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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

1st on the List
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Slow Housing Market, Uncertain Economy Put Fraser Valley in Focus at Abbotsford Forum

With housing sales in the Fraser Valley slowing significantly down year-over-year and more than 30 per cent below the 10-year average, according to the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board, business, government, and housing leaders will come together on February 9th to examine what the shifting market means for the region's economic future.

The Economic Outlook & Housing Forum, hosted by the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, takes place **Monday, February 9, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre in Abbotsford.** The forum arrives at a critical juncture as affordability pressures persist, housing activity remains subdued, and broader economic uncertainty continues to influence business and investment decisions across the Fraser Valley.

HOUSING FORUM FEB 9TH 8:30AM

The event will feature Pierre Cl  roux, Chief Economist at the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), presenting a 2026 Economic Outlook.

A moderated panel will follow, examining barriers to housing delivery, affordability challenges, and opportunities for action.

As one of British Columbia's fastest-growing regions, the Fraser Valley is uniquely exposed to the intersection of economic conditions and housing availability.

Tickets are \$70 for members, \$100 for non-members, available at www.abbotsfordchamber.com.

ABBOTSFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AUGUSTON MY HOME TOWN

bdc

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK & HOUSING FORUM

FEBRUARY 9, 2026 |
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

CLARION HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE
36035 N PARALLEL RD, ABBOTSFORD

KEYNOTE: CHIEF ECONOMIST, BDC:
PIERRE CLEROUX

- | | | | | |
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HEINRICHS DEVELOPMENTS
GERALD HEINRICHS |
LACEY CONSTRUCTION LTD.
LESA LACEY |
ALGRA BROS
DAVE ALGRA |
HUNGERFORD PROPERTIES
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MODERATOR

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ABBOTSFORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ON OUR RADAR: THE ISSUES SHAPING ABBOTSFORD'S ECONOMY...



Abbotsford Chamber in Washington DC advocating on CUSMA and Canada/US trade

As 2026 gets underway, major shifts in trade, infrastructure, and economic policy are beginning to take shape. Canada's push to double non-U.S. trade, upcoming CUSMA negotiations, and critical infrastructure decisions will all have direct implications for Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley.

As a national leader in agriculture, ag-tech, manufacturing, and aerospace, and home to some of Canada's most productive farmland, Abbotsford is positioned at the leading edge of these conversations. Here are the key issues we're watching closely as the year begins:

1. Canada's Pivot to Non-U.S. Trade

Canada aims to double non-U.S. trade over the next decade. Abbotsford's mix of high-value agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and aerospace expertise makes the region central to achieving this goal.

2. CUSMA Review and Trade Certainty

The 2026 CUSMA review will impact local exporters and manufacturers. Predictable policies are essential

for Fraser Valley businesses that rely on integrated North American supply chains.

3. Agriculture and Food Processing Reform

Agriculture drives the Fraser Valley economy. Updating outdated rules through ALR modernization could unlock over \$1 billion in investment, expand export capacity, and strengthen food security.

4. Innovation in Ag-Tech and Manufacturing

Local ag-tech and manufacturing firms are moving beyond commodity exports, creating higher-value products for global markets, which is critical to Canada's trade diversification.

5. Aerospace as a Rising Export Engine

Abbotsford's aerospace sector is expanding rapidly, producing high-value components and expertise for international markets and supporting Canada's growing global trade footprint.

6. Infrastructure and Flood Protection

Reliable roads, rail, and logistics networks are vital for moving goods efficiently. Equally important is flood mitigation to protect Canada's most productive farmland and ensure long-term stability for the economy and farmers.

7. Supporting SMEs to Compete Globally

Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of Abbotsford's economy. Access to skills, capital, and market intelligence will help them expand into new international markets and drive regional trade growth.

Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley are at the forefront of Canada's trade ambitions. By modernizing regulations, protecting farmland, and supporting innovation in agriculture, ag-tech, manufacturing, and aerospace, the region can lead the country's push to double non-U.S. trade and secure its position as a national economic powerhouse.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK & HOUSING FORUM

CLARION HOTEL

February 9th 8:30AM - 12:00PM

BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS

LANKA JEWELS

February 11th 4:30PM - 6:30PM

(604) 859-9651

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