

Kimberley is Open for Business

Nestled in the Kootenay Rockies, Kimberley, B.C. is simultaneously a mining town, a resort and tourism destination, and a community of resourcefulness and resilience. Ten years after the closure of the Sullivan Mine — one of the greatest lead-zinc mines in the world — commercial vitality was at an all-time low and many residents were concerned that the city would fade away. In 2014, the Kimberley Investment Incentive Program was introduced, and things began to change.

The Kimberley Investment Incentive Program helps meet the needs of local start-up businesses by providing incentives, in the form of relief, from the municipal portion of property tax. It also encourages investments that will enhance the visual appeal and vitality of the community and support growth in the local economy.

Many buildings in the downtown pedestrian area had not seen any updates since the 1980's or even since their construction in the 1960's. The benefits provided by the Investment Incentive program kick-started the revitalization of downtown Kimberley.

Spirit Rock Climbing Centre was one of the first businesses to benefit with short-term tax relief worth \$12,780. Since the Spirit Rock facility was built from raw land, they were able to receive the greatest tax benefit possible — making a big financial difference for the start-up business. The four story, eye-catching space is now an anchor tenant and contributes to the vitality of the downtown area.

Residents and tourists alike enjoy a good climb at Spirit Rock and stick around downtown Kimberley for a drink at the **Pedal and Tap**, a culinary creation that has been featured on the Food Network show, “You Gotta Eat Here.” Cam Dodd, a local entrepreneur, owns the Pedal and Tap, as well as several other buildings and business developments in Kimberley, and has taken advantage of the Kimberley Investment Incentive Program to contribute to mixed-use development in the downtown.

Dodd used the Investment Incentive Program to create his family's residential home on the top floor of a newly built commercial building. As well, the Investment Incentive Program allowed him to renovate a building and turn it into the **Overtime Beer Works Brewery**, which pairs well with the ski town culture in Kimberley.

Since 2014, there have been seven participating commercial investments in the City of Kimberley. The Investment Incentive Program has provided a much-needed injection to the economic vitality of the community and is evidence that Kimberley is a good place to be investing.

The City of Kimberley is one of four winners of the Small Business BC, 2017 Open for Business Awards. The Open for Business Awards celebrate communities that are taking important steps to create a business-friendly environment, inspiring other communities to make it easier for small businesses to do business in their communities.