

Chamber News – June 11, 2010

1. **RELAY FOR LIFE:** Don't forget to come down to **Centennial Park on Sunday anytime between 10am and 10pm** (or the whole time!) to support the Canadian Cancer Society and the Relay for Life. There will be something for everyone to enjoy with lots of excitement for the entire family!
2. **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 5PM:** The Chamber of Commerce is pleased to host the NDP Tourism, Culture and the Arts Critic, Mr. Spencer Chandra Herbert who will speak on **"The HST impacts on the Tourism Industry"** and CEO of Kootenay Rockies Tourism, Mr. Chris Dadson who will speak on **"Tourism BC's integration with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts"**. Both gentlemen will be speaking at **the Railway Museum at 5pm this coming Wednesday**. This is an open invitation to all members and those interested in the current status of the BC Tourism Industry.
3. **HST Transition Info:** Please find attached another notice on *Transitional Rules for Housing and Other Real Property* from the Canadian Revenue Agency.
4. **CANADA DAY:** This year, like every year, Canada Day festivities will take place on July 1st! Similar to last year, the events will all take place downtown in Grizzly Plaza and along Mackenzie Avenue. Kick off for the event will begin with the *Canada Day Parade starting at 3pm. For parade registration forms and route information, please stop by the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce*. Additional information on the day's events will be forthcoming.
5. **BC CHAMBER CALL TO ACTION – BUSINESS VOTE AND PROPERTY TAX:** As you are all aware at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in 2009 the Premier committed to create a Task Force to review BC's Local Election Act. A part of the review was a commitment to review the possible re-introduction of the business vote. This was a significant achievement for the Chamber movement who have called for this for several years.

The report of this group has been released and included a recommendation that the business vote not be introduced. The section of the report dealing with the corporate vote states that "UBCM's policy position is not to support the corporate vote." Given that the Task Force was charged with developing a consensus report this opposition meant it was impossible for the committee to come to a position of support.

We are therefore calling on all chamber members to directly contact their MLA's to emphasize the importance to the business community of action to address the unfair property tax burden placed on businesses of every size.

To ensure that chambers are provided with the information they need to speak to the issue in a coordinated way we have attached 2 documents to assist chambers in preparing for this meeting: First is a copy of the joint business vote submission from BC Chamber, BC Business Council and CFIB. This document outlines the design of how a business vote would actually work. Second is a document titled "Key issues and messages". This document outlines the various objections and concerns we have faced from a variety of audiences and provides a response to each.

Thanks everyone! Enjoy the sunshine this weekend!

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