



SOUNDING BOARD



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE AND ITS MEMBERS | NOVEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 62 / ISSUE 10 | BOARDOFTRADE.COM

Canadian Chamber adopts GVBOT policy resolution at AGM

POLICY | Supporting the development of Microcredential Programs

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade was pleased to attend the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Annual General Meeting and Convention in Ottawa on October 14-15. President and CEO, Bridgitte Anderson, was joined by David van Hemmen, Vice-President, and Lindsay Fernandes, Manager of Public Policy and Stakeholder Relations, for this exciting opportunity to network, share with and learn from chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across Canada for the first time in-person since the pandemic.

The event's theme was 'Leading the Future of Business Success' and featured interactive panel discussions on challenges and opportunities facing businesses across Canada including critical infrastructure, getting to net zero, investing in priority growth sectors and more. The United States Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency David Cohen,



took to the stage to discuss the importance of Canada's trade relationship with our neighbors to the south.

Bridgitte Anderson, President and CEO, was a panellist for a discussion on future-proofing chambers. Joined by the CEOs from Leduc, Nisku and Wetaskiwin Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Brampton Board of Trade, Bridgitte spoke about GVBOT's work to support

members during the pandemic. Bridgitte also highlighted initiatives GVBOT is leading to ensure our organization remains relevant and forward-thinking in the years to come, including undergoing an extensive digital transformation, leading a new Digital Transformation Workshop, and efforts to promote equity, diversity and inclusion within our own staff and for the business community at large.

The policy outlines four detailed recommendations for the Government of Canada to support the development and promotion of microcredential programs

A highlight of the event was the policy resolution debates. During this time, convention delegates debate policies presented by chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across Canada. Once a policy is approved, the policy is included in the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's policy manual and used to inform its advocacy with the Government of Canada. This year, GVBOT submitted a

policy entitled 'Support for the Development of Microcredential Programs'. The policy outlines four detailed recommendations for the Government of Canada to support the development and promotion of microcredential programs across Canada to address ongoing labour market challenges and improve the competitiveness of Canada's workforce. The policy was passed by delegates with more than 98% of 270 votes. A similar policy, targeted to the provincial government, was adopted by the BC Chamber of Commerce earlier this year.

Bridgitte, David and Lindsay look forward to acting on lessons learned from the convention and building on connections made during the event in Canada's capital city. GVBOT delegates will not have as far to travel for this event next year- the Canadian Chamber of Commerce will be holding its AGM and Convention this time next year in Calgary. SB

2022 Business Distinction Awards

AWARDS | Recognizing outstanding businesses in the community

Hundreds of business leaders converged on the Fairmont Hotel Waterfront for the annual Business Distinction Awards, presented by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, on November 1st. The awards were presented to businesses that have gone above and beyond to set themselves apart in one of six distinct categories.



Business growth up to \$5M in revenue – Acuva Technologies Inc.

Acuva's contribution to Canadian innovation includes 24 patents (granted and pending) globally and exporting UV-LED disinfection technology to 18 countries. Acuva has a strategic relationship with UBC, providing engaging career opportunities for researchers, engineers and business grads.

Business growth over \$5M in revenue – Acuitas Therapeutics

Acuitas Therapeutics is a key contributor to the top mRNA vaccine that addressed the COVID-19 pandemic – COMIRNATY®, which was administered to billions of people worldwide. Acuitas' lipid nanoparticle delivery technology allows the mRNA molecules to get into the cells.

Community impact – Ceres Terminals Canada

Going into the second year of the cruise shut down in Canada, Ceres stepped up to support the vaccination launch for COVID 19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region and Fraser Health region by providing the non-clinical staff at eight mass vaccination clinics in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. In addition,

Ceres Terminals supported numerous pop up clinics and spearheaded the vaccination program for Seafarers coming into the Ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

Digital transformation – Vancouver Mysteries

In November 2020 Vancouver Mysteries started adding virtual games to their product offerings in response to the pandemic. The team has been involved in the development of the games, design, testing, training, marketing videos, and operation of the games. Virtual games have allowed them to continue to employ team members when outdoor games were shut down or when sales were low, or who were uncomfortable with/unable to accept outdoor games in person due to health concerns.

Environmental stewardship – Salt Spring Coffee

Salt Spring Coffee's CEO and Co-Founder, Mickey McLeod, believes that we are in a climate crisis and that businesses have an important role to play in helping to address climate change and restore the environment. For this reason, environmental stewardship has always been a fundamental part of Salt Spring Coffee.

Employer of the year – BTY Group

The employee experience is a top priority to BTY to support positive word of mouth both internally and externally. All employees are brand ambassadors. Roughly 23% of hires come through employee referrals where a referral program is in place, providing employees with a \$1000 bonus if a referral is hired and passes probation. SB

PROGRAMS | Engaged leadership – growing as a leader

The Engaged Leadership Program is designed for managers and entrepreneurs

The opportunity to join the Engaged Leadership Program was brought forward to me by one of my mentors, James Howey, who is somebody I admire greatly and learn from regularly. Originally from Calgary, I saw this program as an excellent opportunity to develop a network of peers outside of the aviation industry. What I valued the most were the community engagement opportunities which is something that is very important to me as a leader. It can be challenging to connect with professionals when you are new to Vancouver, this made the process easy, enjoyable and highly educational.

The program has been greatly beneficial in providing me with perspective. Coming out of the pandemic, the opportunities to connect have been limited.

Having a chance to sit down in a room with leaders, gaining insight into the challenges they face or how they planned to apply our learnings was the greatest benefit. The modules are relevant to somebody looking to engage their team, peers and leaders they report to. The roundtables were intimate and open, each featuring different leaders unique in their own respect.

I found all the modules to be useful in their own respect. The module focusing on Change Management was a topic I wasn't familiar with and thus had a big impact on me. The in-class learning provided an opportunity to take part in a more practical way. I walked away with a more structured approach to managing the people side of change, something that is so important in today's climate.



Nikita Sachar,
In-Flight Service Operations
Manager, Air Canada

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Rix Centre
FOR LEADERSHIP

A good leader is effective, they have faith in their beliefs, and take time to know and understand people



The most important takeaway I had from ELP was to focus on how your career is so much more than your job. We must be intentional in our words and actions as they have an impact. To respond to challenging situations, you must foster your sense of well-being and perspective. It has really helped me to move away from ruminating and focus on learning.

Having completed the ELP program my perspective on leadership has expanded beyond my day-to-day work. A good leader is effective, they have faith in their beliefs, and take time to know and understand people. They look far beyond today and ensure they are clear and articulate their vision.

Good leaders are far more than best practices but rather they are built of evolving practices and continue to stay curious and educate themselves. They focus on the people around them and ensure to lift others up. They understand there is more than enough sunshine for everyone, so soak it up! **sb**

Air Canada In-Flight Service Operations Manager Nikita Sachar was a member of the first cohort of the Engaged Leadership Program, delivered by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade through the Rix Centre for Leadership. Learn more about the Engaged Leadership Program and apply today at boardoftrade.com/programs.

EVENTS | GVBOT events to watch out for in November

November Event Schedule

As the end of the year approaches, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade is hosting a variety of mainstage events about what the new year will bring, with industry leaders from across the Lower Mainland.

State of the port: Increasing resiliency and helping power Canada's long-term trade success – Wednesday, Nov. 16

Join Vancouver Fraser Port Authority president and CEO Rob-in Silvester for his 14th annual "State of the port" event with the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. Re-envisioned as a fireside chat, the event will feature Robin and GVBOT president and CEO Bridgitte Anderson discussing the key focus areas for the port authority; the "toughest nuts to crack" challenges at Canada's largest port; and ultimately, the path to long-term strength and sustainability for this critical trade gateway.

Translink's Annual Address: Advancing the future of transportation – Wednesday, Nov. 23

Join TransLink CEO Kevin Quinn to learn about how the future of

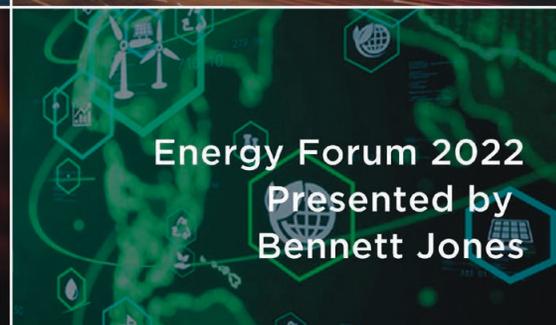


transportation in Metro Vancouver will create significant opportunities for residents and businesses throughout the region. Like many businesses, TransLink was forced to think differently to keep our region moving over the past few years. Now, TransLink is changing the way they do business to expand and diversify the essential services that our communities and businesses rely on every day. Following his address, Mr. Quinn

will be joined on stage for a moderated Q&A.

Solving B.C.'s Workforce Gap – Tuesday, Nov. 29

Following a global pandemic, and compounded by inflation, rising costs and supply chain challenges, businesses are left wondering: where did all the workers go, and how can we attract, train and keep the talent we need? As our region's labour shortages become increasingly



acute across all sectors, this event will examine the ongoing labour reshuffle and explore solution to alleviate these challenges with a keynote address by economist Linda Nazareth and a panel discussion on accessing and retaining talent in the ever-evolving workplace.

Energy Forum 2022 Presented by Bennett Jones – Wednesday, Nov. 30
GVBOT's annual Energy Forum,

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presented by Bennett Jones, will focus on Canada's role in the global market, and how we can leverage our strengths and capitalize on opportunities to advance our domestic energy sector and promote sustainability around the world through our two keynote speakers Haisla National Council Chief Councillor and First Nations LNG Alliance Chair Chief Crystal Smith, and Fort Nelson First Nation Chief and First Nations Major Projects Coalition Chair Chief Sharleen Gale. Following the keynote, two separate panels will discuss 'Canada's role as a stable supplier' and 'Advancing ESG and technology adoption'. **sb**

Tickets to all of our upcoming events are available at boardoftrade.com/events.