



DOING BUSINESS IN SIOUX LOOKOUT

A guide to Resources, Partnerships and Community Success in
the Hub of the North



SIOUX LOOKOUT
Hub of the North



Welcome to Sioux Lookout

We are proud to have you as part of our local business community. Whether you are just getting started or have been operating here for years, Sioux Lookout is built on strong relationships, local pride, and businesses that play a vital role in shaping our community.

This toolkit has been developed to support you in your day-to-day operations by bringing together helpful resources, local contacts, and practical information — all in one place. From guidance on maintaining safe and welcoming spaces to key municipal contacts and community programs, this is a resource you can return to as needed.

Let Us Celebrate Together

If you are a new business and would like a Municipal representative to celebrate your business opening — or any other milestone — we would love to join you. Send a note directly to the Mayor through the Municipal website:

[hwww.siuoxlookout.ca/town-hall/council/mayors-office](http://www.siuoxlookout.ca/town-hall/council/mayors-office)

Did You Know?

Sioux Lookout supports a \$182 million economy, serves a population of 5,829 (2021) across 2,430 households, and draws over 280,000 visitors in the summer season. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the heart of our economy — and you are part of that story.



Your Economic Development Team

Our Economic Development team is here to support you – whether you are exploring funding opportunities, looking for business resources, navigating local contacts, or simply want to stay connected with what is happening in the community.

We encourage you to reach out at any time and to sign up for our e-newsletter, which features funding opportunities, business supports, local success stories, upcoming events, and municipal updates relevant to businesses and entrepreneurs.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Economic Development Officer	John Okonmah	807-737-2700 ext. 9006	jokonmah@siouxlookout.ca
Manager of Community, Economic & Strategic Initiatives	Jen Esposito	807-737-2700 ext. 9005	jesposito@siouxlookout.ca



Our Economic Development Strategy (2026–2031) sets out the following priorities for our community:

- Strengthen local business capacity and attract investment
- Celebrate culture and heritage to support eco-tourism and tourism
- Invest in recreation infrastructure
- Promote year-round tourism

Understanding Our Community

Sioux Lookout is a regional service centre for a vast area of Northwestern Ontario. This brings with it both remarkable opportunity and real complexity. Our community experiences pressures associated with its role as a regional service centre for a vast surrounding area, including a transient population of employees, housing instability (similar to that seen in communities across Canada), increased demand on the rental market, and a significant seasonal influx of visitors from the broader region and, in the summer months, from the United States.

The Municipality is actively working to address these challenges through our Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) framework, in partnership with health, social service, and community organizations. Understanding the context in which we all operate helps us work together more effectively and compassionately.

We're Glad You're Here.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is committed to being a partner in your success. Reach out to our Economic Development team anytime – we are here to help you grow, connect, and thrive in our community.



Stronger Public Spaces

Plans Underway

We know that vibrant, welcoming public spaces matter to your business and to our community. Two new Municipal initiatives launching soon are designed to help make Sioux Lookout's public spaces cleaner, safer, and more inviting for everyone. Here's what we have planned beginning Fall 2026:

Community Navigator

A dedicated Community Navigator will be deployed to support individuals in our Municipal spaces — including the Recreation Centre, Centennial Park and Farlinger Park (Town Beach).

The Navigator's role is to connect individuals experiencing vulnerability with appropriate services and supports, reducing the burden on businesses and creating a more welcoming environment for everyone. This is a proactive, compassion-based approach to some of the community pressures we all experience.

If you have concerns about specific situations in public spaces near your business, the Community Navigator will be an important first point of contact.

Adopt-a-Block Program

The Adopt-a-Block program is a community-led cleanup initiative that tackles litter and waste one block at a time — coordinating the collective effort needed to keep our streets and public spaces looking their best.

Businesses, community groups, and individuals will be invited to adopt a block in our downtown core or near public spaces like Centennial Park and Town Beach. Participants will be recognized for their contributions and supported with materials and coordination.

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate your investment in Sioux Lookout and connect with your neighbours.

Get Involved

Both programs are in the planning stages and we welcome your input. Reach out to the Economic Development Office to express interest in Adopt-a-Block participation or to learn more about the Community Navigator program.



Business Associations & Partners



The Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization made up of local businesses and professionals committed to supporting the community. The Chamber organizes events and initiatives that promote local businesses, encourage community engagement, and contribute to the vibrancy of Sioux Lookout.

Connect with the Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce: <https://slkt.ca/>

Patricia Area Community Endeavours (PACE) fosters economic stability, success, and job creation; create diversified and competitive local rural economies; and builds economically sustainable communities.

Connect with PACE: www.pace-cf.on.ca/

Municipal Resources & Initiatives

2026–2031 Strategic Plan

Council's key priorities and the community-developed plan guiding Municipal activities through 2031.

www.siuouxlookout.ca/town-hall/plans-reports-studies-and-statements/strategic-plan

Community Improvement Plan

Designed to attract investment and support the rehabilitation and revitalization of private lands and buildings in Sioux Lookout. If you are considering improvements to your property, this plan may have supports available to you.

www.siuouxlookout.ca/town-hall/plans-reports-studies-and-statements/community-improvement-plan

Starting a Business Guide

A recently updated guide covering everything new business owners need to know to get started in Sioux Lookout – from licensing and zoning to funding opportunities and resources.

www.siuouxlookout.ca/sites/29/files/2026-04/2026-04-28_StartingABusinessInSiouxLookout.pdf

Community Compass

Track progress on Municipal projects and priorities – including Economic Development and Community Safety & Well-Being initiatives – in real time.

www.siuouxlookout.ca/town-hall/community-compass



Community Safety & Well-Being Resources

As a business in Sioux Lookout, you may occasionally encounter individuals in distress or situations related to substance use, mental health, or housing instability. The following resources can help.

Safe Needle Program

Provides sterile injection equipment, harm reduction education, and safe disposal options to reduce the spread of blood-borne infections. Includes supply of sharps containers to reduce discarded needles in the community.

Learn more → www.nwhu.on.ca/our-services/harm-reduction/staying-safe-with-needles/

Non-Emergency Police Services

Sioux Lookout OPP Detachment — Non-Emergency Line: 1-888-310-1122

Use this number to report non-urgent concerns such as loitering, property issues, or disturbances that do not require an immediate emergency response.

Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU)

Public health guidance, communicable disease information, and community health programs. A key partner for businesses navigating health-related issues in the workplace or community.

northwesternhealth.ca

Kenora District Services Board (KDSB)

Social services, housing supports, and community programs across the Kenora District. A key referral point for individuals needing housing, income, or transition supports.

kdsb.on.ca

Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre

Programs and services supporting Indigenous community members, including cultural programming, social supports, and referrals. An important community resource and partner.

ngfc.ca

Meno Ya Win Health Centre

The primary health facility serving Sioux Lookout and surrounding communities. Useful point of contact for understanding health service availability for employees and community members.

slmhc.on.ca

Key Contacts & Utility Resources

Sioux Lookout Hydro siouxlookouthydro.com

Zoning By-Law & Planning Inquiries: www.siouxlookout.ca/build-and-invest/planning-and-land-use

Waste Management: www.siouxlookout.ca/services/garbage-and-recycling