



# Lake Champlain Chamber



# Who is the Lake Champlain Chamber?

The Lake Champlain Chamber is a non-profit organization based in Northwest Vermont that is in the business of seeking and supporting economic opportunity for all Vermonters

We believe that a good job—in the private, public, or non-profit sector—is the best path to economic well-being and resiliency.

As a business membership organization, we serve our business community with benefits and solutions. We also foster connections between employers and employees, among big companies and small, between our member-employers and their representatives in Montpelier.



# Economic Opportunity Agenda

1. Advocating for economic opportunity
2. Celebrating business ownership and entrepreneurship
3. Promoting a robust, diversified visitor economy
4. Cultivating community leadership
5. Nurturing emerging talent



# Leadership Champlain

Leadership Champlain is our professional development and community engagement program, with a mission to foster growth and leadership in professionals who will serve our community now and in the future.

**Tori Colarusso**

Director of Communications and Leadership Development

[tori@vermont.org](mailto:tori@vermont.org)

802.863.3489 x201



# Talent BTV

Talent BTV is our suite of initiatives that educate, connect, and inspire our current and future workforce. We develop local talent to provide our community members with the resources they need to succeed while ensuring our local businesses have a highly talented workforce.

Erin Bombard

Director of Business and Talent Development

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# LaunchVT

LaunchVT celebrates and accelerates start-up businesses through education, coaching and access to capital. We do this work statewide, working with a variety of partners and start-ups.

## John Antonucci

Director of Entrepreneurship

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# Hello Burlington & the Vermont Convention Bureau

Hello Burlington and the Vermont Convention Bureau actively promote a robust visitor economy. That means telling the world about our special place, its people, its hospitality, its history, its art and culture, its outdoor recreation. We encourage both business and leisure travel with economic development and relocation in mind.

## Jeff Lawson

Vice President of Tourism & Marketing, Hello Burlington

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# Advocacy

At the local, state, and federal level, we connect businesses to the information they need to inform public policy. In a couple of weeks, we'll host our first legislative breakfast of the year where attendees can connect virtually with those that represent us in Montpelier.

Austin Davis

Government Affairs Manager

[austin@vermont.org](mailto:austin@vermont.org)

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And there is so  
much more...

Importantly, we work with businesses so that they can move forward whether it's a timely information resource or tracking down an answer. We encourage anyone to reach out to us when they have a question or need.

For more information, [lccvermont.org](http://lccvermont.org)



# Chamber Legislative Priorities



# Economic Recovery Grants

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- We are grateful for the work of the Vermont Legislature in putting forward funds to support businesses forced to close either partially or entirely through no fault of their own.
- Rapid deployment not only saved businesses, it push dollars with strict federal parameters through the economy to land back in state coffers.
- The last round only covered losses from March to September; a lot has happened since then.
- Taking a deeper look at:
  - New businesses
  - Events broadly

# Unemployment Trust Fund

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- We are very grateful for the solution that this Committee put forward in the fall to strike the correct balance on UI rate schedules. While that legislation did not make it across the finish line in the Senate, we hope the now reconvened Legislature can act swiftly on this to allow ample time for the Department to undergo its work of rate setting.
- Ensure that there is clear guidance for the Department and employers around rate impacts and what is a “COVID qualifying event” and attributed to the economic downturn.
- Move towards modernizing the UI system.

# Invest in the Vermont Brand

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- Invest in the Vermont Brand to Promote Tourism, Relocation, and Retention of New and Remote Workers
- COVID-19 has greatly reduced our ability to welcome visitors while other destinations have increased their marketing. Last year LCC and other organizations made requests to this Committee to dedicate funding to marketing Vermont and we believe additional funding should be dedicated this year

## SAVE THE DATE



**TOURISM DAY** *at the State House*  
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

# Restoring, Retaining, and Expanding Transportation Service



- Vermont has the opportunity to be the “work from home” state
- As many individuals might have relocated here to work remotely during the crisis and might be able to continue that post-crisis. Vermont could position itself well for a modern workforce by strengthening transportation options to major metropolitan areas for individuals and satellite offices.
- Train and Airline Service - the temporary loss of service will require attention to restore and incentivize use.

# Restore a close relationship with our neighbors to the north

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- LCC would like to see resources allocated to growing our relationship with Canadian markets, and more specifically residents of the Province of Quebec.
- LCC has facilitated these relationships in the past and intends to restore those efforts to assist in recovery.

# Childcare, Broadband, & Housing

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- Direct federal relief resource in a manner that provides lasting investment in childcare, broadband, and affordable housing
- These three issues have plagued Vermont's progress for a decade, and we hope that federal dollars can be used to provide relief that both meet urgent needs and lays the brickwork for long-term prosperity.
- A great example of this was the fantastic work of the Department of Housing and Community Development to direct federal dollars into reinvestment of existing, dilapidated housing to create low barrier housing for Vermonters.
- By putting Vermonters to work right now on infrastructure improvements at a time such as this, we can create a multiplier effect with each dollar injected into the economy.



# Other Areas

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- Create and Fund the Previously Proposed “Better Places, Safer Spaces” Program
- Codify Alcohol To-Go
- Build on Housing Improvement Efforts
- SALT Deduction Work Around



LAKE CHAMPLAIN CHAMBER  
**JANUARY**  
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

**Monday, January 25 | 7:30am to 9:00am**

**Special Guest: Governor Phil Scott**

# Thank you

## Austin Davis

Government Affairs Manager

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## Catherine Z. Davis

President

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