

President's Message

2021 marked the 125th Anniversary of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce. We had such great plans for 2021 and what a year it was. In many ways, 2021 proved even more turbulent and challenging than 2020 for our regional businesses and our community. Not only did Covid continue to crash over us wave upon wave, but Mother Nature visited upon us serious and devastating fires and floods which impacted us all. Throughout, I was so very proud of the work of our Chamber team. We took on every challenge with energy, determination, creativity and compassion – always striving to support our members and our community, providing the information, guidance, advocacy and support that was needed to help overcome each and every hurdle we faced.

Through the Kamloops Chamber's proven and structured policy process, the Board brought forward 3 proposed policy resolutions that were successfully passed at the BC Chamber and Canadian Chamber policy conventions. The Board approved 6 letters of support for members and provided advocacy on behalf of our members in the fitness industry, those impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, and businesses impacted by social challenges. In addition to this advocacy work, our Board and Executive Director met with government officials at every level. In 2021 we engaged in meetings with, our local MLA's Todd Stone and Peter Milobar, Provincial Minister's of Finance, Agriculture, and Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation and the Federal Housing Minister along with Canada's Commissioner for Employers

Our Chamber, as always, stood as the "Voice of Business" engaging in dozens of radio, TV, and print media interviews over the course of the year to ensure that our member's feedback and concerns were being broadcast to a wider audience. And even though the pandemic again forced us to veer from some of our traditional programming, we were still able to pull off some in person social events and we held our very successful 35th Business Excellence Awards with long awaited face to face connectivity.

With the Omicron wave subsiding, I am optimistic that 2022 will allow us to continue our march back to full in person programming and events and showcase the power and enjoyment of full Chamber membership. I am also confident that our region and our business community will continue to thrive as we speed toward more prosperous times ahead, and our Chamber will play a key role in getting us there.

As your President, I regret not being able to meet more of you in person over the past year as opportunities were so limited. Even so, it has been a great honour to serve as President with this Board of Directors and to work so closely with Acacia and her dynamic team. As many of you already know from personal experience, our Chamber is so very fortunate to have such a talented and passionate team supporting our members.

I look forward to continuing my involvement with the Chamber next year as Past President and as an active member for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan Carroll', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dan Carroll

Board President

2021 – 2022