



BizPaL makes obtaining a business permit or licence more user friendly

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Getting a business up and running got a whole lot easier last month with the introduction of BizPaL, a new online tool designed to help entrepreneurs identify which permits and licences they need and how to obtain them.

The partnership among the City of Calgary, Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada is designed to cut down on paperwork and reduce red tape.

"The Chamber is pleased to see BizPaL up and running in our city," said Geoff Pradella, Vice-President of Public & Government Affairs with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. "Providing this innovative tool was a key recommendation of our Renaissance Calgary strategy released during the 2007 municipal election. It will improve the way we do business in the city."

To date, 11 provinces and territories are participating in BizPaL, with more than 160 municipalities offering the service. In Alberta, BizPaL is now available in Calgary, Edmonton, and Airdrie, among other communities. The Alberta government is working to expand BizPaL province-wide by 2011.

"BizPaL is about cutting red tape and making sure business people have a 'one stop shop' for all the information they need to open or expand," said Dave Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary, in a statement.

"As the business environment continues to become more challenging, government efforts to eliminate bureaucratic overlap and streamline regulations provide a positive stimulus without a big price tag," commented Pradella.

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce further recommends the City of Calgary lead the implementation of an inter-municipal licensing scheme, making it easier for businesses to operate in different locations.

Currently if a business in Airdrie wanted to expand in Calgary it would have to purchase a separate business license.

The Chamber would like the Calgary Region to follow the lead of the Capital Region District in British Columbia, comprised of 13 different municipalities, which created a one-license system for its local geographic area.

Access BizPaL at www.calgary.ca/bizpal