



Media Release

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Sparwood Chamber of Commerce to partner with District of Sparwood for “Business Walks” initiative

MONDAY, September 28, 2015, SPARWOOD, BC – **Sparwood** is marking Canada’s Small Business Month by initiating a partnership between Sparwood Chamber of Commerce and the District of Sparwood to embark on a “Business Walks” project.

On the morning of 15th October 2015, elected officials from Sparwood will partner up with members of the Sparwood Chamber of Commerce to conduct a walk that aims to meet with as many businesses within the community as possible.

The initiative, taking place in many communities within BC, supported by BC Economic Development Association, looks to identify the current issues, challenges and opportunities that local businesses are dealing with.

The concept is to very quickly take the pulse of the business community through five minute conversations with business owners and managers. Results will be compiled and reported on in order to seek out the key issues in a way that allows Council, the Chamber of Commerce and other organisations to consider supporting programs or initiatives.

Speaking about the initiative, Mayor Cal McDougall said; “This is a really great initiative and gives us the opportunity to update the findings of our recent Business Retention and Expansion survey. Things are not easy for many business sectors at the moment and so it is important for us to do whatever we can at the local governmental level to help.

“The very first step in this is to understand directly from businesses what they are working on, the challenges that they have and the opportunities that are available to them.

“Myself and my fellow Councillors are looking forward to working with the Chamber of Commerce and getting out to meet the business community.”

Marjorie Templin, President of Sparwood Chamber of Commerce said: "The Chamber is very excited about getting out on the Business Walks.

"Focusing in on businesses in this way makes sure we minimise the impact on their operations and also ensures that we see a high number of managers or owners. The data will be very valuable for the Chamber of Commerce to use when planning how we can better align our services with the needs of our membership."

Business owners and managers are encouraged to be at their business the morning of October 15 when the Business Walk teams are out. Being available to enter into a very brief discussion will provide valuable information that can make a difference to the business community.

During October, Sparwood Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Business Awards with nominations taking place throughout October until the closing date of October 26 followed by the award ceremony on October 29 at the Sparwood Visitor Centre. Nomination forms are available online or at the Chamber of Commerce.

For more information:

Norma McDougall
Sparwood Chamber of Commerce
250.425.2423