

Economic Development Initiatives abound for the over 480 licensed businesses contributing to our local economy. Our businesses cover the spectrum from retail to construction and services to manufacturing. Council has seized every opportunity we can to support our local businesses and to help them be successful. Here is a sample of recent initiatives we have taken.

1. Collaborated with community partners to produce the forward-looking [Ladysmith Economic Development Strategy](#).
2. Adopted the award-winning [Waterfront Area Plan](#) following significant public engagement, in collaboration with Stz'uminus First Nation.
3. Maintain a [Business and Development Portal](#) on the Town's website to provide a simple point of entry for local business information and resources, including the "BizPal" service.
4. Support inter-municipal business licence programs for mobile businesses.
5. Publish an annual [Community Profile](#) of economic and community information for businesses looking to expand or investment in Ladysmith.
6. Enhance the supply of industrial land through the regional Industrial Land Use Strategy and maintain an industrial park land inventory to assist with investor inquiries.
7. Provide user-friendly checklists for business licensing, business signage and residential building permits.
8. Promote Ladysmith as an investment ready community through the business-led "BC Small Business Roundtable". In 2011, the Town was presented the award for the Most Small Business Friendly Community in the Vancouver Island/Coast Region. We were proud to make a submission for this award with letters of support from the Chamber of Commerce and the Ladysmith Downtown Business Association.
9. Partner with and contribute financially to the services delivered through the Cowichan Valley Regional District's economic development office.
10. Invest in significant water and sewer infrastructure enhancements to ensure services exist for business and development investment.