

Annual Report

2004 - 2005



**The Winnipeg Chamber
of Commerce**

The Chamber

Our Mission

To foster an environment in which Winnipeg business can prosper

Our Vision

Winnipeg, at the centre of North America...

- a cost-competitive, technologically innovative city with a skilled labour force and modern infrastructure to support existing and emerging industries
 - a city where citizens take personal responsibility for and pride in community development
 - a city with a bright economic future

Our Role

Public Policy Influence - initiate and effect change in government policy and practices to support a growing and thriving business community

Member Business Support - provide programs and services that create a competitive advantage for individual business members

Community Leadership - serve as a catalyst for a healthy and prosperous community that offers a strong foundation for business location and expansion



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Chair's Report

My year as Chair of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce has been one of excitement and fulfillment, and certainly one from which I derived much pleasure.

When I came into office one year ago, I talked about five objectives I had for my year as Chair of the Chamber.

My first objective was for the city to develop a long term economic strategy. I came to that objective because our members told us that it was their number one concern. I had hoped that the development of this long term economic strategy would be through a partnership between the Mayor's office and The Chamber. Certainly there have been discussions along these lines with the Mayor's office, but like many of these types of initiatives, progress is never as fast as one would like it to be. We all must continue to pursue the development of a long term economic strategy for the City of Winnipeg.

My second objective was to develop a strategy for the city to better market itself. Well, I have learned that what I really meant was not "how to better market itself" but "how to better sell itself." I am extremely proud of The Chamber for its accom-

plishment with respect to this objective. The Board recently adopted the report "Selling Winnipeg to the World - A Report that Reflects the Voice of the Winnipeg Business Community" and adopted the recommendations contained therein. This report will not sit on the shelf, I and The Chamber are committed to move this important issue forward.

My second objective of selling Winnipeg included two subsets which were Portage Avenue enhancement and Chamber Way. With respect to Portage Avenue enhancement, I am pleased to advise that this matter is proceeding, primarily due to the push given to it by The Chamber. It was through this planning group that the Portage Avenue Lighting Demonstration Project occurred, led by one of our Chamber members, Victor Kolynchuk of Smith Carter. This demonstration project was unveiled at the time the Junos were held in Winnipeg and the project continues to exist in the block on Portage Avenue in front of the MTS Centre.

As for Chamber Way, this certainly received the most publicity of the initiatives that I was attempting to promote. We hope this month to finalize the concept and to move forward quickly to create Chamber Way. This is all about the private sector



Philip Sheps is sworn in as Chair of The Chamber by Mayor Sam Katz



Chair Philip Sheps presented University of Manitoba student Ting Zhu with a Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

taking pride in its city and I could not be more pleased to know that it is being led by your Chamber.

My third objective was a Chamber Value Assessment. The Chamber held two focus groups in February of this year. One focus group involved participants from companies with less than 25 employees and the other focus group involved participants from companies with more than 25 employees. The report of the focus groups became a part of the planning tools used in the process of developing the next three-year strategic plan for The Chamber.

My fourth objective was economic barriers to growth - the policy agenda. The Chamber has moved away from the committee format and moved toward a task force model. This has proved successful for The Chamber in terms of producing policy and has proved fulfilling for those members involved in the task force process.

My fifth objective was The Chamber's involvement

in the formation and success of Leadership Winnipeg. I was fortunate to be one of the first co-chairs of Leadership Winnipeg; the other co-chair being Janice Filmon, representing The Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg. Without going into too much detail, the first class comprised of 24 participants recently graduated and the second year of the program is now underway.

We must continue to maintain and sustain Winnipeg's greatness and The Chamber's greatness, and although I leave office as Chair of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, I pledge to continue to work in any capacity I can to maintain and sustain the greatness of Winnipeg and the greatness of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

Philip M. Sheps
Chair



President's Report

As another year passes, one might think that The Chamber year gets to be rather routine. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

Every year brings a new energy that is delivered through our many volunteers. The ideas, the strategies and the passion serve to invigorate a Chamber staff that is ready to serve.

This year we were blessed to have the leadership of Philip Sheps. You don't often meet someone who is so committed to The Chamber and our city. His selfless pursuit of excellence was an inspiration to Chamber staff and it was a true privilege to serve under his leadership. Phil would often say what had to be said and his words were strengthened by the fact that they were based on an honest assessment of what needed to be done to make our city better. I can't help but feel that this city needs more leaders like Philip Sheps.

The Chamber has had a very successful year. I want to thank our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and the hundreds of Chamber volunteers that represent the very best our city has to offer. A new year begins, and a new strategic plan is launched, a new chair takes the helm and I can honestly say that I am energized. Another great year is ahead of us and I look forward to working with yet another tremendous Chair that will have more great ideas for us to pursue.

The Chamber year is routine? Not a chance.

Dave Angus
President & CEO

Board of Directors



Seated (l to r):

Cathy Nieroda (*EDS Canada*)
 Trevor Sprague (*Pricewaterhouse Coopers*)
 Philip Sheps (*PITBLADO*)
 Larry McIntosh (*Peak of the Market*)
 Catherine Kloepfer (*KPMG*)
 Dave Angus (*The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce*)

Standing (l to r):

Robert Cunningham (*Cunningham Business Interiors Ltd.*)
 Philip Axelrod (*Telpay*)
 Jean McClellan (*Manitoba Chambers of Commerce*)
 Jose Rueda (*Strad Research*)
 B.J. Reid (*Investors Group*)
 Robert Gabor Q.C. (*Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson*)
 Robert Kreis (*Superior Chem-Dry*)
 Jeffrey Hartry (*Cangene Corporation*)
 Stuart Duncan (*Destination Winnipeg*)
 Robert Dolyniuk (*Manitoba Trucking Association*)
 Darrell Brown (*Kisik Inc.*)
 Ken Jones (*J.J. Barnicke Winnipeg*)
 Marci Elliott (*Pricewaterhouse Coopers*)

Missing:

Larry Leiter (*Boeing Canada*)
 Tom Bryk (*Cambrian Credit Union*)
 Helen Halliday (*Delta Winnipeg*)
 Joel Gagnon (*St. Boniface Chamber of Commerce*)

Chamber Staff



Seated (l to r):

Karen Weiss
 Devon Kashton
 Dave Angus
 Cheryl Baldwin
 Chuck Davidson

Standing (l to r):

Lisa Newcombe
 Theresa Stacey
 Christy Bangen
 Erin Gudmundson
 Catherine Holder
 Sarah Piercy
 Tanya McCartney
 Art Alexander

Missing:

Ellen Kornelsen

2004-2005 Annual Report



Chamber Chair Phil Sheps accepted The Chamber's Award of Distinction at the Canadian Chamber AGM in Calgary

2002-2005 Chamber Strategic Plan

Realizing Winnipeg's Global Opportunity

"As The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce looks ahead, we recognize that it is time to elevate our sights. We must adopt a whole new vocabulary as a community and replace words like stagnant, middle-of-the-road and 'have-not' with dynamic, world-class and vibrant. The Winnipeg Chamber can play a key role in changing the mindset of Winnipeg, and it begins with the development of our strategic plan."

- Opening Statement from
2002-2005 Strategic Plan

Overview

The past year has been one of the best in the 133 history of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

It began in September 2004 when The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce was recognized at a Canadian Chamber of Commerce Gala Dinner in Calgary as an accredited Chamber of Commerce with Distinction.

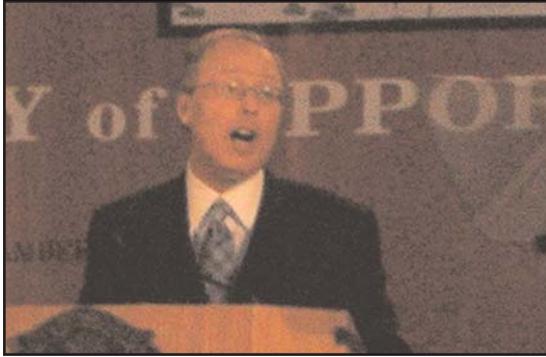
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce is the only Chamber in a major Canadian city to receive this award, which assessed structure, operations and offerings.

The certification attests that The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated that it meets a high standard of excellence in service to its members through strict adherence to a prescribed set of programs, services, management and governance principles, and policy and advocacy initiatives.

That standard of excellence was really just a symbol of the momentum that has been growing at The Chamber, as 2004-2005 was a year when The Chamber realized new highs and set new standards.

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce currently has more than 1650 members representing close to 80,000 employees in the city of Winnipeg, an increase of 17% over the past three years. This is the highest number of members The Chamber has represented in the 133-year history of the organization.

On top of that, more people attended Chamber events in the past year than in any other year. The highlight of the past year was a sold-out Convention Centre crowd of 1,100 to hear Mayor



More than 1,100 people packed the Convention Centre for Mayor Sam Katz's Inaugural State of the City Address

Sam Katz deliver his inaugural State of the City Address.

But The Chamber has no intention of resting on its laurels and has embraced an aggressive new three year strategic plan that will see us get even Bigger, Better and Bolder.

Public Policy Influence

One of the many roles of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce is to provide public policy influence. Through a volunteer driven policy development process The Chamber has initiated and effected change in government policy and practices to support a growing and thriving business community.

The Chamber/Meyers Norris Penny Manitoba Business Leaders Index

For the second consecutive year, Probe Research Inc. conducted The Chamber/Meyers Norris Penny Manitoba Business Leaders Index. Two hundred CEOs, Presidents, business owners and designated senior corporate officers from small, mid-sized and large enterprises, as defined by Statistics Canada and the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, were surveyed by telephone between September 23 and October 7, 2004. The results,



Chamber President Dave Angus presented the Second Annual Manitoba Business Leaders Index

based on the sample size, are accurate to between ± 6.9 percent.

The MBLI provides The Chamber with important information on the issues that are most affecting business and what business leaders see as possible solutions.

According to the 2nd Annual Chamber/Meyers Norris Penny MBLI, 43 percent of business leaders surveyed believe their municipal government is doing a "good" or "excellent" job of creating a positive climate for business - up 17 percent from last year.

What was also quite revealing is the remarkable change in optimism that business leaders voiced in regards to the image of the City of Winnipeg. In the first MBLI, 51 percent of respondents disagreed that the city's image was improving, compared with only 26 percent who felt the city's image was getting better. This past year the numbers reversed with 42 percent of business leaders agreeing that the city's image is improving and only 24 percent now at odds with that view.

Meanwhile only 24 percent of business leaders believe the provincial government is creating a good business climate and 21 percent approve of the federal government's measures, both numbers virtually unchanged from last year.



As part of The Chamber's Rapid Transit Task Force, Chair Phil Sheps got a first hand look at Ottawa's Transit system



Chamber President Dave Angus outlined The Chamber's Rent Control policy to the media

What is somewhat encouraging is that The Chamber/Meyers Norris Penny MBLI also reveals that 30 percent of business leaders believe Manitoba is more competitive today than it was a year ago when only 20 percent of respondents believed we were competitive.

The Chamber/Meyers Norris Penny MBLI revealed that 44 percent of respondents disagree that the province's economic development efforts also are helping to grow the Manitoba economy, down from 60 percent last year.

The Chamber and Meyers Norris Penny will continue to poll the business community on an annual basis to ensure we are addressing issues and providing solutions to things that affect them most.

Policy Development

Over the past year The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce made some significant changes in the way policy is developed.

In the past, policy development occurred through the work of various committees. In an effort to make better use of the valuable time of hard working Chamber volunteers, a task force model has been established that has resulted in immedi-

ate dividends. In the new model, a pool of Chamber members interested in taking part in the development of Chamber policy was established. Currently more than 100 members comprise the policy pool. The policy pool is then contacted to take part in various task forces when the Chamber needs policy developed.

Over the past year, six separate task forces tackled and helped create Chamber policy positions on the following issues:

Rent Control: The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce recommended the province abolish rent controls, which does not offer any incentive for the private sector to invest in the development of residential rental units and limits the availability of safe, affordable housing that provides a level of quality that Winnipeggers deserve. The Chamber also called on the Provincial government to establish a long-term economic strategy for the province, which would include a long-term housing strategy and to publicly review the issue of rent control in Manitoba.

Innovation Scorecard: At the heart of any long-term provincial innovation strategy is the ability to quantitatively measure the effect that the province's strategy is having on the overall economic success that Manitoba enjoys. The



In June The Chamber held its first ever Policy Forum in an effort to get feedback form members

Chamber's Innovation Scorecard Task Force outlined a number of areas that should be benchmarked to ensure the provincial strategy can be measured to determine success.

Truck Routes: The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce developed policy that encourages the City of Winnipeg to develop a transparent truck route policy as part of a long-term economic development strategy. The Chamber recommends the City of Winnipeg implement a clear, formalized, and balanced truck route policy with input from various stakeholders that includes mechanisms for designating and discontinuing truck routes.

Balanced Budget Legislation: The Chamber recommended that the Provincial government adopt the recommendations of Manitoba's Auditor General and amend the balanced budget legislation to provide a complete financial position of the province of Manitoba. This would restore fiscal and legislative accountability and transparency for all Manitobans. The Chamber is pleased to see that the Provincial government is taking steps to address our concerns.

Red Tape: The City of Winnipeg's Red Tape Commission, of which Winnipeg Chamber of



Chamber President Dave Angus and City Councillor Franco Magnifico at the Red Tape Commission launch

Commerce President and CEO Dave Angus was a member, released their final report in June 2005. The commission report outlined several major recommendations that, if adopted, will have the following results: Small business will have to do less paperwork (and in some cases, pay less in fees) after business licenses are eliminated in Winnipeg. Winnipeg would be the first large city in Canada to operate without these licences.

Rapid Transit: Over the past year, the issue of whether or not the City of Winnipeg needs a rapid transit system became a hot topic. The City of Winnipeg launched a Rapid Transit Task Force to study the issue and provide recommendations. A Chamber task force also looked at the issue and concluded that the City only proceed after putting in place clear objectives and specific measurements to determine whether or not those objectives are achieved.

Policy Forum: The Chamber also held its first ever Policy Forum in June 2005 which allowed members an opportunity to provide feedback and input on issues they believe The Chamber should be dealing with. This feedback is critical to ensuring The Chamber is addressing issues of importance to our members.



Canadian Chamber of Commerce President Nancy Hughes Anthony addressed a Chamber Luncheon



University of Winnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy was the keynote speaker at the Business Connection Breakfast

Other Issues

Over the past year The Chamber was also vocal on a number of issues important to the business community:

Minimum Wage: The Chamber recommended the Province implement a two-category minimum wage - a general minimum wage and a wage for industries with gratuities. Stakeholder consultations would be required to define clearly the parameters for inclusion in the 'industries with gratuities' classification. The Chamber also recommends that any increase to the minimum wage must allow for reasonable notice of at least six months from announcement day to effective date. Businesses require adequate time to adjust their plans and budgets in response to changes in the minimum wage.

Sunday Shopping: The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce lobbied successfully for Manitoba Labour Minister Nancy Allen to make an exemption to The Retail Business Holiday Closing Act for Sunday, April 3rd, the night that Winnipeg and the MTS Centre hosted the 2005 Juno Awards. Unfortunately however The Chamber was disappointed that the Minister refused our request to follow in the footsteps of almost every other province and allow retailers the ability to deter-

mine their own hours of operation on Sundays.

Garbage Pickup: After six years of lobbying City Hall, The Chamber was pleased to see City Council vote this summer to contract out the pick-up of garbage in the entire City. Since 1999 report after report has shown that the City of Winnipeg could realize millions of dollars in cost savings if it contracted out garbage services.

Waverley West Development: The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce urged the City of Winnipeg to establish a long-term economic strategy, part of which would address the concerns of housing development in the City. The Chamber also called on the City of Winnipeg to take steps to fast track the process for land development to ensure that projects can move forward in a timely manner in an attempt to deal with the lot shortage expected to occur in the next two years.

Workers Compensation: The Chamber made a presentation to the Workers Compensation Act Review Committee looked at the Act for the first time in more than 20 years. The Chamber made a number of recommendations including the following:

- The Act be amended to remove a loophole, under which directors of covered employers can be sued by an injured worker for additional damages.



Chamber Chair Philip Sheps led a delegation that included Destination Winnipeg and the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce to Ottawa in February

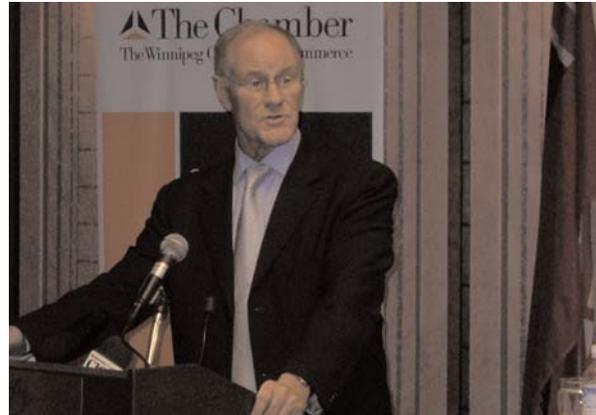
- The current definition of acceptable stress is not only fair and reasonable but it is consistent with other jurisdictions and should remain unchanged.
- Any consideration for expansion of coverage in other industries should be based on risk factors and injury experience and be made in consultation with those affected.

The Chamber presentation also outlined that any changes in benefits under the Act after factoring in economic equalization should not be out of balance with those seen in other jurisdictions.

Government Relations

Ottawa Mission: On an annual basis The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce leads a delegation to Ottawa to lobby federal politicians on issues of importance to both the business community and the City of Winnipeg. Last February The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce led a delegation of Chambers from other major Canadian cities to lobby Federal Ministers on behalf of Canadian Cities and the need to get a better deal with Ottawa.

Pre-Budget Consultations: Every year The Chamber of Commerce presents recommenda-



Canadian Defence Minister Bill Graham addressed a Special Chamber Luncheon

tions to both the Federal and Provincial Finance Ministers on policies that need to be addressed in their Budget preparation process.

In a meeting with Federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, The Chamber called on the Federal government to address issues such as meaningful tax relief, municipal infrastructure funding and improved fiscal accountability in the Budget.

This past year The Chamber urged Manitoba Finance Minister Greg Selinger to take steps on a number of measures in the Budget to ensure we have a competitive business climate in Manitoba:

- The development and commitment to a long-term tax strategy in an effort to give the business community some confidence that it is important to this government.
- The province follow the recommendations of Manitoba's Auditor General in regards to using the Summary Financial Statements to determine compliance with balanced budget legislation.

Defence Minister: Canadian Defence Minister Bill Graham outlined the Federal Government's first review of defence policy in more than 10 years at a special Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.



Chamber Memberships Representatives Art Alexander and Erin Gudmundson meet with some new members



In June The Chamber held Invest Winnipeg to showcase our investment and financial community

Voice of Business

In the past two years The Chamber has seen a dramatic increase in media coverage. In the past year The Chamber and its spokespersons were cited in close to 500 media reports, a 67% over the previous year. In fact since 2003 The Chamber has seen an increase in media exposure of an astounding 112%. The Chamber prides itself on being a strong credible voice representing the business community.

In an effort to ensure that Chamber members are kept abreast of what is happening at The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, a number of communication vehicles are used to keep in touch with the business community.

The Winnipeg Business Report on CJOB-68:

The Chamber continues to host a weekly radio show on CJOB-68 that addresses issues of concern to the business community. In the past year we have added Human Resources consultant Barbara Bowes to the show as part of a regular segment entitled "Bowes Knows". As well The Chamber's Director of Public Affairs Chuck Davidson keeps listeners up to date on the latest happenings at The Chamber on "The Chamber Wire."

Chamber Wire Newsletter: Chamber members are kept up to date on the latest news at The Chamber with our weekly E-Newsletter "The Chamber Wire." It provides readers with information on upcoming events, policy positions and the achievements of Chamber members. As well The Chamber produces a quarterly printed edition of "The Chamber Wire" that provides members with more in depth information on issues of importance.

Winnipeg Sun Editorial: Over the past year Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dave Angus was approached to provide editorial comment on issues important to the Chamber. "The Chamber's View" can be read the second Sunday of every month in The Winnipeg Sun.

Chamber Website: Information on The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce is always just a click away. The Chamber website www.winnipeg-chamber.com provides readers with more in depth information on Chamber policies, events and other relevant information. In the past year we have added a members only section that provides Chamber members with access to our Business Resource Centre.



Premier Gary Doer delivers the State of the Province address



The Business Connections Trade Show held at the MTS Centre was a huge success.

Member Business Support

The Chamber has continued to work hard to assure that members have the ability to hear directly from politicians, business people and newsmakers on issues that are important to them. Over the past 12 months we have held the following events:

State of the City: One of the hottest tickets of the year in Winnipeg was to Mayor Sam Katz's inaugural State of the City address to The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Due to increased demand, The Chamber was forced to change the location of the speech as more than 1,110 hundred people packed the Convention Centre.

State of the Province: Premier Gary Doer delivered his 6th State of the Province to a sold-out crowd of 700 at The Fairmont Hotel in December.

Chamber Luncheon Series: Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Luncheons were also a hot ticket this past year. The Chamber was able to boast an impressive and diverse line-up of speakers that included:

- 2004 United Way Chair Hartley Richardson
- United States Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci

- Canadian Chamber of Commerce President Nancy Hughes Anthony
- Shaw Communication CEO Jim Shaw
- University of Manitoba President Eموke Szathmary

On top of that, in June The Chamber held a special Membership Luncheon with Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge delivering the keynote address.

The Chamber also held a number of events throughout the year that provided members an opportunity to gain information, network with other members and celebrate achievements.

Invest Winnipeg: In June, close to 70 Chamber members took part in Invest Winnipeg, an event that celebrated excellence in our financial and investment community.

Business Connections: In April The Chamber held its Business Connections Trade Show at the MTS Centre. This sold-out event brought together the business community under one roof to network and promote like never before.

After Business Mixers: The Chamber's "After Business Mixer" series is a high level, professional way to grow your business and market your



Premier Doer and U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci hold a press conference following Cellucci's Chamber Luncheon



Chamber members hit the links at Annual FLOG

products and services. These events are opportunities for members to meet face to face with potential clients and prospects. In the past year The Chamber held four "After Business Mixers" with attendance of about 200 people per event.

Trade Missions: Over the past year, The Chamber was active in a number of trade activities:

- Took part in a Technology mission to Minneapolis in an effort to establish ties with other Chambers and Economic Agencies.
- Joined forces with Manitoba Trade on an India workshop.
- Attended Hemispheria 2005 in Mexico to help promote Hemispheria 2006, which will be held in Winnipeg next June.
- In August The Chamber went to Kansas City in an effort to building a strong trade relationship with Kansas City and Monterrey Mexico as part of our upcoming Trade Corridor focus.
- Hosted various incoming delegation visits including the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce.

Red Carpet Gala: The Chamber held its annual Black-tie event at the Delta Hotel at which a number of members were honoured with Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Congratulations to our 2004 Volunteer Award Winners:

- Rookie of the Year
Sandra Behie (AxiomC2)
- Long Distinguished Service
Gerry Markovich (Bee Clean Manitoba)
- Director of the Year
Jeffrey Hartry (Cangene Corporation)
- Chairperson of the Year
Melissa Vermeulen (Jet Automatic Car Wash)
- Volunteer of the Year
John MacLise (MTS Media)
- Community Contribution Award
Stephen Linnington (Stephen's Edge)

Golf Tournament: In June The Chamber held its 15th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament at Pine Ridge Golf Course. Once again the event sponsored by Ceridian was an overwhelming success with 152 golfers ensuring it was another sold-out affair.

Members Resource Centre: To enhance the value members receive for their membership dollars, The Chamber has developed a Members Only Online Business Resource Centre that provides business development information.



Chamber President Dave Angus was on hand when the South Winnipeg Chamber Chapter unveiled their new mural



Jobseekers meet prospective employers at the Aboriginal Employment Initiative Job Fair

Community Leadership

Downtown Lighting Project: A Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce led project gave the public a new look at downtown Winnipeg just days before the City hosted the 2005 Juno Awards. The test lighting project involved changing the high-pressure sodium bulbs currently installed on downtown light standards to a metal halide style bulb, revealing a brighter, more colorful spectrum. The bulbs are currently in place over a block-and-a-half span in front of the MTS Centre on Portage Avenue.

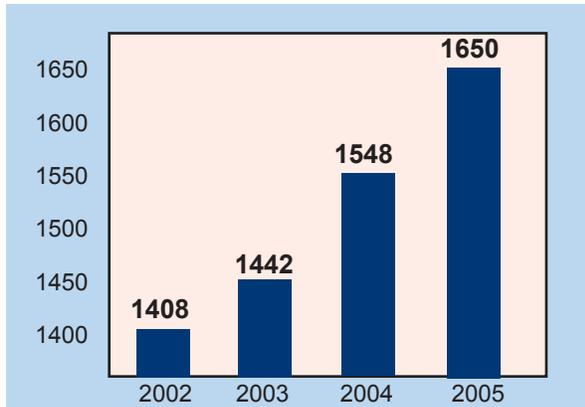
Chamber Way: The Chamber has always championed projects that help to enhance the image of the City of Winnipeg. In the past year we have undertaken to beautify a specific section of the Airport Route in an effort to give visitors a better first impression of the City.

Tsunami Relief: In an effort to help the victims of the tsunami that hit Southeast Asia last December, The Chamber donated a portion of all ticket sales to the State of the City Luncheon to the Canadian Red Cross's disaster relief efforts.

Leadership Winnipeg: A unique initiative, which provides the motivation for future leaders to grow and accept the challenges of community leadership, was officially launched. Up to 25 current and emerging leaders, representing the business, labour, government, voluntary, non-profit and community recently graduated in this program. Leadership Winnipeg is a joint initiative of The Volunteer Centre and The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, initially funded by the J.R. McConnell Family Foundation.

Aboriginal Employment Initiative (AEI): The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Business Council of Manitoba, Manitoba Education and Training, and Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada formed an agreement in 2000 "to develop and implement strategic partnerships among the Manitoba business and Aboriginal communities to facilitate and promote employment of Aboriginal people in the province."

The AEI aims to address Manitoba's emerging skills gap, which can be significantly alleviated with our rapidly growing Aboriginal population.



Chamber Corporate Membership



Refer a friend to The Chamber and become a Chamber Champion

Bigger...Better...Bolder What's in Store For 2005-2006?

Chamber Champion Program: In the upcoming membership year, which began July 2005, The Chamber will be introducing The Chamber Champion program.

Becoming a Chamber Champion is as easy as making a phone call to a friend:

1. Think of someone you believe would benefit by being a Chamber member.
2. Ask permission from your friend, associate or business contact to allow The Chamber to follow up with them.
3. Send us your qualified lead's contact information by logging on to www.winnipeg-chamber.com.

Chamber Wire Magazine: In December 2005 The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce will launch its new quarterly magazine "The Chamber Wire" to Chamber members. The new publication will examine issues of concern to the business community.

Member Achievements: The Chamber believes its important to celebrate the success of our members. We have put forward a number of options such as our radio show, our website and our e-newsletter for members to share their stories of success with the business community and will look to provide further opportunities in the future.

Podium Program: In the coming year The Chamber will partner with the Canadian Sport Center Podium Program in an effort to giving an Olympic-bound Manitoba athlete a financial boost. ▲

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