

2026 Business Walk Highlights

BY THE NUMBERS

87

businesses visited

2025: 60

51

businesses identified
the Red Bridge as a key
concern

35

businesses cited
experiencing rising
operating costs

32

businesses
identified staffing
challenges

29

businesses cited the
current economic
climate as a concern

WHAT WE HEARD THIS YEAR

Businesses are resilient

Many businesses described their current outlook as **good or steady**, demonstrating resilience despite ongoing economic uncertainty.

Transportation and access remain top concerns

The loss of the Red Bridge continues to be the most frequently discussed issue. Businesses shared concerns about traffic flow, customer access, travel times, and the impact on day-to-day operations.

Rising costs are affecting business decisions

Many businesses identified increasing operating costs as a significant challenge, affecting everything from purchasing decisions to future growth plans.

Finding and retaining workers remains difficult

Staffing and labour shortages continue to impact businesses across multiple sectors, particularly for skilled positions.

Economic uncertainty is influencing planning

Businesses spoke about concerns related to tariffs, supply chains, and broader economic uncertainty, making it more difficult to plan for future investments and growth.

Businesses value connection and communication

Many participants appreciated the opportunity to connect directly with SEDC and share their experiences. Businesses expressed interest in continued engagement and opportunities to stay informed.

Looking ahead

Businesses identified opportunities for growth through improved infrastructure, stronger business connections, workforce development, and continued collaboration between businesses, SEDC, and community partners.

While each business faces unique challenges, several common themes emerged across the Mount Paul Industrial Area. These insights help SEDC understand current business conditions and identify opportunities for future engagement and support.

View the full highlights in detail at:
scwenwen.ca/bus-walk-results or scan here:



YOUR FEEDBACK IN ACTION

What We Heard

What We're Doing

Businesses want more networking opportunities



Planning 3 business networking events

Businesses want procurement opportunities



Supporting the 3rd Annual Indigenous Procurement Event

Businesses want direct engagement



Continuing Business Walks and regular outreach

Businesses want better communication



Creating ongoing business updates and contact pathways

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Business Growth

Whether you're starting, expanding, or planning for the future, we can help with:

- Business growth and expansion
- Small business support
- Business connections and referrals
- Business retention and succession conversations

Contact:

Stephanie Tate, *Economic Development Strategist*
stephanie.tate@scwenwen.ca

Business Analysis and Operational Support

Get support to identify challenges, improve performance, and plan strategically.

- Business analysis
- Operational challenges
- Data and performance insights
- Strategic planning support

Contact:

Moe Oyelakin, *Business Improvement Strategist*
moses.oyelakin@scwenwen.ca

Procurement Opportunities

Access procurement opportunities, build supplier connections, and explore strategic partnerships.

- Indigenous Procurement Event
- Supplier and procurement connections
- Government and corporate procurement opportunities
- Partnership development

Contact:

Justin Gottfriedson, *Economic Development Strategist*
justin.gottfriedson@scwenwen.ca

Land Development or Leasing Questions

Explore opportunities and learn more about available lands and development processes.

- Land inquiries
- Leasing processes
- Development opportunities
- Site selection

Contact:

Tana Jones, *Manager, Sc.wénwen Land Development*
tana.jones@scwenwen.ca



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