

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2006

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2006 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2006.

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

From Planning to Action: Reconciling Community Development Strategies with Regional Assets and Infrastructure 2005-2006 COMPLETED

The purpose of this project was to produce information that will help to overcome a persistent barrier in economic development planning: the gap between planning and implementation. Across northern BC, people have told the research team that their communities are frustrated by being “studied to death” while not seeing their efforts translated into viable action. The findings, and ongoing research associated with the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, illustrate that there are two significant gaps that contribute to this impasse: 1) community economic development options, plans, and strategies fail to adequately address and integrate the capabilities and capacities of the local and regional infrastructure and assets; and 2) proposed strategies fail to adequately comprehend or consider practical questions of competitive advantage, on their own and in association with a more regional approach. The project used a case study approach in the Terrace region to explore this gap between planning and implementation.

Fort St. John and Area Seniors’ Needs Overview 2006 Continuing

The purpose of this project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the City of Fort St. John, Peace River Regional District Area C, and the District of Taylor (the Study Area). The work will be carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC from May 2006 until December 2006 with the goal to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local planning and infrastructure investments.

Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Overview 2006-2007 Continuing

From August 2006 to April 2007, the CDI will be working with the Peace River Regional District to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the areas outside of Fort St. John, Electoral Area C, and the District of Taylor. The purpose is to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local planning and infrastructure investments. The project will be supported by a small Advisory Group.

Terrace Seniors Dialogue 2006 COMPLETED

Between January and March 2006, the CDI assisted the City of Terrace to examine seniors' issues and needs. This was a scoping project designed to create a foundation of information for a more detailed future study of seniors' issues in the greater Terrace area. The current project involved an analysis of local population trends, interviews with seniors, decision-makers, service providers, and focus groups to explore housing, services, and quality of life topics.

Old Massett Village Council 5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan
2006-2007 Continuing

The CDI is pleased to offer assistance to the Old Massett Village Council as they develop a "5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan." The project involves a community-driven process to explore local skills and training resources needed to meet the needs of future employment opportunities. The goal is to create a strategic plan for the Old Massett community. The project is funded by Service Canada and is managed by John Disney, Economic Development Officer for Old Massett Village Council.

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

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.

*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)
Community-University Research Alliance	Mapping quality of life and the culture of small cities	\$250,000	2006-2011	William Garrett-Petts, Thompson Rivers University	37 co-investigators from UNBC, TRU, SFU, Univ. of Waterloo, and other agencies incl. Greg Halseth
Services Canada	Old Massett Village Council 5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan	\$154,930	2006-2007	Old Massett Village Council	Community Development Institute (Greg Halseth)
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)
Peace River Regional District	Seniors' Needs Assessment	\$60,000	2006-2007	Greg Halseth	
City of Fort St. John	Fort St. John and Area Senior's Needs Assessment	\$20,000	2006	Greg Halseth	
City of Terrace	Terrace and Area Senior's Needs Assessment	\$5000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	
Industry, Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Barriers to the implementation of local and regional economic development strategies in northwest BC	\$20,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Sean Markey

Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Tourism and Development Foundation Project	\$18,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Don Manson, Anne Hardy, Pam Wright
UNBC Northern Landuse Institute	Tourism and Development Foundation Project	\$18,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Don Manson, Anne Hardy, Pam Wright

Reports

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006). Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: Project Report. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006). Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: Executive Summary Report. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada: A Cross-Canada Summary Report. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places: A Report for Mackenzie, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places: A Report for Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Kusch, K., Hoffman, C., and Durkee, S. (2006) Communication Tools and Resources in Rural Canada: A Report for Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Kusch, K., Hoffman, C., and Durkee, S. (2006) Communication Tools and Resources in Rural Canada: A Report for Mackenzie, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Martin, C., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Executive Summary Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Ryser, L., Martin, C., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Methodology Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Ryser, L., Halseth, R., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Population Background and Trends Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Martin, C., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project Final Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

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

2006

Shiloh Durkee - research assistant, undergraduate student, graduated May 2003

Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, undergraduate graduated May 2006

Kyle Kusch - research assistant, current graduate student

Laurel van de Keere - research assistant, continuing undergraduate at UNBC

Catherine Fraser - research assistant, undergraduate student at UNBC

Priscilla Johnson - research assistant, undergraduate student at UNBC

Research Practicum Student Supervision

2006 Katherine Field (McMaster University, Occupational Therapy Program)

Christie Cooper (UNBC Social Work Program)

Lynne Boutcher (UNBC Social Work Program)

Tammy Percival (UNBC Social Work Program)

Presentations

2006 Spoke on issues related to community sustainability and mountain pine beetle, NESS Symposium, UNBC, March 1, 2006.

“Keynote Speaker – The Connected North: An Update”. 2nd Annual Northern Economic Forum, Prince George, BC, September 13-15.

2006 Northwest Speaker Series, UNBC’s Terrace Campus, “Research and relevance in community transition: UNBC’s Community Development Institute”: Terrace, BC, May 18.

“Keynote Speaker – Accelerating Change: Issues of community, economic, and landscape transformation in the periurban fringe at the start of the 21st century”.

Territorial Dynamics in Periurban Areas and Natural and Cultural Heritage Resources Conference, Montreal, QC: Universite de Montreal, April 26.

“Keynote – Preparing Now For the Future: Practical issues and opportunities for the small tenure holder”. Annual General Meeting of the BC Community Forests Association, Burns Lake, BC, June 2-4.

Conference Organization:

Member of organizing committee, Northern Economic Forum, Prince George, BC, September 13-15, 2006.

Member of organizing committee, Integrating Child, Youth, and Family Services in the North West Conference, Terrace, BC, November 3, 2005.

Member of organizing committee, Northern Economic Forum, Prince George, BC, October 26-28, 2005.

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.

Spring 2006

Anne Hardy from UNBC's Resource Recreation and Tourism Program spoke in Prince George and on the Queen Charlotte Islands about understanding the drive tourism market in British Columbia.

Prince George, Wednesday, April 05, Room 7-158, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, UNBC Prince George Campus

Village of Queen Charlotte, Monday, April 10, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Visitor Information Centre

Masset, Tuesday, April 11, Town Hall, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Community partners included Queen Charlotte Islands Chamber of Commerce, Village of Queen Charlotte, Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre, Town of Masset, Haida Gwaii Tourism Association, Northern BC Tourism Association

Fall 2006

Manley McLachlan, President and CEO of the BC Construction Association, spoke in Prince George and Fort St. John to talk on the international, national, and provincial trends impacting labour in the BC construction industry.

Prince George, Wednesday, October 11, Room 7-158, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, UNBC Prince George Campus

Fort St. John, Thursday, October 12, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Room 154 Northern Lights College Campus

Community partners included BC Construction Association, Northern BC Construction Association, City of Fort St. John, Peace River Regional District, and UNBC Regional Operations: Peace River - Laird

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.

Drive Tourism: A Methodological Discussion with a View to Further Understanding the Drive Tourism Market in British Columbia, Canada

By Dr. Anne Hardy,
Resource Recreation and Tourism Program, UNBC

2006

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

- 2006 - Board membership on Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Association
- 2006 - Advisor to the Human Resources Project, Cariboo Tribal Council
- 2004 - 2006 Appointed to the Minister's Community Advisory Group, British Columbia Ministry of State for Forest Operations, April 2004 to March 2006.

Northern Economic Forum

The CDI's "Connected North" report, from our Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, identified that communities in northern BC wanted more opportunities to talk about actions they could take in order to move their economies forward. Bolstered by other reports (including "Ramp-UP" by Vital Economy Inc. and "Working Together to Create Sustainable Wealth" by the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations), efforts coalesced around creating a meeting of northerners – a Northern BC Economic Development Forum.

The 2005 Northern Economic Forum was held October 26-28, 2005 in Prince George. Titled "From the Bookshelf to the Bottom Line" the forum was focused on discussions to identify actions that will help stimulate growth and evolution of northern BC's economy.

The 2006 Northern Economic Forum was held September 13-15, 2006 in Prince George. Titled "Capitalizing on Opportunities" the forum was focused on finding ways to take advantage of the changing economy in the north and four areas of major development (Ports and Transportation, Oil and Gas, Tourism, and Mining).

The CDI is a member of the Forum Steering Committee.

Community Contact Newsletters

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

January 2006	Volume 2 No.1
March 2006	Volume 2 No.2
June 2006	Volume 2 No.3
September 2006	Volume 2 No.4

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 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.

Community Visits 2006:

Old Massett, Prince Rupert	January 07 - 16
Kitimat, Kitamaat Village, Terrace and the Hazeltons	January 16 - 20
Prince Rupert, Old Massett	January 28 - 06
Kitimat, Kitamaat Village, Terrace and the Hazeltons	February 06 - 11
Prince Rupert, Old Massett	February 25 - March 06
Kitimat, Kitamaat Village, Terrace and the Hazeltons	March 06 - 11
Chetwynd	March 24
Prince Rupert	March 29 - 31
Old Massett	April 01 - 14
CDI Speakers Series, Haida Gwaii	
April 10 – Queen Charlotte	
April 11 - Masset	
April 12 – Port Clements	
Rural Development Institute meeting, Saskatoon	April 18 - 21
Fort St. John Seniors Project, Ft. St. John	April 24 - 25
Old Massett	April 30 - May 16
Prince Rupert	May 17
Terrace, Greg Halseth, Regional Campus Speakers Series	May 18
Fort St. John, Ft. St. John, Seniors Project	May 28 - 29
BCCFA Conference, Burns Lake	June 03
Clearwater	June 05 - June 06
Old Massett	June 12- 16
Old Massett	July 10 - 28
Vancouver	August 25 - September 03

Stewart, Dease Lake, Teslin, Whitehorse, Atlin, Watson Lake, Fort Nelson	September 10 - 21
Clearwater	September 25 - 27
Old Massett	October 01 - 06
CDI Days Speakers Series	
October 11 – Speakers Series UNBC	
October 12 – Speakers Series Fort St. John	
Ottawa, Rural network	October 25 - 27
Old Massett	November 19 - 24
Old Massett	December 3 - 8