

Lytton Revitalization Literature Review

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Introduction

As part of a practicum with the Village of Lytton, this Annotated Bibliography has been compiled to demonstrate research findings for amenities that are attractive to young workers. The research supports the Village of Lytton's Official Community Plan (OCP) update and strategy to attract a younger demographic to live, work, and play in the Village of Lytton. Through outreach, which involved conversations with fellow students of the University of the Fraser Valley, communications with the village's Director of Development, and a site visit to the municipality, multiple amenity types were identified as key strategic areas for attracting a younger demographic. Those key areas are Economic Development, Tourism, Building Climate Resiliency, Mobility, Housing, and Supportive Services.

By providing these varied and critical amenity types and strengthening existing developments, the Village of Lytton will hopefully see an increase in new residents from young workers in their 20s and 30s, and an increase in retained residents of this younger demographic. The following report explores the key amenities, and this information will be the foundation for final recommendations to the Village of Lytton.

Economic development opportunities to support post-disaster redevelopment

By Alison Groll

Summary of Research

The literature review for economic development was largely based on what was heard from the Village of Lytton community, who speak to the need for essential services, affordable services, resiliency, and self-sufficiency. This information comes from the Village of Lytton OCP Update launch meeting, where the community came together and identified sustainable businesses, fulfilling work, and supporting small, independent businesses as key priorities (Village of Lytton, 2025). The OCP Community Conversations, where community members have spoken to a holistic redevelopment plan that involves sustainability and resiliency at all levels. Conversations with Caroline Lamont, Director of Development, where these community needs and desires were reiterated, along with additional interests in potential agritourism and creative businesses. As well as at a recent site visit, where local community member and retired Chief of the Kanaka Bar Indian Band, Patrick Michell, spoke of a desire for the rebuilt community to have essential

services located in the community to cut back on commuting, businesses that are open for community members during the day, affordable services (i.e. groceries), and self-sufficiency. His dream is a community with affordable, essential services and opportunities for his grandchildren to continue living in the area.

Considering these community goals and intentions, the literature review focused on diversifying economic development while considering the constraints of land availability. Shared business space and coworking spaces were explored due to their ability to provide critical third spaces in communities, their affordability for small business owners, and the ability of the infrastructure to support diverse businesses. This approach considers the variety of essential businesses for small towns and profitable business ventures in Canada, and those that could be paired together. Including grocery stores, cafés and coffee shops, health and wellness centres, local restaurants and diners, specialty retail shops (bookstores, craft shops, antiques), service-based businesses (plumbing, electrical, and auto repairs, catering, childcare services, e-commerce ventures, online courses and coaching, personal training and fitness (Merchant Growth, 2025; McFarland, 2025). It also builds off of the idea of the Village of Lytton Community Hub model, which is already in the works and will provide large infrastructure for multiple businesses (Village of Lytton, 2026).

In conclusion, the literature review, supported by multiple municipal-level examples across North America, shows how economic diversity can strengthen remote communities. To accomplish this economic development, shared business space could attract new, young business owners who desire small, affordable storefronts. By providing attractive business spaces, in turn, those businesses will benefit the community by providing positive third places and a sustainable economy.

Literature

Hill, E., Low, S. & Van Leuven, A. (2025). The Value of Economic and Community Development Anchors. *Economic Development Quarterly*, Vol. 40(1) 114-122.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/08912424251397353>

Third places are welcoming, comfortable places that provide a convenient, regular place for socializing and conversation. They might be coffee shops, libraries, and other informal gathering spots. In small towns, they can become “anchor institutions” because of their social value and influence. The article differentiates third places (commercial) from third spaces (non-commercial public areas). Both are recommended for communities to understand and adopt. Economic and

community anchors are dependent on their good locations and are unlikely to relocate. They are beneficial for the surrounding businesses, housing, and social networks.

“While third places may not always directly lead to economic development, their contributions to social capital, daily civic life, and the overall quality of place are vital to creating resilient communities, especially in smaller regions or where neighbourhood-scaled anchors are necessary.”

Jamal, A. (2018). Coworking spaces in mid-sized cities: A partner in downtown economic development. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, Vol. 50, Issue 4.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X18760857>

The 21st century is seeing a post-industrial shift to the “knowledge economy” with highly skilled, knowledgeable, and creative workers. The concentration of this knowledge in urban centres means cities are not experiencing the knowledge-intensive/ knowledge-based economy equally. Coworking spaces provide shared office space, often amenity-rich and downtown located, that tenants could not otherwise afford. Smaller urban centres (in this case, mid-sized cities) can leverage coworking spaces to foster downtown local economic development. Not only does coworking space provide affordable space, but reactivating dormant real estate in the downtown core. Want to create space where knowledge-based, creative industries, collaboration and innovation thrive.

Fuzi, A. (2015). Co-working spaces for promoting entrepreneurship in sparse regions: the case of South Wales. *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, 2(1), 462–469.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21681376.2015.1072053>

Spent 8 months studying co-working practices at two sites in South Wales, UK. The area was weak in entrepreneurial economies, but policy shifts in 2011 focused on access to finance, high-potential start-ups, business support and entrepreneurship amongst young people. Coworking is different than third spaces and an alternative to working from home or in distracting third spaces. Still provides potential networking and social interactions. In weaker entrepreneurial environments, coworking can be shaped to the needs and requirements of the community. Could integrate into existing business structures such as art centres, coffee shops, and serviced offices.

Campbell, H. & Dusbury, N. (2011). Developing and Revitalizing Rural Communities through Arts and Culture. *Small Cities Imprint*, Vol. 3.
<https://smallcities.tru.ca/index.php/cura/article/view/39>

As rural communities focus on entrepreneurship and small businesses, they try to attract the “creative class”. Arts and creative industries stimulate broader economic revitalization. Artists flee high rents in urban areas and seek “quality of life” in smaller communities. They are also attracted by access to urban markets, part-time jobs (employment), agglomeration economies, community/ region size, and appealing landscapes. Having Internet is key. While urban-to-rural migrating artists might be older, they do often have established businesses and markets.

There is also the urban-to-rural migration of the wealthier middle-class group, withdrawing from urban settings to pursue a different lifestyle in a rural location (starting families or retirement). (But if they bring all the amenities they are used to and regularly commute, maybe they are not as engaged in the community.)

“Overall, the interconnected world of creative production is more complicated than the image of a simple “city–country divide” and should focus on networks and flows of people, information, and creative production (Gibson; Burns and Kirkpatrick).

Case Studies

To complement the literature and showcase how ideas similar to those of the Village of Lytton are being implemented, here are case study examples of municipalities in North America. These locations have been selected because they are diversifying their economic development in order to achieve economic sustainability and attract skilled, new, younger residents.

The Village of Kaslo, BC, Canada

(population ~1,049 in 2021 according to Stats Can.)

The Village of Kaslo has geographic restrictions as it is located in the Selkirk Mountains, surrounded by forest, and on the shore of Kootenay Lake. Their largest age group is 59 to 69, and the majority of their residential dwellings are single-family homes. They have a need for housing. Their top listed employers are Interior Health Authority, School District 8, and businesses that include Building Supplies, Hotel and Pub, Motel, and the Shipyard. They developed an internet infrastructure that runs smoothly and is comparable to that of major urban centres. This infrastructure development has attracted young creatives and digital innovators to the area and has seen economic growth due to tech businesses, home-based businesses, and telecommuting professionals. They have also developed tech to meet community needs - replacing Zoom with a new app that works in basements and other typically less reliable areas.

Mississippi Mills (Ramsay, Pakenham, Almonte townships), Ontario, Canada

(population ~14,740 in 2021 according to Stats Can.)

The median age of this community is 50 years, and the community wants to attract young families and workers. Their Economic Development Strategic Plan speaks to the community's desire to have a strong sense of place with cultural heritage and identity, community engagement and participation, public spaces and infrastructure, sustainable development, and economic diversification. Their current economy is made up of small businesses, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and creative industries. The top sectors are agriculture, construction, healthcare, and niche food manufacturing (ex: Hummingbird Chocolate). As part of their strategy, they are advocating for expanded healthcare services for the aging population and implementing community health programs focused on preventative care and chronic disease management.

DeWitt, Arkansas, USA

(population ~2,800)

DeWitt is an agricultural community that lost their major employer. To create jobs, they then tried to grow an experimental crop to build a biofuel industry, but found their climate unsuitable for the crop. They have now successfully pivoted to a small-business economic model. Their small, locally owned businesses make a more resilient and diversified community. They have a "artsy and cozy" coffee shop downtown that stocks products from a local baker, a local spice and dip mix line, a local ice cream business, Arkansas native beer, and uses farm-to-table lettuce, tomatoes, and ground and other products for the menu items. It's located in their historic district (Court Square) by the courthouse and other local businesses. There are rentable office spaces, a community event space (music events, weddings, parties, etc.), a florist, and a dress shop. The florist and dress shop are owned by local young women and their families. There is a locally owned Webb's Sporting Goods that meets sporting needs and creates additional demand for sporting goods. The business takes advantage of DeWitt's location along the main path of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, nearby rivers, and wildlife refuges. For accommodations, there's a 23-room Boyd Farmhouse Inn built to look like a modern farmhouse, which is locally owned.

"In the end, DeWitt's revitalization was not driven by a single project but by a combination of mindset change, local ownership, economic diversification, and a willingness to adapt, turning a failed initiative into the foundation for long-term renewal." - Governor Michael Barr

Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada

(population ~10,600 in 2021 according to Stats. Can)

Estevan is different from the other municipalities reviewed. This city is considered a commercial hub for Saskatchewan's Southeast and is called "Energy City". Their economy is diversified across oil, gas, coal, agriculture, manufacturing, and has a commercial carbon capture and storage project that generates over a billion dollars. However, they are still focused on a diverse economy and meeting community needs. This is because the phaseout of coal meant Estevan's community had to rebrand and create a coalition focused on building a diversified regional economy and technology innovation. Because they are located a 2-hour drive from Regina, and lack major urban centre amenities and services, their strategy focuses on resources that they have, building what's missing, and repairing what's broken. Innovation is a pillar for this community. They are using tax incentives such as 75% for upgrading storefronts and 5-years tax free to incentivize new construction.

Desert Hills Ranch, Ashcroft and Cache Creek, BC, Canada

Desert Hills Ranch is a large-scale operation. They grow over 40 products that thrive in the Village of Ashcroft and the Village of Cache Creek's climate and provide some of that produce to Canadian grocery stores, as well as their own local market and a taco stand. The taco stand is conveniently located off Highway 97 so that drivers can stop. At the ranch, they also have greenhouses to sell nursery plants, farm animals on site, and have ice cream available to buy while customers are plant shopping. Despite its large-scale operation, it is an example of agritourism in a similar climate to the Village of Lytton that showcases diversity in its operations, as well as a local demand for the products. Some of these ideas could be scaled to the size of Lytton.

Small town growth through tourism aligned tactics and incentives

By Jackson Phillips

Summary of Research

To grow a community, we must engage in marketing, tourism and relationship building. This research focuses on ways we create and bring in new people through the production and development of tourism. Tourism can be a powerful economic development tool; in Lytton,

tourism can be used to market the community to youth and young creatives in BC. Key takeaways for these articles include: developing spaces for artists can grow a community, marketing tactics can introduce new residents, and tourism can be used to promote public and creative spaces. When growing a community, tourism and marketing can be an effective tool, with the community hub being proposed this can be an ideal hub for a tourism information center. This can also become a space to showcase public art. Having spaces where we can introduce placemaking elements can help restore Lytton's character, and allows residents to use spaces how they see fit. A marketing plan can also be developed that uses tourism-aligned tactics and indicators from Destination BC. Showcasing the opportunities to grow a business, proximity to the natural environment, and river-based or agritourism opportunities can provide new inroads for residents to move to Lytton and generate revenue for the Village. In conclusion, this research will help me develop a marketing plan to advertise the community to young creatives and introduce Lytton as a place to live, work, and play.

Literature

BC Rural Center. (n.d.). *Attracting Young Urban Creatives to Rural BC.pdf*. Retrieved March 19, 2026, from https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/employment-business-and-economic-development/economic-development/economic-development-success-stories/kaslo-escape-the-city/bcix-story_escape-the_city_kaslo_02nov18_final.pdf

This is a snapshot of a tactic Kaslo used to entice young creatives to their town. Leveraging social media and a creative art challenge, young families participated to win a chance at a four-night stay in the community. This raised awareness of small towns in British Columbia and brought in new community members. Attracting artists and creatives to small towns can provide new opportunities for business growth. This can also bring in a new character in the built environment, inviting creatives to set up shops, design spaces, and market the small-town charm to other artists.

Destination BC. (2018, June 4). *Municipal & Regional District Tax Program (MRDT)*—*Destination BC. Destination BC - Official Destination BC Website*. <https://www.destinationbc.ca/what-we-do/funding-sources/mrdt/>

Destination BC is British Columbia's tourism corporation and provides support and funding for communities engaging in tourism. The Municipal & Regional District Tax Program is intended for municipalities to conduct program development, marketing, and projects. This program might prove useful for Lytton to engage in marketing and social media. Furthermore grants and tax

programs may become valuable tools as Lytton begins to market too young individuals. Establishing a working relationship with Destination BC and using their indicators will help the village of Lytton understand movement patterns, where people come from, and if they might stay.

Duxbury, N., & Campbell, H. (2011). Developing and Revitalizing Rural Communities through Arts and Culture. *Small Cities Imprint*, 3(1).

<https://smallcities.tru.ca/index.php/cura/article/view/39>

Developing and revitalizing communities is a challenging process and requires creative solutions. One tactic, as discussed in this article, is to diversify the economy by supporting artists and creatives. Supporting artists can introduce new business, creative spaces, and grow the community's culture. Supporting arts and culture also encourages young individuals to migrate to the communities. Using strategies that encourage arts and culture can grow Lytton's population and market it to youth.

Liu-Lastres, B., Mariska, D., Tan, X., & Ying, T. (2020). Can post-disaster tourism development improve destination livelihoods? A case study of Aceh, Indonesia. *Journal of Destination Marketing & Management*, 18, 100510.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdmm.2020.100510>

This case study from Indonesia presents new opportunities to make our communities long-lasting and livable. This article demonstrates that tourism developments can provide ways to increase livelihood and sustainability; however, tourism can have unintended consequences. Tourism can bring gentrification, visitors entering restricted areas, and put stress on cultural zones. This stresses the importance of community-led tourism. Creating spaces, programs, and attractions should come from the community and be used to meet the needs of the community. A bottom-up approach can benefit the Village of Lytton and create new spaces for community growth.

Mair, J., Ritchie, B. W., & Walters, G. (2016). Towards a research agenda for post-disaster and post-crisis recovery strategies for tourist destinations: A narrative review. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 19(1), 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2014.932758>

This article is an extensive review of post-disaster tourism from 2000 to 2012. Throughout this article, the importance of media, marketing and messaging is extremely stressed, but the authors conclude that more research is needed on "Destination image". A further

recommendation in this article is relationship building. Building relationships with governmental organizations, neighbouring communities, private businesses, and community members is critical to the success of tourism in a community. If the Village of Lytton were to engage in tourism activities, marketing and establishing relationships would be critical actions to the success of the community's tourism tactics

Tucker, H., Shelton, E. J., & Bae, H. (2017). Post-disaster tourism: Towards a tourism of transition. *Tourist Studies*, 17(3), 306–327. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468797616671617>

This article is an exploration of the disaster tourism industry and how “Transitional” tourism can bring opportunities and redevelopment to a community. Disaster through a narrative of tourism can generate business and make communities new hubs. Additionally, using tourism to showcase a “City in Transition” can highlight resiliency and growth. This article demonstrates the effective marketing of community tourism can bring in revenue and opportunities.

Climate resilience strategies and advocacy

By Brady Pranger

Summary of Research

To rebuild and grow rural, small communities like Lytton, resilience should be perceived as both a set of mitigation strategies and a communicated, adopted, and desirable way of living. The BC Office of the Auditor General's 2026 review of the Government of BC's recovery support found that at the time of the fire, BC had no comprehensive legal framework to guide disaster recovery, including a notable absence of clear provisions regarding the involvement of Indigenous peoples within the *Emergency Program Act* (Office of the Auditor General of BC, 2026).

This research focuses on how the post-disaster recovery period creates a policy window to rebuild in ways that are better adapted and more attractive for potential investors and residents. Drawing on Kingdon's Multiple Streams Framework (2010), a policy window opens when a recognized problem, viable solutions, and political will converge simultaneously, a pattern recognizable in Lytton, as well as similarly observed in California by Schumann et al. (2025). Resilience and rebuilding, as such, need to be viewed as urgent opportunities to be transformative rather than restorative, with innovations in governance and strategy (Daniels et al., 2025) grounded in place-based policy (Salvia & Quaranta, 2017; Warren & Lulham, 2021).

As such, the literature emphasizes community-based approaches, with collaborative models and a reliance on community engagement and advocacy at the grassroots level, with the goal of creating strong resilience through specialized, locally advised methods that promote placemaking alongside mitigation (Salvia & Quaranta, 2017). Community Forests represent one such model, with Dickson-Hoyle et al. (2024) demonstrating their particular effectiveness in BC as a unique local stewardship program, that bridges the gap between provincial funding and on-the-ground local action. This framing allows resilience to function as protection, but also as a tool to market to new residents and support long-term community growth (Beyazit, 2024).

Literature

Daniels, L.D., Dickson-Hoyle, S., Baron, J.N., Copes-Gerbitz, K., Flannigan, M.D., Castellanos-Acuna, D., Hoffman, K.M., Bourbonnais, M., Wilkinson, S.L., Roeser, D., Harvey, J.E., Laflamme, J., Tiribelli, F., Whitehead, J., Leverkus, S.E.R., & Gray, R.W. (2025). The 2023 wildfires in British Columbia, Canada: impacts, drivers, and transformations to coexist with wildfire. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, 55, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2024-0092>

An article analyzing the 2023 BC wildfire season, which was the largest in the province's history. Explores the potential changes in wildfire governance, forest management, and community resilience, with an argument that incremental changes to these policies is no longer sufficient, instead arguing for immediate, holistic change.

Daniels et al. (2025) diagnose the reasons for the increased danger of contemporary wildfires citing that they are results of “culmination of a century of altered human–forest–wildfire relationships, exacerbated by climate change.” This includes the suppression of natural fire cycle, disregarding and abandonment of Indigenous fire stewardship practices, urban, specifically industrial land-use and climate change factors. The article describes six key strategies

1. Diversifying wildfire response strategies and restoring the ecological and cultural role of fires in BC’s ecosystem
2. Develop suppression at local and national levels
3. Support innovations to overcome economic barriers to community-level strategies
4. Apply landscape fire management, and develop new strategies in forest management
5. Bring wildfire governance to collaborative and community-based solutions
6. Shift energy away from fossil fuels, towards net zero emission sources

Schumann, R.L., Mockrin, M.H., Balachandran, B., Binder, S.B., & Greer, A. (2025). Flashpoints between wildfire recovery and mitigation in northern California. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 119, 105270. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2025.105270>

The study examines three northern Californian counties that have been in recovery processes following continually devastating wildfire seasons between 2015 and 2021, exploring the tensions or “flashpoints” between short-term rebuilding and long-term mitigation across housing, vegetation, and economy. It identifies the post-disaster recovery period as an inflection point where the political environment and practical resources exist to rebuild communities that are better adapted to wildfires, though this window is finite as the shock of disaster diminishes and residents seek to return to normal life.

Despite this opportunity, post-wildfire adaptations tend to be small-scale, patchwork, and incremental rather than transformational, not because communities lack the will, but because structural conditions for transformation are rarely in place. Regulatory standards often conflict with the varying capacity of households to rebuild, as insurance payouts only cover replacement cost and higher fire-resilient standards present a significant burden. Pressures for speed, combined with the desire to recreate what existed before, result in the replication of vulnerabilities, limiting the ability to achieve long-term resilience.

Salvia, R., & Quaranta, G. (2017). Place-based rural development and resilience: A lesson from a small community. *Sustainability*, 9(6), 889. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9060889>

This journal determines community resilience as a key factor in rehabilitating and transforming role and function in rural communities. Community resilience is viewed as a theoretical framework and social process that dictates the way communities respond to external forces that threaten them, including disasters, economic downturn, population stagnation or bleeding, among other threats. The resilience of communities in response to these shocks determines the longevity and quality of life within the community.

The case study uses an economically and socially impoverished rural Italian village to identify the method of implementation best-suited to form resistance policies. The core identified factor is that place-based policies, specifically those designed within and by the community itself, are the most effective at building lasting resilience when compared to technocratic intervention and the adoption of exterior ideas. Local interventions are specialized, built with social ties, and require local trust to make impactful resilience strategies, emphasizing the importance of community self-organization.

Dickson-Hoyle, S., Copes-Gerbitz, K., Hagerman, S.M., & Daniels, L.D. (2024). Community Forests advance local wildfire governance and proactive management in British Columbia, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, 54(3), 290–304.
<https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2023-0089>

Community Forests are examined as a regional method of long-term forest management granted to Indigenous groups or local communities, sometimes in collaboration between them, highlighting their role in bridging the gap between provincial systems and local realities. Broad, provincial approaches are often described as technocratic and lacking grounding in local context, whereas community-based models emphasize local expertise, cultural connection, and knowledge of place.

When implemented, Community Forests enable more proactive strategies, including mechanical fuel treatments, prescribed and cultural burns, FireSmart education, and greater involvement in resilience planning. Their effectiveness is tied to a unique positioning that combines access to provincial resources with local flexibility, as well as strong social trust and relationships. Acting as “local champions,” they function as intermediaries between communities and government agencies, supporting more collaborative and locally grounded approaches to wildfire governance and resilience.

Warren, F.J., & Lulham, N. (Eds.). (2021). Rural and Remote Communities. Chapter 3 in Canada in a Changing Climate: National Issues Report. Natural Resources Canada.
<https://changingclimate.ca/national-issues/chapter/3-0/>

A chapter from Natural Resources Canada’s national climate assessment on the response of rural and remote communities to climate change. The chapter describes three ways in which rural communities are succeeding: strong informal economies, local social networks, and a strong cultural identity. Strategies described include innovative economies focused on sustainable energy and combining Indigenous knowledge with contemporary tools such as web-based monitoring platforms.

Beyazit, A. (2024). THE ROLE OF LOCAL MARKETING IN BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES. ACE - International Conference, 275-278. Retrieved from
<https://conferaces.com/index.php/journal/article/view/346>

A paper advocating for the marketing of resilience and sustainability as attractive elements within local communities. It’s argued that this marketing should be done in a place-based context, where the unique strengths, stories, and assets of communities are promoted to attract

investment, talent and visitors. This advocacy is in response to global challenges that impact local communities, where climate change creates disproportionate damage to lower-level infrastructure in small, rural communities, as well as the global economy and political instability faced globally. This marketing can also be achieved more easily, as even remote and rural communities can use digital marketing and social media as platforms to reach wider audiences of potential investors, guests, or potential residents. The prioritization of local, place-based marketing also perpetuates the abilities of communities to diversify, strengthen capacity for resilience, and build strong individual identity through creating more resilient and sustainable communities.

Recommendations

The most concrete strategic recommendation emerging from the literature is the creation of a Community Forest involving the Village of Lytton, Lytton First Nation, and the Province. Dickson-Hoyle et al. (2024) demonstrate through interviews the potential of Community Forests in BC, which have consistently succeeded in improving local wildfire governance through their combination of access to provincial funding, local knowledge, and Indigenous stewardship. Daniels et al. (2025) independently identify Community Forests as a strategy fulfilling multiple of their criteria for transformative adaptation to wildfire.

For resilience to function both as a protective measure and as an attractive quality of Lytton, it must be communicated as a value proposition rather than a compliance requirement. Communities that design recovery at a local level see superior lasting resilience due to a connected sense of identity and community advocacy (Salvia & Quaranta, 2017), while place-based marketing of resilience through digital platforms can allow even remote communities to attract investment and potential residents (Beyazit, 2024). Lytton's position as a community that has experienced wildfire firsthand, with opportunity to rebuild to new resilient standards, creates both a strong identity and marketable identity as climate threats become increasingly recognized across the region, shifting the framing of Lytton toward a safer and more intentional place to live.

Achieving these resilience outcomes requires sustained upfront and long-term investment at the household level, which is a difficult commitment to make in Lytton considering the lack of well-insured residents, economic halting, and the general funding problem (Office of the Auditor General of BC, 2026). Schumann et al. (2025) discuss that when standards are mandated without financial support, lower-income residents cannot comply and resilience becomes a stratified social problem. As such, tools like the PacifiCan Rebuild Lytton Program

(Pacific Economic Development Canada, 2023) should be actively advertised and ensured for long-term availability, with prominent communication (including through digital platforms as described by Beyazit, 2024) in order to make community-wide compliance achievable and to support the goal of rebuilding well ahead of the inevitable future threat of wildfire.

Mobility improvements to support growth and connectivity

By Agostino Vieites

Summary of Research

Throughout the literature review on rural mobility, some key themes emerged, such as how traditional transit systems are often ineffective in low-density areas due to high operating costs, limited funding and low demand. Breen (2025) highlights that while federal funding programs in Canada try to address and support rural mobility, they often prioritize capital investment over long-term, sustainable operational funding. Chen (2017) also mentions the ongoing trade-offs between equitable access for all and cost efficiency. He highlights that while providing widespread transit service is financially challenging, it is essential for community wellbeing.

Due to these limitations, more recent research shows a shift toward more flexible and adaptive mobility options. Freiberg (2021) and Martí (2023) emphasize that demand-responsive transit (DRT) networks, where schedules and routes are continually adjusted on user demand, are more effective in rural and low-density areas. This, in turn, allows for improved access and connectivity without the operational cost and inefficiencies of a fixed-route transit system. This type of system can better connect residents to regional services like health care and support inter-community travel.

Shaheen and Cohen (2021) expand upon this by introducing new emerging shared mobility systems like microtransit and on-demand services, which tend to use smaller vehicles and dynamic routing that delivers a cost-effective and scalable solution. These concepts show a larger shift in rural mobility planning toward a system that is more flexible, user-centred and prioritizes accessibility over traditional transit networks.

In conclusion, the main takeaway from the literature is that improving access to mobility in rural communities requires a non-conventional solution, one that is flexible and is demand responsive. This type of approach can improve mobility access for all while accommodating a lower population and operational cost.

Literature

Breen, S.-P., Gibson, R., & Main, H. (2025). Beyond the city limits: Analysis of federal funding of public transit in rural Canada. *Canadian Public Policy*, 51(2), 191–206.
<https://doi.org/10.3138/cpp.2024-040>

Breen looks at rural transportation networks in Canada with a focus on how federal funding streams support or fail to support mobility within small and rural communities. Using policy analysis and case studies, the study reveals that rural transit systems frequently struggle due to high operational costs, low population density and restrictive funding. Programs like the Rural Transit Solutions Fund aim to support innovation, but through research, programs like these often prioritize capital funding rather than sustained long-term operations.

Freidberg, G., Bueno, L., Pizzol, B., Escalante, D., & Pérez, T. (2021). Demand responsive transit: Understanding emerging solutions. World Resources Institute.
<https://doi.org/10.46830/wriwp.20.00061>

Freidberg analyzes demand-responsive transit (DRT) systems, which function with no fixed routes and respond to user demand. Looking at global case studies and policy review, the study finds that DRT systems are quite effective in rural and low-density areas, where traditional fixed-route buses are inefficient and unsustainable.

Martí, P., Jordán, J., De la Prieta, F., & Julian, V. (2023). Optimization of rural demand-responsive transportation through Transfer Point Allocation. *Electronics*, 12(22), 4684.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics12224684>

In this paper, Martí examines the installation of demand-responsive transport systems in rural areas, prioritizing improved efficiency and reliability. Using system design analysis and modelling, the study discovers that reliable, flexible on-demand networks can better connect rural areas by providing inter-community travel options without fixed scheduled routes.

Chen, C., Ahtari, G., Majkut, K., & Sheu, J.-B. (2017). Balancing equity and cost in rural transportation management with multi-objective utility analysis and Data Envelopment Analysis: A case of quinte west. *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, 95, 148–165. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2016.10.015>

In this journal, Chen looks at the obstacles of providing transportation in rural communities, focusing on the trade-offs between equitable access and efficiency. Using policy and economic analysis, this study finds that transit systems in rural communities often face high operating

costs and very limited funding, forcing governments and decision makers to prioritize certain services over others.

Shaheen, S., & Cohen, A. (2021). Shared mobility: An overview of definitions, current practices, and its relationship to mobility on demand and mobility as a service. International Encyclopedia of Transportation, 155–159. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-08-102671-7.10420-8>

Throughout this report, Shaheen studies various emerging shared mobility systems, including solutions like micro transit, ride-sharing and app-based on-demand services and how they are reshaping the transportation landscape. Looking at case studies in North America, the report looks at how shared mobility models can provide low-cost and flexible transportation options for areas that may not be able to operate traditional transit systems.

The study introduces the concept of micro transit, which functions similarly to a shuttle but is rerouted based on demand, often using a smaller vehicle like a van. These types of networks have been tested in smaller communities to help improve access and connectivity without the higher costs of fixed-route transit.

Housing strategies for Lytton

By Liam Fuller

Summary of Research

In terms of international research, Paradise City located in California is currently undergoing gentrification after a wildfire occurred several years ago. Previous residents that were more low-income were not able to rebuild either due to no insurance or being unable to afford disaster-relief insurance. During the post-recovery process, residents with higher income/finances were able to rebuild their homes/businesses, and new growth also provided fresh opportunities with outsiders that have wealth/income to be able to move in or start new businesses in Paradise. Although it creates economic benefits for the city, it also establishes a great wealth inequality where taxes will need to be raised to keep in line with growth, which is driving more people of low income to become homeless, live in campers, or be forced to move out with no financial support.

After the fire in the Village of Lytton, the majority of residents became homeless. Some had to move into hotels, family residences in surrounding communities, or simply moved out and relocated altogether. Providing temporary housing is essential for residents who chose to

stay, which has become a challenge in terms of building and maintaining temporary supportive housing, which can be costly for some. Residents that were already low-income were severely devastated with the financial costs, especially of not being able to afford rent in more expensive locations like Hope, Chilliwack, or municipalities closer to Vancouver. In addition, residents that are more vulnerable to housing are those with disabilities, single parents, Indigenous peoples, youth, the unemployed, and households with low income.

Overall, having supportive housing units will be essential during the rebuilding process for the Village of Lytton. Not only will it assist directly for locals, but it can also provide safe housing opportunities for those fleeing domestic abuse in isolated surrounding communities where assistance currently lacks, making it a vulnerable situation for those needing immediate help fleeing violence in isolated regions surrounding Lytton.

Literature

Disaster recovery gentrification in post-wildfire landscapes: The case of Paradise, CA

Lambrou, N., Kolden, C., & Loukaitou-Sideris, A. (2025). Disaster recovery gentrification in post-wildfire landscapes: The case of Paradise, CA. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 118. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2025.105235>

This article represents how increasingly frequent natural disasters are becoming due to climate change that are creating obstacles in terms of facilitating recovery efforts. The effectiveness in terms of wildfires still remains unknown to this time. A study in this article represents the recovery process from the 2018 Camp Fire located in Paradise, California. This study found that there are more than a billion dollars spent from federal aid in relation to the recovery of Camp Fire, and that gentrification through enabling socially privileged previous and new residents to move back, or to the Camp Fire region which are creating barriers to socially vulnerable people. Additionally, this article also identifies how the housing landscape has changed as a result of this fire, such as who is rebuilding, who is unable to return, and the types of houses that are being rebuilt by whom. This study found similarities to green and climate gentrification processes and disaster aid has potentially led to "disaster recovery gentrification." Even though the recovery process is essential for rebuilding, it also worsens the inequality of resources distributed that affect who, when, and how people are recovering from this disaster. Overall, this study highlights the need for more of a refined process to disaster recovery, and that there

should be some considerations on how long-term socioeconomic impacts can change how the recovery process works.

In Relation to Lytton:

After the wildfire struck the Village of Lytton, some of the population who are low-income, disabled, unemployed, or Indigenous did not have insurance, or the finances to rebuild their homes in the village. This has forced them to permanently leave the village, and allow those who are more sociably, or financially privileged to be able to purchase a property, especially when it is cheap, and build a new house. In terms of housing, Lytton's recovery efforts can focus on single-family housing developments, but should only be restrictive to the outskirts of the village such as either on the village's limit line, or potential development in the surrounding non-Indigenous rural communities located nearby the village.

Exploring the bounds of consumer choice in supported housing: A reflexive thematic analysis of data generated from supportive housing tenants in British Columbia, Canada.

Smith-Carrier, T., Dahlquist-Axe, H., Prindiville, D., & Marshall, C. A. (2025). Exploring the bounds of consumer choice in supported housing: A reflexive thematic analysis of data generated from supportive housing tenants in British Columbia, Canada. *PLOS Mental Health*, 2(12), e0000505. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000505>

For this article, it discusses consumer choices being the key principle for Housing First (HF) and supportive housing models. Through taking action of providing or supplying permanent housing for individuals, these models promote the authority and a recovery-orientated approach that can help move forward self-determination and overall wellbeing for individuals. The purpose of this study is to gather information of housing tenants' experiences with the perspective of complex care and supportive housing models for British Columbia (BC) in order to understand how these models conceptually align with the notion of consumer choices. This was viewed through a critical and theoretical framework by applying a reflexive thematic analysis in order to interview data that was generated from housing tenants in the province. This constructed several themes that either spoke directly, or indirectly to dimensions of choices from consumers. This resulted in underlying components that were infrequent to complex care and supportive housing programs throughout BC. Given its importance of improving the quality of life and wellbeing through the

consumers' choices, more work will need to be conducted in order to expand opportunities in these contexts.

In relation to Lytton:

Lytton currently lacks supportive housing units for former, current, and future residents. Many of these residents likely have disabilities either due to age, medical diagnosis, or identities that cause struggles to own and maintain a stable house without risk of eviction, foreclosure, or insurance challenges due to low-income/financial difficulties. The Village of Lytton's recovery process needs to explore in higher density supportive housing units such as either tiny homes, small apartments, basements suites, or any other living spaces necessary for low-income residents, people with disabilities, young families, or vulnerable people such as women recovering from trauma, and single people/single mothers or fathers to live safely and securely

Example of supportive housing:

Han Knakst Tsitxw Society: Helping Hands Transition House (Lytton): <https://hanknakst.ca/>

Wilma's Transition House (Chilliwack): <https://www.wilmastransitionsociety.org/get-support>

This type of housing focuses on transition housing for those recovering from trauma from domestic abuse, and this housing has supportive nurses on site that can provide on-site medications and counselling for victims in housing designed for short, medium, or long-term.

This type of housing applies to the Village of Lytton, and more is needed for all types of disasters and upheavals. This help is critical for rural residents who are in need of supportive housing from all trauma, especially those who live in isolated regions where help can be distant and therefore difficult to access.

Supportive Services tactics to encourage Youth to live in Lytton

By Mira Chahal

Summary of Research

As Lytton's population grows, more youth will need access to support and opportunities. Services like counselling, mental health care, and employment programs will help them stay healthy and build skills for the future. Having these supports in one place makes it easier for

youth to get help when they need it. Investing in youth services will help young people succeed and support Lytton's long-term recovery and growth.

Literature

Foundry BC. (n.d.). *Free & confidential youth wellness services.*

<https://foundrybc.ca/https://foundrybc.ca/foundry-virtual-bc/>

Foundry BC is a province-wide network that provides free, integrated health and wellness services for youth aged 12–24. Services include mental health care, substance use support, physical and sexual health care, peer support, and social services**, all offered** in one location or online. Youth can access services without a referral, which reduces barriers to care. In recent years, Foundry has expanded its services through virtual care, allowing youth in communities such as Lytton to access support even if a physical center is not available. However, I'm advocating for Foundry to be incorporated into a future community hub in Lytton, rather than relying solely on virtual services.

In Relation to Lytton:

- Lytton is a small rural community with limited access to specialized health and social services, meaning youth often face significant barriers in getting timely and appropriate support.
- Foundry's low-barrier, holistic model would reduce the need for youth to travel long distances to access multiple services, helping to close existing service gaps in the community.
- The availability of virtual services through Foundry Virtual BC is particularly valuable for Lytton, as it allows youth to access care remotely while local infrastructure and services continue to rebuild.
- This model emphasizes early intervention which is especially important in Lytton where youth may be experiencing ongoing social and emotional impacts from events such as wildfires and community displacement.

Why it's a strong model:

Foundry is already used across BC, making it a scalable, evidence-based model that aligns with provincial health and youth service priorities. This is particularly important for Lytton as implementing an existing provincial model increases the likelihood of funding, policy support, and successful implementation in a small, rebuilding community.

Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario. (2026). *Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario model.*

<https://youthhubs.ca/>

Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario is a network of integrated service hubs supporting youth aged 12-25. Similar to Foundry, it provides mental health services, primary care, substance use support, education, employment services, and peer support in one accessible location. The hubs are co-designed with youth, meaning young people help shape services to better meet their needs.

The goal is to provide the “right services at the right time and place”, improving accessibility and outcomes.

In Relation to Lytton:

- Shows that integrated youth service hubs can work in different regions, meaning this model could realistically be adapted to a small rural community like Lytton.
- Highlights the importance of involving youth in decision-making, which could help ensure services in Lytton reflect the needs of local and Indigenous youth.
- Brings together health, education, and employment supports in one place, which is especially important for Lytton as it rebuilds and supports youth long-term stability.

Why it’s a strong model:

YWHO is part of a broader national movement toward integrated Youth Services (IYS) (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2023). This makes it a strong model for Lytton because it shows a proven way to support youth that can work in different types of communities, including small and rural ones. It brings different services together in one place, making it easier for youth to get help without facing many barriers. It also focuses on listening to youth and supporting their overall well-being, which is important for Lytton as the community rebuilds and supports its young people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, for the Village of Lytton to attract young workers in their 20s or 30s, and to retain a younger demographic, it is recommended that a variety of amenity types be implemented. As per the outreach conducted before this Annotated Bibliography, no single amenity is sufficient. Young people are seeking multiple key amenities that can be developed in coordination and that complement each other. The outreach identified Economic Development, Tourism, Building

Climate Resiliency, Mobility, Housing, and Supportive Services. Through research, a clearer picture emerged.

As part of the overall strategy, the Village of Lytton should consider specific economic and tourism strategies, such as diversifying the economy, creating opportunities for small businesses, and creating marketable creative spaces that can boost tourism while highlighting the benefits of a small, remote town with an incredible and historically relevant landscape. There is also a need for community-based climate resiliency approaches, improved transportation throughout the area with on-demand services, housing, and supportive services focused on youth, mental health, and post-disaster recovery.

With basic needs met, such as safety, housing, and opportunities to work, a strengthened connectivity in the area through flexible transportation systems, and critical services for health and well-being, young workers and their families will likely strongly consider moving to the Village of Lytton. Providing these basic needs along with a diverse economy, featuring social and creative spaces and positive tourism marketing that highlights local identity will contribute to successful population growth and retention.

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Ashcroft

Desert Hills Ranch business website: <http://www.deserthillsranch.com/index.php>

Village of Ashcroft Economic Development webpage: <https://ashcroftbc.ca/business/economic-development/>