



Community Contacts Newsletter

March 2010

Volume 6, Number 2

*“Northern Strength
to Northern
Strength.”*

Welcome

We are pleased to present the March 2010 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

Solutions for a New Decade

The 2010 BC Community Forest Association Annual Conference and AGM will be hosted by the Westbank First Nation of the Okanagan Valley, June 3 to 6, 2010. For further information: <http://www.bccfa.ca/>

Aboriginal Policy Research Series Update

The Institute on Governance (IOG), in collaboration with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians, has just released several papers for its policy research series on issues affecting Métis, non-status Indians and other Aboriginal peoples residing off-reserve. The papers are available on the Aboriginal Policy Research Initiative website: http://www.iog.ca/knowledge_areas.asp?pageID=54

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

Institute News

Congratulations to Jennifer Herkes

Jen has successfully defended her thesis entitled "*Planning for Resilience: A Case Study of Kitimat, BC*". Her thesis addresses the role played by place and planning, in how people interact, and the impact that has on communities being able to cope with stress and threats. She would like to thank the community of Kitimat who was extremely welcoming and helpful, as well as her committee and external supervisor who pushed her to succeed.

Community Connections / spring and summer Travel

Starting in late April the CDI will be offering presentations on *Lessons Learned: Community Development in Northern BC*. These free lectures are part of the CDI's commitment to Community Capacity Building and to Knowledge Transfer.

We will also be involved in furthering dialogue with as many community representatives as possible throughout our region. The purpose of these discussions 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. If your community or organization would like to participate, please contact: Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca

Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project 2 (NEV2): The Recession Response Project

In September 2009, the CDI launched NEV2. The response from the communities who participated was very positive. Our goal is to produce materials that are directly relevant to communities and policy-makers. This project will provide a first-phase look and report on how government strategies have been received and integrated into the development activities of rural and small town communities in northern BC.

Starting in May we will be visiting communities that did not participate in the fall 2009 round of consultations. This fall we will hold roundtables in several communities to discuss the draft report.

For further information: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/nev2.html> or contact Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca

“Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies” follow-up

In May 2008, the CDI at UNBC hosted 23 rural and small town scholars from 8 OECD countries who discussed possibilities regarding what our next rural economies will look like. The workshop was called “Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies” and was attended by more than 50 government and community participants from across northern BC.

The presentations have now been turned into a book. “The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in Global Economies” was edited by Greg Halseth (UNBC), Sean Markey (SFU), and David Bruce (Mount Allison Univ.) and put out by CABI Publishing.

More information about the book can be found at:
<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/nrebook.html>

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 in May. Dr. Hemingway's talk is titled: *Boom or Bust: Northern Communities Must Have Social Infrastructure*. This free talk will be held on **Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 pm, Room 7-150 UNBC Campus, Prince George, Thursday, May 13, 7:00 pm, Room 202, Northern Lights College Campus, Fort St. John.**

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.