Community

Connections

The UNBC Community Development Institute Newsletter

Community Development Institute Receives Funding

The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice, announced a funding contribution of $50,000 from the Government of BC. The contribution, made through BC Housing, was directed to bridge funding for the CDI renewal process. The renewal process will establish long-term sustainable funding for the CDI. The CDI has now raised over $230,000 in bridge funding.

"We would like to thank the Government of BC and BC Housing for their recognition of the work of the CDI," said Greg Halseth, Director of the CDI. "We are very pleased to have their support in making a strong, sustainable CDI a reality."

"The CDI understands the potential of BC's rural and small town communities," said Marleen Morris, Associate Director of the CDI and responsible for the renewal process. "Our goal is to expand our vision and capacity so that we can continue to contribute to building strong communities and regions."

CDI to Study Seniors Mobility in Clearwater

The CDI has received a grant of $227,000 from the Vancouver Foundation for a three-year study, *From Front Door to Grocery Store: What it takes to get seniors where they want to be in Clearwater*. The study will assess the community to identify barriers that prevent seniors from getting around.

The study will be conducted in collaboration with the District of Clearwater and seniors organizations in the community. "This study will help us take the next step to becoming an age-friendly community," said Leslie Groulx, Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Clearwater. "We want to support the physical and social health of seniors and ensure that they have access to the services and amenities they need."

The lead researcher for the project is Greg Halseth, Director of the CDI and Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies. The research team includes two senior UNBC faculty members, Neil Hanlon, Chair of Geography and Dawn Hemingway, Chair of Social Work. The team also includes Anne Hogan, long-time member of the Prince George Council of Seniors and a well-known seniors advocate.

The study will enhance the understanding of the challenges around meeting seniors mobility needs in small rural communities in BC by focusing on factors including a harsh climate (snowy winters), limited existing physical infrastructure (sidewalks and street lighting), and limited services (especially bus service or other forms of transportation). The results from this study will help other BC communities that face similar challenges.
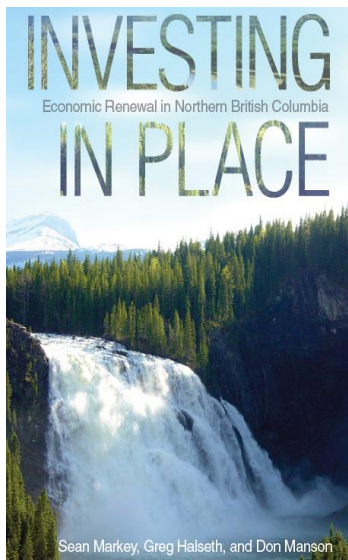
Research having an impact. People making a difference.

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Investing in Place: Now Available in Paperback

Now available in paperback is the new book by CDI Director, Greg Halseth and Coordinator, Don Manson; *Investing in Place: Economic Renewal in Northern British Columbia*.

The book explores the history and future of economic and community development in BC. "We are experiencing the most significant retooling of communities and economies since the 1950s," said Halseth. "BC is at a critical crossroads. We have the opportunity to make decisions now that will lay the foundations for a prosperous future. Investing in our infrastructure; physical, human, economic, and community, and rebundling our community and regional assets are the keys to that future."

Halseth and Manson co-authored the book with Sean Markey, Associate Dean, Faculty of Environment at Simon Fraser University.

Investing in Place: Economic Renewal in Northern British Columbia is available through UBC Press.

Cost:

Paperback: $34.95
Hardcover: $95.00

Order Online at:

http://www.ubcpress.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299173682

Upcoming Events

Watch for news of the CDI Spring Speakers Series. Details will be announced in March.

CDI News Briefs

Energy Sector Dialogue, Dawson Creek

Working with John Turner, Chair of the UNBC Board of Governors, the CDI hosted a dialogue with energy industry representatives to explore their perceptions of the opportunities and pressure points associated with rapid growth in northern BC. The discussion focused on creating lasting community benefit from the current economic upswing. Discussions with industry representatives are ongoing.

Board Voice Conference, Richmond

Greg Halseth and Marleen Morris gave a presentation at the annual Board Voice conference in Richmond. The presentation, *Community Development and Interagency Collaboration in Rural and Northern Communities* looked the role of the non-profit sector in community development and provided pathways for interagency collaboration. Board Voice is a provincial organization that strengthens and advocates for non-profit social service societies. For more information about Board Voice visit: www.boardvoice.ca

On the Move: Long Distance Labour Commuting in Canada

The CDI received funding as a partner in a seven-year pan-Canadian research project, *On the Move* which seeks to learn more about how long distance labour commuting affects employers, workers and their families, and the home and host communities.

The Community Development Institute at UNBC

The Community Development Institute at 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 economic and community development, and creating a body of knowledge, information, and research that enhances our understanding and our ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation.

In keeping with the vision of the University of Northern British Columbia, the Community Development Institute is committed to working with all communities – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – to help them further their community and regional development aspirations.

For more information contact: Marleen Morris, Associate Director by phone at 250 960-9806 or email at mmorris@unbc.ca or visit our website at www.unbc.ca/cdi

Research having an impact. People making a difference.

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA