



## 2026 Membership Package



### PROMOTING BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SINCE 1909 Networking, Partnerships, Regional Promotion

Lobby government – for changes that will positively affect business.

Provide member services – it renders specific services that can be most effectively delivered by a community Chamber to its members.

Facility networking, new opportunities, tourism, and cross selling – through community events, tourism information, local promotion, and workshops.

# Chamber Strategic Plan 2026-2030

We are at a pivotal moment in the history of the Chamber of Commerce movement. Today's chamber member does not have the same needs as those of 20 years ago. The pace of change, fueled by technology and new ways of doing business, means that the OCC and our Chamber Network must adapt in order to deliver optimum value to our members.

For more than a century, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has served as the non-partisan, voice of business in the province. Together with 135 member Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, we stand up for our 60,000 members and advocate for evidence based public policies that contribute to a competitive economy and increased prosperity for our communities.

The term "business" itself has evolved, reflecting a diverse ecosystem that includes post-secondary institutions and other not-for-profit groups that each play an important role in contributing to Ontario's competitiveness. Without question, being the "voice of business" is important, but it is only the beginning of our value proposition as Chambers. There is much more that we must do to unlock the full potential of the 21st century Chamber movement.

## Group Insurance & Employee Benefits

The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting Canadian firms for over 40 years. More than 30,000 small to midsize businesses choose the Chambers Plan to protect their employees with [comprehensive group benefits](#), including Health and Dental insurance, making it Canada's #1 employee benefits plan for small business.

The Chambers Plan is the simple, stable, smart choice for business, combining accessibility, flexibility and the stability of pooled benefits. Firms choose the Chambers Plan year after year because it offers unsurpassed value and customer service. The Chambers Plan – it is for your benefit.

**Simple:** Looking for an employee benefits plan that is simple to manage?

- Chambers Plan's exclusive advisor support
- Quick set-up
- Easy-to-use forms
- 48-hour claim processing
- Simple administration

**Stable:** Concerned about rising group insurance premiums? Then you need a pooled program from the Chambers Plan. Rates are based on the average of claims from thousands of similar firms, keeping premiums manageable and predictable and providing stability year after year.

**Smart:** Don't add to someone else's profit. The Chambers Plan is a not-for-profit program, all surpluses stay in the Plan and help lower premiums. Give your employees more for less. Health and Dental premiums are a deductible business expense and a tax-free benefit for your employees.

## Chambers Plan partners with Canada's top Independent Advisors

Employee benefits do not need to be confusing. Your local Chambers Plan advisor can take care of everything, from start to finish. They'll take the unknown out of the process and explain everything in fair and easy to understand terms. Together, you will design a program that works for you, meeting your needs and your budget.

### [Grand & Toy](#)

Take advantage of the purchasing power that membership in the OCC's Chamber Network offers! Save up to 25% off competitor pricing on everyday office supplies and workplace solutions, and over 30% on paper.

### [Elavon](#)

Elavon is the innovative, secure, and global partner for your payment processing needs, whether you do business online, mobile, or in-person.

Elavon offers flexible payment solutions structured to give you the opportunity for greater growth and profitability. We provide some of the fastest funding in the industry, so you can better manage cash flow and your business operations. Not only that, members who take advantage of Elavon's payment solutions will receive our preferred pricing. Our program benefits all Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade members. No matter your industry, Elavon offers payments solutions that can help you streamline your operations and take your business to the next level.

Whether your business needs a simple way or a sophisticated solution to accept payments, we can help you find the right tool so you can focus on running your business. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade to learn about the options available to meet your unique business needs and take advantage of your members-only discounted pricing.

### [BarterPay](#)

Wouldn't it be great to get the things you need without using money? BarterPay® is an organized bartering platform that helps businesses across Canada get the things they need without having to use money. Instead, they can pay for those things using their own goods & services!

Now, you as a business owner, can acquire some of the things you need and pay by issuing your own goods and services to the network and keeping your hard-earned cash in the bank.

### [Meridian](#)

Meridian has everything you need – chequing and savings accounts, credit cards, cash management solutions, mortgages, loans, alternative financing options, and more. Because we are owned by our members, we only work for you. That means we take our profits and return them to you in the form of better products and services. Contact us by email at [sara.holmes@meridiancu.ca](mailto:sara.holmes@meridiancu.ca)

As the voice of business for the Fort Frances area, the Chamber of Commerce is always addressing issues that could impact the local business community. Whether it concerns Town By-Law changes, Town budgeting, or border crossing issues, we want to make sure your concerns are heard, and a favorable outcome targeted. In addition to our own lobbying efforts, we lobby on your behalf at the regional, provincial, and federal levels through our affiliations with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. As we may not always be aware of certain issues affecting your business, we encourage you to contact the Chamber with any municipal, regional, provincial, or federal concerns. We welcome your telephone and e-mail messages or in-person.

## Chamber Code of Conduct

Ontario Chamber of Commerce Member Code of Conduct. I/we recognize that membership in the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) brings with it a set of obligations and responsibilities which are essential to protecting the work and brand of the Chamber. I/we understand that failure to comply with the code of conduct could result in the termination of membership. As a member, I/we shall:

- ◆ Maintain the highest standards of conduct and act with integrity and dignity when interacting with partners, the public and the like.
- ◆ Conduct professional activities in a respectable manner which positively reflects Ontario's business community.
- ◆ Support and promote the Goals and Mission of the OCC.
- ◆ Respect the reputation and work of the OCC.
- ◆ Actively participate in or contribute to OCC committees or meetings where appropriate and lend my/our professional experience and expertise.
- ◆ Help support the development and growth of Ontario businesses.
- ◆ Respect the confidentiality requirements and privacy policies of the OCC.
- ◆ Promote a safe working environment, free from harassment, abuse or discrimination.
- ◆ Act in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of Canada.
- ◆ Abide by the by-laws and any conflict-of-interest guidelines of the OCC

## I do not have time to become involved in the Chamber

Those whose circumstances permit involvement, help by serving as volunteers on our projects and committees, but even those whose participation only consists of reading E-Announcements and paying their dues are very important to our success. They help by covering the costs of running the Chamber office and they help by spreading the word about the Chamber among their friends, customers, and neighbours. If time permits in the future, we welcome your active participation.

I do not have time.

When running your own business, you probably don't have time to answer hundreds of requests for information to bring new businesses, industry, residents, or tourists to our area, and you probably don't have the time to monitor legislation that affects your business. Therefore, it is especially important for you to participate financially with your fellow business community. The Chamber is here to make sure the things you do not have time to do, get done!

I am a professional.

The Chamber is for businesspeople. As a professional, you depend on a community with a high economic level. Therefore, so many professionals are Chamber members. We are working to create a good environment for you. Help us help you!

## I cannot afford to join the Chamber

We all must watch our expenses these days. Your dues are based on the number of full-time employees you have. The average cost of investing in your Chamber is less than \$0.50/day. This is the only community wide organization engaged in business promotion, culture, commerce, and tourism. What investment is more important to you as a businessperson, professional person, and citizen than such a comparatively small stake in the future of the area.

I do not make contributions.

Chamber membership is not a contribution, it is a tax-deductible investment. By investing your dollars and efforts as a concerned member of the business community, you are allowing the Chamber to build a healthy business community and improve the quality of life in the area.

I am just not interested!

Are you not interested in the progress of commercial and industrial businesses, or the people who strive to make a better quality of life for those in the area? Your Chamber is the leader when it comes to promoting you!!!

## So.....What are the Top 10 Reasons to Invest in Your Chamber?

- ◆ Networking Opportunities
- ◆ Strength in Numbers
- ◆ Advertising Opportunities
- ◆ Promotional Opportunities
- ◆ Committees of Interest
- ◆ Collective Business Voice
- ◆ Web Site Link Availability
- ◆ Community Pride
- ◆ Group Discounted Rates
- ◆ Community Updates

