



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

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*“Northern Strength
to Northern
Strength.”*

Welcome

We are pleased to present the December 2009 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/>

Community Transition Toolkit

The recent announcement in Kitimat of the planned closure of the Eurocan pulp and paper mill has reminded us all of just how fast economic challenges can come to our communities. This is a reminder that last year the CDI (in partnership with the District of Mackenzie, the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and the BC Ministry of Community Services) combined available community transition best practices into a Community Transition Toolkit for assisting communities with economic emergency preparedness and planning. Community Transition Toolkit reports are available at: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/toolkit.html>

Notices

Sixth Rural Communities Summit: Transforming Rural Economies: Change and Innovation

A joint conference of the BC Rural Network, Rural Team BC, and the Municipality of Port Hardy, will explore innovative strategies in building a sustainable rural economy. Workshops and presentations will focus on: creating and enhancing awareness around issues of importance to rural and remote communities across BC, providing practical tools and strategies, and offering valuable opportunities to network with and learn from rural colleagues.

Date: March 16-18, 2010

Location: Port Hardy Civic Centre

<http://www.bcruralsummit.ca>

Service Continuity Planning Workshop for Community Based Organizations hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development. The Service Continuity Planning Guide is housed online on the Community Council website. <http://www.communitycouncil.ca/new.html>

Business Development Assistants certificate program

The University of Northern British Columbia is offering free courses for Aboriginal, unemployed, and low income residents in Quesnel, Williams Lake, and Vanderhoof. The Business Development Assistants certificate program is part of the federally financed Community Adjustment Fund.

http://www.unbc.ca/releases/2009/10_23business_courses.html

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***“Research Having an
Impact,
People making a
Difference”***

Community-Based Research in Rural and Remote Communities

The Community Based Research Hub invites you to join one of two "Community-Based Research in Rural and Remote Communities" events at the University of Victoria (January 21, 2010) or the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George (January 25, 2010). These CBR networking and training events are intended to increase interaction between experienced community-based researchers who focus on rural and remote health and junior researchers interested in CBR methods. Both events will include panel discussions, a Q&A period, and a Mentorship Round Table session. The event is co-sponsored by the BCMHARN and the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network (BCRRHRN).

http://www.bccrrhn.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=265:community-based-research-in-rural-and-remote-communities&catid=50:current-events

Institute News

The CDI on the world stage

This past month, Greg Halseth had the opportunity to deliver two keynote addresses at the Gargia Conference 2009 – “Reconstructing Rural Places in a Globalized World” – in Alta, northern Norway. The event included regional development researchers and practitioners from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Iceland. Like with our earlier “Space to Place” international rural development conference in Prince George (2008), it was clear that research and knowledge around regional development in northern BC continues to be at the leading edge of the international community.

Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project (NEV) UPDATE

The “Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project” changed the way we approach community and economic development in northern BC. It provided the foundations for regional collaborations, enhanced resource revenue sharing programs, consideration of new energy issues, relationship building among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and attention to the key foundations (human, community, physical, and economic) needed to be flexible and responsive in the global economy:

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

In September 2009, the CDI launched NEV2. The economic downturn is forcing public and private sector interests to make difficult choices and adopt what they think are the best coping strategies to take advantage of the next economic upswing. In partnership with selected small local governments in northern BC, we will explore:

- the choices and decisions being made in response to the 2008/2009 economic downturn
- the impacts of those choices / decisions as the economy begins to recover
- recommendations on how small local governments can and should respond to dramatic economic change

United Way of Northern British Columbia: Northern Scoping Exercise

The United Way has recently reorganized the way it delivers programming across northern BC. The United Way of Northern British Columbia now serves a region that extends from Quesnel to the Yukon border and from the Alberta border to the Queen Charlotte Islands. The CDI at UNBC, working with the United Way of Northern British Columbia, has collected and organized information that will support United Way activities in these northern communities.

<http://pguw.bc.ca/index.php>

CDI Publication Series

Lessons From The Development of Northeast Coal in BC

By Graham Kedgley, BC's former Coal Coordinator

Mr. Kedgley shares some of the lessons learned from a major resource development project in northern BC based on four years of experience (1978 to 1982) as BC's Coal Coordinator.

[Download: G Kedgley CDI Paper \(PDF\)](#)

Community Speakers Series

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is pleased to announce that Dawn Hemingway, Chair of the School of Social Work at the University of Northern British Columbia, will be our Community Speaker this coming spring.

For information on past Community Speakers Series presentations or 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.