

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2007

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2007 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2007.

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

Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Overview 2006 COMPLETED

The purpose of this project was 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 was carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC between May 2006 and December 2006 with the goal to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local planning and infrastructure investments.

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

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

From August 2006 to April 2007, the CDI worked 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 was to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local planning and infrastructure investments. The project was supported by a small Advisory Group.

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

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

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

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

Under this initiative, 15 university researchers (across Canada) joined with rural people and policy makers to help build capacity in rural Canada. The research and education projects pursued four themes relevant to rural society: communications, environment, services, and governance. The UNBC research centre focused upon services issues.

<http://crrf.concordia.ca/nre/index.html>

'Trusts Governance Review' 2007 COMPLETED

At the request of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, the CDI completed a review of various regional trusts within BC and around western North America. Products included a summary of key features and issues faced by each of the reviewed trusts. A 'Trends Report' outlined emerging issues in the structure and organization of trust governance.

Distance Education Lessons: The case of McBride - Prince George BC
2007-2008 On-going

Under the direction of visiting scholar Dr. Rosemary Raygada-Watanabe, the CDI is examining the video education linkage between McBride Secondary School and DP Todd Secondary School in Prince George. Given the challenge that rural and small town places have with providing services, it is crucial that new information technology be investigated as a possible source of assistance. This project examines the case study with a view to identifying lessons on the application of distance teaching video technologies.

Village of Old Massett Economic Development Strategy 2007 COMPLETED

The purpose of this project was to develop an economic development strategy for the village of Old Massett. The work was carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC with the goal to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local economic development strategies. Funding for the project was through the Office of Economic Development of Old Massett Village Council. The project involved a review of existing economic development materials and an analysis of existing Old Massett economic development materials so as to create a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Village of Old Massett.

Northern Medical Program Evaluation

2007-2008

On-going

A group of researchers at both UNBC and UBC, led by Dr. Neil Hanlon in UNBC's Geography Program, received a research grant from the BC Medical Services Foundation to evaluate the impact of the Northern Medical Program on physician recruitment and retention in its host community. A specific focus was to be on the role of social capital and social cohesion. The CDI will design a questionnaire and use it to interview local physicians and NMP organizers. The CDI will also provide analysis of the social capital building aspects of the NMP.

Service Industry Sector Project

2007- 2008

On-going

Much has been written about the transformation of the North American economy and the rise of the Service Industry sector. As knowledge and information become increasingly valued commodities, the need for workers in all components of the Service Industry sector will be crucial to extracting increased value and GDP from the traditional basic sectors of the economy. Employment pressures/shortages within the Service Industry sector means that this has emerged as a critical labour market issue in northern BC. With funding from Service Canada, this project seeks to delineate this labour market issue and identify practical responses to addressing gaps/needs in both the short and long term.

'Warmth of Welcome' Project

2007-2009

On-going

Through collaborative and action research plans, Catherine Nolin, Greg Halseth, and members of the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society (IMSS) will work together to highlight the barriers to, and needs for, the strengthened participation of new immigrants in northern community life as well as develop recommendations and concrete initiatives which foster more inclusive and welcoming communities for new immigrants in northern BC. A dearth of research on non-metropolitan immigrant settlement in Canada means that the experience of whole regions of the country is little understood. Activities are being carried out in Ft. ST. John, Prince George, and Terrace.

'North First' Community Dialogue Project

2007-2008

On-going

The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based interviews in UNBC's service region. Across community landscapes that are experiencing increasing pressures from social, demographic, economic, and political change, part of UNBC's mandate has been to provide needed education and research services. This project is being undertaken at the request of UNBC's Vice-President and Provost as part of an initiative to better connect UNBC's activities with the needs

of its service region. Two basic questions drive the interviews; “what do our communities need to know?” and “what would they like the university to do?”

Research grants.

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
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	CDI at UNBC
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

Research contracts

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
Services Canada	Northern BC Service Industry Sector study	\$130,000	2007-2009	CDI at UNBC	
Peace River Regional District	Seniors' Needs Assessment	\$60,000	2006-2007	CDI at UNBC	
Services Canada	Old Massett Village Council 5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan	\$154,930	2006-2007	Old Massett Village Council	CDI at UNBC
Old Massett Village Council	Economic Development Strategy	\$22,732	2007	CDI at UNBC	
UNBC	'North First' Community Dialogue	\$15,000	2007	CDI at UNBC	
BC Medical Services Foundation via Neil Hanlon	Northern Medical Program Evaluation project	42,700	2007	CDI at UNBC	

Reports

Giesbrecht, K., Craine, J. and Halseth, G. (2007) Northern Medical Program: Evaluation report of impacts on recruitment and retention. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Reschny, J. , Van De Keere, L., Hoffman, C., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Seniors' Survey Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Hoffman, C., Halseth, R., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Population Background and Trends Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC

Reschny, J. , Hoffman, C., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Methodology Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Hoffman, C., Van De Keere, L., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Roundtable Theme Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC

Halseth, G., Manson, D., and Reschny, J. (2007) Our Future in Motion: Old Massett Village Council 5 year Human Resources Strategic Plan. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Halseth, G., Manson, D., and Reschny, J. (2007) Our Future in Motion: Old Massett Village Council 5 year Human Resources Strategic Plan - Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Halseth, G., Manson, D., and Reschny, J. (2007) Our Future in Motion: Old Massett Village Council 5 year Human Resources Strategic Plan - Appendices. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Halseth, G., Manson, D., and Reschny, J. (2007) Our Future in Motion: Old Massett Village Council 5 year Human Resources Strategic Plan – Education 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

2007

Jen Craine - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Kyle Kusch - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

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

Catherine Fraser - research assistant, graduated May 2007

Priscilla Johnson - research assistant, graduated may 2007

Alex Martin - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Ros Curry - research assistant, graduate student at UBC

Training 'new researchers'

2007

Jaime Reschny – research project manager

Kelly Giesbrecht – research project manager

Anisa Zehtab-Martin – research project manager

Mary Disney – community-based researcher in Old Massett

Valine Crist – community-based researcher in Old Massett

Research Practicum Student Supervision

2007 Dawn Sather (UNBC Social Work Program)

Sheri-Lynne Bishop (UNBC Social Work Program)

Presentations

2007 Spoke on issues relating to rural poverty and rural community renewal in Canada to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, meetings held in Prince George on Monday, March 5.

“Regional Population Change in British Columbia”, Japan-UBC Conference, Vancouver, BC, 7 September 2007

Keynote speaker – Social Policy Forum – hosted by Service Canada in Vancouver, 13 June 2007.

Keynote speaker – Canadian Foundation for Innovation board meeting – hosted by UNBC in Prince George 18 June 2007.

Conference Organization:

Member of organizing committee, ‘Tier Two – Kitimat Impact Dialogue’, Kitimat, BC, October 5 2007.

Member of organizing committee, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Inuvik, NWT, May 2008.

Member of organizing committee, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Northern Workshop, Whitehorse, YT, February 2008.

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 2007

Blair Lekstrom, MLA for Peace River South and BC's Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, spoke on the development opportunities and priorities for rural and small town communities.

These public talks were held in Prince George on Monday, April 02, 2007, room 7-150 UNBC and in Burns Lake on Tuesday, April 03, 2007 room 007 at the CNC Campus.

Community partners included the Town of Burns Lake and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

Fall 2007

Dr Neil Hanlon from UNBC's Geography Program spoke on the linkages between population aging and the changing nature of health and care services. These issues are important parts of the efforts by northern BC's communities to

develop new economic opportunities by building community foundations for retaining and recruiting both residents and businesses.

Public talks were held in Prince George on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at UNBC and in Quesnel on Thursday, October 24, 2007 at the North Cariboo Community Campus.

These talks were co-hosted by The City of Quesnel, The Cariboo Regional District, and UNBC's South-Central Regional Office.

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.

The CDI is proud to announce the publication of the second paper in its publication series:

The Importance of University-Community Interaction: Community Involvement and Political Sustainability in Canada's Publicly Funded Research and Teaching System,

by Dr. Peter Adams, PC.

Dr. Adams is a Professor Emeritus at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. A well respected academic and researcher, Dr. Adams retired as MP, Peterborough, Ontario, in 2006.

2007

All of the CDI publications are made available on-line at:

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/publications.html>

UNBC Curriculum Contributions

Geography Program (BA) major: Public Administration and Community Development

A number of years ago, the CDI initiated a process to better connect UNBC with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). NVIT is based in Merritt, but it offers a wide number of programs, certificates, and diplomas targeted to aboriginal communities around BC. Since that time, processes have been set in place to coordinate the paperwork

and processes for NVIT students transferring to UNBC. In addition one of the decisions at that early set of meetings was that UNBC would try to identify a 'destination' for graduates from NVIT's Public Administration and Community Economic Development diplomas. Discussions at UNBC identified additional opportunities around these same topic areas.

Over the past three years, working in conjunction with a wide range of groups within UNBC and with a number of external partners, the CDI was able to develop a new major within the Geography Program (BA) called "Public Administration and Community Development". This major is targeted at people who seek to combine public administration with a keen interest in community development. The goal is to give students the skills to function within a range of groups, organizations, and offices. Graduates will be able to interact with appropriate professionals, receive their input and reports, and collate a wide range of information and material in service of their group/organization/office. Skills in analysis and synthesis are to be complemented by an ability to work cooperatively and effectively, and to be able to communicate clearly through written, oral, and graphic mediums. Together, this direction will assist the student in becoming equipped for community leadership, with the knowledge and skills to bring together diverse expertise and information on an array of subjects and mobilize it within Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

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.

Mackenzie Dialogue Process

This past year, one of the major efforts of the CDI was to work with the District of Mackenzie in creating a community revitalization strategy. The research staff at the CDI has long experience working with the community and with local decision-makers in Mackenzie, and this current initiative builds upon the mutual trust and respect each party has forged.

On Tuesday, May 22, 2007, Canfor announced that it will indefinitely close its sawmills in Mackenzie effective mid-August. Canfor's announcement stated that it was undertaking the closure to deal with poor lumber markets. The closure would affect 450 workers directly employed at the sawmill, but would have much wider impacts on an additional approximately 400 workers in service and support jobs in the community (including everything from trucking to service sector jobs).

On Wednesday, May 23, the CDI met with representatives from Mackenzie to put together a timeline and approach for creating a community-based revitalization strategy response.

On May 30, two meetings were held at UNBC. In the morning, the CDI hosted the District of Mackenzie, the Mackenzie Forest District, and the Ministry of Community Services. Together the group put together a three stage transition plan that met the various needs of the community to address the short, medium, and long term actions resulting from the Canfor announcement. In the afternoon, the CDI hosted a much larger roundtable meeting. This roundtable involved 29 additional people representing 18 public and private sector organizations serving northern BC. The purpose of the afternoon roundtable was to identify concrete actions which each of these organizations could contribute to the Mackenzie revitalization strategy.

In the weeks which followed these meetings, Mackenzie initiated all of the actions in its strategy. In addition, all of the organizations that promised to contribute, each delivered on their promises. Canfor has since revised its closure announcement into one which sees the sawmill running with a slightly reduced workforce. Even though the sawmill closure

has been stayed, Mackenzie is continuing with the various components of its revitalization strategy to take advantage of new opportunities.

Support for Local Initiatives

- 2006 - Board membership on Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Association
- 2006 - Advisor to the Human Resources Project, Cariboo Tribal Council
- 2006 - Member of the Advisory Committee for Service Canada’s ‘New Horizons for Seniors’ program.
- 2005 - Advisory role to Executive Director of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition.
- 2007 - Advisory role to the Tsilhqot’in Community Impact Assessment processes related to mining activity proposals within the traditional territory of the Tsilhqot’in National Government.
- 2007 Facilitated “Tier 2 Impacts Dialogue” in Kitimat on the topic of the ALCAN smelter rebuild

Community Contact Newsletters

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

Volume 3	No 1	2006	December
Volume 3	No 2	2007	March
Volume 3	No 3	2007	June
Volume 3	No 4	2007	September

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
- Annual Reports
- 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:

February

Prince Rupert, Old Massett, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte

March

Prince Rupert, Old Massett, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte

April

Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof

May

Tatlayoko Lake, 100 Mile House, Vancouver, Williams Lake, Quesnel
Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston

June

McBride, Clearwater

July

Prince Rupert, Old Massett, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte

September

Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Whitehorse, Atlin, Dease Lake, Iskut, Stewart

October

Vermillion, Alberta, Lac La Biche, Alberta, Fort Mc Murray, Alberta, Athabasca,
Alberta, Peace River, Alberta, Tumbler Ridge, Quesnel, Kitimat

December

McBride, Valemount, Williams Lake, Quesnel