



Joint Media Release

December 2, 2019

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES LAUNCH SURVEY TO ESTABLISH BUSINESS PRIORITIES

The Town of Sexsmith, Town of Wembley, Town of Beaverlodge, Village of Hythe and the City of Grande Prairie have come together to officially launch a new Business Retention & Expansion survey as part of a Regional Economic Development Strategy.

The goal of the survey is to better understand the future plans and needs of local businesses and how business owners/managers view their communities as a place to do business. The information from the survey will be used to plan future economic development activities focused on the top priorities of local businesses.

MDB Insight, an economic development consulting firm, has been retained to assist with the project. The company will be working with municipal staff to review the completed surveys for challenges and opportunities that the local business community is facing.

Businesses are encouraged to participate in the telephone survey and be aware that since selection is random, they may be contacted between December 2 and 20. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

"We are excited to promote and grow business in our region," said Town of Sexsmith Mayor, Kate Potter. "We look forward to your feedback so that we can make improvements and see this vital part of our community thrive."

"The Town of Wembley is excited to be part of the Alberta Community Partnership program, to collaborate with the other municipalities in the region in taking part in an economic development growth study," said Town of Wembley Mayor, Chris Turnmire. "Anytime we can work together on a regional basis it strengthens the whole region."

“The Town of Beaverlodge would like to acknowledge the importance of the regional economic development strategy and that all the findings will be taken seriously for the future of our community,” said Town of Beaverlodge Mayor, Gary Rycroft. “Change is inevitable and we must work together to ensure a successful outcome.”

“This is an exciting opportunity that will help us build an economic development strategy for Hythe and the Region,” said Village of Hythe Mayor, Brian Peterson. “We look forward to the involvement of our business community on this project.”

“We are eager to increase collaboration with our urban neighbours in order to drive economic growth in the region,” said City of Grande Prairie Mayor, Bill Given. “We appreciate the opportunity to work with Towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Wembley and the Village of Hythe to develop a Regional Economic Development Strategy that will benefit each of our communities.”

The project launched in October 2019 and is scheduled to last until January 2020 when all the results of the surveys are gathered and analyzed. A presentation and release of the final results will provide this valuable information to Council and the community.

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