

Save the date! Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00pm in the Badlands Community Facility – McDougald Room. Election of directors will take place at this meeting, as well as presentation of our audited financial statements. This year, there will be four 3-year terms and one 1-year term open for election on our Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please review our [Board of Director application package](#), which includes a list of expectations and an application form. For additional information about serving on the Board of Directors, please reach out to our Chamber President, Jeff Hall at jeff.hall@mnp.ca or contact myself at the Chamber office, h.bitz@drumhellerchamber.com or 403-823-8100.

On January 22, I had the pleasure of presenting my first **Junior Achievement program**. Twenty-two eager and engaged students in Mrs. Walker's grade 4/5 class at Greentree School were participants in the More than Money program. Students learned the role of money in everyday life and how to track their money as they earn, spend and save. They also learned about creating a business, building a business plan and operating a business. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience sharing my knowledge and presenting the program to the students. I would encourage anyone in our community who has an interest in educating youth about business to consider being a volunteer with Junior Achievement. There are several programs offered to various school grade levels. All training and course materials are provided to volunteers. For more information, please feel free to contact me about my experience or visit their website, www.jasab.ca.

Recently we received the results of survey 2 of the **Alberta Perspectives survey** that was conducted by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. While there was a good proportion of business responses from our area, the survey results show that across the province, Alberta business confidence continues to decline. More than half of businesses reported feeling negative about the long-term future of Alberta, which is a further decline of 21% since the first survey was completed in July 2019. Survey 2 focused on red tape, services and access issues affecting Alberta businesses, particularly at the local level. Some key findings from the survey included:

- Overall, taxes are considered the top barrier to growth or sustainability of a business, with corporate taxes being the most significant barrier.
- Both small and large business reference timelines as the biggest red tape issue when it comes to development.
- Compliance with bylaw complexity and zoning was also noted as another barrier to development.

For a complete summary of the survey results, here is a [copy of the report](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bitz
Executive Director