



CITY OF KAMLOOPS  
SUSTAINABLE KAMLOOPS PLAN



INFORMATION PACKAGE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(Final Version– 2010 February 09)

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## Background

Kamloops has a well-diversified economy based on government services, education, forestry, tourism, and other industries. While the economic slowdown has had an impact in Kamloops, particularly in the forestry sector, Kamloops has not experienced as deep of an economic retraction as other communities across Canada. Major employers in the community include Royal Inland Hospital, School District # 73, Thompson Rivers University, Highland Valley Copper Mine, Domtar, and the City of Kamloops. The area is able to take advantage of a combination of good transportation linkages, a high quality of life, access to natural resources, a skilled and stable workforce, and superb infrastructure to create an environment for a diversity of businesses to thrive in. Having a strong economy is critical to maintaining a stable, thriving community.

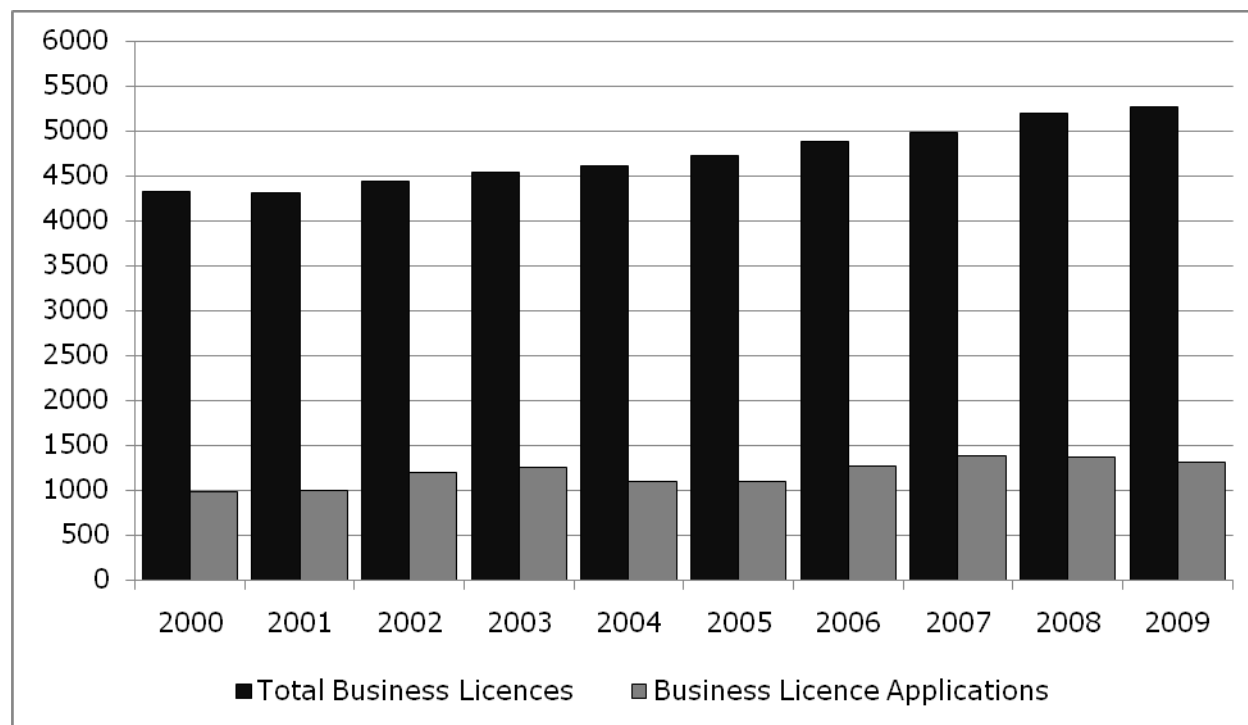
There are a number of organizations that have economic development mandates in Kamloops. First and foremost among these is Venture Kamloops which has a mandate of encouraging the recruitment of new business and the retention and expansion of existing businesses across all sectors of the economy. Community Futures of Thompson Country also helps support business development in the community particularly through the Self-Employment Assistance program. Other organizations that support the economy include the Chamber of Commerce, the various business improvement associations, the Central Interior Home Builders Association, and the Southern Interior Construction Association. This is in addition to the work done by provincial and federal government agencies. The City also recognizes that partnerships with organizations such Thompson Rivers University and Tk'emlups Indian Band will be critical to economic development in Kamloops.

Looking forward, economic development will need to balance social and environmental dimensions. It will be important that economic and environmental values are consistent with one another.

## Baseline Conditions

Economic activity can be illustrated through business licensing and formation/failure statistics, as well as employment rate. These are shown in the tables and graph below.

**City of Kamloops Business Licence Activity**



10		Business Formations and Failures							
Incorporations			Bankruptcies						
Year	Number		Year	Kamloops		Thompson/Okanagan DR		BC	
	Kamloops	BC		Business	Consumer	Business	Consumer	Business	Consumer
2005	510	30,937	2004	35	192	n.a.	n.a.	922	8,373
2006	633	33,273	2005	28	187	n.a.	n.a.	786	8,168
2007	574	34,036	2006	21	154	120	913	585	7,020
2008	549	30,085	2007	20	147	97	874	470	6,651
2009	455	26,431	2008	n/a	142	n/a	1,014	454	7,293

Source: BC Ministry of Finance

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, Government of Canada

Incorporations are counted in municipality of the registered office address which may differ from the actual business location.

Note: Bankruptcy is by urban postal code forward sortation area and is counted where it is filed.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Employment Rate</b>	62.8	68.0	66.5	68.6

Additional baseline conditions to be compiled as part of further work on economic development include:

- Business licencing details, including new and lapsed business licences, as well as net growth (or reduction) in total number of licences;
- Employment by sector, employment by industry, and economic diversity index;
- Where possible, placement of Kamloops in lengthier and larger context through compilation of 20-year trend data, and comparisons to national, provincial and comparable BC community data;

It was also suggested that information be assembled regarding the sustainability practices (particularly environmental, such as water and energy conservation, and solid waste reduction) of selected businesses in Kamloops. The BC Lotteries Corporation was noted as one example.

## **Goals**

Venture Kamloops, the City of Kamloops and other relevant agencies will ensure that economic development targets are well-aligned with other community goals.

Kamloops will ensure that there is an environment conducive to business development – the City along with its partners will continue to have a *business-supportive* environment. This includes addressing issues such as infrastructure, quality of life, development opportunities, skilled workforce, taxation, and other key areas relating to business retention and attraction.

The City of Kamloops will continue its business-friendly approach in facilitating new business development – this will include the exploration of incentives such as ‘front-of-the-line’ privileges for new developments which exhibit high degrees of environmental, social and economic stability.

Kamloops will continually diversify its economy – the City will actively recruit new businesses and work with existing businesses to diversify the economy to make it less susceptible to changes. Recruitment efforts will focus on environmentally-sustainable businesses in order to promote Kamloops as a ‘green’ community. Attention will also be directed to the social dimensions of new businesses. Particular emphasis will be put on nurturing small businesses.

Kamloops will maintain strong employment rates – the City will help foster an economy that maintains strong employment opportunities for residents.

Kamloops will have an economy based on sound environmental principles – the Kamloops economy will evolve into the future with more emphasis on businesses that support environmental sustainability, and those that do not have adverse impacts on the environment.

### **Targets**

Kamloops will have an employment rate greater than the national average – the City will work with community partners to ensure that the employment rate of the community is better than the national average and consistent with the BC employment rate, when the BC rate is lower than the national rate.

Kamloops will have an economic diversity index higher than the provincial and national averages.

All Kamloops businesses and industries will be in compliance with permits issued by the BC Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies.

### **Proposed Directions**

#### City Operations

The City's Zoning Bylaw will be reviewed to ensure that there are appropriate land use designations, locations and regulations in place to accommodate industries with permitted emissions.

#### City Working in Partnership with Others

The City will work with BC Environment and other relevant senior government environmental agencies to assess industrial emissions as part of facility location, approval and monitoring processes

Venture Kamloops will continue to engage the business community in encouraging sustainable economic development in Kamloops

The City of Kamloops, senior government agencies, not-for-profit and non-government organizations and the private sector will all collaborate in retaining the quality of life factors (such as employment opportunities, affordable housing, health care, recreation and cultural opportunities, clean water and air) which make Kamloops an attractive community.