

CHICKWAGON!

In 2009, the Chickwagon! Foundation for Women celebrated their 10th anniversary. Founded in 1999, the Chickwagon! was brought to life by a group of daring women trying to break into the sport of chuckwagon racing and they purchased their first chuckwagon tarp in the Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby. Rick Fraser drove that wagon over the 10 days of Stampede.

A not-for-profit Calgary organization, Chickwagon! has gone above and beyond in demonstrating outstanding service to the community. They have provided over 10 years of hard work and tireless dedication. And they have made a difference that is visible, measurable and impactful. They have implemented, improved, supported and assisted dozens of local projects and programs – with and for the YWCA as well as many other charities and organizations (Wings of Hope, Calgary Women's Emergency Shel-



Pictured here presenting the cheque from left to right is Lorraine Jones (Chickwagon President 2008-2009), Joanna Domes (Calgary YWCA), Chris Shain (Chickwagon Treasurer 2006-2009), Vanessa Laine (Chickwagon President 2010-2011) and Doreen Wenham (Chickwagon Art Committee Chair 2010).

ter, The Women's Centre, Safe Haven, Ranch 118 Youth Project). This support has come by way of over \$350,000 in donations, hours of time, gifts-

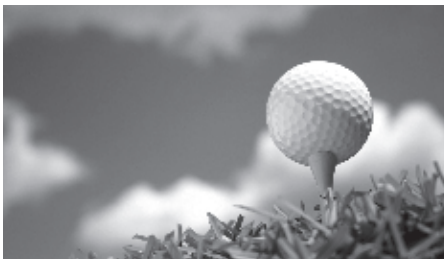
in-kind, mentorship, friendship and advocacy. Most recently, the group has established a scholarship in the faculty of social work at the University of Calgary – intent on the belief that breaking the cycle of violence and poverty comes not only from direct support but also from education, knowledge and awareness.

Organized, effective and focused, the group works to its vision and mission with a passion that is unsurpassed. Their work has become a vocation – exposing and supporting areas of critical importance to the City of Calgary: health and wellness, homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, women, children and families. What has Chickwagon! done for Calgarians? It has built a legacy of support, mentorship and empowerment for hundreds of women, their children and their families.

On February 25, 2010, the Chickwagon! Foundation for Women hosted their annual general meeting at which their yearly donation was presented to the YWCA. Through the Chickwagon!'s annual art auction, a cheque in the amount of \$18,640.00 was presented to Joanna Domes of the Calgary YWCA.

In 2010, the Chickwagon! Foundation for women will once again have

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their name on one of the 36 chuckwagon tarps at the Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby. In partnership with Heninger Toyota, Chickwagon! was once again able to buy Rick Fraser as their driver for the third time. The members of the Chickwagon! are once again looking forward to participating in this year's Calgary Stampede and to continue their support to the YWCA and the Calgary community. **BIC**

Alberta's Competitiveness Under the Microscope

Study finds the province least competitive in oil and gas



Jack Mintz, director of the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

After months of awaiting the release of the Alberta government's competitiveness review study, the University of Calgary took the lead by releasing a different study in March that confirms what a lot of people in the oilpatch already knew: Alberta is the least competitive energy jurisdiction in North America when it comes to the oil and gas industry.

When Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Texas were compared, the result was that in most cases Alberta came in dead last. "Contrary to some public perception, the oil and

gas sectors, including the oilsands, are much more highly taxed than other sectors in the Alberta economy," says Jack Mintz, director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.

Higher tax and royalty burdens on new investments in Alberta have made it the least competitive. Higher prices of oil under Alberta's structure of the much-criticized royalty review, makes the province even less competitive.

More competitive environments were found in Saskatchewan and B.C. Tweaking Alberta's royalty regime may help put us on a more even footing, yet the burden on investment is twice as high on oil and gas – the powerhouse of our economy – compared to other sectors in the Alberta economy.

B.C.'s harmonized sales tax (coming into play on July 1, 2010) will remove "significant taxes" on business purchases of capital, making it slightly more competitive than Saskatchewan. In Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia, there is actually a "negatively measured burden" because companies obtain a fiscal subsidy and a very low tax and royalty burden. Texas – where the tax system is very different – still measures more competitive than Alberta, according to the study. **BIC**



"The Truck Drivers Dilemma"

Original painting from Alain Gagné available from Webster Galleries.

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