

June 2026

Inside the Chamber



PICTOU COUNTY

chamber Newsletter

**Your Source for Local
Business News and
Events!**

(902) 755-3463 | connect@pictoucountychamber.com
pictoucountychamber.com

Welcome New Members



**THE HECTOR
HERITAGE QUAY**

Pictou, Nova Scotia

The Hector Heritage Quay is one of Nova Scotia's major cultural tourist attractions. The Quay is home to the Ship Hector, a full-sized replica of the original ship which brought some of the first emigrants from Scotland to Nova Scotia in 1773.

Relive the tale of these early settlers and the hardships they faced beginning a new life in a new land and the integral role the Mi'kmaki people played in their survival. The site also features a newly renovated Interpretive Centre, a working Blacksmith Shop, Carpentry Shop, Rigging Room & a Gift Shop.



OPTIV
CLARIFY. ALIGN. GROW

OPTIV works with business owners, leaders, and their teams to clarify strategy, align priorities, and support sustainable, long-term growth. Through practical planning, clear action, and coaching, they help organizations focus on what matters most so they can grow with confidence and consistency. We're delighted to have them join our Chamber network.



**TRUTH
TARA™**

We're pleased to welcome Truth Tara to the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce. Truth Tara is a digital platform that helps individuals make informed decisions about their personal safety by connecting them with trusted, local resources. Their mission is to empower community members with clear information, support, and a sense of belonging.



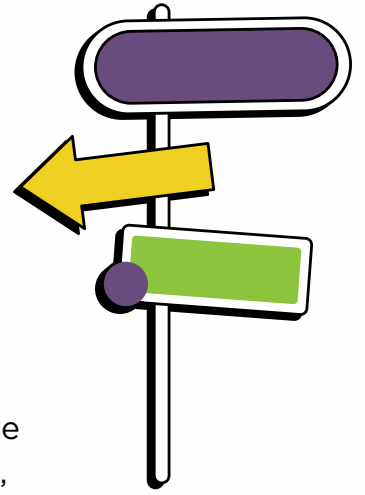
Kids First delivers free, family-centered programs across more than 20 communities in Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough Counties. Using a strength-based, family-focused model, they offer support for pregnant women, parents, and young children through prenatal education, postnatal groups, breastfeeding support, home visiting, parent-child programs, and drop-in services. With four permanent family resource centres and extensive outreach, Kids First creates safe, supportive spaces where families can learn, play, and grow.



**PICTOU COUNTY
chamber**

Meet the Board

A Roadmap of the Chamber Team



Buckle up — our Chamber is hitting the road with a brand-new Board of Directors and Treasurer guiding the journey ahead. As we chart the course for growth, collaboration, and community impact, we're excited to have this incredible team in the driver's seat — and we can't wait to see where the road takes us next. We're grateful for their willingness to serve our community and look forward to the energy and insight they'll bring to the work ahead!



Lydia Sayeau — President

An entrepreneur and creative leader, Lydia brings expertise in photography, graphic design, and media production. As CEO of BRAEVR Media and New Brooklyn Media, she leads with a focus on connection, innovation, and community impact.



David Hutchings — Vice President

With 30+ years in banking, David specializes in group retirement and benefits through RBC Group Advantage. He and his wife also operate Go West Homestead, a microgreens farm in Merigomish, reflecting his strong ties to local agriculture and business.



David MacDonald — Treasurer

A seasoned financial controller at Michelin, David has nearly two decades of experience in finance and advanced manufacturing. A lifelong Pictou County resident, he is deeply involved in community organizations and youth development.



Ann MacGregor, CCDP — Secretary

Ann is an Employer Engagement Specialist with Nova Scotia Works, supporting local businesses with recruitment, wage subsidies, and workforce strategies. With a background in radio and communications, she excels at building strong employer relationships.

Meet the Board



Laura Rodgers — Director

Director of Human Resources at Eastcut, Laura specializes in talent strategy, recruitment, and organizational development. She is known for fostering strong workplace cultures and supporting leadership growth.



Breton MacDonnell — Director

A financial analyst at Sobeys, Breton brings strategic and analytical strength to the Board. He is committed to long-term economic growth and supports the Chamber through its Finance and Governance Committees.



Liz LaPiere — Director

As Fund Development Officer at Summer Street Industries, Liz leads fundraising and partnership initiatives that support inclusion and workforce participation. She also contributes to the Chamber's Events Committee.



Maxine Mann — Director

A respected leader in education and workforce development, Maxine has held senior roles at NSCC, Nova Scotia Health, and Fleming College. She now consults on equity, inclusion, and system transformation across sectors.

As we set off on this year's journey, we're grateful to have such a dedicated group helping steer the way. With every stop, milestone, and unexpected detour, this Board and Treasurer will play a key role in keeping our Chamber moving forward with purpose and momentum. Here's to a year of fresh ideas, strong collaboration, and a shared commitment to supporting the businesses and communities that make Pictou County home.



Events

Summer is fast approaching, and with all the excitement of longer days we are starting to look forward to our favorite event of the year - the Business Achievement Awards.

This year we want to hear from you!

Nominations for all eligible award categories are now live. Use the QR to access the nomination form and tell us who you think is deserving of recognition this fall.

Submission deadline:
August 21st, 2026

Nomination Link



We're welcoming summer with a Business After-Hours you won't want to miss. Join us at Go West Homestead on June 18 from 4-6 PM for a relaxed BBQ, fresh country air, and a chance to explore the Homestead's thriving micro-greenery.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, learn more about the innovative work happening at this beautiful local farm, and enjoy a laid-back evening in Merigomish.

📍 1870 Shore Road, Merigomish, NS



Events



[Register Here](#)



Lunch & Learn: Employee Ownership & Succession Planning — June 9

With the Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) tax incentive now permanent, new opportunities are emerging for business succession and employee-led ownership transitions.

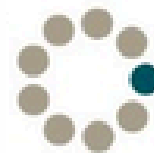
Join us June 9 for a focused session with Rachel Bachmann, offering practical insights for rural businesses, support organizations, and entrepreneurs exploring acquisition or transition options. Ideal for:

- Economic development and business support organizations
- Advisors working with owners nearing succession
- Businesses beginning transition planning
- Entrepreneurs interested in acquiring existing businesses

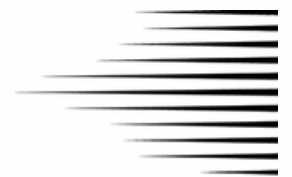
First Steps in Social Media

Wednesday June 10th at 6:30pm

Simple strategies for micro businesses to reach customers and build confidence online



Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library
New Glasgow



Call 902-752-8233 to register!

St Barbara is Hiring!

Our sponsor and community supporter, St Barbara, is hiring for several roles based in the Stellarton area.

Want to be part of a dynamic team making big waves in our region? Check out the job listings on their website for more information on the application process, or to learn more about the local opportunities right here in Pictou County.

*Use the QR code to access their
job listings or visit:*

<https://stbarbaragold.ca/careers/>



Human Resources Generalist:

Responsible for the day-to-day activities of recruitment, onboarding, training, employee relations, progressive discipline, and benefits enrolment.

Administrative Assistant: Responsible for day-to-day administrative support to ensure efficient operation of office.

Procurement Superintendent:

Responsible for leading the contracts management and performance, as well as the sourcing and procurement function for the Atlantic operations.

Buyer: Responsible for the research, sourcing, negotiation, and purchase of materials, supplies, and equipment for the company under strict adherence to the Procurement Policy and Delegation of Authorities.

15-Minute Shipping Consult: 1-on-1 with a Pro



➤ **Secure your 15-min spot now!**

Speaker: France Zacharakis

Book Individual Session: bit.ly/4q9f3Hv

Presented by:

FlagShip