



Attn: Honourable Mayor and Members of Council
Town of Golden

July 5th, 2018

RE: Economic Development Function for Golden and Area

Dear Mayor Oszust,

The Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce is a membership-driven organization that works to support, grow and promote the business community of Golden and Area A. A strong and prosperous small business sector is the backbone of our community.

Golden businesses are experiencing a critical shortage of labour. The shortage of labour has hit the service and hospitality industries particularly hard, however it should also be noted that other industries, Early Childhood Education and Intervention, Construction, and Specialty Retail to name a few, are impacted by this as well. As a result, several businesses report having to reduce the number of products/amount of services offered, scale back operating hours, and at least one member business is considering closing permanently. In addition to this, many employees are taking extra shifts and split shifts due to the labour shortages. This causes burnout and contributes to the problem.

The labour shortage is an issue that many have pinned on the lack of affordable housing. We believe that the labour shortage and lack of affordable housing issues are interrelated. Employers are looking for workers but cannot find people. Poor housing options discourages workers to stay. The employment issue therefore involves employees and housing, not just lack of skilled, unskilled and seasonal workers.

We have concerns for the local small business community and ask that you support bringing back the Economic Development function for Golden and Area A. Whilst the Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce is ready to participate in any way possible within our resources and mandate in a



community effort to mitigate the situation, an Economic Development Officer could act on existing concerns such as the labour shortage and housing crisis in providing a strategic approach and focused tactical implementation.

Sincerely,

Shelly Wadden

Shelly Wadden | Executive Director
Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce
manager@goldenchamber.bc.ca
(250) 344-7125 | 344-0546