



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

December 17, 2008

Volume 5, Number 1

*"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 December 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

In this Edition:

- The CDI at UNBC
- Notices
- Institute News

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/>

Notices

First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative: "Getting in the Game" Natural Resource Forum

The First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative "Getting in the Game" Natural Resource Forum will be held in Prince George, BC January 15-16, 2009. The purpose of the forum is to provide First Nations communities with the tools to fully engage in natural resource economic development initiatives in the areas of forestry, agro-forestry, mining and bio-energy.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.1697economicalliance.ca/events/detail/177/1/4/1048>

Aboriginal Children's Survey, 2006: Family, Community and Child Care

Using data from the 2006 Aboriginal Children's Survey (ACS) and the 2006 Census, a recent Statistics Canada report examines the topics of family, community, and child care of Aboriginal (off-reserve First Nations, Métis and Inuit) children under six years of age. The report explores issues such as family characteristics (size of families, age of parents, living with grandparents, persons involved in raising young Aboriginal children, in low-income economic families), feelings about community, cultural activities and child care arrangements. It is designed as a starting point to understanding the social and living conditions in which young Aboriginal children are learning and growing. The report is divided into three parts: First Nations children living off reserve, Métis children, and Inuit children. This report is available at:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=89-634-XWE2008001&lang=eng>

Institute News

Bridges: An Arts & Culture Festival in Our City

The festival will take place at the University of Northern British Columbia on June 11th – 13th, 2009. There will be displays and performances of original work by Prince George visual artists, writers, and musicians; academic presentations, panel discussions on the cultural economy of small cities and the culture of small cities, with a focus on Prince George; and workshops for both artists and community organizers. Local artists and arts organizations will be in the spotlight as they share audiences, network, and build new partnerships with one another.

The foundation for this project was laid in late 2005, when Thompson Rivers University (TRU) put together a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA). This proposal built off of an earlier very successful CURA project involving the arts community in Kamloops and TRU. The goal of this second CURA project was to work with other small cities including Prince George. The Community Development Institute at UNBC offered to coordinate UNBC's involvement.

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

Urban Aboriginal Economic Development National Network

The Prince Aboriginal Business Development Centre and the CDI are undertaking the development of an Urban Aboriginal Economic Development National Network.

The objective is to develop an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder national network of scholars and practitioners working in urban Indigenous communities and organizations, universities, federal/provincial/municipal governments, private industry, and NGO's. The network is focused on mobilizing knowledge on urban Indigenous economic development and organizational strengthening in order to foster increased understanding and capacity building amongst researchers, policy analysts, and community practitioners.

The Network's activities include: regional case studies, survey work, gathering of existing knowledge, connecting with established networks, and dissemination of knowledge through research conferences, dialogues, and colloquia. At the local level, 'Learning Circles' are being established in several large, medium and small urban communities across Canada. The Learning Circles include scholars and practitioners dedicated to the exchange of information that will support community development, while assisting scholars to benefit from traditional knowledge and local wisdom.

The Network will:

1. Collate, organize, and share available research on innovative approaches to urban Indigenous economic development while also identifying gaps in knowledge.
2. Explore strategies for urban Indigenous organizational development and models of governance/business administration, and
3. Survey regional work on strategies for building local economies.

The Network hosted a national gathering on urban Indigenous economic development in Ottawa in late October involving scholars and community leaders/activists. A website will be available early in the new year.

This three year project is being funded by the Social Science Research Council and the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

CDI Publication Series: Student Paper Competition

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

CDI Publication Series: Latest Publication

Professional Work in Remote Northern Communities: A Social Work Perspective by Dr. Glen Schmidt, School of Social Work, University of Northern British Columbia

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

Community Speakers Series

The CDI is pleased to announce that the spring 2009 Community Speakers Series speaker will be Dr. Gail Fondahl, Vice President of Research at UNBC.

For information on past Community Speakers 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.