

MANUFACTURING
SECTOR PROFILE 2017

poised for growth

planning for growth + highly skilled workforce

The Town of Sylvan Lake, located in the nucleus of Central Alberta, is home to an active and growing manufacturing sector, a pivotal part of its thriving industrial base.

LOCATION

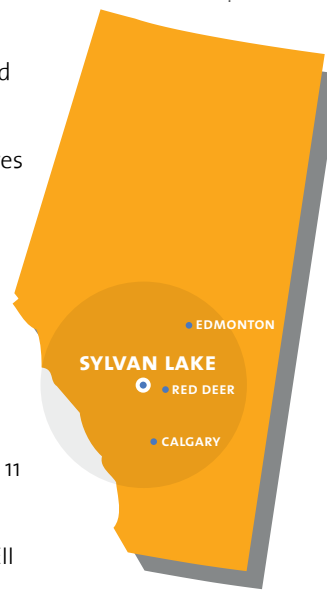
The Town of Sylvan Lake is strategically situated just west of the QEII, Canada's busiest trade corridor. The town is on Highway 11, 18 kilometres west of Alberta's third largest city, Red Deer. Sylvan Lake is centered in a prosperous region with easy access to an immediate trading area of over 313,000 people. The Town is ideally located in the middle of Canada's most economically vibrant region, with both Calgary and Edmonton less than 150km away. Highway 11 and Highway 2 are both major transportation arteries. Sylvan Lake's close proximity to the QEII highway positions it to access a market of over 2.7 million people. CN Rail access can be developed within the town's newly annexed industrial lands. The Red Deer Regional Airport, Canada's busiest regional airport, is a short 25 minute drive away.

I'm excited to see the industrial growth in Sylvan Lake. I believe the Town and industry should work to strengthen and expand industry because industrial growth helps all businesses grow.

JONATHAN PAULGAARD, OWNER, REDCORE LTD.

15% Apprenticeship welder or tradesperson certificate or diploma: 15% in Sylvan Lake versus 11% in Alberta.

28.5% High school diploma or equivalent 28.5% in Sylvan Lake versus 26.3% in Alberta.



INDUSTRY CLUSTER

Sylvan Lake is currently home to six (6) primary manufacturing businesses, predominantly comprised of architectural and structural metals manufacturing companies, along with those in agricultural, construction, and mining machinery manufacturing. Sylvan Lake also hosts other manufacturing activities such as paint, coating, adhesive manufacturing, other transportation equipment manufacturing, commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing. Support activities for the oil and gas sector are a prominent focus for the manufacturing sector in Sylvan Lake.

The cutting edge Centre for Innovation in Manufacturing (CIM), located at Red Deer College, offers manufacturers key supports, helping local companies define and develop new products and processes with 3D printing, prototyping and other high tech equipment, as well as with professional guidance with business management, sales and marketing issues. The CIM also facilitates the development of business-to-business relationships, connecting local clients to companies across Canada that can provide additional technical assistance or become distribution or joint venture partners.

WWW.RDC.AB.CA/INNOVATION

168 PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BUSINESSES SUPPORT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN SYLVAN LAKE

SUPPLY CHAIN

The core manufacturing activities are well supported by approximately 45 firms in relevant transportation, manufacturing, and leasing subsectors, and an additional 168 firms in relevant knowledge-based, technical services fields. Knowledge-based and technical businesses represented in Sylvan Lake's supply chain include:

- Architectural, engineering and related services, such as structure design, drafting, building inspection, surveying and mapping, and interior industrial graphic and other specialized design services
- Specialized design services, including industrial design
- Computer systems design and related services, including testing and supporting software to meet the needs of the customer, planning and designing computer systems that integrate hardware, software, and communication technologies, and computer and data processing facilities (among others)
- Management, scientific and technical consulting services, providing expert advice

Opportunities for manufacturing in Sylvan Lake can be found in both the primary and secondary levels of the supply chain, and include metal service centres, recyclable material merchant wholesalers, rail transportation and warehousing and storage.

LABOUR FORCE

Sylvan Lake's 11,641 employable individuals have a noticeably higher percentage of apprenticeships and college diplomas than the provincial average. Two area postsecondary institutions, Red Deer College and Olds Institute provide education and training for the labour force, offering programming in the fields of science, engineering, math, and computer sciences, and more technical programming in a range of industrial trades (e.g. crane operations, electricians, millwrights, steamfitters, or welders).

Sylvan Lake's median age is 34.1¹, well below the provincial median age of 38.11, and provides the community with a well-skilled, educated, young work force, calculated in 2015 at 8,724. The outlying region, an approximate 65 km radius or 45 minute drive, provides an additional labour pool from which to draw (see labour shed map on back cover).

COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES

With a population of 14,8162, Sylvan Lake has grown, on average, 4.5% per year since 2001. Young skilled workers and professionals, entrepreneurs, families and individuals are attracted to the community's beautiful waterfront parks, spring-fed lake, progressive school network, and access to quality health care services

Sylvan Lake is a diverse community which offers unique business opportunities, year-round recreational, health and fitness activities, a variety of entertaining festivals and events, resulting in an environment that offers tremendous commercial and industrial opportunities and provides the perfect work-life balance.

Fiber-Werx International Inc. was founded in 2002 as a custom fiberglass manufacturer and composite repair facility and manufacturer of RV components.

Over the years, the business has changed and grown substantially. We've expanded our space and taken on new lines of business. Sylvan Lake is a great place for manufacturers; the "industrial" community in Sylvan is a small, close knit group, and we work to support each other whenever possible.

Sylvan Lake is very accessible, making it easy for us to receive everything we need by truck. The community itself is just a very pleasant place to live. We're proud that Fiber-werx is an important part of the Sylvan Lake economy and community.

SCOTT GETSCHEL, FIBER-WERX INTERNATIONAL INC.



The perfect balance

Sylvan Lake is located in the nucleus of Central Alberta and is home to an active and growing manufacturing sector, a pivotal part of its thriving industrial base.

Contact Amanda Mercer, Economic Development Officer at Sylvan Lake for a guided familiarization tour of the Town or visit sylvanlake.ca

Amanda will be happy to help with any business startup and relocation information.

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