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To the Members of the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce

It is with great pleasure that I reflect back on my first term as your Board Chair of the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce.

I want to acknowledge the value of having a highly functional, focused and dedicated Board of Directors and excellent staff that enables our Chamber to represent the needs and interests of our members and be a highly respected organization in Campbell River and throughout BC.

In 2016, our advocacy efforts saw our local Chamber successfully fighting for the creation of a stable and prosperous forestry sector, addressing concerns around business succession and access to a skilled workforce and then taking positions on issues such as a proposed minimum wage increase. We took our advocacy efforts to the street with our annual Business Walk to further highlight what business needs to thrive and prosper in Campbell River. Parking, improved events and more defined safety measures in the downtown core were among key issues members identified.

Our Chamber worked hard to provide access to timely, local, relevant data that informs our members for decision making and drives attention to find solutions to barriers to doing business. Our efforts were focused to ensure future prosperity in Campbell River via a pro-business climate. We promoted the talents and skills available right here in our community through events like Future15 and the Business Leaders Luncheon series. We made sure our voice was heard by government through the luncheons we hosted with provincial Ministers including Minister Coleman, Thomson and Fassbender. We connected members in new ways so you could profile your business, promote your business to other Chamber members and access benefits and services that are exclusive to being a Chamber member. We did all of this to support you and add value to you being a member of the Campbell River Chamber. It's worth it to note that over 60% of our members might never attend an event but they support the Chamber year-over-year with their membership, knowing that creates a strong Chamber to fight on behalf of small business and a strong, healthy local economy so their business can thrive and prosper.

As we build upon the pillars in our three year strategic plan and push forward on the positive continued growth that our Chamber has enjoyed over the last year, we will continue to represent the changing needs of our members, add value to Chamber membership and support a positive business climate for our members to prosper, grow and thrive in.

Corby Lamb,
Corby Lamb, Campbell River Chamber Board Chair 2015/2016