



News Release

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“District of 100 Mile House 2019 Business Walks Report Now Available”

For Immediate Release

October 1, 2019 – The District of 100 Mile House, in partnership with the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce and the Province of British Columbia, have released the findings from the 3rd Annual Business Walks. Business Walks is a program in which local, regional and provincial organizations partner to ask a few focused questions of local business regarding what is working for their business and what is not. Responses are then used to guide the community in providing business supports that achieve maximum impact and address business owners’ greatest needs.

The 2019 Business Walks was conducted on May 1st, providing a snapshot in time which fell just prior to the forestry announcements. This year, the Business Walks was expanded to include the industrial area businesses in the Exeter Station Road area. As a result, 118 businesses were visited compared to 72 businesses last year. Twenty business leaders volunteered for this morning blitz, including representatives from partner organizations like the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce, the Province of British Columbia, Work BC, Community Futures Cariboo-Chilcotin, South Cariboo Visitor Centre, Canlan, CIBC and the Williams Lake & District Credit Union.

Christine Gallagher, Chair of Board of Directors - South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce notes, “the 2019 Business Walks was a great success again this year. We sincerely thank the businesses for their participation and, as always, it was a pleasure collaborating with the District and the Province on planning and delivering this project.”

Business Walks Findings:

- 84% of business rated the state of their business as steady or growing - compared to 75% last year
- 942 employees were documented for 118 businesses, about 69% were full-time positions
- Challenges: The biggest overall challenge continues to be staffing, especially attracting and retaining staff. Labour issues have consistently been the number one challenge cited by businesses in all 3 Business Walks.
- Businesses cited word of mouth advertising and having a good reputation with their customers as key characteristics of what is working well for their business, along with diversifying their product and service mix, and having loyal staff.

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