

**What is the Chamber of Commerce?**

A Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, volunteer organization of individuals for the purpose of promoting the growth of the community. This is accomplished by:

* Lobbying all levels of Government for policies that positively improve businesses
* Provide Member Only Services (Value Added Programs)
* Facilitate Networking and Collaboration in order to create a sound & healthy business climate
* Provide leadership and coordination in solving issues and initiate community involvement
* Create understanding and appreciation of the local opportunities and assets of the community

**Who Runs the Chamber?**

Chamber members elect a Board of Directors which runs the organization. The Board, serving as volunteers, sets the policies and goals of the organization. Chamber Members are also the key to success of the Chamber by becoming the catalyst for the businesses. This can be achieved by supporting the Chamber initiatives through involvement and sponsorship of functions that the Chamber coordinates.

**What Does a Chamber Do?**

Even though we find ourselves in the business of economic development, we really are in the business of providing a path to members of our communities that are seeking to grow their businesses, to find employees, and have a great quality of life.

We advocate on behalf of our members at the local, provincial and national levels. We do this through developing key relationships, grassroots activities, setting legislative priorities, and tracking bills and regulations. We promote pro-business legislation and fight anti-business legislation with one goal in mind: improving the business climate where we live. We represent the interests of our members in dealing with legislators and government officials by active and constructive participation in the legislative and administrative process.

Holding a membership with the St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce means you are also a member of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Both the ACC and CCC host an annual AGM and convention where Chamber representatives from across the province meet to discuss current issues and make important contacts for their Chambers.

**What Are the Benefits of Membership in the Chamber?**

The Chamber of Commerce acts as the unified voice of the area businesses and encourages them to work collaboratively. Chambers of Commerce also provide their members with value-added programs, information and resources. Many value-added programs are available only to members and the savings easily offset the cost of membership.

**What are the Benefits of a Chamber to the Community?**

A profitable business sector is one of the key facets of a vibrant community. Only by succeeding in this fundamental goal, can a community provide the jobs and produce the wealth to finance all of the cultural, recreational, charitable and other needs a community is faced with everyday. The Chamber of Commerce is a champion of ideas; leading, inspiring and advocating for our community, facilitating change and growth while creating a fertile environment for businesses, partnerships, and residents.

In addition, many Chamber members are active within the community on other levels and believe in their community and want to see it succeed. We act ethically with honesty, transparency and professionalism. It’s not just about doing the right thing; it’s about doing it the right way.

**St. Paul & District Chamber at a Glance**

***Vision Statement:***

*Our Vision is to be the voice of the business community, promoting the sustainable economic environment and livability of St. Paul & District.*

***Mission:***

*We will be the voice of the business community through support to businesses, economic development, and advocating supportive business policies.*

***Values:***

* *Member Driven - Organized by members for members*
* *Commitment to Community - Investing where we Live, Work and Play*
* *Integrity - Proud, Honest and Trustworthy*
* *Innovation - Evolve and Grow Resources and Services*
* *Opportunity - Creating possibilities*

**ADVOCACY**

Constructively influence public policy and governments in support of a healthy business community

Increase access to policy makers

Identify local issues and concerns, work towards resolutions to concerns

Support members through policy change

Collaborate with the Alberta Chamber of Commerce and Canadian Chamber of Commerce on policy development

**VALUE ADDED**

Provide valuable support, tools, and programs to our members

Provide educational opportunities to empower and strengthen businesses

Provide networking opportunities to build a stronger and unified community

Promote discounts, savings, and marketing programs for members

Provide access to resources that will contribute to business growth

**GROWTH**

Advance existing business and support economic development

Business retention, expansion, and attraction

Encourage new business development

Attract visitors and newcomers to the community

Together we achieve more than we ever could on our own

We are a collection of driven individuals who want to see business succeed

**MEMBERSHIP**

Contribute to an informed and engaged membership and community

Membership benefits

Community engagement

Contribute to external Boards and Committees to encourage consistent growth across all sectors

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Operate from a position of organizational strength and opportunity

Promote objectives

Financial stability and growth

Provide community involvement and networking opportunities

Build relationships with stakeholders that will support the Vision of the Chamber

By investing in your local Chamber, you invest in your own prosperity – as a businessperson and as a member of our community!

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| **St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce - 2023** | | |
| **Sustainability** | **Community Engagement & Growth** | **Value Proposition** |
| * Sustainability Plan replaced the Strategic Plan * Policy Development * Board Development * Bylaw Rewrite in progress * CCC & ACC Roundtables, Political Action Day, etc. * Alberta Labour Market Partnership Grant shared with Bonnyville Chamber * Research Grant Opportunities * Retain Part-time Admin position * Continued focus on operational efficiencies * Website enhancements and continued improvements * Increase memberships * Rebuild the Chamber Focus | * Partnerships   + Canadian Chamber of Commerce   + Alberta Chamber of Commerce   + Alberta Chamber Executive Board   + Town of St. Paul   + County of St. Paul   + Elk Point Chamber   + Bonnyville Chamber   + Smoky Lake Chamber   + Vegreville Chamber   + Lloydminster Chamber   + Community Futures   + Champions for Change   + Portage College   + St. Paul Ag Society   + St. Paul Lions Club   + St. Paul Library   + Blue Quills University   + Alberta Labour/Alberta Works   + St. Paul Journal   + Alberta Hub   + Lakeland DMO (Travel Alberta)   + RTIC (Tourism)   + Alberta Health Services   + STEP (Economic Development)   + Local Ag Societies * CARES – Conference Ready Community Project * Increase collaboration with Elk Point and Mallaig Chambers | * Increased Advocacy with Canadian and Alberta Chambers * EARN Events – Monthly * Workshops/Presentations * Business Support Network Meetings * Business visits and networking events * Broaden the Chamber role in the community * Value Added Programs * Increase local Value-Added Programs * Cultural Awareness Training * Corporate Team Building Activities * Rock the Block * Shop Local Incentives * Community Christmas * Rodeo Supper/Rodeo Week * Business Celebration Events * Grand Openings/Celebrations * Introduce your business to the community * Grow your customer base |

Want more information? Contact the Chamber at:

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