



DOWNTOWN SNAPSHOT

JANUARY-JULY 2026

The Downtown Snapshot is a biannual report by the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District (RDBID), designed to provide a high level overview of key data and insights about the neighbourhood. The report highlights downtown developments and aims to build understanding of the district's current economic landscape.

Downtown Regina is an area in transition, and in 2026, that transition continues to create new opportunities for growth. Guided by community input and a renewed strategic direction, the first half of the year saw new businesses open, major events draw visitors downtown, and continued investment in creating a downtown where people want to shop, work, live and play.

While construction, redevelopment, and changing market conditions continue to shape the downtown landscape, they are also laying the foundation for future investment. Progress in safety, cleanliness, and public spaces reflects a downtown that continues to move forward. As we look to the second half of the year, our focus remains on delivering the priorities identified by our members and partners while continuing to build a downtown that is welcoming and full of possibility.



STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2030

In 2025, following a competitive RFP process, RDBID partnered with Valmore Consulting to begin shaping its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan. What followed was an extensive process of facilitation, consultation, and engagement designed to ensure the downtown community’s voice was reflected at every step.

Across more than a dozen engagement opportunities, 192 participants contributed ideas, concerns, and aspirations for the future of Downtown Regina. Their input formed the foundation of the strategy now taking shape.



Across all conversations, several common themes emerged. Stakeholders spoke to the importance of returning to RDBID’s core mandate: strengthening advocacy, supporting member engagement, and delivering tangible value to downtown businesses. They emphasized a downtown that feels alive and welcoming, supported by activation, beautification, and cleanliness. They called for stronger partnerships with the City of Regina and key stakeholders, continued progress on safety and perception, improved accessibility and connectivity, and a renewed focus on attracting growth and investment.

WHAT WE HEARD WAS CLEAR AND CONSISTENT:



“Safety and infrastructure are important but RDBID needs to refocus on one on one relationships with businesses.”



“Top items are safety! Excellent work with the RPS, and need to keep up the regular communication. The perception of safety is changing. The stats show this but also reflects what business owners and patrons are saying. Keep foot on gas pedal!”



“Vacant buildings are a problem – we need to incentivize businesses, and this means having them at the table to ask what will incentivize them.”

FROM THIS ENGAGEMENT, THREE STRATEGIC PILLARS EMERGED TO GUIDE THE ORGANIZATION FORWARD:

1

MEMBERSHIP

Strengthening advocacy and ensuring that downtown businesses remain central among competing priorities, supported by strong relationships with the City, stakeholders, and investors.

2

FINANCIAL

Aligning budgets with strategic priorities, service delivery, and emerging opportunities while strengthening alignment with the City of Regina.

3

ORGANIZATION

Building a strong, accountable, and sustainable organization that retains and attracts talent, supported by a skilled Board providing effective stewardship and oversight.

Over the remainder of 2026, RDBID will finalize the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, establish implementation priorities, and develop key performance indicators.

The plan will serve as a roadmap for advocacy, member services, partnerships, and investment, ensuring resources remain aligned with member needs while supporting the long-term vitality and success of Downtown Regina.



NEW BUSINESSES

MID YEAR NET BUSINESS CHANGE OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

2022	+4	↑
2023	+6	↑
2024	-1	↓
2025	0	—
2026	+1	↑

The first half of 2026 reflected the steady rhythm of a downtown in motion. Seven new businesses opened their doors, adding to the growing mix of places to eat, shop, relax, and connect. Whether it's picking up everyday essentials, discovering local artisans, enjoying a meal, investing in self-care, or accessing community services, each new business adds another layer to downtown's unique character.

The same period saw six businesses close or relocate, resulting in a net gain of one. One vacant storefront was quickly leased to a new business, while another closure stemmed from the ongoing 11th Avenue Revitalization Project. RDBID remains committed to supporting businesses through this period of change, working with those affected by construction to encourage retention within downtown.



Hot Topic
Cornwall Centre
Band tees, pop culture-inspired collections and on-trend accessories



Steak and Burgers
104-2125 11th Avenue
Steak, burgers, and fry bread



Miniso
Cornwall Centre
Specializes in affordable lifestyle products, cosmetics, toys, and household goods



Family Service Regina
200-2505 11th Avenue
Counselling and outreach supports



Shop Makers
Cornwall Centre
Artisan stores that feature local small businesses and their handmade goods



Privé Spa & Lounge
1650 Saskatchewan Drive
Modern and elegant spa



Munch Café and Catering
2400 13th Avenue
Café that provides food service training and employment for adults who have cognitive disabilities

Future Business Highlight Penny Roll Tavern

Set to open soon at 1821 Scarth Street in the historic Northern Bank Building, marking a new chapter for the space as it transforms the former Beer Bros location into a modern tavern focused on elevated fare, craft beer, and restored heritage character. Operated by the team behind Bar Willow, it continues a legacy of hospitality while introducing a refreshed downtown dining experience, designed for casual dining, after-work drinks, and social gatherings on F.W. Hill Mall.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Every new business adds a new chapter to downtown's story, but the businesses that have stood the test of time deserve recognition, too! This year, we celebrated the longstanding businesses and organizations whose dedication has helped shape downtown into what it is today.



CRAVE KITCHEN + WINE BAR – 20 YEARS



VENVI RENAISSANCE RETIREMENT LIVING – 20 YEARS



TIKI ROOM – 30 YEARS



SASKATCHEWAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME – 60 YEARS



BROWN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP – 60 YEARS



GLOBE THEATRE – 60 YEARS

DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE VACANCY RATES IMPROVE

SOURCE: COLLIERS CANADA 2026
SOURCE: CBRE 2026

Regina's office market continued to strengthen in Q2 2026, with the citywide vacancy rate improving to 11.95%. Positive net absorption over the past 12 months, led by the downtown market with 109,292 square feet of absorption, signals growing confidence in the market and reflects a steady return of businesses investing in office space as part of their long-term plans.

Downtown Regina also showed encouraging signs of recovery. Vacancy edged up only slightly from the previous quarter to 12.56%, but remains well below the 15.12% recorded one year ago. Nationally, many employers continue to place greater emphasis on in-person collaboration, with many increasing office attendance as they recognize the benefits of workplace culture, innovation, and connection. That renewed optimism is helping reinforce the important role downtown plays as the centre of business, investment, and community life.

Shifting Ground: Closures and Demolition:

The closure of Hudson’s Bay locations across Canada left a significant footprint in urban retail landscapes. In Regina, the former Hudson’s Bay space at Cornwall Centre contributed to a reported 43.3% vacancy rate by mid-2026. Yet this figure reflects a concentrated anchor vacancy rather than widespread tenant loss. In fact, the site has already become a focal point for redevelopment interest, with Cornwall Centre reporting strong interest from potential tenants and developers.

Elsewhere downtown, change was equally visible. In November 2025, the building at 11th Avenue and Albert Street was demolished, leaving the Empire Hotel as the sole remaining structure on the block. No redevelopment plans have yet been announced for the site.

In April 2026, the historic Credit Foncier Building was also demolished after years of vacancy following the 2023 Gordon Block fire. The site is now set for repurpose as part of The SKUARE, marking another step in downtown’s ongoing revitalization. Together, these shifts reflect a downtown in transition, where vacancy and demolition are not just signs of change, but openings for renewal and reinvestment.

Notable Lease Transactions

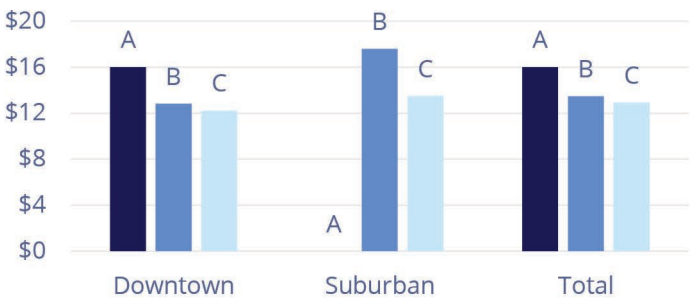
Tenant	Building Name / Address	Market	Lease Type	Size (SF)
Thomas Circle of Care	2702 12th Avenue	Suburban (Office)	New Deal	6,075
Saskatchewan Chamber Of Commerce	Avord Tower #701	Downtown (Office)	New Deal	3,297
White Bear First Nations	107 Albert Street North #107A	Suburban (Office)	New Deal	2,574
102028500 Saskatchewan Ltd	301 Park Street #389	Suburban (Office)	New Deal	2,400
ROK Resources Inc.	Bank of Montreal Building #1220	Downtown (Office)	Sublease	2,096

Notable Sales Transactions

Building Name / Address	Market	Size (SF)	Sale Price	Purchaser
HLBP 3 / 4545 Parliament Avenue	Suburban (Office)	42,700	\$18,082,000	MDL Real Estate Income Fund
HLBP 1 / 4581 Parliament Avenue	Suburban (Office)	40,600	\$14,268,000	MDL Real Estate Income Fund
2625 3rd Avenue	Suburban (Office)	6,461	\$715,000	Precious Promises Early Learning Centre
2702 12th Avenue	Suburban (Office)	6,075	\$850,000	Mobile Crisis Services Inc
1580 Angus Street	Suburban (Office)	4,854	\$709,998	Rahmah Centre Inc

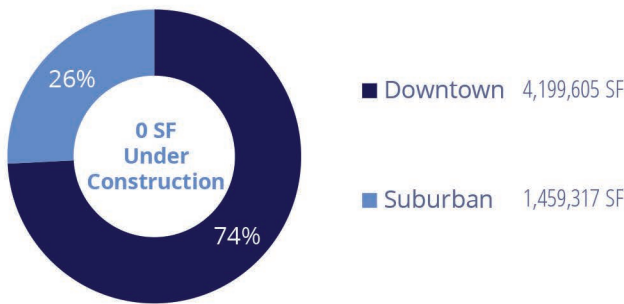
Rental Rates by Building Class

Weighted Average Asking Net Rent (PSF)



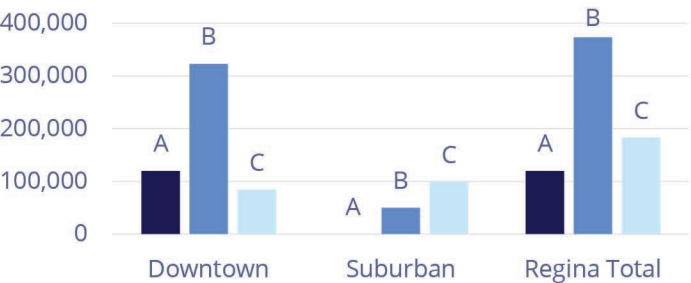
Inventory Breakdown

By Market | Total Square Feet (millions)



Vacant Space by Market

Total Square Feet (SF)



Vacancy Rate

By Market | Q2 2026 – Q2 2025

Downtown	12.56%	↓	from 15.1% in Q2'25
Suburban	10.18%	↑	from 6.9% in Q2'25
Regina Total	11.95%	↓	from 13.0% in Q2'25

	Downtown	Suburban	Regina Total
Number of Buildings	61	45	106
Total Inventory (SF)	4,199,605	1,459,317	5,658,922
Direct Vacancy (SF)	497,366 (94.3%)	148,503 (100%)	645,869 (95.5%)
Sublease Vacancy (SF)	30,159 (5.7%)	-	56,867 (4.5%)
Total Vacant Space (SF)	527,525	148,503	676,028
Vacancy Rate (Current Q)	12.56%	10.18%	11.95%
Vacancy Rate (Previous Q)	12.44%	10.10%	11.94%
Net Absorption (SF)	-4,914	2,459	-2,455
New Supply (SF)	0	0	0
Under Construction (SF)	0	0	0
Weighted Average Asking Net Rent (PSF)	\$13.46	\$14.88	\$13.77
Weighted Average Asking Gross Rent (PSF)	\$29.13	\$25.48	\$28.33

NET ABSORPTION

This Quarter Previous Quarter

-2,455 SF 33K SF

12-Month Absorption

59K SF

VACANCY

This Quarter Year-over-Year

11.95% ▼108 bps

Downtown Wtd. Avg. Suburban Wtd. Avg.

\$13.46^{YOY} ▼ \$14.88^{YOY} ▼

ASKING NET RENT (PSF)

This Quarter Year-over-Year

\$13.77 ▼0.6%

VISITATION

Downtown Regina continues to serve as the city's central hub for year-round experiences. From Frost Regina's winter programming to summer events like YQR Food Truck Wars, the core consistently draws strong attendance and showcases a mix of food, music, culture, and community.



Celebrating Winter Downtown

Each winter, downtown Regina transforms and Frost Regina has become one of its defining seasonal traditions. Returning as a multi-week winter festival, Frost once again brought residents and visitors together through art, culture, and outdoor winter experiences. Over three weekends, the festival welcomed more than 17,500 attendees, encouraging residents and visitors to embrace the city during winter.

In partnership with the Cornwall Centre and Saskatchewan Science Centre, the JoyLab exhibit in The Studio created an interactive indoor experience where visitors could warm up while exploring immersive installations. Complementing the core programming, additional activities included winter art workshops with Creative City Centre, a petting zoo, Cabane à Sucre experiences, and screenings through the RPL Film Series.

The Warming Chalet and The Rink at City Square offered free skating throughout the season, attracting more than 4,400 visitors and supporting over 2,700 skate rentals.



A Taste of Downtown

As Frost Regina brought people downtown, Regina Restaurant Week added another layer of experience. Twelve restaurants participated, offering everything from French dip burgers and beef short ribs to inventive creations like blueberry coconut French toast topped with handmade snowballs. Social media influencers were enlisted to help with promoting the event.

Eight restaurants also joined Frost Tails, a winter cocktail promotion featuring winter-inspired beverages drinks like whiskey hot apple cider, blueberry mint soda in Frost's signature colours, and winter sangria infused with crushed pears and oranges.

Together, these culinary and cocktail experiences reinforced downtown Regina's reputation as the go-to destination for dining, even during the coldest months of the year.

Downtown's Soundtrack

When the sun set on Frost Regina, the music continued. Venues including The Lancaster, The Cure Kitchen + Bar, and O'Hanlon's Irish Pub extended the festival atmosphere through Frost After Dark, hosting DJs, live bands, and special performances, including appearances by Earl Pereira, formerly of Wide Mouth Mason.

The momentum carried into spring with Crawl-A-Palooza, a multi-venue live music experience held May 7–9. With staggered showtimes and 17 performances across downtown, audiences moved from venue to venue in a pub-crawl-style format, filling streets with energy, supporting local artists, and increasing traffic for downtown businesses. These events strengthened downtown's identity as a hub for live entertainment.



Celebrating Community on Treaty 4 Territory

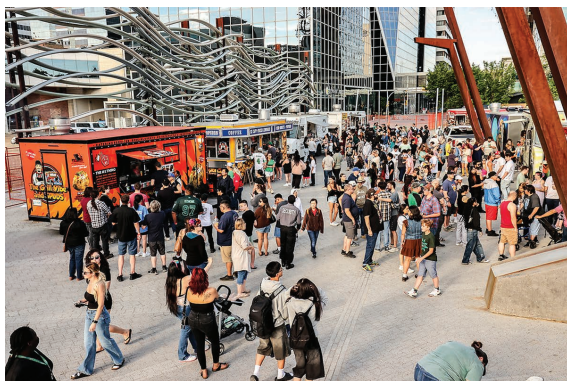
On June 19, Victoria Park became a place of gathering and celebration of Indigenous culture for National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Set on Treaty 4 Territory, attendees experienced Métis tunes and jigging, tipi demonstrations, and First Nations and Inuit games. Live music, drumming, and dance filled the park, alongside food trucks, a vendor market, and free bannock, turning downtown into a space of culture, connection, and celebration.



Battle of the Food Trucks

A week later, Victoria Park shifted from cultural celebration to culinary competition as YQR Food Truck Wars returned on June 26 & 27. More than 9,000 attendees gathered to sample offerings from 22 food trucks, enjoy live music, participate in trivia, and watch chef challenges unfold. Families explored the Small Fry Zone while visitors voted for their favourites in a spirited competition. The event reinforced Victoria Park's role as a premier gathering space, and helped drive strong foot traffic throughout the downtown core.



Food Truck Wars 2026 Winners:

1st place: Benny's - OG Doughnut Burger

2nd place: Crunchy Munchy - Mini Burgers & Fries

3rd place: Paddy Wagon - Alabama Smash

Dessert: Hillside Sweets N Treats - Peach Cobbler

Drink: Sipped Refreshments - Surfrider

People's Choice: Benny's

MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



The Final Stretch for 11th Avenue

The City of Regina continues to make strong progress on the 11th Avenue Revitalization Project between Lorne Street and Albert Street. Watermain installation is now complete, trees have been planted between Broad Street and Scarth Street, and underground infrastructure work has been finished across multiple sections. Road and sidewalk reconstruction is now underway, with work

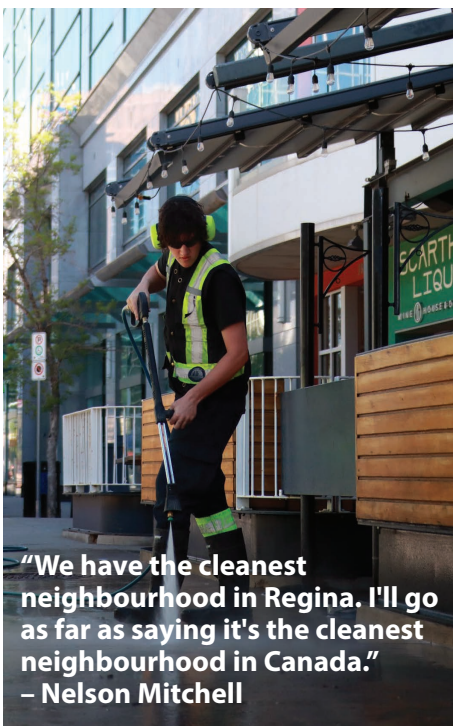
progressing west toward Smith Street and a temporary pedestrian crossing maintaining access during construction.

Many businesses have noted an accelerated pace this season, driven by a revised construction approach that advances work sequentially, completes more excavation upfront to improve efficiency and reduce disruption. The project remains on track for mid-October completion, bringing downtown closer to a renewed corridor with modern infrastructure and improved pedestrian experience. 2026 will mark the final year of the 11th Avenue Revitalization Project.

Proudly Keeping Downtown Clean

Behind the scenes, the Clean Team continues to shape the daily downtown experience. Every day, they sweep sidewalks, remove litter, and restore public spaces. In just six months, over 12,000 pounds of debris were removed, along with more than 1,000 instances of graffiti, including stickers, posters, paint, and marker tags

In April, 36 downtown professionals hit pause on their day and pressed rewind on litter during our Earth Day Corporate Cleanup, proudly sponsored by Cornwall Centre, bringing a little 90s “make it better, make it cleaner” energy to the streets. Together, they cleared over 230 lbs of trash and covered up 50 graffiti tags. But there’s more to come: mark your calendar for September 19 and join us for our next Clean Up Day!



“We have the cleanest neighbourhood in Regina. I’ll go as far as saying it’s the cleanest neighbourhood in Canada.”
– Nelson Mitchell

HIGHLIGHT: JIA Technologies

To bring greater measurability to Clean Team operations, RDBID partnered with JIA Technologies, a digital platform designed to help place management organizations better track work, coordinate teams, and use real-time data to guide service delivery. The Clean Team began piloting the app in October 2025, marking a shift from paper logs and manual follow-ups to a single, centralized system. What was once recorded across paperwork, spreadsheets, and phone calls is now captured in real time, giving a view of what needs to be done, what’s in progress, and what has been completed. This shift has improved day-to-day coordination and accountability. Supervisors can now monitor activity as it happens, helping direct resources more effectively, while faster communication between staff has reduced delays in responding to service requests.

One notable change has been in the data itself. From January to March, recorded litter statistics increased by 17% compared to the first half of 2025. Rather than reflecting a sudden rise in litter, this increase aligns with the move from manual recording to app-based data collection, capturing a more complete and accurate picture of field activity than before.

MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



Strengthening Downtown Safety and Perception

Safety remains a shared priority and a shared effort. RDBID hosted a series of safety-focused initiatives, including the Downtown Safety: Progress and Perception breakfast, which brought stakeholders together to review safety trends, ongoing work, and opportunities for collaboration. A Guided Nighttime Tour also offered firsthand insight into the downtown evening environment, highlighting areas to improve safety, comfort, and public perception.

The Safety Task Force developed a multi-year plan focused on four priorities: improving perceptions of safety, enhancing nighttime comfort, addressing disorder and property crime, and strengthening coordination and advocacy. Actions are divided into immediate improvements, pilot projects, and long-term system change.

The first half of the year also saw strong collaboration among downtown partners, businesses, community organizations, and stakeholders, building momentum around shared priorities and solutions. Supported by the Regina Police Service Downtown Safety Team and 13 Alternative Response Officers, these efforts continue to improve both the reality and perception of safety downtown.

Globe Theatre Celebrates a Record-Breaking 60th Season

The Globe Theatre returned for their 2025–2026 season showcasing the theatre's commitment to presenting a wide range of work, from compelling drama and Indigenous storytelling to beloved holiday traditions and musical theatre. The season featured Michael

Healey's *The Master Plan*, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Disney's *Frozen – The Broadway Musical*, *Little Red Warrior & His Lawyer*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Across the season, the theatre welcomed a record number of theatre goers, with *Frozen* becoming the highest-grossing production in Globe Theatre history, surpassing 22,000 tickets sold! For RDBID, *The Master Plan* stood out as a favourite production, reflecting themes of city-building, planning, and civic decision-making.

Looking ahead, the 61st season promises comedy, musicals, timeless holiday magic, and “history with a better punchline”. The lineup includes *Mosque Heist*, a new comedy written by Little Mosque on the Prairie creator Zarqa Nawaz; *It's a Wonderful Life*, adapted by Joey Tremblay with a prairie perspective; *Les Misérables*, which will feature a 14-piece orchestra; a double bill of *Indians & Cowboys* and *Inner Elder*, by Michelle Thrush; and *Evil Dead: The Musical* in co-production with Alberta Theatre Projects.

Beautification

The RDBID team planted more than 200 flowers along F.W. Hill Mall to help brighten the downtown core. Thank you to the Provincial Capital Commission for providing the beautiful flowers and supporting our beautification efforts!



MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

“As Canada globally asserts itself as a middle power, the importance of our mid-size cities, and the regions that surround them, is an opportunity to invest strategically in the assets and potential of these places.” – Mary Rowe



Building on Our Assets: A Vision for Downtown Regina

In April, in partnership with the City of Regina, Regina Public Library, Regina Chamber of Commerce and SUMA, Mary Rowe, President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute, shared a look at how downtowns are evolving and why creating people focused spaces is key to building strong, vibrant cities.

Mary described downtowns as connective “spines” linking neighbourhoods, businesses, and civic life, emphasizing the importance of investing in mid-sized cities and building on existing strengths. Her message was clear: downtowns thrive when cities focus on people, connectivity, and livability. She touched on Prairie Urbanism with its wide roads and encouraged for smaller roads and wider sidewalks, which we were happy to report that downtown Regina was accomplishing with the 11th Avenue Revitalization project.



12



Highlight: A Homecoming for the Regina Farmers' Market

After operating outside downtown due to construction impacts, the Regina Farmers' Market returned downtown full-time in 2026, with its first Saturday back welcoming 52 vendors!

A public survey with more than 1,700 responses confirmed strong support for a permanent downtown location, citing atmosphere, walkability, transit access, and connections to nearby businesses.

The market's return is a significant win for Regina Downtown, drawing thousands of visitors into the city centre and creating opportunities for people to shop, dine, and explore local businesses before and after the market. The outdoor market will remain downtown through the Thanksgiving weekend.



JAN – JUN 2026

IN GIFT CARDS PURCHASED

\$10,205.00

REDEEMED

\$15,351.69

LIFT

\$5,644.04

JAN – JUN 2025

IN GIFT CARDS PURCHASED

\$9,610.00

REDEEMED

\$9,345.58

LIFT

\$3,674.12

The Impact of Downtown Gift Cards

The Regina Downtown Gift Card Program continues to connect residents with local businesses, making it easier to shop, dine, and give locally. Often given as gifts for birthdays, thank-yous, and everyday celebrations, the cards help keep spending rooted in the downtown community. In the first half of 2026, over \$10,200 in gift cards were purchased. During the same period, over \$15,000 in gift cards were redeemed at participating shops, restaurants, and service providers, reflecting the continued use of cards purchased in previous years.

These gifting moments frequently extend into real outings, coffee dates, dinner plans, and spontaneous stops while exploring downtown, helping bring consistent activity into the core. Recipients also spent beyond the value of their cards, contributing an additional \$5,644 in local economic impact. With more than 100 businesses involved, the program remains an effective driver of downtown engagement and local spending.

Downtown Regina celebrates huge Gift Card milestone!

Just three years after launch, the Downtown Regina Gift Card Program reached a major milestone: over \$125,000 in sales! This figure represents cards purchased by customers to be spent at participating downtown businesses, with redemptions occurring as recipients shop, dine, and access services across the area.

With most cards purchased in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations, this milestone represents 2,828 individual gift card purchases, each one supporting local businesses and reinvesting in downtown Regina.

This success reflects the strong partnerships behind the program, including key support from stakeholders such as the Cornwall Centre.

“This initiative supports visitation to the downtown and support for downtown businesses when we are losing a lot of traffic to suburban shopping and dining options. For the centre specifically, it stimulates sales and the card holder has options in the centre to spend.”

– Katie Dockham, General Manager of Cornwall Centre

As participation grows among both businesses and customers, momentum is building toward the next milestone: \$250,000 in total sales.

With strong community support already in place, the Downtown Regina Gift Card Program continues to demonstrate how a simple purchase can have a lasting impact on downtown Regina.



WHAT'S AHEAD

Shaping the Future of Downtown Regina

The City Building Speaker Series continues to inspire bold urban change. In partnership with the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library, the next session will feature a panel discussion on the outcomes of the Downtown Action Plan engagement sessions, scheduled for October 22.

Earlier this spring, the City of Regina gathered public input to help shape the Downtown Action Plan, which will guide priorities for downtown revitalization from 2027 to 2031. The plan focuses on initiatives that strengthen safety, maintenance, infrastructure, and development in the city centre.

Much of the work emphasizes better coordination of existing projects and continued collaboration with partners, with Council updates provided as planning progresses. Any initiatives requiring additional funding will follow the standard budget approval process.

Public engagement closed June 20, and the final Downtown Action Plan is expected this fall.

A New Home for the Arts

After nearly 15 years on Hamilton Street and almost 3 years of renovation delays, challenges and transitions, Creative City Centre (CCC) has moved into their new two-story arts hub at 1819 Cornwall Street. The newly renovated building is bright and spacious, and includes an art gallery, performance venue, classroom, serving kitchen, Elders room and artist-in-residence studio on their wheelchair-accessible main floor.

The second floor is home to several non-profit arts organizations and one tattoo studio, and features a large boardroom and co-workspace. The basement includes a visual artist collective studio, a printmaking collective studio, and a recording studio located in an old vault. When the new elevator arrives in January 2027, those floors will also be fully accessible.

CCC will host 150–200 events annually, including concerts, poetry slams, exhibitions, film screenings, artist talks, and workshops. Its first Artist-in-Residence is Cree Métis visual artist Geanna Dunbar, a long-time collaborator. Their grand opening will be celebrated with a month-long showcase of Saskatchewan talent

throughout September, including several free Culture Days events (September 18–October 3).

A New Festival Takes the Stage

Live music has long played an important role in bringing Regina together. When the Regina Folk Festival concluded after 55 years in 2025, it left a notable gap in Saskatchewan's live music and arts community, impacting audiences, artists, and the broader creative sector. Building on that legacy, the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society is launching a new community- focused festival centred on accessible live music and shared cultural experiences.

Announced at the June 20 Summer Kick-Off, the Exchange Folk Festival will take place August 8 in Victoria Park and will be free to attend. The inaugural lineup includes Foxwarren, The Besnard Lakes, Ron Loos Band, The North Sound, Black Thunder, Tiny & The Hard Feelings, Zoe James, and The Wistful Daydreams, among others.

THE EXCHANGE FOLK FESTIVAL
Saturday **AUG 8 2026**
Victoria Park, Regina
Free admission ✨ Noon - Late

FOXWARREN
THE BESNARD LAKES
THE SADIES
THE NORTH SOUND

ANDINO SUNS • BLACK TEA • BLACK THUNDER
SHANNON ELIZABETH • INDIGO JOSEPH
HARD FEELINGS • KARA GOLEMBE
KAWACATOOSE BOYZ SINGERS & DANCE TROUPE
THE RON LOOS EXPERIENCE
ZOE JAMES AND THE WISTFUL DAYDREAMS

THEEXCHANGEFOLKFESTIVAL.CA

play 92 CMT 90 Insightrix WCU MLT411NS HARVARD SASKATCHEWAN REGINA Regina Hotel K11

WHAT'S AHEAD

The SKUARE is evolving!

Following the demolition of the former Credit Foncier Building in spring 2026 and the expansion of the site footprint, The SKUARE project is undergoing a strategic review to ensure an even stronger long-term vision. This next phase presents an exciting opportunity to reimagine the site as a larger, more integrated downtown destination.

While planning continues, the site will not sit idle. Instead, Regina Downtown will activate the space with an interim-use concept: The Courts at The SKUARE. The seasonal activation will feature a variety of recreational activities, including croquet, bocce, ping pong, basketball, cornhole, and a putting green.

To complement the activation space, basic beautification measures will enhance the site's appearance and usability through decorative planters, seating areas, umbrellas, and perimeter treatments. When winter arrives, the site will transform into the home of the Crokicurl rink, ensuring year-round activity.

What began as a redevelopment challenge has become an opportunity to activate the space and build momentum toward a more dynamic and impactful future for The SKUARE.

A Culinary Collaboration

A group of Regina downtown restaurants came together to launch City Nights & Bites, a new dining and nightlife guide showcasing the best of Regina's downtown culinary scene.

A highlight of the initiative is the Summer Tapas Tour, inviting participants to visit five downtown restaurants and order a featured appetizer at each location. Participants who complete the tour will receive a limited edition tote and entry into a \$1,000 prize draw.

The tour encourages residents and visitors to explore, support, and celebrate downtown Regina's dynamic restaurant community throughout the summer.

Celebrating our City

This summer, Victoria Park will once again come alive as residents gather to celebrate I Love Regina Day on August 22. The free community event will residents for a day filled with live entertainment, interactive activities, community organization booths, and a complimentary



barbecue. Participants can also lace up for the I Love Regina Run & Walk. Since its beginnings in 2002, I Love Regina Day was created to foster positive community spirit and strengthen Regina's image. The event continues to promote inclusivity, engagement, and appreciation for everything the city has to offer.

Discover Downtown After Dark

Nuit Blanche returns to downtown Regina August 29 for one unforgettable night of contemporary art, creativity, and discovery. This free, family-friendly festival transforms the downtown park and plaza into an outdoor gallery featuring interactive installations, live performances, and immersive experiences inspired by this year's theme, The Great Unknown. Exploring mystery, imagination, alternative futures, and the spaces between the familiar and the unexpected, artists invite visitors to see the city in a whole new light.

Kick Off the Holidays

The holiday season will once again begin in Victoria Park with the Annual Tree Lighting on Thursday, November 19. Featuring live entertainment, family activities, warm refreshments, and a visit from Santa, the event marks the official start of the festive season downtown. 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of this event.

Residential: Welcoming New Neighbours

Last year, Regina's city council approved rezoning part of its downtown for a proposed mixed housing development. The proposed 48 affordable residential townhouse-style units are set to be developed at the lot between 1840 Lorne Street and 2301 11th Ave., which currently serves as a parking lot near SGI's head office and The Cure Kitchen + Bar.

The development is the first new building proposal for downtown in the last 10 years, according to the City of Regina. Construction progress highlights the ongoing shift toward a downtown designed for everyday life; not just a place to visit, but a place to call home.



DOWNTOWN SNAPSHOT

JANUARY-JULY 2026



400E – 2201 11th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0J8
PHONE: 306-359-7541
info@reginadowntown.ca