

TREDCO Business Attraction and Retention Working Group - Role, Activities, and Operating Approach

Prepared for: Municipality of Temagami & Temagami Region Economic Development Corporation (TREDCO)

Permanent population: ~800 residents

1. Background and Establishment

The Business Attraction and Retention Working Group was established by the Temagami Region Economic Development Corporation as a dedicated implementation body to advance economic diversification, business retention, investment attraction, workforce development, and infrastructure support within the Temagami region. Its creation reflects a strategic shift from high-level planning toward hands-on economic development action.

The Working Group operates under a formal Terms of Reference that define its objective to develop and implement strategies to attract and retain business activity, identify challenges and opportunities, and leverage local and external resources to support a thriving business ecosystem.

2. Composition and Community Representation

Among TREDCO's working groups, the Business Attraction and Retention Working Group has the highest concentration of permanent Temagami residents. Membership is drawn primarily from active business owners, operators, and long-term community stakeholders, supported by municipal economic development staff and sector advisors.

This composition ensures the group's work is grounded in direct experience of operating enterprises in Temagami and provides practical insight into local market realities, regulatory conditions, infrastructure limitations, and workforce challenges. The presence of real business operators at the table ensures recommendations are shaped by lived commercial experience rather than theoretical planning.

3. Real-Time Awareness of Business Activity

A distinguishing feature of the Working Group is its continuous real-time awareness of business activity across the community and surrounding region. Through member networks and ongoing engagement with operators, the group maintains current knowledge

of business openings and closures, ownership transitions, expansion or contraction of operations, emerging service gaps, workforce recruitment challenges, and investment inquiries.

Meeting records demonstrate consistent project tracking, status updates, and assigned follow-up actions to ensure up-to-date situational awareness of local economic conditions.

To support this real-time monitoring, TREDCO has begun developing a structured business inventory and tracking system. This evolving database approach is intended to compile baseline information on existing enterprises, sector distribution, workforce needs, space availability, and succession risks. Over time, this inventory will allow the Working Group to move from reactive problem solving toward proactive business retention and targeted investment attraction. It also supports evidence-based reporting to Council, funding agencies, and regional partners, while improving responsiveness to business needs as they arise.

4. Direct Business Support and Navigation

Based on this ongoing awareness, the Working Group directs local and prospective enterprises to our Economic Development Officer or Municipal Staff with for funding and financing programs, guiding navigation of municipal approvals and regulatory requirements, identifying suitable commercial or industrial sites, coordinating with provincial agencies on land or permitting matters, and linking businesses with workforce training and recruitment resources.

As part of this support function, TREDCO has also developed and published a practical business development guide to help entrepreneurs start, grow, and sustain enterprises in Temagami. This guide provides step by step information on business planning, registration, licensing, financing, and risk management, and serves as a foundational navigation tool for new and expanding businesses.

This hands-on support reduces barriers to investment, accelerates project timelines, and strengthens the likelihood of business success and continuity.

5. Privacy and Confidentiality Considerations

Because the Working Group deals with real businesses, real investment decisions, and commercially sensitive information, public reporting intentionally avoids naming specific

enterprises or private individuals. This approach protects confidentiality during financing or negotiation stages, respects privacy during succession or sale discussions, safeguards commercially sensitive property transactions, and acknowledges personal circumstances that may affect business continuity.

Reporting therefore summarizes activities thematically rather than identifying individual businesses. This ensures transparency of purpose and progress while maintaining fair-dealing practices and trust with local operators.

6. Role Within TREDCO's Economic Development Framework

Within TREDCO's broader economic development framework, the Working Group functions as the primary implementation engine for business development initiatives. It identifies and advances investable projects, supports retention of existing enterprises, prepares sites and concepts for investment readiness, aligns workforce and housing capacity with business needs, and reports progress to the TREDCO Board and the Municipality.

As defined in its Terms of Reference, the Working Group is responsible for preparing a Business Attraction and Retention Plan, providing regular progress updates, and delivering annual reporting on outcomes and next steps.

The Working Group's activities align with TREDCO's wider business support function, including the creation of guidance tools for entrepreneurs and business operators. TREDCO's published business development resources outline pathways for starting and growing enterprises in Temagami and reflect the organization's broader commitment to providing navigation, advisory support, and access to external resources for business success. The Working Group complements these tools by providing localized, real-time assistance tailored to the specific conditions of Temagami's market.

7. Summary

The Business Attraction and Retention Working Group is a locally rooted, action-oriented body comprised primarily of permanent residents and active business operators. It maintains real-time awareness of business conditions in Temagami, supports enterprises through direct navigation and problem solving, builds an emerging business inventory database to guide evidence-based planning, and advances investment opportunities across multiple sectors.

By balancing transparency with necessary confidentiality, the group protects commercial privacy while delivering practical, measurable economic development outcomes for the community.