



**GROWTH Alberta**  
Your Business. Our Future.

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5306 - 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Regional BizPaL Launch held in Westlock**

BARRHEAD, Alberta, October 14, 2009 — Starting and running a business in the GROWTH Alberta region has just become easier thanks to BizPaL, a new online business permit and licence service launched at the Ramada Westlock on October 14, 2009.

BizPaL is an innovative service that provides entrepreneurs with simplified access to the information on permits and licences they need to establish and run their businesses. This unique partnership among federal, provincial, and local governments is designed to cut through the paperwork burden and red tape that small business owners encounter. The BizPaL service in the GROWTH Alberta region was developed by the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA), its eight municipal members, the Province of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

"BizPaL is part of our government's economic plan to support innovation and cut red tape," said Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism. "Small businesses are a major engine of our economy. BizPaL will help small businesses grow and drive economic growth and job creation here and across Canada."

"BizPaL is about different levels of government working as partners to make it easier for entrepreneurs to get their business started or expand an existing business," said the Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Service Alberta. "That's why I am so pleased that Westlock and the communities in GROWTH Alberta have partnered with us and the federal government to deliver this innovative and valuable service."

"We're working to make it easier to start and operate a business in the GROWTH Alberta region" said GROWTH Alberta Chair Pamela Marriott, also the Mayor of Swan Hills. "BizPaL does just that! This launch is a chance for us to share the new tool with our business community and celebrate the enterprising spirit that is so important to our region's success."

GROWTH Alberta Chair Pamela Marriott joined local elected officials, business owners, chamber representatives, and business service providers in launching the service today in Westlock.

Entrepreneurs can now access permit and licence information for the GROWTH Alberta region from any BizPaL site nationwide, including [www.growthalberta.com](http://www.growthalberta.com) and [www.bizpal.alberta.ca](http://www.bizpal.alberta.ca).



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### **About BizPaL**

BizPaL is an online service that benefits Canadian businesses by helping them identify which permits and licences they require and how to obtain them. Entrepreneurs simply answer a series of questions on the type of business they want to start or expand and the activities they plan to undertake. BizPaL then automatically generates a list of all required permits and licences from all levels of government, along with basic information on each, and links to government sites where the entrepreneur can learn more and, in some cases, apply online.

More at [bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca)

### **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](http://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](http://www.albertacanada.com/regionaldev)

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