



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

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*"Northern
Strength
to
Northern
Strength."*

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Welcome

We are pleased to present the December 2005 newsletter of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. This edition represents the first in our second volume and we hope it builds upon a successful first year. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about developments at the CDI. Our plan is to send these e-newsletters out to our community contacts quarterly. If you have any comments on how we can improve the newsletter, or if you have news that you would like us to include in our next edition, feel free to contact our coordinator at manson@unbc.ca

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The CDI at UNBC

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming an important partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

The Institute emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, collaboration, learning, and complementarity. Research that is undertaken balances academic credibility with practical relevance. Beyond research, the Institute is involved in outreach activities and serves as a conduit to expand local educational opportunities related to community development.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/>

Projects

Recent Completed Projects

Mackenzie Seniors Study

http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/print_research.shtml#SeniorsNeeds

Northern BC Vision and Strategy Project

<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/research/edvs/projectReports.html>

Shopping and Commuting Patterns in the Northwest Region of BC

http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/print_research.shtml#NorthwestShopping

Current Projects

Tourism and Development Foundation Project

Between May and October of 2005, CDI staff along with faculty from UNBC's Resource Recreation and Tourism Program developed new connections with organizations in the tourism sector. Our research has shown that tourism plays an important but little studied part of northern BC's economy. Building upon the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, and with funding support from Western Economic Diversification Canada, this project explored some of the opportunities and challenges for the tourism sector and has drafted a set of

reports. These reports will soon be posted on the CDI website:
<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/>

Community Connections

This summer was the third in a row that the CDI continued its dialogue with as many community representatives as possible throughout UNBC's service region. Both formal and informal discussions have been taking place with government, industry, labour, small business, First Nations, economic development organizations, and community groups. The purpose is to add to our knowledge of what has gone on in the past, what is going on presently, and what people feel needs to be the focus going into the future. The CDI is using this community foundation to build collaborative research projects and collect rare community development documents for its intended resource library.

New Projects

Terrace Seniors Dialogue

The CDI will be assisting the City of Terrace to examine seniors' issues and needs. This is a scoping project to create a foundation of information for a more detailed future study of seniors' issues in the greater Terrace area. It is expected that the future study would also include both short and long-term recommendations for a plan to deal with those issues. The current project will involve an analysis of local population trends, interviews with seniors, decision-makers, and service providers, and focus groups to explore the housing, services, and quality of life topics. The work will be carried out between January and March 2006.

Old Massett Village Council 5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan

The CDI is pleased to offer assistance to the Old Massett Village Council as they develop a "5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan". The project involves a community-driven process to explore local skills and training capacity and to identify the potential skills development, education, and training resources needed to meet the needs of future employment opportunities. The goal is to create a strategic plan for the Old Massett community. The project is funded by Service Canada and is managed by John Disney, Economic Development Officer for Old Massett Village Council.

Institute News

Speaker's Series

Last year, the CDI, in partnership with communities and funding agencies, sponsored two Community Speakers. In the Spring, SFU researcher Sean Markey spoke in Prince George, Terrace, and Kitimat. In the Fall, Tourism BC's Director of Research Richard Porges spoke in Prince George and Williams Lake. The Speakers series invites experts to talk on important and relevant topics for northern BC. The Speakers series consists of classroom lectures at UNBC, a public lecture in Prince George, and a public talk in another northern BC community. Watch this space in the next newsletter for news on the speakers for the coming year.

Institute Links

The CDI will be updating its website soon. If your community, or organization, has a website, or if you know of an interesting site, please forward your link to: manson@unbc.ca

From all of us at the CDI and Rural and Small Town Studies

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season

We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2006.