



CEOs' Corner

The Chamber Board, committees and staff are fully engaged in rolling out new networking opportunities, organizing your annual favorite events and preparing to speak to issues impacting Kelowna businesses.

This past month our Chamber teamed with the Urban Development Institute (Okanagan) and Kelowna Home Builders to bring our united voices of concern about the impact of the HST referendum to our MLA's. We stressed the urgency for the Provincial and Federal governments to find a quick way to bring customers back to the drawing boards and Realtor offices. This vitally import construction industry has come to a halt as customers wait for the changes back to pre-HST conditions as they affect their real estate transactions.

We will keep this issue and the elimination of the Property Transfer Tax in front of the Provincial Government as we believe this contributes to a negative impact on affordable housing. The PTT adds increased upward pressure on wages, the attractiveness of living here and attracting skilled workers.

The HST impacted our membership in different ways, and the restaurant and service sectors will welcome the elimination of the tax and they too want a speedier return to a GST, and PST approach to encourage customer spending. The current information indicating an 18 month return to the old system is not fast enough for many sectors.

Members of the Provincial Standing Committee on Finance will be in Kelowna October 13th and our Chamber of Commerce will be presenting views like this. At any time, if you would like to share your opinions and ideas with members of our Kelowna committees working on advocacy, policy development or issues affecting your business, call me. The value of your membership in the Chamber increases every time you get involved in advocating for policy change at every level of government, when you attend events and make new business connections.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Caroline Grover".

Caroline Grover

For more information on the Kelowna Chamber, go to www.kelownachamber.org or contact Caroline directly at (250) 469-7356.