

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2004

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2004 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2004.

Background:

The mission of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is to support the research, information, and development needs of Northern BC's rural and small town communities as they adjust to change in the new economy. The CDI is interested in two fundamental issues for northern BC's communities: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting community outreach, the CDI is becoming a vital partner to communities interesting in making informed decisions about their own futures.

Under changing social and economic conditions, communities need the capacity to respond. Community capacity refers to:

the ability of residents to organize their assets and resources to achieve objectives they consider important. These objectives may be reactive, where people are faced with a challenge, or innovative, where new visions are established and pursued. Community capacity is built and maintained by the norms, traditions, regulations, and social relationships enabling otherwise disparate individuals to co-ordinate their actions for collective ends.

To enhance this capacity requires community development. In a general sense, community development concerns:

improvements to local social and cultural infrastructure. It is most often identified with increasing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of residents to access information and resources and to then use these tools to create strategies and partnerships which can take advantage of changing circumstances.

The three foundations of the Community Development Institute at UNBC are:

- Research
- Education
- Outreach

The Annual Report is organized under each of these foundations.

Research

The Community Development Institute at UNBC maintains a clear focus upon research. Its goal is to balance both applied and basic work so as to maintain academic credibility and to be of practical relevance to communities. Copies of all completed project reports have been sent to community partners, funding agencies, the Weller Library at UNBC, and most local government/band offices and public libraries in places where the research was carried out. Reports and other research information are also placed on the CDI website (www.unbc.ca/cdi) as an integral part of our mission to share research widely across northern BC. Additionally, summaries of projects are also noted in the CDI Newsletters, which are published quarterly and distributed across northern BC via email.

Projects

Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview 2004-2005 Continuing

The purpose of this project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the District of Mackenzie and surrounding area. The work is being carried out by a research team from UNBC with the goal to provide decision-makers and community groups in Mackenzie and area with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments. The project involves four investigations. These include an analysis of local population, an assessment of the housing and services' needs of seniors in small town and rural locations, a collation of views and opinions from seniors and decision-makers in Mackenzie and area, and a survey of local seniors to collect information on needs and expectations.

McBride and Area Skills Inventory Assessment Survey 2004 COMPLETED

The community of McBride, and its surrounding area, is emerging from a transition period. During the past two years, some dramatic changes have taken place with moves of late contributing to an improving economy in the McBride area. The McBride and Area Industrial Adjustment Committee has identified a community priority to support the expansion of existing businesses and be ready for the introduction of new businesses. A Skills Inventory Assessment Survey will help identify the skills, education, experience, and local interests of the workforce in the McBride area. This tool will be very useful for existing businesses that are expanding as well as for new businesses.

Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project
2003-2004 COMPLETED

The Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project will coordinate a set of meetings to collect the input and recommendations of a diverse set of stakeholder groups. Through a series of individual interviews and facilitated workshops, this input will focus around the key issues of a northern vision, supportive

policy development, community and infrastructure investment, and regional coordination. The purpose of this project is to undertake a community driven process that will review the key challenges and opportunities relative to the economic development and diversification of northern BC communities. The goal is to produce a report which identifies a framework for action aimed at creating the mechanisms necessary to engage, mobilize, and coordinate key resources and stakeholders for the creation of a northern economic development strategy.

The Heart of the Community: Tracing the Role of the Peace River Women's Institutes
2004-2006 Continuing

Social and voluntary organizations play a central role in the creation and maintenance of rural and small town communities. For more than 100 years, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have been active in Canada's agricultural communities. At present, limited historical records are available on the Peace River region's Women's Institutes. Through a research partnership involving faculty at Northern Lights College, the University of Northern British Columbia, local museums, archives, and libraries in the Peace River region, this collaborative and interdisciplinary project seeks to record and document the history of the area's Women's Institutes (WIs). The project will collect information through a set of oral histories with long-time WI members and will digitally scan and record photographs and other documents which trace the history of individual WIs. This digital information will then be returned to participating WIs, stored in regional museums and archives, made available via a website linked to local history websites, and copies stored at the Northern BC Archives at the University of Northern British Columbia.

Northwest Shopping Study 2003-2004 COMPLETED

This study focuses upon three key aspects of local economies including changing residential and employment patterns, changing shopping patterns, and economic leakage. In particular, this research explores shopping and commuting patterns in the Northwest region of B.C. with a specific focus upon Kitimat, Prince Rupert, and Terrace. This report provides information to help residents, businesses, service providers, and policy makers of each community adjust to changing circumstances.

New Rural Economy Project - Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
2003-2007 Continuing

Under this initiative, 15 university researchers (across Canada) are joining with rural people and policy makers to help build capacity in rural Canada. Their research and education projects pursue four themes relevant to rural society: communications, environment, services, and governance.

Research grants.

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
Northern Land Use Institute (UNBC)	Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview	\$5,000	2004-2005	Greg Halseth	Neil Hanlon
Living Landscapes, Royal BC Museum	The heart of the community: Tracing the role of the Peace River Women's Institutes	\$9,310	2004-2005	Pamela Den Ouden (Northern Lights College)	Greg Halseth (UNBC), Ramona Rose (UNBC), and Steve Roe (Northern Lights College)
SSHRC – Strategic Theme Research Grant - Initiative on the New Economy	Building Capacity in the New Economy	\$750,000 for each of 4 years (UNBC Team receives approx. \$90,000 per year)	2003-2007	Dr. William Reimer, Concordia University	Cross-Canada Research Project – Greg Halseth leads BC Team

Research contracts

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
District of Mackenzie	Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview	\$17,000	2004-2005	Greg Halseth	Neil Hanlon
McBride Industrial Adjustment Committee	McBride & District Skills Assessment	\$6,000	2004	Greg Halseth	
Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project	\$177,000	2003-2004	Greg Halseth	
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Future Prospects for Special Risk Communities	\$34,000	2003-2004	David Bruce, Mount Allison University	Greg Halseth

Reports

Ryser, L., Buttar, O., Halseth, R., and Halseth, G. (2004). Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: 2004 Summary Report for McBride and Valemount, BC. Prince George, BC: Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies, Geography Program.

Clasby, R., Hanlon, N., Halseth, G., and Pow, V. (2004). Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Seniors' Housing and Support Services Database Compendium. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program.

Clasby, R., Hanlon, N., and Halseth, G. (2004). “Looking to the Future, Now”: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project – Background Literature Report. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program.

Clasby, R., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2004). “Looking to the Future, Now”: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project – Population Background and Trends Report. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program.

Halseth, G., Hanlon, N., Pow, V., and Clasby, R. (2004). “Looking to the Future, Now”: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project – Executive Summary. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program.

Halseth, G., Hanlon, N., Pow, V., and Clasby, R. (2004). “Looking to the Future, Now”: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project – Final Report. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program.

Halseth, G., Lax, L., Manson, D., Buttar, O., and Markey, S. (2004). The Connected North: Moving from northern strength to northern strength – A report from the Northern Economic Vision and Strategy Project. Vancouver, BC: Prepared for Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Halseth, G., Lax, L., Manson, D., Buttar, O., and Markey, S. (2004). The Connected North: Moving from northern strength to northern strength – A report from the Northern Economic Vision and Strategy Project - Appendices. Vancouver, BC: Prepared for Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Greg Halseth, Nora King, and Laura Ryser (2004) Communication Tools and Resources in Rural Canada: A Report for Mackenzie, British Columbia. Montreal: Concordia University, New Rural Economy Project.

Greg Halseth, Nora King, and Laura Ryser (2004) Communication Tools and Resources in Rural Canada: A Report for Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Montreal: Concordia University, New Rural Economy Project.

Pow, V., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2004). “Looking to the Future, Now”: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project – Methodology Report. Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia, Geography Program.

Greg Halseth and Laura Ryser (2004) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places: Cross Canada Summary Report. Montreal: Concordia University, New Rural Economy Project.

Education

The Community Development Institute hopes to enhance capacity building through educational opportunities. This includes student training, work within the university curriculum, continuing education and regional offerings, connections with the northern colleges and with specialized education and training centres, and public talks/conferences to share information.

Student trainees at UNBC

2004

Nora King - research assistant, undergraduate student, graduated May 2004

Virginia Pow - research assistant, graduate student at Dalhousie University

Onkar Buttar - research assistant, undergraduate student, graduated May 2004

Kelly Giesbrecht - research assistant, graduate student, MA completed 2003

Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, undergraduate student at UNBC

Jamie Reschny – research assistant, graduated UNBC May 2004

Liz O'Connor - research assistant, undergraduate student, graduated May 2003

Presentations

2004 “Community Research and Community Development: Lessons from Northern BC”, for Rural Communities Summit: BC’s Strength - Rural People, Rossland, BC, June 24-26.

“Northern BC Economic Vision and Strategy Project”, for Creating Partnerships to Make Economic Opportunities in our Region a Reality - Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations Western Forum, Prince Rupert, BC, June 2-4.

“Northern BC Economic Vision and Strategy Project”, for Creating Partnerships to Make Economic Opportunities in our Region a Reality - Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations Eastern Forum, Prince George, BC, June 16-18.

“Opportunities and Actions in the New Rural Economy”, for BC Municipal Finance Authority Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, March 24.

“UNBC Community Development Institute and research on northern economies”, for Prince George and Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association’s Exploring Manufacturing Opportunities conference, Prince George, BC, March 25.

“From Northern Strength to Northern Strength”, for Northwest Corridor Development Corporation meeting, Vancouver, BC, April, 21.

“From Northern Strength to Northern Strength”, for Annual General Meeting of the North Central Municipal Association, Fort Nelson, BC, May 13, 2004.

“UNBC Northern Economic Development Vision and Strategy Study”, Regional Community Economic Development Networking Event, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, September 22, 2004.

Panel Speaker - Regional Community Economic Development Networking Event hosted by the Community Economic Development Centre, Simon Fraser University, Terrace, BC, June 16.

Panel Speaker – “Canada’s Role as a Northern Nation and the Possibility of Circumpolar”, with Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson, UNBC, October 6, 2004.

Panel Speaker - “Governance without government” panel, CRRF Annual Spring Workshop, Prince George, BC, April 2004.

Panel Speaker - ‘Building Innovative Solutions’ Managing for Tomorrow: Resource-Based Communities & the Environment, Prince George, BC, May 6-8, 2004.

Posters

Halseth, G. and Reschny, J., “Growth in an Amenity Rich Fringe: Urban fringe dynamics around metropolitan Vancouver, Canada”, for UNBC Board Meeting in Prince Rupert, August 20, 2004.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., and Reschny, J., “Shopping Patterns in the Northwest Region, BC”, for UNBC Board of Governors Meeting in Prince Rupert, August 20, 2004.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., and Reschny, J., “Shopping Patterns in Prince Rupert, BC”, for UNBC Board of Governors Meeting in Prince Rupert, August 20, 2004.

Halseth, G., Straussfogel, D., Parsons, S., and Wishart, A., “Regional Economic Shifts in BC: Speculation from recent demographic evidence”, for UNBC Board of Governors Meeting in Prince Rupert, August 20, 2004.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L, and Reschny, J., “Rural Services: Assessing ‘change’ as part of rural capacity analysis”, for UNBC Board of Governors meeting in Prince Rupert, August 20, 2004.

Ryser, L, Halseth, G., and Reschny, J., “Satisfaction with Services in Prince Rupert, BC”, for UNBC Board of Governors meeting in Prince Rupert, August 20, 2004.

CDI Community Speaker's Series

The CDI's Community Speaker's Series invites experts to talk on important and relevant topics for northern BC. The Community Speaker's Series consists of classroom lectures at UNBC, a public lecture in Prince George, and a public talk in another northern BC community. These lectures are free and open to the public. The first talk in the series will be given this coming spring when SFU researcher Sean Markey speaks in Prince George, Terrace, and Kitimat on the ways that local communities are building an economy, forging and strengthening social ties, and developing local assets and capacity.

CDI Publication Series

The CDI Publication Series is a peer reviewed outlet that focuses upon invited reports on topics of relevance to the mandate of CDI and important to northern British Columbia's communities. The peer review aspect of the Series ensures that only high quality research is published. A number of inquiries are out with people respecting submissions to the series.

Outreach

The CDI is a resource centre to which communities and decision-makers can turn in their search for timely and relevant information. It is also be a conduit through which information from outside the region is shared with communities. Building upon a strong "extension" tradition to connect research and training opportunities with community needs, and to translate best practices into applied tools, links are provided so rural and small town places can access additional information and resources. Important aspects of outreach for the CDI include support for local initiatives, our community visits, assistance with the Northern Economic Forum, our Community Contact Newsletters, and the CDI Website:

Support for Local Initiatives

- 2004 - 2005 Advisor for the City of Quesnel on the Quesnel 2020 Economic Development Project.

- 2004 - Member of Steering Committee for the Evolution of Communities Matrix project, for the BC Rural team of the Federal Rural Secretariat.

- 2004 Advisor for the New Focus Society's "Homelessness Initiative", Quesnel, BC.

- 2004 - 2006 Appointed to the Minister's Community Advisory Group, British Columbia Ministry of State for Forest Operations, April 2004 to March 2006.

Community Contact Newsletters

The CDI Community Contacts Newsletter is published quarterly with the goal to share information and news about community development activities.

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CDI Website: *<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/index.html>*

The CDI website is one of the key tools for collecting and communicating information about community development issues as they affect northern BC. Information on the website is organized under the following topics:

- Introduction
- Institute Description
- What's New
- Community Speaker Series
- CDI Publications Series
- Northern Economic Forum
- Newsletters
- Mountain Pine Beetle Links
- Community Visits
- Institute Director
- Staff
- Research
- Information Sharing
- Links
- Contact Information

Under links, the website collects sites that may be of interest to our northern communities under the following categories

- Statistics & Data
- Governments
- First Nations
- Rural Studies Centres
- Non Governmental & Other Organisations
- Other Links
- Community Forests
- Northern BC Sites

Community Visits Schedule

Community visits to form an integral part of the CDI mission. They are part of our ongoing efforts to build and grow relationships, collect and share community development information, identify new topics and issues of relevance to our community partners, and evaluate ways by which we can get needed information into the hands of our communities. Community visits not only include meetings with individuals and organizations, but often also includes public speaking invitations from community groups, local government / band councils, and chambers of commerce.

2004

Workshops & Roundtables

Prince George Workshop 5 February
Queen Charlotte Islands / Haida Gwaii Round-tables 16 February - 20 February
Terrace Workshop 26 February
Dease Lake Round-table 28 February
Houston Workshop 5 March
Williams Lake Workshop 12 March
Dawson Creek Workshop 19 March

Other Community Visits

Nemiah Valley, Williams Lake 17 May - 21 May
Terrace (Northwest Tribal Treaties), Prince Rupert 2 June - 5 June
Valemount, Clearwater, Oliver, Arthouse, Quaaout Resort, Rossland 20 June - 29 June
Meziadin Junction, Stewart, Kinaskan Lake, Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek, Good Hope
Lake, Whitehorse, Atlin, Lower Post, Fort Nelson 11 July - 23 July
Highway 20 communities 26 July - 30 July
The Hazeltons, Terrace, Kitimat, Nass Valley, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte Islands /
Haida Gwaii 16 August - 28 August