

Business Hub @ City Hall

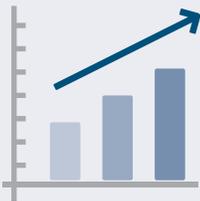
What's New at the Business Hub?

Read on to find out how we've been working with local business to create prosperity in Victoria.

First Annual Victoria Business Survey Results

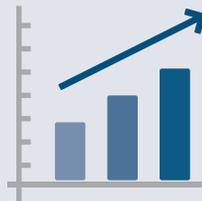
Last fall the City of Victoria launched its first ever Victoria Business Survey. It turns out we've got some good stories to tell. Some highlights include:

Business Performance – Last 12 Months



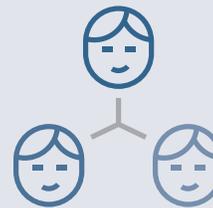
86% of businesses who completed the survey said that business performance exceeded (47%) or met (39%) expectations in the last 12 months

Business Expectations – Next 12 Months



89% of businesses who completed the survey said they expect business performance to improve (46%) or stay the same (43%) over the next 12 months

Staffing Levels – Next 12 Months



94% of businesses expected their full-time employment levels to either stay the same (75%) or increase (19%) over the next 12 months

What is the Business Hub?

The Business Hub, located at City Hall, is a welcoming and collaborative first point of contact for business start-ups, relocations, expansions, investors and others interested in creating prosperity in Victoria. The goal of the Business Hub is to make it easier to do business in Victoria. The Business Hub is designed to help businesses navigate the City's processes and connect them with relevant agencies in the community to help get businesses up and running as quickly as possible.

268 Victoria businesses completed the survey. 69% of businesses have between 1–5 employees, and 22% have between 6–25 employees. 57% of businesses have been in business between 1–10 years, split almost evenly at the 1–3, and 4–10 year mark, 25% between 11–25 years, and 18% of businesses have been operating for over 26 years. 30% of businesses also operate in locations outside of Victoria. Visit the full summary at victoria.ca/bizhub.

Next fall when renewing your Business Licence, watch for your opportunity to participate in this survey.

Welcome to Victoria

OPEN

Business Hub

E bizhub@victoria.ca

T 250.361.0629

Hours of Business:

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday



Business Hub Activity

2018 was another busy year for the Business Hub, with 492 inquiries, an increase of 14% since 2017.

The Hub hosted and partnered with local and regional partners to offer two successful 'Small Business Information Sessions', offering up information and connecting businesses with the many resources available outside of the Hub. The Hub also hosted the first ever Small Business BC "Pop-up" at City Hall. Business Advisors from Vancouver were available to offer free consultations. The pre-booked appointments were sold out three weeks prior to the event.



Chamber of Commerce
Business Awards 2018



Small Business Information Session at City Hall

Council's New Strategic Plan and Initiatives

"Prosperity and Economic Inclusion" is one of eight strategic objectives in Council's 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan. Some of the actions from this plan will include:

- Convening the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Prosperity 2.0 to hit 2041 job targets.
- Providing nearly \$4.3 million each year to support economic development initiatives and make it easier to do business in Victoria, including the Business Hub at City Hall, the South Island Prosperity Project, the Victoria Film Commission and operating the Victoria Conference Centre.
- Exploring ways for businesses in Victoria to become living wage employers.

The full 2019 – 2020 Strategic Plan is available at: victoria.ca/strategicplan.

Making it Easier to do Business in the City

Council has approved in principle the following:

Mobile Bike Vending

After two pilot years, the City has now approved a mobile bike vending program. Vendors will be able to stop for up to 60 minutes to sell food, non-alcoholic beverages, and local hand-crafted items on City streets, near multi-use trails, and in most City parks. This program is now being developed and business licences (\$100) will be available in time for summer 2019. Stay tuned for more information this spring.

Vancouver Island Inter-Community Business Licence

This spring, the City of Victoria should be up to one of 24 municipalities partnering in the Vancouver Island Inter-Community Business Licence (ICBL). The program would reduce red tape for mobile businesses, like trades and sales, who are looking to operate across multiple municipalities on Vancouver Island by requiring only one licence that permits them to work in participating locations across the Island. The report was passed in principal by City of Victoria Council in late 2018 and will come back to Council for final approval this spring.

Upcoming Events

The Business Hub is hosting, participating in, or attending the following business events this spring. We hope to see you there!

Douglas Magazine Top 10 to Watch Awards April 4, 5–10 p.m.

The Business Hub is proud to sponsor the exciting '10 to Watch Awards' again this year at the Roundhouse.

Small Business Information Session April 9, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

We will be hosting our Spring Information Session in the Council Chambers at City Hall. We have partnered with Small Business BC, VIHA, Destination Victoria, DVBA, Chamber of Commerce, Community Microlending, Futurpreneur, ETHOS Business Works, and others to offer a morning of information gathering and networking to assist with starting a business in Victoria.

Chamber of Commerce Business Awards May 16, 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

The City of Victoria is proud to sponsor the Business of the Year (1–10 employees) award at the Chamber awards this year at the Fairmont Empress.

If you are interested attending any of these events or would like to learn more please contact our Business Ambassador at the Business Hub.



Social Procurement

The City of Victoria is proud to be one of nine communities on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast to have joined the Coastal Communities Social Procurement Initiative, with the aim of better leveraging tax dollars to achieve positive social outcomes for communities throughout the coast. This is the first step in the City developing a Social Procurement Strategy. Stay tuned for more.