



CHAMBER CHAT

OCTOBER 2008

www.meadowadvantage.com

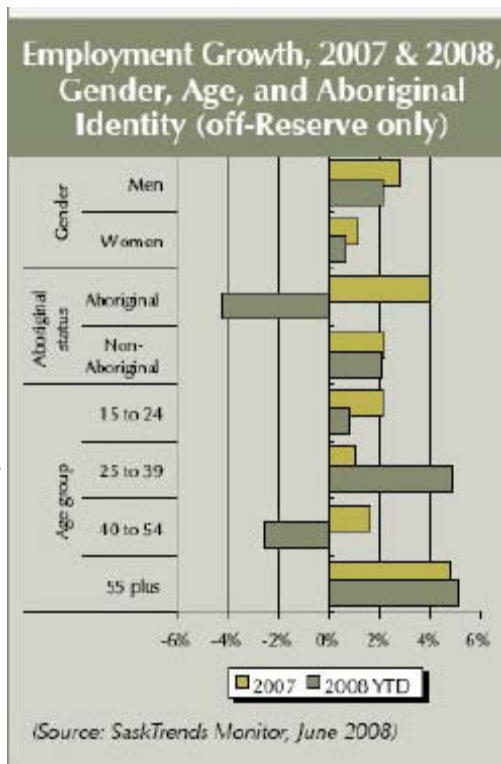
SASKATCHEWAN'S WORKFORCE: Uncertain, Expensive and Different

The story is not new to Saskatchewan employers. A booming economy with an increased demand for skilled workers + an aging population = a labour shortage. Saskatchewan's workforce demographic is skewed. Over the last 30 years there has been an outflow of our youth and it has left a gap in the work force. Baby boomers are beginning to retire and those who are part of the Aboriginal baby boom are starting to become working age.

There is more people working in Saskatchewan than ever before 517,500 as of May 2008; however a drop in Aboriginal employment and slowing in youth employment is a concern. The Aboriginal population in this province continues to grow at a faster rate than the rest of the population. By 2012 the estimate is 1 in every 3 students will be of Aboriginal descent in the province's K-12 system. The decrease in Aboriginal employment is attributed to issues surrounding the cost of living off-reserve and employee retention.

The changes in Aboriginal, and youth employment trends need to be addressed if Saskatchewan is going to enhance its workforce. Employers who understand and find ways to capitalize on the pool of talent found in these groups will have the advantage in the years to come. Helpful

tips are located on page three of Chamber Chat. (This article is was originally printed in action! Issue 5)



2008 Board of Directors

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2008 MLBEX AWARDS

The Chamber of Commerce MLBEX Awards will be held March 11, 2009. Watch for more details in the coming months. There will be the following categories that businesses and individuals can be nominated for: Business of the Year, Business Community Involvement, Customer Service, Individual Service Excellence, New Business Venture, Young Business Leader and Volunteer of the Year.

Not yet a Chamber member?

Want to be?

Questions about benefits of membership?

Contact Sandi at
236-2407

Join with us to help fulfill our mission and enjoy the benefits of membership!

Federal Election 2008 Political Forum

The Meadow Lake & District Chamber Commerce Political Forum for the Candidates in the Desnethe—Missinipi—Churchill River Riding

The Chamber hosted a forum September 25, 2008 at Carpenter High School Theatre in attendance were candidates:

Rob Ballantyne—First Peoples National Party of Canada

Brian Morin—NDP

George Morin—Green Party

David Orchard—Liberal Party

Approximately 80 individuals attended. Question topics included farming, hunting and fishing, Aboriginal issues and economic development in the north. This event allowed attendees to get to know the candidate's platforms and express their concerns about the issues in the riding.

Workforce Issues—Quick Tips

Attracting and Retaining Young Employees

- Re-evaluate your company's benefits—make it attractive to young people.
- Have clear policies and rules in place—focus on explaining not just how something is done but why.
- Provide learning opportunity— utilize and develop their skills will increase job satisfaction.
- Recognize small accomplishments— staff will perform unpleasant tasks if recognized for it.
- Be gracious to employees who leave—develop methods to maintain contact with employees who leave but who you would be interested in hiring back.

Attracting and Retaining Aboriginal Employees

- Provide Aboriginal Misconception Training to all staff— Aboriginal and non-aboriginal staff need to have a better understanding of each other.
- Share information— on labour standards, common workplace practices, and collective agreement rights.
- Recognize diversity—do not assume all Aboriginal employees will behave the same way.
- Expand your contacts—broaden your organization's overall contact with Aboriginal organizations, communities and businesses. Facilitate new volunteer activities and acquiring new clients and /or suppliers.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Update

Chamber of Commerce is considering offering a turnkey, low-cost Mystery Shopping Program to its members. The primary target is the owner of a small business, such as a restaurant, retail store or dry cleaner, who might not have the resources to have his or her own mystery shopping program. Participating companies will receive a one-page report that includes pooled results of similar businesses and tips for improvement. Visit www.chamber.ca to view the programs offered or call Sandi at 236-2407.

Spotlight on MLBEX Sponsors

RBC Royal Bank of Canada

Putting Our Clients First

Since 1947 RBC Royal Bank has been providing financial advice to Meadow Lake and area. With 20 employees they are proud to offer services including mortgages, loans, investments, everyday banking and commercial/small business services. Supporting the communities that they live and work in has been a priority for RBC Royal Bank, and they look forward to being here for the next phase of growth that our communities are experiencing.

www.royalbank.com

PineRidge Ford Sales

No Smoke, No Mirrors

PineRidge Ford is a full service dealership offering a full range of services including new and used auto sales, service, parts, body shop, rentals, recreational vehicles sales and a business office.

www.pineridgeford.com

SaskTel

SaskTel is a provincial Crown Corporation and has delivered leading-edge telecommunications to the people of Saskatchewan for nearly 100 years. The SaskTel serving area within Saskatchewan links 13 cities with 535 smaller communities and their surrounding rural areas, including 49,000 farms. All told, SaskTel serves more than 425,000 business and residential customers.

www.sasktel.com

CJNS 102.3

Serving our community for 30 years

CJNS has local programming from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. It also is home to the Meadow Lake Kinsmen Telemiracle, a local radiothon that has raised more money per capita than any community in Saskatchewan. As well, CJNS recently raised \$60,000 in 8 hours during the “**Because We Care**” campaign for the Meadow Lake Hospital Foundation.

Martodam's The Clothing People

WEAR it's at in Meadow Lake

Is a “large” family clothing and footwear store that is proud to be in a “small” market. With a focus on casual, work & fashion WEAR for the whole family.

Competitively pricing for branded, good quality apparel & shoes. Martodam's philosophy is to provide good service and meet ML's needs in casual, work & fashion wear.

SaskPower

As the principal supplier of electricity in Saskatchewan, SaskPower serves more than 451,000 customers and manages \$4.5 billion in assets. They have almost 2,500 permanent full-time employees located in 71 communities.

www.saskpower.com

*Meadow Lake & District
Chamber of Commerce*

Box 1168
Meadow Lake SK S9X 1Y8

Phone: 306-236-2407
Fax: 306-236-1833
E-mail: sandi@nwreda.ca

**"I don't fear failure. I only fear the
slowing up of the engine inside of me
which is saying,**

**"Keep going, someone must be on
top, why not you?"**

George S. Patton

2008 Meadow Lake & District Chamber of Commerce Members

New Member

A & W Restaurant	Home Hardware Building Centre	NorSask Forest Products
Atomic Sports & leisure LTD.	Home Visitation Program	Northland Chrysler
Auto & Tractor Supply	Homstol Pharmacy	Northwest REDA
B & B Optical	Howell Agencies	North West Regional College
B & D Landscaping	Inland Concrete	Northern Oasis Wash Centre
B & R Eckles Transportation	Innovation Credit Union	Northern Pride Publications
BMTR Ventures Ltd. ★	Investor's Group	Northwestern Radio Partnership
Backwater Creek Development	J.E. Thomas Funeral Home	Nor'Wester Motor Inn
Beaver River Banner	Jay's Transport	Nu Line Auto
Beaver River Community Futures	Johnson Holm Svenkeson	Parkland Hotel
Can-Sask Career and Employment	KITS Computing	PineRidge Ford Sales
Cavalier Agrow	Lamon Disposal	Pliska Vidal & Co.
CFDM 105.7 FM	Lantz Ranching	Pro Office Equipment
CIBC	Law Firm of Benjamin J. Partyka	RBC Royal Bank
Cloud 9 Hair and Tanning	Mac's Decorating	RE/MAX
Cogent Business Consulting	MacLeods True Value	RM of Meadow Lake
Color Collision Centre	Madill's Drugs	RobWel Constructors
Cota Construction	Marsollier Petroleum	Ron's Plumbing and Heating
Country Treasures	Martodam's "The Clothing People"	SaskTel
DS Food Services	Meadow Lake Appliance Centre	Shaun and Tonia Clarke, Janitorial Services
Dave's Electric	Meadow Lake Associate Clinic	Silver Palace Restaurant
Downtown Enterprises	Meadow Lake Building Supplies	Solitude Trophy and Frames
Dr. J.M. Herve, Dentist	Meadow Lake Co-op	Subway
Eagle Creek Motor Products	Meadow Lake Dental Clinic	Super 8 Motel
Eastside Grocery	Meadow Lake Golf Club	T.H.E. Financial Services
Ed's Wholesale Groceries	Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp	The Source by Circuit City
Extreme Speed RV	Meadow Lake OSB	Trailrunners Kennels and Resources
Fasgas	Meadow Lake Progress	Tupper's Construction
Federation Co-operatives	Meadow Lake Vision Clinic	Vision North Eye Care
Fountain Tire	Meadow Lanes	Waskoosis Safe Shelter
Four Seasons Motel	Meadow North Agencies	Wilfing Farms
Francis and Company	Meadowlands Chiropractic Clinic	Woodland Inn
General's Coffee Service	MBC Radio	Woodland Stationery
Gerald R. Perkins, Law Firm	Mistik Management	
Groot's Honey Farm	Misty Meadows Greenhouse	
Harman Consulting	Multiworks	
Haymar Service	NAPA Auto Parts	
	Neil Curtis Auto Body	