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Palliser Economic Partnership has just entered its 2022-23 fiscal year in a very strong position. We are made up of 19 municipal members in addition to Medicine Hat College as our educational partner. Over the past year, we have focused the bulk of our attention on added-value agriculture in our member communities. The outcome of this period of work is the creation of two business plans, and three market analyses. At our quarterly board meeting on February 25, 2022 we presented work to date on chickpeas and yellow pea processing, flour and semolina, and lentils.

The purpose of this work is to take a realistic look at the commodities already grown in the region, and identify a path to growth that is aligned with provincial and federal priorities. Our work has uncovered interested businesspeople,

farmers, and other agricultural producers in nearly every region of Palliser Economic Partnership and we are beginning to help them by providing our work, assisting in accessing funding, and providing support.

As if right on cue, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership opened an intake for value-added agriculture, offering grants to farmers and other agricultural producers on April 11. This grant stream is open until May 24 and we would welcome an opportunity to help you and your businesses access this funding.

At around the same time, PEP indicated that it will allocate funding to support farmers and agricultural producers in our member communities who are looking to add value to their commodities.

We have also been speaking regularly with our friends and colleagues in the regional economic development landscape regarding further agricultural support. While it's too early to provide details on this, it appears that there is further alignment to be found here.

While we have dedicated significant attention to agriculture, we have also stayed involved with energy. PEP is part of the Southeast Alberta Regional Hydrogen Task Force - a collaborative effort to quantify the size of Southeast Alberta's hydrogen opportunity, and position the region as a hydrogen hub.

Packaged together, it appears there are plenty of opportunities to move projects forward in our region. 2022 will be an exciting time for PEP and all of our members. While we are a small organization, we have proven our sustainability and represent the only opportunity for 20 communities to regularly sit at the same table and share ideas. This is what collaborative economic development is all about. We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Please read on for further details.

[Email us](#)



PEP Supports Value-Added Agriculture in Southeast Alberta

Palliser Economic Partnership has allocated funding to directly support the development of new value-added agriculture facilities in any of PEP's member communities. If you are or know of someone who could benefit from this support, please reach out to us and we can provide details.

Value-added can be as simple as adding consumer-ready packaging capabilities to a pre-existing farm operation, expansion of meat processing facilities, milling, pelletizing, and more. If you're unsure if a project would be eligible, get in touch with us and we would be happy to explore opportunities with you.

[Email Us](#)



Canadian Agricultural Partnership Value-Added Grants Available (up to \$250,000 per project)

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is a five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial investment in the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector that began in April 2018.

From April 11 to May 24, CAP announced it would accept applications for value-added agricultural initiatives.

Eligibility

Food processors and bio-industrial processors with a minimum of \$100,000 in global gross annual sales are eligible to apply to the program.

Eligible Activities

- Processing capacity expansion;
- Food safety improvement;
- New product and process development; and
- Market development and access

PEP can offer guidance to anyone within our member communities who wish to pursue these grants. Please email us to learn more about how PEP can help you and your businesses.

[Email Us](#)



FREE EVENT

GUEST SPEAKER :

TODD HIRSCH
Vice President & Chief Economist
ATB Financial,
Professional Speaker,
Author.

HOW MAY CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY?

Guest speaker Todd Hirsch, of ATB will share his predictions.

Join Palliser Economic Partnership and the APEX Alberta partners

ATB Chief Economist Todd Hirsch Speaking to PEP Members

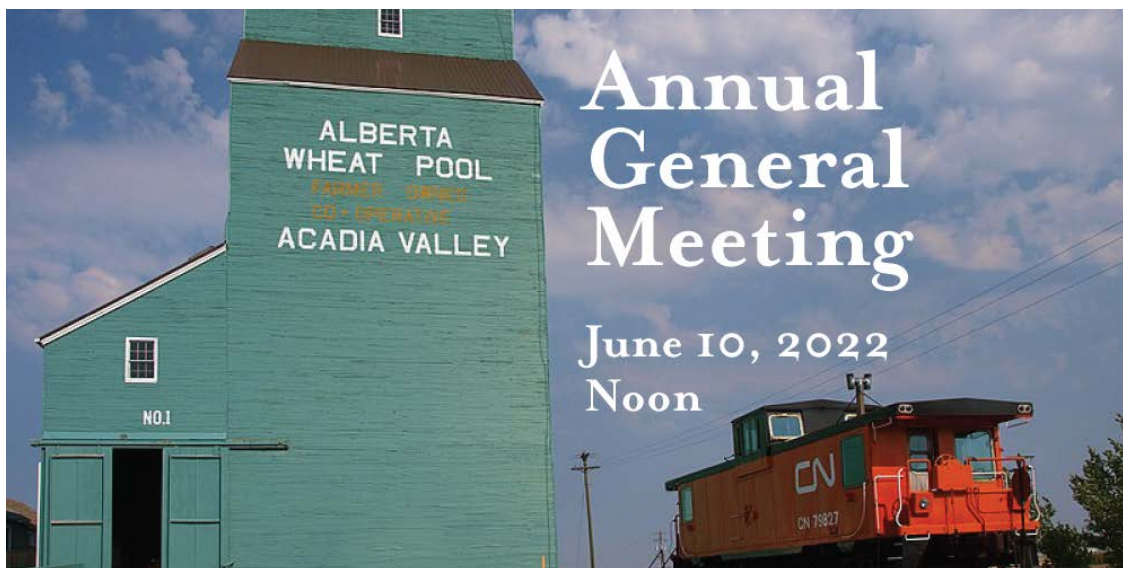
For over 20 years, Todd has worked as an economist at numerous organizations including the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canada West Foundation and the Bank of Canada. For almost a decade, Todd taught economics at the University of Calgary. His award-winning podcast explores how our economy and communities can not only brace for change, but embrace the opportunities it creates.

Now with ATB, he is Alberta's most well-known economist and speaker. PEP is proud to partner with APEX Alberta (Alberta Innovates, Medicine Hat College, and Community Futures Entre-Corp) to bring Mr Hirsch to our membership for a free virtual speaking engagement. Register now for this rare and exciting event.

DETAILS

- Thursday, June 9
- 4:30pm-6:00pm
- Virtual
- No charge

Register for Todd Hirsch's "Changing the Narrative"



Annual General Meeting 2022

Palliser Economic Partnership is hosting its 2022 Annual General Meeting at Acadia Valley's new community hall on Friday, June 10, 2022.

This is an opportunity to re-connect with Southeast Alberta's 20 municipal and institutional members, and continue our positive momentum in bringing economic development opportunities to the region.

At the AGM, we will vote for Executive Committee members. Positions include

- Chair
- First Vice-Chair
- Second Vice-Chair
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Member at Large
- Member at Large
- Past Chair

If you are interested in running for a seat on PEP's Executive Committee, we will be providing details in the near future.

If you are able to attend, please register using the button below. We have also set up a group registration page if you are registering multiple attendees.

[Register to attend AGM 2022](#)



Canadian Hydrogen Convention

Canada is playing a critical role in the development of the global hydrogen economy with innovators in production processes and pioneers in fuel cell technology. To demonstrate Canada's leadership in hydrogen, the Canadian Hydrogen Convention will launch its inaugural event in April 2022 in Edmonton, Alberta.

This must-attend event will bring the entire Canadian supply chain together to discuss innovations and solutions for low-carbon hydrogen production, energy infrastructure, storage and the path forward as Canada works towards net zero by 2050.

In 2021, PEP joined the City of Medicine Hat, City of Brooks, APEX Alberta, and a number of Southeast Alberta heavy industries to establish the Southeast Alberta Hydrogen Task Force and commission a foundational study on the hydrogen potential for our region. In advance of that report's completion, some of our partners are attending the Canadian Hydrogen Convention to begin positioning all of Southeast Alberta as a hydrogen hub.

[Hydrogen Task Force Background](#)

Economic Development for Elected Officials



Economic Development for Elected Officials Courses

In January and February, PEP partnered with its regional economic development offices to offer five economic development for elected officials courses across Southeast Alberta. These courses were a hit, with over 70 councillors, reeves, mayors, and senior administrators in attendance!

The goal of these seminars was to give our elected officials an overview of the economic development landscape and provide some early inspiration on where they can have the greatest impact on their community's economic development efforts.

This was also an excellent collaborative effort between PEP and our economic development partners, including

- City of Medicine Hat (Invest Medicine Hat)
- Brooks Region Economic Development
- Harvest Sky Economic Development Corporation
- Verge Economic Development
- Special Areas Economic Development

Thank you to all who attended and provided support to this initiative. Economic development works best when we work together and this was a very well-received collaborative effort.



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