MACKENZIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MOVING BUSINESS FORWARD

Moving Forward Through Personalized Support

NEWSLETTER

Reaching Economic Success Together

FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE #2602

GUEST SPEAKER: CITYWEST

Scott Simpson - Senior Marketing Manager and Philip Mills - Director in Sales and Marketing will be joining us virtually today to give the community an update on their fibre-optic project to date. They will also be speaking about their build plans for 2026.

CityWest



Chamber Members 2026

As of February 18, 2026, two-thirds of our 2025 Mackenzie Chamber members have already submitted their 2026 Application form, paid for their membership, or both!
Thank you! We are looking forward to a fantastic New Year with all of you!
REMINDER! If you submit your 2026 Member Application Form and pay your membership dues before February 28, your name will be entered in a draw to win the amount of your dues back!

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NEW MEMBERS

HOPE Across the Spectrum
Cassandra Jones offers personalized autism behaviour consulting services.

D&J Wanderlust
Darci & Justin Hawkins can help you plan your dream trip to exotic locations!

Kahu House/Petsitting and More
Christina Amouzou will take care of your house or pet with love and professionalism.

Mystic Mountain Picks
Joy Davy sells crystals, bracelets, rings, pendulums, and books.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Royal Oak Inn & Suites

They offer free Wifi and parking. There is 46 rooms/suites, 5 cabins, 40 RV lots on the property. The hotel is minutes away from The Office Bar and Grill and Oceanview Laundromat. Rooms are equipped with coffee makers, mini fridge and microwave.

ROYAL OAK INN & SUITES

BC Chamber News

BC Chamber of Commerce

BC Chamber Statement on Budget 2026
VANCOUVER, BC, February 17, 2026 —
Jen Riley, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce, released the following statement in response to the release of Budget 2026 by the Government of British Columbia.

"As expected, Budget 2026 provides a sobering economic outlook for the province in the year ahead and over the three-year fiscal plan.

"Today's budget offers little in the way of the needed economic incentives, programs or policy shifts required to kick-start our economy, and which we have been advocating for, to grow the economy and generate prosperity for British Columbian citizens and businesses.

"Particularly alarming is the increase in the deficit to $13.3 billion next fiscal year, once again a record amount. The total provincial debt is going to rise from $154 billion to $235 billion by the end of the three-year fiscal plan.

Today's deficits mean increased taxes in the years ahead. We are making our children pay for services that we receive today – this is short-sighted and unfair.

"We acknowledge that Budget 2026 provides $5.1 billion to fund public services, such as health care and education, which are core services that British Columbians rely on and benefit from. However, healthy businesses drive a healthy economy, grow jobs, and generate revenues for government – Budget 2026 allocates $758 million to support economic development.

Budget 2026 has introduced tax changes that will impact citizens and businesses alike. The increase to personal income tax and the freezing of income tax brackets will impact 60% of BC taxpayers. In addition, the expansion of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) to include additional professional services such as book-keeping, accounting and security will be largely borne by businesses who will face new costs. Together, these three tax changes will take an additional $3.8 billion dollars out of the pockets of British Columbians over the next three years.

We welcome the investments Budget 2026 makes for some critical sectors of our economy. This includes $40 million to reduce permitting timelines in the natural resource sector, a new Stumpage Payment Deferral Program to provide relief for our hard-hit forestry sector and $283 million in funding for skills training.

The most notable investment for business is the Temporary Manufacturing and Process Tax Credit for buildings, machinery and equipment used in manufacturing. The 15% tax credit on the first $2 million invested, for a maximum credit of $300,000, will help incentivize those businesses who are investing in their operations and make them more competitive.

While we welcome these investments, they do not offset the overall costs Budget 2026 will be placing on BC's businesses and job creators and are not consequential enough to create significant economic growth required to reverse the anemic economic performance we have been seeing, and expect to see, moving forward.



Member Benefit Feature

This month's benefit feature is the **BC Business Magazine**.

Chamber members can access a one-year subscription to BC's premiere business magazine for only $12 plus tax.

Contact the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce for details.



Funding Opportunities

Projects that contribute to healthy communities and support regional sustainability by investing in people and a diverse post-mining economy may be eligible for funding through **Centerra Gold's** Community Project Fund (CPF). The CPF awards grants of up to $10,000 to groups and projects that that build the capacity of local community groups and/members and are focused on one or more of the following priority areas:

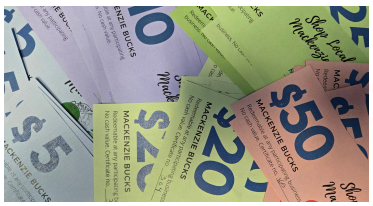
1. Education and training
2. Health
3. Environmental
4. Community
5. Literacy

www.centerragold.com/sustainability

Chamber Land Highlights

HR Covered

Skipping Progressive Discipline Can Cost You — Even When Performance Is an Issue
A recent B.C. court decision is a reminder many employers learn the hard way: having real performance concerns isn't enough to prove cause.
There were verbal discussions, but no clear written warnings, no documented opportunities to improve, and no unmistakable message that the employee's job was at risk. The judge was blunt: that's exactly why progressive discipline exists.
The result? The employer lost the ability to rely on cause and was ordered to pay eight weeks' severance.



Mackenzie Bucks

Mackenzie Bucks are available for purchase from the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce. They are redeemable at most businesses in town and make great Christmas gifts or employee bonuses. Mack Bucks are available in denominations of $5, $10. $20. $25, and $50.

For more information: email manager@mackenziechamber.bc.ca

Chambers Plan

"Join 32,000 Canadian businesses who trust our benefits.

We support Canadian companies like yours. The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan offers health and dental coverage for teams of 1 to 50+ with unbeatable service.

For over 50 years, we've evolved to meet the needs of today's workforce with comprehensive coverage and powerful built-in services."

Contact Tracy at manager@mackenziechamber.bc.ca for more information or to arrange a call with a Chambers Plan representative.



Sponsorship Opportunities

General Meeting Lunches for $500/mth. Your business will be featured as Business of the Month, with your name and logo advertised on our Facebook, website, radio, and newsletter.
Spring Expo Sponsor:
Platinum $3,600 Gold $2,600
Silver $1,600 Bronze $850
Children's Program $2,600
Dance $2,600
Wine & Cheese $1,100



Upcoming Events

- **Mountain Magic Winter Quest - February 20, 21, 22, 2026** The schedule of events was mailed out to everyone at the beginning of February. Watch their Facebook page for more details on events as the weekend unfolds. Join in the fun and make great memories!
- **HomeRoutes House Concert - February 21, 2026** MCAC will be hosting Soul Jerky on Saturday at 7:30 pm in the Arts Centre at 9 Laurier Dr.
- **2026 Spring Expo - April 24 & 25, 2026** Application forms and information are being sent out. If you didn't receive the forms, please come into the office to pick your booth spot and fill out the form. If you would like to sponsor the Spring Expo but can't have a booth, certain sponsorship levels will cover the booth cost and a local non-profit or user group can use it. You will still get the recognition on social media, signage, and posters.
- **Show & Shine - April 25, 2026** Come into the office anytime to register your vehicle!
- **Mackenzie's 60th Celebrations - May 15 - 17, 2026**. Mark your calendars!





Mackenzie Chamber and Visitor Centres Report

The tragedy in Tumbler Ridge shook all of us. As we all watched the news, read unfathomable posts on social media, or heard from family and friends, our hearts broke a little more. However, as the horrible events unfolded over the hours, day, and week, we also watched the neighbouring communities, the province, and the nation come together to support the victims and community of Tumbler Ridge. From the Chamber viewpoint, I am fortunate to be part of a close-knit group of colleagues who reached out to wrap the town and Chamber in a large, supportive hug. That's what a network of individuals and communities do for each other when the horrific happens. Remember, none of us are alone.

All of us at the Mackenzie Chamber are excited for Spring Expo happening on April 24 & 25. New vendors are signing up to showcase their products and services to Mackenzie. We are looking to fill our entertainment schedule on the main stage - if you would like to show us your talent, please let the Chamber office know! We had a short preview of Spring the last few weeks before the wind blew in winter again. However, the groundhog did say that spring is coming back. To get ready for tourism season, we will be posting job advertisements for Tourism Information Counsellors. Do you know someone that would be perfect for the job? Resumes can be sent to manager@mackenziechamber.bc.ca and interviews will take place in April.

Thank you to the District of Mackenzie for your ongoing financial support and mentorship of the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centres. We are proud to work with you!

Thank you for reading!

MACKENZIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	250-997-5459 manager@mackenziechamber.bc.ca
www.mackenziechamber.bc.ca	11-600 Mackenzie Blvd. Box 880 Mackenzie, BC V0J 2C0