

2022 Annual Report



Now 1000+ Member Organizations Strong



COQUITLAM | PORT COQUITLAM | PORT MOODY

We acknowledge that the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce operates on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem First Nation). We thank the k^wik^wəłəm who continue to live on these lands and care for them, along with the waters and all that is above and below.

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Joint Message from the Chair and CEO



Ryan Whittle
Chair, 2022



Leslie Courchesne
Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it has been an honour for us to serve our members in 2022. For more than 50 years, the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce has been championing the local business community, fostering economic growth, delivering value to its members, and acting as a hub for connection in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, and the villages of Anmore and Belcarra. We are also very proud of our growing relationship with the kʷikʷəłəm Kwikwetlem First Nation, whose traditional, ancestral and unceded territory the Chamber is grateful to work within.

The Tri-Cities Chamber is a convener of business, government, and community to foster dialogue focused on solutions to the complex economic, social, and environmental challenges we face. Now more than ever, as businesses cope with the ongoing effects of COVID-19, global unrest, the labour shortage, supply chain issues, the rising cost of doing business, and more, our Chamber has worked to help our member organizations be resilient and thrive.

We listen to you, work with you, and speak to all levels of government on what businesses need, or need changed. Being an active member in the BC and Canadian Chambers of Commerce is also critical to our success in advocacy and policy development at the provincial and national levels, and

we were pleased our representatives attended both organizations' AGM and Conventions this year to connect, advocate, share, learn, and vote on vital public policy recommendations.

While 2022 has not been without its challenges for the business community, we are so pleased our Chamber reached a milestone this year – one we had been pursuing for decades. Thanks to a joint membership agreement with the Downtown Port Coquitlam Business Improvement Association, the Chamber has surpassed 1,000 member organizations for the first time in our history. This now places us as one of the top five largest Chambers and Boards of Trade in British Columbia, with member organizations representing over 20,000 employees. The larger our collective voice and network, the stronger we are together. Strong businesses are the backbone of a thriving community.

The reason our Chamber is so strong and growing is because of the people behind it. Our members are driven, passionate, and dedicated relationship builders. Our Chamber ambassadors and other volunteers, our staff team, partners, and sponsors are exceptional. Our Board sincerely thanks you for your support.

We are pleased to share more about our Chamber and our efforts throughout 2022 in this Annual Report.

2022 Board of Directors



Ryan Whittle, CPA, CA
Chair
*Partner
Areti LLP*



Jenifer Wright
Vice Chair
*General Manager
Westwood Plateau
Golf & Country Club*



Mary Vellani
Past Chair
*Senior Manager
Cash Management
TD Bank*



Ryan Gorder, CPA, CA
Treasurer
*Partner and Business
Advisor
MNP*



Leslie Courchesne
**Ex-officio
Non-voting**
*Chief Executive Officer
Tri-Cities Chamber*



Adel Gamar
Director
*CEO & Founder
GLG Ltd.*



Ryan Jamieson
Director
*Director, Services & Facilities
Coquitlam Public Library*



Kelso Kennedy
Director
*Co-Founder
RedStamp Agency*



Jennifer McKinnon
Director
*Employment Engagement
and Culture Specialist
Creating Culture / Downtown
Port Coquitlam BIA*



Kathryn Millar
Director
*Partner
Indigenous Worx*



Ryan Oake
Director
*Mortgage Broker
Oake Mortgage
Dominion Lending Centres
Producers West*



Daniel Richardson
Director
*Managing Partner
BTM Lawyers LLP*



Vivien Symington
Director
*Owner
Club Aviva*



Vineet Verghese
Director
*Vice President
Commercial Financial
Services, RBC Royal Bank*



**Our sincere thanks
to Belén Welch for
serving on the
board for a portion
of the 2022 year.**

2022 Committees and Panels

Executive

Chair – Ryan Whittle

Board Nominations

Chair – Mary Vellani

Business Excellence Awards Judging

Non-voting Chair – Leslie Courchesne

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Co-chairs – Kelso Kennedy, Ryan Jamieson, Vivien Symington

Economic Development

Chair – Vineet Verghese

Government Relations

Chair – Daniel Richardson

Membership Experience and Ambassadors

Chair – Jennifer McKinnon

Tri-Cities Young Professionals

Chair – Jenifer Wright

Women in Business

Chair – Vivien Symington

Thank you to the 62 members who served on Chamber committees, panels, and as Ambassadors this year, giving their time, expertise, and skills to guide our strategies, policies, programs, and member engagement. We also thank our members who participated on behalf of the Chamber for external committees, roundtables, and consultations, to ensure the Tri-Cities Chamber voice is heard.



About the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

Shaping business and our community through genuine connections, active education, and effective government advocacy for our members.

Our Vision

To be the voice and essential resource of a thriving business community.

Our Core Values

Leadership, service excellence, integrity, and innovation.

Established in 1971 by combining three separate Chambers in our area, the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under Canada's *Boards of Trade Act*.

As the voice of business in the Tri-Cities, we represent organizations in the cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, and the villages of Anmore and Belcarra, spanning a variety of industries, specialties, and interests. Our

membership includes the community's biggest employers, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as home-based entrepreneurs, non-profits, and more.

The Chamber strives to have a focus on strong policy that supports local businesses, being a visible and approachable presence in the community, and ensuring that the value of membership is the best investment businesses can make.

A Community of Belonging

The Chamber is committed to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion where members can thrive. To this end, the Chamber has created a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. The mission of the Task Force is to inform Chamber membership about the benefits of diversity and inclusion, and

offer resources to Chamber members that can help them to cultivate more diverse and inclusive workplaces. The Task Force will also help ensure that diversity and inclusion are prioritized in all of the Chamber's services and public events.

**2022
Chamber by
the Numbers**

1,000+
**Member
Organizations**

20,000+
**People (Member
Organization
Employees)**

60
Chamber Events

62
**Board, Committee,
Task Force, Panel,
and Ambassador
Volunteers**

50+
**Sponsors and
In-Kind**

Chamber Milestone News

Tri-Cities Chamber signs landmark joint membership agreement with Downtown Port Coquitlam BIA

Chamber membership grows to more than 1,000 organizations for the first time in its 50+ year history

In November, the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce welcomed close to 300 member businesses from the Downtown Port Coquitlam Business Improvement Association (BIA), thanks to a joint membership agreement between the two organizations.

“The Chamber and the Downtown PoCo BIA have been excellent partners over the years, supporting our local businesses and enhancing local prosperity,” said Leslie Courchesne, CEO, Tri-Cities Chamber. “I am thrilled we are bringing all BIA members on board so they can leverage the robust services, advocacy, benefits, resources, and connections that our Chamber has to offer. My sincerest thanks to the Downtown PoCo BIA leadership team for working with us on this groundbreaking partnership.”

“As an advocate for the business community in Downtown Port Coquitlam as well as being a six-year board member with the Tri-Cities Chamber, I know the value of a Chamber membership but also how hard additional memberships for small business and solopreneurs can be,” said Jennifer McKinnon,

Executive Director, Downtown PoCo BIA. “This collaboration not only gives membership benefit opportunities to our businesses that may not otherwise be able to afford or prioritize it, but it creates a great opportunity for the Chamber and its members to experience a more diverse membership. The BIA is proud to offer our members this one-of-a-kind collaborative membership to enhance their visibility and participation in the Tri-Cities and expand their business network.”

“As small businesses, we have to make tough choices about which business groups and associations to join,” said Tamara Gorin, Owner, Western Sky Books, within the BIA. “This new partnership will allow Downtown PoCo BIA members access to the benefits of the Chamber, which can only strengthen and support us as a small business community.”

The new BIA members will grow the Tri-Cities Chamber to surpass 1,000 member organizations for the first time in its 50-year history, placing it among the top five largest Chambers and Boards of Trade in the province.



L to R: Tamara Gorin, Owner, Western Sky Books, within the Downtown PoCo BIA; Leslie Courchesne, CEO, Tri-Cities Chamber; Matt LeRoy, Board Chair, Downtown PoCo BIA; Jennifer McKinnon, Executive Director, Downtown PoCo BIA; Nicole Lauzon, Membership Manager, Tri-Cities Chamber

The BIA and Chamber worked together on this new partnership for the BIA to purchase a group membership with the Chamber at no additional cost to BIA member businesses. BIA members who are existing members of the Chamber can opt to transfer into the complimentary group membership.

The Downtown PoCo BIA area includes both sides of Shaughnessy Street from Lougheed Highway to Wilson Avenue, extending further to the northwest at Marpole, Elgin, Kingsway and Lougheed, and the area bounded by Shaughnessy, Kingsway, Mary Hill and Wilson.

This new membership agreement is for two years, through to October 2024.

2022 Chamber News Headlines

February

Open Letter to Elected Officials Urging Swift End to Blockades

March

Tri-Cities Chamber Statement on Crisis in Ukraine

April

Tri-Cities Chamber Hosts Discussion With Federal Minister of Immigration

Joint Statement on Bill 10 and Union Certification

May

Chamber announces 2021-2022 Business Excellence Award Recipients

June

Tri-Cities Chamber Supports Vital Policies to Help Businesses Succeed: BC Chamber AGM and Conference, Prince George

August

Joint Letter Calls for BCGEU to Immediately End Strike Affecting Liquor and Cannabis Distribution

Tri-Cities Chamber Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer O'Connell and MP Ron McKinnon Focuses on Removing Barriers to Inter-Provincial Trade

Tri-Cities Chamber Urges BC Government to Take Action on Small Business Challenges Addressed in BC Budget 2023 Consultation Report

September

Tri-Cities Chamber CEO Urges Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission to Not Move South Port Coquitlam Out of the Tri-Cities

Moderators to Host Chamber's 2022 Municipal All Candidates Meetings

October

Companies and Community Connect at Tri-Cities Chamber Business Showcase

Tri-Cities Chamber Connects with Parliamentarians in Ottawa at Canadian Chamber's Hill Day

Tri-Cities Chamber Congratulates Incoming Mayors, Councillors, and School Trustees

Tri-Cities Chamber Votes for Strong Policies to Support Support Business: Canadian Chamber Convention and AGM

November

Tri-Cities Chamber Urges the BC Government to Revisit Escalating Workers' Compensation System Costs

Tri-Cities Chamber and Burnaby Board of Trade Partner to Host Discussion on Fall Economic Statement with Parliamentary Secretary Terry Beech

Chamber Thanks Outgoing Premier John Horgan, Will Work to Champion Business with New Premier and Cabinet

All Candidates Meetings

The Chamber hosted All Candidates Meetings for the 2022 Local General Elections in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody. Overall attendance: 800 people in-person and online. Views of video recordings: 2,500+

Chamber in the Community

The Chamber was pleased to participate in community events, including Crossroads Hike for Hospice, Soroptimist of the Tri-Cities Give Her Wings Gala and Warm Place for Women, Austin Heights HollyDaze, Port Coquitlam May Days Mayor's Breakfast, Tri-Cities Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Inaugural Council Meetings, Inaugural SD43 Board of Education Meeting, Port Coquitlam Christmas Tree Festival, Port Moody Spike Awards, Coquitlam Express Golf Tournament and Hockey Game Puck Drop, and more.



Chamber Roundtable with Canadian Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser, April 2022

Advocacy and Program Highlights

Economic Development and Advocacy

We consult with and advocate for our members on issues affecting their business, and for economic development at the municipal, regional, provincial, and federal levels. We are an active member of the BC Chamber of Commerce, which represents the interests and concerns of Chambers and businesses across the province, as well as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which speaks for more than 175,000 businesses on national and international issues.

Topics for government relations and advocacy in 2022 included COVID-19 business recovery, inter-provincial trade barriers, labour shortages, infrastructure investments, supply chain challenges, local development proposals,

and more. We hosted our Annual Economic Summit in May. We also ensured access for our members to speak directly to political leaders through Town Halls with federal ministers, parliamentary secretaries, and MPs, BC Minister of Finance Selina Robinson, monthly Mayor's Coffee Talks, the annual Mayors BBQ, and All Candidates Meetings for Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody in advance of the municipal elections.

The Tri-Cities Chamber participated in the BC Chamber of Commerce and Canadian Chamber of Commerce Conventions and policy debates, resulting in the annual policy manual that sets out advocacy efforts for the year (in addition to emerging issues), available on our website.

Education

A key pillar of the Chamber's strategic plan is providing educational content and training in response to the needs of our membership. In 2022, we launched the redesigned Tri-Cities Chamber website including our member resource library to assist businesses in all areas of their operations.

The Chamber also partnered with the Coquitlam Public Library to launch our Chamber Talks series, offering in-person, hybrid, and

online seminars. Sessions in 2022 included: The Competitive Advantage of Corporate Philanthropy; Get More Customers Organically with Google Reviews; Removing Barriers to Employment (Disability Employment Month); and How to Recession-Proof Your Business. And we collaborated with the World Trade Centre Vancouver's Trade Accelerator Program for our members to gain export expertise and access to global markets.



L to R: Anita Huberman, President, Surrey Board of Trade; Joslyn Young, Manager, External Relations, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority; Leslie Courchesne, CEO, Tri-Cities Chamber; Jenifer Wright, Vice-Chair, Tri-Cities Chamber Board of Directors; Bridgitte Anderson, President & CEO, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, at the 2022 Canadian Chamber of Commerce Convention and AGM, Ottawa.



Chamber Talks: Get More Customers with Google Reviews L to R: Christina Brown, Tri-Cities Chamber; Michelle Leviste, Portmigo Digital; Leslie Courchesne, Tri-Cities Chamber.

Program Highlights

Shop Chamber, Tri-Local and Taste of the Tri-Cities

In 2022, the Chamber championed supporting local businesses through a number of programs. Our #ShopChamber member-to-member discount program continued to help members grow their network and referrals. As well, with the generous support of TD Bank, our TD Business Spotlight videos showcased member businesses throughout the year.

We were proud to be a lead member of the Tri-Local Collective, supporting local businesses in the Tri-Cities, in conjunction with the three cities, Austin Heights Business Improvement Association, Downtown Port

Coquitlam Business Improvement Association, Port Moody & Co., Tri-City News, and Shop Local Port Moody. The initiative is geared to educate and motivate our community to support Tri-Cities businesses. As well, the Taste of the Tri-Cities' Savour the Summer campaign from June through August helped bolster one of the pandemic's hardest hit sectors, our local restaurants and pubs. Tri-Local also spearheaded a seven-brewery collaboration to create the Tri-Local Summer Sour, garnering the attention of media and beer lovers alike.



Tri-Cities Young Professionals

The Tri-Cities Young Professionals Program (TCYP) is geared toward ambitious professionals under 40. The program creates a vibrant and connected business community by providing opportunities for entrepreneurs and

emerging business leaders to build, impact, and grow. In 2022, the TCYP hosted events including Investment Club, Earth Day Clean-Up, Active for Access fundraiser, Wine Club en Blanc, and year-end Masquerade Soirée.

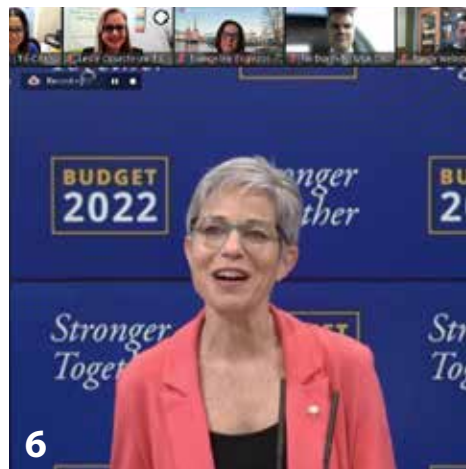


Women in Business

The Women in Business Program strives for the success of all women, with a focus on supporting those who continue to be underrepresented in the business community. Through educational seminars, networking events, and women-focused initiatives,

the WiB Program is committed to championing women in business. Highlights in 2022 included the March 8th International Women's Day 'Break the Bias' Luncheon, the Swing into Action event at the Westwood Plateau Driving Range, and Year-End Mixer.





2022 Event Highlights

1 Economic Summit, Political Columnist Vaughn Palmer **2** BC Chamber's Closing Comments Luncheon with Premier John Horgan **3** Holiday Luncheon **4** Tri-Cities Chamber 50th Anniversary AGM **5** Mayors' BBQ, Belcarra Mayor Jamie Ross, Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart, Port Coquitlam Mayor Brad West **6** BC Budget 2022 Townhall, Finance Minister Selina Robison **7** Lunch with Leaders, k^wik^wəłəm Kwikwetlem First Nation Chief s̓x̓əp̓x̓eyləm si:yém Ed Hall **8** International Women's Day





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2022 Event Highlights

9 Golf Classic Beach Par-Tee **10** Business Showcase **11** Coquitlam All Candidates Meeting, Councillor Candidate Trish Mandewo **12** Port Moody All Candidates Meeting, Mayoral Candidate Meghan Lahti **13** Business Showcase, Ryan Gorder, MNP **14** Women in Business Swing Into Action **15** Tri-Cities Young Professionals (TCYP) Masquerade **16** Port Coquitlam All Candidates Meeting, Councillor Candidates Paige Petriw, Erik Minty **17** TCYP Wine Club en Blanc

Business Excellence Awards

Every year, members of the Tri-Cities business community gather to honour and celebrate business excellence.

The Tri-Cities Chambers' annual Business Excellence Awards publicly recognize outstanding businesses, organizations and individuals that demonstrate excellence in business and a passion for the community.



2021-2022 Award Recipients

Business Resiliency Award

Safe Care Home Support

Business of the Year (1-10 Employees) Award

Squish Juicery

Business of the Year (11-30 Employees) Award

Strive Health & Performance

Business of the Year (30+ Employees) Award

Big Hearts Home Care

Business Leader of the Year Award

Kyle O'Genski, Patina Brewing Co.

Community Spirit Award

Kirmac Collison & Automotive Collision Systems

Not-For-Profit of the Year Award

Community Ventures Society

Young Professional of the Year Award

Paul Choi, Juris Notary

Environmental Steward Award

Tru Earth Environmental Products Inc.

Chamber Member of the Year

Lora Covinha, Phoenix Truck & Crane



Thank you to our Partners



Thank you to our Leading Sponsors



Media Sponsors



As well, our sincerest appreciation to the more than 50 event sponsors and in-kind sponsors who supported Chamber programs and activities throughout the year.

Tri-Cities  Chamber of Commerce
COQUITLAM | PORT COQUITLAM | PORT MOODY



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