



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

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*"Northern
Strength
to
Northern
Strength."*

Contact us at:

Greg Halseth, acting

Institute Director

University of Northern

British Columbia

3333 University Way

Prince George, BC

V2N 4Z9

Office: New Lab 8-141
Phone: (250) 960-5826
Email: halseth@unbc.ca

Welcome

We are pleased to present the March 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/>

Graduate Student Research

Chelan Hoffman, Graduate student in NRES

"Given recent research suggesting that rural and small town places in northern BC are looking to collaborate in regions to increase their competitive advantage, I am exploring regional approaches to community and economic development in the Cariboo-Chilcotin for my master's thesis. I want to understand contemporary regional approaches to development in the larger context of Canadian rural and regional development trends. I am also looking to understand some key factors which may facilitate regional collaboration, such as social cohesion and social capital, neoliberal provincial policy, or the reaction to economic and environmental change. Upon completion of this research, I will provide decision-makers and community groups with a copy of my findings.

I will be in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region looking to meet with those who are involved (currently or historically) in regional development in May and June 2008. If you would like more information, please contact me at hoffmanc@unbc.ca."

Joe LeBourdais, Graduate Student in NRES

"My research area is the Peace River Region in North Eastern British Columbia and looks primarily at how health services can serve as a foundation for community development. My thesis explores issues around the recruitment and retention of health care professionals, access to health services, and the distribution of the decision making that effects service provision. This thesis aims at highlighting positive relationships between the communities and the health service sector: as well as suggesting possible methods for enhancing the health service capability and access through community development. When complete, the

research findings will be presented to the communities in the region.

I will be in the Peace River Region from May 2008 through August 2008. If you would like more information, please contact me at lebourdj@unbc.ca."

Notices

Five Part Approach to Waste Management & Environmental Sustainability Seminar

Hosted by the Village of McBride on June 5th – World Environment Day; 6:00 - 9:00 pm at McBride's new Community Hall (next to the Sport Complex)

The speaker will be Mr. Rodney Sidloski, Executive Director of HELP International. Topics of discussion will include: Bioremediation of Municipal Waste Waters; Forestation of Decommissioned Landfill Caps; Forestation to Remediate Soil Salinity; Effluent Irrigation; Woodlots – social & economic benefits; and Source Water Protection.

For further information on this workshop please contact: Margaret Graine, Regional Economic Development Officer, Village of McBride, edo@mcbride.ca

2008 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) and the National Rural Research Network (NRRN) annual policy conference

The 2008 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) and the National Rural Research Network (NRRN) annual policy conference will be held in [Inuvik, Northwest Territories](#).

The deadline for the submission of presentations and/or poster abstracts is 15 April 2008. For further information please visit the conference website at:

<http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/crrf2008english.asp>

Institute News

Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop, May 14-17, 2008 in Prince George, BC

Within all developed economies we find that rural and small town communities are experiencing considerable change. They are changing as a result of resource industry restructuring, demographic aging and youth out-migration, the restructuring of both public and private sector services, and the ongoing implications of urbanization. Within this context, communities and policy makers are working to meet challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. To be effective, both local and public policy decision makers need a clear understanding of the pressures driving change, the opportunities inherent in such changes, and the creative responses of similar rural and small town areas. To this end, the Community Development Institute at the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and the Enterprise Program at Simon Fraser University (SFU) are co-hosting "Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop" to be held in Prince George from May 14-17, 2008.

This workshop brings together twenty-six rural and small town scholars from ten OECD countries to discuss possibilities about what our next rural economies will look like. Older approaches to community and economic development focused upon a 'space-economy' with attention to comparative advantages and overcoming the cost of distances. This approach is being replaced by recognition of the growing importance of 'place-based economies' where the unique attributes and assets of individual places now determine its attractiveness for particular types of activities and investments. For more information on the workshop please visit our website at: http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/space_to_place.html

Speaker's Series

The CDI is pleased to announce that Mr. Graham Kedgley, recently retired executive director of the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation is the spring 2008 Community Speaker's Series speaker. This event will be held in room 7-150, UNBC Campus in Prince George, Tuesday April 08 and at the Northwest Community College campus in Smithers, Wednesday, April 09. Mr. Kedgley's talk will centre on his experiences as British Columbia's Coal Co-ordinator and lessons that may be applicable to future mining development in Northern BC. Both talks begin at 7:00 pm.

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