

City launches program helping new business owners

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As part of the [Council Initiative on Emerging Economy](#), the City of Edmonton has launched a new program called "Small Business Open Window" to support new and small business owners.

The appointment-based "open window" concept streamlines the permit application and licensing processes for small and new businesses. It begins with a consultation where City planners help business owners identify challenges and properly prepare permit applications.



"We want to connect with new business owners before they sign a lease," says Wai Tse Ramirez, Program Manager. "Sometimes small and new business owners are unaware of the zoning and building permits that are required, or the business licence they need in order to operate. We want to help set them up for success by working with them earlier in the process."

"This is about supporting small business growth and entrepreneurs in Edmonton," said Councillor Michael Oshry. "Our goal is to make it easier for businesses to get up and running, while still ensuring that Edmontonians can trust that they are following the rules."

Sang Lee owns a local photography business and went through the Small Business Open Window program as part of the pilot phase. "Having the one-on-one support from Wai Tse and the other planners really helped clarify the permit process for me," said Lee. "I really appreciated the in-person assistance."

The Small Business Open Window program is part of the City's ongoing efforts to better meet the needs of new businesses. A pilot project on the program was recently completed.

For more information:

To make an appointment, new business owners are encouraged to visit edmonton.ca/smallbusinessopenwindow.

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