

WORK CENTRAL AB

Chamber of Commerce

Your Connection to Advocacy, Networking, and Resources

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

The Red Deer & District Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is often the most natural first connection point for Central Alberta business owners - combining advocacy, networking, and curated resources in one place. This guide covers what the Chamber offers and how to get involved.

1. What the Chamber Does

- Advocates on behalf of the local business community with all levels of government on policy issues affecting business.
- Curates practical business resources - from starting a business to licensing, financing, and growth support.
- Organizes networking events, connecting members with other local business owners and professionals.
- Provides member directories and promotional opportunities to help local businesses gain visibility.

2. Business Resources Curated by the Chamber

Resources the Chamber Points Members To

Steps to Starting a Business (City of Red Deer)

Community Futures Central Alberta

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

Red Deer D.R.I.V.E. Economic Development

Business Link - starting, running, and growing your business

BizPaL - business permit and licence information

Alberta Small Business Resources (Alberta Government)

Digital Main Street - digital economy program

Business Works Central Alberta

3. Membership Benefits

- Access to regular networking events, from casual mixers to more structured business events.
- A member business directory listing, which can improve local visibility and referrals.
- Advocacy representation on issues affecting the local business community.
- Access to group benefits or discounts that some Chambers negotiate on behalf of members, such as group insurance rates.

4. Getting Involved

- Attend a Chamber event before joining to get a feel for the community and network.

- Consider volunteering on a Chamber committee if you want a deeper level of involvement and visibility.
- Use Chamber-curated resource lists as a starting point when researching funding, licensing, or growth support - they've already done the work of organizing what's relevant locally.

5. Beyond the Local Chamber

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce serves as the broader provincial advocate for business, connecting local chambers across the province into a larger network - useful if your business interests extend beyond the immediate Central Alberta region.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Is Chamber membership required to access their resources? Many resource lists and general information are publicly available, though certain benefits, events, and directory listings are typically member-exclusive.

What size of business can join the Chamber? Chambers of Commerce typically welcome businesses of all sizes, from sole proprietors to large employers.

How much does membership cost? Fees vary by chamber and membership tier - contact the Red Deer & District Chamber directly for current rates.

6. Making Networking Actually Pay Off

- Attend consistently rather than sporadically - relationship-building through a Chamber typically pays off over months, not a single event.
- Follow up individually with useful contacts you meet at events, rather than relying on the event itself to create lasting connections.
- Look for opportunities to contribute, not just attend - speaking at an event or joining a committee builds visibility faster than attendance alone.

Chamber of Commerce Checklist

- ✓ Attended a Chamber networking event
- ✓ Reviewed the Chamber's curated business resources page
- ✓ Considered membership benefits relevant to your business stage
- ✓ Explored volunteer or committee opportunities for deeper involvement

Build Your Business With Work Central AB

See our full Business & Entrepreneurship series for more on building your business in the region. Visit [**workcentralab.ca/resources**](https://workcentralab.ca/resources).