

(l) Home Based Businesses

Home Occupations and Home Professions may be permitted in single-detached residential, semi-detached and townhouses, as long as it is accessory to the principal residential use and occurs entirely within the confines of the dwelling unit.

4.2 Employment Areas

4.2.1 Objectives

- a) To provide opportunities to develop a diverse range of employment opportunities for the present and future residents of Fort Frances.
- b) To ensure that there are sufficient lands designated for development opportunities at all times.
- c) To ensure that there is sufficient flexibility to adapt to change and opportunities quickly; and
- d) To provide for attractive development that will encourage investment in Fort Frances.

The Town will protect its Employment Areas and will require extensive justification for any proposed conversion to non-employment uses.

The Town will consider the geographic location and transportation connections when planning new Employment Areas, and will emphasize the benefits of Fort Frances' location, transportation connections, and quality of life when promoting the build-out of existing Employment Areas.

The Town will attempt to minimize adverse impacts associated with industrial uses by ensuring that industrial uses occur on designated lands and that issues related to impacts of air, noise, vibration and odour are addressed in a manner which is consistent with Town and Provincial standards.

High quality urban design will be a key tool for increasing the attractiveness of Employment Areas. Specific urban design requirements will be considered to enhance the attractiveness and unique identity of Employment Areas.

The Town will plan and promote a Gateway Employment Area at the entrances into the Town which generates unique and ongoing economic development benefits. The Gateway Employment Area will be an overlay designation with specific site design policies as outlined in this Plan.

4.2.2 Permitted Uses

Employment areas include Industrial, Commercial and Business uses. The designation is intended to reflect lands where people presently work and lands where employment opportunities will be provided in the future.

The Zoning By-law will further divide these areas into different Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Zones.

4.2.3 Industrial Uses

- a) The mill presently owned and operated by Abitibi-Bowater is the primary industry in Fort Frances. Continued cooperation between the Town and the mill owners is encouraged by this Plan.
- b) Heavy Industry, apart from the mill, is encouraged to locate in the north westerly portion of the Town. These uses shall be located and landscaped to minimize the visual impact of open storage areas from adjacent Living Areas and major traffic routes.
- c) Prior to approving new heavy industries in Town, Council shall receive a detailed report on the use, potential emissions of noise, dust or odour, traffic implications and a site plan showing the proposed development.
- d) Heavy industrial uses include processing, manufacturing, assembly, fabrication, research and development, laboratories, workshops, training facilities, warehousing, shipping/receiving, major offices and other similar uses. Minor retail and personal and professional service commercial uses, which are scaled to serve the needs of the employees of the immediate employment area, are also permitted. Outdoor storage is permitted.
- e) Heavy Industrial uses should provide for the use of good quality exterior building materials and landscaping will be encouraged. General Industrial Areas near sensitive land uses will incorporate buffering, massing and screening, as well as controls for noise, vibration, odour, dust/debris and light emissions, which minimize impacts on the nearby sensitive uses. Outdoor storage shall be screened, using fencing and/or plantings, so that the storage area or goods are not visible from abutting lands or the street. The design of new Heavy Industrial uses shall be pedestrian friendly, barrier-free and accessible, where possible. Small parking areas may be provided in the front yard, however large parking areas shall be located to the side or rear of the building incorporating appropriate landscaping and/or screening.
- f) Light Industries are those industrial uses which are entirely contained within a building, except for accessory vehicle parking and limited outdoor storage and do not emit noticeable or noxious noise, dust or air emissions. These uses may be situated in close proximity to commercial uses and residential uses provided that the appropriate buffering measure are undertaken to minimize traffic and visual impacts.
- g) Light Industries permitted include light-manufacturing, light-assembly, research and development, warehouses and wholesaling, indoor storage, offices related to industrial uses, as well as some commercial uses such as heavy equipment sales and services, repair shops and services and lumber yards. Minor retail, personal and professional service commercial uses which are scaled to serve the immediate needs of the employees of the immediate employment area are also permitted. Only a limited amount of outdoor storage is permitted.

- h) Development in the Light Industrial Area is encouraged to have high quality exterior building materials and high quality landscaping. Development at the perimeter of Light Industrial Areas shall have edge landscaping and urban design treatments, where appropriate, to strengthen the area's visual appeal. Outdoor storage is not permitted, except where finished goods or materials are the primary product of a business (such as lumber in the case of a lumber yard). The design of light industrial subdivisions or individual sites should incorporate pedestrian-friendly, barrier-free and accessible design. Parking areas shall be screened from any adjacent sensitive land uses and large parking areas shall incorporate internal landscaping and be located at the rear or side of the building.
- i) All industrial uses shall be developed on the basis of full municipal services. Private services may be permitted where there is no industrial waste water and sewage facilities are less than 4,500 litres per day on an interim basis in areas where the Town has completed environmental studies regarding extending services to the site and servicing is likely to occur in the near future. Where these situations occur, the developer shall enter into an agreement with the Town to ensure that the site is pre-serviced and to provide a financial guarantee relating to the extension of the connection to full municipal services.
- j) New industrial developments shall meet or exceed provincial standards for noise, emissions and setbacks from adjacent uses.
- k) Industrial traffic should be directed away from, and not through, residential areas. Generally, the number of access points from employment areas to arterial and collector roads should be limited to minimize potential disruptions to traffic flow.
- l) An accessory residential use, such as a caretaker's residence, which is incidental to, and supportive of, the employment use, may be permitted subject to any appropriate mitigative measures required to conform with Provincial standards.
- m) The Town may permit the conversion of lands within employment areas to non-employment uses, but only through a municipal comprehensive review where it has been demonstrated that:
 - i. There is a need for the conversion;
 - ii. The conversion will not adversely affect the overall viability of the Town's Employment Areas and the achievement of other Policies of this Plan;
 - iii. There is existing or planned infrastructure in place to accommodate the proposed use; and
 - iv. The lands are not required over the long term for employment purposes for which they are designated.

4.2.4 Commercial Uses

- a) Commercial developments shall be encouraged to meet the needs of the residents of the District of Rainy River and its tourists, as well as support the industrial uses within the District.

- b) Commercial developments at the easterly and westerly ends of the Town should be focused on serving the needs of tourists and the travelling public. These uses shall provide access and parking areas suited to larger recreational vehicles and trailers and shall be designed as attractive entrance features to the Town. An Economic Gateway overlay designation has been prepared to provide additional development and design policies for uses locating at the easterly, westerly and southern approaches to the Town.
- c) Within the Downtown Business Area, the broadest range of commercial and residential uses shall be encouraged. Commercial uses should develop at the street line on the ground level. Residential uses will be encouraged to locate on upper floors provided that adequate access and parking can be provided.
- d) Building design, signage and landscaping details used in the Downtown Business Area should reflect the historical character of the downtown area.
- e) The Town will consider incentives to encourage the continued viability of the Downtown Business Area.
- f) The Downtown Business Area will be considered a Special Study Area and a Secondary Plan will be prepared to address the Downtown's special issues, as well as provide for a specific set of design guidelines.

4.3 Recreational Areas

4.3.1 Objectives

- a) To provide areas for residents of the Town to enjoy leisure activities and the environment.
- b) To develop a continuous parkland and trail system throughout the Town.
- c) To ensure that sufficient lands and facilities are available to provide for flexibility and variety in recreational opportunities for present and future inhabitants.

4.3.2 Permitted Uses

The uses permitted in the Recreational Areas include Municipal and public recreation facilities such as arenas, playing fields, community parks, walking and bicycle paths, snowmobile trails and related facilities and municipal marina facilities.

4.3.3 Development Policies

- a) Council will encourage the development of a continuous parkland and trail throughout the Town. The Town will acquire lands for this system through the land division and site plan approval processes. In addition, the Town will actively seek partnerships with other government agencies and private sector parties to develop the parkland and trail system.
- b) Where the parkland and trail system is situated within a municipal road allowance, Council shall seek to improve the pedestrian and bicycle routes within