



Committee Reports 2015 - 2016

Women In Business Forum – During the year 2015-2016 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 membership met early in the year to determine a list of core topics that were important such as, transportation, community involvement initiatives and special issues faced by women entrepreneurs. The committee organized guest speakers and networking events for our members.

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 local charities in the greater Saint John area.

Golf Committee – The Golf Committee held another highly successful golf tournament and online auction in 2015. The tournament sold out for golfers and the online auction proved to be very popular again this year and contributed to the financial success of the tournament. Thank you to all our sponsors for making it happen! The committee is already hard at work for the 2016 tournament to be held on August 18th!

Outstanding Business Awards Committee – The Outstanding Business Achievement Awards were held on November 12th, 2015 with a crowd of over 330 guests at the Delta Brunswick Hotel. Last year's award winners were: Chairs Award, **Jim Quinn & Saint John Port Authority**; Big Heart Award, **Imperial Theatre**; Young Entrepreneur Award, **Harrison Teed, Prestine Life Inc**; Business Excellence award, **Stantec Consulting Limited**; Emerging Enterprise Award, **Fundy Sports & Tourism**; Entrepreneurial Achievement award, **Ecoheat**. Passion for Change Award, **Michelle Hooton of Bites by Michelle**. Thank you to all our sponsors and committee members! Mark your calendar for the 2016 OBA's – October 13th.

East Coast Energy Connection Committee – Saint John Region Chamber together with Energy Stakeholders launched a new initiative that focused on East Coast energy potential. Business and community leaders from across the region participated in this inaugural *East Coast Energy Connection* conference which took place on June 9-10 at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre, in conjunction with Port Days. The conference featured distinguished speakers from organizations such as Shell, the Department of Natural Resources Canada, U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy, Emera, PENN State - Marcellus Institute for Outreach and Research, University of Calgary, Cape Breton University, Nalcor, NB Power, the Oil and Gas Journal, Lorneville Mechanical, Innovatia, Opportunities New Brunswick, Trans Canada and many more. Thank you to all our sponsors and members of the task force for their support. Mark your calendar for the 2nd annual ECEC conference being held once again in conjunction with Port Days – June 14 -15th.

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 oversaw our 2015 Saint John Region Matter which set The Chamber’s election priorities. The 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 and improve transportation and logistics infrastructure.

The committee worked closely with membership and the board of directors in developing a candidate’s questionnaire in order to gather responses on how each federal election candidate would address the most pressing concerns of The Chamber’s membership.

Government Affairs led two other initiatives during the 2015 Federal election, including a “*Meet the Candidates*” reception as well as a membership survey, to ensure that the voices of the members were heard.

Finally, the committee continues to advocate for our election priorities with a Tri-City budget response, through a partnership with both the Fredericton and Moncton Chamber. Members of our chambers were particularly interested in measures that might provide a jolt to our economy, help better match our workforce to available jobs and the costs of doing business.