



November 18, 2020

The City of Spruce Grove **ECONOMIC & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NEWS** *Keeping you informed!*

Our [Economic & Business Development Department's](#) newsletter keeps you informed about new development, new business, and other interesting happenings in our City. We make every effort to update our [COVID-19 Resource Page](#) and ensure that the information is current and relevant.

Stay in the 'know' - Sign-up below!

□ TEMPORARY MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS BYLAW □

The City of Spruce Grove's Temporary Mandatory Face Coverings Bylaw is currently in effect. The bylaw requires members of the public who are not exempt to wear a face covering or mask at all times while in an indoor, enclosed, or substantially enclosed public place or in a public vehicle. Business owners and operators play an important role in this bylaw and are encouraged to review the information at www.sprucegrove.org/maskbylawbusinessinfo.

ALBERTA'S RELAUNCH STRATEGY: STAGE 2 NEW MEASURES TO CURB THE RAPID GROWTH OF COVID-19

The *Alberta Government* has announced new measures to curb the rapid growth of COVID-19, which consists of targeted health measures that took place on November 13th and to protect the health system. Specific information on the new measures can be found at www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx.

→ **NEW: Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)** - This program will provide commercial rent and mortgage support to qualifying organizations affected by the pandemic. Expenses of up to a maximum of 65% can be subsidized. The new Lockdown Support will allow organizations that have been significantly affected by a mandatory public health order to receive an additional 25% of rent support.

→ **Changes to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** - The application process is closed. Eligible individuals will transition to one of the following:

- **Employment Insurance (EI)** - Individuals have transitioned from CERB to EI to provide support to those who remain unable to work while introducing a new suite of temporary and taxable recovery benefits.
- **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** - Individuals not eligible for EI, can apply for income support through the CRB program. Individuals can receive \$1,000 for a 2-week period and may apply up to 13 periods between September 27, 2020 - September 25, 2021.

→ **NEW: Innovation Employment Grant** - Alberta is expecting to launch this grant on January 1, 2021 as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan. Companies can receive up to 20% towards qualifying research and development expenditures.

→ **EXPANDED: Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** - The CEBA application program was extended to December 31, 2020. In addition to the \$40,000 interest-free loan, businesses and non-profits impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access an additional interest-free loan of up to \$20,000. CEBA support is being expanded from \$40,000 to \$60,000 and more details are to follow.

→ **EXTENDED: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** - This program has been extended to June 2021. The subsidy rate will depend on revenue drop. If the revenue drop was less than 30%, a business can still qualify. Employers who were hardest hit can apply for a higher amount. An employer with a 70% or greater revenue loss in a period would be eligible for a 65% wage subsidy. Applications for claim period 8 are now open.

→ **EXPANDED: Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** - The RRRF has expanded to provide additional interest-free repayable funding of up to \$1,000,000 for more Western small and medium-sized businesses.

→ **Alberta Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant** - Businesses and non-profits can apply for funding of up to \$5,000 to help with the purchase of non-medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and pay wages and rent.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

New developments in Spruce Grove will be featured in each newsletter.

□ TALKING DOG BREWING □





[Talking Dog Brewing](#), Spruce Grove's first micro-brewery and taproom, is open! Located at #216, 10 Westwind Drive, this family-friendly establishment specializes in hand-made craft beer and fresh in-house prepared food.

Owners, Jen and Paul Houle, are scientists by vocation and enjoy mixing the art and science into creating a great brew. They pride themselves on their community-oriented mindsets and are committed to sourcing local ingredients.

"We promise to support local agriculture and suppliers to provide a great environment to gather with friends and family and enjoy quality hand-crafted beers"

The Houles are big dog people, which is reflected in their unique approach to branding. Enjoy a pint of Golden Retriever Cream Ale, French Bulldog Honey Saison, or Chocolate Lab Vanilla Stout. New flavors will include Front Seat Dog Amber Ale and Hellhound Black IPA.

Congratulations, Jen and Paul, and welcome to Spruce Grove!

OTHER NEWS

→ [\\$1.5-Billion to Help Canadians Train for New Jobs](#) - The federal government will spend \$1.5-billion in job-training support to help Canadians in industries hit hard by the pandemic. This funding will help laid-off workers in the construction, transportation, and hospitality industries to re-enter the workforce by bolstering access to skills training and employment services. In addition, Bill C-9 will extend a wage subsidy, expand a business loan program, and redo the commercial rent relief program.

→ [Job-Creating Highway 60 Improvements](#) - Alberta will twin a 4km section of highway 60 between highways 16 and 16A in Acheson. This project includes extension of the high load corridor and building an overpass at the CN rail tracks. The 2020 provincial budget allocates \$4 million of the estimated \$96 million total cost of the project. Construction could begin in 2021 and could take up to 3 years to complete.

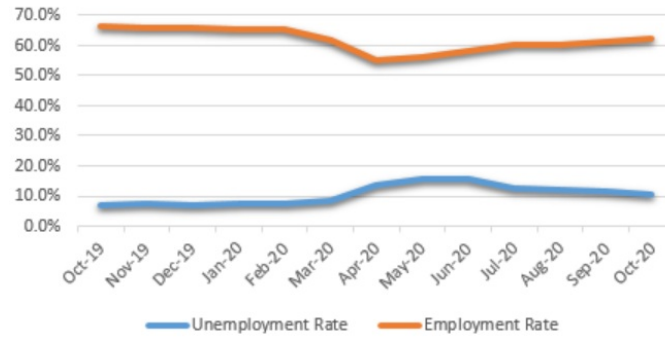
→ [Coaching Program](#) - The *Edmonton Regional Innovation Network (ERIN)* and *TEC Edmonton* are seeking companies looking to grow. This program is funded by Alberta Innovates and will pair a company with an experienced entrepreneur or seasoned business executive to address operational needs.

→ [Spruce Grove Building Permit Summaries Year to Date](#) - The *City of Spruce Grove* has released its latest permit activity reports for October 2020.

→ [Alberta's Labor Force Statistics](#) - Alberta's labor market added 23,400 jobs in October 2020, continuing a 6-month streak, which brought the unemployment rate

down a whole percentage point to 10.7%. The province has regained 72% of jobs lost between February and April.

Alberta's Unemployment and Employment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Statistics Canada

SPRUCE GROVE 2020 COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD



Congratulations to [Cross Country Infrastructure Services](#) on receiving the 2020 Community Spirit Award from the *City of Spruce Grove*.

CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS OF DISTINCTION



Congratulations to [Hyperspace Comics and Games](#) on receiving the 2020 Business of the Year Award (1-35 Employees) presented by The *Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce*.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

To learn more about economic and business development in Spruce Grove, visit our website at InvestSpruceGrove.ca. If you have any questions, please email a team member at Invest@SpruceGrove.org.

Thank you for your engagement.

Together, we play an important role in keeping our community healthy and safe.

From our team to yours,
Dave, Karla, Jamie-Lynn, & Anika

INVESTSPRUCEGROVE.CA

SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA:



