



The Community Development Institute

2019-2020 Annual Report

*University of Northern British Columbia
Prince George, BC*

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
About the Community Development Institute	3
<i>Vision for the Community Development Institute at UNBC</i>	3
Community Transformation and Renewal	3
Education for Community and Economic Development	3
Research.....	3
Policy Dialogues and Advice	3
Community Transformation & Renewal	4
<i>The Forge</i>	4
The Forge: The CDI’s Partnership with the City of Fort St. John	4
Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John	6
<i>Leaders Lab</i>	7
Brown Bag Lunch Sessions at the Leaders Lab.....	7
Your Voice at the Leaders Lab	8
On the Move Research Team at the Leaders Lab	8
Vancouver Foundation Partnership	9
Education for Community & Economic Development	10
<i>CDI Community Speakers Series</i>	10
<i>On the Table</i>	11
<i>Integrated Community Needs Assessment & Planning Certificate</i>	12
Research	13
<i>Real Estate Institute of BC: Non-Resident Property Ownership Policies</i>	13
<i>Vital Signs</i>	13
<i>District of Houston Housing Study</i>	14
<i>BC Housing</i>	14
<i>Publications</i>	15
Policy Dialogues & Advice	18
<i>Meetings with Key Cabinet Ministers and MLAs (Victoria, BC)</i>	18
<i>Roundtable Discussions with Senator Yuen Pau Woo</i>	19
Prince George and Fort St. John	19
<i>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: Workshop on environmental and energy transition (Paris, France)</i>	19
<i>CDI Housing Research Translates into NDIT Housing Programs</i>	20
<i>Business Roundtables: Planning for COVID-19 Response and Recovery</i>	20
Presentations and Conferences	21
Funding	22
<i>Research and Contract Funding</i>	22
The CDI Team	24
<i>Staff</i>	24
<i>Faculty Associates at UNBC</i>	24
<i>CDI Advisory Committee</i>	25
Contact Information	26

Introduction

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that we submit this report highlighting the work and achievements of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia for April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

The end of this reporting year was marked by the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was clear from the start that the impacts of COVID-19 would be significant. While the depth and duration of these impacts are still playing out, we have already seen that they have been highly variable across economic sectors, have uneven demographic impacts, and are shifting over time. Throughout this period, northern BC will be challenged to be flexible, innovative, and resilient in order to respond to challenges and opportunities that this crisis will present.

The pandemic has illustrated the value of the CDI's work to strengthen and support community and economic development. Our focus on community transformation and renewal, education for community and economic development, research, and policy dialogues and advice helps prepare communities for change. Working with our collaborators and partners: government, First Nations, industry, business, voluntary organizations, and the non-profit sector, the CDI is helping to build resilient communities and diverse economies. In these areas, we are making a difference.

The CDI is known for its high-quality research. Our findings, published in books, journal articles, and reports, have attracted attention and are helping to build understanding of the unique strengths, contributions, challenges, and issues facing non-metropolitan and resource-based communities and economies.

Our research also informed our policy dialogues with and advice to government, business and industry, and the non-profit sector. Through research and dialogues, the CDI has shaped policy development and change to better support non-metropolitan communities.

Through the year, we visited communities across northern BC and engaged with people who care deeply about their community, met with leaders who want to make a difference, and brought together experts to help define and refine challenges, assets, and opportunities. In that process, we helped communities reimagine their strengths, create new visions, and develop strategies to build stronger, more resilient communities.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to work with communities and organizations on COVID-19 response and recovery. The pandemic has thrust transformative change upon northern BC. Working together, we can emerge with a strong vision and plan for the future.



Marleen Morris
Co-Director
Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia



Dr. Greg Halseth
Co-Director
Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia

About the Community Development Institute

About the Community Development Institute

VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE AT UNBC

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) is dedicated to understanding and realizing the potential of BC's non-metropolitan communities in a changing global economy, preparing students and practitioners for leadership roles in community and economic development, and creating a body of knowledge, information, and research that will enhance our understanding and our ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation.

In keeping with the vision of UNBC, the CDI is committed to working with all communities – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to help them further their aspirations in community and regional development.

To realize this vision, the CDI provides programs and services in four broad areas. The 2019/2020 annual report is organized under each of these areas:

Community Transformation and Renewal

- Work with communities, industry, business, voluntary groups, and government to identify and assess opportunities, develop strategies, and facilitate partnerships for long-term community and economic benefit in a changing global economy.

Education for Community and Economic Development

- Provide academic and professional development programs and courses, and community education opportunities, to develop knowledge, expertise, and leadership capacity in community and economic development.

Research

- Provide community-based research and information that enhance our understanding and ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation.

Policy Dialogues and Advice

- Support multi-sectoral dialogue and planning as well as provide policy advice to prepare communities, industry, and government for future opportunities and challenges.

Community Transformation & Renewal

Community Transformation & Renewal

Since 2004, the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) has worked in partnership with more than 50 communities across north and central BC to develop and implement strategies for economic diversification and community resilience. We focus specifically on the global and local factors affecting these communities, how they impact a community's ability to respond to change, and what options are available for moving forward. Below are highlights for the work for 2019/2020.

The CDI in Fort St. John

With a four-year funding commitment from the City of Fort St. John, the CDI opened an office with a mandate to enhance economic diversification, community capacity, and social resiliency. That initial program, The Forge, led to funding for two additional programs, the Leaders Lab and the CDI/Vancouver Foundation Child and Youth Cohort. These programs have been mutually supportive in enhancing quality of life and strengthening the economy in Fort St. John. This section of the annual report provides information on these programs.



The Forge: The CDI's Partnership with the City of Fort St. John

The CDI and the City of Fort St. John forged a partnership in 2017 with the goal of enhancing economic diversification, community capacity, and social resiliency. The CDI has engaged with the community to understand Fort St. John today, conducted research to develop a comprehensive profile of the community, developed strategies and plans to enhance quality of life and strengthen and diversify the economy for the future, and worked together with individuals and organizations to mobilize and take action on those strategies and plans. The CDI has been collaborating with community and non-profit organizations, First Nations, industry, local businesses, and all levels of government to ensure community needs and interests are reflected in our projects and events.

The CDI's office, The Forge, is a catalytic space for community engagement and grassroots community development. At The Forge, passionate and involved citizens can make a difference by participating in the creation and implementation of ideas and plans. The Forge is a hub for research, exchanging ideas, sparking innovation, and igniting **change**. The Forge has hosted over 700 people in dialogue, research, and planning sessions and meetings.

Research

During the first phase of the partnership program, the CDI completed six major research projects. The research process engaged more than 1,600 people and involved more than 75 organizations. This research informed the community engagement discussions and dialogues and has been used

Community Transformation & Renewal

extensively by the City, community organizations, and businesses in developing plans and programs.

- Fort St. John Community Profile (2018)
- Fort St. John Program and Service Inventory (2018)
- Fort St. John Community Indicators Program (2018)
- Your Voice Fort St. John Community Survey (2018)
- Fort St. John Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan (2018)
- Review of Reports, Plans, and Evaluations (2019)

Community Engagement

Building on the platform of knowledge established by these research projects, the CDI team at The Forge developed and implemented a comprehensive plan for stakeholder and community engagement. The input received informed the development of ***Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John***. The input also informed the development of programs and events sponsored by The Forge and the Leaders Lab.

The CDI team hosted 55 focus groups, meetings, and events with over 400 people. This included interested citizens as well as representatives from government, First Nations, industry, business, and community and non-profit groups. In these sessions, participants were asked to identify current and future strengths, opportunities, and challenges for various sectors. The goal was to uncover opportunities to grow, strengthen, and diversify the local economy as well as enhance the quality of life for current and future residents. The purpose was not only to gather information and input that would help shape the social and economic framework, but also to engage the community in early steps toward implementation of action steps and recommendations.

The final community engagement event in the process was a four-day open house. From September 18-21, 2019, the CDI team hosted the ***Energizing Our Future Open House*** at the North Peace Cultural Centre. The interactive event presented the key themes the CDI formulated from meetings and provided participants with the opportunity to respond and provide additional thoughts. This input was used in the development of the social and economic framework.



You're invited! Stay for 2 minutes or 2 hours, it's up to you.

Highlights:

- Learn about the Economic and Social Development Frameworks YOU helped create
- Provide YOUR input on the information gathered
- Have YOUR say in the future of Fort St. John

Why Attend?

- Identify opportunities to grow, strengthen & diversify the local economy
- Enhance quality of life for current and future residents
- Provide feedback on how to turn opportunities into action

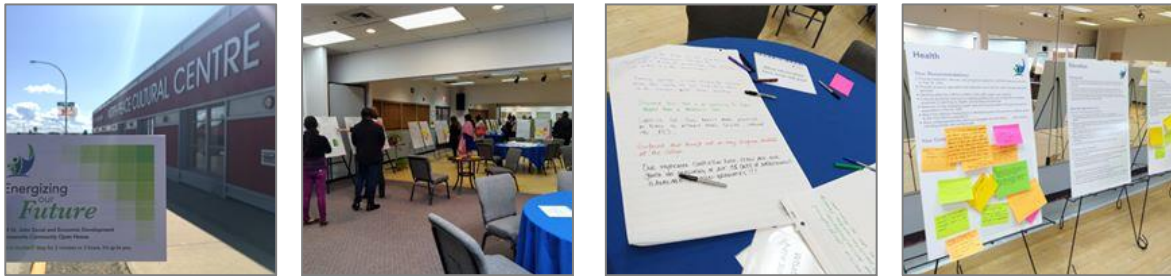
Join us at whatever time works best for you!

When: Wednesday, September 18 to Saturday, September 21, 2019 10:00 am to 8:00 pm each day.
Where: North Peace Cultural Centre, 10015 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC.

The Fort St. John Social and Economic Development Frameworks are being developed by the Community Development Institute at UNBC. For more information, contact Aliya Jackson at aliya.jackson@unbc.ca or (250) 262-1423



Community Transformation & Renewal



Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John

Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John is supportive of, and aligned with, the vision, strategies, and plans developed by the City of Fort St. John. It is intended to further the City's commitment to preparing the community for the future. In developing the Framework, the CDI took a unique approach. Recognizing that social and economic development are intimately interconnected, that there are synergies and linkages between social and economic development that require a comprehensive approach to planning and decision-making, the social and economic development frameworks were combined into one.

The final report includes a model for social and economic development in Fort St. John. The model includes 15 Action Areas and 73 specific action items for enhancing economic development and improving community quality of life in Fort St. John. It provides a platform from which sustainable economic development can be pursued, partnerships can be initiated and fostered, and the livability of the community can be improved for the benefit of both current and future residents. The action recommendations presented in ***Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John*** are built on the insights of hundreds of individuals who live and work in Fort St. John and who know and care about the future of this community. We hope to see these frameworks used widely to support a vibrant, inclusive community and economy.

Community Transformation & Renewal



Fort St. John Leaders Lab: Bringing Community Together for the Future

For 2019, activities at the Leaders Lab focused on providing opportunities for ongoing dialogue, planning, and action on the issues and opportunities emerging from the community engagement.

On an ongoing basis, the CDI team identified opportunities where leadership and collaborative action could make a difference in addressing issues and needs in the community. The Leaders Lab organized workshops and dialogue sessions to provide information on topics related to community economic development, social transformation, and community leadership capacity. The Leaders Lab brought together community participants with local and guest experts with the goal of building understanding, undertaking planning, and moving plans into action. It was also an opportunity to learn from what is happening in other jurisdictions and share information about what is happening in Fort St. John. Funding for the Leaders Lab was provided by the Rural Dividend Fund.

Brown Bag Lunch Sessions at the Leaders Lab

The CDI launched a Brown Bag Lunch Session series in 2019/2020 as part of the Leader's Lab. These sessions were an informal opportunity to provide, share, and discuss information on topics of general interest. Four sessions were held, involving 32 participants.

- **May 2, 2019** - Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute at UNBC discussed business opportunities associated with the growing seniors' population in Fort St. John.
- **May 3, 2019** - Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute at UNBC highlighted the business opportunities emerging with increasing immigration to Fort St. John.
- **May 8, 2019** - Cheryl Montgomery, Executive Director, Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce explored generational differences in communications and offers practical advice bridging the gap.
- **May 22, 2019** – Jane Drew, Certified Inclusion Professional & SD60 Settlement Program Coordinator emphasized ways to foster inclusivity in the workplace and benefit by hiring newcomers to Canada.

A flyer for the "Brown Bag Lunch Sessions" series. The flyer has a green and white color scheme. At the top, it features the Community Development Institute (CDI) logo and the text "Brown Bag Lunch Sessions". Below this, it states "Free Admission. RSVP required. Coffee and tea will be provided." and "Join us for the Community Development Institute's Brown Bag Lunch Sessions. This is an opportunity to pick up information that can help you in your work, your business, or your volunteer activities. Ask questions, share ideas, get feedback, be inspired!". The flyer lists three sessions:

- May 2, 2019: An Aging Population = Business Opportunities**
Speaker: Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute at UNBC
This session will explore business opportunities associated with the growing seniors' population in Fort St. John. Drawing on findings from the Fort St. John Community Profile and the Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan, this presentation will outline specific ways that Fort St. John's business can benefit from being age-friendly.
- May 3, 2019: Immigration = Business Opportunities**
Speaker: Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute at UNBC
This presentation will highlight the business opportunities that are emerging with increasing immigration to Fort St. John. Learn about ways to benefit from welcoming and serving this rapidly growing segment of the population.
- May 8, 2019: Intergenerational Communication**
Speaker: Cheryl Montgomery, Executive Director, Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce
Never before has communication changed so much in such a short period of time. From a generation that grew up with the telephone, to one that communicated through email, to one that posts on Instagram, modes of communication strengthening can lead to misinterpretation. This session will explore the generational differences in communications and offer practical advice on how to bridge the gap.

At the bottom, it provides the time (12:00 pm - 1:00 pm), location (8904 94th Street, Fort St. John (behind the old firehall)), and RSVP information (cdi@unbc.ca or +1.250.261.9917). The flyer is presented by "THE FORGE EXCHANGE • INNOVATE • IGNITE".

Community Transformation & Renewal



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE **CDI** UNBC

Your Voice:

Fort St. John

Share your experiences, ideas, concerns, and hopes on the following topics:

- May 2, 2019: Arts and Culture in Fort St. John
- May 13, 2019: New Canadians in Fort St. John
- May 14, 2019: Jobs in Fort St. John
- May 27, 2019: Youth in Fort St. John
- May 28, 2019: Sports and Recreation in Fort St. John
- May 29, 2019: Retail and Services in Fort St. John

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Join other Fort St. John residents for a small group discussion, facilitated by the CDI team, around each topic area.

A light dinner will be served. Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Place: CDI Northeast Office
9904 94th Street, Fort St. John (behind the old fire hall)

There is no cost to attend. Sessions are limited to 24 people. Pre-registration is required. RSVP: cdi@unbc.ca

LEADERS LAB

Your Voice at the Leaders Lab

The CDI invited residents of Fort St. John to join a series of discussions about topics relevant to the community. Participants were asked to share their experiences, ideas, concerns, and hopes in a group setting facilitated by the CDI team and help to make a difference in their community.

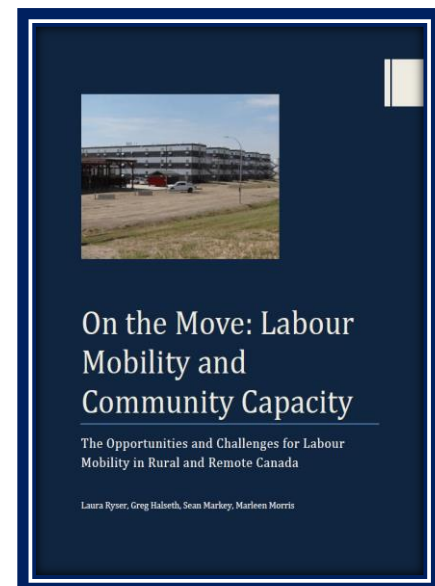
- May 2, 2019: Arts and Culture in Fort St. John
- May 13, 2019: New Canadians in Fort St. John
- May 14, 2019: Jobs in Fort St. John
- May 27, 2019: Youth in Fort St. John
- May 28, 2019: Sports and Recreation in Fort St. John
- May 29, 2019: Retail and Services in Fort St. John
- June 18, 2019: Families in Fort St. John
- June 19, 2019: Seniors in Fort St. John

On the Move Research Team at the Leaders Lab

The Leaders Lab hosted the *On the Move* BC research team, from June 10-14, 2019. During this visit, the team met with the City of Fort St. John, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Peace River Regional District, MLA Dan Davies, and other stakeholders to share their findings.

These findings have shown that employment-related mobility is having an impact on individuals, families, and communities in areas such as labour recruitment; training requirements; absenteeism; turn-over; productivity and occupational health; physical and social infrastructure needs; policy and planning at municipal, provincial, and federal levels; work-life balance, family relations, and community engagement; and regional economic and community development.

The *On the Move* partnership has been studying issues related to mobile workforces for the past seven years. The partnership includes more than 45 researchers from 17 disciplines and 24 universities across Canada and internationally, working with more than 30 community partners to carry out research on labour mobility across many sectors in Canada (<http://www.onthemovepartnership.ca>).



On the Move: Labour Mobility and Community Capacity

The Opportunities and Challenges for Labour Mobility in Rural and Remote Canada

Laura Ryser, Greg Halseth, Sean Markley, Marleen Morris

Community Transformation & Renewal

Vancouver Foundation Partnership

The CDI developed a partnership with the Vancouver Foundation to offer a social innovation development cohort in Fort St. John.



The cohort is bringing together organizations and leaders in the community with an interest in young people to think and plan together ways to address issues and take advantage of the opportunities for youth in Fort St. John. Over 30 organizations are involved in the CDI/Vancouver Foundation Children and Youth Cohort. The cohort is participating in a series of workshops to understand the issues and develop plans for dealing with the root causes of the challenges and issues facing youth.



Education for Community & Economic Development

Education for Community & Economic Development

CDI COMMUNITY SPEAKERS SERIES

As part of the ongoing commitment to sharing information and developing knowledge, the CDI sponsors the CDI Community Speakers Series. The CDI Community Speakers Series invites experts to talk about and share information on timely, relevant topics related to community development northern BC.

Ready or Not: Services needed to support community and economic change.

June 13, 2019 - Greg Halseth, Professor, UNBC Geography Program; Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies; and Co-Director, Community Development Institute discussed how governments and communities could better meet the challenge of providing critical local services during boom and bust cycles to make sure that people have access to the services they need.



Leaders Lab Speaker Series:
Ready or Not:
Services needed to support community and economic change.

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 7-8:30PM

Location: Northern Lights College, Room 202, 9820 120 Ave, Fort St. John.
Free Admission.

Guest speaker: **Greg Halseth**, Professor, UNBC Geography Program; Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies; Co-Director, Community Development Institute

People depend on local services – from government, the business sector, and non-profit organizations – every day in order to support a good quality of life for themselves and their families. Services are especially important to people during times of change or during an economic boom or bust. But just when people need them most, these services are taxed to overcapacity.

In his presentation, Professor Greg Halseth will discuss how governments and communities could better meet the challenge of providing critical local services during boom and bust cycles to make sure that people have access to the services they need.

Session moderator:
Marken Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute at UNBC

For more information, contact:
Alysa Jackson at cdi@unbc.ca or Tel: (250) 262-1423

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
LEADERS LAB
FORT ST. JOHN
The Energy City

Leaders Lab Speaker Series:
Senator Yuen Pau Woo
A glimpse behind the scenes into the everyday life of a Senator!

Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 7PM

Location: Northern Lights College, Room 202, 9820 120 Ave, Fort St. John.
Free Admission

People often question the legislative powers allocated to the Senate and the overall role it plays as a Parliamentary body. In his talk, Senator Woo will shed light on how Senate reform has led the Senate in a direction that is less partisan; more diverse in background, gender, and qualifications; and more effective in its role as the chamber of sober second thought.

Guest speaker: **Senator Yuen Pau Woo** is an independent Senator representing British Columbia. He is a member of a number of Senate Standing Committees, including Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. In 2017, Senator Woo was elected as the Facilitator of the Independent Senators Group.

Session Hosts:
Marken Morris and Greg Halseth, Co-Directors, Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia

For more information: Alysa Jackson at cdi@unbc.ca or Tel: (250) 262-1423

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
LEADERS LAB
THE FORGE EXCHANGE • INNOVATE • INSPIRE

A glimpse behind the scenes into the everyday life of a Senator!

July 17, 2019 - Senator Yuen Pau Woo shed light on how Senate reform has led the Senate in a direction that is less partisan; more diverse in background, gender, and qualifications; and more effective in its role as the chamber of 'sober second thought'.



Education for Community & Economic Development

The Port of Vancouver: Linking B.C. Resources to World Markets

November 4, 2019 - Judy Rogers, Chair of Vancouver Fraser Port Authority discussed how the Port of Vancouver helps get BC resources to global markets. Judy shared how the Port Authority is investing in infrastructure and supply chain management to increase the efficient movement of goods to and from the port, to support Canadian businesses, now and into the future.



Leaders Lab Speaker Series:
The Port of Vancouver:
Linking B.C. Resources to World Markets
Monday, November 4, 2019, 7:00PM

Location: Pomeroy Sport Centre, 9324 96 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4V5
T & T Communications (West) Meeting Room
Free Admission. Refreshments will be served.

Guest Speaker: Judy Rogers, Chair of Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Canada's trade through the Port of Vancouver has been growing steadily for 10 years, with more growth forecasted ahead. For resource communities such as Fort St. John, the Port of Vancouver is an important link to global markets.

Hear from Judy Rogers, Chair of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the federal agency responsible for the stewardship of the Port of Vancouver, about how the port authority is investing in infrastructure and supply chain efficiency to increase the efficient movement of goods to and from the port to support Canadian business and B.C.'s resource trade now and into the future.

Session Hosts
Marleen Morris
City Manager
Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia

For more information, contact:
Ching Shu Anand, gsa@unbc.ca 250.271.9917

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE | LEADERS LAB | FORT ST. JOHN The Energetic City

ON THE TABLE

For the first time, the CDI participated in On the Table, a platform created by the Vancouver Foundation to encourage others to bring a sense of welcome and belonging in our communities. The CDI has long been an advocate for building connections within communities to help reduce the feeling of social isolation. The CDI enjoyed sponsoring this event; a meaningful opportunity to meet, gather, and share with UNBC faculty and women in leadership from the Prince George community what it means to belong in a community and what that can look like.



Attendees:

- Susan Scott, Councillor, City of Prince George
- Mary Mytting, LEAP Project Coordinator, Community Futures Fraser Fort George
- Catherine Pennington, Community Indigenous Engagement, Enbridge Pipelines
- Amy Dhanjal, Communications Coordinator, Prince George Public Library
- Amelia Kaiser, Director, Student Affairs, UNBC
- Gail Fondahl, Professor of Geography, UNBC
- Zoë A. Meletis, Associate Professor, UNBC
- Aliya Jackson, Administrative Assistant, Community Development Institute
- Julia Good, Research Associate, Community Development Institute
- Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute

Education for Community & Economic Development

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT & PLANNING CERTIFICATE

In response to a request from the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), the CDI developed and delivered a Community Development Certificate Program for staff in northern BC. The purpose of this professional development program was to provide community-based FNHA staff with information and best practices in effective community engagement, community-based needs assessments, and community capacity building. The eight-month program was delivered online, with three in-person modules at the UNBC campus in Prince George. The class completed the program December 2019.

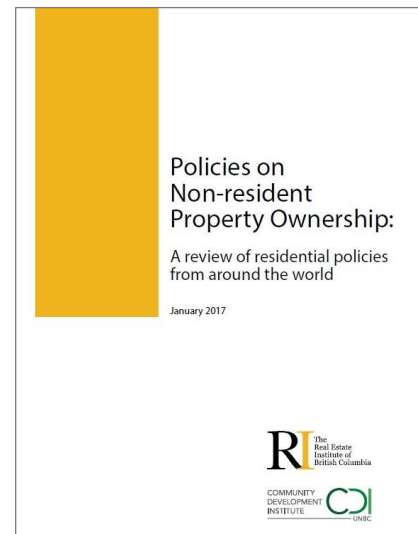


Research

Along with the CDI's mandate to work with communities in northern BC, the CDI uses its close connections with academic institutions, community groups, business organizations, and others to conduct research that examines, explains, and analyzes aspects of community and economic development. Most of the CDI's research employs community-based research methods in order to make the findings useful and relevant to communities.

REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE OF BC: NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERSHIP POLICIES

For 2019/2020, the CDI updated three studies we had completed in 2017-2018 for the Real Estate Institute of BC (REIBC). These studies are a comparative review of policies and approaches from jurisdictions around the world aimed at limiting non-resident ownership of residential, commercial and industrial, and agricultural land. The updated data will continue to inform dialogue and policy development on non-resident property ownership in BC.



VITAL SIGNS

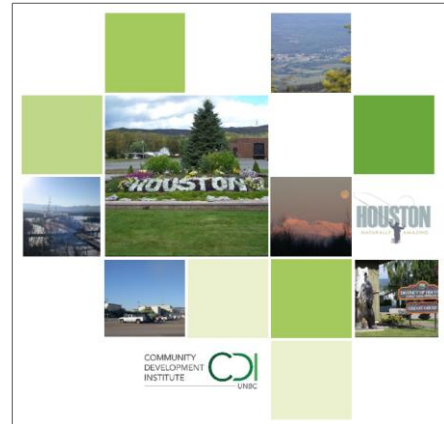
Vital Signs is a national program led by local community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada. For the second time since the inception of the national Vital Signs program, the CDI conducted the research for the Prince George Community Foundation report.

This Vital Signs report examined 10 indicator areas and provided a community check-up to measure the vitality of our region, identify concerns, and support action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. The report will act as a resource to allow community practitioners and citizens to understand community characteristics and shed light on aspects of life in Prince George.

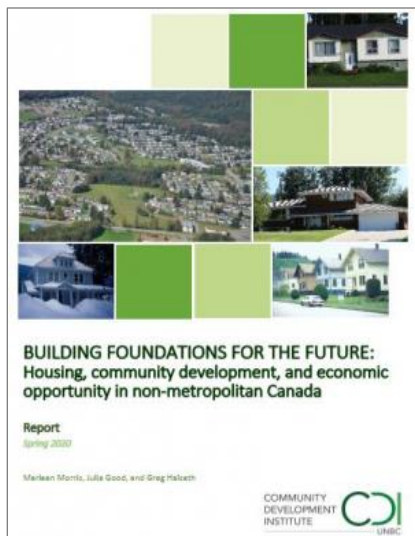
Research

DISTRICT OF HOUSTON HOUSING STUDY

The District of Houston is striving to ensure that the community has an adequate supply of high quality housing and that the housing stock includes options that meet the current and future needs of Houston residents. The CDI has undertaken a study to collect and analyze data and provide information and knowledge that can inform decisions necessary to develop a robust and diverse housing supply that aligns with economic growth and diversification opportunities.



BC HOUSING



The CDI is working with BC Housing to create a comprehensive portrait of housing across non-metropolitan BC. Across British Columbia, communities and households are facing a variety of issues with respect to their housing. Across non-metropolitan BC, preliminary research conducted by the CDI indicates that these issues may be emerging from a multiplicity of factors including the age of the housing stock, changing demographics within communities, stresses on housing affordability, housing market dynamics, and others. With a focus on municipalities with a population of up to 100,000, linkages within the CDI's analysis will focus on key government priorities including housing affordability and energy efficiency/carbon footprint, with particular attention to key populations, including seniors, low-income households, and young working families. The final report will explore the need for additional research and recommend policy directions to address the housing issues identified.

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to preparing research reports for communities, CDI researchers also publish their findings in books, academic journals, and other publications. Many of these publications are completed in collaboration with other researchers from Canada and around the world.

Books

Halseth, G., Markey, S. and Ryser, L. (eds.) (2019) Service provision and rural sustainability: Infrastructure and innovation. Routledge: London and New York.

Book Chapters

Halseth, G., Markey, S., and Ryser, L. 2019. Introduction. In G. Halseth, S. Markey, and L. Ryser, *Service Provision and Rural Sustainability: Infrastructure and Innovation*, pp. 3-18. Routledge: London and New York.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., and Markey, S. 2019. Pursuing alternative infrastructure arrangements to strengthen service provision in British Columbia, Canada. In G. Halseth, S. Markey, and L. Ryser, *Service Provision and Rural Sustainability: Infrastructure and Innovation*, pp. 162-176. Routledge: London and New York.

Halseth, G., Markey, S., and Ryser, L. 2019. Emerging issues for new rural service and infrastructure models. In G. Halseth, S. Markey, and L. Ryser, *Service Provision and Rural Sustainability: Infrastructure and Innovation*, pp. 179-188. Routledge: London and New York.

Journals

Morris, M. and Halseth, G. (2019) The Role of Housing and Services in Supporting Healthy Ageing-in-Place: Northern British Columbia, Canada. *AGER, Revista de Estudios sobre Despoblación y Desarrollo Rural, Journal of Depopulation and Rural Development Studies*, 27 (1): 17-47. DOI: 10.4422/ager.2019.02

Markey, S., Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2019) Commentary: An agenda for comparative regional development research. *New Zealand Geographer*, DOI:10.1111/nzg.12232.

Ryser, L., Markey, S., Halseth, G. and Welch, K. (2019) Moving from Mobility to Immobility in the Political Economy of Resource-Dependent Regions. *Applied Mobilities*. 4(3), 307-328 <https://doi.org/10.1080/23800127.2017.1421290>

Buse, C., Halseth, G., Sax, M., Jackson, J., Nowak, N., Fyfe, T. and Fresco, T. (2019) Locating community impacts of unconventional natural gas across the supply chain: A scoping review. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 6 (2): 620-629.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2019.03.002>

Markey, S., Halseth, G., Argent, N., Boron, J. and Ryser, L. (2019) Bending the Arc of the Staples Trap: Negotiating Rural Resource Revenues in an Age of Policy Incoherence. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 67: 25-36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2019.02.002>

Tuulentie, S., Kietäväinen, A., Halseth, G., Ryser, L., and Simila, J. (2019) Local community participation in mining in Finnish Lapland and Northern British Columbia, Canada – Practical applications of CSR and SLO. *Resources Policy* 61: 99-107.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., Markey, S., Gunton, C. and Argent, N. (2019) Path dependency or investing in place: Understanding the changing conditions for rural resource regions. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 6: 29-40. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2018.10.009>

CDI Reports

Each year, the CDI publishes and distributes the **List of CDI Publications**, a compilation of reports completed since 1998. The intent is to provide a one-stop reference and easy access to all of the CDI's work. All of these reports are available on the CDI website.

<https://www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute/research-projects>

The most current **List of CDI Publications** records that the CDI has published 160 reports since 1998, with 29 reports completed between April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020.

- City of Fort St. John Social and Economic Development Framework
- District of Houston Housing Study: Community Profile
- District of Houston Housing Study: Final Report
- District of Houston Housing Study: Required Data
- District of Houston Housing Study: Review of Past Plans & Reports
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Retail
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Alternative Energy
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Communications
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Services
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Construction
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Environment
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Education
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Energy
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Tourism & Hospitality
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Forestry
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Innovation Support

CDI Reports (continued)

- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Professional Services
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Manufacturing
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Vulnerable Populations
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Transportation
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Agriculture
- Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Community & Social Services
- On the Move: Executive Summary Report
- On the Move: Final Report
- On the Move: Policy Synthesis
- Vital Signs Prince George 2019
- Non-Resident Property Ownership: A review of agricultural policies from around the world
- Non-Resident Property Ownership: A review of residential policies from around the world
- Non-Resident Property Ownership: A review of commercial and industrial policies from around the world

Policy Dialogues & Advice

Through our focus on policy dialogues and advice, the CDI is working to create platforms for discussions that build awareness and generate insight into issues in northern British Columbia and other non-metropolitan areas in Canada and around the world. Our platforms for discussion are where knowledge is shared and information is exchanged; where networks and relationships can be built; and where the challenges and issues can be explored. In 2019/20, our work in this area included hosting three policy consultations, as well as continuing to engage with elected officials, senior government staff, and industry representatives to discuss issues, including strategies for economic diversification, housing, population aging, the voluntary sector, and social service delivery.

MEETINGS WITH KEY CABINET MINISTERS AND MLAS (VICTORIA, BC)

In May 2019, the CDI met with key Cabinet ministers and the northern BC MLAs whose portfolios include responsibilities that involve major projects and long distance labour commuting (fly-in/fly-out, drive-in/drive-out workers). With plans around the LNG Canada project, a strong interest in this topic provided the CDI with an opportunity to share information and recommendations that resulted from the *On the Move* project. CDI Co-Directors, Greg Halseth and Marleen Morris were joined by Barb Neis (from Memorial University), *On the Move* Project Lead, and Sean Markey (from Simon Fraser University), *On the Move* BC Team. The ministers and MLAs the CDI met with are:



- Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
- Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour
- Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount
- Dan Davies, MLA, Peace River North
- Mike Morris, MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie
- Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North
- John Rustad, MLA, Nechako Lakes
- Andrew Weaver, MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head, Leader of the BC Green Party

Policy Dialogues & Advice

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR YUEN PAU WOO

Prince George and Fort St. John

The CDI was honoured to host a visit to northern BC by member of the Senate of Canada, Senator Yuen Pau Woo in July 2019. In Prince George, the CDI organized and facilitated roundtable discussions for Senator Woo with 42 industry leaders, not-for-profit representatives, First Nations leaders, and local government representatives.

The visit continued in Fort St. John where Senator Woo met with 31 industry leaders, not-for-profit representatives, First Nations leaders, and local government representatives from the community.

The purpose of these sessions was to give Senator Woo the opportunity to learn about and understand concerns in Northern British Columbia. Senator Woo expressed an interest in exploring the channels through which the Senate can address local concerns, such as through legislation,



committee work, and civic participation. His hope was to help Northern British Columbians understand the new role and reforms of the Senate.

The visit was an opportunity to exchange information about issues important to the people, communities, and economies of northern British Columbia and to explore channels to work collaboratively on these issues.

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT: WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY TRANSITION (PARIS, FRANCE)

In September 2019, Greg Halseth was invited to prepare and present a paper on environmental and energy transition in rural regions to a select group of OECD members. The paper highlighted the need to be attentive to the scope of cumulative impacts that would flow from such transitions. It discussed the social, economic, community, household, transportation, and communications systems that are already shifting as a result of energy transformation. The paper concluded with a number of recommendations, including the need for a renewed rural vision, a place-based community and economic development approach, an investment mentality, coordinated public policy, and support for local capacity.

In attendance at the workshop were 65 people from 12 OECD countries.

CDI HOUSING RESEARCH TRANSLATES INTO NDIT HOUSING PROGRAMS

On April 3, 2019, the CDI was pleased to read that Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) was announcing three new housing funding programs. These programs were based on the findings of the *Northern BC Housing Study*, published by the CDI in 2016.

According to Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer for NDIT:

“The Community Development Institute housing research was integral to the development of the Trust’s policy on supporting housing development in northern B.C., and the funding programs we ultimately created. It took the guess work out of the equation for a regional funding organization such as ours, and provided us with up to date data and themes specific to our communities that made it easy for us to take action with, and develop policy and funding programs to address challenges in rural communities.”

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES: PLANNING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The CDI was asked by Community Futures of Fraser-Fort George to facilitate a series of roundtables involving regional businesses and government support programs to discuss concerns about and plans for COVID-19 response and recovery. Participants shared information and discussed strategies for the various stages of the pandemic response, from lock-down to recovery. These dialogues resulted in changes to government programs to make them more accessible to small rural micro-businesses. The dialogues also increased regional collaboration between businesses to strengthen mutual support and economic recovery.

These dialogue sessions began in early March 2020 as the pandemic began to unfold in BC, and have continued.

Presentations and Conferences

Presentations and Conferences

As part of the CDI's commitment to participate in opportunities for community members, students, academics, and practitioners to share information and learn from each other, CDI staff regularly present at conferences, workshops, webinars, lectures, and community events. From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, CDI presentations focused on a range of issues, including community leadership, housing, community readiness in the face of change, how to benefit and prepare for economic development, and community resilience. The CDI gave 14 presentations across British Columbia, in Canada, and around the world. Audiences included representatives of local government, senior government, Indigenous groups, industry, business, community agencies, faculty, students, and public service agencies.



Below is a short list of highlights from the year:

- Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce (Fort St. John, BC, April 23, 2019)
- St. Elias Corridor Economic Development Conference (Haines Junction, Yukon Territory, April 26-27, 2019)
- UNBC Research Week (Prince George, BC, March 4, 2020)
- Fort St. John Petroleum Association (Fort St. John, BC, May 9, 2019)
- Treaty 8 Open House (Fort St. John, BC, June 18, 2019)
- Senator Yuen Pau Woo and Senator Mobina Jaffer (Virtual Presentation, July 8, 2019)
- OECD Workshop on Environmental and Energy Transformation (Paris, France, September 9, 2019)
- Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation – North Atlantic Forum 2019: Sustainable Communities, (St. John's, NL, October 4-5, 2019)
- Every Chef Needs a Farmer, Every Farmer Needs a Chef (Vancouver, BC, November 12, 2019)
- Presentation to the Committee of the Whole (Fort St. John, December 9, 2019)



Funding

Funding

RESEARCH AND CONTRACT FUNDING

The following table provides a list of new and continuing research and contract funding obtained by the CDI.

Funding Agency	Subject	\$ / Year	Year	Principal Investigator(s)	Co-Investigator(s)
BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner	Stakeholder Analysis Project	\$17,000.00	2020	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
City of Fort St. John	Social & Economic Framework for the City of Fort St. John	\$216,000.00	2016-2020	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
College of New Caledonia	Mackenzie/New Horizons Seniors Project	\$36,000.00	2020-2024	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
District of Houston	Houston Housing Study	\$22,000.00	2019-2020	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
District of Tumbler Ridge	Tumbler Ridge Seniors Housing Assessment	\$9,000.00	2020-2021	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
First Nations Health Authority	Community Development Course for FNHA Staff	\$67,795.00	2017-2019	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
Prince George Community Foundation	Vital Signs Prince George 2019	\$20,000.00	2019	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
Real Estate Institute of British Columbia	Policies Regarding Non-Resident Property Ownership	\$10,000.00	2019	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
Rural Dividend Fund	The Fort St. John Leaders Lab	\$87,418.00	2017-2019	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
Fraser Basin Council	Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium	\$20,000.00	2018-2019	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions/UVic	Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium	\$25,000.00	2018	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
Real Estate Foundation of BC	Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium	\$82,242.00	2018-2019	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris

Funding

RESEARCH AND CONTRACT FUNDING (CONTINUED)

Funding Agency	Subject	\$ / Year	Year	Principal Investigator(s)	Co-Investigator(s)
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	On the Move	\$25,450.00	2018-2019	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	Resource Royalties: Returns to Producing Rural Regions	\$19,893.00	2016-2019	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	Rural Policy Learning Commons	\$5,000.00	2018-2019	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
Total Funding		\$662,798.00			

The CDI Team

The CDI Team

Committed to working with communities, the CDI is known throughout northern BC for its ability to effectively blend research with hands-on community development. Each CDI team member contributes a mix of skills and experiences which sustains the CDI's well-rounded reputation. Alongside staff, the CDI also partners with Faculty Associates and seeks input from the CDI Advisory Committee.

STAFF

Dr. Greg Halseth, Co-Director
Marleen Morris, Co-Director
Julia Good, Research Associate
Aliya Jackson, Administrative Assistant
Sally Western, Research Associate (FSJ)
Leanna Butters, Research Associate (FSJ)
Asuncion Sta. Maria, Research Associate (FSJ)
Carlos Yu, Student Assistant (FSJ)

FACULTY ASSOCIATES AT UNBC

Dr. Stephen Déry, Canada Research Chair, Northern Hydrometeorology
Dr. Gail Fondahl, Professor, Geography
Dr. Scott Green, Associate Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management
Dr. Mark Groulx, Assistant Professor, Environmental Planning
Dr. Neil Hanlon, Professor, Geography
Dawn Hemingway, Chair, School of Social Work
Dr. Phil Mullins, Associate Professor, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management

The CDI Team

CDI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We would like to acknowledge the contribution and support of the CDI Advisory Committee:

Lori Ackerman, Mayor, Fort St. John

Mark Barnes, Director, Office of Research, UNBC

Jason Fisher, Vice President, Fibre, Pinnacle Renewable Energy

Kevin McCort, President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Foundation

Barbara Neis, CM, Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Geoff Payne, Vice-President, Research and Graduate Programs, UNBC

Judy Rogers, CM, Board Chair, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Greg Halseth, Professor, Geography Program and Co-Director, Community Development Institute, UNBC

Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute and Adjunct Professor, Geography Program, UNBC

The External Advisory Committee meets annually to provide strategic advice and counsel to the CDI.

The Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia

Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, BC
V2N 4Z9
Tel 250-960-5952
www.unbc.ca/cdi

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC was established in 2004 with a broad mandate in the areas of community, regional, and economic development. Since its inception, the CDI has worked with communities across the northern and central regions of British Columbia to develop and implement strategies for economic diversification and community resilience.

Dedicated to understanding and realizing the potential of BC's non-metropolitan communities in a changing global economy, the CDI works to prepare students and practitioners for leadership roles in community and economic development, and to create a body of knowledge, information, and research that will enhance our understanding and our ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation. The Community Development Institute is committed to working with all communities – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to help them further their aspirations in community and regional development.

