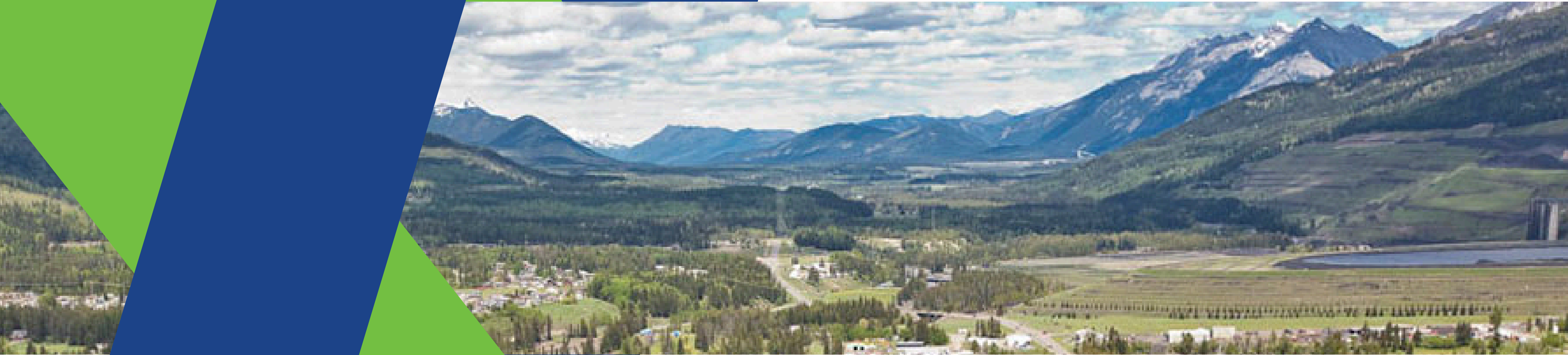




**SPARWOOD**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# **BUSINESS WALK SUMMARY**

**OCTOBER 2025**



# SUMMARY

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# ABOUT US



At the **Sparwood Chamber of Commerce**, our mission is to sustain existing business, enhance business opportunities and improve the economic, social, ecological and cultural well being of the community. We work closely with local entrepreneurs, organizations, and government to foster economic growth and create meaningful opportunities.

Following the successful launch of our first year back last fall, we moved into our second year with the 2025 Business Walk. This initiative continues our mission to deepen our understanding of Sparwood's business landscape and refine a strong, unified path forward.

# BUSINESS WALK OVERVIEW

The Fall 2025 Business Walk was conducted in October and brought together Chamber board members, representatives from EVEI, and Sparwood's council also attended.

**152**

Pre-identified businesses to engage with in the community

**31**

Face-to-face visits with Chamber Business Members during the Business Walk

**6**

Email surveys circulated to those unavailable for the face-to-face meetings

**1**

**GOAL**

Capture the state of business in Sparwood, identify challenges, and learn what supports are needed for growth

# POSITIVE FINDINGS

Sparwood's business community is demonstrating remarkable resilience and positivity. Local entrepreneurs have successfully navigated the transition in mining ownership, other wins were finding reliable hires to expand their teams.

Many business owners specifically credited their success to Sparwood's strategic location within the Elk Valley, noting that a supportive community and a loyal clientele are foundational to their growth.

Together, these factors paint a promising picture of a stable and thriving business environment.

**56%**

**REPORTED THEIR BUSINESS AS  
GROWING OR EXPANDING IN 2025**

**44%**

**REPORTED THEIR BUSINESS AS  
HOLDING STEADY & STABLE IN  
SPARWOOD IN 2025**

# CHALLENGES

While there is much to celebrate, businesses also highlighted some persistent challenges.

The top concerns raised included:

**01**

**Employee Shortage**

**02**

**Permitting**

**03**

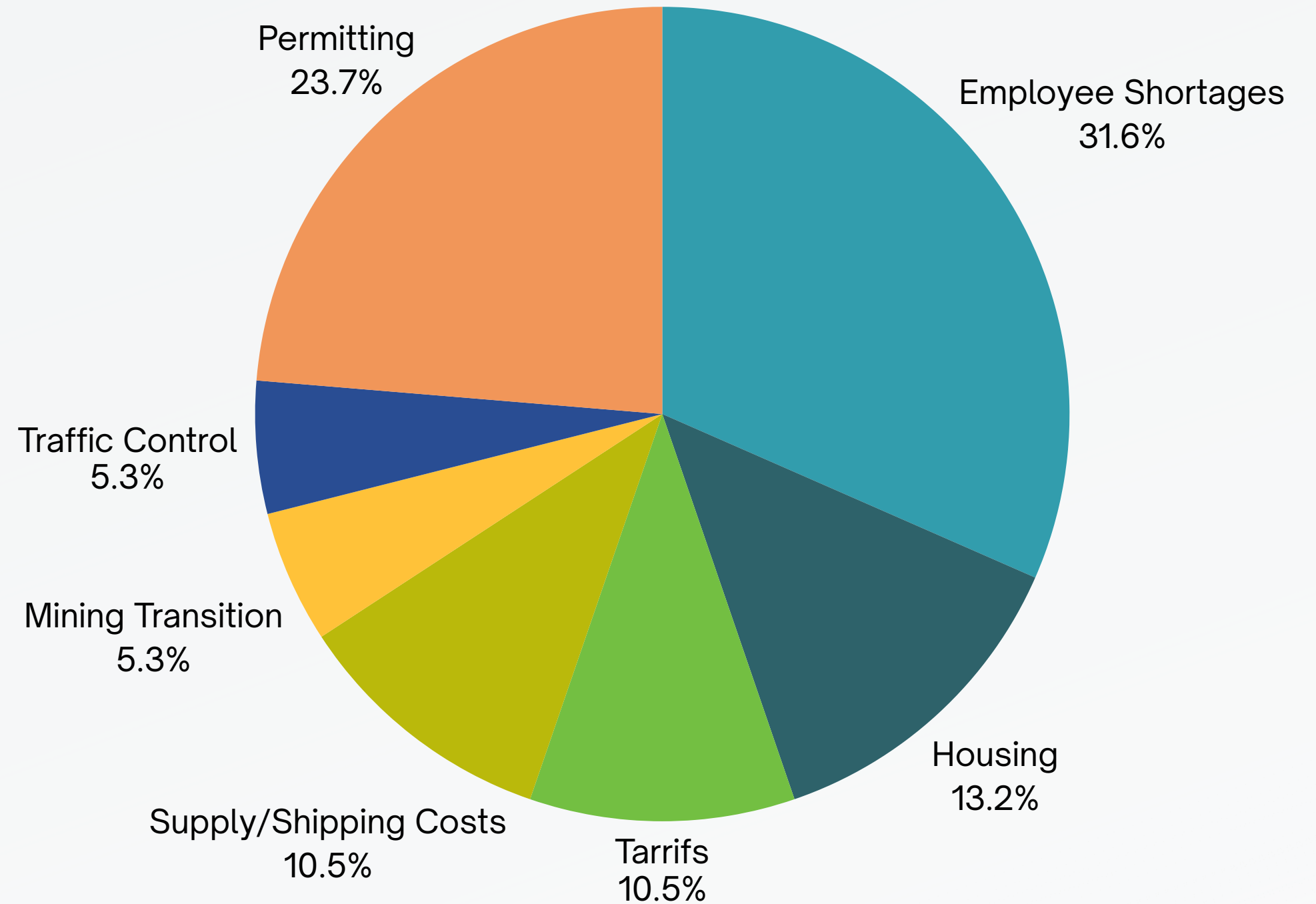
**Housing**

**04**

**Tarrifs**

**05**

**Supply/Shipping Costs**





# A CLOSER LOOK: PERMITTING

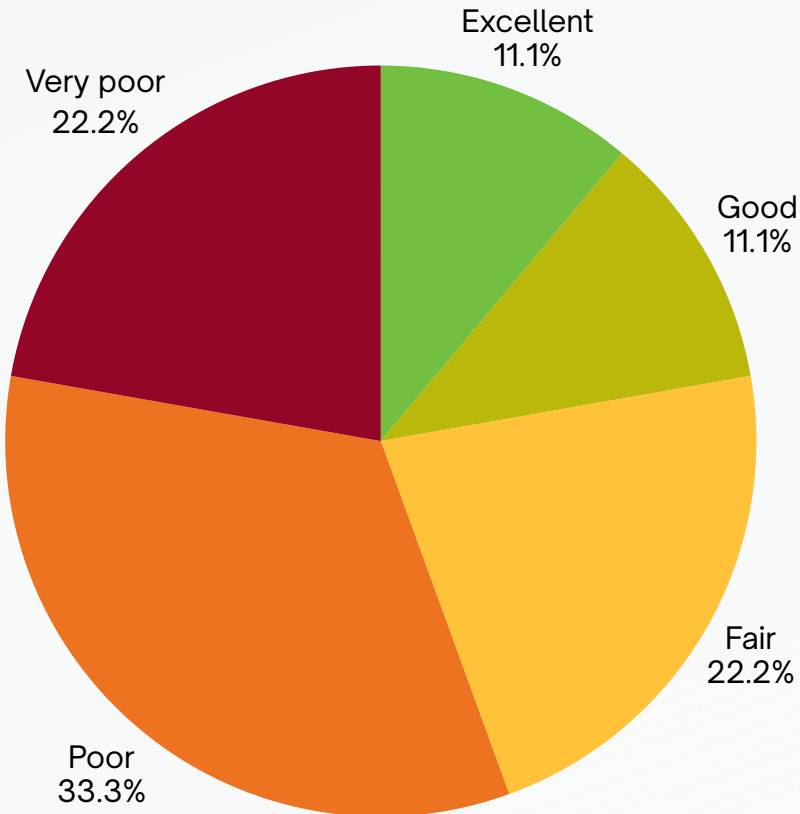
**Permitting** challenges were a common issue raised so we've done a deeper dive.

Top permits were building permits & business licenses, with some other permits including development and land use agreements, trail construction and day permits.

**Some challenges** included lack of building inspectors and availability causing delays - specifically openings of businesses or build progress.

Businesses did report positive communication from the district staff, but they often could not solve the issue at hand. We all hope to see new building inspectors in the area in 2026.

**Overall Experience with the Process**





# A CLOSER LOOK: TARRIFS & SUPPLY CHAIN COSTS

Many business owners expressed frustration with supply chain costs & tarrifs, something that did not show up in the 2024 business walk so worth a closer look.

Tarrifs have been everchanging throughout 2025 due to the political climate, more than in the past causing additional fees and unexpected fees. Businesses have had to change suppliers for parts, materials and products.

Supply chain & shipping costs due to our remote location has caused some struggles, this year more than in the past.



**We are not alone in this struggle. Across Canada, over 30% of businesses have reported a major impact due to tariffs.**

# TRAINING OR RESOURCES BUSINESSES FIND COULD BE VALUABLE

When asked what training could be the best for their staff these were the top 3:

**Marketing & Digital  
Tools**

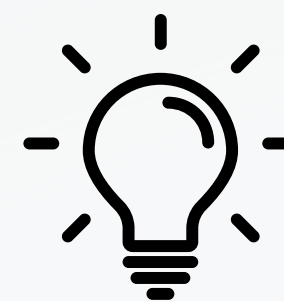
**#1**

**Workforce Recruitment  
& Retention**

**#2**

**Customer Service  
Training/HR**

**#3**



Sparwood Chamber will look into ways to support getting these trainings and resources in place.

# TURNING INSIGHT INTO ACTION

## *We heard you!*

Based on your feedback, the Advocacy Committee has pivoted our 2026 goals to tackle the real-world challenges you're facing today.

What's new and up and coming!

- **Enhanced Resources:** Our Board and Advocacy Committee have overhauled our website's resource hub to provide the most current tools for Sparwood businesses.
- **Targeted Training:** Our Events Committee is hard at work turning your feedback into actionable workshops and training programs.
- **Proactive Advocacy:** We're not just reacting, we're actively collecting insights to fight for the interests of our local business owners.

The full Board is committed to your success, but we need your input to keep the momentum going. Help us take meaningful action by staying engaged!



# SPARWOOD

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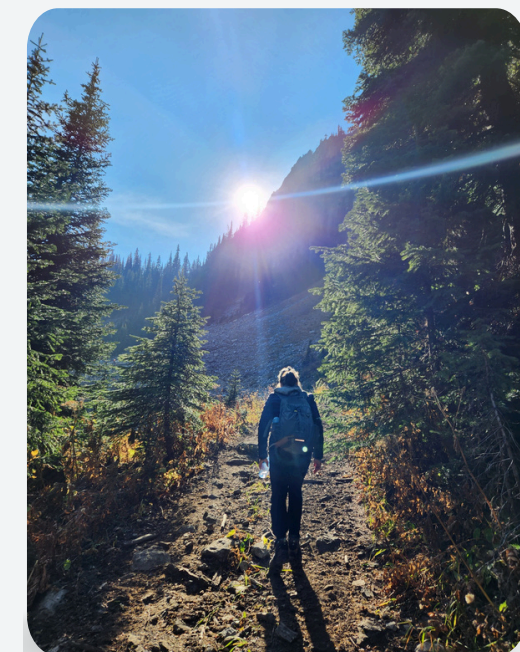
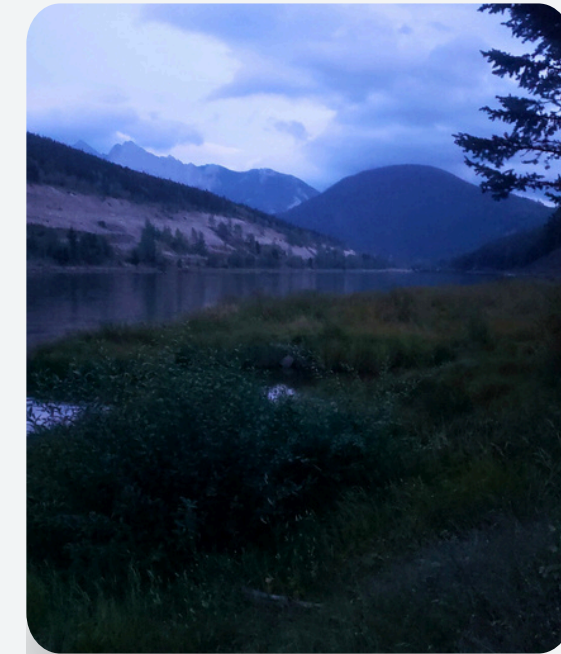
## DRIVING GROWTH TOGETHER

**The 2025 Sparwood Business Walk served as a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and innovation within our local business community.**

This year, we connected with over 150 Sparwood Chamber members, giving them the opportunity to share insights and updates so we can better support their success. Through these conversations, we gained valuable perspectives on what is working, the challenges being faced, and, most importantly, how we can grow together.

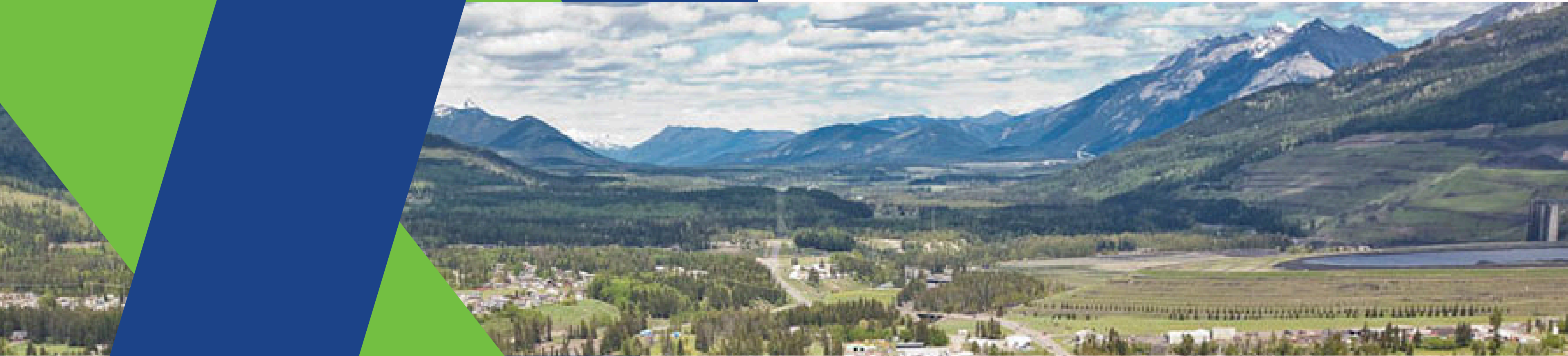
To every business owner who opened their doors and shared their time: thank you. Your voice is helping shape the future of business in Sparwood.

If you didn't have the chance to connect with us during this walk but would still like to share your feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. Be sure to watch for future engagement opportunities and Chamber events!





**SPARWOOD**  
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**THANK YOU**