

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

February 24, 2026

The following provides an overview of the efforts undertaken by the Village of Lytton to promote recovery and economic opportunity throughout the community. The initiatives fall into three areas:

1. Rebuilding;
2. Re-establishing core municipal services key to residents and/or business looking to return or move to Lytton; and
3. Economic development initiatives.

The update of the Official Community Plan will include strategies to enhance the local economy.

1. REBUILDING

The following provides a snapshot of the rebuilding efforts by business, community organizations and the Village.

Returning and New Commercial Businesses

The commercial businesses lost to the 2021 fire had to deal with tremendous adversity over the past 4+ years considering insurance, business loans (COVID), financing, remediation, archaeology and the rebuilding design and approvals. The Village is encouraged with the new and returning businesses, notably:

- a) Chinese History Museum 145 Main St. (open)
- b) Canadian Legion (Lytton #162): 141 Fourth St. (awaiting BC Hydro service improvements)
- c) AG Foods: 240 Main St. (revised Building Permit submission pending)

- d) Two Rivers Motel 179 Main St. (Building Permit is pending)
- e) Skuppah Mixed Use Building (Building Permit is pending)
- f) Suncatchers Craft 389 Main St.
- g) Village Office Retail Space 380 Main St.

The Lytton Chamber has done a tremendous amount of work with AG Foods to get the development to the building permit stage.

It is understood that all these businesses benefitted to some degree through PacifiCan grants and contributions. There are other businesses that received start up funding particular to recreation, agriculture and consulting services. The Village continues to be engaged with PacifiCan and has recently sent a letter to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure requesting the funding application deadline be extended until the allocated funding has been allocated. It is understood that there may be other federal funding programs that could be used by Lytton businesses for redevelopment, but they would not be prioritized because of the fire. The Village has requested that PacifiCan present at an upcoming meeting of Council to provide an update of federal assistance.

Staff frequently follow up with all rebuilding and new businesses to ensure that they can navigate the municipal and other senior government approval processes. Unfortunately, the Village, under the Community Charter, is somewhat limited in providing any financial assistance to businesses. The Village is often privy to confidential information shared by property owners as they are working through plans; however, the Village cannot disclose this information unless authorized by the property owner.

2. RE-ESTABLISHING CORE MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Numerous projects have been completed, underway or in the planning stages to re-establish and improve Village water and sewer services. Status updates are provided monthly to Council. Here are the highlights:

- Water upgrades include the repair of the east of Main watermain and the 265-reservoir blockage, the assessment of Well #1 and pre-qualifying civil contractors.
- Sanitary service upgrades have included the design and proposed construction of the First Street laneway down from Third Street, a wastewater treatment capacity study, a complete SCADA system and back-up power upgrades, West Lane / Fraser Street sewer and water redesign and replacement, and emergency sewer repair required at Alonzo and Fourth Street.

Community Improvements

Several projects have been undertaken that will improve the community and provide basic services to visitors, including:

- a) Chief Spint'lum Park had significant park improvements undertaken by Pathways to Gold, Lytton First Nation, the Village of Lytton and the Anglican Church with contributions from community volunteers. The subdivision of the lands to reflect the intended ownership and provide protection for statutory right of ways as well as ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the park continue to be outstanding. Staff is working with surveyors and lawyers to ensure the necessary documentation is completed in accordance with the BC land registry system.
- b) Pocket Park is being enhanced through a three phased initiative, with completion in the summer of 2026.
 - **Phase 1** - applied funding from the Two Rivers Community Services Society, Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative, and local community donors to construct a shade structure, while the Village installed a temporary bathroom.
 - **Phase 2** - is funded in part by a grant from the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and Village recovery grants and includes a cooling mister, picnic table, and landscaping.
 - **Phase 3** - is not yet funded; however, the Village has recently applied to NDIT with matched funding for a permanent/accessible washroom, community bulletin board and additional street furniture.

Village Improvements

The Village is proceeding with replacing and improving community buildings, works, and utilizing Village assets to complement returning and new businesses and services. At the second Council meeting of every month, the CAO presents to Council the status of these key capital projects, which is also posted on the Village website.

- a) **Public Works Building** – 30 Main St. (completed)
- b) **Village Offices** – 380 Main St. Public tender posted. Closing January 23rd.
- c) **Community Hub** – Schematic design ready for Council approval – discussed grant requirements and synergy with the second floor residential and operating costs.
- d) **Fire Hall** – Grant funding secured, RFP for architect to be posted soon and then requirements gathering and schematic design will proceed.
- e) **Streetscape**
 - Village applied to NDI for funding to repair and replace historic looking streetlighting and furniture
 - Village applied to BC Hydro for funding for street trees.
- f) **Housing for Essential Workers** – The Village is currently reviewing 20+ Proposals to construct housing (funding by senior government grant) for essential Lytton workers on small municipal properties at 500 Fraser St., 455 Fraser St., and 665 Station Road. The homes should commence construction in spring 2026 and be completed by the end of the year.
- g) **Construction Worker Housing** – The Village has provided a listing on its website of temporary workforce housing opportunities. In addition, the Village is pursuing Temporary Use Permits and a Zoning Amendment to permit RVs as workforce housing during construction. The Village is also working with CN Rail to revise an existing lease that will permit a RV Park for contractors in Hobo Hollow.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

In late June, the Director of Development prepared a report for Council, specifically addressing how the Village is working towards an Economic Development Strategy. The report *Lytton.and.Economic.Development.Status.and.Next.Steps (June 2025)* provided the status of the local economy and reviewed economic development initiatives both before June 2021 and the subsequent recovery / rebuild. The intent of this report was to recognize previous initiatives, frame the current economic challenges in Lytton and identify a process towards the preparation of a successful and actionable Economic Development Strategy. The June 2025 report revisited economic development initiatives that have been prepared over the past 20 years, that have considered tourism, community facilities, and recovery needs.

In addition to rebuilding, economic development efforts and the update of the OCP, the Village has also embraced other initiatives to promote a positive business climate notably:

- a) **Destination Development Plan (Essentially Lytton)** – Council received a report in December 2025 that indicated that most of the Year1 and Year 2 recommendations are in progress, particularly moving Lytton towards being a Total Rest Stop for visitors and area residents.

- b) **Temporary Mobile Businesses** – The Village has also responded to the Destination Development Plan to seek out mobile retail, service or food operators to be set up downtown. Four quality applications have been received, and staff is now looking into mobile facilities that meet the applicant’s needs. This platform may allow business to start small with limited overhead, then once the new commercial buildings have been completed, move into a brick-and-mortar business.

- c) **Website** – The Village has created a ‘What’s Open’ list for the Village website and to distribute to other tourism partners / Chambers of Commerce in the surrounding area. The website provides a wealth of information to assist business, from reduced permitting fees, lists of local contractors and workforce housing as well as contact information for anyone involved in the process. The Village will reach out to the Chamber to encourage cross-linking between the sites.

- d) **Events** – The Village is working on an easy to navigate process for local events, whereby the Village can help and promote these attractions for both the local community and visitors.

- e) **Collaboration with Local Destination Management Organizations (DMOs)** – The Village continues to work with the DMOs from the Caribou, Okanagan and the Coast to ensure Lytton is included, where possible, in media opportunities and featured in any itineraries developed. Inclusion in opportunities to discuss visitor trends, indigenous tourism and Destination BC programs have resulted from these conversations.

4. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

On July 22, 2025, Council endorsed the OCP Update Work Program which as presented by staff would have a primary focus of working to improve the local economy. This approach recognizes that the OCP was over 25 years old and needed to be reviewed and updated, with particular focus on the following:

- Include Nlaka’pamux consultation
- Incorporate new requirements from the Local Government Act
- Reflect changing Village demographics and needs following the 2021 fire and atmospheric river
- Set the foundation to attract people to live, work, and invest in Lytton in the next five, 10, or 25 years

The engagement and documentation of the OCP Update process as endorsed by Council has recognized that the community needs to direct the future economic growth of the community. The updating of the OCP currently has special focus on economic indicators and directions, specifically:

October 27, 2025, Launch – The Village retained a prominent and creative presenter to discuss the character of the local economy and how Lytton can ensure a sustainable community. The community then had an opportunity to provide input on the vision and future policy directions to be considered in the OCP Update.

December 23, 2025, Workbook – The Workbook asked residents of the area to comment on the current OCP’s Objectives and Issues as they considered economic, social, and environmental as well as Nlaka’pamux relationships. Feedback received from the community during the initial stage was presented along with the current (old) OCP Objectives and Issues for participants to give feedback on.

Community Conversations (late February through March) – The Village will be hosting additional discussion groups to collect additional feedback from the community on specific issues including economic development, housing, food security and agriculture, community facilities and infrastructure, parks and trails and emergency preparedness. Staff is also working with a BC university to seek input from “future” residents of Lytton on what would convince them to relocate to Lytton. The conversation on economic development will include a presentation of materials like what is typically in a “Lookbook”. The Chamber and Nlaka’pamux Economic Development organizations will be critical partners in this conversation.

Once the Village has established a vision, policy directions and actions in the updated OCP, the Director of Development will seek funding to complete an Economic Development Strategy. This has been outlined in detail both at community meetings and Council reports. The OCP work plan and the proposed Economic Development Strategy have ambitious timelines for completion in 2026, yet the Village continues to entertain proposals for new economic opportunities that will benefit the community.

5. CONCLUSION

The Village continues to explore and assist in re-establishing a strong economy in Lytton. Staff will continue to assist the community and businesses, and update Council on these actions.