



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 January 2008 newsletter of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. We hope that this quarterly newsletter will help to keep you informed about developments at the CDI. 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/>

The Warmth of the Welcome

UNBC-based researchers and Prince George's Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society are working together to highlight the barriers to, and needs for, the strengthened participation of new immigrants in northern community life as well as to develop recommendations and concrete initiatives which foster more inclusive and welcoming communities for new immigrants in BC's northern region

Questions that are shaping our research include:

What is the "warmth of welcome" extended by rural, remote, and non-metropolitan communities to the newcomers who arrive each year? What is possible in terms of immigrant settlement service provision in geographically marginal regions of British Columbia? What is the capacity of communities in this region to engage with attempts by the provincial and federal governments to "share the wealth and spread the burden" through regionalization programs? And what are the manifestations of diversity and avenues of entry into this region?

For further information on this project please contact:

Catherine Nolin, Assistant Professor, Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia, Email: nolin@unbc.ca

Notices

Final Report of the Federal Government's External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities has been released

The report, titled: "From Restless Communities to Resilient Places: Building A Stronger

Future For All Canadians" is dated June 2006 and is available at:
http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/eacccc-ccevc/rep-rap/index_e.shtml

2006 Census: Portrait of Canada's Aboriginal peoples

The 2006 Census Aboriginal people's data release will provide an initial analysis of selected demographic variables for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people. These include: rates of growth during the past decade, age and family structure, location of residence, housing conditions, and Aboriginal languages.

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/analysis/aboriginal/index.cfm>

5th BC Rural Communities Summit

The BC Rural Network, in partnership with the Cariboo Regional District and Rural Team BC, are please to announce that registration is open for the 5th BC Rural Communities Summit , March 13 -15, 100 Mile House, BC.

"Building Communities Together" will be an opportunity for rural residents, and representatives of rural organizations from across the province to come together to discuss ways to coordinate their efforts to improve networking and build the capacity of rural communities.

The conference registration brochure, as well as travel and accommodation information is available at: <http://www.bcruralsummit.ca/>"www.bcruralsummit.ca

Institute News

Northern British Columbia Service Industry Sector Study

Project Objectives:

The objective of the project is two fold:

- 1) to use information from a cross-section of northern communities to identify labour issues in the Service Industry sector in northern BC,
- 2) to draw upon the participation of Service Industry sector employers to identify and develop practical strategies for dealing with labour issues in northern BC's Service Industry sector over the short and long term.

Communities and Service Industry sector representatives interested in participating in this project should contact Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca or phone (250) 960-5018

New Degree Option Focusing on Community Development

The University of Northern British Columbia has launched a unique program this semester that will provide students with skills and knowledge related to community development. The new major in Public Administration and Community Development is part of UNBC's [Geography](#) program. The first course in the new degree – a Political Science course on Community Development (POLS 332) – commenced in January.

The degree will have three specializations: local public administration, Aboriginal community development, and planning.

The program will be offered primarily in Prince George but the program may be of particular interest to students from various rural and northern colleges who are interested in applying their credits towards a degree focused on community development.

For more information please visit:

http://www.unbc.ca/assets/releases/2007/ba_pacd_outline.pdf

Speaker's Series

The CDI is pleased to announce that the spring 2008 Community Speaker's Series event will be held in Prince George and Smithers in April.

For information on past Community Speaker's Series presentations please visit:

http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/speakers_series.html

If your community would like to co-host our next Community Speaker's Series event, please contact: Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca or phone (250) 960-5018