

# Economic Development KEY INITIATIVES

## Executive Summary

This document outlines the significant initiatives and projects undertaken by the Harvest Sky Economic Development Corporation (HSEDC) in recent months. As part of our ongoing commitment to economic development, growth, and community enrichment, HSEDC has embarked on a series of ambitious projects aimed at attracting investment, fostering industrial and residential development, enhancing tourism, and addressing labor shortages through immigration. These initiatives represent our dedication to making the Harvest Sky Region a thriving and vibrant community.

## HSEDC works in three key areas:

- 1 To drive** new business and investment and promote industry diversification and innovation
- 2 To attract** residents to the region
- 3 To strengthen and promote** tourism through the attraction of visitors

## Investment Attraction Initiatives



### Engagement with Over 100 Companies:

Throughout the year, HSEDC has engaged in productive discussions with more than 100 companies interested in the potential of the region. These companies span various industries, including hydrogen and other forms of energy production, agriculture (with a focus on vertical farms and greenhouses), and manufacturing, for which we've responded to four specific site selection requests.



### Special Areas Industrial Park:

In collaboration with Special Areas, we are in the advanced planning stages for an industrial park, set to begin construction and utility installation in 2024. This initiative is poised to provide a ready and welcoming space for new tenants and businesses.

# Resident Attraction and Community Development



## Housing Initiatives:

Recognizing the critical need for diverse housing options, HSEDC has been at the forefront of discussions with multiple organizations to develop plans for introducing a range of new housing solutions to the region.



## Hanna Community Development:

Working closely with the Town, HSEDC is involved in the forthcoming downtown redevelopment project, aimed at revitalizing the heart of Hanna for residents and visitors alike.



## Community Kitchens:

The past year has seen the completion of significant upgrades to the Hanna Community Centre and Youngstown Hall kitchens, enhancing the facilities for community use and events.



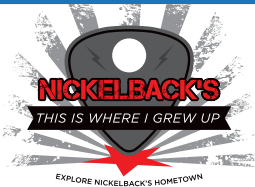
## Alberta Advantage Immigration Program:

Addressing the labor shortage within the province and region, HSEDC has actively participated in the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program, interviewing and supporting over 25 potential immigrants with letters, facilitating their integration into our community.

## Tourism and Community Engagement

### Hanna Roundhouse:

HSEDC partnered with the Hanna Roundhouse Society, securing substantial grants aimed at enhancing the facility with essential amenities like washrooms and utilities, reinforcing our commitment to preserving our heritage while fostering community engagement.



### Nickelback Tour:

As part of our effort to boost local tourism and community pride, HSEDC is finalizing plans for a Nickelback tour, showcasing the renowned band while highlighting Hanna's cultural vibrancy.

### Exhibition 31:

In a partnership with Exhibition 31, we have supported the evolution of this key cultural event through architectural and site planning, marketing efforts (including branding and website development), and official Society status finalization.

Exhibition



### Hanna Visitor Information Centre (VIC):

In 2023, HSEDC successfully managed the VIC, a crucial point for engaging with tourists and providing information about the region. This successful operation is set to continue in 2024, further enhancing visitor experiences.

## Conclusion

The past year has been marked by significant achievements across various sectors in the Harvest Sky Region. Through strategic planning, collaboration, and a focus on sustainable growth, we are proud to report progress in making the Harvest Sky Region a more attractive, dynamic, and inclusive community. As we move forward, we remain committed to building on these foundations to unlock new opportunities for growth and development.

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