

### DUE SOUTH PROJECT MANAGEMENT LTD.

#5, 4006 - 9 Ave. South  
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Phone: 394-7474

Representative: Mr. Dale Tulloch  
Type of Business: Engineering Consultants

### JAMES SECURITY

417 Mayor Magrath Drive South  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3L8  
Phone: 329-3673

Representative: Mr. Ryan Kurtz  
Type of Business: Security Services

### ABORIGINAL COUNCIL OF LETHBRIDGE

Suite 208, 200 - 4 Ave. South  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C9  
Phone: 320-7699

Representative: Ms. Karen English  
Type of Business: Non-profit Organization

### MY FAVORITE BABY GIFTS

2615 Westside Drive  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C9  
Phone: 360-4902

Representative: Mr. Dan Forsyth  
Type of Business: Retail Shopping

### LEALTA BUILDING SUPPLIES

240 Stafford Drive North  
Lethbridge, AB  
T1H 6N6

Phone: 328-3031 (Fax:329-8098)  
Representative: Ms. Laurie Scheurkogel  
Type of Business: Retail - Building Materials

### THE RELEASE HYPNOTHERAPY CENTRE

#1 - 740 - 4th Ave S  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 1M7  
Phone#: 328-2477

Representative: Ms. Natalie Ashbee  
Type of Business: Hypnotherapy Clinic

### CONTINUUM MEDIA

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Representative: Mr. Alan Purvis  
Type of Business: Publishing Media/Books

### SCRAPBOOKING MADE EASY

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Representative: Ms. Linda Stemerick  
Type of Business: Crafts

### JOHNSON KIA

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Lethbridge, AB T1J 0L9  
Phone#: 331-3130

Representative: Ms. Debbie Johnson  
Type of Business: Automotive Dealership

### THE UPS STORE

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Representative: Mr. Patrick Finn  
Type of Business: Business Services

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### RHAPSODY LIFE DESIGN

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Type of Business: Personal/Workplace Regeneration

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"The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce has provided inspired leadership for this community. It was a guiding force behind the creation of Economic Development Lethbridge and the restoration of entry status at the County of Lethbridge Airport. The Chamber consistently advocates on behalf of its members to all three levels of government and it works tirelessly to make Lethbridge a business-friendly community." Robert D. Tarleck, M.A., M.Ed., Aka' Tasi, Mayor, City of Lethbridge

## Chamber Urges Federal Government to Defeat Bill C-257

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce expressed the deep concerns it has with the Private Members' Bill C-257, An Act to Amend the Canada Labour Code, in a letter to Rick Casson, M.P.

Bill C-257 was introduced into the House of Commons in May 2006 and is currently being studied by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and Status of Persons with Disabilities. If C-257 is not defeated in Committee, it is expected to be voted upon third reading in the House of Commons in the spring of 2007.

Chamber President Bruce Milne states, "It is our opinion that any change to the Canada Labour Code, especially an amendment that alters the relationship between employers and employees, deserves extensive study in order to fully understand its effects on Canadian society and the economy."

Section 2.4 of Bill C-257 would prevent an interrupted provision of services that affect seniors, families, small businesses and the Canadian economy, including services like 911, health and emergency services, transportation services (air, rail, marine and road) and news and weather warnings in the

event of a storm or tragedy.

"The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce fully supports the rights of parliamentarians to change public policy through Private Member's Bills," says Milne. "However, Part 1 of the Canada Labour Code was developed through extensive consultation with both business and labour between 1995 and 1999; resulting in a labour code that provides balance to both employers and employees." In the letter the Lethbridge Chamber stressed the importance of this Bill being defeated by the House of Commons Standing Committee.



## "Mix & Mingle" Trade Show a Popular Event

Tables were sold out for the Chamber's February "Mix & Mingle" Trade Show. 27 businesses displayed their products and services. An informal business exchange, door prizes and complimentary snacks and refreshment, were enjoyed by the many people attending.



"The last "Mix & Mingle" Trade Show for this year, will be held on Tuesday, April 10 - please see page 2 for details and registration.

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## Great Reception for Business After Hours at the Galt Museum

Almost 100 people came out to enjoy a recent "Business After Hours" at the Galt Museum and Archives. Attendees enjoyed complimentary wine & hors d'oeuvres, as well as a tour of the *Auschwitz: The Eva Brewster Story* display.



"Now in my third year of business, I have to say that the Chamber events, meetings, and committees are the BEST way to get to know the Lethbridge business community."

Colette Acheson, The Center for Board Development



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## Business Events Calendar

The Lethbridge Business Community is welcome to participate in these upcoming Chamber events

### ~ "WORKING WITH THE MEDIA WORKSHOP"

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Place & Time: Ramada Hotel & Suites, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00/Chamber Members \$15.00/Potential Members (includes GST & lunch)

\*To confirm your attendance, please call the Chamber at 327-1586 or e-mail [office@lethbridgechamber.ca](mailto:office@lethbridgechamber.ca)

### ~"Business After Hours at the Cypress Group"

- Equipment demonstrations
- Door prizes
- Snacks and refreshments

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2007

Place & Time: 2830 - 12th Avenue N.; 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: no charge

\*To confirm your attendance, please call the Chamber at 327-1586 or e-mail [office@lethbridgechamber.ca](mailto:office@lethbridgechamber.ca)

### ~"Lunch & Learn" "PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING AND RETENTION THROUGH 3RD PARTY EXIT INTERVIEWS"

Date: Friday, March 30, 2007

Place & Time: Sandman Hotel, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00/Chamber Members \$15.00/Potential Members (includes GST & lunch)

\*To confirm your attendance, please call the Chamber at 327-1586 or e-mail [office@lethbridgechamber.ca](mailto:office@lethbridgechamber.ca)

\*All Lethbridge Business people are invited to these Chamber events. For more information on each event, please call the Chamber at 327-1586.

### "LAST Mix & Mingle" Trade Show until Fall,

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Place & Time: Ramada Hotel & Suites, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

\*please see information on page 2

## Chamber Membership Offers Many Benefits:

- **Group Insurance** (1-50 employees)
- **MasterCard:** preferred electronic Merchant discount rate starting at 1.65%; \$0.10 per debit transaction
- **VISA Discount Rates:** starting at 1.75% debit transaction fee, \$0.10 per transaction
- **Esso Fleet:** \$0.03/litre discount on fuel, discounts on oil, top-up fluids, and car washes (with Esso Business card)
- **Husky/Mohawk:** \$0.02/litre discount with no minimum volume requirements (with Husky/Mohawk credit card)
- **Petro-Canada:** discount of \$0.02/litre on all grades of gas and diesel, 20% discount on car washes, 3% discount on vehicle propane
- **Purolator:** volume discount program can save you 35% every time.
- **Adtel On-Hold Info Pacs:** customized on-hold services
- **Member to Member (M2M) Benefit Program** (discounts at 29 member businesses)
- **Free link** for your business from the Chamber's website to your website ([www.lethbridgechamber.com](http://www.lethbridgechamber.com))
- **Advertising opportunities** in Chamber News
- **Member discounts** for various Chamber events
- **Inquiry referrals** to member businesses (all Chamber members are listed alphabetically and categorically on the Chamber's site)

\*If you would like to know more about the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, please call 327-1586 or check out the Chamber's website at [www.lethbridgechamber.com](http://www.lethbridgechamber.com)

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**Fiscal Update Confirms Urgent Action on Productivity**

**Agenda Needed: Canadian Chamber of Commerce**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is calling on the federal government to move swiftly and concretely to tackle Canada's lagging productivity record that is seriously undermining our competitiveness around the world and Canadians' standard of living at home.

Reacting to the Finance Minister's Economic and Fiscal Update, Canadian Chamber President and CEO, Nancy Hughes Anthony said: "The business community is pleased that the government's fiscal position remains positive and that the Finance Minister has recognized the importance of productivity to the long-term health of our economy, business growth, and Canadians' standard of living.

"But the time to act has long passed. The Minister's own numbers confirm that there is room to maneuver now and we call on members of all parties to do what's right for Canada and for Canadians by tackling Canada's productivity deficit immediately, not wait another six months or even longer."

Canada's level of productivity compared with our trading partners has been declining for years and now stands at about 77% of that of the U.S. The productivity deficit is directly reflected in the per capita income differential between the two countries, with U.S. per capita income being about 20% higher than Canada's.

"High productivity is perhaps the most critical factor in ensuring that our standard of living remains high," noted Ms. Hughes Anthony. "It enables businesses to pay higher wages and still keep costs and prices down. In the longrun, if the standard of living of

Canadians continues to lag, our ability to support and pay for programs like education, health care and public infrastructure will be compromised, and so will be our quality of life."

In the Canadian Chamber's report to the government this spring, Ensuring Canada's Future Economic Prosperity: Tackling the Barriers to Productivity Growth, and before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance this fall, the Chamber offered a number of specific recommendations to the federal government that would help create the right climate to increase our productivity and competitiveness. These include:

- **Personal tax relief:** Reduce personal income tax rates across all income tax brackets. Start by reducing the lowest personal income tax rate to 15% in 2007.
- **Corporate tax relief:** Reduce the general corporate income tax rate to 20% for 2007 and by one percentage point in each of the following three years. Ensure that Capital Cost Allowance rates in Canada line up with the true economic life of the relevant asset.
- **Debt reduction:** Bring down the debt-to-GDP ratio to below 25% by 2012
- **Human capital:** Launch a national action plan to address the critical shortage of skilled labour in Canada.
- **Spending restraint:** Limit growth in program spending to about 3% per year based on anticipated growth in population plus inflation.

"It is satisfying to be a part of a very diverse group of people coming together to achieve goals aimed at the common good. Nothing could be better."

Doug Wells, Lethbridge Community College

**Fiscal Update**

Continued from page 4

- **Regulatory environment:** Reduce unnecessary regulations and burdensome paper work that are inefficient and costly.
- **Productivity-enhancing investments:** Increase investment in higher education, R&D, and infrastructure, areas of spending that will have a direct pay-off in terms of productivity.

These are just a few of the recommendations the Canadian Chamber believes the federal government needs to implement, and the Chamber is pleased to see the Finance Minister has spoken on some of these initiatives in his paper. For a complete list of recommendations, please

consult the Canadian Chamber report, Ensuring Canada's Future Economic Prosperity, on our website www.chamber.ca. "Canada's business community has a role to play and is playing an important part in tackling this issue," said Ms. Hughes Anthony. "But, serious impediments persist and Canada must establish a level playing field with competitors worldwide so that business is not hampered in its efforts to compete, grow and create jobs."

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce is an active member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

**Groceries Donated to the Food Bank**

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce partnered with Canada Safeway, Ltd., to provide \$1000.00 worth of needed grocery items to the Interfaith Food Bank. The money was raised at the Chamber's Auction "Dash for Cash". Grocery donations are alternated amongst the city's food banks each year, and delivered by Chamber volunteers.



L-R Murray Anderson, Leo Macdonald, Dwayne Huber and Bruce Milne load groceries from Safeway onto Airtech's truck.



Chamber President Bruce Milne is interviewed by media at Interfaith Food Bank

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