

Here we are into October already! October is always a busy month for our Chamber of Commerce, and this year is no exception.

As the Chamber approaches our year-end of November 30, planning for the next fiscal year gets into full swing this month with the drafting of budgets and strategic planning. A reminder to our members....we want to hear from you! If you haven't done so already, please complete the [membership survey](#) by October 5, so we have your input for planning purposes. Completed surveys will be entered in a draw for a free 2019 Chamber membership.

From October 14-20th, we will be celebrating Small Business Week. This national event is focused on celebrating Canadian entrepreneurs. Did you know that 99.7% of Canadian businesses are small and medium-sized businesses? That's definitely worth celebrating!

On Tuesday, October 16 from 11:30am to 1:00pm we will host a Lunch N' Learn session at the Canalta Cretaceous Centre. Businesses of all sizes are invited to attend this session, which will provide information on the recent changes and updates to Occupational Health & Safety. Pre-registration is required; tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for prospective members. Register [here](#) or call the Chamber of Commerce at 403-823-8100 by October 12.

Then on Thursday, October 18 from 5:30-7:30pm, ladies in the business community are invited to join us for our annual Women in Business mixer at the Canalta Cretaceous Centre. This year, we will have guest speaker, Adele Desjardins who will give a presentation on "The Health Cycle" and self-love for busy women. Appetizers and refreshments will be available. Again pre-registration is required; tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for prospective members. Register online at drumhellerchamber.com or call us at 403-823-8100. Thank you to BMO Financial Group and Canalta for sponsoring this great event!

And lastly, one other noteworthy event happening during Small Business Week and perhaps intentionally planned is the legalization of recreational cannabis on Wednesday, October 17. Not sure what to expect that day, but I am sure there will be lots of attention on this topic. There has certainly been much dialogue with employers and what impacts this change will have in the workplace. Our September Lunch N' Learn speaker, [Adam Czarnecki](#) of Talent Tactics Consulting Inc. provided great information for employers in preparation for October 17. At a local level, I have noted a few development permits for retail cannabis stores submitted to the Town of Drumheller. I am curious to see what economic benefits this new industry will bring to our community, our province and our country.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bitz
Executive Director