

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Walks Taking Place in Abbotsford

**ABBOTSFORD – November 18, 2016** – The City of Abbotsford will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Business Walks event from November 29 to December 1, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

"We are pleased to be able to have this opportunity again this year to interact with local business owners oneon-one and hear what they have to say," said Mayor Henry Braun. "The Business Walks program is a great way for local community leaders to informally meet with our business community and it allows us to gather the business intelligence needed to support our local economy."

Over 65 volunteers - from elected officials, including MLA Simon Gibson and MLA Darryl Plecas, to representatives from business organizations - will be hitting the streets in the goal of fostering business growth in the community.

The program is powered by the City of Abbotsford Economic Development department with significant support from stakeholders such as the University of the Fraser Valley, Chamber of Commerce and Business Development Canada. Business Walks programs are recognized as Economic Development Best Practice by the Provincial Government of BC.

"Regular and open communication with our business community ensures that we are aware of the challenges and opportunities our businesses face," said Braun. "The information gathered provides us with the ability to serve our business customers by making it easier for them to do business in Abbotsford."

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Business Walks will take place in the areas of Peardonville Road, Highstreet, Maclure Industrial area, Mount Lehman, Historic Downtown, and the Blueridge area from November 29 - December 1. Businesses in these areas wishing to be part of the business walks are encouraged to contact the City at <a href="mailto:pneufeld@abbotsford.ca">pneufeld@abbotsford.ca</a>.

More information on the Abbotsford Business Walks program can be found online at www.abbotsford.ca/businesswalks.

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