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Annual Report



OUR VISION

We aspire to be the most recognized, respected, trusted, and committed champion for the Sarnia Lambton business community, driving government decision-making and supporting the growth and success of our members across Lambton County

OUR MISSION

The Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce convenes, aligns, and advances the interests of our members through policy work, value added business services, and broad engagement to promote a prosperous Lambton County



2025 Board of Directors

Message From Our Board Chair

Angela Edlington

This year marked an exciting chapter in the story of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce—one characterized by momentum, visibility, and purpose.

Across the county and beyond, the Chamber showed up in meaningful and impactful ways. We hosted more events than ever before, creating vibrant spaces for connection, collaboration, and innovation. Our presence was felt not only in boardrooms and meeting halls, but throughout the community, where business leaders, entrepreneurs, partners, and stakeholders came together to shape a shared vision for growth.

Advocacy continued to be a powerful pillar of our work. The Chamber amplified the voice of business with confidence and clarity, engaging decision-makers and championing policies that support economic strength, opportunity, and long-term prosperity. We did not simply react to change—we helped lead it.

These efforts fueled extraordinary results. We are proud to have been recognized as the fastest growing chamber, in our membership category, across Canada – a distinction that reflects more than growth in numbers. It speaks to relevance, trust, and the belief that this Chamber is where business and local stakeholders come together to move forward.

This success belongs to our members, whose energy and engagement drive everything we do; to our sponsors and partners, who invest in our mission; and to our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose passion turns vision into action, working tirelessly to provide value and support to our members. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for being part of this journey.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and optimism. The foundation is strong and the direction is clear. Together, we will continue to elevate business, strengthen our region, advocate and collaborate on issues that matter, and shape a future we are proud to build.



Message From Our CEO

Carrie McEachern

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with both pride and optimism for the future of our Chamber and the community we serve. This year has been a testament to the resilience of our members, and the enduring strength of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, which continues to play a vital role in driving economic growth, advocating for business, and fostering regional collaboration.

Our advocacy efforts remained a cornerstone of our work in 2025. From our successful trip to Queen's Park, where 21 delegations met with provincial leaders to advance issues critical to local business, to ongoing engagement with government at all levels, we have amplified the voice of our business community and achieved tangible results that impact the region's economic landscape. These efforts reinforce our commitment to creating a business environment where members can thrive, grow, and innovate.

Membership growth and retention remained a priority, and I am proud to report continued success in both areas. Each new member strengthens our network and brings new perspectives, while our existing members remain the foundation of a vibrant, resilient business community. Together, we are demonstrating that collaboration is not just a principle, but a practice that drives meaningful outcomes for all.

2025 was also a year of celebration and reflection. We proudly marked the 120th anniversary of our incorporation, a milestone that speaks to over a century of commitment to local businesses. Additionally, being recognized as a founder in the 100-year history of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce highlights our longstanding role in shaping not just regional, but national business policy. These achievements remind us that our work today builds on a legacy of leadership and innovation.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus remains clear: optimism, collaboration, and continued advocacy. The challenges and opportunities facing our members are significant, and the path to success is through collective action. Without collaboration and support for each other, our community will not thrive. Let us commit to working together, leveraging our collective strength, and driving positive change for Sarnia Lambton and beyond. I extend my sincere gratitude to our small but mighty staff team, board of directors, Chamber members, and partners, for their dedication and unwavering support. Your engagement and energy fuel the Chamber's work and ensure that 2026 will be another year of meaningful impact, growth, and achievement.

Let's continue to do this together!



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

What a year!



State of Lambton



OBAA Winners



International Women's
Day



120th Anniversary Open
House



Queens Park Trip



Business Summit

65 EVENTS HELD THIS YEAR

A Snap Shot of the Successes 2025

2025 was a year defined by measurable growth, strong engagement, and expanded impact across all areas of Chamber activity. Through a focus on membership development, high-value programming, and strategic communications, we delivered tangible results for the business community.

Membership Growth & Engagement

We welcomed 107 new members in 2025, contributing to a strong and diverse membership base representing businesses of all sizes and sectors. Retention remained a priority, supported by ongoing engagement initiatives, enhanced member benefits, and direct outreach. Our membership continues to reflect the evolving needs of the regional economy.

Events & Participation

The Chamber hosted a robust calendar of programming, delivering 65 events throughout the year, including Business After Five networking events, signature breakfasts, and professional development sessions.

- 3,000+ total attendees participated in Chamber events
- 12 Business After Five events hosted
- 40+ signature events and educational sessions delivered

These events provided critical opportunities for business connection, visibility, and knowledge sharing.

Business Milestones & Community Growth

We proudly supported business growth and investment in the region through 20+ ribbon cutting ceremonies, marking new openings, expansions, and major milestones. These celebrations highlight continued economic activity and confidence in our local market.

Advocacy & Communications

Advocacy remained central to our mandate, ensuring the voice of business was heard on key local, provincial and federal issues

Our digital reach continued to expand significantly:

- 1 Million+ social media impressions across platforms
- Increased visibility through newsletters, campaigns, and event promotion

These efforts strengthened our ability to communicate with members and amplify business priorities.

107
New
Members



610
Members



88%
Member
Retention Rate



3000+ Event
Attendees



20+ Ribbon-
Cutting
Ceremonies



Over 1 Million
Social Media
Impressions



2025 Year in Review– Advocacy

In 2025, the Chamber actively advanced the interests of local businesses and the community through strategic advocacy and collaborative action. Key highlights include:

Local Infrastructure & Economic Development

- Our Transportation Committee presented to Sarnia City Council advocating for continued support and enhancement of Chris Hadfield Airport.
- United downtown businesses to form the Downtown Collective, supporting revitalization and coordinated advocacy for the downtown core.
- Provided a letter of support for the Bluewater Active and Connected Community Centre (BACE).



Community & Social Policy

- Submitted support to City Council for supportive housing initiatives, promoting collaboration with the business community.
- Encouraged the continued display of American flags on municipal buildings, fostering goodwill with cross-border partners.

Energy, Environment & Economic Policy

- Supported Atura Power's proposed riverside generating station with a letter to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.
- Advocated to the provincial government through a letter of support in designating Line 5 as critical energy infrastructure.
- Submitted comments on proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.
- Expressed concerns to Finance Canada regarding the anticipated 25% tariff on books, supporting local retailers.



2025 Year in Review– Advocacy

Direct Engagement with Policymakers

- Organized a two-day delegation to Queen's Park with 21 Chamber members, meeting provincial leaders to discuss local business priorities and strategies.
- Strengthened relationships across the region, ensuring local voices are heard at the highest levels.
- Hosted MPP Breakfast with special guest Minister Stephen Lecce
- Attended a press conference and reception to welcome Premier Ford to Sarnia-Lambton.
- Hosted a round table with Minister Rob Flack and the Sarnia Home Builder's Association.
- Hosted a roundtable with U.S. Consul General, Baxter Hunt.
- Hosted Minister Lisa Thompson as keynote speaker for our 2025 Business Summit.
- Hosted local dignitaries at many events and meetings throughout the year.



Provincial & Federal Advocacy

- Provided input on the 2026 federal budget and presented budget recommendations to the Ontario Ministry of Finance.
- Signatory on Ontario Chamber of Commerce letter to support post-secondary education investment
- Signatory on Ontario Chamber of Commerce re: the business perspectives on the Province's Civil Rules Review.
- Successfully presented the resolution "Maintaining Policy and Regulatory Consistency" at the OCC AGM and Policy Debate.

Through these efforts, the Chamber reinforced its role as a trusted, proactive advocate for Sarnia Lambton businesses, driving collaboration, growth, and a stronger, more resilient community.

2025 Board of Directors



Angela Edlington
Chair
Sarnia Concrete



Nicole Crosby
Past Chair



Steve Crozier
1st Vice Chair
Initia Real Estate



Brock Ferguson
2nd Vice Chair
Southwest Credit Union



Colin MacAdam
Treasurer
Imperial Sarnia Site



Peter Norris
Secretary
GMSB



Tim Gordon
Director
Enbridge



John Musgrave
Director
John Musgrave Leadership



John Filia
Director
Cooperators - F.Filia & Associates



Katie O'Brien
Director
Royal LePage Key Realty



Matthew Slotwinski
Director
CEO Sarnia Lambton
Economic Partnership



Gary Martin
Director
Lambton Federation of
Agriculture

2025 Staff

The team at the Sarnia Lambton Chamber is a committed group of professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds. We range from transplants to Sarnia from across Canada and internationally to lifelong, born-and-raised Sarnians. Our team's diversity is its strength, with a common passion for helping our city grow and prosper by helping the business community any way we can.



Carrie McEachran
CEO



Shauntelle Sandrin
Membership Coordinator



Nicole Crosby
Events Coordinator



Diane Nadeau
Accounting and Personal
Administrator



Aastha Singh
Marketing Coordinator



Lori Jones
Administrative Assistant

2025 also included staff transitions. We thank former team members for their contributions and wish them continued success

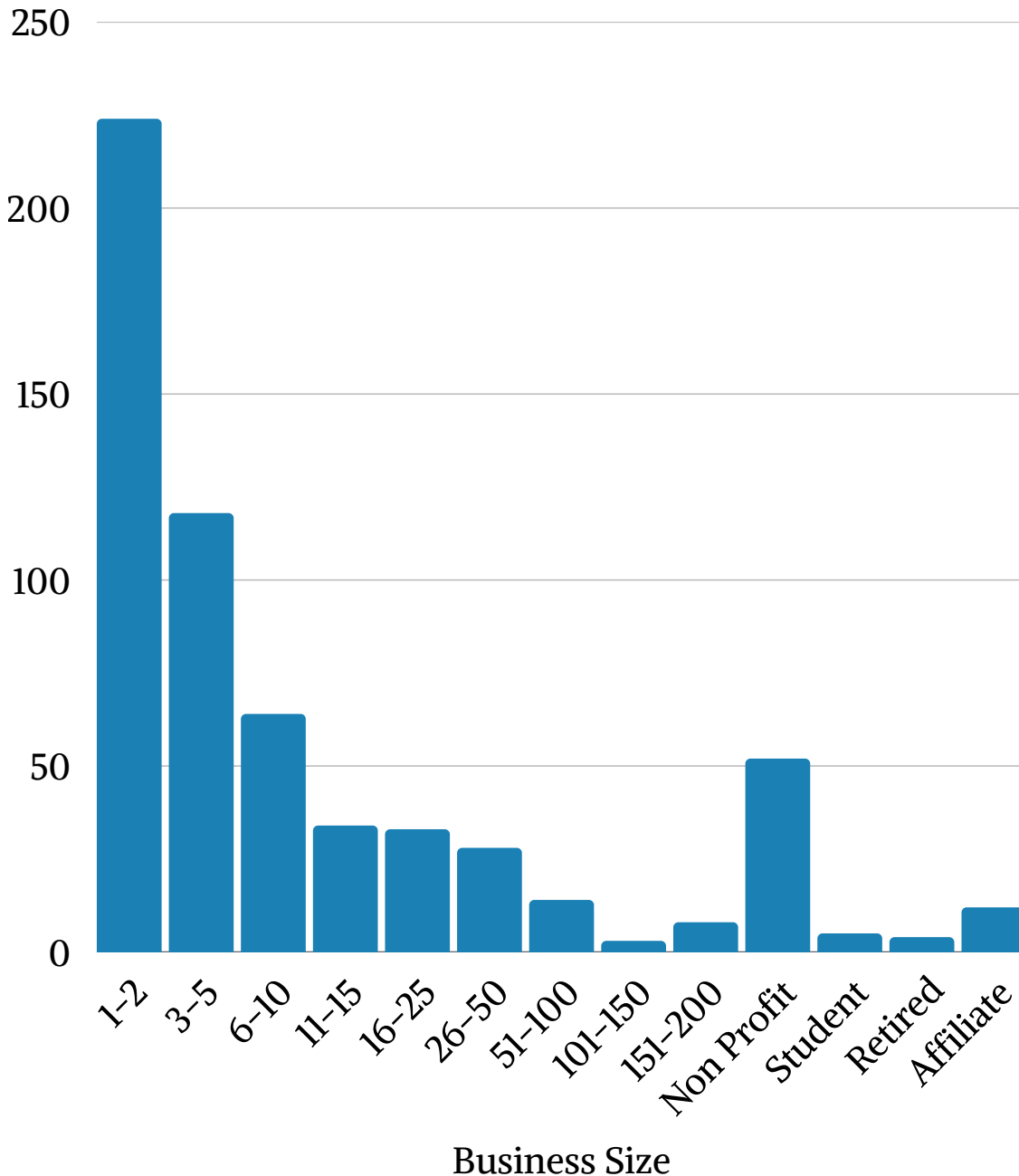


Hailey Johnson
Government Relations Assistant.



Robin Cooke
Marketing & Events Coordinator

Current Membership Breakdown



Diverse & Inclusive Membership Base

Our membership spans a wide range of industries including retail, professional services, manufacturing, and non-profit organizations. This diversity enables us to represent a comprehensive cross-section of the local economy and advocate effectively on behalf of all sectors.

Membership

Members of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce are the foundation of our local economy, the innovators, leaders, and advocates driving growth across our region. They are the voices helping to shape policy, strengthen our business environment, and build a thriving future for Sarnia-Lambton.

Together, we amplify that impact. We believe that when one business succeeds, it creates a ripple effect that benefits our entire community.

Through the Chamber, members gain more than connections—they gain meaningful relationships that support their success. They gain a stronger voice in the conversations that influence our region's future, and access to resources, insights, and opportunities that help their businesses grow and adapt.

Our commitment to being better together is at the core of everything we do. We advocate for business. We champion policies that create opportunity. We connect people, ideas, and resources to foster a stronger, more resilient business community.

Every day, we see the power of collaboration in action. We see businesses supporting one another, sharing knowledge, and forming partnerships that drive innovation. From entrepreneurs and small businesses to established industry leaders, our members work together to build a vibrant and prosperous Sarnia-Lambton.

At the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, we know that when our members succeed, our entire community succeeds. That is why we are here—to connect, advocate, and support the businesses that make our region strong.

Because together, we are stronger.



Not yet a member?

Everyone from startups to industry leaders can benefit from membership at the Sarnia Lambton Chamber. No matter your size, there's a membership level designed for you, with benefits that scale as you grow.

Join us and you'll find connections that open doors, insights that keep you ahead, discounts to support your bottom line and a community that has your back.

Become part of something bigger.
Join the Sarnia Lambton Chamber today at slchamber.ca

Thank you to our 2025 Volunteers

The success of our Chamber would not be possible without the dedication, passion, and generosity of our volunteers. Throughout the year, our volunteers have contributed their time, expertise, and energy to support events, programs, advocacy efforts, and member engagement initiatives.

Transportation Committee

Mark Lumley-Chair
Jason Cole
Kelly Provost
Joe Dedecker
Gary Martin
Mabel Higgins
Tim Gordon
Bill Yurchuk
Kyle Walker
Kurtis Gray
Rick Charlebois

Young Professionals Committee

Samantha Skully Co-Chair
Kshitij Sule -Co-Chair
Nicholas Katz
Tyler Kooze
Brittany Burling
Andre Jean
Meaghan Columbus

Government Affairs Committee

Sue Burgel-Chair
Tracy Krull
Dean Pearson
Marshall Kern
Shauna Carr
Gary Martin
Kristina Zimmer
Dave Grant
Matt McEachran
Carly Cox

Business After Five Committee

Stephen Victor - Chair
Steve Crozier
Samantha Skully
Karen Callies
Glen Phillips
Elizabeth Toms
Sue Burgel

OBAA Committee

Meagan George
Brenda Hall
Tiffany Lucas
Katherine Walker
Barb Hayes

Green Committee

Jacqueline Marcoux - Chair
Ken Phillips
Laura Greaves
Gary Martin
Mary Jean O'Donnell
Kristina Zimmer
Stephen Victor

Women in Business Committee

Tarin Oxley - Chair
Nicki Straus
Candice Snell
Theresa Kimmerly
Heather Kostuk
Katelyn Charman
Dana Cole
Barb Hayes



Thank you to our 2025 Sponsorship Partners



