



## Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### Who is the CO EDC?

The Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission is an agency of the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO). The CO EDC is funded by and accountable to the elected board of the RDCO. Having a specific focus on the business environment in the Central Okanagan, it is a dedicated resource that responds to business-related inquiries and undertakes business development initiatives.

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#### Program purpose

To facilitate a healthy, dynamic, and sustainable community economy within the Regional District of Central Okanagan, by supporting existing businesses and encouraging appropriate new business investment.

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#### What areas currently participate in, and/or benefit from, the Program?

All areas within the Regional District of Central Okanagan participate in, and benefit from, the program. (*District of Peachland, District of West Kelowna, City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, Central Okanagan areas East & West and Westbank First Nation*)

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#### What services does the CO EDC provide?

- **Business Enhancement Program** - provides focused assistance to existing local business and new business start-ups; providing one-on-one support, resources and assisting with business planning (*one-on-one site visits with approximately 463 Central Okanagan businesses in 2008*)
- **Foreign Skilled Worker Program** - provides information to Central Okanagan employers on how to hire foreign workers. Liaises with post secondary institutions in the Central Okanagan to facilitate opportunities to retain a skilled workforce in the Region

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- **Arts, Culture, and Tourism Support**- assists arts, heritage and cultural organizations build business capacity through business advising, resource materials and the identification and facilitation of partnership opportunities
  - **Agricultural Support** - one-on-one support to agriculture-related businesses; providing responsive, focused assistance to the agricultural sector, and to connect businesses with promotion & marketing opportunities
  - **Technology Expansion** - assists in growth and development within the High Technology Sector; promotes the profile locally and internationally for Central Okanagan as a high technology centre within BC and the Pacific Northwest
  - Staff respond to **public inquiries** daily by phone, e-mail & walk-in traffic (16,712 in 2008)
  - **Provide education seminars to local business.** Topics have included Exporting and Importing, Market Diversification, How to Hire a Foreign Skilled Worker, Government Procurement Opportunities, Access to Capital, Succession Planning, Franchise Forum
  - **Clearing house for information** (report regional statistics from BC Stats and Statistics Canada in the annual Economic Profile)
  - **Valley-wide initiatives** (Okanagan Partnership, Okanagan Valley Economic Development Society (OVEDS))
  - **Work with companies seeking to locate in the Central Okanagan;** Develop and facilitate strategies to encourage Investment Attraction into the Central Okanagan region by providing community profiles, working with site selection firms and assisting with commercial and or industrial location needs, fostering relationships with provincial and federal trade offices etc.
  - Work with groups of companies within specific industry sectors to ensure new markets developed (i.e. assist with market diversification strategy development; participation in trade shows



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and other initiatives)

- Ongoing communication with various agencies and organizations (Okanagan Science and Technology Council, Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures, Women’s Enterprise Centre, etc.)
- **Newsletter** (distributed weekly to up to 2,000 businesses)

The level of effort expended by the Program is driven by the Commission’s **Annual Strategic Plan**. A copy of the plan may be viewed on the “About Us” page of the CO EDC website [www.investkelowna.com](http://www.investkelowna.com).

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**Is the service provided in-house or outsourced?**

All activities are performed in-house by CO EDC, although it is acknowledged that many activities involve partnerships with and participation by, local organizations/businesses in the Central Okanagan.

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**Does the CO EDC provide business financing?**

No. The CO EDC can recommend organizations that provide financing based on your needs.

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**Where can I find statistics for the Central Okanagan?**

The CO EDC publishes and updates annually the Regional Economic Profile and community specific profiles for the areas of City of Kelowna, District of West Kelowna, District of Peachland, District of Lake Country, and Central Okanagan East. The Economic Profile is one of the most widely used sources of statistics and information specific to the Central Okanagan. This document provides a wide range of information on the economy of the Central Okanagan including demographics, population growth projections and sector-specific information on the Region. It is a valuable research tool for business planning and source of information for those new to the Okanagan. This profile can be downloaded from the resources page on our website [www.investkelowna.com](http://www.investkelowna.com).



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## How do I contact the CO EDC?

Email: [info@investkelowna.com](mailto:info@investkelowna.com)  
Website: [www.investkelowna.com](http://www.investkelowna.com)  
(T) 250.-469-6280 or 1.877-332-2673  
(F) 250.868.0512  
1450 K.L.O. Road  
Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

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## How do I register my new business?

One-Stop Business Registration (OSBR) is one of the British Columbia Government's responses to the red tape concerns of small business operators.

The OSBR system is a user-friendly computer program that enables new and existing businesses to complete multiple government applications, quickly and efficiently using a personal computer.

Visit <http://www.onestopbc.ca>

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## Where do I apply for a business license?

BizPaL is an online tool that based on your business activity generates a personalized list of permits and licences required from three levels of government —local, provincial and federal— to start up your business. If your business is up and running, BizPaL can help verify that you have the correct permits and licences. Communities participating in BizPal are District of Peachland, District of West Kelowna, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country and Regional District of Central Okanagan.

<http://www.bcbizpal.ca/>

Companies doing business in more than one community, with only one fixed location, may now purchase a **Mobile Business License** for an annual fee. A mobile business is one that performs a service in more than one community, by moving from client to client. Communities participating in this program are District of Peachland, District of West Kelowna, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country.

### **Regional District of Central Okanagan -**

[http://www.cord.bc.ca/departments/inspections/inspections\\_buslicense.aspx](http://www.cord.bc.ca/departments/inspections/inspections_buslicense.aspx)

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna  
(250) 469-6218



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**District of West Kelowna**

<http://www.districtofwestside.ca/docs.aspx>

Mt. Boucherie Community Centre

2760 Cameron Road

Kelowna, BC V1Z 2T6

250-469-6319

**City of Kelowna** - <http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page1253.aspx>

1435 Water Street, Kelowna

Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

(250) 469-8960

**District of Lake Country** - <http://www.lakecountry.bc.ca/>

10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road,

Lake Country, BC V4V 2M1

(250) 766-5650

**District of Peachland** -

[http://www.peachland.ca/services/applications\\_licences\\_permits/index.htm](http://www.peachland.ca/services/applications_licences_permits/index.htm)

5806 Beach Avenue,

Peachland, B.C. V0H 1X7

(250) 767-2647

**Westbank First Nation** - [http://www.wfn.ca/pdf/17\\_20050302163509.pdf](http://www.wfn.ca/pdf/17_20050302163509.pdf)

301 – 515 Hwy 97 South

Kelowna, BC V1Z 3J2

(250) 769-4999



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**What local small business resources are available?**

**Small Business BC**

[www.smallbusinessbc.ca](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca)

[askus@smallbusinessbc.ca](mailto:askus@smallbusinessbc.ca)

Toll Free in BC: 1-800-667-2272

Small Business BC is an organization that will provide you with information on what steps to take once you have your business idea, how to launch and license your business, and provide support for existing business.

**Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Okanagan**

[www.cfdcco.bc.ca](http://www.cfdcco.bc.ca)

[info@cfcco.bc.ca](mailto:info@cfcco.bc.ca)

The Landmark Technology Centre  
#110-1632 Dickson Avenue  
Kelowna, BC Canada V1Y 7T2  
Phone: (250) 868-2132 Fax: (250) 868-2173

CFDCCO offers business development programs, counselling, planning assistance and funding to businesses which cannot access funding from traditional sources.

**Women's Enterprise Centre**

<http://www.womensenterprise.ca/>

[inquiry@womensenterprise.ca](mailto:inquiry@womensenterprise.ca)

Suite 201, 1726 Dolphin Avenue  
Kelowna, BC, V1Y 9R9  
Phone 1.800.643.7014  
Local Tel: 250.868.3454

WEC is BC's leading resource for women entrepreneurs, offering skills development, empowerment lending, free business guidance, business resources, mentoring, networking and events.



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### **Okanagan Science & Technology Council (OSTEC)**

[www.ostec.ca](http://www.ostec.ca)

[admin@ostec.ca](mailto:admin@ostec.ca)

Suite 320, 1632 Dickson Ave.  
Kelowna BC V1Y 7T2  
(250) 712-3344

A membership driven organization, fostering an environment that supports science and technology initiatives by acting as a representative and advocate for the interests of members and the business community as a whole. We are a conduit that brings people together, partnering with industry, agencies and government. OSTEC's Mission Statement is to lead the development of thriving technology-driven sectors in the Okanagan.

### **Okanagan Innovation & Research Centre (ORIC)**

[www.oric.ca](http://www.oric.ca)

201 – 1405 St. Paul Street  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 2E4  
(250) 870-9028

As Kelowna's only best-practice aligned technology business incubator, ORIC Kelowna Innovation Centre offers full residential services to early stage client companies in a prime downtown location, as well as virtual support to affiliated start-up and fledgling technology businesses across the Okanagan. They do this through the provision of both customised facilities and value-adding business support services. They also offer "landing pad" service for out-of-town, -province and -country technology companies looking to relocate to, or establish a base in, the Okanagan.



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**Does the CO EDC provide employment services?**

The CO EDC does not hire or recommend employees. A listing of local employment resources is available by calling the CO EDC.