

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP: A WANT OR A NEED?



The employees of ABC Printing & Signs – recipients of the Chamber's 2013 Business of the Year Award – are strong supporters of the local community. ABC has been a member of the Chamber since 1996.

While generating more business might be your end goal in being a member of the Chamber of Commerce, you absolutely **NEED** a healthy community in order to do so. You may **WANT** to have your name associated with the Chamber and be referred to other members, but you also **NEED** the Chamber to be the voice of important business issues that affect your bottom line.

"Two things stand out as to why Comox Valley businesses should join the Chamber of Commerce," says Bryan Wiley, ABC Printing & Signs. "First, the Chamber has a passion for promoting (and advocating for) local businesses, big or small. And

secondly, the board and staff of the Chamber work tirelessly to create a resource that helps connect people and products/services. All of this helps to keep people buying local."

Examples of activities the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce has undertaken in the past 12 months, on behalf of its members and the community, include:

- Inaugural 'Top 40 Under 40' Awards
- Annual Community Awards
- Hosting a luncheon with Premier Christy Clark
- Elections forum - getting your questions

answered

- North Island Hospitals Project - Industry speed dating
- BC Chamber AGM - lobbying the provincial government for "fair and informed" business practices and issues
- Community leaders meeting - bringing local accomplishments and areas of need to the forefront, creating solutions
- Advocacy - lobbying for industry sectors, development, agriculture, island rail, affordable housing and business taxes
- Education/marketing – using social and traditional media to promote Chamber members and their events/businesses
- Introductions - opening doors for opportunities to build relationships within our business community through mixers, workshops and events.

Membership with the Chamber of Commerce can work out to be as low as about \$21 a month. It is a small price to pay to support the business community. Want to know more? Call 250-334-3234 and ask about the benefits of belonging.

**Buy Local
COMOX VALLEY
and Grow
our Economy**



THINK ABOUT WHERE YOUR DOLLARS GO

Last year, ABC Printing & Signs launched a sticker campaign to encourage people to "buy local, whenever you can, from other locally owned and operated businesses to stimulate economic growth in the Comox Valley."

Help ABC Printing spread their 'Buy Local' message by dropping into their shop, located at 301 Puntledge Road, Courtenay, or the Chamber office (2040 Cliffe Avenue) to pick up a copy of their 'Grow the economy' sticker and pamphlet. Businesses interested in obtaining stickers in bulk are asked to pay a small fee to cover printing costs. Use the colourful sticker as a reminder of how money spent local is money well spent.



"Before I joined the Chamber in 2006 I always thought the association was for 'big business' and felt I was not really ready to belong. Once I got involved I found out this really wasn't true I am most pleased with all the networking opportunities within the Chamber and would highly recommend small one-person businesses to not be intimidated of joining the Chamber; it's been good for me!"

Linda Graceffo - Sparkling Graphics



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