



INVESTMENT & RELOCATION GUIDE



your place, your opportunity



D'ARCY



IT'S THE LIFESTYLE
HOMEBUYERS WANT
AND THE LOCATION
BUSINESSES NEED.



DARCYOKOTOKS.COM



This 280-acre master planned community will be home to thousands of residents in a variety of single and multi-family housing. The comprehensive gateway district, which will include retail, office, commercial and residential opportunities, offers the perfect blend of local convenience and regional accessibility.

For all development or leasing inquiries, contact 403-265-6180





SOUTHBANK BUSINESS DISTRICT

SMART THINKING

Southbank Business District takes a place of pride in our BURNSWEST development portfolio. Designed to reflect our “Smart Space, Outstanding Place” claim, we are investing in quality design elements and amenities to create a business district that we can all be proud of for decades to come. Business and Highway-Commercial zoned lots, ranging from 1.5 to 24 acres, are now available for purchase or lease.

Call us to discuss how this exceptional space can be customized for your business.

403-255-3042

Southbankbusiness.com

 **BURNSWEST**





Welcome to Okotoks Economic Development Service

The role of the Economic Development Business Centre is to foster a business climate that is conducive to business success through leadership, knowledge exchange, referrals, research, and providing assistance on various levels.

Economic Development has a five year strategic plan that caters to the greater vision of the community of Okotoks and its continued growth and prosperity. The goals, objectives, and action plans will provide a compelling path forward to greater employment opportunities for our residents while increasing our entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Superior customer service for all clients and stakeholders is important to us; we believe it is critical to ensuring Okotoks is a preferred place to conduct business. We look forward to welcoming you to Okotoks!

*"There's always something going on in this town.
I think that the town of Okotoks itself
does a great job because every weekend, there's
something to do here and there's something going on."*

— Mark Frank, owner The George

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Vision - Corporate & Economic Development

The Town of Okotoks fosters a culture of resiliency - where people, businesses, ideas and a strong sense of community thrive. Grounded by the Sheep River valley and supported by thoughtful planning and design, a strong local economy and a vibrant civic culture, Okotoks offers exceptional quality of life at every stage of life. Respect for each other and the natural environment make Okotoks home.

Okotoks envisions its community as an “intellectual-property leveraged” business hub servicing local, national and international markets to create jobs for people to live and work in our community.

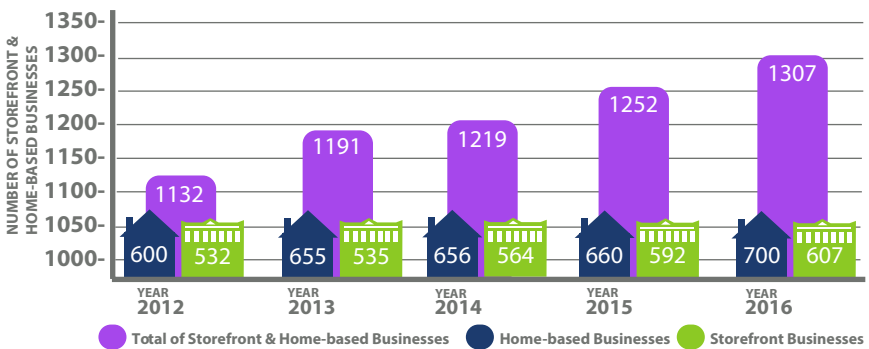
Our Goals

- Create economic benefits;
- Multitude of employment opportunities and reduce commute to Calgary;
- Optimize corporate profit;
- Provide exceptional customer service;
- Provide a multitude of options for events and attendees by using the convention centre and its amenities, catering also to business & investment attraction;
- Engage our stakeholders and industry partners to increase cooperative efforts to bring events to our facility, Calgary and Alberta region in particular;
- Food & Beverage environmental policy example: disposable utensils and dishes, and donate leftover food to local charities;
- Be the leading-edge location in terms of environmental standards and quality of service;

Okotoks Business Activity

Okotoks is home to hundreds of small and medium size enterprises and home to headquarters for larger companies such as Mullen Group. Our main employment bases include education, construction/trade, information technology, transportation & logistics, food & beverage, commercial business, manufacturing, professional & technical services, retail, home-based businesses, agriculture, tourism, and municipal government.

Despite the economic downturn in Alberta, Okotoks has experienced an increase in business activities. The number of storefronts and home-based businesses have increased year over year, since 2012.



Approximately 349 new jobs have been created, with more expected in 2017.

2017 started with the opening of a Save-on-Foods grocery store that added 180 jobs to the community.

The general interest in Okotoks has been tremendous as the Economic Development team responded to over

50 inquiries wanting to locate or expand into Okotoks. While some opened new businesses in 2016, many are planning to establish themselves in the near future and continue to work with the Town to follow through with their plans. Even though you may not fit under the industries listed

on page 17, we are OPEN for business and you are welcome to contact us to receive information and explore the opportunity for your business idea. Value-added services to these target markets have not been identified or captured here, but are important to a thriving business community.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Awards:

The Canadian Property Investor Magazine identified Okotoks as the only community in Alberta to achieve the Top 10 list for 'Top 50 Places to Invest in Canada'.

Alex Metcalfe Award from Economic Development Alberta

Rural Tourism Champion Award from Chinook Country Tourist Association Southwest Tourism & Service Awards

Marketing Canada Award from Economic Development Association of Canada

Laserfiche Run Smarter Award for Best Public Service Initiative

Quick facts:

- Mid-sized urban center; young community with an average age of 34 years;
- Safe and sustainable community;
- Comprehensive education system, including post-secondary opportunities;
- Various health facilities;
- Okotoks has the largest glacial erratic "Big Rock" in North America and is deemed as one of the top 500 cultural sites in the world (7KM west of Okotoks).

Okotoks ranked as the 4th most Entrepreneurial City in Canada for mid-size Cities/Towns by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).





Location · Location · Location

Okotoks' population is approximately 29,000 people and has continued to experience growth during Alberta's current economic downturn; recent annexation will accommodate expected growth to 80,000 people, including additional commercial development opportunities over the next few decades.

The trade area for industries, select retail and professional service businesses is extensive—approximately 250,000 people, extending as far as South Calgary and South-East BC.

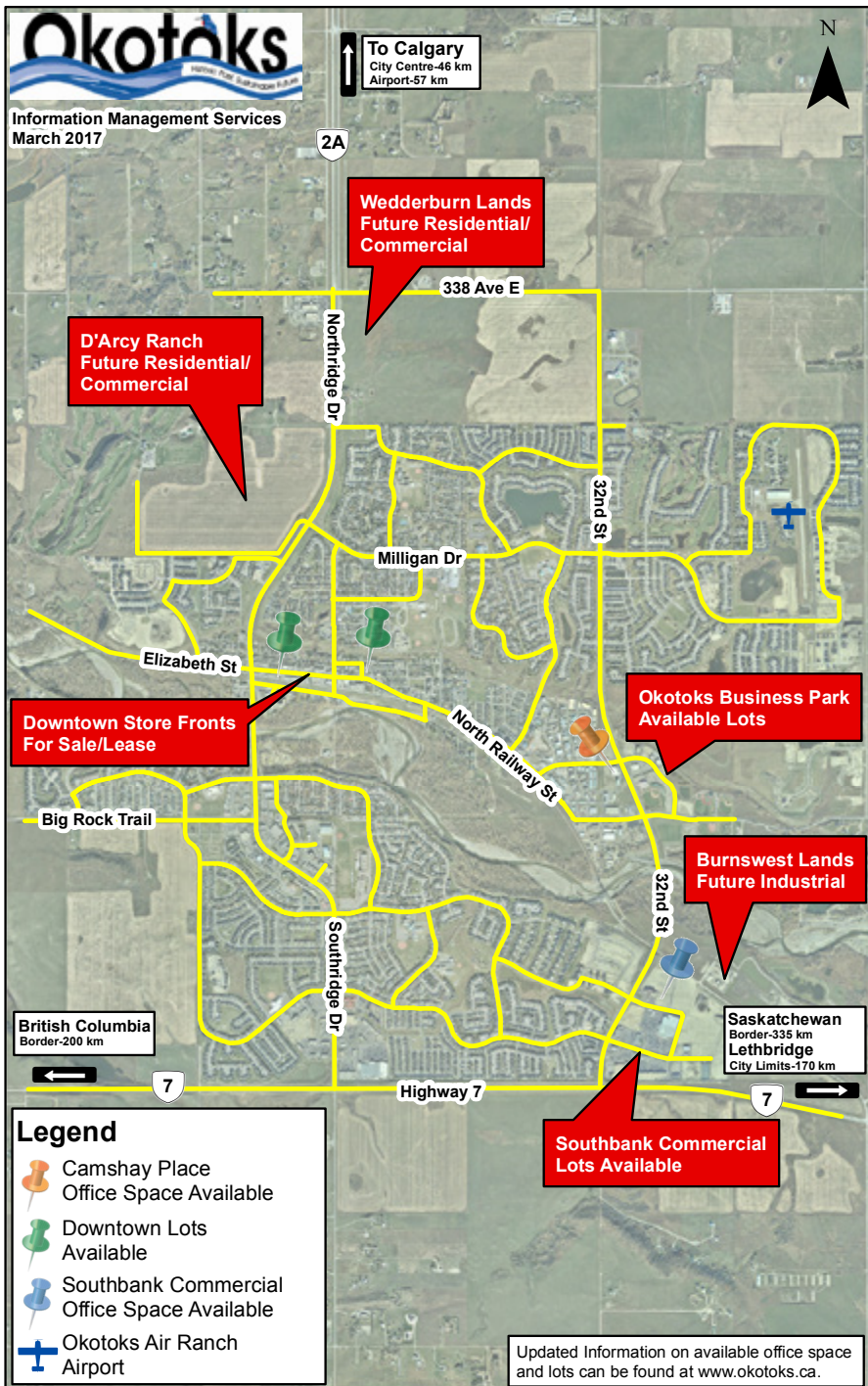
Okotoks is 15 minutes south of Calgary city limits and under 40 minutes to the Calgary International Airport.

The Tourism industry draws from mainly Calgary and visitors to Calgary (national and international), in addition we welcome visitors from across Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and the USA.

Spruce Meadows, with its international equestrian, firework, and holiday events, is only 15 minutes away and also motivates visitors to experience the Foothills region and Okotoks in particular.

"I think that when you're starting a business, it's always location, location, location...for us, we really wanted a community that was growing and learning, and supportive of its local shops, and that's definitely why we're here. It's really special."

— Natalie Jamieson, owner Mint + Maple

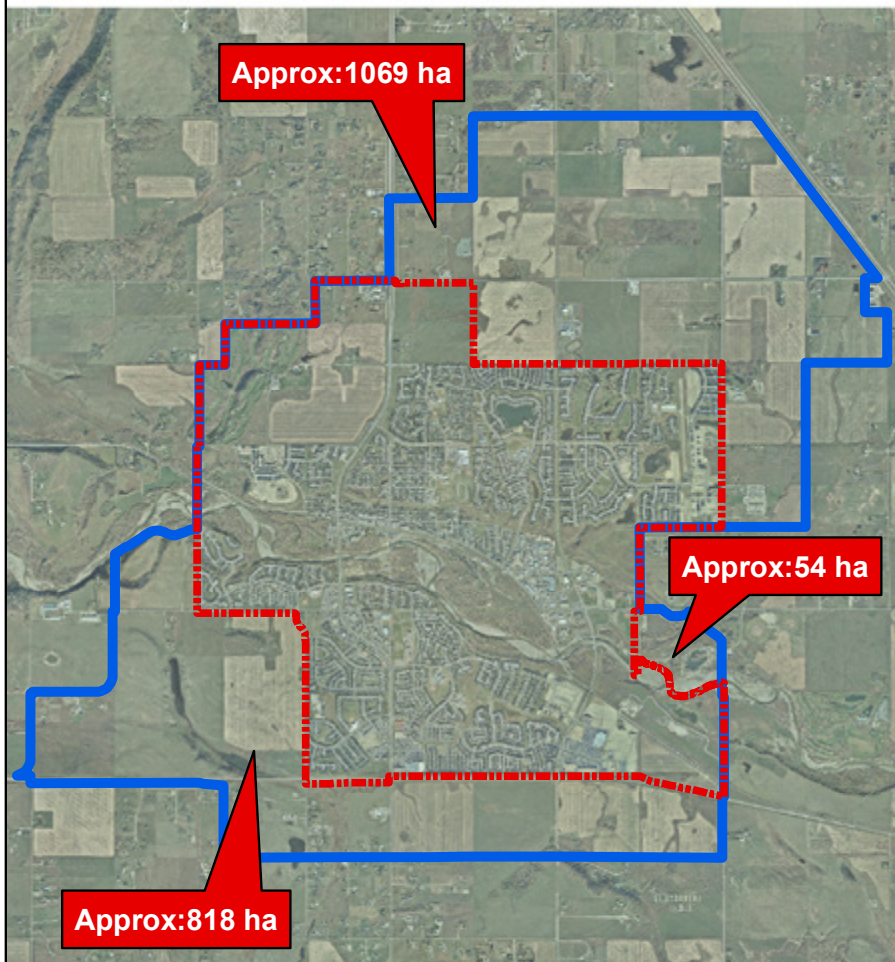


Town of Okotoks



Area of Proposed Annexation

Information Management Services

March 2017



Legend

-  Proposed Annexation Area
-  Current Town of Okotoks Municipal Boundary





Transportation:

Road: Highway 2A (to High River)
Highway 2 (Calgary-Lethbridge)
Highways 7 & 22 (to Turner Valley/BC)

Air: Okotoks Airport
Calgary International Airport (56km)

Bus: On-it Regional Transit (to/from High River, Turner Valley, Black Diamond and Calgary, weekdays, scheduled times) scheduled Greyhound Service



Green Line - The Green Line will be Calgary's next LRT line, adding 40 km to the existing 59 km LRT system. End-to-end, the line will connect the Northern Hills communities and Seton to downtown, and is estimated to serve 41 million passengers annually. This gives Okotoks residents the option to catch the train at either Somerset/ Bridlewood or the new Seton station.



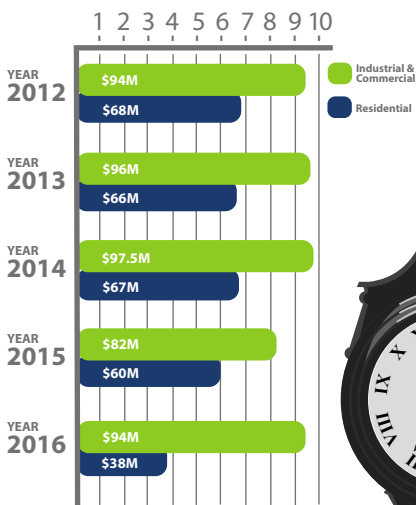
Stats on Population, Community Services, Recreation and Health & Wellness

Population



Overall construction value (residential, industrial, and commercial)

VALUE REPRESENTED IN MILLION



Construction values for industrial and commercial have seen an increase of over \$5 million in comparison to 2015 and is sitting at a value of over \$21 million.



Residential Housing Starts

Community Programs (health and wellness/recreation)

15,000 HOURS spent outside in all seasons in the school age care program

800+ recreation & community programs ran in 2016

OKOTOKS
20,000 people
registered for an aquatic or community program

2,534 BOOKED HOURS of outdoor field use

2,830 BOOKED HOURS of baseball diamond use

5,329 HOURS of gymnasium use

2,052 new recreation clients

30,000 walking track users

11,208 hours of arena rental

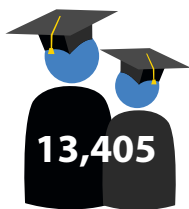
21,102 people who enjoyed discounted skates and swims

790 free youth recreation centre annual passes

8,165 people with an Okotoks Public Library card

Seven little free libraries in public parks, ORC, Food bank

Education, Training & Skilled Workforce



13,405
Total population
aged 25 to 64 years
by highest certificate,
diploma or degree



3,095 University
certificate, diploma or
degree at bachelor level
or above

750

University certificate or
diploma below bachelor level



3,420 High school
diploma or equivalent



1,060
No certificate
diploma or degree

525 Females



1,740 apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma

1,215 Males



**OKOTOKS
SCHOOLS**
Preschool &
Kindergarten
16

Elementary
7

Junior High
3

High School
2

College &
Adult
Learning
3

Private
3

8,925

Post-secondary certificate,
diploma or degree

Post-Secondary:

120
PEOPLE
completed a
post-secondary
program
in 2015-16

In the same period,

1129 RESIDENTS

used the campus facilities-
this includes everything from
obtaining advice about
post-secondary, arranging
to sit exams locally for any
post-secondary institution,
using facilities, attending a
post-secondary workshop or
program, etc.



2,375
**BACHELOR'S
DEGREE**

3,340 College, CEGEP
or other non-university
certificate or diploma

**BOW VALLEY
COLLEGE**

5,11 Elizabeth Street
403.476.2233

Bow Valley College works with local
businesses to determine available
programs.

Current programs being offered are:

- Practical Nurse Diploma
- Business Administration Diploma
- Hospital Unit Clerk Certificate
- Medical Office Assistant Certificate
- Academic Upgrading

Major Field of Study Classification of Instructional Programs

Education	820	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	315
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	235	Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	2,640
Humanities	405	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	210
Social and behavioural sciences and law	795	Health and related fields	1,510
Business, management and public administration	2,305	Personal, protective and transportation services	715
Physical and life sciences and technologies	290		

Healthcare

Okotoks Health & Wellness Centre

*(including Okotoks
Mental Health Centre)*
11 Cimarron Common

403.995.2600

M-F: 8:00am-7:30pm
Urgent Care hours:
8:00am-10:00pm

Canada Diagnostics Centre

141, 31 Southridge Drive
403.995.2727

M-T: 8:00am-6:00pm
Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am-4:00pm

24 Hour Emergency Services

(located close to Okotoks)
High River, 560 9 Avenue West
403.652.2200

Black Diamond

717 Government Road
403.933.2222

Calgary-South Health Campus

4448 Front Street South East
403.956.1111

Calgary-Rockyview General Hospital

7007 14 Street South West
403.943.3000



Culture

Okotoks delivers BIG in the arts and culture scene thanks to its performing arts district. Start your visit at the Okotoks Museum and Archives (OMA) and the Okotoks Art Gallery (OAG), which both have free admission. OAG offers a unique experience thanks to its constantly changing exhibits, open for visitors from around the world to enjoy. If theatre is your scene, Okotoks delivers that as well. From interactive movie nights to local performances at the Rotary Performing Arts Centre (RPAC), the Okotoks arts scene provides plenty of ways to enjoy a night (or two) of culture.

Okotoks hosts many events, such as Buskersfest, Taste of Okotoks, Chilifest, Show and Shine, just to name a few. Each event attracts between 10,000 and 12,000 people per event, with “Light Up Okotoks” being the largest with more than 20,000 visitors. Event attendees come from Calgary, across Alberta and BC, international destinations and of course locally. In 2016, Okotoks hosted the Grand Slam of Curling, which drew over 15,000 fans to Okotoks and the region.

Annual sporting events in Okotoks include: BMX competitions (approximately 4,500 visitors), Pro Rodeo (sold out all three days over the past years), Lacrosse, Baseball, and Hockey Tournaments, gymnastics, soccer, etc

“Light Up Okotoks! Is a pretty big event, drawing 10-20-maybe even 30-thousand people out, and it's just outside our building and it's good for business. You want to get out there and let people know we're here and the fact that the town does that for us, is great.”

— Dr. Jennifer Ficzytz, owner Cottonwood Dentistry



Recreation

You may have heard that there are a “number of things” to do in Okotoks. Driven by our social wellness framework, Okotoks plays a major role in providing recreation facilities and services for the community. Okotoks is known as a major sports hub and is especially proud to be the home of the semi-professional Dawgs baseball club and Seaman Stadium. The town offers a number of outstanding athletic facilities including: an indoor baseball training centre and program that attracts athletes from across Canada and the United States. There is also an indoor soccer arena, and a number of ice arenas, a skateboard park, BMX competitive track, and an Olympic-sized indoor pool.

Aside from shopping, eating, and much more, Okotoks citizens enjoy the following: 99 parks; 49 playgrounds; 15 ball diamonds; two football/rugby fields; an off-leash dog park; 16 soccer pitches; five tennis courts (two are lined for pickleball); three locations with outdoor fitness equipment; a sport court; a BMX track; a Water Spray Park; Skate Park; a Community Garden; and various outdoor skating rinks and toboggan hills. MaxMan’s Mini-Golf at Crystal Ridge (18 hole), D’Arcy Ranch (18), and Crystal Ridge 9-hole, bowling, and Airborne trampoline park (just east of town, along Highway 7).

Nature

Check out Okotoks’ xeriscaping demonstration sites. Not sure what xeriscaping is? Come find out at the Heritage Garden at the Okotoks Museum & Archives, the Healthy Okotoks Coalition community garden or the Voluntree Grove at Kinsmen Park. Okotoks also offers over 85 km of pathway systems where you can birdwatch, run, walk your dog, or meet friends before heading to a unique eatery or boutique.

Okotoks offers over
85 km of pathway
systems.

Our Target Industries

Economic Development strategically targets specific industries, companies and markets that have been identified as a good fit with great growth potential for Okotoks. Our target markets include both the independent entrepreneur and corporate businesses.

Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

(Information Technology & Management, Innovation, Creative Industry)

Targeted industry: Computer and network-based consulting, data centres, software and application development, e-commerce, health care (family physicians and specialists), fulfillment centres, engineering, film industry, legal, and architectural firms.

Tourism Marketing & Product Development

Targeted industry: Building on the business of environment: water, waste, wastewater, recycling, energy efficiency, land remediation, green building products or green businesses (such as solar, wind, geo-thermal, biofuels), manufacturing, consulting, engineering, research, development and installation.

Possible Economic Drivers

- Film destination
- Place to spend the weekend with a number of things to do for everyone
- The place for midsize conventions and conferences
- Hub for medical and sports conventions
- Medium scale centre for live music and various levels of performing arts
- The culinary experience for food and beverage (distilleries/breweries)
- River community – pathways
- Sports events – Provincial and National
- Boutique-style shopping and dining – vibrant downtown
- Hub for innovation: a meeting place for the young and for seasoned creative minds
- New zoning: Innovation Zone allows businesses to be placed with an open mind; in an effort to try out, build and create
- The place to experience greening technology and green living in Canada.
- Research and technology

Home-based Business & Telecommuters

Specific emphasis is placed on technology-oriented enterprises and one to two-person professional or technical service-oriented firms and home-based businesses involving the creative industry.

Business from the Home (Home-Based Business & Tele-Commuters)

All sectors are targeted, but specific emphasis is placed on the high tech industry and one-to two-person professional and technical services enterprises/consulting firms.

Tourism Industry & Product Development

Targeted industry: Artists and entertainers, culture related, new festivals and events, green/ecotourism, boutique and unique retailers, specialty restaurants, craft breweries and distilleries, sports tourism, outdoor adventure, regional convention centre and full service hotels, spas, bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds.

Value Added Agriculture / Food Processing

Targeted industry: Organic foods/processing, horticulture (flowers, bulbs, berry crops, nurseries, specialty crops and processing), energy (bio-fuels), food processing, food production, and retail local produce.

"When we did our demographic study, Okotoks is a very fast, young, vibrant, growing town, so we chose this location."

— Chuck Wittmann,
Owner & Manager Partner
Canadian Brewhouse

Specific target industry information for:

1. Technology
2. Greening industry
3. Innovators
4. Home-based businesses
5. Visionary industries
6. Boutique retailers
7. Unique restaurants
8. Craft breweries & distilleries
9. Hotel & convention space (500+)



Technology

The innovation funding programs that are currently available to Alberta technology companies make the establishment and development of this industry a lot easier and faster.

The support of organizations such as Innovate Calgary as well as provincial and federal funding in combination with the Okotoks culture of innovation presents a great opportunity to this industry. Our highly educated, creative and skilled workforce will take your business to the next level; training is also available at the local Bow Valley College campus. Our workforce enjoys the Okotoks lifestyle and amenities that cater to a life-work balance and are at their doorsteps. Okotoks offers a variety of work space options at competitive prices whether you are looking for a home-

based business, corporate office space or more compact office space in a Community Futures downtown incubator.

Environmental sustainability is embedded in Okotoks' community vision and one of the tools to achieve environmental excellence is through technology.

Our current industry sectors include medical, agriculture and film, as well as those catering to oil and gas, greening industries and clean technology, which provide a playground for innovations and are conducive to new business ideas.

"Cost was more effective here in Okotoks; quite a bit cheaper than downtown Calgary."

— Stephan Clark, CFO Mullen Group

Greening Industry

With the annexation of land and a growing Okotoks, the town has an abundance of opportunity for further development of light industrial, professional consultant, wholesale and retail businesses that support the greening industry. Okotoks welcomes residential and commercial builders that strive for innovative energy and water efficiency in their construction design to pave the way for these new businesses.

If you are a biofuel or alternative energy company, we have ample agriculture to support your business. If you are a manufacturer or light industrial business, we are strategically located close to major transportation routes to get your products to market whether it is by plane, train or truck. This proximity to major markets helps to decrease your carbon footprint when distributing services and products. If you are in the wholesale or retail business, we have in excess of 1.3 million potential clients in the greater Calgary area and a motivated local work force to manufacture or process your orders. The Town of Okotoks has a rich history of fostering a sustainable vision for development. Reflecting the desires expressed in the Community Survey of 1997, Council passed a resolution in February 1998 that defined an advocacy role for Council to pursue 'Sustainable Okotoks'. Over the last 20 years, the Town has worked tirelessly to implement a vision and supporting

policies to facilitate sustainable community development. This includes substantial urban design modifications, pursuit of activities such as eco-efficiency, modern waste management practices with recycling and organics collection, extensive water conservation measures, the innovative and award winning green building demonstration and research project Drake Landing Solar Community. Our latest demonstration and research project, the Living Soil Filtration Project, is the largest riparian stormwater project in Western Canada.

The Town of Okotoks reaffirmed its focus on sustainability and the environment in 2015 through an extensive multi-year town-wide visioning process.

Okotoks has a proven track record of being an open, collaborative partner and pioneer in many new innovative projects.

Call us today and share your idea.
403.938.8052



"Downtown Elma Street is perfect because it's a dual zone: you can live and work here."

— Andrea Reinhammer,
owner Twenty Two Collective

Home-based Businesses

The number of home-based businesses have increased during the past two years and continued to experience growth during the 2015/2016 economic downturn with numbers increasing from 660 to 700.

Okotoks is the perfect location for these types of businesses as the quality of life, amenities and available business support provide the perfect foundation, while being in close proximity to potential markets. The Town Land Use Policy & Planning Framework promotes a broad mix of housing types. It supports and encourages the real estate industry

to provide for a diversity of markets, based on lifestyle, demographics and affordability. Independent entrepreneurs can find networking opportunities and a supportive environment through the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, as well as in our local coffee shops, which support connectivity between like-minded, creative business owners.



Visionary Industries

In Okotoks, the visionary industries sector is more than just jobs and products - it is about generating new ideas and motivating youth to design their future. Creativity and innovation join together with all economic sectors. We want to welcome creative minds to Okotoks!

Our understanding of a visionary industry encompasses everything that is artistic, creative and innovative that translates into business. It fuses an individual's innovative ideas and creative visions into marketable products and services. An individual's unique skills and abilities are combined with business acumen to produce everything from performing arts to hand-made products, creative services to

new software and technology. As well as an active arts council and Town-supported creative facilities, we have also made the commitment to support a downtown that is energized through a synthesis of creative, active and connected living. The goal is to foster a downtown that is pedestrian friendly, culturally rich, activity-driven and a showcase for innovation technologies.

"I think it's one of the neatest, cleanest, tidiest, well-organized little towns that I've ever seen anywhere."

— Malcolm Duncan, owner Excalibur Shelters





Boutique Retailers

Okotoks residents love their downtown and consider it the heartbeat of the community. The future is bright with the Town's goal to increase programming and events in the downtown core, as well as establishing three anchors that will promote a vibrant downtown that attracts more people.

While online shopping is growing in popularity, a retail study (by Vend University) suggests that people still want the in-store shopping experience that includes a welcoming environment, knowledgeable staff, great service, as well as unique and appealing merchandise that can be touched and tried on. This is particularly true for downtown Okotoks with its existing boutique-style shopping and unique eateries. Okotoks' close proximity to Calgary, small town feel in the downtown core and wide variety of events throughout the year (attracting thousands of visitors), makes it the perfect location for a boutique-style retailer. Success is definitely in the cards for shops who ensure they are open weekends and evenings when

visitors come to town, or when locals who commute to Calgary are able to shop. "Retailtainment" is the trend of fusing retail with a fun and unique entertainment component to elevate the shopping experience. Specialized stores including men's and women's clothing, shoe stores, gift boutiques, galleries and unique artistry stores are ideal complements for the downtown. Our support is your success. The Town supports affordable marketing to these businesses through an annual Visitor & Activities Guide and the Okotoks Tourism website (okotokstourism.ca). We also support the Olde Towne Marketing group, which is specifically for downtown merchants (see resource section).

Unique Restaurants

A recent downtown assessment identified current assets and concluded that Okotoks needs to continue adding vibrancy to this area. Adding unique restaurants and establishing three anchor locations, such as a town plaza, a bigger performing arts centre and a public market are key components to achieving this. While current events are attracting between 10,000-20,000 people each, introducing more programs and initiatives will increase the number of people heading into the downtown area. These events have proven to be a great marketing tool for Okotoks' businesses; creating awareness of a number of things to do in town. Almost 50% of visitors to downtown restaurants are from Calgary.

Feedback from the community indicates that residents would like to see a variety of places to socialize such as high-end restaurants, martini/wine bars/lounges, tapas restaurants, healthy food choice eateries, specialty restaurants with patios and creative/art cafés. Other restaurant opportunities are currently available that would cater to patrons of the Best Western Plus Okotoks Inn & Suites. This is a full-service hotel with conference space that would welcome an upper mid-scale restaurant that caters to date nights, organized group outings, while still being attractive to families. The land for this restaurant

opportunity is adjacent to the hotel. The vision is to build a 4,000-5,000 square foot 1 ½ story building with a rooftop patio catering to the food & beverage needs of the on-site hotel and at Best Western Plus standards.

Tip: Alberta held the number two spot for eating out per capita (\$176), after British Columbia. The average national spending per capita is \$152. (Source: The Owl-ATB Newsletter from November 30, 2016).

Alberta's tourism reached a record year in 2016, which accounts for overall high per capita visitor spending and this is expected to grow in 2017 and 2018.





Craft Brewery and Distilleries

Craft breweries and craft distilleries are growing in popularity and the importance of using quality ingredients increases as consumers gain knowledge and an appreciation for the art of brewing and distilling. Organic and locally sourced ingredients are essential to be able to compete in this flavoured world of specialty beverages.

Pairing food with crafted beverages adds to visitors' experience and increases profitability for your business venture.

Besides finding land or an appropriate facility, establishing initial funding, hiring a core team to successfully launch your product, marketing it and generating customers, there is also the need to source quality ingredients for both fine dining and brewing. Okotoks

can help facilitate and provide you with resources to support your venture. Known for its phenomenal quality of life, Okotoks offers available land, skilled labour, and education through Bow Valley College to get your business off the ground. Most importantly, farms that can cater to the brewing and distillery industry are at your doorstep.



Hotel & Convention Centre

Okotoks is well-positioned to cater to the overnight visitor and to complement Calgary's market share of convention attendees because of its close proximity to the city (only 15 minutes south) and International Airport (40 minutes), as well as having its own regional airport for smaller aircraft.

The town is already popular as a weekend destination for boutique-style shopping and restaurants as well as for its many cultural events, recreational activities and high caliber sporting events such as the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Masters. We are also the home of the semi-professional Dawgs baseball team. Okotoks currently offers over 75 restaurants, eateries, coffee shops; a full service hotel with 82 rooms and three smaller hotels with 40, 15, and 65 rooms, respectively. Calgary and the region have been experiencing an increase in tourism, convention and event inquiries and the city has tried to

raise awareness for the need for another convention centre. As the fourth largest city in Canada, Calgary's conference capability is inadequate. Okotoks envisions increasing our capability to attract mid-size conferences and cater to the regional convention and meeting space needs of the area by adding a convention centre, combined with a four-to-five star full-service hotel that features an indoor/outdoor pool, restaurant and lounge. Okotoks is ideally placed to capitalize on convention business, complementing Calgary's efforts to establish itself on a higher scale as a convention location.



The Town, Your Resource

Economic Development can be your first stop for gathering information on how to start up a business and getting ready to open your doors.

We provide free and confidential assistance to all businesses. We are here to assist with your business needs by providing tools, guidance, and connections to the proper resources.

Our expertise includes knowledge exchange, site locator – land & office availability, referrals, market research, resource connections and identifying education and training opportunities. Our friendly staff will assist you through the steps to establish your business, including obtaining your business license.

Our goal is to create a collaborative, innovative, supportive, sustainable, and service-oriented environment so economic development can take place. The Economic Development team can be your conduit to business success.

Biz Link

Biz Link is a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce, Town of Okotoks, Bow Valley College, Community Futures Highwood, and McBride Career Group, and adds to the Town's business-friendly and "Together we can" attitude. Our team members combine resources to plan workshops and events around employee retention, business expansion, networking, building partnerships, and much more. Through collaborative partnerships, we work to build and maintain relationships with the local business community and new or potential stakeholders.

For more information go to
okotoksventure.ca

Olde Towne Okotoks (OTO)

This group of downtown business owners collaborate and capitalize on marketing initiatives. Olde Towne Okotoks merchants share resources and combine their efforts to increase awareness and traffic into the heart of our community with the goal of achieving success for Okotoks as a whole. They have established a website and initiatives catering to the vibrancy of the downtown area.

For information go to
oldetowneokotoks.ca

Our Business Advantage=Your Business Advantage

- Favourable tax environment; vibrant economy and reasonable cost of doing business;
- Competitive option for head office relocations, branch offices and new facilities;
- Non-residential tax rates are among the lowest in the Calgary region;
- No business tax for the majority of businesses;
- Highest educated and skilled population in the region;
- Significant regional trade area of 250,000 people including communities south and southeast of Calgary, as far as BC;
- Okotoks is a significant resource in the province for business attraction despite the economic downturn - \$17M in industrial/commercial construction values in the first quarter of 2016; more than all of 2015;
- Affordable cost of living for high quality of life.

Financial Institutions Available



Bank of Early Risers

**BDC is where you need us to be:
right there with you.**

As the only bank devoted exclusively
to entrepreneurs, we're there to give you
the financing and advice you need.

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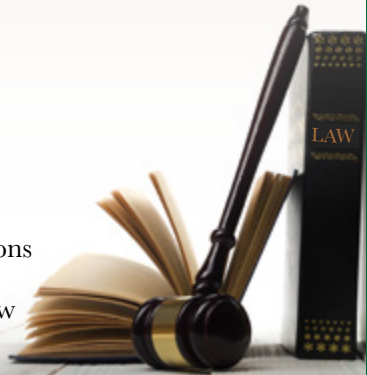
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