



GROWTH Alberta
Your Business. Our Future.

t 780.674.3140 f 780.674.2777 www.growthalberta.com

5306 - 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2009

Working Together to Create Welcoming Communities

BARRHEAD, Alberta, April 29, 2009 — Alberta Employment and Immigration (AEI) and GROWTH Alberta recently hosted meetings in the communities of Westlock and Barrhead to introduce a “Welcoming Communities” concept.

Both communities have seen a number of newcomers, immigrants and temporary foreign workers move to the area in recent years. As a regional economic development alliance (REDA) committed to the sustainability of our region, GROWTH Alberta strongly believes in the importance of attracting and retaining new residents. By helping newcomers access settlement services and integrate into their new community, a welcoming communities initiative celebrates diversity and inclusion, and helps to ensure the long term stability of our region.

Government agencies, health care agencies, local employers, churches, municipal services and other interested individuals were contacted and encouraged to attend the initial meeting to determine if there was interest in forming a community-based committee. Sergio Gaggero of AEI presented the “Attracting and Retaining Immigrants: A Toolbox of Ideas for Smaller Centres”. The toolbox gave a step by step process and ideas to develop projects for the Welcoming Community Committee.

The initial meeting gathered enough interest that second meetings will be held in May. We want to take this opportunity to encourage those who are interested in becoming a part of this exciting project to attend the next meeting.

Westlock Welcoming Communities Meeting

May 27, 2009 at 7:45 am

Westlock Employment and Immigration Office, 11304 – 99 St (behind Boston Pizza)

Please RSVP to marg.wintonyk@gov.ab.ca

Temporary Foreign Workers Information Session

May 11, 2009 at 6:00 pm

Westlock Employment and Immigration Office, 11304 – 99 St (behind Boston Pizza)

Please RSVP to marg.wintonyk@gov.ab.ca

Barrhead Welcoming Communities Meeting

May 21, 2009 at 8:00 am

Barrhead LMIC (Labour Market Information Centre), 6203-49 St. (Provincial Building)

Please RSVP to heather.stevens@gov.ab.ca



GROWTH Alberta *Your Business. Our Future.*

t 780.674.3140 f 780.674.2777 www.growthalberta.com

5306 - 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5

About GROWTH Alberta

The Grizzly Regional Economic Alliance Society (GROWTH Alberta) is a Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) consisting of eight municipalities, two school boards, and four support agencies in North Central Alberta. GROWTH Alberta was established in 2001 and incorporated as a not for profit society in September 2002 to provide economic development support and promotion for its member communities. GROWTH Alberta works in partnership with its members, their local businesses, and the provincial government to address the economic challenges that face the region.

More at www.growthalberta.com

About Regional Economic Development Alliances

Alberta's Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) developed out of a need to stimulate long-term economic development and growth strategies in Alberta's rural and urban communities.

Each of the thirteen REDAs in Alberta is a strong partnership of communities and other supporting stakeholders that undertakes various initiatives to enable sustainable economic development for their respective regions.

More at www.albertacanada.com/regionaldev

About Alberta Employment and Immigration

Alberta's Ministry of Employment and Immigration includes the Department of Alberta Employment and Immigration (E&I), the Alberta Labour Relations Board, Appeals Commission for Alberta Workers' Compensation, Occupational Health and Safety Council and the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Ministry's mission is to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the economy by ensuring Alberta has a skilled workforce, productive and safe workplaces, and by helping to improve the well-being of Albertans.

More at employment.alberta.ca

- 30 -

Media Contact

Lorraine Robinson
Administrator
GROWTH Alberta
Telephone: 780.674.3140
Email: lorraine@growthalberta.com