



GROWTH Alberta
Your Business. Our Future.

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5306 - 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5

For Immediate Release

May 26, 2009

Working Together to Create Welcoming Communities

BARRHEAD, Alberta, May 26, 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.

The intention was to assess local interest in developing a community-led welcoming communities project. Sergio Gaggero of AEI delivered a presentation on “Attracting and Retaining Immigrants: A Toolbox of Ideas for Smaller Centres”. The toolbox offers a step by step process and project ideas from across Canada, as a resource for communities looking to develop their own projects.

Both AEI and GROWTH Alberta, the regional economic development alliance (REDA) for North Central Alberta, have a vested interest in helping our communities to attract and retain newcomers to the region. The REDA and AEI have committed to support any community-led initiative to make our communities more open and welcoming to newcomers looking to build a life in the GROWTH Alberta region.

Initial meetings held earlier in May gathered enough interest that a second round of meetings will be held in June. GROWTH Alberta and AEI encourage those who are interested in becoming a part of this exciting project to attend the next meeting, during which communities stakeholders, with support from AEI and GROWTH Alberta, will discuss potential projects to create more welcoming communities here in Barrhead and Westlock.

We are looking forward to have you joining us in the discussion of this exciting project.

Barrhead Welcoming Communities Meeting

June 9, 2009 at 8:00 am

Barrhead Golf Club, 11304 – 99 St (behind Boston Pizza)

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



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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

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