



## Penticton connects people with jobs

We match people with jobs. And jobs with people. Our easy-to-use search and sort software helps job seekers find the position that's right for them. As well, we assist local employers and recruiters in identifying qualified applicants for the vacancies they urgently need to fill. Start Here Okanagan is an online guide to the employment market, resources, and communities of the South Okanagan region of British Columbia.

### How does it work?

Launched in May 2017, Start Here Okanagan provides the most comprehensive listing of jobs in the region. It is free for job seekers and employers to use. On any given day there are between 175-200 live jobs listed on the site in all sectors. The skills most commonly in demand are found in the healthcare, technical and skilled trades sectors. Job seekers can create profiles and upload their resumes, or create them using the resume building tools.

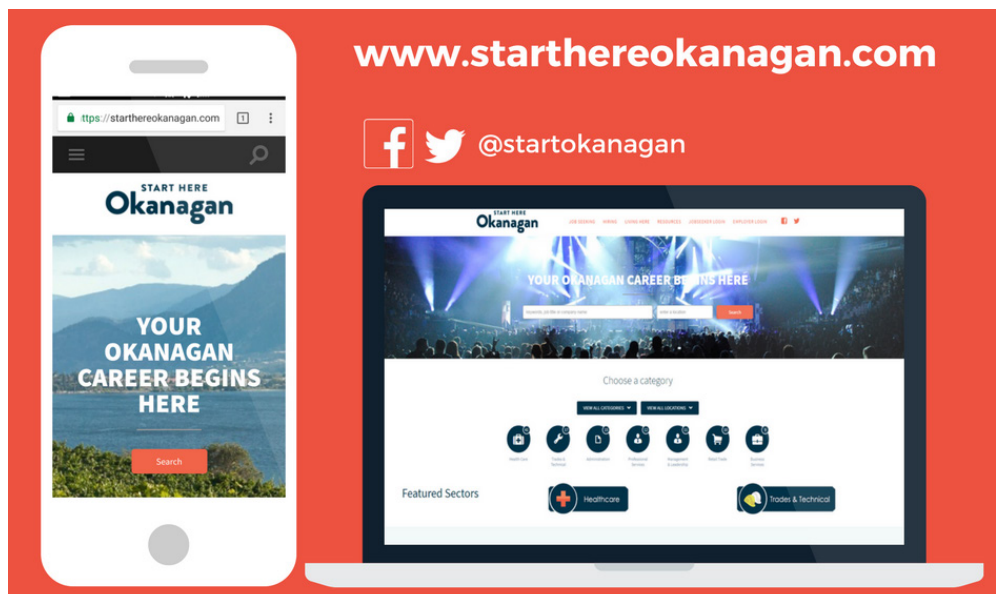
### Why is the City providing this service?

In a 2015 study, 150 employers were surveyed about challenges they faced in recruiting and retaining skilled labour. Filling vacant positions was seen as the greatest barrier to business growth. The reasons for the vacancies were varied, but there was a strong demand from the employers to have a centralized job board to help promote the breadth of opportunities. In addition, it was felt that there was a higher than desired turnover of newly relocated people for various reasons, among them were: finding jobs for spouses, finding housing, and feeling welcomed and integrated into the community.



Working with regional partners such as Summerland, Community Futures, YMCA/WorkBC, SOICS, and the Penticton Chamber, Start Here Okanagan can also provide visitors to the site with information on skills training, neighbouring communities, entrepreneurship,

# START HERE Okanagan

YOUR WEBSITE FOR LIFE AND WORK IN PENTICTON & SOUTH OKANAGAN



[www.starthereokanagan.com](http://www.starthereokanagan.com)

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business support, and newcomer resources. This kind of one-stop portal is valuable for local residents as well as those who are considering relocating to Penticton.

Provincial projections show that job vacancies will continue to increase as the Baby Boomer generation begin to leave the workforce and as new jobs are being created through business growth in the region. A study in 2014 indicated that 75,000 new jobs would be created in the Okanagan Valley between 2014 and 2020 and that there wasn't nearly the amount of in-migration to support this demand. While Penticton will represent a modest percentage of that projection, it

is important to keep long range planning in mind to ensure that our local businesses can hire people and grow, that our residents can find gainful employment, and that our educational and training facilities are aligned with local industry needs. Start Here Okanagan is a part of a greater strategy to ensure that Penticton stays strong and is prepared for change as it comes our way.

So, whether you're looking for a job, for a new employee, or for a way for friends and family to move here, StartHereOkanagan.com is a great tool to keep you informed on the job market in the South Okanagan.

## Utility Rate Review: what does it mean to you?

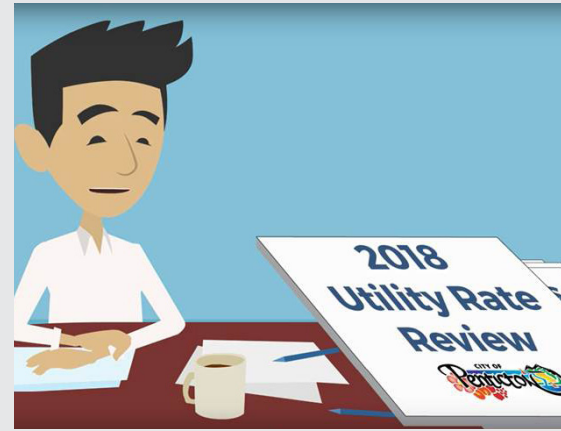
Residents of Penticton enjoy quality services from the City's electric, water and sanitary sewer utilities. But have you ever wondered how the rates are set? The City is undertaking a review of its utility rates to answer this question and many more.

"We need to set rates that not only fund the operations and maintenance of the utility but sustain the infrastructure so that we can continue to provide reliable services in the future," says Mitch Moroziuk, General Manager of Infrastructure. "Through the review, we will determine what those rates need to be and come up with a plan that balances the impact on customers."

As part of the review, staff will also compare the City's costs and rates to other communities with similar infrastructure and services. Included in the comparisons are New Westminster, Grand Forks, Summerland, and Nelson.

Because of the potential impact on utility bills, the City has created a task force to represent the community's interests and provide input into the process and findings. The task force is made up of residents representing agricultural, commercial, industrial and residential properties. The review will be completed in 2018 and the findings and recommendations will be considered as part of the 2019 budget process. For information

on how you can be involved, visit [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca).



The City created a video to raise awareness of the review. You can find the video on our facebook page @cityofpenticton or at [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca).

## Cannabis is coming – help set the rules for the city

With the pending legalization of non-medical cannabis by the federal government, municipalities across Canada are taking steps now to understand what it means for their communities.

"Most of the rules are set by the federal and provincial governments similar to how alcohol is regulated," says Blake Laven, Planning Manager.



"Our focus will be on local distribution including where stores can be located, how stores will operate and where public consumption of cannabis can and cannot occur."

The City is involving the community in the development of the regulations for Penticton. Residents can complete a survey and attend public events to learn more and share their feedback. Details on these opportunities and more are available at [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca).

### 6 Fast Facts

1. Cannabis is currently legal for medical purposes. Consuming cannabis for non-medical purposes is expected to be legal in July 2018.

2. The minimum age that people can buy, possess and consume cannabis in BC will be 19.

3. Adults will be able to possess up to 30 grams of legally produced cannabis.

4. Adults will be able to grow up to four cannabis plants per household for personal use.

5. Smoking of cannabis will be restricted in areas where children and youth gather. Use in public parks and beaches, for example, will be prohibited.

6. Stores will have to sell provincially-licensed and federally-sourced cannabis and cannot sell it in locations where alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceuticals or lottery are sold.

## Bylaw Services sets 2018 operational plan

The City's Bylaw Services Department has laid out its operational plan for 2018 which includes the announcement of a Community Safety Framework and the creation of seven priority areas.

The new Community Safety Framework emphasises the important role partnerships play in addressing health and safety concerns, with all levels of

government playing a role.

"Solutions start with partnerships between organizations who share common concerns and common goals", said Bylaw Supervisor, Tina Siebert. "The Community Safety Framework emphasises the specific role that Bylaw Services plays locally within these partnerships and how, by working together, we can better address health and safety issues."

To operationalize their portion of the framework's vision, Bylaw Services has placed priority on the seven bylaws – Good Neighbour, Park Bylaw, Traffic Bylaw, Controlled Substance Property Remediation Bylaw, Business License Bylaw, Building Bylaw and Pawnbrokers Second-Hand and Auction Houses Bylaw.