



News Release

- The top 3 responses when asked what would help businesses grow included: assistance recruiting qualified staff, resident attraction to grow their customer base, and more advertising.
- One of the most significant findings came from businesses that indicated they plan to sell or retire in the next 5 years: 65% have a plan in place to do so. This contrasts sharply with the 2016 Business Walks, which found that only 37.5% had a plan in place.

"The results from the Business Walks will help build stronger relationships between businesses, local government and business support agencies, especially as we work together to ensure our existing businesses are supported," says Mayor Campsall.

Follow-up after the Business Walks is critical. Individual businesses have already received follow-up information if it was requested or recommended by a Team Member. In addition, the overall findings of the Business Walks will be shared with partner agencies and with the Economic Development Transition Team who are working to identify broad business supports and new opportunities.

One of the follow-up actions stemming from previous Business Walks relates to labour challenges. "Labour shortages in 100 Mile House are similar to those in the rest of the Cariboo, and include all scales of labour, from entry level jobs to highly skilled trades and professional services," says Joanne Doddridge, Director of Economic Development & Planning with the District of 100 Mile House. A Regional Labour Market Study was launched earlier this year in response to region-wide labour market challenges. Primary goals of the Study are to support employers in accessing skilled talent to fill their job vacancies, boost business expansion, strengthen economic activities by identifying trends in the labour market, and providing recommendations to recruit talent to the Cariboo.

The Business Walks Summary Report can be found on the District of 100 Mile House website at www.100milehouse.com as well as the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce website at www.southcariboochamber.org.

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