

# UNBC Community Development Institute

## Annual Report 2011

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The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2011 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2011.

### **Background:**

The mission of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is to support the research, information, and development needs of northern BC's rural and small town communities as they adjust to change in the new economy. The CDI is interested in two fundamental issues for northern BC's communities: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting community outreach, the CDI has become a vital partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

Under changing social and economic conditions, communities need the capacity to respond. Community capacity refers to:

*the ability of residents to organize their assets and resources to achieve objectives they consider important. These objectives may be reactive, where people are faced with a challenge, or innovative, where new visions are established and pursued. Community capacity is built and maintained by the norms, traditions, regulations, and social relationships enabling otherwise disparate individuals to co-ordinate their actions for collective ends.*

To enhance this capacity requires community development. In a general sense, community development concerns:

*improvements to local social and cultural infrastructure. It is most often identified with increasing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of residents to access information and resources and to then use these tools to create strategies and partnerships which can take advantage of changing circumstances.*

The three foundations of the Community Development Institute at UNBC are:

- Research
- Education
- Outreach

The Annual Report is organized under each of these foundations.

## **CDI News:**

Two items of special news for the CDI.

### ***CDI Renewal***

Work to create the CDI began before 2000 as the result of several research projects on the social and economic development future of northern BC communities. The CDI was formally created by the UNBC Board of Governors in January 2004. With more than a decade of work and experience, the CDI team has initiated a process for renewing its vision, mandate, and purpose to ensure that we continue to meet the growing need for community development expertise, leadership, and experience. As part of this process, the CDI is also seeking to establish a more stable and sustainable funding and operating base with which to carry out this renewed vision, mandate, and purpose.

Over the past year, a wide ranging set of discussions have created the foundation for the coming year's consultation on the vision, mandate, purpose, and support of the CDI. This consultation will seek input and advice on the CDI's future direction from leaders and innovators from the community, government, business, industry, social, and academic sectors. The consultation will ensure that a provincial perspective is obtained, and that this process includes input from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community voices.

### ***CDI Director Awarded Tier One Canada Research Chair***

In 2011, Greg Halseth was awarded a Tier One Canada Research Chair position in Rural and Small Town Studies. The UNBC press release on this matter stated:

As one of its commitments to ensuring Canada is a global leader in research, our federal government funds Research Chairs at Canada's research universities. These Canada Research Chairs, or CRCs, are either as emerging stars (Tier 2 CRCs) or world leaders (Tier 1 CRCs) in their fields. Candidates are chosen by their university, but then have to be approved through an international review process. UNBC currently holds nine Tier 2 CRCs. We are very excited to be announcing the appointment of Dr. Halseth as our first Tier 1 CRC. Dr. Halseth's commitment to and expertise in rural and small town development is already widely recognized throughout northern British Columbia – it is now being recognized internationally through this appointment. We also think it speaks volumes that our first Tier 1 CRC appointment is in a field that matters so much to northern British Columbians' well-being.

## Research:

The Community Development Institute at UNBC maintains a clear focus upon research. Its goal is to balance both applied and basic work so as to maintain academic credibility and to be of practical relevance to communities. Copies of all completed project reports have been sent to community partners, funding agencies, the Weller Library at UNBC, and most local government/band offices and public libraries in places where the research was carried out. Reports and other research information are also placed on the CDI website ([www.unbc.ca/cdi](http://www.unbc.ca/cdi)) as an integral part of our mission to share research widely across northern BC. Additionally, summaries of projects are also noted in the CDI Newsletters, which are published quarterly and distributed across northern BC via e-mail.

## Projects

### *Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project UPDATE*

2009-2011    On-going

Completed in 2004, the community driven “Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project” (NEV) changed the way we approach community and economic development in northern BC. It provided the foundations for regional collaborations, enhanced resource revenue sharing programs, consideration of new energy issues, relationship building among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and attention to the key foundations (human, community, physical, and economic) needed for our communities to be flexible and responsive in the global economy.

In September 2009, the CDI launched NEV2. The economic downturn is forcing public and private sector interests to make difficult choices and adopt what they think are the best coping strategies so that they are poised, equipped, and ready to take advantage of the next economic upswing. In partnership with selected small local governments in northern BC, we will explore:

- the choices and decisions being made in response to the 2008/2010 economic downturn,
- the impacts of those choices / decisions as the economy begins to recover, and
- recommendations on how small local governments can and should respond to dramatic economic change.

In 2011, with supplemental funding support from the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, we are completing this project with a series of roundtables held across northern BC at which the preliminary findings will be shared and refined.

This research partnership between the District of Clearwater and UNBC's Community Development Institute reviewed past community and economic development plans and talked with local residents to create a new Community Economic Development plan for the District and the surrounding Electoral Area of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. The Community Development Institute has a longstanding relationship with the people and communities of the North Thompson Valley.

Links:

- [A Community for People of all Ages and Stages of Life: Report](#)
- [A Community for People of all Ages and Stages of Life: Appendices](#)
- [Appendix 1: Methodology](#)
- [Appendix 2: Interview Materials](#)
- [Appendix 3: Survey Materials](#)
- [Appendix 4: Survey Tables](#)
- [Appendix 5: Top Priorities](#)
- [Appendix 6: Socio-Economic Profile](#)
- [Appendix 7: Inventory Guide](#)
- [Appendix 8: Glossary](#)

Together with the Fraser Basin Council, we are working to assist the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM) with the development, establishment, and initial implementation of a proposed "Northern Rockies Partnership: Building the Region Together!" Over the last four decades, the Northern Rockies region of northeastern British Columbia has experienced economic 'boom' and 'bust' situations due to the growth and decline of numerous resource development activities. The CDI is assisting with the creation of a more integrative and collaborative dialogue approach to community and resource development that will bring together regional First Nations communities, natural resource industries, the provincial government, and the NRRM.

The Northern Rockies Partnership – Building the Region Together! presents a significant opportunity for the First Nation communities, the oil and gas sector, the provincial government, and the NRRM to work together to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the region. The partnership signifies a special kind of collaborative process that could result in substantive benefits to each of the parties. Initial work began in April 2009, and already there are several initiatives underway to start this partnership dialogue process.

Links: <http://www.northernrockies.org/>

*National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development*

2008 - 2012 Completed

The National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development was supported by three year grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Office of the Federal Interlocutor at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and by a one year grant from the Economic Development Branch at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The network is coordinated by Greg Halseth from UNBC's CDI and Ray Gerow from the Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Centre.

The objective was to develop an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder national network of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers working in urban Aboriginal and Métis communities. This includes organizations, universities, federal/provincial/municipal governments, private industry, community groups, and NGO's. The network's focus is on mobilizing economic development knowledge and strengthening organizational capacity.

The tasks included building the network, fostering a better understanding of the key issues, hosting national conferences, and establishing local Learning Circles to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building. The network includes more than 25 organizations across Canada.

Link: <http://abdc.bc.ca/uaid/>

*Working 'Away': Community & Family Impacts of Long Distance Labour Commuting in Mackenzie, BC*

2011-2013 On-going

The town of Mackenzie is one of BC's 'instant towns', built in the late 1960s to house the workforce for a new regional forest industry. A significant economic downturn in Mackenzie beginning in early 2008 resulted in the closure of all major forest industry operations (sawmills and pulp and paper mills) in the community. As a result, some of these forest sector workers had to engage in long distance labour commuting (LDLC). This project provides an opportunity to explore the implications of LDLC at both an individual and community level. The first part of the project occurred in Sept/Oct 2011, with meetings were held in Mackenzie to assess the scope, scale, implications, and experiences of long distance labour commuting for workers, their families, community groups, and the local business community. Part two will follow in Fall 2012.

Link: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

*Dimensions of Voluntarism in Aging Resource Towns: Preliminary Scan of Quesnel and Tumbler Ridge, BC*  
2011 On-going

Since the 1980s, the population of many rural and small town places in northern BC communities has been aging. This research project examines the role that voluntary organizations, community groups, and volunteers play in both supporting older people and in influencing community development in aging resource communities. It also examines the influence of seniors in volunteer organizations and community development initiatives. Reports have been completed to provide preliminary information about the dimensions of voluntarism in two pilot study towns to establish the empirical foundation for further phases of the project. These communities include Quesnel and Tumbler Ridge. The project is based out of the UNBC Community Development Institute in collaboration with Mark Skinner at Trent University and Alun Joseph at the University of Guelph.

Link: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

*(Re)Defining poverty in resource dependent rural and small town places*  
2011 On-going

Poverty remains an important, but challenging research, policy, and lived world issue. It is found in all communities – in all regions. In Canada, most poverty research has been urban focused and our knowledge about the dynamics, experiences, and complex underpinnings of rural poverty is more limited. Since the early 1980s, Canadian rural and small town places have experienced accelerated change due to economic and social restructuring. These have generated new pressures and trends that affect those living on low-income and households at risk of living in poverty. These impacts are especially important in resource-based economies and those places located at a distance from major urban centres.

Based on a pilot study in the McBride and surrounding region, this project explores how key factors, attributes of place, and institutional processes affect rural household journeys into and out of poverty. This includes exploring interactions between low-income households and service support networks to develop a greater understanding of emerging issues for households in resource-dependent towns undergoing intense economic and service restructuring.

Link: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

*Research grants*

<b>Granting Agency</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>\$ Per Year</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Principal Investigator</b>	<b>Co-Investigator(s)</b>
SSHRC – Insight Development Grant	Working ‘Away’: Community and family impacts of skilled trades workers from Mackenzie BC who work outside of the town for extended periods.	\$27,100	2011-2013	Greg Halseth	Sean Markey
SSHRC – Knowledge Impact in Society Program	National Network for Urban Indigenous Economic Development	\$100,000	2008-2012	Greg Halseth	
Indian and North Affairs Canada – Office of the Federal Interlocutor	National Network for Urban Indigenous Economic Development	\$102,000	2008-2011	Greg Halseth	
Community-University Research Alliance	Mapping quality of life and the culture of small cities	\$250,000	2006-2011	William Garrett-Petts, Thompson Rivers University	37 co-investigators from UNBC, TRU, SFU, Univ. of Waterloo, and other agencies incl. Greg Halseth

**Research contracts**

<b>Granting Agency</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>\$ Per Year</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Principal Investigator</b>	<b>Co-Investigator(s)</b>
City of Port Moody	Port Moody Public Library Strategic Plan Update	\$40,200	2011-2012	Marleen Morris & Associates	Greg Halseth
Society of Hope – Kelowna, BC	Review and Update of Strategic Plan and Board Governance Model	\$14,700	2011-2012	Marleen Morris & Associates	Greg Halseth
Municipality of Clearwater	Community Economic Development Plan	\$32,186	2010 - 2011	Greg Halseth	
Laxgalts'ap Village Government	Community Plan update	\$19,624	2010 - 2011	Greg Halseth	

**Reports**

Schwamborn, J., L. Ryser, N. Hanlon and G. Halseth. 2011. *Dimensions of Voluntarism in Aging Resource Towns: Preliminary Scan of Quesnel, BC*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Schwamborn, J., L. Ryser, N. Hanlon and G. Halseth. 2011. *Dimensions of Voluntarism in Aging Resource Towns: Preliminary Scan of Tumbler Ridge, BC*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Halseth, G., D. Manson, and L. Ryser. 2011. *A Community for People of all Ages and Stages of Life - District of Clearwater 2011 Community Economic Development Plan - Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Halseth, G., D. Manson, and L. Ryser. 2011. *A Community for People of all Ages and Stages of Life - District of Clearwater 2011 Community Economic Development Plan - Appendices*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.



Manson, D., L. Ryser and G. Halseth (2011) *Embracing our Past – Building our Future: A Community Development Framework for Future Strategic Planning for Laxgalts'ap Village Council*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Manson, D., L. Ryser and G. Halseth (2011) *Embracing our Past – Building our Future: A Community Development Framework for Future Strategic Planning for Laxgalts'ap Village Council – Appendices*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., J. Schwamborn, G. Halseth and S. Markey. 2011. *Working 'away': Community & Family Impacts of Long Distance Labour Commuting in Mackenzie, BC*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

**Education:**

The Community Development Institute hopes to enhance capacity building through educational opportunities. This includes student training, work within the university curriculum, continuing education and regional offerings, connections with the northern colleges and with specialized education and training centres, and public talks/conferences to share information.

***Student trainees at UNBC***

2011

Kyle Kusch - research assistant, completed graduate student at UNBC

Alex Martin - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

***Training 'new researchers'***

2011

Julia Schwamborn – research project manager

***Research Practicum Student Supervision***

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## ***Presentations***

Don Manson (2011) *Introduction to Conducting Community Based Research in Rural BC* Skill Enhancing Workshop, Prince George, BC, organized by the Rural Health Services Research Network of BC, November 03  
[http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/bcrhsrn\\_presentation\\_28nov\\_0329.pdf](http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/bcrhsrn_presentation_28nov_0329.pdf)

Don Manson (2011) “Breakfast Table mentor”, Research Days 2011, Prince George, BC, organized by UNBC and Northern Health Authority, November 2.

Laura Ryser, Greg Halseth, and Don Manson (2011) *Gateway or Destination Tourism: Conflicting Paths Towards Culture, Place, and Identity*. North Atlantic Forum & Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual General Meeting, St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, October 13-15.

Laura Ryser and Greg Halseth (2011) *Developing Responsive, Flexible Policies to Support Youth in Transition in the New Rural Economy*. From Policy to Action and Back Again. Ottawa, Ontario. May 6.

Mark Skinner, Greg Halseth, Neil Hanlon, and Alun Joseph (2011) *The transformative role of voluntarism in aging resource communities: Integrating people, place and community*, Annual Meetings, Association of American Geographers Seattle, Washington, USA April 12-16, 2011

Kwabena Owusu-Nyamekye, Balbinder Deo, and Greg Halseth (2011) *An Assessment of the Outcome in Terms of Productivity Related Propositions Proposed For Privatization in Canada*, ASAC 2011: Administrative Sciences Association of Canada, Montreal, July 2-5, 2011.

Kwabena Owusu-Nyamekye, Balbinder Deo, and Greg Halseth (2011) *Developing a Criteria for Evaluating the Outcome of a Privatization Initiative*, Annual Meetings, 2011 Industrial Engineering Research Conference, Reno, Nevada, USA, May 21–25, 2011.

Laura Ryser, Greg Halseth, and Sean Markey (2011) *Developing the Next Generation of Community-Based Researchers: A Student Workshop*. Annual Meetings, Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Simon Fraser University, March 12.

## ***Keynote addresses:***

Greg Halseth (2011) *The Policy/Research Dynamic*: Luncheon Panel. 1st Annual Rural Research Workshop, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation. Ottawa, Ontario. May 5.

Greg Halseth (2011) Invited FORREX Webinar Speaker: *Change and Resilience – Resource-based communities in British Columbia*, with Ajit Krishaswamy, December 15.

Greg Halseth (2011) Invited Guest Speaker: *Coping with resource development megaprojects: The social impacts*. Community Advisory Board, Kitimat, BC. December 6.

Greg Halseth (2011) Invited Guest Speaker: *Coping with resource development megaprojects: The social impacts*. Community Advisory Board, Terrace, BC. December 7.

Greg Halseth (2011) Invited Guest Speaker: *Coping with resource development megaprojects: The social impacts*. Community Advisory Board, Prince George, BC. December 9.

Greg Halseth (2011) Keynote: *Rural and small town community development*. Prince George Sustainable Forest Management Plan - Public Advisory Group. February 24.

Greg Halseth (2011) Keynote: *Rural and small town community development*. Fort St. James Sustainable Forest Management Plan - Public Advisory Group. March 28.

Greg Halseth (2011) Keynote: *Community Development*. College of the Rockies and the Citizens for a Liveable Cranbrook. Cranbrook, BC, April 11.

Greg Halseth (2011) Keynote: *Rural and small town community development*. Vanderhoof Sustainable Forest Management Plan - Public Advisory Group. April 28.

Greg Halseth and Sean Markey (2011) *Challenges of Rapid Industrial Growth For Small Communities*. 2011 BC Oil and Gas Conference, Fort Nelson, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, September 8.

Greg Halseth (2011) *Globalization and Resource Peripheries: Observations from British Columbia, Canada*. The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, May.

Greg Halseth (2011) *Peripheries at the Core of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities*. Conference on innovative strategies for northern regional development - An exchange between practitioners and thinkers in British Columbia and Sweden, Sundsvall, Sweden. June 16-17.

Greg Halseth (2011) *The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in Global Economies*. Rural Development Network, Ottawa, Ontario. September 21.

Greg Halseth (2011) *The New Forest Economy*. Annual Conference of the Union of BC Municipalities, Vancouver, BC, September 26.

Greg Halseth and Marleen Morris (2011) *Community Economic Development: The upside of an aging population*. Annual Conference of the Union of BC Municipalities, Vancouver, BC, September 26.

Greg Halseth (2011) *Where do we go from here?* Closing presentation, Research Days 2011, Prince George, BC, organized by UNBC and Northern Health Authority, November 2.

[http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/111031\\_where\\_do\\_we\\_go\\_from\\_here\\_halseth.pdf](http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/111031_where_do_we_go_from_here_halseth.pdf)

Greg Halseth (2011) New North Centre Reception Presentation, Prince George, BC, organized by UNBC Office of Research, November 6.

***Conference Organization:***

With Kathy Lewis, UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management Program, The Healthy Forests – Healthy Communities Prince George Dialogue Session. UNBC campus, Prince George, November 2, 2011

Facilitator and member of organizing committee, ‘Tier Two – Kitimat Impact Dialogue Plan Update’, Kitimat, BC, December 6.

### *CDI Community Speaker's Series*

The CDI's Community Speaker's Series invites experts to talk on important and relevant topics for northern BC. The Community Speaker's Series consists of classroom lectures at UNBC, a public lecture in Prince George, and a public talk in another northern BC community. These lectures are free and open to the public.

Spring 2011

Marleen Morris, of Marleen Morris & Associates gave a talk entitled: **“Collaboration in Regional Economic Development: Why Should We Bother?”** in Prince George and Hazelton.  
[http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/speakers\\_series/morris\\_cdi\\_presentation\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/speakers_series/morris_cdi_presentation_for_web.pdf)

These public talks were held:

- Wednesday, April 6 in Prince George at the UNBC Campus, room 8-166, at 7:00 pm
- Thursday, April 7 at the Hazelton Campus of Northwest Community College at 1:00 pm.

This Community Speakers Series event was co-sponsored by:  
Northwest Community College – Hazelton Campus  
UNBC's Northwest Regional Office  
The Community Development Institute at UNBC

Fall 2011

Dr. Glen Schmidt of UNBC's School of Social Work gave a presentation on **“The Social Aspects of Rapid Economic Growth”** in Prince George and Mackenzie.  
[http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/speakers\\_series/social\\_effects\\_growth.pdf](http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/speakers_series/social_effects_growth.pdf)

These public talks were held:

- Monday, November 7 in Prince George at the UNBC Campus, room 7-150, at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 8 at the Recreation Centre in Mackenzie at 7:00 pm

This Community Speakers Series event was co-sponsored by:  
The District of Mackenzie  
The Community Development Institute at UNBC

This Community Speakers Series event was broadcast via Elluminate and is archived at:

<http://blip.tv/play/g8Mlgt6mfgA.html>

### ***CDI Publication Series***

The CDI Publication Series is a peer reviewed outlet that focuses upon invited reports on topics of relevance to the mandate of the CDI and important to northern British Columbia's communities. The peer review aspect of the Series ensures that only high quality research is published.

The CDI is proud to announce the publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th papers in its publication series:

*Multi-Sectoral Collaboration and Economic Development: Lessons from England's Regional Development Agencies*

By: Marleen Morris  
2010

*A Primer For Understanding Issues Around Rural Poverty*

By: Laura Ryser and Greg Halseth  
2010

All of the CDI publications are made available on-line at:

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/publications.html>

### ***CDI Student Paper Award and Publication Series***

The CDI is proud to announce the creation of the CDI Graduate and Undergraduate Student Paper Award and Publication Series.

The CDI will hold an annual Graduate Student Paper Competition and an Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. In partnership with UNBC's Vice-President Research, the CDI will offer an annual \$500 award to the best student paper submitted in each competition. The successful submissions will be published through the CDI Student Paper Award and Publication Series.

### ***CDI Community Connections Series***

For a number of years the CDI has developed a presentation on key community development issues that can act as a 'primer' and update for local groups. This has been widely subscribed and is a popular learning tool for local councils and agencies.

Don Manson "*Reorienting for Renewal: Community Development in rural and small town BC*".

## *UNBC Curriculum Contributions*

Geography Program (BA) major: Public Administration and Community Development

A number of years ago, the CDI initiated a process to better connect UNBC with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). NVIT is based in Merritt, but it offers a wide number of programs, certificates, and diplomas targeted to Aboriginal communities around BC. Since that time, processes have been set in place to coordinate the paperwork and processes for NVIT students transferring to UNBC. In addition, one of the decisions at that early set of meetings was that UNBC would try to identify a ‘destination’ for graduates from NVIT’s Public Administration and Community Economic Development diplomas. Discussions at UNBC identified additional opportunities around these same topic areas.

Between 2006 and 2009, working in conjunction with a wide range of groups within UNBC and with a number of external partners, the CDI was able to develop a new major within the Geography Program (BA) called “Public Administration and Community Development”. This major is targeted at people who seek to combine public administration with a keen interest in community development. The goal is to give students the skills to function within a range of groups, organizations, and offices. Graduates will be able to interact with appropriate professionals, receive their input and reports, and collate a wide range of information and material in service of their group/organization/office. Skills in analysis and synthesis are to be complemented by an ability to work cooperatively and effectively, and to be able to communicate clearly through written, oral, and graphic mediums. Together, this direction will assist the student in becoming equipped for community leadership, with the knowledge and skills to bring together diverse expertise and information on an array of subjects and mobilize it within Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

In 2011, the Public Administration and Community Development major was updated as a result of changes to the Geography Program’s human geography course offerings.



## **Outreach**

The CDI is a resource centre to which communities and decision-makers can turn in their search for timely and relevant information. It is also a conduit through which information from outside the region is shared with communities. Building upon a strong "extension" tradition to connect research and training opportunities with community needs, and to translate best practices into applied tools, links are provided so rural and small town places can access additional information and resources. Important aspects of outreach for the CDI include support for local initiatives, our community visits, assistance with local and regional community and economic development forums, our Community Contact Newsletters, and the CDI Website.

### ***National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development***

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), through their Knowledge Impact in Society program, granted funding to support the creation of a "National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development".

The objective is to develop an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder national network of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers working in urban Aboriginal and Métis communities. This includes organizations, universities, federal/provincial/municipal governments, private industry, community groups, and NGO's. The network focuses on mobilizing economic development knowledge and strengthening organizational capacity.

The tasks include building the network, fostering better understanding of the key issues, hosting national conferences, and establishing local Learning Circles to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building. The network already includes more than 25 organizations across Canada.

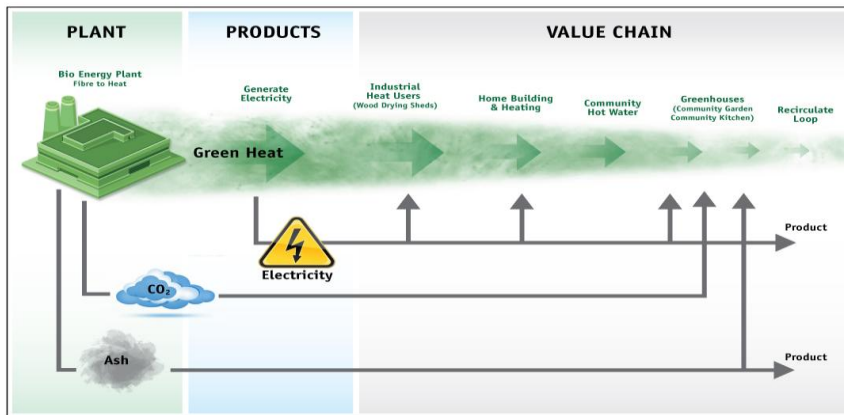
The network is coordinated by Greg Halseth from UNBC's Community Development Institute and Ray Gerow from the Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Centre. Funding support for the network includes \$100,000 per year for three years from SSHRC, as well as a matching cash contribution of \$102,000 per year for three years from the Federal Office of the Interlocutor within Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. An additional \$102,000 one time grant was made available by the Economic Development Branch of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

To date, Network activities have been highly successful with two National Gatherings, a large number of Learning Circles, policy meetings with the Federal Government, a conference of aboriginal scholars, and a range of information development and dissemination tasks.

For the 2011-2012 period, the CDI is working to wrap up the Network's activities and link it to a new initiative managed by the National Association of Native Friendship Centres.

## *Bio-Economy Dialogue Group*

Over the summer of 2011, the CDI initiated a series of conversations that soon became the “Bio-Economy Dialogue Group”. The group came together around an interest in exploring the tertiary opportunities associated with bio-energy and bio-manufacturing processes, specifically the potential for utilizing ‘waste’ heat, heat that is currently being expelled into the atmosphere. Our initial focus was on exploring the potential of utilizing ‘waste’ heat for greenhouse vegetable operations. As discussions and research expanded, the group began looking more broadly up and down the “heat value chain” to fully identify the potential and issues around tertiary opportunities.



The current objective of this group is to explore the potential of developing a small, scalable bio-energy unit for smaller off-grid communities that would generate electricity, heat, and a range of tertiary opportunities for using both the energy and the ‘waste’ heat. The vision is to design the bio-energy unit for use with greenhouse operations.

Bio-Economy Dialogue Group members and affiliations:

Don Bassermann	Omineca Beetle Action Committee
Nate Bello	NB Consulting
Scott Green	University of Northern British Columbia
Hardy Griesbauer	College of New Caledonia
Greg Halseth	Community Development Institute, UNBC
Melanie Karjala	Resources North Association
Stephanie Killam	Resources North, Northern Development Initiatives Trust, District of Mackenzie
Leslie Lax	Strategic Management Consulting
Elissa Meiklem	Northern Bioenergy Partnership
Marleen Morris	UNBC CDI, Marleen Morris & Associates
Vince Prince	Aboriginal Business & Community Development Centre
Sharon Tower	Omineca Beetle Action Committee
Cathe Wishart	College of New Caledonia

### ***Community Transition Toolkit - Dialogue Process***

The CDI worked with the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) and the BC Provincial Government (Ministry of Community Services) to revise and share the CDI's Economic Emergency Toolkit as a more general Community Transition Toolkit. The Toolkit was created first in a partnership between the CDI and the District of Mackenzie. The expanded Toolkit now combines transition best practices with a gap analysis of the social and community services available within the communities that can support transition.

Considerable energy has been put into supporting communities using the Toolkit, including Chetwynd, Mackenzie, Fort Nelson/Northern Rockies, Prince Rupert, and the most recent case of Kitimat.

In 2011, several partners under the leadership of the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and the Regional District of Fraser Fort George have come together to manage the updating process for the Toolkit in support of northern communities.

### ***Clearwater - Wells Gray Country***

The CDI continues its mentoring role in the Clearwater - Wells Gray Country valley. This is now the 9<sup>th</sup> year that the CDI has been working with local groups. Mentoring has been done at the level of community organizations working for community and economic development. It has also been more recently directed to the staff and elected officials of the newly formed municipal District of Clearwater. The CDI continues to be assisted by the Community Resources Center of the North Thompson.

### ***Support for Local Initiatives***

- 2006 - present Board membership for Greg Halseth on Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Association
- 2007 - present Board membership for Greg Halseth on Community Futures of Fraser Fort George
- 2008 - 2011 The CDI, together with Gary Wilson and Tracy Summerville of UNBC's Political Science Program, are coordinating with the City of Prince George with respect to the City's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MyPG). The liaison is being headed by Tracy Summerville.
- 2010-2011 The CDI facilitated a working group of local service providers interested in youth employment issues (Youth Employment Services – YES) as they worked to create a local research project on how they can better serve youth to be successful within the local labour market.

2011 Laura Ryser serves as an alternate “Education and Research” representative on the CSA Sustainable Forest Management Certificate – Public Advisory Group process for CANFOR in Prince George.

### *Community Contact Newsletters*

The CDI Community Contacts Newsletter is published quarterly with the goal to share information and news about community development activities.

Volume 7	No 2	2011	March
Volume 7	No 3	2011	June
Volume 7	No 4	2011	September
Volume 8	No 1	2011	December

**CDI Website:** <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/index.html>

The CDI website is one of the key tools for collecting and communicating information about community development issues as they affect northern BC. Information on the website is organized under the following topics:

- Introduction
- Institute Description
- Annual Reports
- Community Speaker Series
- CDI Publications Series
- Northern Economic Forum
- Newsletters
- Mountain Pine Beetle Links
- Community Visits
- Institute Director
- Staff
- Research
- Information Sharing
- Community Education Videos
- Links
- Contact Information

Under links, the website collects sites that may be of interest to our northern communities under the following categories:

- Statistics & Data
- Governments
- First Nations
- Rural Studies Centres

- Non Governmental & Other Organizations
- Other Links
- Community Forests
- Northern BC Sites

### *Community Education Videos*

An exciting new addition to the CDI website was made in 2011 when we extended our information sharing and knowledge mobilization tools. Since sharing of information and supporting educational outreach are two of the cornerstones of our work, we have created a suite of educational videos and companion tools that help bring these tasks together.

Listed below are topics of general relevance to communities across northern BC. The presentations on each of these topics are designed to give a quick introduction together with background information and relevant detail to assist viewers and readers in developing a working understanding of the topics.

Each topic listed below can be accessed in four ways.

- A PowerPoint file contains a copy of the presentation as slides.
- A PDF file contains a copy of the presentation slides together with the associated notes listed as text under each slide.
- A WORD file contains a copy of the presentation as text only, with the bullet points from slides included along with the text notes explaining each slide.
- An audio-visual presentation which plays out like a movie, with the visual shifting between slides and the audio reading the explanatory text.

The materials included in the UNBC CDI's Community Education Videos/Tools were produced from CDI work by Rosemary Raygada Watanabe and were narrated by Allan Cornes.

List of Economic Development Topics:

- [Community development foundations that support local and regional economic renewal](#)
- [Strengthening community engagement in the New Rural Economy](#)
- [Barriers that impede community development partnerships](#)
- [Economic restructuring and rural and small town housing markets](#)

List of Community Development Topics:

- [Aging in northern BC's resource towns](#)
- [Communication strategies for seniors' services](#)
- [Youth in an aging rural society](#)
- [Understanding rural poverty in northern BC](#)

- [The role of the voluntary sector in health care reform](#)
- [The Northern Medical Program is a tool to mobilize knowledge and produce change](#)
- [The development of smart, innovative service delivery models](#)

### *Community Visits Schedule*

Community visits form an integral part of the CDI mission. They are part of our ongoing efforts to build and grow relationships, collect and share community development information, identify new topics and issues of relevance to our community partners, and evaluate ways by which we can get needed information into the hands of our communities. Community visits not only include meetings with individuals and organizations, but often also includes public speaking invitations from community groups, local government / band councils, and chambers of commerce.

#### **Community Visits Schedule 2011:**

<b>January 2011</b>	Clearwater
<b>February 2011</b>	Clearwater
<b>March 2011</b>	Clearwater, Vancouver
<b>April 2011</b>	Clearwater, Hazelton
<b>May 2011</b>	Burns Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Fraser Lake, Granisle, Houston, Penticton, Smithers, Tumbler Ridge, Vancouver
<b>June 2011</b>	Mackenzie, McBride, Valemount
<b>September 2011</b>	Atlin, Chetwynd, Dease Lake, Fort Nelson, Old Massett, Masset, Port Clement, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte, Stewart, Terrace, Watson Lake, Whitehorse
<b>October 2011</b>	100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria
<b>November 2011</b>	Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver
<b>December 2011</b>	Vancouver