



Jason Dittmann (left) is sworn in as Chair of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce by Lori Ireland, 2022 Chair, and Mayor Sandra Masters (right).

Jason Dittmann believes in the evolution of the Chamber

Jason Dittmann was inaugurated as the Chair of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at the 137th Black & White Chair's Dinner on Jan. 20. Here are Jason's remarks (which have been edited for length.)

Good evening. What a tremendous honour to be among such a prestigious group in the Regina and Saskatchewan community.

Let's talk about the theme for tonight. Black and white. Black and white are polar opposite colours. However, when we have black and white piano keys working together, they create something pretty beautiful and special.

Creating, collaborating and connecting: This is a year of change for the Chamber. This is year of evolution for the Chamber.

When we look at the things that we're trying to accomplish, we know we can't do this alone. Connecting with others is the key for us to continue to impart our values to lead, empower and connect business and community.

The Regina & District Chamber of Commerce is a connector and we will connect with others in the community to create beautiful "music" for Regina. The board's current focus is acquiring the right information from leaders, members and non-members to make sure that our focus is in the right areas so we can grow towards those new opportunities.

Some areas we have already identified are entrepreneurship, consisting of new entrepreneurs; entrepreneurs that are scaling; and, entrepreneurs that are exiting their business. We will ensure visible minorities have a proper voice in our organization as well.

To those ends, the Chamber is investing time and resources into our Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee and new events that are going to help shape the needs of many different types of entrepreneurs. We already have a new repository on our website called the Business Vault, which houses information and videos relevant to all areas of business.

We are also developing an advisory committee focusing on Diversity and Inclusiveness. When we look at Edmonton and Winnipeg and other centres that have separate Chambers of Commerce for Afro-Canadian and Aboriginal communities, we want to ensure that OUR Chamber of Commerce can offer opportunities for like minded individuals to share their experiences, thoughts and create an environment to tackle opportunities together.

In the first six months that our new CEO, Tony Playter, has been in place he has focused a tremendous amount of time on building and creating relationships within the Regina business community, with Mayor Masters and stakeholders at the City of Regina, Provincial Government, EDR, REAL, Saskatchewan Chamber, Saskatoon Chamber, Regina Downtown, Warehouse District, among many other organizations.

These connections and relationships allow us to better shape our lane, to define what we do best and allow the other organizations to do what they do best. This alignment will allow us all to maximize our impact. As President Harry Truman once said, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

I believe 2023 is going to be a great year. When I talk to entrepreneurs there is optimism. I am inspired by the opportunities ahead.

Will there be challenges? Absolutely. We have seen challenges in some industries -- inflation, policies, taxation and HR. The economy is not perfect. However, we have seen the Saskatchewan spirit of innovation and sticktutiveness push us through the challenges we face.

So what does the Chamber need from you?

We need your feedback. You will see surveys many times a year -- we live and breath with that information. This Chamber has always afforded opportunities for all so I welcome all of you to look at how you can get value from the Chamber -- look at our events, look at volunteering, or the Ambassadors club, getting involved with committees, be a part of the exciting things that are to come.

I want to talk to the greater vision for Regina for a minute. There are so many great leaders in this room, who have skills to benefit our community and we have a great opportunity to make a difference. Too often when we hear of policy at City council it is the few that represents the few. If we all want to continue to make Regina better, we need to speak up, we need to get involved and we need to lead. I have talked to many leaders in this room with great ideas, that have a great vision for Regina. So stand up for the ideas and policies, that will push the city forward, lets contribute to City council, get involved with your councillors. That is how we all are truly going to make a difference.

In an early 2022 meeting we were challenged, and asked what does the Chamber do? I

appreciated and accepted the challenge.

Advocacy. Tony and his team are all over the advocacy side. From taxation to municipal policy. It is the single most important function our Chamber does. **That's what we do.**

Events. The last two years wiped most events, however, our golf tournament came back blazing and we packed the Queensbury Centre for the Paragon Awards. Members also engaged with The All-Nations Career & Business Showcase, luncheons and other networking activities. **That's what we do.**

New services are being developed and implemented, new sub-advisory committees are being created and modifying to be better. **That's what we do.**

Do we have more to do? Absolutely, but we have the leader, we have the team and we have the Board to continue to push us all forward and continue to make Regina a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place invest and a great place raise a family.

Thanks to you all, lets go make some amazing music together and Have a Great Regina evening!

UPCOMING REGINA CHAMBER EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
FROST CHILI COOK OFF
Hall C, International Trade Centre
2 p.m. -- 3:30 p.m.



THURSDAY, APRIL 6
23RD ANNUAL PARAGON AWARDS
Celebrating and honouring the achievements
of the Regina Business Community
Delta Regina
Reception: 6 p.m.
Dinner & Awards to follow

If you know of deserving business, nominations
can be made by calling 306-757-4648 or
emailing jtonita@reginachamber.com

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For more information or to register for these outstanding Chamber event click [HERE](#)

"We acknowledge, with respect and truth, that we work and support the business community in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional lands of the nēhiyawak (Cree), Anihšīnāpēk (Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation."

Survey on Chamber Strategic Plan now open

The Regina and District Chamber of Commerce is actively in the process of updating its strategic plan and welcome feedback and input from the members of our organization.

Your responses and opinions will assist us in formulating the plan which will guide the Regina Chamber over the next few years.

All responses will be completely anonymous and are not tracked in any form whatsoever. The survey will take approximately five to 10 minutes to complete, and although you can only take the survey once, you can edit your responses until the survey is closed on February 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

[Visit our Website](#)

PCSR online meeting scheduled for Feb. 9

Dr. Tristin Domes and Dr. Garson Chan will present "Surgical Solutions For ED and Urinary Incontinence" at the Prostate Cancer Support Regina group meeting on Thurs., Feb. 9.



Dr. Chan is an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, with a cross appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at the University of Saskatchewan. He has presented at numerous international meetings, co-authored over 30-peer reviewed articles and abstracts, and serves as a reviewer for several urology journals.

Dr. Domes is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Saskatchewan and is heavily involved in the administration and delivery of undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education. With over 35 published papers (including leading the most recent Canadian Urological Guideline on Erectile Dysfunction) and three book chapters, his current academic and research interests involve quality improvement initiatives and developing and evaluating strategies to improve the delivery of medical education.

The online meeting will include a Q&A session after the presentation, followed by peer-to-peer sharing.

Additional information is available on the PCSR [website](#).

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