

POWELL RIVER CHAMBER CHATTER



OCTOBER SMALL BUSINESS MONTH



BC Chamber
of Commerce

Message from Chamber President Taran Brown

This October, we shine a spotlight on the entrepreneurs, family-run shops, contractors, and manufacturers that keep Powell River and the qathet region thriving. Small businesses create local jobs, support community projects, and give our town its unique character we have all come to love and cherish.

I invite every resident and business to shop local, share your favorite small-businesses on social media, and help us recognize the hard work behind every storefront and service.

Thank you for being part of a vibrant business community. Together, we can ensure our small businesses continue to grow and thrive in our home.

Warm regards,
Taran Brown



Join us at the 2025 Small Business Week Summit!

The BC Chamber of Commerce [Small Business Week Summit](#) celebrates B.C.'s small businesses – the backbone of our provincial economy – and provides them with the opportunity to listen, learn and engage directly with subject matter experts and thought leaders on topics that are important to them.

This year's Small Business Week Summit is all about turning ideas into action. Under the theme **Built to Thrive: Practical Skills for Small Business Success**, we are focusing on what matters most, delivering hands-on insights, real-world tools, and proven strategies that small businesses can apply immediately. This year's sessions are designed to meet entrepreneurs where they are and help them move forward with confidence.

Tickets are complimentary, and each session will be hosted via Zoom webinar.



Resources and Information

Local Support to Help Your Business Build Benefits That Work



Running a small business is no small feat. Between managing day-to-day operations, attracting new customers, and balancing the books, the last thing most owners want to worry about is complicated employee benefits. Yet offering the right coverage is often the difference between keeping top talent and losing them to larger competitors.

When you run a small business, you want benefits that truly work for your employees — without overwhelming your time, budget, or resources. That's why having local support makes all the difference.

Our Local Chambers Plan advisor is Katrina Sinclair with Healthwise Benefits. She works with business owner's one-on-one to design benefits that are simple, stable, and smart. By helping you take the guesswork out of employee benefits so you can focus on running your business while knowing your team is protected.
katrina@healthwisebenefits.ca



Thrive together with First Credit Union's

Small Business Bursaries!

Small businesses, cooperatives, and sole proprietors are the backbone of our local economy. They provide jobs, services, and creativity that make our communities vibrant places to live.



✦ Apply for a Small Business Bursary (a little boost to support your business goals)

✦ Join us at a networking event in Powell River (connect, share ideas, and meet other awesome entrepreneurs) Don't miss this opportunity to access support and expand your business network.

📍 Powell River – October 8th, 5:30-7pm at First Credit Union (4721 Joyce Avenue)

It's a chance to celebrate the bursary recipients, mix, mingle, and leave with fresh ideas (and maybe some extra support for your business!).

Apply for a Bursary and RSVP to the events ➡ <https://firstcreditunion.ca/thrive-together>

• FOUNDRY •
qathet



Foundry is on its way to our community! Foundry is a province-wide network of integrated health and wellness services for young people aged 12-24 and their caregivers. Foundry qathet will bring together existing services to reach young people before they are in crises. Foundry qathet will be hosted by Youth & Family, a long-standing local non-profit.

The five core services offered are:

- 1) Mental health care
- 2) Substance use services
- 3) Physical and sexual health care
- 4) Youth and family peer supports
- 5) Social services

The need for early intervention for youth is urgent. In Canada, over 80% of problematic substance use begins by the age of 20 and 70% of mental health concerns begin before the age of 24. But fewer than 25% of youth are accessing the care they need.

We are fundraising for the capital phase of Foundry qathet (renovations, equipment & furnishings). Location to be announced soon! Once open, Foundry centres receive guaranteed operational funding from the province. Foundry is connection, care, and support for all of life's challenges! Follow along at:

Social: <https://www.facebook.com/foundryqathet>

Website: <https://foundrybc.ca/location/qathet/>

Email: Foundry qathet Project Manager Delyth Harper <dharper@youthandfamily.ca>

Member Spotlights



Craig Mracek

Craig has opened Orca Law in the qathet region with a guiding question that has shaped his career: "How can I help?" His journey into law began with a deep commitment to serving his community.

Craig's legal experience is extensive. He has worked on major federal files at the Supreme Court of Canada, received a ministerial appointment to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, and contributed to the Department of Justice on Indigenous law. While his federal work was rewarding, Craig felt a strong pull to bring his skills closer to home. With the launch of Orca Law, he now focuses on real estate, family, wills, and criminal law. Beyond legal services, Craig envisions Orca Law as a community hub—connecting clients with broader local resources and finding meaningful ways to give back. Phone: 236-328-4007 Website: <http://www.orcalawteam.com/>



SunRae Studio

Sarah is a certified Art Therapist in professional standing with the Canadian Art Therapy Association. She has 8 years of experience working with children and their families and offers services in person for qathet Regional District, BC.

Approach

Sarah offers therapy that is dignity-driven, trauma-informed, and person-centered. This approach involves following the lead of the individual she is supporting and believing in each person's ability for self-direction. Everyone has the knowledge of what to explore, whom to confide in, and how to progress towards personal growth. Sarah collaborates with you throughout your unique journey, providing support in a way that suits you best. She draws on the creative process, attachment theory, developmental theories, response-based practice and internal family systems approaches to guide our work together.



Since 2019, Remote Marine Solutions has been trusted to deliver marine construction projects of every size — from small-scale residential docks and ramps to large, complex builds in remote coastal locations. Our work ranges from enhancing waterfront access for cabin and homeowners, to completing remote builds for BC Parks, government agencies, and off-grid resorts.

Our expertise includes fixed and floating docks, custom ramps and transitions, anchoring and mooring systems, float frames for cabins, HDPE waterline installations, breakwater systems, welding and fabrication, and custom specialty accessories such as a swimming dock with rope swing, custom boat lifts, fish cleaning stations, kayak platforms and rollers, ladders and more!



A LITTLE ABOUT

Salish Sea Spirits

We like to consider ourselves stewards of "our" little region of the Salish Sea. We are a family who has had its roots in this beautiful Coastal area for several generations and it is of utmost importance to us to help maintain the beauty, ecology and biology of the area.

Be featured in our Quarterly Member Spotlights!

We'd love to showcase your business in our next newsletter. If you'd like to be part of our Member Spotlights, reach out to Sheilah : office@powellriverchamber.com for details.

Dates & Events



RETAIL - LOSS PREVENTION & EMPLOYEE SAFETY

Powell River Retail store owners and managers are invited to join us for a **FREE** seminar on Retail Loss Prevention and employee safety. Constable Blair Goble with the RCMP will deliver a short presentation followed by Q & A.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
8 AM SHARP - 9 AM
TOWN CENTRE HOTEL
4660 JOYCE AVE, POWELL RIVER, BC

RSVP IS REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 10TH
RECEPTION@PRTOWNCENTRE.COM
PHONE: 604-485-4681

PRESENTED BY:  **POWELL RIVER TOWN CENTRE** 

You are invited to the
Miklat Recovery
Arbutus Building

GRAND OPENING
Ceremony

OCTOBER 3RD 2025
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

5907 Arbutus Avenue,
Powell River BC



Save The Date



Our Business Awards Gala will take place on **Saturday, February 28th, 2026**. Mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the achievements, dedication, and success of our business community. More details, including ticket and nomination information will be shared soon!

Member Opportunities & Benefits

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

 **BUSINESS**

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Connect, share ideas, and grow opportunities!

✦ Bring the Business Community Together — At YOUR Business! ✦

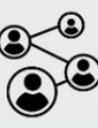
The Powell River Chamber of Commerce invites YOU to co-host one of our exciting Chamber Networking Evenings — a dynamic opportunity to:

- ◆ Showcase your business to a vibrant audience of local professionals
- ◆ Partner with another local business to double the exposure and fun
- ◆ Celebrate success and growth with the best of our community
- ◆ Network with fellow Chamber members and leaders who support local business



How it works:

- ✓ You + 1 Partner Business
- ✓ Your Location or Shared Space
- ✓ Chamber Support to Promote & Plan
- ✓ An evening of Community + Connection



FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT CHAMBER MANAGER SHEILAH DENHOLM
OFFICE@POWELLRIVERCHAMBER.COM
604 485-4051

CHAMBER LEARNING NETWORK

The Chamber Learning Network offers BC Chamber special member pricing on customized training seminars.

ESSO

Esso offers BC Chamber members a discount on fuel, oil, fluid top-ups and car washes.

HOTEL & CAR RENTAL DISCOUNTS

BC Chamber members access exclusive discounts on hotels and car rentals. Savings may be as much as 50%, and average 10 to 20% below market rates.

PARK'N FLY

BC Chamber members can take advantage of exclusive, lower than web rates with Park 'N Fly.

PAYWORKS

Payworks Chamber of Commerce affinity pricing offers BC Chamber members access to payroll solutions at a member discount.

PETRO CANADA SUPERPASS

BC Chamber members receive 2 cents off per litre on all grades of gas and diesel.

PUROLATOR

The preferred shipping partner of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

SHELL

BC Chamber members receive discounts off the posted pump price for gasoline, diesel and retail purchases with the Shell Triton Card.

STAPLES ADVANTAGE

BC Chamber members can access the Staples Advantage discount program, which provides savings on office essentials, print solutions and more.

VERSAPAY

VersaPay offers BC Chamber members preferential processing rates on Visa, MasterCard, debit and e-commerce.

Iris Advantage Program

"IRIS Advantage" program, include discounts on eyeglasses, sunglasses, and contact lenses, and can be combined with extended health coverage.

Welcome New Members



**C. Campbell Agency /
Bookkeeping**



buybc.gov.bc.ca/



Shopping at small businesses
has **BIG** impact



madeinca.ca