UNBC’s Community Development Institute

Nev2: The Recession Response Project

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Outline

- Goals
- Development Priorities
- Budgets
- Links to Previous Report
  - NEV
  - Planning to Action
- Summary
The NEV2 project Goals:

- Document the choices and decisions of northern BC’s local governments:
  - as they respond to the recent economic downturn
  - as the economy begins to recover

Develop recommendations on how to respond to dramatic economic pressures

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Development Priorities:

- Economic diversification as protection from uncertainties of the resource cycle.
Actions

- Developing an engaged working relationship with local and regional business communities and economic development organizations.

- Identifying land use planning or designations for potential future economic attraction.

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Actions

- Reassessing property tax regimes
  - Exploring the opportunities for providing tax and other incentives

- Active in strategic economic development forums and plans.

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Challenges

- Often lacking a coherent linkage to local assets and aspirations.
- Not necessarily rooted in places.
- Chasing government programs, regardless of strategic priorities.
Budget:

- Recognition of key linkages between:
  - Civic infrastructure
  - Services
  - And the viability / sustainability of the community itself.
Actions

- Modest (2% to 4%) budget increases to maintain pace with inflation.
- Struggling to find ways to extend the activities of already busy staff, against the risk of staff burn out or turnover.
Actions

- Exercising carefully their borrowing power to manage long-term debt.

- Differences between local governments who have access to programs such as “Fair Share” and those who do not.
**Challenges**

- How to sustain existing facilities and key services so as to retain people and businesses.

- Quality-of-life investments, with concern about long-term debt.

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Challenges II

- Much of the civic infrastructure is 40 to 60 years old.
- Especially critical for northern BC’s local “instant towns”.

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Challenges III

- Singular projects as “silver bullets” to kick start local economic development.
- “Pulling all of your eggs from one basket and putting them all into another basket”
Links to Previous Projects

- Northern BC Economic Vision and Strategy project
- Planning to Action project
Scaling up and Investment in four key infrastructure areas.

- human infrastructure
- physical infrastructure
- economic development infrastructures
- community development infrastructure
Attention to four bottom lines for evaluating potential activities and developments:

- Economy
- Society
- Environment
- Culture
Creating and understanding the foundations and assets of local community and economic development.

A robust, sustained, and supported implementation strategy that would be monitored and evaluated.

Identifying options and “blue sky” possibilities for the local community and economy.
Challenges

Continue to be challenged:

- supports for comprehensive implementation strategies.
- Still under resourced for community and economic development.
- Diversification runs the peril of having successes compared to those of the past economy.

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Local communities and local governments have indeed transformed.

Much better understanding of their circumstances, their histories, and their opportunities in a fast-paced global economy.

Better prepared, and better connected.
- They have a level of readiness to react that they did not have previously.
Summary

- Senior governments have not yet been able to keep pace with these transitions.
- The global economy continues to move at a high pace.
- Necessary tools for community development and community economic development are still lagging.
Future

✨ Diversification runs the peril of having successes compared to those of the past economy.

Two broad perspectives:
- That the future will be rosy.
- That the future will be rosy, mostly because of the difficult time we have had for close to a decade.
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- For further information please visit our website at:

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Thank you