Smoky River Region Economic Development Strategy

Seeds of Success: Sowing the Future of Rural Development

Economic and Community Development Strategic Plan

The communities within Smoky River have come together to take control of their future. This commitment has driven the region to undertake comprehensive strategic economic development planning. Through collaborative efforts, the region has identified focused priorities and actionable strategies aimed at preserving and enhancing socio-economic circumstances and quality of life. This cohesive approach sets the stage for sustainable growth and prosperity, ensuring a vibrant and resilient future for all residents of Smoky River.

Smoky River Region Economic Development

The Mission

"To provide progressive business-oriented leadership, fostering industry and government partnerships and advocating for advanced education opportunities to assist in the growth of the business community."

Desired Outcomes of Economic Development Efforts

1. Sustainable and Thriving Community
2. Fostering Opportunities for Current and Future Generations
3. Positive Business Environment
4. Facilitate Job Creation

Our Guiding Principles

Collaboration and Partnership

We foster collaboration and partnerships among local governments, businesses, educational institutions, organizations, and stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise for comprehensive economic development efforts.

Sustainable Development

We promote sustainable development practices that balance economic growth with environmental conservation and social equity, ensuring long-term prosperity for current and future generations.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Support innovation and entrepreneurship by providing resources, programs, and initiatives to help start-ups and existing businesses thrive.

Equity and Inclusion

Promote equity and inclusion in economic development initiatives, ensuring that all residents have access to opportunities and benefits resulting from economic growth.

Quality of Life

Community characteristics that contribute to overall quality of life must be consistently considered with new development, including factors such as access to healthcare, education, recreational facilities, and a clean environment.

Strategic Priorities - Sowing Seeds of Success

1 Capacity Building

Building strong foundations and capacities that will support the longer-term economic development efforts.

1. Peer-to-Peer Mentorship
2. Networking and Collaboration
3. Resource Mobilization and Grant Writing
4. Strategic Partnerships and Alliances:
   a. Collaborate on joint projects
   b. Empower community members:
5. Training and Professional Development for Necessary Staff/Council Members
6. Stakeholder Involvement (HS*)
7. Capacity Building Workshops (HS*)
8. Public Awareness Campaigns (HS*)

2 Workforce Development

Be the catalyst for programs fostering skills and training for evolving industries and new businesses in the region.

1. Employment Counseling and Support Services
2. Employee attraction and Retention capacity building for employers.
3. Skills Assessment and Gap Analysis
4. Matchmaking service
5. Training Programs (HS*)
6. Apprenticeships and Internships (HS*)
7. Recruitment Initiatives (HS*)

3 Business Retention and Expansion

Ensure access to support and resources for existing businesses to help them thrive and grow within the region.

1. Celebrate Successes
2. Concierge Program for Business Support Services
3. Peer to Peer Mentorship Program
4. Business Seminars/Workshops (Capacity building for business owners)
5. Access to Financing (Match Making)
6. Buy/Support Local Campaigns
7. Succession Planning
8. Local Procurement Initiatives
9. Business Incubators (HS*)
10. Marketing and Promotion for Hemp Industry (HS*)

4 Foster Entrepreneurial Success

Nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Smoky River Region can stimulate innovation, job creation, and economic growth.

1. Small Business Week Celebration
2. Access to Financing
3. Entrepreneurship Training Programs
4. Promote Specific Opportunities Relating to Hemp
5. Entrepreneurship Education in Schools
6. Shared Facilities and Equipment
7. Run a Mentorship Program

5 Infrastructure Investment

Investing in transportation, broadband, utilities, healthcare, and education boosts Smoky River Region's competitiveness.

1. Broadband Connectivity
2. Employment Land Preparedness and Inventory
3. Housing Strategy
4. Centre of Innovation
5. Community Investment Fund
6. Transportation Networks (HS*)
7. Utilities and Processing Facilities (HS*)
8. Housing and Community Services (HS*)

6 Promoting the Smoky River Region

Create campaigns to showcase the region, attract investment and new business, while boosting visibility locally and globally

a. Citizen Attraction
b. Investment Attraction

*See Marketing and Promotion Plan for More Information

For more information on the Smoky River Region Contact:

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