



Creating opportunities in South-Central Alberta



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Featured

If we don't have an honest conversation about energy, Canada risks becoming a nation of hypocrites

By Martha Hall Findlay | Globe and Mail | News

THE LATEST

Published: October 7, 2019

Hundreds of thousands of young Canadians and millions more around the world marched last week demanding that governments take drastic action on climate change. Their concern is understandable, and a passion for a cleaner energy future is admirable.

Yet, just weeks before the marches, global oil prices jumped on the news of drone attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities – and Canadians seemed most worried about how it would affect prices at the pump. Lest we forget that this comes less than a year after the outrageous murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi (along with no shortage of other human-rights abuses), when many Canadians pushed the federal government to stop commercial engagement with Saudi Arabia. The focus was on Canada's sale of light armoured vehicles to the kingdom, but there were few, if any, calls to stop the flow of Saudi oil to Canada – worth several multiples more than the LAV deal.

Protesting against inaction on climate change is admirable, but it is far more difficult to find real, practical solutions. It's too easy to blame actors such as the oil sands, cement plants or even agriculture for their greenhouse gas emissions, but we're too often unaware of – or we conveniently choose to ignore – the less-than-savoury facts about what we allow and what we do. We are overdue for an honest discussion in Canada about our own energy use – and the inconvenient truths we cannot continue to ignore.

[Read more.](#)

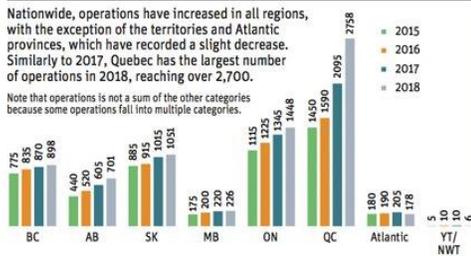
Why do Canadians eat organic?

By Robert Arnason | Western Producer | Farm Living

TOTAL OPERATIONS

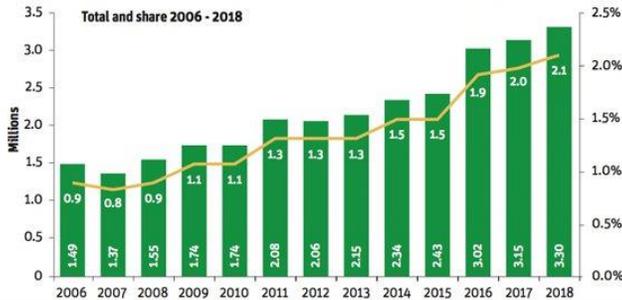
Nationwide, operations have increased in all regions, with the exception of the territories and Atlantic provinces, which have recorded a slight decrease. Similarly to 2017, Quebec has the largest number of operations in 2018, reaching over 2,700.

Note that operations is not a sum of the other categories because some operations fall into multiple categories.



ORGANIC ACREAGE

Organic acreage has been increasing since it started to be tracked in 2006. It now reaches 3.3 million acres and represents an estimated 2.1 percent of Canadian farmland while, over the same time frame, total farmland has remained more or less stable.



48 percent
TRUST RATE IN
CANADA ORGANIC
(in just 10 years)

THERE ARE
5,791

ESTIMATED CERTIFIED
ORGANIC PRODUCERS
ACROSS CANADA

66 percent
OF CANADIAN GROCERY
SHOPPERS PURCHASE
ORGANICS WEEKLY

TOTAL ORGANIC MARKET
INCLUDING FOOD, BEVERAGES
AND NON-FOOD SALES
\$5.4 billion

Estimated sales value 2017

Source: Canada Organic Trade Association | RAELENE HOLTH GRAPHICS

Published: Oct. 4, 2019 *

In 2018, there were 5,791 organic crop producers in Canada, up 46 percent from 3,955 in 2015.

Data from the Canadian Organic Trade Association (COTA), released the second week of September, shows the number of organic farmers has exploded in the last couple years.

From 2012-15, the number of organic crop farmers grew slowly, going from 3,500 to about 4,000. Since that time, the population has climbed more rapidly. It jumped 300 in 2016, 575 in 2017 and almost 1,000 in 2018.

In one year, from 2017-18, the number of organic producers in Canada increased by 21 percent.

Most regions witnessed growth in organic numbers, including the prairie provinces such as Alberta, where the number of crop producers went from 280 in 2013 to 615 in 2018.

More farmers are switching to organic because of prices, which can be two or three times higher than prices of conventional grain.

“It was definitely the collision of the markets negatively impacting conventional and positively impacting organic,” said Laura Telford, Manitoba Agriculture’s organic specialist.

[Learn more.](#)

Agriculture and agri-food exports by destination

By TB Financial's Economics & Research Team | ATB Economics | Research



Published: Oct 7, 2019

The sale of agriculture and agri-food products to foreign buyers is an important slice of Alberta's export pie, accounting for 9.7 per cent (\$11.5 billion) of total merchandise exports last year. When we exclude our exports of oil and natural gas, agriculture and agri-food's share of the remaining total is 29.8 per cent.

Buyers in just four countries purchased more than three-quarters of our agriculture and agri-food exports last year. The United States purchased 36.9 per cent (\$4.2 billion). China is second on the list at 23.0 per cent of sales (\$2.6 billion), followed by Japan at 11.1 per cent (\$1.3 billion) then Mexico at 4.8 per cent (\$0.6 billion).

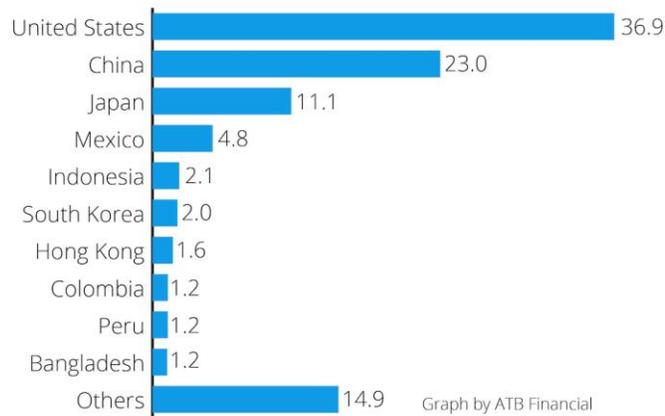
Primary agricultural products such as wheat, canola and live cattle accounted for about 30 per cent of total sales to the U.S. in 2018. The other 70 per cent was agri-food products such as cuts of meat, flour, malt, canola oil, fries, and honey.

Chinese importers leaned toward primary agriculture products with 55 per cent of total sales in 2018 made up of canola seeds, peas, and soybeans compared to 45 per cent for processed food products, most of which was canola oil.

All 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia imported at least some agriculture or agri-food products from Alberta last year. California imported the most at \$1.2 billion or 27.4 per cent of the sector's sales to the U.S. last year, followed by Washington at \$0.7 billion (16.3 per cent) and Texas at \$0.3 billion (7.7 per cent). Rhode Island, West Virginia and the District of Columbia each imported less than \$400,000 worth of agriculture and agri-food products from Alberta.

Alberta's agriculture + agri-food exports, 2018

% of total international agriculture + agri-food exports



Source: Trade Data Online

[Learn more.](#)

Unemployment rate falls but for wrong reason

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | ATB Economics | Research

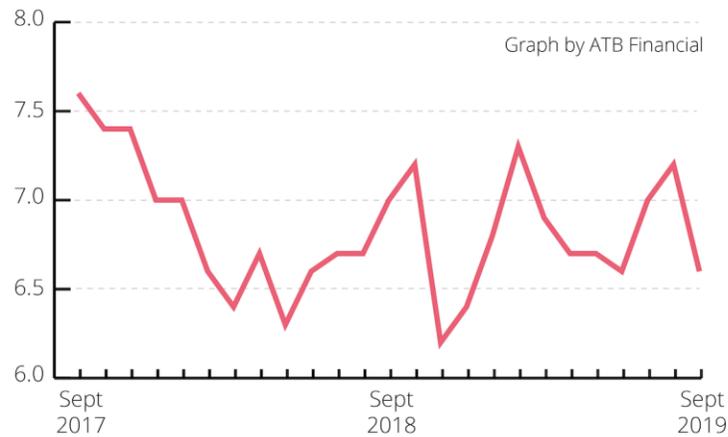


The latest job numbers from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey show the monthly unemployment rate in Alberta improved in September, falling by 0.6 percentage points to 6.6 per cent.

The problem is that the improvement is due to workers leaving the labour force rather than strong job creation. An estimated 11,600 workers decided to stop working or quit looking for work in September compared to the creation of just 4,900 new jobs. While people leave the labour force for a range of reasons, it is a safe bet that the number of discouraged job seekers—those who stop looking because they cannot find work—is up in the province.

Alberta's unemployment rate

Monthly, %



Source: Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0287-01

[Learn More.](#)

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to you by

For the week of **October 15 2019**

[Full Document Access](#)



Indicators Updated this Week

-12.7%
\$9.74B



\$9.74 billion in August 2019, a decrease of 12.7 % over August 2018. Canadian exports declined by 3.5% over the same period.

In Alberta, the largest year-over-year gains were in industrial machinery and equipment (+16.3%) and consumer goods (+ 9.1%), while the largest declines included forestry and building products (- 23.4%) and energy products (-14.0%).

POPULATION

+1.6%
4.37M



In Q3 2019, Alberta's population reached 4.37 million, up 70,595 or 1.6% from Q3 2018. The national growth rate was 1.4% over the same period, with both PEI and Ontario leading provincial growth at 2.2% and 1.7%, respectively.

NET MIGRATION

+40.4%
12,899



In the second quarter of 2019, net migration into Alberta totaled 12,899, compared with a net inflow of 9,189 in the same quarter of 2018, an increase of 40.4%. Net inter-provincial migration into Alberta was +471 in the second quarter of 2019, up from -791 a year earlier. Net international migration reached 12,482, increasing 25.1% from 9,980 net international migrants entering Alberta a year earlier. Nationally, net migration rose 9.5% in the second quarter of 2019 compared to the same time last year.

BANKRUPTCIES

-43.5%
13



The number of Alberta business bankruptcies in August 2019 decreased by 43.5% from the same period a year ago, from 23 to 13. The number of Canadian bankruptcies decreased by 15.3% over the same time period.

Consumer bankruptcies in Alberta increased by 8.5%, from 423 in August 2018, to 459 in August 2019.

CATTLE PRICE

+0.6%
\$135.31
(\$/hundredweight)



Cattle prices in Alberta had a slight increase of 0.6% in August 2019 compared to the same time period a year earlier, to \$135.31 per hundredweight, the highest price in Canada.

Calf prices fell by 3.5% year-over-year in August 2019 to \$169.49 per hundredweight.

Hog prices had a considerable jump of 47.7% in August 2019 compared to the same period a year earlier, to \$90.06 per hundredweight.

WHEAT PRICE

-6.4%
\$241.33
(\$/metric tonne)



In August 2019, Alberta non-durum wheat prices, which include the weighted average prices of milling and other wheat excluding durum, recorded \$241.33/metric tonne, down 6.4% from August 2018.

Durum wheat was \$257.61/metric tonne in August 2019, 0.1% lower than August 2018.

BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS

-7.8%
2,996

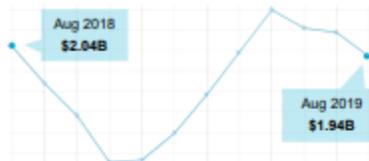


In September 2019, the number of businesses incorporated in Alberta totalled 2,996, a decrease of 7.8% from the same period a year earlier.

Alberta incorporations were down 8.4% to 2,686, while non-Alberta incorporations decreased 2.2% from a year earlier to 310.

MLS SALES VALUE

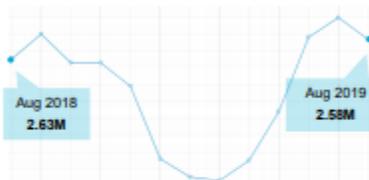
-4.7%
\$1.94B



The dollar volume of homes sold in Alberta through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) decreased 4.7% to \$1.94 billion in August 2019 compared to the same time period a year earlier. Nationally, total sales values were up 9.1%, with Quebec posting the largest sales increase, up 13.1% to \$2.19 billion. Prince Edward Island saw the largest decrease, with total sales down 16.2% to \$42.4 million year-over-year. In Alberta, Lethbridge had the only increase (+2.8%), while Red Deer had the largest year-over-year decrease (-20.4%).

AIR PASSENGERS

-2.0%
2.58M



The number of air passengers passing through Alberta's three largest airports decreased by 2.0% in August 2019 compared to the same period a year earlier, with 50.5% of those passengers coming through Calgary International Airport as domestic passengers. Edmonton transborder passengers had the largest year-over-year drop (-20.3%) compared with August 2018, while Calgary international passengers saw the largest year-over-year increase (+20.1%).

WELLS DRILLED

-32.9%
341



The number of exploratory and development wells drilled in July 2019 decreased by 32.9% from the same period a year earlier, from 508 to 341 wells. Development oil wells, which made up the largest portion (56.6%) of wells drilled in July 2019, decreased by 18.2% year-over-year.

OIL PRODUCTION

-3.1%
17.8M m³



Oil production in Alberta was 17.81 million cubic metres in August 2019, down 3.1% compared to August 2018. Non-conventional (or oil sands) production, which constituted 84.2% of all oil production in Alberta in August 2019, decreased by 2.6% year-over-year, while production of

News Highlights

- Southern Alberta short line is hauling in jobs and economic activity. [Read more](#)
- EIA: Canadian oil production to spike between 2040-2050. [Read more](#)
- Canada's GDP flat in July as oil and gas extraction shrinks. [Read more](#)
- What Canada's economy would look like if Alberta's recession never happened. [Read more](#)
- 'It's not a pipe dream': Oilsands company developing project to wipe out its emissions. [Read more](#)
- National small business contest gives boost to enterprising Alberta producer. [Read more](#)
- Women have growing presence on Alberta's corporate boards, but still outnumbered. [Read more](#)
- Calgary-based Bellatrix Exploration seeking a buyer amid restructuring. [Read more](#)
- Why engineers in Alberta think they've found a way for the oilsands to produce clean fuel. [Read more](#)
- Tenants at New Horizon Mall in Calgary desperate for business. [Read more](#)

Major Projects

- \$200M Alberta solar farm construction to proceed after deal to supply TC Energy. [Read more](#)
- \$430M Potato processing plant opens in Lethbridge, will provide nearly 240 full-time jobs. [Read more](#)
- Calgary council approves release of funds for \$240M Arts Commons project. [Read more](#)
- TransAlta and SemCAMS Midstream announce agreement to construct \$105M cogeneration plant in Alberta. [Read more](#)
- Trochu announces \$32 million seniors facility. [Read more](#)
- \$9M Cochrane Innovation Centre and Transit Hub to proceed into design stage. [Read more](#)
- Calgary's Jaipur Bridge replacement estimated to cost \$9.6M. [Read more](#)

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2018	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$335.0B	+2.4%	May 2019
Q3 2019	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.37M	+1.6%	October 2019
Aug 2019	Unemployment Rate <i>yr/yr</i>	7.2%	+0.5%	September 2019
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2019	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	USD\$52.81	-5.5%	October 4, 2019 Closing
Jul 2019	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.8B	-0.5%	September 2019

Looking Ahead

Mon 07	Tue 08	Wed 09	Thu 10	Fri 11
	Indicator Releases: Building Permits			Indicator Releases: Employment, Unemployment

Things You Need To Know



CALLING ALL ENTREPRENEURS!

PowerUp! Taber is an entrepreneurial conference designed to inspire, inform, and empower the entrepreneurs of Southern Alberta. This two day event will bring together businesses owners, entrepreneurs and business resources from all over Southern Alberta to connect and learn from one another through a variety of networking and learning opportunities.

This year's event is November 7 and 8, 2019. The event will kick off with a networking reception, Happy Hour Handshakes, on November 7 to give entrepreneurs a chance to network with one another and connect with business support services and resources in Southern Alberta. November 8 will be a full day of learning with inspiring speakers and break-out sessions that are relevant to businesses of all stages and in a variety of industries.

See the full agenda and [GET YOUR TICKETS HERE!](#)



Learn how to get into the Fractionation Business.

To explore value-added processing of crops such as pulses, canola and hemp, Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta (PPAA) is hosting a Fractionation 101 Workshop.

Please join us for presentations by industry experts **Trevor Pizzey**, president of anCeres Processing Solutions, **David Fielder**, a senior scientist with Alberta Agriculture, and **Corey Keith**, founder of consulting firm Keith and Associates.

After their talks will be a panel discussion with questions from the audience. Networking time to follow.

See the full agenda and [GET YOUR TICKETS HERE!](#)

Sponsored by [Canada's Premier Food Corridor](#) and SouthGrow Regional Economic Development



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Canada Business App

Download the Government of Canada's [Canada Business App](#) to see how easy it is to navigate government services, get recommendations tailored to your business, set up personalized notifications and find the answers you need to start up, scale up and access new markets.



Explore markets with the Export Data Tool

Are you new to exporting or looking to grow your exports?

The new [Export Alberta portal](#) provides a self assessment tool to help you decide if you are ready to export and then provides modules to help you navigate the export process. Access our [Events Calendar](#) to find nearly all events Economic Development Trade and Tourism/Agriculture and Forestry staff intend to undertake in 2019-2020.

Stories to Follow

Government

[Alberta government approves \\$30M in disaster funding for wildfire, flood damage](#)

Global News | Oct 3, 2019 | News

Wildfires and too much rain this year will put a \$30-million dent in Alberta's finances. The United Conservative cabinet has declared official disasters in some communities to free up money to cover damage caused by the flames and local flooding ...

Economy & Markets

[Market access loss may force risk management overhaul](#)

Western Producer | Oct. 3, 2019 | Markets

I heard two things recently that made me think Canada's farm risk management programs have a gaping hole. "It's like we're continually targeted. How do we deal with this?" Bill Campbell, president of Keystone Agricultural Producers, said to me during the Manitoba Protein Summit ...

[Maybe, just maybe, Trump's right on trade. Maybe Canada should learn](#)

Western Producer | Oct. 4, 2019 | Markets

Donald J Trump is appalling in many ways. Maybe in most ways. He's a bully and a liar. He encourages racism and xenophobia if it helps him politically. He's undermining his nation's constitution on a regular basis. His disgraceful conduct is coarsening American mores ...

[Quality durum expected to be in short supply this year](#)

Western Producer | Oct 3, 2019 | Markets

If you have quality durum safe in a bin you will likely be able to sell it at an attractive price this year. On the other hand, a lot of durum grown this summer was degraded first by rain and then by snow ...

[National small business contest gives boost to enterprising Alberta producer](#)

Alberta Farmer Express | Oct. 3, 2019 | News

A fledgling Alberta ag enterprise has been named the most promising startup in a nationwide contest for small business owners. "I was so excited," said Farmbucks founder Lynn Dargis, who ...

Communities

[Report puts a number on Sask. lake flooding](#)

The Western Producer | Oct. 3, 2019 | News

Farmers and landowners around the Quill Lakes in east-central Saskatchewan have lost more than \$100 million since 2012 due to rising water levels, according to a recently released report commissioned by the Quill Lakes Watershed Association ...

[Sask. producer charged after cattle seizure](#)

The Western Producer | Oct. 3, 2019 | [Livestock, News](#)

One person faces several charges after more than 300 cattle were seized from his farm last winter. Warren Russell of the Stoughton, Sask., area has been charged under Section 4 of the province's Animal Protection Act. That section prohibits anyone from causing an animal to be in distress or to continue to be in distress ...

[Griesbach residents consider legal action following raw sewage flood](#)

CBC | Oct. 4, 2019 | News

Residents of Edmonton's Griesbach neighbourhood who were flooded out by sewage after heavy rain backed up the sewer system are considering legal action. Around 130 basements in the north Edmonton neighbourhood were flooded on Friday, July 19, two days after it had begun to rain heavily ...

[Dispose of old pesticides and livestock meds](#)

Alberta Farmer Express | Oct. 4, 2019 | News

Cleanfarms is collecting old, unwanted agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications in six locations in the Peace region from Oct. 16-18 and at 20 locations in northern Alberta from Oct. 7-11 ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

Federated Co-op helps food centre expand

Western Producer | Oct. 4, 2019 | News

Federated Co-operatives Ltd. announced Oct. 2 it is providing \$500,000 to help the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre's expansion project in Saskatoon.

The Food Development Centre is a non-profit organization that assists food processors in developing products to take to market ...

Events



PowerUp!
Taber
emPOWERing entrepreneurs

NOVEMBER 7th and 8th, 2019

PowerUp! Taber is an entrepreneurial conference designed to inspire, inform, and empower the entrepreneurs of Southern Alberta. This two day event will bring together businesses owners, entrepreneurs and business resources from all over Southern Alberta to connect and learn from one another through a variety of networking and learning opportunities. Find resources, gain information, recharge your ambitions, and energize your ideas into action at PowerUp! Taber!

**Find resources, gain information,
recharge your ambitions, and
energize your ideas into action.**



Thursday, November 7 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Happy Hour Handshakes & Pre-Conference Registration

Get a spark of energy for Friday's full agenda with local fare, cold drinks, and plenty of handshakes. This evening will provide an opportunity to network with other like-minded start-ups, seasoned business owners, and business support service providers.

Friday, November 8 - 8:30 - 4:00 pm

PowerUp! Taber Conference

Find resources, gain information, recharge your ambitions, and energize your ideas into action. Prepare for a full day of learning with inspiring speakers and break-out sessions that are relevant to businesses of all stages and in a variety of industries.



TICKETS

Early Bird Price ends October 16, 2019	\$50.00
Regular Admission	\$65.00

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30 Welcoming Remarks
- 8:45 Opening Keynote:
- 9:30 Break Out Sessions (3 options)
- 10:15 Morning Break
- 10:30 Business Resource Panel
- 11:30 Break Out Sessions (3 options)
- 12:15 Lunch (provided)
- 12:45 Cracker Barrel
- 2:00 Break Out Sessions (3 options)
- 2:45 Afternoon Break
- 3:00 Closing Keynote
- 3:45 Final Remarks & Farewell

Tickets and full conference details including information about speakers and breakout sessions can be found on the website.

POWERUPTABER.CA



Fractionation 101 Workshop - NOVEMBER 21st

To explore value-added processing of crops such as pulses, canola and hemp, Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta (PPAA) is hosting a Fractionation 101 Workshop.

Please join us for presentations by industry experts **Trevor Pizzey**, president of anCeres Processing Solutions, **David Fielder**, a senior scientist with Alberta Agriculture, and **Corey Keith**, founder of consulting firm Keith and Associates.

After their talks will be a panel discussion with questions from the audience. Networking time to follow.

This workshop will focus on very practical topics, such as key factors considered when deciding to build and locate facilities, and what can local governments and others can do to attract them.

The event will be a training opportunity for economic development groups, financial institutions, suppliers and those interested in value-added processing.

Details

Date: Thursday, Nov. 21

Time: Workshop 1:30-4:30 pm, Networking 4:30-6 pm

Location: Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre

Event Sponsors

[Farm Credit Canada](#)

[Canada's Premier Food Corridor](#)

[SouthGrow Regional Initiative](#)

Workshop Series

This workshop is one of a series in the province. For more details and information please see our website: <https://ppaa.ca/ppaa-events/>

Employment Opportunities



[AUMA | Association of Urban Municipalities of Alberta](#)

- Asset Management Specialist - Water Services, City of Airdrie
- Director of Operations and Infrastructure, Town of Three Hills

- Director, Public Works, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Senior Manager, Engineering, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Senior Manager, Environmental Services, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Didsbury
- Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services, City of Edmonton

[RMA | Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Resources



At SouthGrow's main office, we are working hard to further improve our implementation of technology and data to improve our organization and service. Here's what we are using, as well as some other tools we think would help the businesses within our communities.

CED Grants & Funding Portal

Find funding opportunities that support thriving communities and economic prosperity in Alberta's small cities and towns.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Market News

What's new in agriculture's international markets

CED Grants & Funding Portal

Find funding opportunities that support thriving communities and economic prosperity in Alberta's small cities and towns.

Events Calendar

Covers nearly all events Economic Development Trade and Tourism/Agriculture and Forestry staff intend to undertake in 2019-2020.

Economic development indicators

Alberta economic dashboards, commentaries and highlights, and overviews of major projects.

Economic development supports

Alberta international offices, market access, industry information and other supports and resources.

Regional Economic Development Services (REDS)

Through the Regional Economic Development Services (REDS) unit, Economic Development and Trade (EDT) helps facilitate economic development by providing targeted services, knowledge and expertise across the province. For assistance navigating the Government of Alberta economic development supports and to learn more about the REDS unit and available supports, please contact Selena McLean-Moore, Southeast Manager at 403.977.5227 or selena.mclean-moore@gov.ab.ca

Questions? Suggestions? Have something you would like us to share? *Contact the SouthGrow team!*

info@southgrow.com | (403) 394-0615

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