

Local Partnership to Undertake 2nd Annual “Business Walks”



November 20, 2017 - For Immediate Release

November 20, 2017 – The District of 100 Mile House, the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce, the District of 100 Mile House Wildfire Recovery Manager and the Provincial Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development are teaming up to survey local businesses on Wednesday, November 29 as the 2nd Annual Business Walks gets underway.

The brief survey, which will be delivered by local volunteers, is part of the 100 Mile House economic recovery effort following the 2017 wildfires. The information gathered is important because it enables the District, Chamber, Recovery Manager, and business service providers to determine the economic impacts on business to develop an economic recovery plan. In addition, the information enables support agencies to identify, develop and effectively deliver services to help area businesses rebound after the 2017 fire season.

Information collected from area businesses will be held confidentially; however a response team will be established to help follow-up on specific needs that businesses identify during the “Business Walks” event and a public report summarizing findings will be issued. An estimated 100 businesses will be interviewed during this ‘volunteer blitz’.

Volunteers for the Business Walks event include elected officials and economic development staff from the District of 100 Mile House, Regional Recovery Manager, as well as South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce Executive Directors and staff. Other organizations partnering in the event include the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Community Futures Cariboo-Chilcotin, Work BC, the South Cariboo Visitor Centre, and CIBC Branch staff. All of these organizations play a role in providing services to small and medium sized private enterprises, and have a potential role to fill in responding to any needs articulated from the Business Walks event.

Business Walks is a program popular in the Province of British Columbia, whereby economic development practitioners survey local businesses to learn about their needs. This event being held in 100 Mile House will focus on questions designed to help determine the range and scope of wildfire impacts on the businesses, and what is needed most to help them recover. The surveys will help the partners gather detailed information on issues or opportunities, and businesses that require assistance are targeted for follow up visits to provide one on one support.

The value of conducting the Business Walks this year is the opportunity to better understand the impacts to businesses resulting from the 2017 wildfires, and develop recovery plans that will be relevant to their needs, says Mayor Mitch Campsall.

Most of the business surveys will take place in the downtown area between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on November 29. Businesses that are not visited are encouraged to contact the Municipal Office or Chamber of Commerce to request a follow-up survey which will be conducted after November 29.

Business Walks is not a membership drive or a sales call. It is a program designed to establish a connection and identify actions, where appropriate, to assist businesses to stay in the community and grow. This year particularly, the Business Walks will focus on ways to support and promote business resilience and economic recovery.

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