

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

# Economic Development Strategy

## Request for Proposals

26 May 2026

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# Purpose of Report

1. Outline why the Village should pursue a community-driven and action oriented Economic Development Strategy, before the adoption of the updated Official Community Plan; and
2. Provide an overview of the Request for Proposals document for Council's consideration.



# Background

## June 25, 2025 - Economic Development Status Report (Council Workshop)

- background of the historic local economies, with the community demographics, current OCP directions, and economic development studies, prior to June 30, 2021.
- The overview also included the impacts of the fire on Village initiatives:
  - the status of rebuild and recovery indicators
  - Village Strategic priorities and the Annual Plan
  - directions of economic recovery action plans
  - potential next steps, focusing on the need to update of the Official Community Plan, in advance of a mid to long term economic development strategy

## June 2025 Update Reports & Initiatives

### PRE FIRE:

- Lillooet-Lytton Tourism Diversification Project (Feb 2005)
- Tourism Master Plan 2021-2030

### POST FIRE:

- Destination Development Plan (2025)
- Infrastructure Survey (2023) – KEY THEMES
  - *Relationship-building, conciliation / reconciliation with Nlaka'pamux*
  - *Shared interests, services, and infrastructure with First Nations*
  - *Economic development, including rebranding*
  - *Infrastructure for aging population / seniors*
  - *Infrastructure for families / children*
  - *Holistic planning, including health/recreation, education, medical facilities, job opportunities, and economic development*
- Short Term Recovery Plan (October 2021)

## June 2025 Update Reports & Initiatives

### **Lytton and Region Economic Recovery, Work Plan and Recovery Needs Report (April 2023) O'Leary and Associates**

*Note although dated 2023, the report was drafted in 2022.*

#### **Purpose:**

- *“provide guidance to the Village and act as a resource for other agencies operating in the region to support business owners with the recovery process”.*
- *“set the stage for an example of collaboration and reconciliation beyond the boundaries on a map”, with the objectives to “facilitate ground up solutions for economic recovery, and to demonstrate to the community that we listened to them and translated their needs into an actionable path forward”.*

#### **Key Takeaway:**

- *as much as the focus is on economic recovery and business, rebuilding homes was as important as rebuilding businesses.*

## June 2025 Update Reports & Initiatives

### **Lytton and Region Economic Recovery, Work Plan and Recovery Needs Report**

*Note although dated 2023, the report was drafted in 2022.*

#### **Short Term:**

1. Establish a Recovery Roundtable Working Group - a collaborative table to identify the roles and responsibilities for all organizations.
2. Implement a coordinated initial rebuild plan, for housing and business
3. Work with Local Government Officials and Interior Health to prioritize the construction of an Urgent Primary Care Centre in Lytton
4. Increase Collaboration: Develop Partnerships and Working Groups
5. Establish a Community Mental Health and Wellness Working Group
6. Develop an Action Plan that includes temporary and permanent housing options that serves immediate and long term needs of the community and region.



## June 2025 Update Reports & Initiatives

### **Lytton and Region Economic Recovery, Work Plan and Recovery Needs Report**

#### **Mid Term:**

1. Develop of a one-on-one assistance program to help businesses recover
2. Provide support for home based businesses
3. Move ahead with development of an Overall Community Recovery Plan
4. Create a small voluntary reporting program to track additional costs associated with fire resilient standards, net zero or net zero ready.
5. Create goal of having most residents back in the community along with a functional downtown by the summer of 2024.

# OCP Update

## February 2026 Economic Development Status Report

*“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”.*

*Due to the need for additional engagement with the youth the OCP has followed back but the RFP has recognized the need to follow the vision, policy directions and actions of the OCP.*

# OCP Outreach Economic Development Strategy

Report includes support received through the OCP Outreach:

- ✓ **Project Launch** (*inspired by consultancy Rynic – an expert in small western town economic development*)
- ✓ **OCP Workbooks** (*expanding on the current OCP policy for an Economic Development Strategy*)
- ✓ **Community Conversations** (*including one specific and most highly attended meeting on Economic Development*)

## Request for Proposal Key Considerations:

- ✓ *community driven and inclusive, specific to Lytton and*
- ✓ *clear working plan rather made by and for Lytton area.*
- ✓ *recognizes and furthers the engagement and consistency OCP update.*
- ✓ *improved understanding and relationship building with Indigenous economic development, business, and entrepreneurial interests, and region*
- ✓ *build local capacity and resilience supporting entrepreneurship, and long-term community economic governance structures.*
- ✓ *actionable and realistic for the small (with limited resources) community.*
- ✓ *engage and work directly with business, interests, Indigenous governments and economic development agencies, property owners, senior governments NFP.*
- ✓ *matching potential businesses with vacant or underdeveloped lands*
- ✓ *pursuing opportunities on potential insights on funds, funders, and “philanthropy.”*
- ✓ *be a clear working plan rather than a high-level strategy.*

# Economic Development Strategy

*A relevant and achievable Economic Development Strategy for Lytton needs to go beyond asking “what industries do we attract?” It should also ask:*

- ✓ *What can we pilot here that cannot be piloted elsewhere?*
- ✓ *What economic systems make sense in a high-identity, high-visibility place?*
- ✓ *How do we turn rebuilding into economic opportunity rather than restoration?*
- ✓ *How do we get property owners to develop their property that supports the local economy?*
- ✓ *How do we support local entrepreneurs?*
- ✓ *How do we increase our tax base?*
- ✓ *What do we need to invest in to attract new residents?*



# Economic Development Strategy

## Timeline

- *RFP Issue Date: June 1, 2026*
- *RFP Closing Date: June 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.PST*
- *Recommended Consultant to Council – June 23.*
- *Project Completion: November 30, 2026.*

## Budget

The project is to be funded by the Municipal Affairs \$6.26 million Wildfire Recovery grant.



## RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** Council direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for qualified consultants to prepare an Economic Development Strategy.