



## Chairman's Review – Grant Kimball

As the outgoing Chair, it is my privilege to highlight your Chamber's accomplishments for 2015- 2016, how we have advanced with our 3-year strategic plan and what our future will look like as we prepare to celebrate our 200th anniversary in 2019.

Through the partnership which we launched last year, the Saint John region business community has had their voice amplified and unified. With emphasis on our member's shared regional values, we have successfully:

- Forged one collective voice for business in the Saint John Region
- Advocated for a positive business climate
- Increased focus on small business
- Supported economic development, and
- Worked to achieve operational and financial excellence

We strive to enhance membership value through increased networking opportunities, and we represent your interests to government, economic development agencies, other regional chambers and the public at large. This has allowed us to increase exposure for the Chamber, with our advocacy positions frequently represented in the national press. As you will hear in a moment from our treasurer, the financial stability we have achieved allows us to enhance our member services in the months and years to come.

As advocates for a positive business climate, we began the year with a commitment to change the dialogue and to get everyone talking about how the Saint John region is a great place to do business, and to be in business.

We encouraged our members and our community to join us in supporting an environment where business is celebrated and entrepreneurs are supported.

Why is it important for each of us to be Champions of Business in our community? Because when locally-owned and operated businesses thrive, more money gets spent on goods, services and taxes. That means more money for recreation, education, safety services, and for strengthening our social safety net. By creating and encouraging a healthy environment for businesses, we allow them to give more back to our community.

The Chamber is now one of our region's largest, most active and influential business networks. As we move forward, we will continue to provide exposure for members through traditional mediums, and will utilize new technology and innovation to maximize opportunities and delivery channels.

Through the hosting of speaking engagements, luncheons, mixer events and signature events such as the East Coast Energy Connection and the Outstanding Business Awards (The OBAs), the Chamber



showcases the strength of our membership and the business community in our region. Our Distinguished Speaker Series continues to attract dynamic speakers such as Arlene Dickinson and Dave Durepos. We were chosen by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to present our partnership model in Ottawa and won silver in the national competition. Our nomination of Neil Jacobsen from the City of Saint John was successful, with Neil being identified as one of Canada's Natural Resource Champions, and we were asked to host roundtables and leader's discussions by the National Energy Board, Canadian Chamber of Commerce and various Federal Ministers.

We are proud that our advocacy efforts, lobbying, networking opportunities and education components will all play a role in helping to shape our community. Our organization has evolved and is positioned to keep pace with the changing times. Our expanded organization now better reflects the dynamics of the business community that we serve.

In closing, I would like to thank you, our members, for your continued support. Your faith in us to advocate on your behalf has been our strength since 1819.

I thank our tremendous volunteers, your participation and efforts have been, and continue to be the foundation of any success we are able to achieve.

I also thank my fellow board members. To those who have completed their terms, I wish you well as you continue with your endeavors and I look forward to continuing to work with you as we advance and enhance our business environment.

To our returning, and our new board members, Welcome! We are honored that you are a part of our organization, you have an exciting year ahead of you.

And finally, to the staff of the Chamber, thank you for your hard work and dedication, you have made my year as Chair a rewarding, and exciting time with many successes along the way.

Thank you