

May 20, 2010

## Medicine Hat woman appointed Chair of Alberta Chambers of Commerce

A former president of the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce is the new Chair of the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC).

Kay Olsen is a professional facilitator who operates a business which takes her around the province. She will spend even more time visiting Alberta communities over the next year in her role as Chair of ACC.

"It is a privilege to serve the Alberta Chambers of Commerce," says Olsen. "This federation works hard to represent the 124 active community chambers in the province and I am proud to be a part of the executive team – a team that strives to understand the challenges facing Albertans and their businesses.

"As the Chair," adds Olsen, "I am committed to continuing to work with staff and the Board of Directors to strengthen and enhance services and opportunities for training, networking, and policy development."

Olsen was named Chair at ACC's 72<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Conference and Policy Session, which was held in Lethbridge May 13 to 15. She will lead ACC's Executive Committee, which oversees the governance of the federation.

ACC's Executive Committee for the 2010/11 term is the following: Chair – Kay Olsen of Medicine Hat; Chair Elect – Tim Bolton of Airdrie; First Vice Chair – Tab Pollock of Grande Prairie; Second Vice Chair – Brad Severin of Calgary; Treasurer – Sean Ballard of Calgary; Past Chair – Don Oszli of Red Deer; and President and CEO – Ken Kobly.

Kay Olsen's biography and photo are attached. Biographies and photos of all members of ACC's Executive Committee are available online at [www.abchamber.ca](http://www.abchamber.ca) under *About ACC > Executive Committee*.

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is a federation of 124 community-based chambers of commerce representing more than 22,000 businesses.

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## Backgrounder

### Kay Olsen

Chair 2010/11

Alberta Chambers of Commerce



Kay Olsen is the founder and senior consultant of T.H.E. Seminar Services, a business specializing in organizational development through leadership development, systems analysis and strategic planning, human resource management, and board training.

She has worked with the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, and has 10-plus years experience as a facilitator, business owner and business advisor.

Kay attended York University in 1992, Toronto and Royal Roads University, Victoria, where she graduated with a Master of Arts (Leadership) in 2002.

Kay's areas of interest and expertise include Leadership Development, Appreciative Inquiry, Trust in the Work Place, and The Power of Positive Attitude. She has extensive experience in both the classroom and online learning environments and in the use of 360-degree feedback tools. Kay is also accredited in the use of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator MBTI and Emotional Intelligence.

Kay has been active in the chamber federation since 1995. She joined the Medicine Hat and District Chamber of Commerce board in 2000, where she chaired the Policy and Advocacy and Economic Develop committees, and served on Communities in Bloom, and building committee, while also participating in many chamber events. In 2005 she was elected as Chair.

In the community, Kay has served as director on Women in Business, CORE Association, Medicine Hat Minor Hockey, United Way, and Imagine.