



MISSION REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BusinessTRACK

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JULY 2020



PRESS RELEASE - THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

We recognize that many small to medium sized businesses are most at risk during this crisis. While Federal and Provincial support initiatives continue to evolve, the hard costs of doing business remain and are especially impactful to those merchants who have been mandated to close.

The Emergency Relief Fund created jointly through financial and in-kind contributions of: the Mission Downtown Business Association, Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures North Fraser, offers funds of up to \$2,500 to support immediate business operation needs.

There will be 3 intake deadlines – July 15th, September 15th, and November 15th, 2020.

Eligibility:

- You are a local Mission business comprised of 1-26 employees

- Your focus is on business resilience and resumption of regular operations once the current pandemic situation has been resolved and the government lifts restrictions
- Must have been in business for at least 6 months prior to March 15th, 2020.

Preference will be given to:

- You are a business/sector that has been particularly hard hit or mandated to close under current provincial orders since March 15th;
- Your needs are not yet supported by existing government programs or subsidies;
- You hold a business license in good standing to operate in the City of Mission; please include an attachment of your business license.

Consideration is given to:

- A member of the Downtown Business Association or a Member of the Mission

Regional Chamber of Commerce.

- Have demonstrated innovation and adaptability to pivot in the current COVID-19 environment

We reserve the right to not award the Emergency Business Relief Fund for any reason.

For more information, please contact:

Gwen Atkinson
Executive Director - Community Futures North Fraser
gatkinson@northfraser.org

Joanna McBride
Executive Director - Mission Downtown Business Association
info@downtownmission.ca

Jo-Anne Chadwick
Executive Director - Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce
execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca



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As restrictions start to lift, many of us are slowly returning to work and play, and are uncertain about what our new 'normal' will look like. One thing for certain is that despite orders to isolate or distance from one another, Mission has felt closer than ever as a community. In the past few months, we have found creative ways to celebrate birthdays and graduations; support those in need; and shop, eat and support local businesses through take-out, delivery and careful store visits.

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce has been busy and continues to keep the business community connected to governments, funding and each other through our website's COVID-19 Resource Page. Residents and businesses have had Q & A sessions with local dignitaries through weekly Virtual Coffees. There were many thoughtful questions and conversations with Mayor Pam Alexis, Bob D'Eith-MLA, Simon Gibson-MLA and Brad Vis-MP through this platform. Through the 'I Love Mission' campaign, the Chamber has been providing educational webinars to all Mission residents. There are a

few more in the upcoming months. Visit missionchamber.bc.ca to sign up for these free sessions.

At the BC Chamber AGM this past May, the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce through the Government Affairs Committee, submitted a policy that recommends that the Provincial Government amend the Provincial Sales Tax Act to exempt in-kind donations to Non-Profits, NGO's, and Charitable Organizations that serve BC Communities. The MRCC's policy was adopted during the first wave of the AGM Policy Sessions and will become a part of the 2020 BC Chamber Policy and Positions Manual which will remain on the books for three years.

We continue to work with our liaisons from the District of Mission, Leq'a:mel Development, Downtown Business Association and Community Futures North Fraser as we move forward and navigate Mission's evolving economic landscape.

Now more than ever, Mission businesses and non-profits need our help. Shop, eat and play local whenever possible. Enjoy your summer...in Mission.



Ellen Nguyen
PRESIDENT

Ellen Nguyen

BC Chamber of Commerce AGM – Policy Adopted

This past May, the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) was able to attend the first virtual Annual General Meeting of the BC Chamber of Commerce. It was a well-attended conference, with speakers from the British Columbia Provincial Government which included Premier John Horgan.

In addition to a line up of impressive speakers, the BC Chamber of Commerce (comprised of Chambers across the province representing 36,000 business voices) presented 70 policies to the delegation designed to support business. These policies are grass-root policies, created around boardroom tables of local chambers and based on the input of the membership and local businesses.

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce has had a history of submitting

at least one policy each year, to have the voices of the Mission community heard by government. Two examples of previously adopted policies are:

- BC UTILITIES MINIMUM NOTICE PERIOD FOR RATE INCREASES TO RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION FEES
- PROTECTING FUNDING FOR TOURISM MARKETING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.

In 2020 the MRCC presented the policy "PST ON IN-KIND DONATIONS" which recommended that the Provincial Government amend the Provincial Sales Tax Act to exempt in-kind donations to non-profits, NGOs, and charitable organizations that serve BC communities. The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that

this policy was also adopted into the BC Chamber Policy Resolution Book for 2020 and will be discussed in a lower mainland policy consultation with government officials later this year. #AdvocacyWin #BetterTogether



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Spotlight on Business

Dreams Come True: Creating the princess you are

By RICK RAKE *Click Media Works*

A wedding boutique with an eye to helping women “look and feel like the princess they are” is recipient of the 2019 Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Local Contribution Award.

Dreams Come True Wedding Boutique owner Rosemary Di Vilio is proud to give back to Mission, working with local high schools to sponsor four girls for prom each year, though the pandemic had an effect in 2020.

What we did through our princess for a day project last year was provide hair, makeup and a dress to ensure these girls felt their best, said Di Vilio.

The beautifully-appointed 2,500 square foot business on Railway Street was launched by Di Vilio and her husband, Ricardo, when they realized there was a “real lack of help and support on this side of the river” for the dress and wedding industry.

“We help fill in the missing pieces and promote those businesses in the community that help with the complete wedding package from cakes, suits and flowers to disc jockeys, catering and photography.”

During Covid-19, only morning and afternoon appointments are being accepted with no more than four people arriving at the store. “I steam each dress after it’s been tried on.” To make an appointment call 604-970-9475.

The store offers products to suit everyone’s budget, from new to gently-loved consignment.

Di Vilio has lived in Mission for 30 years. You may have seen her managing the Silverdale Shell store, serving as a flagger or involved in the community. Her daughter Naomi was working in the ‘hometown’ wedding boutique with her. It opened on Sept. 15, 2017.

Focusing on Mission Chamber, Di Vilio said she is enjoying the new Zoom meetings and classes which is “way easier for busy Mission business people now.”

To learn more about Dreams Come True Wedding Boutique, click on <https://dreamscometrueweddingboutique.ca>.



Rosemary Di Vilio, owner of Dreams Come True Wedding Boutique is recipient of Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Local Contribution Award, sponsored by District of Mission Economic Development Dept.

Tait sparks joy as Studio FitRx entrepreneur

By RICK RAKE *Click Media Works*

Austan Tait’s passion for life and good health, plus her belief in functional fitness sparking joy in her clients, contributes significantly to the success of her Mission fitness company, Studio FitRx.

Tait is the 2019 Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce U40 Entrepreneur of the Year. A fitness coach for 20 years, she moved back to Mission from Vancouver with her firefighter/safety training officer husband, Kyle, for a simpler life.

In January of 2018 she casually began a women’s fitness program in her Mission home after discovering a real need for those who were post-partum.

“I have two boys, 7 and 4, and I have experience in the field,” said Tait. “People felt safe with me.”

Studio FitRx opened in January of 2019, at 102-33072 First Ave.

Her team of incredible instructors who support the ride, cardio, strength and boxing features of the business, all started at Tait’s home gym, had their own health transformations and became certified.



Austan Tait, owner of Studio FitRx in Mission is 2019 recipient of Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence U40 Entrepreneur of the Year Award, sponsored by Community Futures North Fraser.

“As I got older, I realized the fitness industry can be backwards, especially for women. I pushed away all the hype and focussed on nutritional science and research,” said Tait. “Physically own what you have and work on how strong you can make it. This is a lifestyle, not a quick fix.”

Today the business is co-ed, serving a range of clients from youngsters to those in their 80s. With the pandemic forcing Studio FitRx to temporarily close its doors, Tait was already prepared to pivot with live Zoom sessions and 30 full-length HD fitness films with great sound already recorded as she learned about lighting and sound mixing. An online store at shopstudiofitrx.com offers special products, including Lululemon active wear.

“I am fortunate we have 5,000 square feet in the studio, and for our soft re-opening last month we measured the spacing, did revisions in calendars, engaged my husband’s hazmat experience for everyone’s safety.”

“Studio FitRx prides itself in being an inclusive space where people can feel welcome, supported and free from judgment, whether you are in class or joining us online,” said Tait.

“We are excited to open our doors to our members again and welcome new members to join us.”

To learn more about Studio FitRx, click on www.studiofitrx.com.

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Upcoming Events

Over the last few months, we have hosted dozens of virtual events; and like many others, we are also feeling a little zoomed out. With that, we have only two virtual webinars scheduled for July while we re-look at and re-design our events for the rest of the year, including an exciting new speaker series.

July 14th

Webinar - "Why hoarding your business cash is no smarter than hoarding toilet paper"

- Workshop Facilitator: Donna King of Beyond Balanced Books
- Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT
- Location: Workshop will be delivered via Zoom.
- FREE Event

July 28th

Webinar - Task & Project Management Tools in the Online World

- Workshop Facilitator: David King, Senior Project Manager & Consultant
- Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PDT
- Location: Workshop will be delivered via Zoom.
- FREE Event

Virtual Power Speaker Series

We are so excited to present two powerful speakers that will help Mission and our local businesses make a great comeback and build a thriving culture in a post-COVID world. The two speakers we have chosen are Eric Termuende and Kayrn Gordon. Eric has spoken at some 350 events for companies such as Coca Cola and Amazon while Kayrn has delivered over 1000 keynotes as the founder and CEO of DK Leadership, a global leadership coaching company. The speaker series will be held in October & November 2020. Stay tuned for more info!

Welcome to our New Members

ToePull Solutions

Mission BC
604 854 0338
blake@toepull.ca
W: Toepull.ca

Sons of Norway Sleipner Lodge #8

11901 Seux Road
Mission, BC
604 826 5776
sleipnerlodge8@gmail.com
W: sofn7.com

IG Wealth Management

101 2001 McCallum Road
Abbotsford, BC
604 853 8111
Tami.macdonell@ig.ca
W: InvestorsGroup.com

First Class Marketing Inc

PO Box 3322 Station Main
Mission BC V2V 4J5
778 833 4559
steve@firstclassmarketing.ca
W: firstclassmarketing.ca

Global Environmental Lighting Services Ltd.

Mission, BC
604 534 2600
info@globallighting.com
W: globallightingsvc.com

Watkins Products Representative - Marie and Terry Wells

Mission BC
604 826 5892
trwwells@shaw.ca

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Mission Chamber is in the process of adding a SMS (text messaging) as a new communication tool. To make sure you do not miss any important information please **join our mobile club by texting "MRCC" to 70734**

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