

YLW Record Breaking Year

New destinations, new airlines and growing passenger numbers created a record-breaking year for the Kelowna International Airport (YLW).

With the addition of United Airlines to L.A., Sunwing to Ixtapa Zihautanejo Mexico, Northwestern to Abbotsford and Red Deer, Air North to Whitehorse, and Pacific Coastal to Cranbrook, it's easy to see how the airport served >1.5 million passengers last year.

As of February 2014, WestJet also added Fort McMurray to its list of daily direct flights between Kelowna.

Airport Director, Sam Samaddar, attributed the new air carriers, new destinations and more partnerships with travel and business stakeholders to their 4.11% increase over 2012 numbers.



Wholesale Sports Outdoor Outfitters Opens Doors in Westbank

A new mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, Wholesale Sports, opened its doors at the Snyatan Shopping Centre, February 6.

Taking over the space previously occupied by Future Shop, following the closure of eight Future Shop's and seven Best Buy's across Canada last year due to head office strategy of wanting more small-concept web and mobile stores, the Wholesale Sports grand opening was well received by the public and Snyatan tenants alike.

The event began with a prayer and blessing of the store by WFN Elder Grouse Barnes, followed by a speech and ribbon cutting ceremony by Councillor De Guevara and Wholesale Sports staff.

"We have a deep respect and commitment to the land on which we hunt, fish and camp, and our relationship with Westbank First Nation means a lot to us," said Glenn Bingley, Chief Operating Officer for Wholesale Sports.

The Westbank store is the 13th Wholesale Sports location in Western Canada and the second to open in B.C. in the last 12 months. A wholly-owned subsidiary of UFA, it is the largest multi-channel retailer in Western Canada dedicated to the outdoors.

WFN Career Fair 2014

WFN will be hosting its 2nd annual Career Fair, **March 13**, 10:00am to 2:00pm in the WFN Gymnasium, 1920 Quail Lane.

Last year saw 450 students and community members visit over 70 booths attended by various businesses, education providers and health care professionals. The Career Fair is aimed at educating our youth in choosing paths based on future opportunities. **For more info or to register for a booth, visit www.wfn.ca.**

Did You Know: According to Stats Cda, the First Nation population is increasing faster, and is younger (median age: 26), than the Non-Aboriginal (median age: 41) population? This growing workforce is well educated with half having post-secondary credentials.



L to R: Mandi Carroll (WFN), Meaghan Meyer (Flight Centre), Chris Cruz (Westbank Chamber) and Dolores Ellingboe (Chair WFN EDC), help to welcome Kootenays dignitaries, November 2013



The Chamber AGM in January saw the unveiling of a new name, mission statement, logo and re-branding for the Westside Chamber organization. Now called the 'Greater Westside Board of Trade', Co-Chair Norm LeCavalier says, "The goal is to develop an image that will create a higher profile throughout the Greater Westside."

Interested in becoming a Member? Benefits include business advocacy, networking and educational opportunities. As well, your Membership to the Greater Westside can save you money...

The **Group Insurance Plan** provides Members affordable and flexible coverage with more guarantees, more stability, and more services. Including life, health, disability, dental, vision and travel insurance, it is the #1 plan for small business across Canada.

For more info on the Benefits Plan, contact Debra at 250-861-8834 or debra@tdbenefits.ca, or the Greater Westside Board of Trade at 250-768-3378 and admin@gwboardoftrade.com.

WFN Lands and Economic Development Conference 2013

WFN's Lands & Economic Development Conference in November was a great success. Lim lemt (thank you) to all who attended!

With over 180 delegates including 13 First Nation bands from across Canada, as well as neighbouring municipalities, partners and businesses, participation was great. Participant feedback included:

"Awesome job", "Good variety of topics, "Excellent presentations," "Helpful to understand leasing process," "Thanks for sharing", ...

Presentations from the conference can be found on the web at www.wfn.ca/salmon/ecdev.htm, including:

"Our Stories; Our Voice", "Our Lands; Our People", "WFN Laws & Authorities", "Processing WFN Lands", "Retail Taxation on WFN Lands", "Leasing WFN Lands", "Planning & Development"



Above: Chief Robert Louie delivers keynote address at WFN's 2013 Lands & EcDev Conference

WFN Retail Directory



WFN's Retail and Business Directory is currently being updated for the 2014/15 year.

With a reserve land base totalling 5,340 acres, and over 1.3 million sq ft of commercial real estate, WFN is proud to promote our over 400 businesses.

If you are a WFN business who did not see your listing in last year's guide, please let us know at communications@wfn.ca.

To view a copy of last year's Directory, visit: www.wfn.ca/docs/retail_directory_2013.pdf

WFN Telephone Directory

Westbank First Nation Government	250 769 4999
Administration, Development Services, Engineering, Records Management, Property Management, Economic Development, Communications, Legal Services, Lands Registry, Human Resources, Intergovernmental Affairs, Title & Rights, Heritage/Culture, Finance, Taxation & Assessment	
WFN Health & Wellness, Youth & Education	250 768 0227
WFN Recreation	250 768 7337
WFN Utilities & Public Works	250 707 3332
WFN Law Enforcement	Richard Johns 250 717 6147
	Dan Heaton 250 863 8247
	Wayne Murdock 250 317 4596

Happy 2014 from Your WFN Economic Development Commission (EDC)

DOLORES ELLINGBOE is the Chair of the WFN EDC and is employed with Fortis BC as an Aboriginal Properties Specialist.

JAMES COBLE is the Co-Chair, a WFN member and the Director of Student Services for Okanagan College.

NELSON DERICKSON works for Westbank First Nation Holdings while completing his business degree in accounting and management.

ANDREA LAVIGNE is the EDC's Youth Member. As a WFN Member, she has worked in Intergovernmental Affairs, including participation at the negotiating table for WFN title and rights. Andrea is in her fourth year at UBC Okanagan, majoring in Indigenous Studies.

DOUG PANTON works at the Bank of Montreal as a Mortgage Specialist, Branch Manager & Sales Leader for the past 22 years.

BARRY PORRELLI is a lawyer and the principal of Porrelli Law. He has assisted with most major commercial developments on WFN lands.

PHYLLIS SUNDSTROM has worked for the School District, Federal Government, Brenda Mines and 28 years at Kelowna Gen. Hospital.

MICKEY WERSTUIK is an elected official for WFN and was also an integral part of WFN's historic transition to a self-governing nation.

MANDI CARROLL is WFN's Communications and Economic Development Manager, responsible for supporting businesses on WFN lands and ensuring a business-friendly environment.

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EDC Mission: Assist and facilitate the WFN economic community, and Chief & Council, to create a healthy, environmentally sustainable and dynamic economy on Westbank lands, based on the values of self-reliance.

Community. Leadership. Pride.