



**For Immediate Release
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**British Columbia Economic Development Week, May 7 – 12
*Merritt Youth Entrepreneur Program and Return of Annual Merritt Business Walk***

Merritt —May 7, 2018— To celebrate British Columbia Economic Development Week, May 7 – 12, the City of Merritt is announcing a new youth entrepreneur program and participating in the familiar Business Walk Program. The Merritt Youth Entrepreneur Program will run from June to September 2018, offering start-up seed funding and resources for Merritt youth in grades 8 to 12 looking to start a summer business. This program is a partnership between Nicola Valley Community Futures, School District 58 and the City of Merritt. Additional information and student applications will be available mid May.

The City of Merritt will be hosting the fourth annual Merritt Business Walk, held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. During the walk, City of Merritt staff, Council, and community members will be out talking to local businesses about issues and areas of growth. Businesses across a variety of industry sectors will be contacted during the walk to ensure the sample reflects the diversity of business within Merritt. To ensure your business is contacted during the 2018 Business Walk, or to volunteer, contact the City’s Manager of Economic Development and Tourism.

As part of the 2018 Merritt Business Walk, we invite all businesses to participate in a survey either in person at the walk, or by downloading the questionnaire online (to be posted May 25, 2018).





Regarding the survey, Will George, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism for the City of Merritt comments, “We will be having similar questions as previous years to keep it consistent for annual tracking. In 2017, the Business Walk Program was able to receive responses from approximately one third of Merritt businesses. This year we hope to have a similar response to ensure accurate business representation for statistics purposes.”

The City of Merritt anticipates that results from the 2018 Business Walk will be available by the end of June.

The Business Walk program originated out of Sacramento, California, USA, but the Central Okanagan Regional District was the first local government in BC to implement the program in May of 2012. Now, many BC communities have incorporated the Business Walk as part of their community’s economic development outreach program, including places such as Kamloops, Kelowna and Hope.

For More Information Contact:

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For more information visit:

www.merritt.ca/doing-business/economic-development/business-walks

