

Partnership to boost EcDev opportunities through improved collaboration

(Penticton, BC – August 21, 2018) – In accordance with goals outlined in the 2018-2022 Economic Development Strategic Plan, the City of Penticton, in collaboration with twelve other organizations, is entering into a partnership aimed at formalizing how information is shared, priorities are set and common interests are identified when working towards the collective objective of developing Penticton's economy. Known as the Penticton Economic Development Partnership, the membership includes:

- City of Penticton
- Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen
- Downtown Penticton Association
- Okanagan College
- Penticton Indian Band
- Penticton Indian Band Development Corporation
- Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce
- Penticton Industrial Development Association
- Transport Canada – Penticton Airport
- Travel Penticton
- SOS Local Immigration Partnership
- South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services
- University of British Columbia / Mitacs

"A major focus for Economic Development under its new direction was to help facilitate opportunities for partnerships within the community. We are so grateful for the incredible economic impact each of these organizations and their members have in our community and the region and with the establishment of this operational partnership, look forward to continuing the positive momentum into the future"

Anthony Haddad, Director of Development Services.

"Tourism is a major economic driver for Penticton and area. This new collaboration between the City and key community partners is an important step to foster creative discussion and initiate new ideas for sustainable growth for the tourism sector and overall economic health of the community. Travel Penticton looks forward to learn more about the other participants to build and maintain long-term collaborative relationships."

Thom Tischik, Executive Director – Travel Penticton

"We are determined to develop a government and economic system that supports members equally and addresses poverty in every way we can. Working in partnership with the other economic players in the region is a critical part of this process."

Jonathan Baynes, CEO PIB Development Corporation

"At UBC's Okanagan campus, we place a priority on partnerships that emphasize regional social and economic development. We are pleased to partner with the City of Penticton on this initiative and look forward to working with the organizations involved on new research collaborations and opportunities for students in the South Okanagan."

Deborah Buszard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan

"We want to make sure individuals trying to better their economic situation know of the initiatives and resources out there. In a small town we have the luxury of getting to know the individual, and that enables each of our organizations to ensure we point you to the right organization/program and not waste your time or tax payer dollars."

Anthony Mondia, General Manager, Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen

"Serving and engaging the community is one of the College's key directions, so we view this partnership as yet another way we can gain valuable insights into the educational needs of the communities in the South Okanagan," says

Jim Hamilton, Okanagan President

"I am very thrilled to represent the College in this partnership and very excited to see how we can contribute and collaborate with our partners in Penticton. There are lots of amazing opportunities that are going to emerge from these relationships."

Eric Corneau, Regional Dean South Okanagan-Similkameen

"To support regional economic goals, medium sized communities are competing to attract employees and entrepreneurs. Working as a collective to build a welcoming community will be critical for attracting newcomer talent."

Nora Hunt-Haft, SOSLIP Coordinator

"SOICS is a key partner for local employers hiring immigrants to work in this area. We assist with training and settlement needs, last year serving clients from 97 countries of origin."

Tahira Saeed, SOICS Executive Director.

Contact:

Anthony Haddad
Director of Development Services
City of Penticton
250-490-2520