



Committee Reports

Women In Business Forum – During the year 2017 - 2018 the Women in Business forum met on a monthly basis to engage women in the Saint John business community and to highlight and develop issues of importance to women in the greater Saint John area. This membership includes women from a wide variety of industries and sectors. Some of these sectors are; financial, legal, self-employed, entrepreneurs and not-for-profit organizations. The committee organized guest speakers and networking events and made donations to several charities.

The committee with the help our greater Saint John area community held their Annual Bare Necessities Campaign. This campaign had an overwhelming response by collecting toiletries and small products for numerous charities in the greater Saint John area. The last campaign had a huge increase of donations of items and monetary donations. From the increase in the monetary donations we were able to expand our charities to include the local food banks in the greater Saint John area.

Golf Committee – The Golf Committee held another highly successful golf tournament and online auction in 2017. The tournament this year was held at Rockwood Park Golf Course. Golfers had a great time and were treated to a delicious meal. Thank you to all of our sponsors for making it happen! A big thank you to our member businesses that donated items for our silent auction.

Outstanding Business Awards Committee – The Outstanding Business Achievement Awards were held on October 12, 2017 with a crowd of over 300 guests at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre. Last year's award winners were: Chairs Award, **New Brunswick Museum**; Big Heart Award, **PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools)**; Young Entrepreneur Award, **Job Burns (Busy Day Chef)**; Business Excellence award, **MCL Construction Ltd**; Emerging Enterprise Award, **River & Trail Outdoor Co**; Entrepreneurial Achievement award, **Breakout Saint John**. Passion for Change Award, **Mike & Vanessa Duncan and Yennah Hurley**. Thank you to all our sponsors and committee members! Mark your calendar for the 2018 OBA's – October 11th.

East Coast Energy Connection Committee – Saint John Region Chamber together with Energy Stakeholders continued a new initiative that focuses on East Coast energy potential. Business and community leaders from across the region participated in the *East Coast Energy Connection* conference which took place on June 6-7 at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre, in conjunction with Port Days. The conference featured distinguished speakers including Bernard Lord, Chair of Ontario Power Generation & Chief Executive Officer of Medavie, Dan Muldoon, Executive Vice President, Major Renewable and Alternative Energy, Emera Inc., David Campbell, President of Jupia Consultants Inc., John Dalton, President of Power Advisory LLC, among many others. Thank you to all our sponsors and members of the task force for their support.

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee has worked diligently to ensure that our organization is at peak fiscal strength. The finance committee is actively involved in the creation of new policies, processes and systems that help to ensure smooth operations and reporting.

Communications Committee – The Communications Committee members provides leadership and expertise to ensure The Chamber effectively communicates policy positions, on issues of importance to the business community, to its members and other publics. It develops and implements an internal and external communications strategy and ensures activities, events, services, and member benefits are communicated effectively.

Government Relations Committee - The Government Affairs Committee focused on four priorities: reducing the deficit, supporting natural resource development, avoid increased input costs and regulatory barriers for small and medium sized businesses.

The committee worked closely with membership and the board of directors to identify member priorities such as the proposed federal tax changes for small business. The Chamber was effective in lobbying against these changes with support of the government relations committee.

Finally, the committee continues to advocate for our election priorities, the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce has joined an alliance of organizations including the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, Le Conseil Economique du Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce, New Brunswick Business Council and Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce. In strategically aligning our priorities for the upcoming provincial election, we have collectively identified five key areas of commitment.