

FAQ – Regional Business Walk Blitz 2024



What is the Portage Economic Response Team (PERT)?

PERT is a group of regional economic development practitioners who focus on hands-on collaboration to support the economic growth of the Portage la Prairie region. It includes members from the City, RM, PRED, Community Futures, Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce and Southport and Arrowhead Development Corporation. All working together for the business community.

What is the Regional Business Walk Blitz?

The Regional Business Walk Blitz is a special event happening **October 29th – November 1st, 2024**, where representatives from economic development agencies will visit local businesses to:

- Check in with business owners.
- Gather feedback on challenges and opportunities.
- Share resources and information to better support businesses in a regional manner.

What if no one visits my business during the blitz?

Our goal is to reach as many businesses as possible. However, if we miss your business, **please email coleary@investinportage.ca** to schedule a visit within a couple of weeks after the event.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Yes! All information collected is strictly confidential. Any feedback or data shared will only be reported in **merged and combined format**, meaning individual businesses will not be identified.

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What is the purpose of these visits?

These visits are part of the **BusinessConnect** program identified in the Regional Economic Development Strategy, which includes the "Business Walks" initiative. The goal is to provide local leaders with a quick snapshot of the regional economy to better understand current trends and challenges. Check out investinportage.ca for more information on this strategy.

Why should I participate?

This is a valuable opportunity to:

- Share your insights and concerns directly with those working to improve the local economy.
- Gain access to resources and support specific to your business needs.
- Help shape future economic initiatives in your community.

How can I recognize the PERT team?

Keep an eye out for friendly representatives from local economic development agencies visiting businesses throughout the region between **October 29th – November 1st, 2024**. They'll be bringing resources and information just for you!

Who can I contact if I have more questions or need additional support?

Email – eoleary@investinportage.ca **Phone** (204-856-5000) **Website:** Investinportage.ca

What are the next steps?

1. **Report Publication:** A report will be compiled, published online and sent to you, presenting only aggregated or combined data to ensure privacy and confidentiality.
2. **Lessons Learned:** The PERT committee will lead a thorough analysis of the business walks program, focusing on lessons learned to identify areas for improvement and how we can grow the program in 2025.
3. **Report Presentation:** The PERT committee will include a presentation on the business walks 2024 at their upcoming event on opening a business in early 2025, providing insights and highlighting the program's developments.
4. **Follow up:** If you were identified or asked for action to be completed or requested a follow up meeting, a member of the business walk program will be in contact with you within the next week with an update and what further support will be provided.