

Provincial Chamber Names New Chair

Prince Albert Businessman Richard Ahenakew was named Chair of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce at the annual Conference on Business in Prince Albert on May 6th. The Chamber serves as the “Voice of Business” in Saskatchewan and as Chair Ahenakew will lead the organization in its efforts to improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of Saskatchewan’s business environment.

Ahenakew is a member of the Ahtalkakooop First Nation and is the first First Nations chair to lead the Provincial Chamber in its 90 year history.

For the past five years, Ahenakew has been the general manager of Northern Lights Casino in Prince Albert, one of the six casinos operated by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. He has been actively involved in the local community working with Prince Albert Tourism and supporting First Nations activities.

“We are very excited to have Richard as our new Chair,” said Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve McLellan. “His commitment to the development and promotion of First Nations businesses and employees will help the Chamber its quest to ensure the sustainable and strategic growth of our province.”

Ahenakew has been an active chamber member for eight years, and has previously served the organization in the roles of 1st and 2nd Vice Chair. He is also a member of the Chamber’s Expert Policy Committee on Investment and Growth.

Richard replaces Holly Hetherington, a senior partner of Executive Source Partners, who served as Chamber Chair for the past year.

“Holly has done a wonderful job over the past year and I look forward to continuing to work with her on the Chamber Board of Directors,” added Ahenakew. “I am excited about the opportunities Saskatchewan offers and am eager to make this the best place to live, work and invest.”

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce held elections for its 2010/11 Board of Directors in April. Four seats were open on the Board and nine great candidates put their names forward.

“The Chamber is pleased to welcome new Board members Bruce Anderson from b-creative group and Randy Beattie from PFM Capital,” concluded McLellan. “We are also delighted to have Pat Pitka from Genome Prairie and Shawna Nelson from the Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon returning for another term.”

The following Officers were elected for 2010-2011 at the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2010 in Prince Albert:

Chair	Richard Ahenakew, General Manager Northern Lights Casino, Prince Albert
Immediate Past-Chair	Holly Hetherington, Senior Partner Executive Source Partners, Regina
1st Vice-Chair	Pat Friesen, Executive Vice President of Marketing Innovation Credit Union, Swift Current
2nd Vice-Chair	Grant Issac, Senior Vice President, Corporate Services Cameco Corporation, Saskatoon

The 2010-2011 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is:

Randy Beattie	President and CEO PFM Management, Regina
Bruce Anderson	Managing Partner B-Creative Group, Regina
Cam Cooper	Senior Associate Sigma Analytics, Regina
Marion Ghiglione	President, Handy Group of Companies, Saskatoon
Ted Hillstead	Partner Cogent Business Consulting, Weyburn
Lester Lafond	President Lafond Insurance & Financial Services
Pat Pitka	Director Genome Prairie, Saskatoon
Shawna Nelson	Director of Sales and Marketing, Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon
Fred Titanich	President CAA Saskatchewan, Regina

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