



2023 PRCC Projects | Year in Review

Every year, the Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce visioneering committee considers dozens of potential opportunities and prioritizes the projects that will deliver on our mission. New project ideas and new volunteers are always welcomed – just speak with any of the directors, share at a meeting or email info@pineyregionalchamber.ca.

Hello Neighbour Welcome Kit

This program was launched in 2022 as a package given to newcomers with information about products, services and resources in the region. Chamber members provided material to promote their organizations. In 2023, a new page was added to the website with a sign-up form for new residents to request a Welcome Kit or existing residents to refer a newcomer. Promotion of the program has been through bulletin board posters, on social media and in the RM of Piney newsletter. For 2024, we will be looking to expand the program into the RM of Stuartburn. <https://pineyregionalchamber.ca/hello-neighbour-welcome-kit/>

Career Symposium

In 2023, the Chamber started planning to resume our successful in-person career symposium. In 2018 and 2019, the Symposium provided students with keynote speakers and one-on-one interaction with companies that offered local career opportunities. In 2020, the Symposium went virtual with a video series that outlined potential career paths for local youth: direct to workforce, entrepreneurial, and post-secondary. The 2024 theme, with funding from the RM of Piney's Climate Action grant, will focus on Green Economy opportunities in the region. To get involved as a volunteer, exhibitor or sponsor, info@pineyregionalchamber.ca.

Library of Things

The Library of Things project hosted an open house showcasing the equipment acquired in 2022 such as 3-D printers, sewing machines, photography equipment, Cricut and heat sublimation machine among others. PRCC is working through how to structure the lending library so members can borrow equipment to build their businesses. We are also pursuing opportunities to create a permanent home (a "makerspace") where members can come to use the equipment. In 2024, we will be offering how-to workshops to members and community members. Watch our website and Facebook page for details. www.pineyregionalchamber.ca

South East Community Services Cooperative (SECSC)

As one of the three founding partners of SECSC, along with East Borderland Community Housing and the RM of Piney, the Chamber continues to support the vision of the Timberline Community Housing assisted living initiative. With funding from EBCH, Co-operatives First, the Cooperators Foundation, Manitoba Cooperatives Association, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, SECSC was able to make significant progress in 2023, launching a website and brochure, as well as initiating a membership drive, business plan update and architectural schematics. The SECSC is now well over 100 members. www.secsc.ca

Membership Drive

In 2023, the Chamber kicked off a campaign to reach out to businesses and organizations in neighbouring RM of Stuartburn. With a mailout and hosting local meetings, we successfully welcomed a number of new members. We look forward to continuing the trend in 2024 with more personal outreach.

Professional Development

In 2023, we changed the structure of monthly meetings to incorporate two elements that members told us were important: networking and professional development. Each month, attendees introduced themselves and their business followed by a guest speaker. Thank you to all our speakers in 2023:

- Monique Chenier, Sunrise Corner Economic Development introduced free online business tools event calendar, business directory, and WorkFinder.
- Chuck Davidson, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, top 10 reasons for engaging with your Chamber.
- Mark Bernard, Bernard Training Solutions International, shared some of his business mindset, goal setting, and time management strategies.
- Connie Gamble, CPA presented “The Money Side of Business”, helping business owners understand the basic tools and techniques of financial management.
- Dave Smith, Community Futures Triple R, gave an overview of their current business, community and economic development programs.
- John Prevost, Prevost Perennials, shared about how they built their business on the philosophy of Giving Back to the Community (and hosted onsite at their beautiful greenhouse).
- Allison Driedger of Bluestem Development introduced and got input to the Climate Adaptation Action Plan project spearheaded by the RM of Piney through a provincial grant.
- Konrad North, new MLA for La Vérendrye, explained his priorities of attracting residents and reducing red tape for development in our region.
- Jonathon Prevost, Upper Hand Technologies discussed digital marketing strategies for small business.

Mission

Founded in 2016, the mission of the Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce is to promote an environment which fosters economic development, works in partnership with our civic agencies, and provides value to our members through education, networking and cultural interests thereby enhancing our region for work, play, raising families and doing business.

How can you get involved?

Attend a meeting: Come out to a monthly meeting

to learn how you can benefit from the Chamber

Spread the word: Like, share and comment on our social media posts

Shop local: Support local businesses by shopping, referring and sharing

Become a member: Sign up as a full member or friend of the chamber

Join the visioneering committee: Help set PRCC priorities for 2024 and beyond

Volunteer: If there's a project you'd like to get involved with, speak with a member of our executive