

APRIL 2026

www.abbotsfordchamber.com

my BUSINESS

ADVOCATE | BENEFIT | CONNECT



2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sam Varing
President



Josh Reynolds
Vice President



Jimmy Severn
Secretary



Loren Taves
Treasurer



Dan Teillet
Director



Jennifer Menge Ewart
Director



Kamna Suri
Director



Nolan Baerg
Director



Sara Tebbutt Albert
Director



Steve Couper
Director



Steve Czeck
Director



Vineet Verghese
Director

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with deep gratitude and excitement that I step into the role of President of the Board of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce.

Having served on the Board since 2020, and as someone born and raised in Abbotsford, my connection to our community runs deep. I was raised in an entrepreneurial family and grew up seeing firsthand the dedication, risk-taking, and resilience required to build a business. Those early experiences shaped my appreciation for the people behind our local economy and continue to inspire my commitment to serving our business community.

At the heart of everything we do are our members, and I want to sincerely thank each of you for your continued belief in the Chamber and the role it plays in supporting and strengthening local business.

We are in a period of economic uncertainty and change. Businesses across the Fraser Valley are navigating evolving market conditions, and our ability to come together as a region will be critical to building resilience and identifying opportunity. Our focus this year will include strengthening regional partnerships, advancing strategic planning, continuing purposeful advocacy, delivering meaningful events, and further investing in two key programs: the Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (CYPE) and the Women's Leadership Council (WLC).

As we begin shaping our next 3-year strategic plan in 2026, our focus for the Chamber is for it to continue serving as a convening force for our business community, a place where diverse voices are heard, collaborative dialogue



and action is encouraged among business leaders and elected officials, and strategic decisions are guided by broad input, thoughtful insight, and long-term vision.

Our vision is clear: to focus on excellence, to elevate the voice of local businesses, and to inspire bold ideas. Together, we will forge a Chamber that embodies the strength, resilience, and ambition of Abbotsford's vibrant business community.

- **Sam Varing**
Board President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aanand Treats by Sadhna | Fresh Impressions Catering Inc |
| ALG Lawyers | Gill and Gill Lawyers |
| AMB Management | Global Convention Services |
| Aunt Lucy's Doggy Daycare & Pet Hotel | Inasmuch Community Society |
| Bartel Business Services | Inspired Epoxy Ltd |
| Beyond Hypnotherapy | Little Heavens Day Spa |
| Browns Social House McCallum | Little Hugs Daycare Inc |
| Concept Mechanical Group | Metal Distributors LTD |
| Crystal Gala Foundation | Metric Civil Contractors |
| DeGianni Designs | Mt Lehman Greenhouses |
| Deol Creations | Ocean Softwash |
| Fraser Valley Fungi | The BlueBird Cafe |
| Farmhouse Abby | |

GOLF TOURNAMENT KICKOFF

PRESENTED BY THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

MAY 6TH, 2026 | 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Monthly publication brought to you courtesy of our Media Partner: **THE NEWS** ABBOTSFORD

APRIL 2026

www.abbotsfordchamber.com

my BUSINESS

ADVOCATE | BENEFIT | CONNECT



CHAMBER-UFV PROGRAM CONNECTS BUSINESSES WITH STUDENT PROBLEM-SOLVERS



Photograph taken at Cascade Aerospace on January 15, 2026, featuring BUS 320 students Kevin Mailland, Cassidy Loewen, Simon Crosby, Tamara Paterson, and Jeevan Toor.

Abbotsford businesses are working directly with University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) students through a new partnership designed to link classroom learning with real-world business challenges, reflecting UFV's changemaking approach to applied learning.

The Campus to Commerce initiative, launched by the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce and UFV's Centre for Experiential and Career Education (CECE), was

announced following UFV President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. James Mandigo's inaugural address at the September 2025 Chamber's Leaders Lunch at the Abbotsford Centre, highlighting a shared focus on changemaking through community and industry collaboration. The program allows local businesses and organizations to submit operational, research, or strategic challenges, which are then matched with UFV

student teams working under faculty supervision. The projects are integrated into academic coursework, providing students with hands-on experience while offering businesses research-based analysis and recommendations at no cost to participating businesses.

The program expanded further in Winter 2026 with new projects involving Cascade Aerospace. Marketing students in a business class taught by David Dobson are conducting research on how to attract young people to careers in the aerospace sector. The project includes developing outreach and recruitment strategies, along with a site visit to Cascade's Abbotsford facility to better understand the industry and its workforce needs.

According to the Chamber, projects can include market research, customer insights, workflow mapping, sustainability assessments, and other applied business needs.

"Abbotsford business owners are lucky to have a world-class educational institution right in our backyard," said Alex Mitchell, CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce.

The Campus to Commerce is open to all Chamber member businesses, regardless of size or sector. Interested members can submit a business challenge through a short online survey, after which UFV will work to match projects with suitable courses and faculty. More information about the program and how to participate is available at abbotsfordchamber.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS AT CASTLE FUN PARK

April 21st, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

CYPE X NEXT GEN MIXER

ABBOTSFORD & LANGLEY MIXER!
April 22nd, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

ANNUAL AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY BUS TOUR

June 5th, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

FRASER VALLEY
BUSINESS COALITION

2026 FRASER VALLEY ECONOMIC SUMMIT

MAY 21, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

EVERED HALL, 33844 KING ROAD,
ABBOTSFORD, BC

PRESENTED BY:



Secure your tickets

Monthly publication brought to you courtesy of our Media Partner: **THE NEWS**