



## Information Sheet

**Starting a small business from home presents a convenient and economical option for business owners. It offers adaptability, reduced operating costs, and minimal commuting, making it an ideal environment to develop and test out a business idea.**

A home-based business is a definition in the Village's Zoning Bylaw 439, 2007 and is intended to offer residents an opportunity to operate a non-disruptive business from home. The intention is that home-based businesses are mainly professional or office services and not retail, construction, or manufacturing.

### **Pros of a home-based business**

- Only \$40/year for a business license
- Work from home
- Residential utility rates
- Low overhead
- Make your own hours of operation
- Allowed to operate a business in a residential zone
- Not required to meet commercial parking and building standards
- Not required to provide a public washroom

### **Cons of home-based business**

- Only allowed to hire one extra employee
- A maximum space of 807 square feet is allowed for the business
- Only goods produced on premises are allowed to be sold
- Limited parking
- You may not be on a busy route with lots of exposure (accessible)
- Signage (limited size signage on a home)
- Exterior still needs to look like a home
- Don't have an opportunity to expand

**A home-based business can operate within the Village provided that the business complies with the following home-based business requirements:**



- Only goods produced on the premises are permitted to be sold.
- The person conducting the business uses the dwelling as a principal residence.
- No more than 1 (one) non-family member may be employed to work in the business at any one time.
- A home-based business shall not be permitted to have a commercial vehicle exceeding 5 tonnes (11,000 pounds) gross vehicle weight, located outside of an unenclosed dwelling.
- A home-based business shall not generate traffic congestion or parking problems within the Village or the immediate neighbourhood and shall not produce a public offence or nuisance of any kind.
- A home-based business may not involve manufacturing, welding or other light industries which create a noise, smoke, dust or fume nuisance.
- A home-based business will not involve materials or products that produce inflammable or explosive vapors or gases under normal Clinton temperature extremes.
- There shall be no exterior indication that the building is being used for any other purpose other than the dwelling, except for a sign in accordance with the Signage Bylaw.
- You may be subject to a fire inspection prior to business license approval.

### Signage Rules – As per Sign Bylaw No. 477, 2010

Home-based businesses are subject to different signage rules from commercial properties. You will need to apply for a sign permit prior to installing a sign. Contact the Village office for an application form.

A total of 1 (one) sign from the list below is permitted:

- a) **One (1)** free standing sign: 0.85 m<sup>2</sup> and a maximum height of 1.5 m (for home occupation use); or
- b) **One (1)** fascia sign 1 m<sup>2</sup>

Please note that sandwich boards are not permitted to be placed on public property.

A sign permit is not required if the sign is smaller than 0.2m<sup>2</sup> in size. No flashing, neon or animated signage is permitted.

### Food & Drink Registration

Starting a food processing business in BC provides many opportunities and also presents unique challenges. First steps involve business planning, determining market opportunities and networking for find the knowledge, expertise and resources required.

Interior Health will have to be contacted regarding sanitation plans and food safety in processing plants as well as Food Permit to Operate certification.

Information can be found on [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) on what the process is that's required to get a food home-based business up and running.

