

# Monthly Report

## Economic Development

### February 2019

---

#### **Demographic and Business Support**

In January, department staff supported the promotion of Amherst as a great place to live, work and play through the following activities:

- Consulted with members of the business community to get feedback on a list of potential economic development initiatives and to identify those with the most potential impact.
- Compiled data on employment levels in each sector, measuring changes over time and identifying those sectors with most potential for growth.

#### **Respond to Business Investment Opportunities**

Business development staff provided demographic and market information to a company from Dartmouth that is planning an expansion.

The BDO also reached out to three companies with introductory emails and information about the Amherst Industrial Park.

#### **Support initiatives at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre**

The conference room hosted a hiring fair for Cabinet Central, which saw more than 200 applicants interested in positions at the new production facility that moved to Amherst from Dartmouth.

An agricultural symposium organized by MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin in partnership with the Cumberland Business Connector and the Amherst & Area Chamber of Commerce was well-attended with 60 guests who learned about farm financing, succession planning and labour force issues.

#### **Increase the Impact of Tourism on the Local Economy**

The BDO worked with community theatre groups to develop an Amherst Performing Arts Series that will run from May to December at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre. This series of performances will enhance the tourism offering in Amherst.

#### **New Businesses in Amherst**

- Our Backyard BBQ and Smokehouse opened in January at Amherst Town Square.
- Art of Rebellion Tattoo Studio opened in January at 8 Havelock Street.
- Frank & Gino's Pasta and Grill House opening in April on South Albion Street.
- Hart Stores opening this Spring in the Amherst Town Square