

SOUTHERN ALBERTA'S
**CORNER OF
OPPORTUNITY**

MEDICINE HAT



WHY Medicine Hat

The city where **opportunity** soars

Is your **opportunity** calling?

Located near both the U.S. and Saskatchewan borders, Medicine Hat blends the relaxed and community-oriented feel of an idyllic small town with the economic opportunities typically found in major metropolitan areas. From small business to heavy industry, manufacturing, agriculture, aerospace, and defence, we've cultivated favourable economic conditions for businesses of all sizes and sectors.

Discover how our advantages extend beyond operational savings by offering opportunities to join growing industry clusters and benefit from strong, collaborative, and streamlined government relations. Medicine Hat also offers an enviable mix of natural beauty, cost-of-living advantages, diverse recreational opportunities, and a thriving arts and culture scene – all contributing to a quality of life that truly motivates people to live, work, and play.

Opportunity is calling in Medicine Hat – are you ready to answer the call? Reach out to Medicine Hat Economic Development to learn how you can find your next opportunity to invest, build, and thrive here.

"We have the **assets, people, and opportunities** needed to make your **big ideas** into your **new daily reality.**"

*Selena McLean-Moore
Director - Economic Development*

Quick Facts

~68,000

residents within the city and still growing

10-30%

lower operational costs vs other major Albertan cities¹

ONLY

city-owned electricity generation in Alberta

FAST

licensing and permitting process with the City

3 HOUR

drive from several major markets, including into the US and Calgary

¹ see final page for references



OUR REGION AT A GLANCE

Snapshot:

~42

years old is the median age of our population

57%+

post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree

25%↓

average utility bills vs major Albertan cities after rebates²

330+

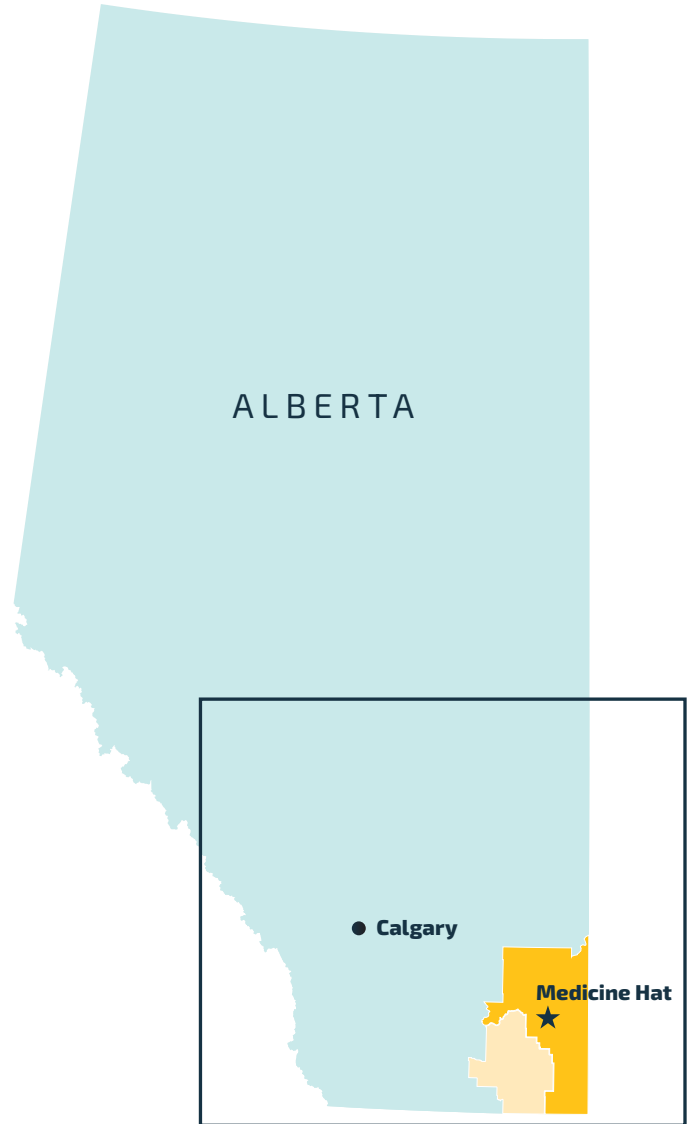
days of sunshine per year on average

Today, cost is often a top priority for many as industry, small business, families, and individuals grapple with ongoing affordability concerns. Fortunately, Medicine Hat offers a significant cost advantage over most Canadian cities.

Through the dynamic interplay of our economic, geographic, legislative, and demographic conditions, Medicine Hat provides several unique advantages and opportunities not found elsewhere in Alberta, including:

- Reliable and affordable access to electricity.
- The capacity to support land, energy, and/or labor-intensive industries.
- Expedient, straightforward, and stress-free interactions with the local government.
- Access to raw materials, markets, and logistics through multiple modes of transportation.

Our overall economic environment reflects our status as one of Western Canada's lowest-cost business centres. In fact, Medicine Hat consistently ranks within the top 5-10 among all Canadian municipalities on both measures of affordability and comfort³.



What's more, unlike many lower-cost population centres, we aren't isolated or remote. Medicine Hat's strategic location offers access to several major North American markets within a single day of travel via highway, railway, and runways. But most importantly, our cost advantages occur without sacrificing in areas such as quality of life or opportunities for education, investment, or leisure.

From growing families with younger children to expansive industrial operations with hundreds of employees, you simply get more for less in Medicine Hat.

For more information about how investing in Medicine Hat can reduce your personal and business expenses, contact Medicine Hat Economic Development.

● Economic Data

Medicine Hat Economic Development (MHED) conducts and distributes a broad range of research initiatives to provide localized data and insights for our business community. These efforts help forecast growth while fostering strong working relationships with local businesses.

● Vertical Integration

Medicine Hat offers a unique, all-in-one approach through the vertical integration of municipal services for local businesses. This centralized structure places taxation, land, planning, environmental services, economic development, and city-owned utilities under a single umbrella - streamlining processes and improving business outcomes.

● Cutting Red Tape

The City of Medicine Hat and MHED actively work to eliminate unnecessary barriers, red tape, and bureaucracy by regularly reviewing and improving legislation. We simplify processes and provide hands-on guidance as businesses navigate registration, licensing, and permitting requirements.

Funding Opportunities

Businesses in Medicine Hat can access funding from **municipal, provincial, and federal programs**, as well as regional economic and business partners. Support includes **grants, tax exemptions, and interest-free loans** – among others – that encourage growth, expansion, and innovation while injecting capital into the local economy.

Reach out to find out what funding opportunities are available for your business today.

BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES

Medicine Hat boasts a diverse and growing range of successful industries and businesses. This success is driven by the coordinated efforts of municipal departments working collaboratively toward a shared vision for economic growth.

Our Economic Development department, alongside our industry and community partners, delivers essential business supports – providing infrastructure, data, funding access, and enabling legislation that help businesses not only establish themselves, but thrive.

Beyond data, funding, and legislative support, we are committed to fostering a healthy, diverse, and high-quality workforce. Medicine Hat benefits from a balanced mix of skilled and entry-level labour, above-average educational attainment, and a workforce that combines experience with emerging talent. With a median age of 42 and more than 23,000 residents between the ages of 20 and 49, the city offers employers both stability and long-term workforce sustainability.⁴



Workforce **DEVELOPMENT** AND EDUCATION

From high school to post-secondary and skilled trades

Strategic local investments in training programs and facilities ensure that Medicine Hat is well positioned to support a workforce capable of meeting the needs of a wide range of industries.

Medicine Hat College (MHC) plays a central role in the region's research and workforce development pipelines. With a growing **campus of nearly 2,500 students, MHC offers more than 40 certificate, diploma, degree, trades, and university studies programs**, supported by

a dynamic research and innovation centre known as C4i. MHC fully embraces its mandate to respond to regional workforce needs. Programming spans courses, certificates, diplomas, apprenticeship trades, and degrees, often delivered in partnership with other institutions. **When required training programs are not currently available through MHC or regional partners, the college works directly with employers** to co-create customized courses aligned with specific workforce requirements.

Beyond post-secondary education, Medicine Hat also supports a **strong ecosystem of skilled trade apprenticeship programs**. Approximately 1,000 new apprentices register in the city each year, reinforcing the strength of the local trades workforce.

Overall, 48.5% of residents 15 and older have obtained a post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate of some kind. Of those, 10.6% are in a skilled trade, 23.6% is college diploma or equivalent, and 14.3% received a bachelor's degree or higher.⁵

From post-secondary institutions, public schools, and skilled trade apprenticeship training programs, Medicine Hat is **building one of Alberta's most comprehensive** labour development pipelines.



Our innovative high school training program saw 4,700 flights in 2025

The partnership between Prairie Rose School Division, Super T Aviation, and Dave Rozdeba's South Alberta Flight Academy offers 50+ students per year a pathway to a career in the aviation industry for about half the average cost.⁶

INNOVATION & THE ENVIRONMENT



Despite our historic city monicker, *The Gas City*, Medicine Hat recognizes the great importance of **environmental stewardship and sustainable innovation** as we work to reduce our emissions and help lead the transition to a lower-carbon future.

A substantial part of that commitment is supporting the development and commercialization of **renewable energy projects**. Our on-going Energy Innovation Challenge, for example, is a three-year program where applicants pilot innovative energy solutions within city limits as they work to overcome commercialization obstacles.

Medicine Hat also received a permit for a carbon capture and storage exploration study, although the rights for the project were ultimately

purchased by Imperial Oil in 2025. Current projections suggest that the site would offer the ability to sequester up to three million tonnes of CO₂ annually, when operating at full capacity.

The City of Medicine Hat is also exploring utility-scale renewable projects, including the proposed 325MW Saamis Solar Farm, which would add even more capacity to the growing number of renewable energy projects in the area.

325MW

solar farm approved within city limits, with 75MW proposed in initial phase⁷

400MW+

from almost 100 wind turbines built within 50km of city limits⁸

~3M

tonnes of carbon capture capacity currently in development

60+

renewable energy projects currently proposed in SE Alberta⁹

OUR PARTNERS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & SUPPORTS

MHC Center for Innovation (C4i)

Connects businesses with the expertise, space, and resources they need to succeed. Their multidisciplinary team leads applied research, builds community partnerships, and tech-forward solutions.

Palliser Economic Partnership

Fosters regional collaboration to make Southeast Alberta a prime business investment destination by supporting communities in joint projects and economic development.

Community Futures Entre-Corp

A long-standing business development, funding, and support organization that serves rural businesses in SE Alberta.

APEX RIN of SE Alberta

1 of 8 regional innovation networks across Alberta connecting entrepreneurs and the tech-curious to the innovation and technology ecosystem.

Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce

Nurtures the growth and development of our business community while providing support to businesses of all sizes.

Southeast Alberta Economic Opportunity Strategy

Aligning the efforts among six regional municipalities and various stakeholders, optimizing business attraction, retention, and expansion opportunities across Southeast Alberta.

Medicine Hat's
success is driven by collaboration and a strong **network of regional partners** and institutions

Deloitte's Southeast Alberta Economic Opportunity Strategy Report and Action Plan:



YXH MEDICINE HAT REGIONAL AIRPORT



Medicine Hat Regional Airport (YXH) is a strategic transportation and innovation asset serving Southeast Alberta that facilitates significant opportunities in technology-driven industries including aviation and aerospace.

Located just minutes from the Trans-Canada Highway, YXH allows rapid transitions between air, road, and rail transportation networks. Its close proximity to key employers, post-secondary institutions, and major testing ranges creates an ideal environment for research, prototyping, and commercialization.

With serviced land available for both airside and groundside opportunities, the airport is properly positioned to support existing industries while enabling future growth as ongoing land development ensures flexibility for projects of varying scale and complexity.

Key Features and Characteristics:

- Transport Canada certification and Class E airspace designation
- Primary runway of 5,000' x 150' with a secondary runway of 2,850' x 100'
- ~30,000 take-offs and landings annually involving 40 different aircraft models
- Serviced commercial land with airside access available for purchase and development
- ~55-minute vflight to YYC; five minutes to CFB Suffield; eight minutes to the Foremost BVLOS Test Range
- Located close to approximately 5,100 km² of Class F restricted airspace ranging from surface to unlimited
- On-site fire hall equipped for aircraft emergencies
- 330 sunny days per year gives it ideal flight and test conditions year-round

YXH quick facts

5000' x 150'

primary runway with a 2850' x 100' secondary also available

30,000+

aircraft movements per year in 2025¹⁰

11.9 million

dollars recently invested by the federal government

VR/AR

training and aircraft test capabilities via Super T Aviation

“Medicine Hat Regional Airport is one of **the fastest growing in Canada** by air traffic”

- CBC/Eli Ridder¹¹

come visit us on our website at www.yxh.ca for more info



YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY

Here's a look at some of our biggest success stories - businesses that drive local **growth** and **development**.

Business Categories

Petrochemical and Energy

Agriculture and Greenhouses

Aerospace and Defence

Manufacturing and Heavy Industry

Professional Services

Methanex

The Medicine Hat facility is Canada's only commercial-scale methanol manufacturing complex and produces over 600,000 tonnes annually for North American markets.

In 2024, they invested \$100 million to commission a carbon capture engineering and design study. The intention of the project is to utilize a portion of their waste CO₂ to produce an additional 50,000 tonnes of methanol yearly and safely sequestering the rest underground.

Cancarb

A global supplier of Medium Thermal Carbon Black, Cancarb's Medicine Hat facility also generates electricity through its waste heat that's capable of supplying up to 20% of the city's power.

In 2025, Cancarb announced the up-coming installation of 7,000 solar panels to generate electricity for its manufacturing process with the goal of generating up to 3.5 megawatts of renewable electricity per year.

Big Marble Farms

Currently holds the record for Alberta's largest greenhouse with over 72 acres of indoor growing space. Their high-tech operation utilizes advanced lighting and climate control measures to ensure year-round efficiency.

The company recently received \$2.2 million from Alberta's SEMI program to install 5,000 grow lights and reduce the energy and emissions produced by their facility, which saw major expansions in 2012, 2016, and 2020.

Bevo Farms Ltd.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Bevo AgTech, this 39-acre facility supports North America's horticultural supply chain by growing flowers and seedlings for other vegetable growers.

Construction of their Medicine Hat facility began in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$250 million, and was completed in early 2024.

QinetiQ

Their local facility focuses on the development of advanced target systems, including their Rattler supersonic target vehicle for military testing.

In 2019, QinetiQ received a \$51 million contract with the Canadian Armed Forces to manufacture unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) at their Medicine Hat facility. QinetiQ recently earned recognition as a finalist for the ASTech Awards in 2025.

UVAD Technologies

Specializes in the development and commercialization of electric fixed-wing uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) and geophysical surveying devices, as well as collaborating with Raytheon on projects like the Falcon unmanned target vehicle.

In late 2024, the company received \$2.6 million in federal funding through PrairiesCan to aid with the development and commercialization of their UAVs on a global scale.



10% or more
lower cost
of living

Get more for your money by spending less on the things you need to live like housing, utilities, leisure and taxes¹²

190+ kilometer
trail system
in the city

Medicine Hat boasts a massive trail system that winds through our coulees, beside the South Saskatchewan River, and along the expansive prairie vistas that surround our city

90% of residents
satisfied with
quality of life

Our residents find life within Medicine Hat both rewarding and satisfying. Discover the joys of career and leisure opportunities without the stress of big city life¹³

QUALITY

OF LIFE & OUR LOCAL CULTURE

Medicine Hat offers a high quality of life rooted in affordability, accessibility, and community without the congestion, costs, or complexity of major metropolitan centres.

Residents enjoy a balanced lifestyle where work, family, and recreation coexist without long commutes or overcrowding. The city's size allows for ease of movement, strong community connections, and access to amenities typically associated with much larger urban centres.

The natural landscape is a defining feature of life in Medicine Hat. Anchored by the South Saskatchewan River, rolling prairies, and dramatic coulees, the area offers extensive outdoor recreation opportunities within city limits. An award-worthy trail system connects neighbourhoods, parks, and river valleys, encouraging active, year-round living.

Fittingly known as the "Oasis of the Prairies," Medicine Hat benefits from abundant sunshine, warm summers, and Chinook-moderated winters. A growing arts and culture scene, local events, and independent businesses contribute to a city that is both grounded in its heritage and progressive in its ambitions.

In closing, this is where opportunity exists without compromise – where people can build careers, grow businesses, and enjoy life at a human scale. Visit movetomedicinehat.ca to learn more!





Here's how to find your next big opportunity

Medicine Hat offers a combination of affordability, growth capacity, and quality of life that is increasingly difficult to find in mid-sized - or larger - Canadian cities.

Our competitive low-cost environment, streamlined municipal processes, and reliable access to land, utilities, and transportation create strong conditions for business growth and long-term investment. These advantages are supported by a steady pipeline of skilled and adaptable workers at lower labour and operating costs, with educational and training programs perfectly aligned to employers current and future needs.

For residents, Medicine Hat delivers a high standard of living without the congestion or cost pressures of major

metropolitan centres. Housing remains attainable, commute times are minimal, and access to recreation, education, and career opportunities is built into daily life.

Taken all together, these factors ensure that Medicine Hat is – and will remain – a place where businesses can scale efficiently and people build (and live) sustainable, rewarding lives. No wonder nine out of ten residents say they would recommend moving to Medicine Hat.¹⁴

Are you ready to find out for yourself and take the next steps?

Cited references for this document are available online and may be accessed here:



HERE ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS:

1. Research

Discover how and why you and/or your business will thrive in Medicine Hat

2. Reach Out

Talk to one of our Economic Development Officers for guidance on starting or expanding a business

3. Realize

Turn opportunity into action. Establish, grow, and succeed in a community designed to support long-term success.



Discover your next **investment** opportunity in Southeast Alberta - where businesses **build, invest, and thrive.**

MEDICINE HAT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Helps new, expanding and relocating businesses access markets and business resources in the vibrant and dynamic city of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada.



Medicine Hat
Economic
Development

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or visit us online