

SEPT 2026

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The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce 39th Annual Golf Tournament brought our business community together for a day of golf, networking and connection.

We're already looking ahead to next year as we celebrate the **40th anniversary** of the Golf Tournament!

Thank you to our 2026 Sponsors



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ABBOTSFORD IS GROWING. ARE WE READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT?

"Business issues cannot be overlooked in this election"

Alex Mitchell, CEO Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce.

Did you know there is a municipal election on October 17th?

Local businesses are creating jobs, investing in our community and driving Abbotsford's economy.

To keep that momentum going, we need a city that makes it

easier to invest, build and grow a business.

Representing approximately 850 businesses, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce has released its municipal election agenda, shaped by member feedback, ongoing advocacy and direct engagement with local employers.

The agenda focuses on 5 priorities and throughout the election

campaign, the Chamber will take these priorities directly to the candidates for Mayor and Council, asking them to respond to specific commitments and explain how they plan to support Abbotsford's business community.



Scan the QR code or visit AbbotsfordChamber.com to learn more about the Five Business Priorities.

THE 5 BUSINESS PRIORITIES

Five priorities shaped by Abbotsford Chamber Member feedback to make Abbotsford Canada's most competitive mid-sized city.

1



Fastest Place in BC to Do Business

Cut red tape.
Speed up approvals.
Make City Hall work for business.

2



Safe, Vibrant & Open for Business

Address street disorder.
Strengthen commercial districts.
Bring people back to our businesses.

3



Infrastructure to Match our Ambition

Connect YXX.
Move people and goods.
Invest ahead of growth.

4



Economic Development Engine Built for Growth

Compete for investment.
Grow businesses.
Measure results.

5



Close Abbotsford's Amenity Gap

Build the spaces needed to grow.
Attract talent and visitors.
Drive investment for the community.

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IF YOU RUN A BUSINESS IN ABBOTSFORD, HERE ARE 5 THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

With Abbotsford heading into a municipal election, City Hall decisions can have a direct impact on your bottom line. But municipal government affects business in ways that go well beyond property taxes. Here are five things worth knowing before you vote.

1. ABBOTSFORD IS HIRING A NEW CITY MANAGER. IT'S ONE OF COUNCIL'S MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

Abbotsford City Council is in the process of hiring a new City Manager, the senior official responsible for leading the City's administration and delivering municipal services. Council sets the direction. The City Manager is responsible for leading the organization that delivers it.

For businesses, that can shape everything from the culture of customer service at City Hall to how efficiently

permits and applications are processed and how effectively departments work together. Who leads City Hall matters. So do the expectations Council sets for how City Hall serves businesses and residents.

2. THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS IS GOING UP. CITY HALL NEEDS TO STAY COMPETITIVE.

Businesses are facing higher costs across the board. Municipal decisions can either add to that pressure or help make Abbotsford a more competitive place to invest and grow.

Property taxes are only part of the equation. Permit fees, development charges, utilities, infrastructure requirements and delays can all affect the cost of doing business.

City Hall can't control every cost facing businesses. It can control the fees, processes and timelines it imposes.

3. TRANSPORTATION IS A WORKFORCE AND TOURISM ISSUE.

How people get around Abbotsford has a direct impact on our economy. Better connections to major employment areas can help businesses recruit and retain workers. Efficient roads and infrastructure help move goods. And making it easier for visitors to get between Abbotsford International Airport, hotels, attractions, events and commercial areas can strengthen Abbotsford as a tourism and business destination.

As the city grows, better connections can help move workers, customers and visitors while unlocking more economic activity.

4. WE CAN MEASURE WHETHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS WORKING.

Economic development doesn't have to be abstract. Cities can track how much new investment they attract, how many businesses expand or locate in the community, how many jobs are created or retained, and whether employment lands are being activated for growth. Our City's economic development function should be accountable and aligned

with the private sector. Let's get things done.

5. AMENITIES ARE PART OF THE ECONOMY TOO.

Hotels, conference facilities, sports and recreation infrastructure, major events, restaurants, culture and great public spaces may not immediately sound like business policy.

But they influence where people want to live, where companies can recruit talent, where organizations hold conferences and events, and where visitors spend money. For a growing city, quality of place is increasingly part of economic competitiveness.

KNOW WHAT'S CHANGING. HAVE A SAY IN WHAT'S NEXT.

The next Mayor and Council will make decisions about taxes, infrastructure, land use, service delivery and investment that will affect Abbotsford businesses long after Election Day.

You don't need to follow every Council meeting to have a voice. But if you run a business in Abbotsford, it pays to know what City Hall is responsible for, and what candidates plan to do about it.



Stay informed through the Chamber's Election Hub for election updates and sign up for the Chamber's Business Brief:

Scan the QR Code for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNCIL CANDIDATE MINGLE & MAYORAL DEBATE
October 7, 2026 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS INASMUCH COMMUNITY SOCIETY
October 15, 2026 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

BDC WORKSHOP: IT'S A TWO-SPEED WORLD NOW—FAST OR FINISHED
October 22, 2026 11:30 - 1:30 PM

30TH ANNUAL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS
November 12, 2026 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

COUNCIL CANDIDATE MINGLE & MAYORAL DEBATE

OCTOBER 7, 2026 | 5:00-7:00 PM
MATSQUI CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM
32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC
Register at [AbbotsfordChamber.com/Events](https://www.AbbotsfordChamber.com/Events)

