



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Kitimat Chamber of Commerce

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www.kitimatcommerce.ca

AGM AGENDA

**April 15th, 2021 at 6:00 pm
Via Zoom Meeting**

Call to Order

Confirmation of Quorum

Opening Remarks

Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of the Minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Adoption of the 2020 Financial Statements and Financial Report

Reports:

- a. President's Report
- b. Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society Report

Election of Directors and Officers

- a. Nomination Committee Report
- b. Election Results

New Business

AGM Adjournment

ADOPTION OF MINUTES 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Kitimat Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Thursday September 10th, 2020

Zoom Meeting, Kitimat BC

6:03pm Called to Order by Daniel Chimko, President

A total of ...18 voting members representing 17 businesses and holding 25 ballots were in attendance. As per the by-laws of the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce, quorum for the Annual General Meeting is 15 voting members.

As the number of Board of Director nominees exceeds the number of positions, a vote down via zoom poll was done and results were calculated by Laurel D'Andrea and Daniel Chimko

The 2019-20 Board of Directors was introduced and thanked for their service to the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce

EXECUTIVE

President	Daniel Chimko, Dal Monte's Wood-Craft Ltd
Vice President	Tracey Hittel, Kitimat Lodge & Kitimat Adventures
Secretary	Jacqueline Sweet, Jacqueline Sweet Notary Corporation

Directors

Corrado Colombo	ABC Industries Ltd.
BJ Houghton	McElhanney Consulting Services
Vanessa Couto	MStar Hotel
Thom Meier	101 Industries Ltd.
Winston Michell	Hirsch Creek Golf & Winter Club
Mark Minifie	Minifie Business Group
Eve Normandin	Rio Tinto BC Works
Graham Pitzel	Re/Max Kitimat Realty

There being no additions to the agenda the meeting proceeded to adoption of agenda.

Adoption of Agenda

“Moved that the Agenda for the 2020 Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.”

Motion: Corrado Columbo

Second: Graham Pitzel

Carried

Annual General Meeting Minutes

“Moved that the Minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated.”

Motion: Jackie Sweet

Second: Thom Meier

Carried

Financial Statements

“Moved that the 2019 financial reports be considered to have been duly presented and accepted.

Motion: Thom Meier

Second: Graham Pitzel

Carried

President and Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society Reports

“Moved to accept the 2019 President and Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society Reports as circulated.”

Motion: Graham Pitzel

Second: Thom Meier

Carried

Election of Director and Offices

“Moved to accept the 2020 nomination for President be adopted and deemed duly elected as the Council of the Chamber.”

Motion: Graham Pitzel

Second: Corrado Columbo

Carried

“Moved to accept the 2020 nomination for Vice-President be adopted and deemed duly elected as the Council of the Chamber.”

Motion: BJ Houghton

Second: Thom Meier

Carried

“Moved to accept the 2020 nomination for Secretary be adopted and deemed duly elected as the Council of the Chamber.”

Motion: Corrado Columbo

Second: BJ Houghton

Carried

“Moved to accept the 2020 nomination for Directors be adopted and deemed duly elected as the Council of the Chamber as voted.”

Motion: Louise Avery

Second: Thom Meier

Carried

Daniel Chimko congratulated and welcomed the 2020 board members.

EXECUTIVE

President

Daniel Chimko, Dal Monte's Wood-Craft

Vice President

Tracey Hittel, Kitimat Lodge & Kitimat Adventures

Secretary

Jacqueline Sweet, Jacqueline Sweet Notary Corporation

Directors

Ashley Hinton	CIVEO
BJ Houghton	McElhanney Consulting Services
Tom Jardine	Leavitt Machinery
Kyle MacGillivray	Kyle's No Frills
Thom Meier	101 Industries Ltd.
Eve Normandin	Rio Tinto BC Works
Cameron Orr	Haisla Band Council
Graham Pitzel	Re/Max Kitimat Realty

Outgoing Directors Winston Michell, Vanessa Lopez, Corrado Columbo, Mark Minifie were thanked for their contributions to the Chamber of Commerce.

New Business – no new business was presented.

6:49pm Meeting Adjourned

**Minutes recorded by:**

Jacqueline Sweet
Secretary

**Minutes approved by:**

Daniel Chimko
President

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Following are the financial reports for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2020 with comparatives for the same period ended 2019.

Significant Accounting Policies:

As a not-for-profit organization registered under the Federal Boards of Trade Act, Kitimat Chamber of Commerce's fixed assets are expensed in the year of purchase.

No provision is made for income taxes as the Chamber is a not-for-profit organization registered under the Board of Trade Act and has no income tax liability on its net income.

Project Revenues are reported net of costs.

KITIMAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2020

Current Assets

Credit Card Clearing	0.00	
Undeposited Funds	0.00	
Cash Register Float	50.00	
Petty Cash	250.00	
Envision Chequing Account	109,774.04	
Shares - Envision Credit Union	33.53	
Operational Funds		110,107.57
Heritage Park - Restricted Fund	6,362.71	
GIC #1 18 PLUS 18	12,796.16	
StepUp 6Plus6 #28	21,349.59	
GIC #26 Contract Security Depo...	6,044.52	
GIC #27	0.00	
GIC #20 18 PLUS 18	11,904.49	
GIC #21 PRIME RIDER	0.00	
GIC #22 PRIME RIDER	0.00	
PRIME RIDER GIC#24	0.00	
Step UP Plus 6 25 51150	48,581.13	
Reserves		107,038.60
Accounts Receivable	7,398.90	
Accounts Receivable		7,398.90
Prepaid Expenses		1,454.88
Total Current Assets		225,999.95

Assets

LIGHT UP KITIMAT		70.00
Total Assets		70.00

TOTAL ASSET

226,069.95

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		9,051.73
Envision MC Payable		2,119.70
Light Up Kitimat Funds	2,742.70	
Event Funds (Admin Sponsorship)	(200.00)	

ERTF	42,345.00	
Funds Held for Sponsored Events		44,887.70
Vacation Payable		2,456.73
WCB Payable		(13.71)
PST Payable		391.78
GST Charged on Sales	(175.87)	
GST Paid on Purchases	<u>(9.44)</u>	
GST Owing (Refund)		(185.31)
Employee EH Benefits		637.54
RRSP Contributions Clearing		200.00
Disability Benefits		0.00
Total Current Liabilities		59,546.16
TOTAL LIABILITY		59,546.16
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year		162,313.87
Restricted Funds - Wages		19,997.56
Current Earnings		<u>(15,787.64)</u>
Total Retained Earnings	166,523.79	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>226,069.95</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CON'T

KITIMAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Comparative Income Statement

	Actual		Actual
	01/01/2020	12/31/2020	01/01/2019
			12/31/2019
REVENUE			
Core Revenue			
Membership Dues		42,432.85	43,041.36
D of K Fee for Service		143,755.67	136,116.50
DOK Special Projects Tourism		0.00	0.00
Destination BC Grant		10,208.77	10,000.00
Youth Employment Grants		4,575.00	12,265.40
Misc. Gov Grants		0.00	47,626.00
Total Core Revenue		200,972.29	249,049.26
Event (Net) Revenue			
AGM & BEA		3,745.81	5,080.00
Christmas Party		(949.99)	3,139.95
Night Market		500.00	704.66
Fish Derby		9,290.54	4,919.24
All Candidates Forum		(655.00)	0.00
Total Event Revenue		11,931.36	13,843.85
Other Revenue			
Kitimat Visitor Guide Advertising		17,921.86	22,210.00
Mountain Bike Rental		0.00	(1,972.41)
Kayak Rentals		431.14	50.00
Bank Interest	3,216.24		3,204.84
Special Project Revenues	0.00		1,577.62
Highways Signs	2,957.66		2,557.75
Airport Digital Advertising	0.00		3,040.48
Racking Fees	0.00		35.00
Room Rental	3,965.00		13,552.32
Souvenir Sales	(580.76)		1,302.12
Minerals North 2021	0.00		(667.42)
Welcome to Kitimat Tour	36.12		789.30
Other Tourism Revenue		9,594.26	25,392.01
Chamber Benefits Commission	2,711.00		2,071.00
Dinner Meetings	(286.50)		(167.53)
E- Blasts	280.00		699.05
Training/Seminars	3,000.00		671.08
Other Chamber Revenue		5,704.50	3,273.60
Misc. Revenue		38,278.35	302.84
Total Other Revenue		71,930.11	49,256.04
TOTAL REVENUE		284,833.76	312,149.15
EXPENSE			
Payroll Expenses			
Manager Salary		55,399.79	65,000.00
Support Staff		70,570.20	50,743.60
Contracted Services	5,178.59	4,664.25	15,084.79
Summer Students			0.00
Employment Grants	(10,197.23)		
Summer Students EI Expense	2,987.78	(5,018.64)	15,084.79
CPP Expense	6,592.80		5,621.30
WCB Expense	20.28		151.94

Statutory Payroll Costs		9,600.86		8,372.09
Employee Benefits		1,973.29		1,263.26
RRSP - Company Portion		4,300.00		3,100.00
Mileage		1,208.24		2,076.33
Staff Training		74.90		30.45
Total Payroll Expenses		<u>142,772.89</u>		<u>152,883.02</u>
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE...				
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE...				
Accounting & Legal		6,158.32		4,870.24
Advertising & Promotion		60,851.59		40,516.73
Airport Advertising Infrastructure	1,580.54	63.75	1,373.53	178.15
Bank Charges and Interest			756.62	
POS Service Fees	330.24		(16.00)	
Cash (Over)/Short	0.50			
Banking Fees & Interest		1,911.28		2,114.15
Courier & Postage		2,506.38	2,786.28	2,354.62
Equipment Lease - Copier	2,786.28			
Copier Supplies / Copies	1,082.56		1,606.11	
Copier Expenses		3,868.84		4,392.39
Insurance - Property	2,115.00		2,043.00	
Insurance		2,115.00		2,043.00
Memberships		4,185.38		4,006.49
Chamber Training				
Chamber Training	245.00		1,627.06	
Coffee Supplies	81.89		441.19	
Janitor and Cleaning Supplies	1,647.16		1,604.59	
Office Expense	1,262.49		1,044.06	
Office Software License and IT	4,364.29		4,368.65	
Office Supplies	2,243.24		1,421.14	
Small Equipment & Supplies	(74.04)		1,375.40	
Office Expenses		9,770.03		11,882.09
Projects - CTO		0.00		(5,964.00)
Rent		8,332.00		8,338.00
R & M - Building				
R&M - Building	7,208.97		1,480.26	
R & M - Equipment	244.54		0.00	
R & M - Heritage Park	35,033.35		3,531.50	
R & M - Property	6,437.50		8,487.10	
Repairs & Maintenance		48,924.36		13,498.86
Telephone & Internet		2,758.87	4,692.02	2,609.05
Travel - Tourism	1,558.54			
Travel - Directors	(301.38)		3,691.51	
Travel - Executive Director	878.68		4,110.29	
Travel		2,135.84		12,493.82
Utilities - Gas/Hydro/Garbage		4,266.87		4,202.08
Total General & Admin. Expenses...		<u>157,848.51</u>		<u>107,535.67</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>300,621.40</u>		<u>260,418.69</u>
NET INCOME		<u>-15,787.64</u>		<u>51,730.46</u>

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good evening valued members and thank you for taking the time to join us here tonight on the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation. This Annual General Meeting for the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce marks the end of another year of supporting our local business community. As you all know the past year had its difficulties, but your Chamber staff and board ensured that these challenges were met and overcome.

Part of this success is supported by our continued cooperation with the District of Kitimat. The Chamber safely operated the Tourism and Information Centre throughout the ongoing pandemic, conducted a Christmas Focus Local campaign, and efficiently administered proceeds for the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force. Additionally, the Chamber met with city council every four months to discuss local issues, participated in their Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, and joined them on their annual business walk.

In the past year, the Kitimat Chamber also launched a new and improved website featuring an improved member directory, invoice payment portal, member's area, and much more. The Chamber participated in the establishment and development of the Kitimat Airshed Group which involves all stakeholders to provide comprehensive Air Quality data for our valley. Finally, we hosted our first International Women's Day Forum to celebrate and learn from many of the successful women in our community.

Looking forward to 2021, there is more to come from the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce. You will continue to see the new "Member Mondays" which highlights and educates you on a local business. The Visitor Centre will receive much needed accessibility features including an elevator, automatic doors, and an accessible washroom. We will also be improving our current mountain bike and kayak rental fleet with the addition of inflatable tandem kayaks and inflatable stand up paddle boards.

All these endeavours could not be possible without the dedication and commitment by your volunteer Board of Directors and especially the hard work of our fantastic staff. Laurel D'Andrea has been doing a superb job as Executive Director and continually goes above and beyond in service of our organization. Laurel's enthusiasm, motivation, and creativity are truly the driving force of the Kitimat Chamber. Until recently, Kelsey Kenney was our Tourism Coordinator, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for her long-term service and excellent work that she did on behalf of the chamber. We are also lucky to have had Erin Markowiak McDonell and Caitlin Sartori as Member Service Coordinators over the last year, both of whom have provided terrific support to our operations.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the current and past Chamber Staff for all of their hard work, the board of directors for volunteering their time to ensure that the voice of business steers the Chamber's activities, and most importantly I would like to thank the Chamber's vast and diverse membership. With over 240 businesses within our chamber, over 36,000 businesses within the BC Chamber, and over 200,000 businesses within the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the voice of business is strong, unified, and capable of advocating on your behalf to ensure a healthy environment for your business to be successful.

Submitted by Daniel Chimko, President

TERRACE - KITIMAT AIRPORT SOCIETY REPORT

The Northwest Regional Airport, Terrace-Kitimat, is owned and operated by the Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society. The Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society is an independent, non-governmental not-for-profit corporation. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Airport Society has no shareholders and therefore no shareholder benefits; any profit is used to improve the airport. The Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society consists of seven directors and the employees of the Airport Society. There are four members of the Society, who are the original applicants for incorporation of the society. They are the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce, the City of Terrace, the Terrace and District Chamber of Commerce and the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine.

2020 has been a challenging year for the Terrace-Kitimat Airport and regional airports across the country due to COVID-19. As provincial health orders restricted international and domestic travel, the airport saw a significant decrease in passenger numbers and aircraft movements. At its worst, passenger numbers were down by approximately 90%. This was due to the suspension of major projects in the region and closing of international borders. The airport reacted by suspending capital projects, minimizing, or deferring operational expenses and reducing staffing hours to align with the remaining aircraft traffic levels. Staffing was maintained throughout the pandemic in order to provide minimum airport operations and Airport Rescue Fire Fighting service as required.

We are very fortunate that our regional airport has fared well in the past year compared to most regional airports of similar size across the country. The airport raises revenue by the collection of user fees and airport improvement fees from scheduled and charter passengers. The airport was on track for a very good year in 2019-20 and as such was in a very good financial position at the onset of the pandemic with no debt and sufficient cash on hand to support continued operations. The Terrace-Kitimat Airport was selected as a regional hub for the remaining scheduled airlines that maintained a schedule to Northwest BC, and had some traffic related to fly-in/fly-out staff associated with major projects that were placed in a care & maintenance state.

Staffing levels at the Flight Service Station (FSS) based at the airport were reduced early in the pandemic which unfortunately resulted in the diversion of some critical medevac flights. The airport management worked with the City of Terrace to open a dialog with NavCanada and advocate for the reinstatement of full FSS staffing coverage. This effort was successful with NavCanada reversing their staffing reduction, resulting in full time coverage. The City of Terrace Council should be commended for their leadership and passion to overcome this challenge which has benefited the NWBC region.

As Public Health restrictions eased throughout the year and major projects started to re-open, there was an increase in passenger traffic, however, it was not back to previous year traffic levels. The major projects occurring in our region can be attributed with the increasing number of passengers passing through the airport as leisure and tourism traffic has been significantly curtailed. Our airport has been fortunate for these passengers as most regional airports in the country are still closed or at a very significant reduction in flights servicing these regions.

The Terrace-Kitimat Airport ended 2020 with approximately 175,000 passengers passing through the airport which is at approximately 60% of 2019 traffic levels (2019: 275,000est. passengers). The airport has maintained a positive cash flow and balance position throughout the year.

The federal and provincial governments have recognized that all regional airports across the country have had challenges related to the reduction in traffic, although fixed operational expenses remain. The Terrace-Kitimat Airport continues to advocate for grant funding to support continued capital investment projects that are still needed given the continued presence of major projects in the region.

Notable projects that were undertaken in 2020 include:

- Expansion of the Apron to accommodate the expected increase in Charter aircraft traffic attributed to the LNG Canada project. This work was commenced in 2020 and will be completed in spring 2021.
- Purchase of a new runway Snowplow and Sweeper which will be delivered in Summer 2021. The unit purchased will significantly reduce the time it takes to clear surfaces which will result in increased reliability, safety, and availability of the runway to accept traffic.
- Continued progress on the water and sewer system upgrades
- Completion of an airside equipment shelter

The airport is looking forward to continuing to move forward with its long-term capital improvement plan which aligns with supporting major projects in the region. Items to be considered include improvement to parking areas, replacement of critical mobile equipment, renovation of the terminal arrivals area and renovation of some airside surfaces including taxiways and aprons.

Submitted by BJ Houghton Vice President of Terrace-Kitimat Airport Society
(Kitimat C of C Nominee)

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Kitimat Chamber of Commerce Board consists of President, Vice-President, Secretary and 8 Directors.

Call for Nominations:

A Call for Nominations was posted in the Chamber's weekly Thursday e-blast on March 19th & 26th as well as April 1st & 9th. We also emailed all members on Feb 27th and a reminder was sent on April 4th.

Election of Directors:

Nominees were asked to indicate which position on the Board they wanted to be nominated for in the Expression of Interest application. The nominations committee recommends the following candidates be elected as President, Vice-President, and Secretary for the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce for a one-year term ending April 2022.

President:	Tracey Hittel	Kitimat Lodge and Kitimat Adventures
Vice-President:	Ashley Hinton	CIVEO
Secretary:	Jacqueline Sweet	Jacqueline Sweet Notary Corporation

Members that are letting their names stand for the Director positions are:

Corrado Colombo	ABC Industries Ltd.
Tanya Healy	The Chalet Motel & Restaurant
BJ Houghton	McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.
Kyle MacGillivray	Kyle's No Frills
Thom Meier	101 Industries Ltd.
Eve Normandin	Rio Tinto BC Works
Cameron Orr	Haisla Band Council
Graham Pitzel	Re/Max Kitimat Realty

The Board would like to thank Daniel Chimko, our outgoing President for all his hard work and dedication over the past several years. We would also like to acknowledge Thom Jardine from Leavitt Machinery for the time he has given us over the past year.

Submitted by Tracey Hittel Nominations Committee Chair

Members who are letting their name stand for 2021.

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, AND SECRETARY

TRACEY HITTEL

I was born and raised on a grain and cattle farm in rural Saskatchewan. I come from a large working-class family and believe in community spirit and involving myself in my community. Being a Director of the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce is a great way to communicate with like-minded others and help new businesspeople connect. I have a wife and two great kids and Kitimat has been my home since 1993 when I was a Methanex operator. I

have since branched out and started businesses in Kitimat from Lodging to Guided Fishing to Water Taxi and Spill Response. Kitimat is a diverse community and without the Chamber of Commerce we could not communicate our voice of business.

ASHLEY HINTON

I was born in Calgary and raised on Vancouver Island before my career in broadcasting took me on a little tour of British Columbia and Alberta. I have lived and worked in Vancouver, Ucluelet, Prince George and back to Calgary before a career change brought me to this beautiful part of our country. I have always worked closely with the communities I've been lucky to live in, spending many hours volunteering for different organizations. Now, working with Civeo at Sitka Lodge and Sitka Annex 2, I have had the opportunity to work with multiple organizations in Kitimat who are doing wonderful work. I look forward to showcasing the excellent tourism opportunities Kitimat and the surrounding areas have to offer and linking project workers with local business.

JACQUELINE SWEET

Jacqueline "Jackie" Sweet is a Notary Public and a member of the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia. Jackie was commissioned as a Notary Public by the Supreme Court of British Columbia on May 2, 2013. She received the BDO Canada Award for Inspirational Performance in all subjects of the Notary Education Program. Jackie devotes her work to helping the public with their personal planning needs such as drafting Wills, Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements. Jackie believes in assisting our community with their real estate conveyancing needs including buying, selling, and refinancing their home. Jackie holds a master's degree in Applied Legal Studies from Simon Fraser University, a bachelor's degree in General Studies from Simon Fraser University and a diploma in Business Administration from the College of New Caledonia.

DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order by last name)

CORRADO COLOMBO

I was born and raised in Bergamo, Italy and immigrated to Kitimat in 2008. Prior to making Kitimat my home, I had been visiting Kitimat and the surrounding Northwest for yearly fishing adventures. I am now married to Lucy Zanardo, a local Kitimat resident, and have two children. Prior to making Kitimat my home, I was an owner/operator in a family run CNC machine shop. My duties included management, drafting and CNC programming.

In 2009 I purchased a longstanding Kitimat business, ABC Janitorial, now known as ABC Industries Ltd. and have successfully grown this business to be the primary janitorial company in Kitimat, serving Kitimat's commercial and industrial customers.

In my free time, I am an avid fisherman and an active member of Kitimat Search and Rescue (KSAR). I believe I am extremely fortunate to live in Kitimat. I have made a personal choice to live and work in this beautiful community as it provides an excellent work/life balance. I am proud to call Kitimat home.

TANYA HEALY

I have been in the hospitality and management business for 10 plus years as well as a long background working in the medical field. I am an avid softball player and coach and love the outdoors. Recently I accepted a position

as General Manager of The Chalet Motel and Restaurant. The Chalet Motel and Restaurant is a long time Establishment of Kitimat known for its delicious food and great customer service, clean motel rooms and a fantastic view of the mountains.

I thrive on helping in my community and that's what interested me in joining the Chamber Board. I want to use the tools and experience I have gained throughout my career. Tanya has helped several nonprofit organizations; her passion is softball and her work. She has 2 children and 3 beautiful grandchildren.

BJ HOUGHTON

BJ Houghton is a Branch Manager and is responsible to oversee operations and business development in Kitimat BC with McElhanney Ltd., an employee-owned engineering and survey company.

Previously he was Survey Division Manager in Kitimat and Land Surveyor in Fort St. John BC, responsible for leading technical survey teams working on major industrial, LNG, and upstream oil and gas exploration projects in Northern British Columbia. BJ joined McElhanney in 2006 after graduating from the University of Calgary with a degree in Geomatics Engineering. His work experience includes legal land surveying and high-precision positioning for industrial manufacturing and oil & gas plant sites.

BJ is a BC Land Surveyor and Professional Engineer. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Practice Advisory Panel for the Association of BC Land Surveyors and is a Director with the Kitimat-Terrace Airport Society.

KYLE MACGILLIVRAY

I was born and raised in PEI. Grew up with a family in the retail/grocery business, however I looked for something different and went to school for engineering. After that I became a commercial deep-sea diver where I had the privilege to travel and work. This career brought me to the coast of BC in 2009 where I met my wife Vanessa. A short 18 months later we both ended up back in PEI where I began working at my father's NOFRILLS in PEI. While training to someday own a store under my father's leadership I found the time to become a volunteer firefighter with Crossroads Fire Department. In late 2015 the opportunity presented itself to move to Kitimat and Own and operate my own NOFRILLS. After a quick google search of where Kitimat was here, I am 5 years later fully involved in the community at the Shooting Range, Snowmobile club, Fishing Derby, Hospital, Food Bank, Humane society, Rod & Gun, among many other local events and organizations.

Top 3 Priorities

1. COVID-19 economic rebuilding plan
2. Shop local/tourism/micro economic development.
3. Employee/staff recruitment & retention

THOM MEIER

I was born and raised in Kitimat, completed school here and completed an apprenticeship as a Mechanic. I left Kitimat in 1986 in pursuit of other opportunities, returning in 1989 to help run the family business, progressing to General Manager and part owner. I am married to Diana and we have 3 children who have gone on to their own careers, 2 of which still live in Kitimat. I chose to move back to Kitimat due to the opportunity that was offered to me. The decision to return to this safe, beautiful, and friendly community was one of the best decisions I have made. In 2020 101 Industries was purchased by CIMS LP and I am the current General Manager of 101 Industries a Division of CIMS and continue to serve on the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce as a Director.

EVE NORMANDIN

My husband and I moved to Kitimat in December 2015 from Quebec to work at Rio Tinto. Being committed to the outdoors, we fell in love with the community and region. When we are not snowboarding, mountain biking or hiking, we are spending quality time with our son, Loic. In addition to acquiring theoretical and practical knowledge in health sciences during my PhD, I have worked as a project manager for a nonprofit organization where I liaised with internal and external stakeholder to build organizations offering and programs. My ease in developing peer-to-peer relationships and versatility in working in complex environments led me to my current role as the Senior Communications and Communities Advisor for Rio Tinto BC Works, focusing on Rio Tinto's social performance, consultation, and public engagement.

CAMERON ORR

Cameron moved to Kitimat in 2007 with his wife and started a career in journalism at the Kitimat Northern Sentinel. After a 2-year run in Smithers at the community paper, Cameron returned to Kitimat in 2012 to be the Sentinel's editor. In 2016 he shifted to a new career working for Haisla Nation Council, as their Communications Coordinator. He spent several years as an active member of the local Toastmasters public speaking club, and is a volunteer for the local Scouts section, in the Beaver group. Cameron lives in Kitimat with his wife and two children.

Ideas for Chamber priorities over next 18 months to help businesses:

1. Biggest priority will be continuing the work to encourage local shopping and spending in the midst of this pandemic.
2. Build opportunities for local business owners to join online educational series to cover topics such as marketing, IT needs of small businesses, and other topics that can lead to customer satisfaction.
3. Utilizing the local expertise of business owners to openly share their own success stories, to build a local understanding of what works and what might not in the Kitimat-specific context.

GRAHAM PITZEL

As a local Realtor, I see the direct impact of business on our community. Growing up in town, I have seen the changes as large companies come and go, and I look forward to the growth we will see in the future. Being able to help the business community expand and capitalize on projects around town is something I look forward to.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR ED

Who knew that the start to my journey with the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce would begin with a pandemic! I have to say that the past year was filled with peaks and valleys, but we have managed to make it through. I am excited for all the growth and changes that continue to occur in this community and how the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce is part of the process. Over the past year, the Chamber has seen several accomplishments and successes, though it was not without hurdles. Our membership continues to grow, we continue to upgrade and refresh our ideas on how to help businesses during the good and bad times. Staff encourages and welcomes emails, phone calls and visits from our members. Each of you are the pulse in the community, the more we know the more we can do to help. We value the working relationships we have with the DOK, our northern partners for both tourism and the chamber and the BC and Canadian Chamber affiliates. 2021 will be a year to

recoup, recover and reignite the excitement that people have for their businesses and this community. You will see some new projects and upgrades to some of our current events. It's time for us to focus on "from pandemic to an optimistic perspective" for our businesses, tourism, the industry sector and the locals who live here. The world is changing everyday: from population to customer trends, technology, and the economy. Businesses who fail to welcome change can easily wind up as dinosaurs – out of touch and unable to compete under current conditions. The Kitimat Chamber of Commerce wants to assist our members and make Kitimat a place that will prosper over the next 50 years.

Submitted by Laurel D'Andrea, Executive Director