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## *Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce Awarded Accreditation*

At the recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Accreditation Council of Canada, the Council was pleased to be able to recognize chambers from across the country achieving or maintaining their accreditation.

Developed in 2004 by a team of chamber executives, in conjunction with provincial and territorial chambers and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the accreditation program is operated by an arms-length organization called the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada (CACC). The CACC is composed of Chamber representatives from across the country. The Council meets twice per year to review applications for accreditation.

To achieve accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in critical areas pivotal to a Chamber's success, including organization/governance, policy and advocacy and membership programs/services.

"Accreditation is the acknowledgment that member chambers have been successfully evaluated against a rigorous set of national standards and have demonstrated excellence in Chamber management," said Sheri Somerville, President of the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada.

"We are proud to recognize these chambers as examples of leading organizations making a difference in communities across the country – keeping 'the voice of business' loud and strong" said Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

"In the increasingly complex world of industry associations from which business choose to belong, the Chamber network is the only Accredited business association. Our documented Standards of Excellence set Chambers apart and provides assurance to member businesses that the PEC Chamber delivers programs and services based on a certified level of competency and essential standards of excellence," said Lesley Lavender, Executive Director of the Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce.

There are 66 accredited chambers in Canada.

### **Media Contact:**

Lesley Lavender,  
Executive Director  
[lesley@pecchamber.com](mailto:lesley@pecchamber.com)

*The Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce's focus is to channel the collective strength of the business community to improve the economy.*