



COLUMBIA BASIN  
**RDI**  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

CONNECT • UNDERSTAND • MOBILIZE

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# Research Supporting Regional Collaboration: The Case of the Columbia Basin RDI

October 2012

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Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development  
Selkirk College



# Agenda



The Regional Context



Establishing the Rural Development Institute



Research in Partnership



Lessons Learned from Year 1

# The Kootenay Region

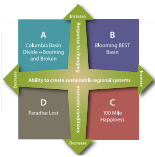


- ‘Stabilized’ population of approx. 170,000
- Resource-based economy
- Amenity rich
- ‘Fracturing’ geography

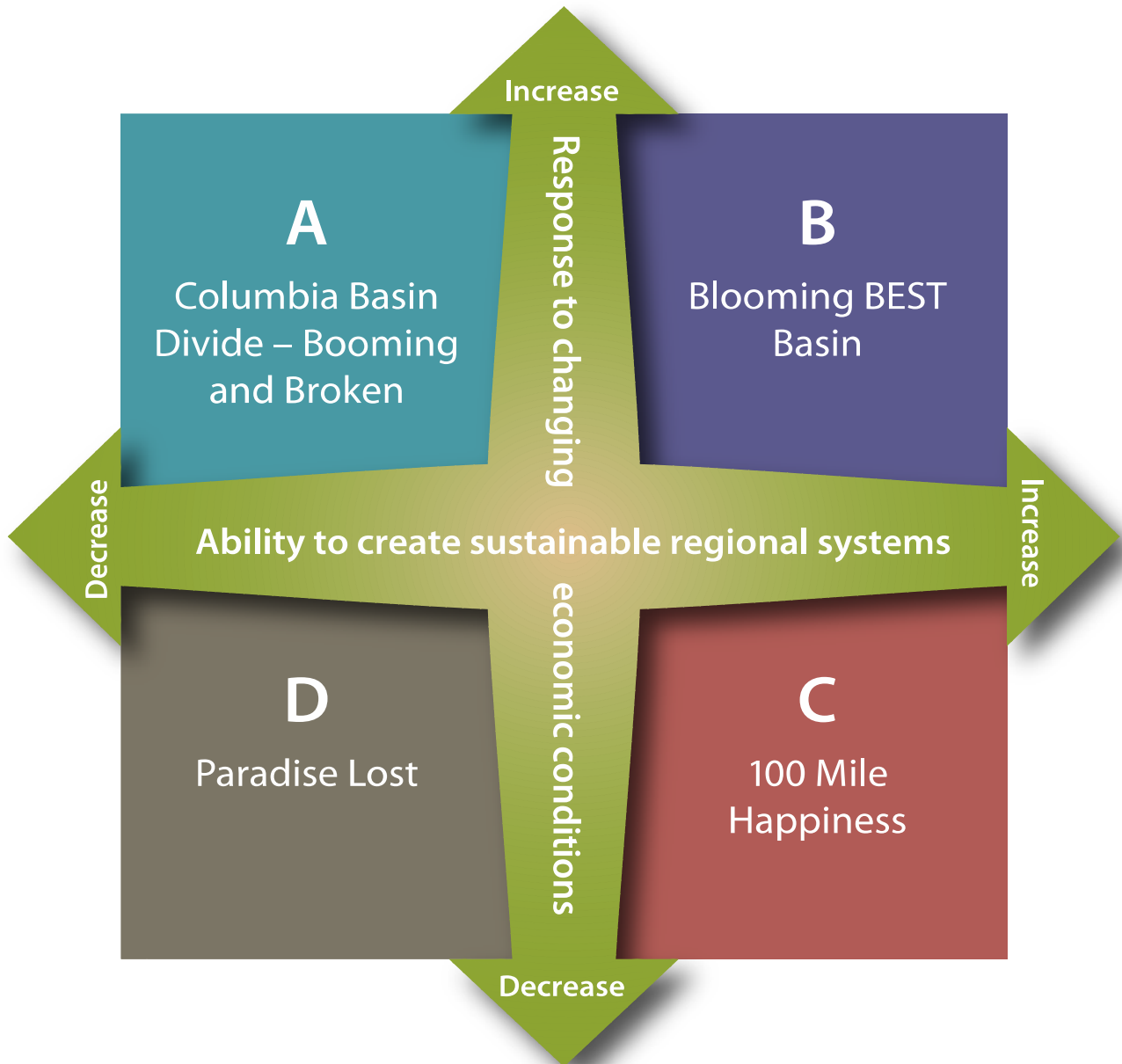
# The Kootenay Context



- Need for sustainability trends analysis
- Communities with limited & varying capacity
- Community-based research overlaps and support needs
- Increase in regional collaboration but historic challenges remain
- No university in the region



# Preferred Future Scenarios



# Selkirk College

- Over 2,000 students
- 70 certificate, diploma and degree programs
- Oldest regional college in BC



Aviation • Contemporary Music & Technology • School of the Arts • School of Environment & Geomatics • Golf Operations & Ski Resort Management • Health & Human Services

# Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development

- \$1.5 million in matching funds from within the West Kootenay-Boundary
- 21 BC Research Chairs (Health-7, Technology-2, Enviro-3, Social-5, Economic-4)
- One of only 2 RICs located at a college
- Extensive affordable housing research in first 5 years (\$10m over 3 years)

Selkirk College gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions and support of the following individuals and organizations:



Ron Anderson

Christian Schadendorf





# The Columbia Basin Trust

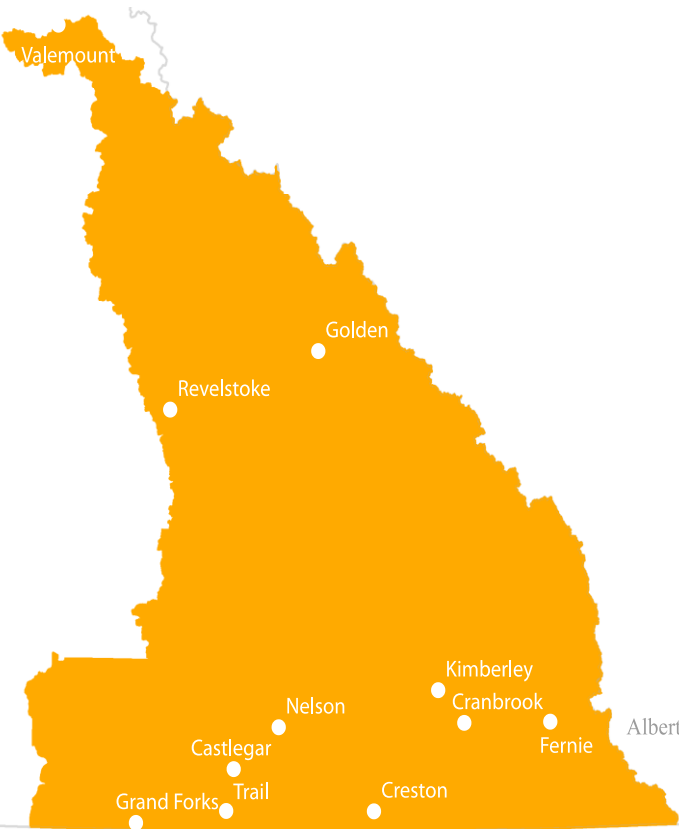


- Provincial crown corporation to support region impacted by Columbia River Treaty
- Support economic, social and environmental well-being

- \$321m endowment - \$276m for hydroelectric projects & \$45m for other projects
- \$20m annually to support well-being & self-sufficiency



# Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute



- **Multi-year partnership** to support informed decision-making
- The **only college-based, 'rural-placed' RDI** in Canada
- **Regional** catchment area, well-positioned as a regional rural research incubator
- Understanding **rural revitalization in sustainability terms**
- **Regional approach**, addressing identified regional & sub-regional needs



# RDI Goals



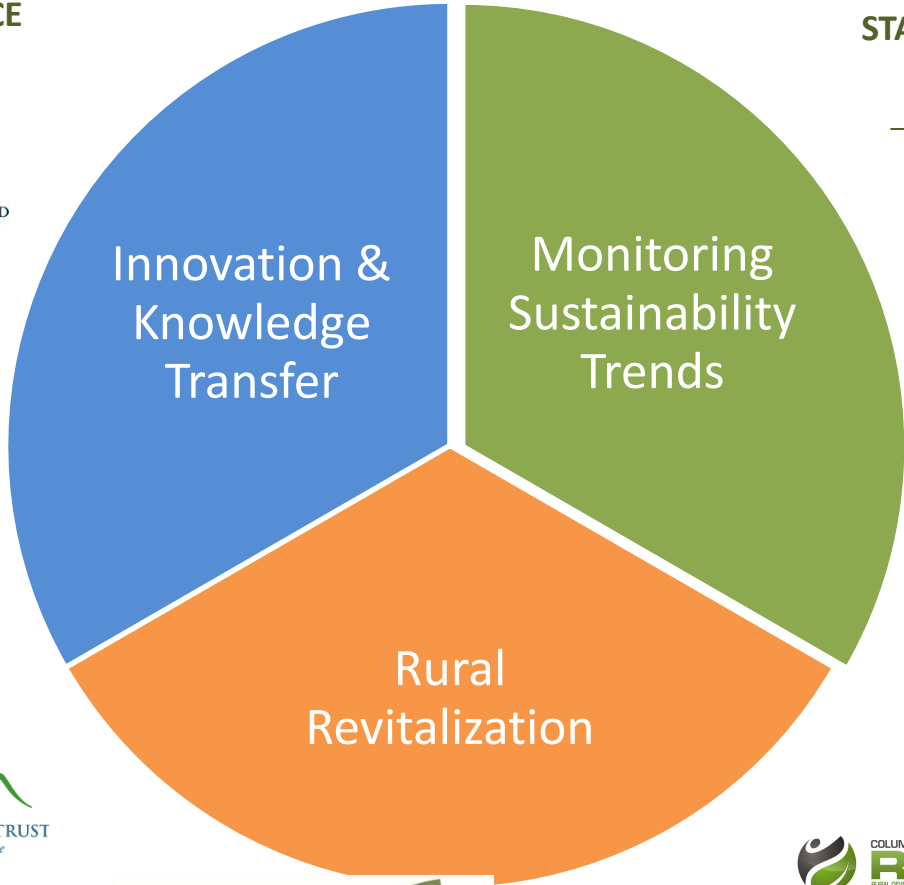
**SUPPORTING INFORMED DECISION-MAKING  
THROUGH RELEVANT & TIMELY RESEARCH**

**PROMOTING INNOVATION & BEST  
PRACTICE TOOLS**



**MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE TO  
SUPPORT RURAL REVITALIZATION**

# Research Snap Shot



**RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE  
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**



**STATE OF THE BASIN & RDI  
WEBSITE**



**ATTRACTING YOUNG  
ADULTS TO RURAL  
REGIONS KBM PROJECT**



**STATE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT: PILOTING  
BEST PRACTICES & DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGIES**



**SME ADOPTION OF DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT**



**GEOSPATIAL  
EMPLOYMENT LANDS  
PROJECT**



**MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY  
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**



**BUSINESS RETENTION &  
EXPANSION REGIONAL PILOT**



**PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVE**

= RDI led initiative



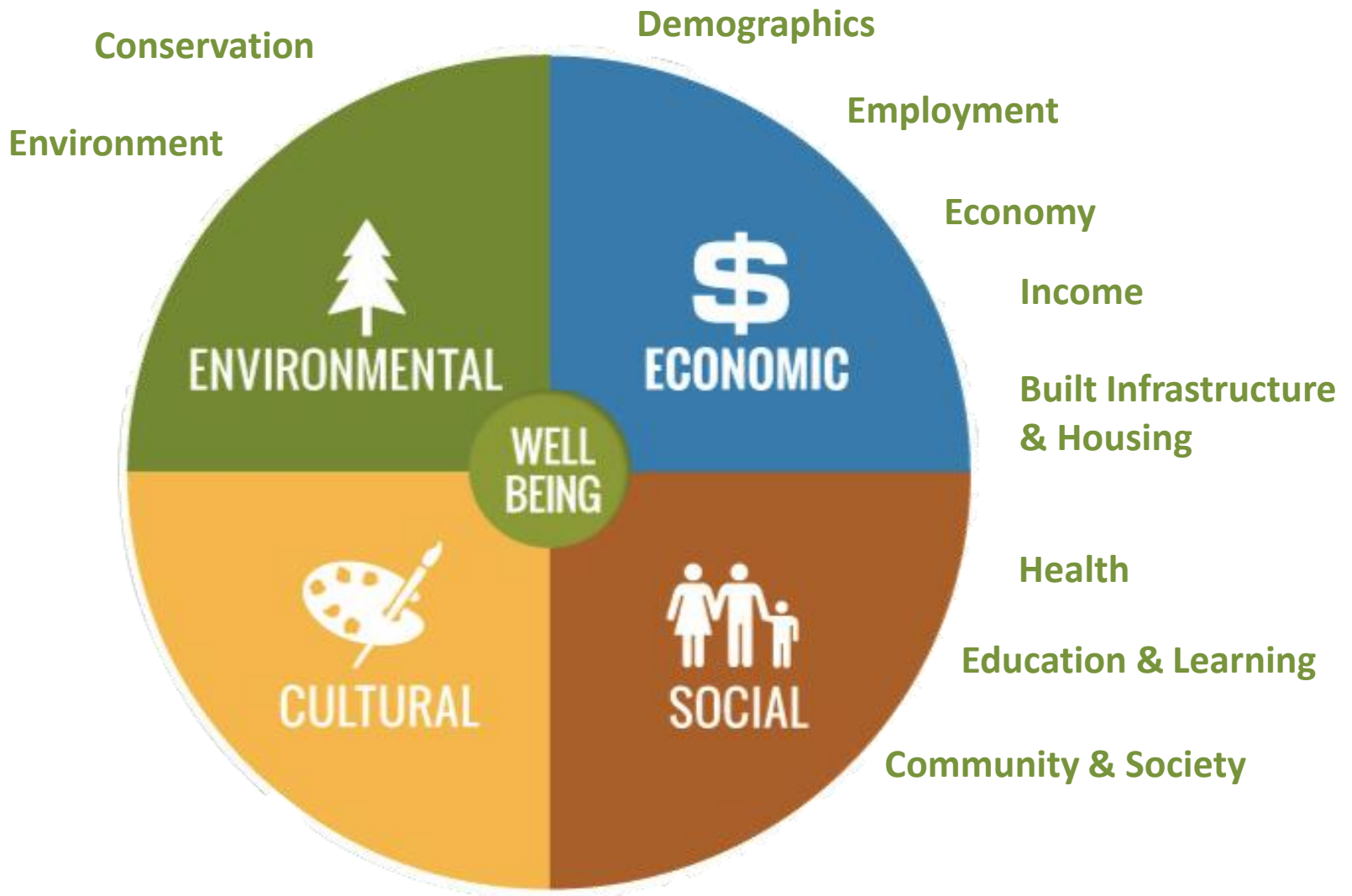


# State of the Basin: 2008 Framework





# State of the Basin: Transitioning to an Integrated Framework





# State of the Basin: Indicator Thematic Areas





# Communities & Corridors for Analysis

Trail & Area (Fruitvale, Warfield, Montrose, RDKB Areas A & B)

Rossland

Castlegar & RDCK Areas I & J

Nelson & RDCK Areas E & F

Kaslo & RDCK Area D

Salmo & RDCK Area G

Slocan Valley (Slocan, Silvertown, New Denver, RDCK Area H)

Nakusp and RDCK Area K

**West Kootenay Corridor**

Grand Forks

Greenwood

Midway

RDKB Area C

RDKB Area D

RDKB Area E

**Boundary Corridor**

Creston & RDCK Area A, B & C

Kimberley & RDEK Area E

Cranbrook & RDEK Area B & C, Indian Reserves

**South East Kootenay Corridor**

Fernie & RDEK Area A

Elkford

Sparwood

**Elk Valley Corridor**

Canal Flats

Invermere

Radium Hot Springs

RDEK Area F

RDEK Area G

Golden & RDCS Area A

**Columbia Valley Corridor**

Valemount

Revelstoke & RDCS Area B





# State of the Basin: Approach

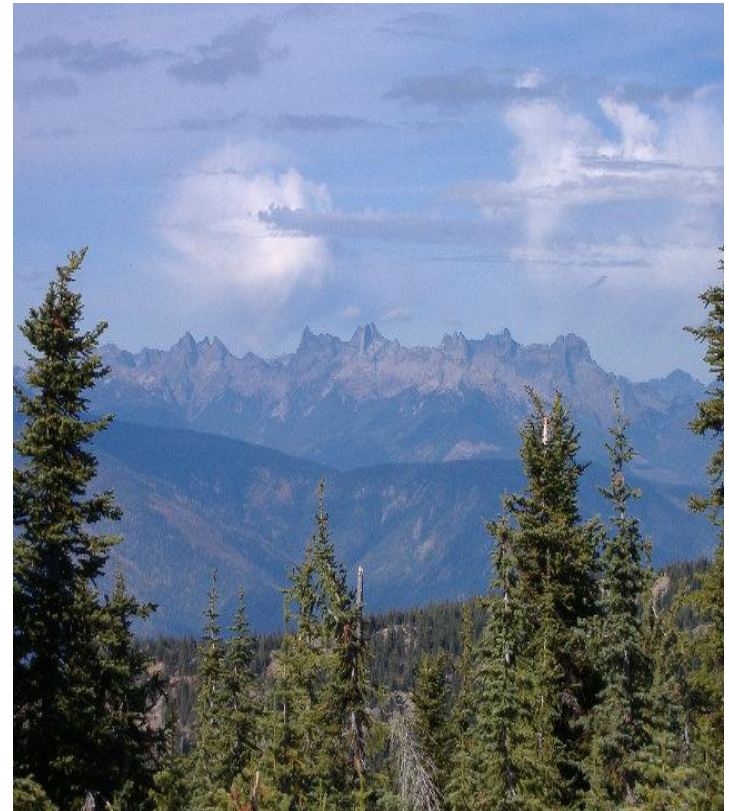


- **Integrated** 'well-being' & 'sustainable development' **framework**
- Prioritize analysis of **interrelationship** between 'dimensions'
- Inclusion of **objective and subjective measures**
- **Online** tool with geospatial **mapping** and ongoing **trends analyses**

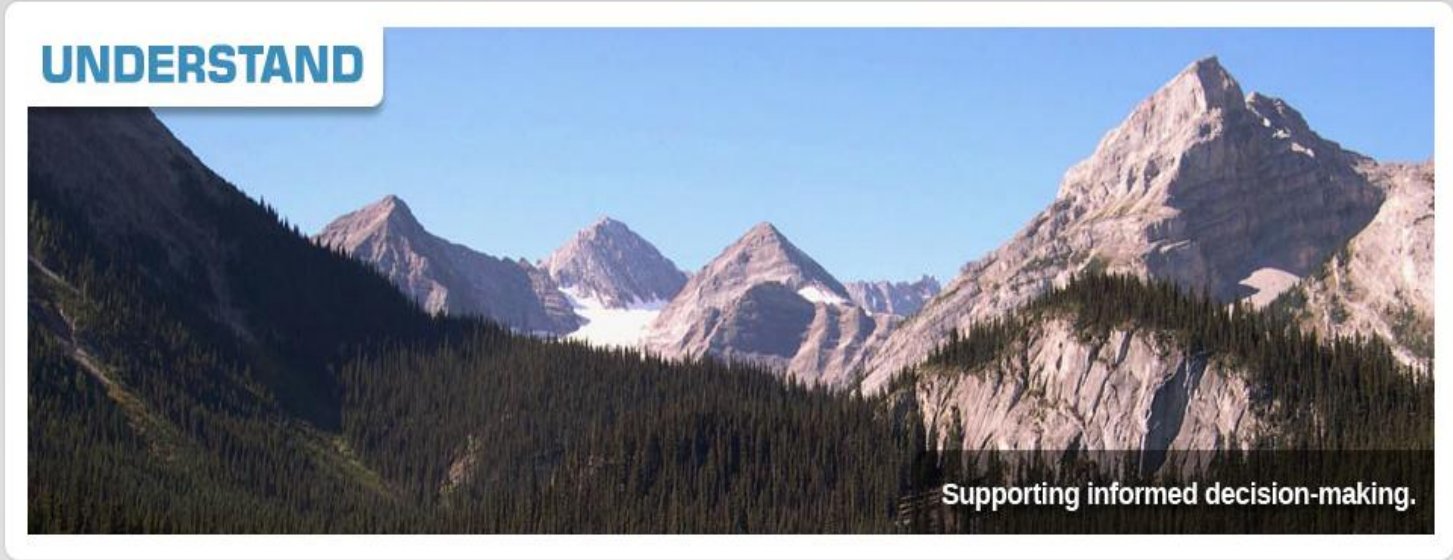
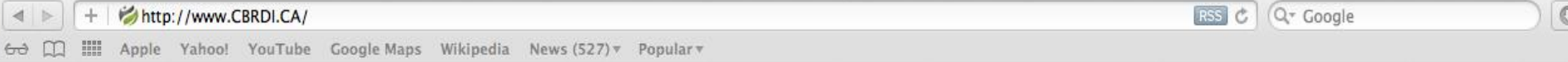


# State of the Basin: Approach

- **Search and compare** indicators by community and corridor
- **Mixed method**, quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- Focus on indicators that can **inform decision-making**
- Long term focus on **community-based research & direct support**

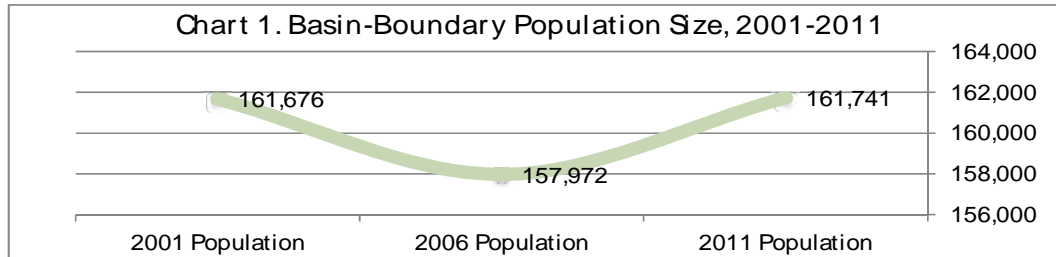


# RDI Website

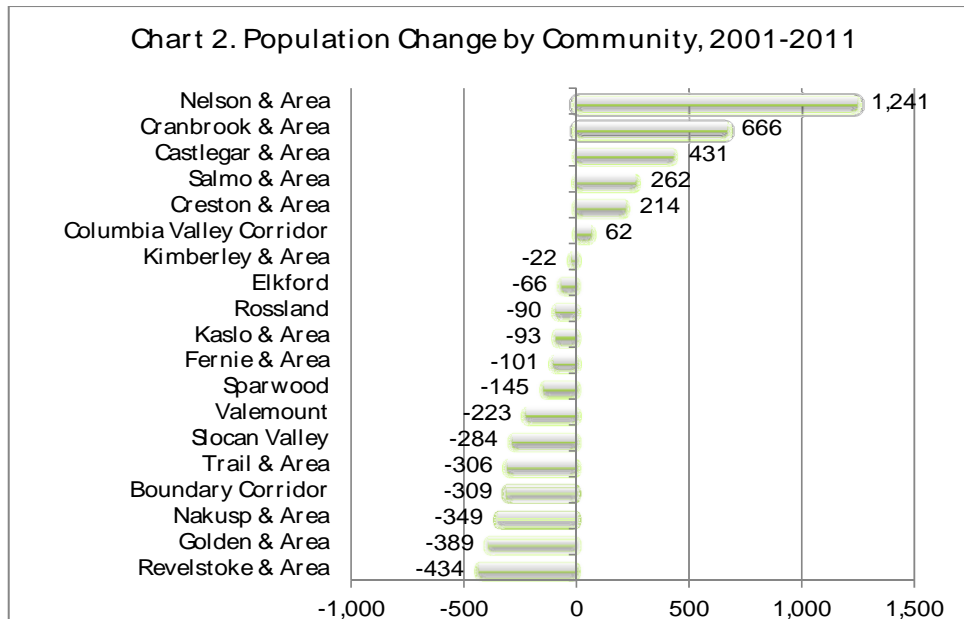


# The Last 10 Years: Growth Corridors Stabilize Population in the Basin Boundary

As highlighted in Chart 1, data from Census 2011 reveals the population of the Columbia Basin Boundary Region<sup>1</sup> has returned to 2001 levels, rebounding from a decline in population of 3,704 as reported in the 2006 census.



As Chart 2 reveals, the communities that experienced the highest levels growth over the last 10 years were Nelson, Cranbrook, Castlegar, Salmo and Creston. The highest levels of population decline over the last 10 years occurred mainly in the northern part of the region, including Revelstoke, Golden, Nakusp and Valemount. The larger communities in the Kootenay Boundary Region District also experienced decline, including the Greater Trail Area, Rossland, and Grand Forks (in the Boundary Corridor). Nakusp and the Socan Valley has also experienced significant decline over the last 10 years.



You are here: [Home](#) / Resources

## RESOURCE DATABASE

FILE

**[Warfield Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

ECONOMIC SOCIAL

FILE

**[Valemount Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

ECONOMIC SOCIAL

FILE

**[Trail Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

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**[Sparwood Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

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**[Slocan Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

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**[Silverton Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

ECONOMIC SOCIAL

FILE

**[Salmo Community Facts](#)** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

ECONOMIC SOCIAL

## CONTROL PANEL

Use the following selections to filter the displayed resources.

### ▾ Pillars

- Economic  
 Social  
 Cultural  
 Environmental

### ▾ Communities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boundary Country | <input type="checkbox"/> Nakusp        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Castlegar        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nelson        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia Valley  | <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Region |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cranbrook        | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creston Valley   | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelstoke    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elkford          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rossland      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fernie           | <input type="checkbox"/> Salmo         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden           | <input type="checkbox"/> Slocan Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Trail    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sparwood      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kaslo            | <input type="checkbox"/> Valemount     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kimberley        |  |

### ▾ Resource Types

- Document / File

Filter Resources





## LEGEND

- Economic Indicators
- Social Indicators
- Cultural Indicators
- Environmental Indicators

## STATE OF THE BASIN

A tool to identify, monitor and report on information relating to economic, social, cultural, environmental and other community related aspects as they relate to well-being within the region.

## STATE OF THE BASIN POLL

What is the best question to ask in the poll?

- One about trees
- One about commerce
- None of the above

Economic → Workforce →

## Demographics (Basin-wide)

Location:

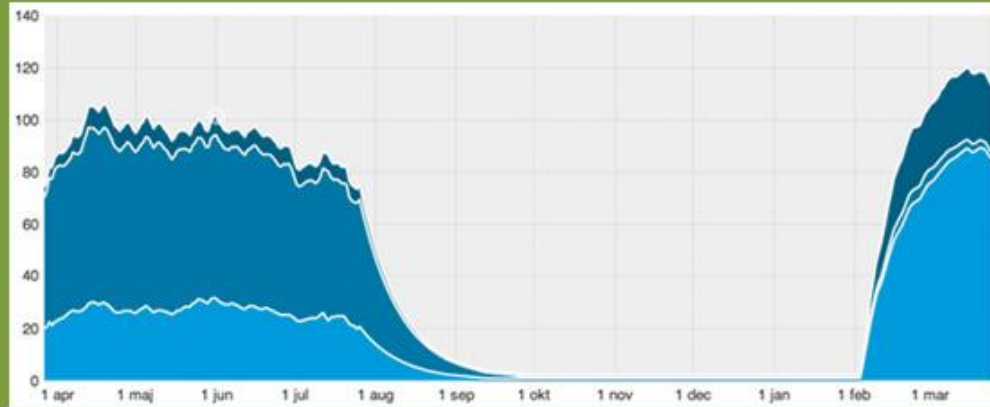
Elkford ▾

Year:

2011 ▾

### INDICATORS

- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
- Environmental



SELECT OUTPUT ▾

- Table
- Graph
- Analysis
- Map

EXPORT

COMPARE ▾

### DEMOGRAPHICS DATA #1 DATA TYPE: LINE CHART

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce magna ante, lobortis id tincidunt at, suscipit vel metus. Aenean turpis ligula, ullamcorper sed auctor gravida, vestibulum sed nisi. Suspendisse potenti.



### LEGEND

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- Social Indicators
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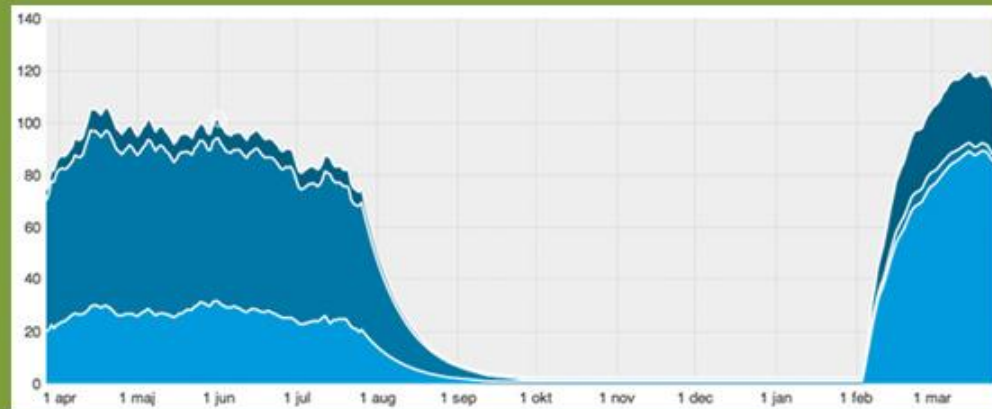
## Demographics (Basin-wide)

Elkford ▾

2011 ▾

## INDICATORS

-  Economic
-  Social
-  Cultural
-  Environmental



SELECT OUTPUT ▾

EXPORT

COMPARE ▾

-  Region
-  Corridor
-  Community

## DEMOGRAPHICS DATA #1 DATA TYPE: LINE CHART

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce magna ante, lobortis id tincidunt at, suscipit vel metus. Aenean turpis ligula, ullamcorper sed auctor gravida, vestibulum sed nisi. Suspendisse potenti.



Economic → Workforce → Demographics →

## Compare Communities

### INDICATORS

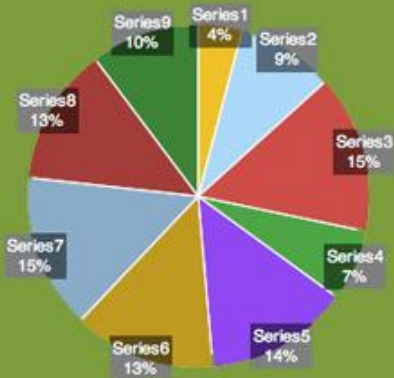
- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
- Environmental

Location:

Elkford

Year:

2011



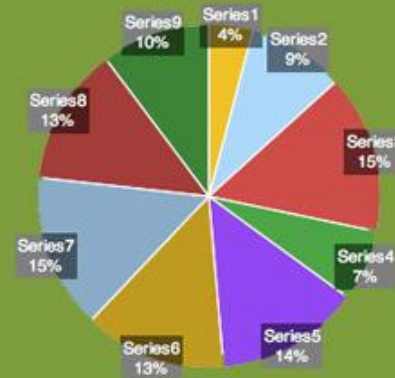
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce magna ante.

Location:

Castlegar

Year:

2006



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce magna ante.

SELECT OUTPUT

- Table
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EXPORT

COMPARE



### LEGEND

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# State of the Environment: Piloting Best Practices & Digital Technologies

- Explore the landscape of enviro & sustainability research & planning
- Expand existing SoTB enviro indicators
- Develop web-based geospatial portal
- Build capacity of stakeholders to support data collection efforts & link research planning & implementation







# Geospatial Employment Lands Project



Purpose is to better understand the supply, demand and use of employment lands in the region

- Compiling all available GIS data & identifying gaps
- Providing an integrated geospatial / economic development analysis
- Hosting series of forums to discuss findings and link research to planning
- Creating a sustainable, web-based geospatial portal with site selection query functionality
- Create a land use & infrastructure framework to support future local and regional planning

# Business Retention & Expansion Rural Pilot Project

- Best practice research & development of regional model
- Formation of a regional support network
- Pilot in 8 communities and build capacity through tools & training
- Conduct local, sub-regional and regional analysis & support related follow up and planning



# Selkirk-SME Adoption of Digital Technologies Pilot Project



Link college expertise to SMEs in an effort to accelerate ADT

- Better understand SME needs and college capacity to address these needs
- Deliver ADT training through a series of workshops, short courses and online GIS courses
- Provide advisory and direct support to SMEs

# Attracting & Retaining Young Adults to Rural Regions KBM Project

- Identify & consolidate different forms of knowledge on young adult A&R
- Engage & profile young adult perspectives
- Identify & profile 'best practice' policies & programs
- Host a national conference to share perspectives & best practices





# Rural Community Service Learning Partnership



- Build the capacity of post-secondary institutions to support rural CSL
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in rural CSL
- Support regional rural development through rural CSL
- Develop a rural CSL partnership model that is replicable and sustainable

# Challenges & Solutions from Year 1 of the RDI

- **Institutional constraints & limited capacity**
  - projects to advance institutional culture
- **Perceived competing interests**
  - build trust 'by doing' on 'common ground'
- **Fracturing geography**
  - strategic outreach, video conferencing
- **Limited awareness & managing expectations**
  - communications plan, strategic outreach & build capacity 'by doing'

# Challenges & Solutions from Year 1 of the RDI

- **Single funding source**
  - diversify, strategically leverage funds
- **Varying levels of rural community capacity**
  - context-driven models & direct support
- **Rapidly growing research institute**
  - build foundation based on year 1 needs
- **Integrating efforts of leading partners**
  - governance & advisory groups to co-create

# The RDI Moving Forward... What is Needed?

- Creating the Research Hub at [www.cbrdi.ca](http://www.cbrdi.ca)
- Growing Rural Researchers & Supporting Community-Based Research
- Informing & Supporting Regional Collaboration
- Brokering research partnerships with the colleges, universities & industry
- Growing the Institute and further leveraging funding

# Critical Ingredients

- Purposeful & ongoing community engagement
- Responsiveness & answering 'so what' questions
- RDI to take a leadership role, colleges and CBT to do the same
- Manage expectations & effectively communicate impact
- Flexibility to 'get things done' is key & focus on assets
- Leverage funding & focus on building capacity

# Help Inform RDI Moving Forward

- **Are we on the right track?** – Do the RDI research priorities resonate?
- **Inform SoTB analysis** – feedback on analytic corridors & framework
- **Regional Online Research Library** – out of region resources
- **Contact us** – [cbrdi@selkirk.ca](mailto:cbrdi@selkirk.ca)      **Visit us:** [www.cbrdi.ca](http://www.cbrdi.ca)
- **Join us** – sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter via website



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