



ACC CHAIR'S REPORT

JULY 2010

BY KAY OLSEN

Alberta has become the first provincial federation to have its entire membership join the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC).

This achievement follows the direction of the ACC Board of Directors at the May AGM to cover the cost of signing up the Alberta chambers that were not CCC members to the national federation. That fund was created in July with the following chambers contributing: Camrose, St. Albert, Leduc, Lethbridge, Sherwood Park, Fort McMurray, Medicine Hat, Lloydminster, Red Deer, Fort Saskatchewan, Grande Prairie, Spruce Grove, Rocky Mountain House, Edmonton, and Calgary.

As a result of this accomplishment, a multi-chamber team has launched an energetic campaign to collect proxy votes for the chambers that will not be able to attend the Canadian Chamber's AGM in September. Obtaining proxies will give Alberta a tremendous voting presence on the floor of the national policy session. Last year, we had the third-largest delegation at the conference, and that was with 32 votes, based on the number of Alberta chambers that belonged to the Canadian Chamber in 2009.

ACC has mailed voting authorization forms to the 88 new CCC members. These forms allow ACC to assign proxies to Alberta delegates attending the AGM. We encourage your chamber to fill out this form as soon as possible and fax it to our office at 780.429.1061. The form is also available on our website at www.abchamber.ca and at this link:

www.abchamber.ca/portals/0/ACCResources/POLICY/CCC/Voting_Authorization_Form_2010.pdf

I understand the 2010 Alberta Chambers Executive Summit in Fairview was a great success. The Summit ran from July 14 to 16, and ACC was pleased to support and participate in this three-day working session. Events like this one help strengthen our federation by providing chamber managers with valuable tools for performing their jobs and allowing them to connect with each other to share ideas, knowledge and camaraderie.

Although it is the middle of summer, our advocacy work carries on with the various government ministries. For instance, we just held a consultation on the planned Health Act with MLA Fred Horne, who has spent the past two months seeking input on the principles Albertans would like to see included in the legislation. Seven chambers, including ACC, participated in the teleconference with MLA Horne at Government House. We presented the seven ACC health policies relevant to the province developing an Alberta Health Act.

ACC has also just introduced a new value-added program for chamber members. This one is an insurance program through Johnson Inc. that offers a comprehensive vehicle and house policy, with features such as First Accident Forgiveness, Vanishing Deductible, and Air Miles. ACC has just set up this value-added program. Details will soon be available.

Forgive me for reminding you that fall is around the corner as most of us have not enjoyed much summer weather yet, but I really should include a notice about our 2010 Fall Board Meeting and Deputy Ministers' Dinner scheduled for November 17. Watch for details on our website (www.abchamber.ca), and in the meantime, please mark it on your calendar.

Now, it's time to get back to summer. I hope you have lots of opportunity to get out and enjoy it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Olsen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kay Olsen
Chair