MACKENZIE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MOVING BUSINESS FORWARD

Moving Forward Through Personalized Support

NEWSLETTER

Reaching Economic Success Together

DECEMBER 2025 | ISSUE #2512

GUEST SPEAKER: MACKENZIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce is very grateful for the ongoing financial support from the District of Mackenzie. Every year, we present a year-end report to Mayor and Council to show how and what we did throughout the past year. Shannon Bezo - Board President and Tracy Medley - Executive Director will present the same slides and notes that were given to Council.



23rd Annual Auction NOV. 15, 2025

What an event! We are thrilled with all the support the Mackenzie Chamber received for our Annual Auction. Fabulous prizes were donated from organizations in Mackenzie, PG, Smithers, Tumbler Ridge, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Vancouver, and Quesnel. Taste of Mackenzie showcased Kelly's Bakery, Mackenzie Co-op, Fry Daddy's, Canadian 2 for 1, Purple Bicycle, Subway, and Mackenzie Legion! Over 130 people attended and enjoyed the fun evening. Thank you!!

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NEW MEMBERS

Western LNG
Western LNG, a Houston-based company, with the Nisga'a Nation and Rockies LNG, is developing its first floating LNG production facility on the upper coast of British Columbia, Canada. Ksi Lisims LNG (pronounced s'lisims), meaning "from the Nass River" in the Nisga'a language, is a proposed 12-million-tonne-per-year LNG project at Wil Milit on the northern tip of Pearse Island near the Nisga'a village of Gingolx. The project is currently in the Environmental Assessment process with the B.C. government.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Blaze Heating & Gas
Blaze Heating and Gas (owned by Shayne Woytkiw) is a reputable company based in Mackenzie, BC, specializing in heating and gas services. With a focus on quality workmanship and customer satisfaction, they offer a range of solutions for residential and commercial properties.
Their team of experienced professionals is dedicated to providing efficient heating and gas system installations, repairs, and maintenance. Blaze Heating and Gas aims to ensure that clients have reliable and safe heating solutions for their properties.

BC Chamber News

BC Chamber of Commerce

BC Chamber of Commerce Excited to Announce Jennifer Riley as CEO

VANCOUVER, BC, December 17, 2025 — Following an extensive search process, the BC Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Jen Riley as the successful candidate for the CEO position. Her appointment becomes effective January 12, 2026.

“We are thrilled to have Jen taking on leadership of the BC Chamber of Commerce. She will bring her deep understanding of business, in particular her experience in the real estate and technology sectors, along with her reputation as a skilled marketer and communicator,” said Chris Callanan, Chair, BC Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

“I’ve always been drawn to building things that matter,” said Jen Riley, CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce. “Having spent my career working in business, I know how much clarity, trust, and good partnership mean to leaders who are trying to grow, invest, and create opportunity. I’m eager to understand what is most important to our members and partners, amplify their voices, and advocate for solutions.”

Alex McMillan, the Interim CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce, will remain with the organization until February 6, 2026 to support a smooth transition.

“On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Alex for stepping in as Interim CEO while we conducted our search for a permanent candidate. His extensive understanding of the Chamber network, our needs and government policy development have provided stability during this time of transition,” said Callanan.

The BC Chamber of Commerce also wishes to express their appreciation to the recruitment firm Robert Half, whose team assisted the board in the search process.



Member Benefit Feature

This month’s benefit feature is the **Whistler 48 Hour Club**.

Chamber members can save between 40%-50% on their stay at Whistler as part of the exclusive ‘Whistler 48 Hour Club’ program offered by Whiski Jack Resorts!

Contact the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce for details.



Funding Opportunities

The B.C. Employer Training Grant (ETG) is a cost-sharing grant program that funds small, medium and large enterprises to support skills training for their workforces, including prospective new hires. The program helps British Columbians access the skills training required to adapt to the labour market’s changing job requirements, while also encouraging employer involvement in skills training. The Employer Training Grant helps employers pay for training, which in turn helps employees experience increased job security or move into better jobs. Employers can apply as often as they need and receive 80 per cent of the cost of training up to $10,000 per employee, with a maximum annual amount per employer of $300,000.

Chamber Land Highlights

HR Covered

British Columbia Stats

1. January 1: New Year's Day
2. February 16: Family Day
3. April 3: Good Friday
4. May 18: Victoria Day
5. July 1: Canada Day
6. August 3: BC Day
7. September 7: Labour Day
8. Sept. 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
9. Oct. 12: Thanksgiving Day
10. Nov. 11: Remembrance Day
11. Dec. 25: Christmas Day



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

We're with you for the long haul. For over 50 years, Chambers Plan has delivered security, peace of mind, and better buying power by banding Canadian businesses together. Get the advantages of a well-established pooled plan 32,000 business strong.
Get the benefits plan of tomorrow, today. We're constantly adding new cutting-edge features and services to bring better value to businesses and help you stay ahead.



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

- **Chamber AGM - December 18, 2025** at noon in the Legion. Elections will take place for the Board of Directors for 2026. Come see what the Chamber has done in 2025 and the plans for next year. Please RSVP after you check your schedule.
- **Elves in the Workshop** at Mackenzie Community Arts Council - 9 Laurier Dr from 11 am to 12 pm.
- **Chamber Office Holiday Hours** - December 22 & 23 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and December 29 & 30 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!
- **January General Meeting - January 15, 2026** at noon in the Legion. Our speaker will be the District of Mackenzie explaining their Procurement Policy.
- **MCAC House Concert - January 30, 2026 with Folky Strum Strum**. Doors open at 6:30 pm with concert starting at 7 pm. Tickets are $20 for members and $25 for non-members.
- **Mackenzie's 60th Celebrations - May 15 - 17, 2026**. Mark your calendars!





Mackenzie Chamber and Visitor Centres Report

As we conclude 2025, the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce reflects on a year marked by community resilience, economic growth, and collaborative initiatives. This year, we focused on enhancing the business environment, supporting local entrepreneurs, and strengthening community bonds.

Building a vibrant community was at the forefront of our initiatives this year. We brought back the Spring Expo weekend in the newly renovated arena area. With excited vendors and attendees, the positive atmosphere created a fundraising profit that is the second highest over the last 23 years. It served as a testament to our community spirit and innovative local businesses. Monthly business networking lunch meetings facilitated connections among non-profits, business owners, and the local municipality. They provide a valuable platform for collaboration, idea sharing, and mentorship.

As we move into 2026, our focus remains on fostering innovation, supporting local businesses, and enhancing community initiatives. We aim to expand our resources to meet the changing demands of the workforce. Furthermore, we plan to initiate new partnerships to enhance our visitor reach. Strengthening community engagement through events that celebrate our scenic location and what we have to offer will also be a priority. The Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce is grateful for the unwavering support from our members, partners, and the community. Together, we have made significant progress in 2025, and we look forward to continuing this momentum in the year ahead. Thank you for being an integral part of our community. Here's to a successful 2026!

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