



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partnering to Support Local Businesses Amidst COVID-19

Barrhead, AB (March 27, 2020) – [County of Barrhead](#) and [Town of Barrhead](#) are partnering with [Community Futures Yellowhead East \(CFYE\)](#) and [Barrhead and District Chamber of Commerce](#) to provide a central location to access links to Provincial and Federal resources to support community businesses during COVID-19 crisis as well as subsequent recovery.

The municipalities and business associations understand the financial hardships that the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing is having on residents, employees, and businesses in the community. To ease the stress of finding relevant information and resources, each of the County of Barrhead, Town of Barrhead and CFYE websites have compiled information from the Provincial and Federal governments regarding response to the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as business sustainability and recovery plans.

“It has never been more important to support our local businesses than it is now during this crisis. We need to focus on keeping our local businesses viable and our neighbors employed,” said Doug Drozd, Reeve, County of Barrhead. “Working together as a community will help to mitigate the depth of the downturn and support a quicker recovery.”

Dave McKenzie, Mayor of the Town of Barrhead added, “we must respect guidelines set forth by the province and feds for social distancing and self-isolation, but it is equally vital to recognize what effects this crisis will have in the long term on Barrhead businesses. The support provided by this partnership in centralizing accurate information to a single source will help our business community work through the challenges faced due to this pandemic.”

All partners are actively watching the COVID-19 health risk and following protocols laid out by Alberta Health Authorities. Although partner offices and facilities are closed to the public and all upcoming non-essential meetings cancelled, services to residents and businesses will continue to be provided with communications being available via phone, email, and where possible, remote access meetings. Megan Perry, President of the Barrhead & District Chamber of Commerce adds, “our businesses are working hard to comply with and promote social distancing; please show your appreciation and support by keeping your business local.”

“Our world is changing, and we are all learning to change along with it,” states Carol Webster, Board Chair, Community Futures Yellowhead East. “CFYE will be with local businesses each step of the way as we work to help our communities, clients and businesses prepare for what is yet to come.”

The County of Barrhead and Town of Barrhead are municipalities located in north central Alberta, approximately 100 km northwest of Edmonton, AB. Businesses and entrepreneurs in the region are supported by Community Futures Yellowhead East with a wide range of small business services and business management tools for people wanting to start, expand, franchise or sell a business, funded by [Western Economic Diversification Canada](#). The Barrhead & District Chamber of Commerce, in operation for over 50 years, provides a voice and network for local businesses in the community.

###

Jenny Bruns
County of Barrhead
780-674-3331
jbruns@countybarrhead.ab.ca

Ed Leblanc
Town of Barrhead
780-674-3301
eleblanc@barrhead.ca

Dave Sawatzky
Barrhead & District Chamber of
Commerce
Dave.sawatzky@homehardware.ca

Michelle Jones
Community Futures Yellowhead East
780-706-3500
mjones@albertacf.com