



G | P | R | C

CHAIR'S BLOG

October 2020

WOW! We are in the final quarter of 2020! On March 12, when the Chamber made the announcement to post-pone our State of the Region event for that evening, we couldn't have predicted what would transpire in the ensuing months. Through all the moments of instability and uncertainty, GPRC adopted an active role engaging with our members to help them through this difficult period. Although, we are not completely out of the woods yet, I think we should take a moment to celebrate our accomplishments and commitment to making our region a safe and healthy place to visit, shop, work and play.

Nationally, the month of October hosts Small Business Week and the GPRC capitalized on the opportunity to host our inaugural Small Business Week Conference. This event, like many others, was held completely online, and we were able to hear from three great speakers, Michele Romanow, Chief Clarence Louie, and Kim Orlesky. There were thought-provoking conversations and presentations from a wide variety of small business owners, the Procurement Services teams at the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada, and the VP of Finance with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC). By all accounts, it was a very successful conference and the preliminary feedback has been very positive.

In alignment with BDC, we believe in the POWER of the entrepreneurial spirit, courage, strength and adaptability in our community to strive and thrive while looking to build for a better future.

To top off Small Business Week, we celebrated the winners of our Business Awards of Distinction. While we could not hold an in-person event, we visited the finalists and winners of each category, and we are very excited to release the video production capturing the wonderful moments from those visits. I would like to take a moment to recognize all the nominees, finalists and Business Awards of Distinction recipients for their dedication and commitment to making a difference. You can check out each of our finalists and winners on our website: www.gprchamber.ca

As we round out 2020 and we head into the shopping season, we highly encourage you to make a point of shopping locally for your Christmas gifts this year. Our small businesses, the backbone of our community, were hit the hardest in this global pandemic, and we need them to survive. They are the businesses that will donate to our child's soccer team, our cause's silent auction table, our school's field trip, and employ our kids for summer jobs. When you open that shopping app on your phone, ask yourself if such an item can be purchased Downtown Stony Plain, or on McLeod Avenue in Spruce Grove. Maybe a more meaningful gift for someone can come from an artisan in Parkland County, or from a shop in Wabamun. All of this leads to 'Keep the Cheer Here', the Chamber's latest initiative to encourage shopping local, and to push the idea to the forefront of consumers' minds this season. Watch our social media channels in the coming weeks to learn more about what shopping local means to each of our businesses.

Keep well, stay safe and be kind to one another!

Richard Wong

Chair, Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce

**GREATER PARKLAND
REGIONAL CHAMBER**

info@gprchamber.ca
780-963-4545

4815 44 Avenue
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1V5

gprchamber.ca