

Business Hub @ City Hall

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

Making it easier to do business in Victoria!

Vancouver Island Inter-Community Business Licence

Starting as early as January 2019, the City of Victoria may be one of up to 24 municipalities partnering in the Vancouver Island Inter-Community Business Licence. Council will review details of the City's potential participation this fall. The program would reduce red tape for mobile businesses, like trades and sales, who are looking to operate in multiple municipalities on Vancouver Island.

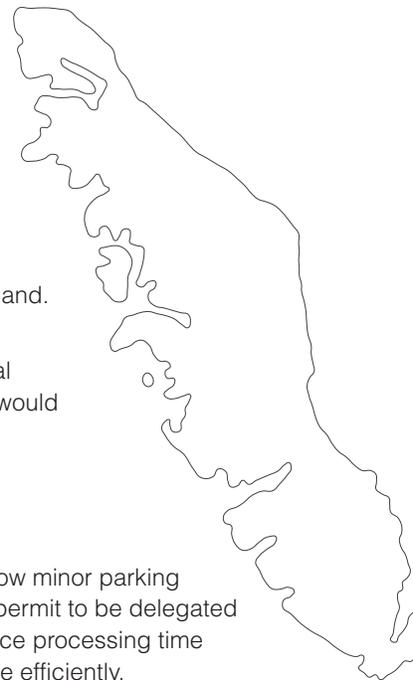
Since 2000, Victoria has offered an Inter-Municipal Business Licence that allows businesses to operate in all 13 municipalities in the Capital Regional District. The proposed Inter-Community Business Licence would extend this across Vancouver Island.

City of Victoria Streamlines Minor Parking Variances

Schedule C of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw has been changed to allow minor parking variances included with a development permit or heritage alteration permit to be delegated to City staff, instead of having to be brought to Council. This will reduce processing time and costs, which will enable local businesses to open faster and more efficiently.

Criteria that must be met:

- Motor vehicle parking variances must not exceed 5 stalls
- Bicycle parking variances must not exceed 6 stalls
- The applicant must demonstrate that it would not unduly impact the neighbourhood
- Suitable for commercial, institutional and industrial applicants only.



What is the Business Hub?

The Business Hub at City Hall is a welcoming and collaborative first point of contact for business start-ups, relocations, expansions, investors interested in creating prosperity in Victoria.

The main 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 business processes, and connect them with relevant agencies in the community to help get businesses up and running as quickly as possible.

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

In the first three quarters of 2018 the Business Hub received 371 inquiries, up from 313 inquiries for the same period in 2017, an increase of almost 19%. Over 58% of these inquiries were related to starting, expanding or relocating a new business in the city. The most common type of business inquiry was for home-based businesses, followed by a mix of entrepreneurial business ideas, retail and restaurants. The Hub also continued to work to identify and remove unnecessary red tape in City of Victoria regulations, processes and permits to help businesses launch quickly and efficiently.



In June, the Hub co-hosted our first ever Small Urban Farming Workshop with the City's Food System Co-ordinator. Participants learned about small-scale commercial urban agriculture, learned about resources for start-up businesses and toured an urban farm. (Photo credit: TOP SOIL)



In August, the City hosted a Small Business BC 'Pop Up'. This was an opportunity to learn about the key steps in business start-up and growth, support services available and the option of booking a free consultation with one of Small Business BC's business advisors.

Business Hub Highlights

- Attended the Small Business BC Awards Gala that brought together over 600 small business owners, supporters, suppliers and government officials
- Attended Douglas Magazine 10 to Watch Awards in support of the incredible entrepreneurs in Victoria
- Attended the Chamber of Commerce AGM and the DVBA AGM
- Sponsored, attended and presented at the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, celebrating the diverse and successful businesses in our communities
- Attended the VIATEC Awards which highlight our greatest successes in the Tech sector
- Attended the Best of the City Awards to recognize leaders in our various business sectors

Upcoming Events

The Business Hub is hosting, participating in, or attending several upcoming events to support our business community.

Small Business Information Session – October 30, 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We're holding our sixth small business information session at City Hall to support entrepreneurs thinking about starting a business or those who have recently opened a business.

Innovation Forum – November 20 – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Business Hub is again partnering with Public Services and Procurement Canada to host the 2018 Innovation Forum. The forum will showcase support programs available to Canadian companies in the R&D and innovation space. It includes presentations and discussions with experts from organizations such as Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Miatcs, and Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP), to name just a few.

EcoStar Awards – November 22

The City of Victoria is proud to sponsor the Manufacturing Excellence and Transportation Mode-Shift award at the fourth annual Vancouver Island EcoStar Awards. The event recognizes outstanding environmental achievements and leadership by businesses, organizations and individuals.

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



This summer the City of Victoria's Checkout Bag Bylaw came into effect and businesses across the City and beyond embraced the change by phasing out plastic bags and charging for paper and reusable bags. Business were given six months to use up their existing stock of plastic bags. As of January 1, 2019 all businesses are prohibited from distributing plastic checkout bags. To learn what your business or restaurant needs to do to comply and to access the Retail Toolkit, please visit: victoria.ca/reusablebags