

# UNBC Community Development Institute

## Annual Report 2008

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The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2008 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2008.

### **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](http://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

*Tumbler Ridge Mayor's Task Force on Seniors' Needs*      2008   Completed

The purpose of this project was to explore the housing and support service needs of seniors in Tumbler Ridge. The work was carried out by the Community Development Institute to provide local community decision-makers with information relevant to service planning and infrastructure investments. The project was carried out in the winter of 2008 and included Census population information, community focus groups, and a door-to-door household survey. In addition to the project reports, information was shared via an on-going participation in the Task Force meetings and 3 community town hall meetings.

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

*District of Hudson's Hope Seniors' Needs Dialogue*      2008   Completed

The purpose of this project was to explore the following seniors' needs in the District: infrastructure and planning, housing, health care, social support services, transportation, networking, barriers to mobility, information, and education. The work was carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC in May 2008 with the goal to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local planning and infrastructure investments. In addition to the project reports, information was shared via a 2 community meetings.

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

*Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Overview*      2008   Completed

Following completion of the 2006 - 2007 Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Overview study, the CDI was invited back to participate in 2 community open house workshops to help develop a plan for action by the PRRD. The meetings were held in Dawson Creek and Fort St. John.

*Distance Education Lessons: The case of McBride - Prince George BC*  
2007-2009 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 2 secondary schools in Prince George (Kelly Road Secondary School and Prince George Secondary School SS not DP Todd] 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.

*Omineca Beetle Action Coalition's Future Forest Summit* 2008 Completed

On September 19th, 2008, a Future Forest Summit was hosted at UNBC through a partnership between UNBC's Community Development Institute (CDI) and the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC). Results from the Summit were to inform OBAC's "Future Forest Products and Fibre Use Strategy". With a focus on future forest and fibre opportunities, the central message was that communities want the future forest to support economic opportunity (for a range of small to large economic players), quality of life, and the environmental services that protect both economic and quality of life assets. The discussion focussed on the need to create viable community futures. This included attention to keeping resource revenues in the north to sustain social and economic development, and to renew infrastructure for moving into more diverse and viable future economies. Funding for this project came from Western Economic Diversification Canada's Community Economic Development Initiative and OBAC.

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

*Community Transition Toolkit* 2008 Completed

The Community Development Institute (CDI) documented community economic transition best practices and performed a gap analysis of the social and community services available within the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) communities that can support transition. The project built upon the expertise developed at the CDI through working for a number of years with individual communities across northern BC on community transition planning. Specifically, it provided an opportunity to update the Transition Toolkit created in partnership with the District of Mackenzie and to assess the supports/resources available among the OBAC communities. By providing OBAC with a gap analysis of local preparedness for transition, and needed community and social supports/services, the project directly informs OBAC's 'Social/Community Services and Supports' and 'Resident and Business Retention and



*'North First' Community Dialogue Project*

2007-2008

Completed

The purpose of this project was 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 was 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?"

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

*Agriculture Potential Across Northern BC*

2008

On-going

The CDI coordinated the start of a dialogue between a number of Community Futures offices in northern BC and interested UNBC researchers. The dialogue concerns the future potential of agriculture industry expansion across the region. They are at present scoping out options, resources, knowledge (and gaps) to identify whether there is a foundation and potential for more investigation. More than 11 UNBC researchers expressed an interest in participating, covering research topics in agriculture, agricultural industry development, future climate and environmental scenarios for the region, changing energy costs and their impacts on agricultural production, food security, and various forms of mainstream and alternative produce marketing and distribution mechanisms.

**Research grants.**

Granting Agency	Subject	\$ Per Year	Year	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator(s)
Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Expert dialogue on future forest and fibre use opportunities	\$83,282	2008 - 2009	Greg Halseth	
SSHRC – Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences Program	Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies	\$15,000	2008	Greg Halseth	Sean Markey (SFU), David Bruce (Mount Allison)
SSHRC – Knowledge Impact in Society Program	National Network for Urban Indigenous Economic Development	\$100,000	2008-2011	Greg Halseth	
Indian and North Affairs Canada – Office of the Federal Interlocutor	National Network for Urban Indigenous Economic Development	\$102,000	2008-2011	Greg Halseth	
Indian and North Affairs Canada – Economic Development Branch	National Network for Urban Indigenous Economic Development	\$102,000	2008-2009	Greg Halseth	
Community-University Research Alliance	Mapping quality of life and the culture of small cities	\$250,000 **UNBC team allocated \$35,000	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	
District of Tumbler Ridge	Mayor's Seniors' Needs Task Force survey work	\$10,235	2008	CDI at UNBC	
Omineca Beetle Action Coalition	Community Transition Preparedness Project	\$35,000	2008	CDI at UNBC	
BC Ministry of Community Services, Community Transition Branch	Community Transition Preparedness Project	\$25,000	2008	CDI at UNBC	
District of Hudson's Hope	Seniors' Needs Dialogue	\$3,000	2008	CDI at UNBC	
BC Medical Services Foundation via Neil Hanlon	Northern Medical Program Evaluation project	42,700	2008	CDI at UNBC	

***Reports***

Kearns, A. and Halseth, G. (2008). *Future Forest Products and Fibre Use Backgrounder: Non-Timber Forest Resources – Information Compendium*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Kearns, A. and Halseth, G. (2008). *Future Forest Products and Fibre Use Backgrounder: Non-Timber Forest Resources – Overview*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Matte, A., Ryser, L., and Halseth, G. (2008). *Gap Analysis of Networks in OBAC Communities*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Robinson, R. and Halseth, G. (2008). *OBAC First Nations Organizational Compendium*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Halseth, G., Killam, S., and Manson, D. (2008). *Working framework for economic emergencies for smaller local governments*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Matte, A., Kusch, K., White, M., and Halseth, G. (2008). *Service Gap Analysis of OBAC Communities*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Matte, A., Ryser, L., and Halseth, G. (2008). *Gap Analysis of Government Documents in OBAC Communities*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

\*\*Kusch, K., Ryser, L., Matte, A., White, M., and Halseth, G. (2008). *A Network Tool for Burns Lake*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

\*\*Matte, A., Ryser, L., and Halseth, G. (2008). *A Government Documentation Tool for Burns Lake*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

\*\*For the previous two items, similar reports were prepared for each of the following towns: Smithers, Houston, Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, McBride, Valemount, Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, Granisle, and Telkwa,

Halseth, G., Kusch, K., Ryser, L., Kearns, A., Helm, C. and Price D. (2008) *Availability of Care Services: Comparative Study Report for Tumbler Ridge*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Manson, D. and Halseth, G. (2008) *North First Initiative: Building Towards a Northern BC Community Research and Development Cluster*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Crain, J., Curry, R., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2008). *Northern Medical Program Impact Study 2007: Final Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Crain, J. and Curry, R. (2008). *Distributed/Rural Medical Education in North America: Profiles of Select Institutions*. Prince George, BC: Prepared for UNBC's Community Development Institute as a Resource for the Northern Medical Program Impact Study, 2007.

Crain, J., Ryser, L., Curry, R., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2008). *Northern Medical Program Impact Study 2007: Methodology Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Fields, K., Van De Keere, L., Hanlon, N., and Halseth, G. (2008). *The Experiences of Occupational Therapists Practicing in Rural and Remote Communities in Northern British Columbia*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Manson, D. (2008) *District of Hudson's Hope Seniors' Needs Dialogue – Summary Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Halseth, G. Kusch, K., Ryser, L. and Kearns, A. (2008) *Availability of Care Services Comparative Study Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Hanlon, N. (2008) *Tumbler Ridge Mayor's Task Force on Seniors' Needs - Final Report on Focus Groups*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L. and Halseth, G. (2008) *Seniors' Needs Assessment: Key Issues Summary Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Hanlon, N. (2008) *Tumbler Ridge Mayor's Task Force on Seniors' Needs - Final Survey Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

## **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***

2008

Jen Crain - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Jen Herkes - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Alison Matte - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Kyle Kusch - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Michelle White - research assistant, continuing undergraduate at UNBC  
Ashley Kearns - research assistant, continuing undergraduate at UNBC  
Lila Bonnardel - research assistant, continuing undergraduate at UNBC  
Alex Martin - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Joe LaBourdais - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC  
Shawn Rennibohm - research assistant, continuing undergraduate at UNBC  
Petter Jacobsen - research assistant, continuing international undergraduate at UNBC

### ***Training 'new researchers'***

2008

Anisa Zehtab-Martin – research project manager  
Rheanna Robinson – training on scope of CDI research projects/approaches

### ***Research Practicum Student Supervision***

The 2008/09 High School Leadership Class at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School was trained with survey techniques – the students then spent 4 days accompanying the CDI field team doing door-to-door interviews in Tumbler Ridge.

## *Presentations*

“Availability of Care Services: Comparative Study - Report for Tumbler Ridge Mayor’s Task Force on Seniors’ Needs”, keynote for community public meeting organized by the Tumbler Ridge Mayor’s Task Force on Senior’s Needs, Tumbler Ridge, BC, May 26.

“Seniors in Communities Dialogue”, keynote for community public meeting organized by the Peace River Regional District, Dawson Creek, BC, September 30.

“Seniors in Communities Dialogue”, keynote for community public meeting organized by the Peace River Regional District, Fort St. John, BC, October 1.

“Educational Institutions: Their essential role in 21st Century rural regions”, keynote for BC Real Estate Foundation’s Reversing the Tide Conference, Prince George, BC, October 6-8

“Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies - Conference Summary from May 14 – 17 2008”, keynote for BC Real Estate Foundation’s Reversing the Tide Conference, Prince George, BC, October 6-8

“What we know about Senior’s needs in rural and small town BC”, keynote for community public meeting organized by the Tumbler Ridge Mayor’s Task Force on Senior’s Needs, Tumbler Ridge, BC, May 26.

“Rural Economic Development”, 5<sup>th</sup> BC Rural Communities Summit, 100 Mile House, 13-15 March 2008.

“Practical Advice: Rethinking BC’s economic development strategies”, Annual Meetings of the Economic Developers Association of BC, Prince George, 5-6 May 2008.

“Economic Emergency Toolkit for Small Municipalities”, Annual Meetings of the Northern BC Municipal Officers Association, Prince George, 19-20 March 2008.

“A Community Development Institute at UNBC and North Central Municipal Association ‘Community-University Research Alliance’”, Annual Meetings of the Northern BC Municipal Officers Association, Prince George, 19-20 March 2008.

“Research and Relevance: The Community Development Institute at UNBC”, panel presentation at the BC Real Estate Foundation’s Reversing the Tide Conference, Prince George, BC, October 6-8

“Working framework for economic emergencies for smaller municipalities”, panel presentation at the BC Real Estate Foundation’s Reversing the Tide Conference, Prince George, BC, October 6-8

“Constraints and Opportunities to Building the Capacity of Small Places to be Consumers of Research”. Knowledge in Motion Conference, Memorial University in Newfoundland, October 16, 2008.

“Teaching as Outreach: A case study of the Northern Medical Program”. Knowledge in Motion Conference, Memorial University in Newfoundland, October 16, 2008.

“Introduction to the CDI Community Transition Toolkit”, OBAC Board of Directors, November 2008.

“Introduction to the CDI Community Transition Toolkit”, Bulkley Nechako Regional District Board of Directors, November 2008.

“Restructuring a ‘Sense of Community’: Impacts of the Northern Medical Program on Physicians in Prince George, BC”. The BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network Annual Meeting, May 13 – May 14, UNBC, Prince George, BC.

“Disrupting and Building a ‘Sense of Community’: A case study of the Northern Medical Program”. Annual Meetings, Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Bellingham, WA, USA, March 8.

“‘Service This on the Ground’: Welcome to BC’s north”. Annual Meetings, Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Bellingham, WA, USA, March 8.

“Lost in Translation: Policy, Research, and Practice Issues around ‘Aging Well’ in Rural and Remote Places”. Aging Well in Northern, Rural and Remote Communities, BC Network on Aging Research, Prince George, March 26-27, 2008

### ***Conference Organization:***

Organized presentations on “Innovative Local Government Responses to Social and Economic Change”, Annual Meetings of the Northern BC Municipal Officers Association, Prince George, 19-20 March 2008.

Organized the “Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies” workshop at UNBC, May 14-16.

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.

Organized the “Future Forest and Fibre Use Summit” at UNBC, September 19, 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 2008**

Mr. Graham Kedgley, British Columbia's former Coal Co-ordinator, spoke on “Lessons from the development of Northeast Coal”. Mr. Kedgley's talk centred on his experiences as British Columbia's Coal Co-ordinator and lessons that may be applicable to future mining development in Northern BC.

These public talks were held in Prince George on Tuesday, April 08, 2008 room 7-150, UNBC Prince George campus and in Smithers on Wednesday, April 09, 2008 at the Smithers campus of Northwest Community College.

This Community Speakers Series event was co-sponsored by the Town of Smithers and UNBC's Northwest Regional Office.

Fall 2008

Dr. Kathy Lewis, Chair of Ecosystem Science and Management at UNBC, gave a presentation on: “Forestry – a dying profession or an opportunity for rebirth?”

These public talks were held in Prince George on Thursday, October 02, room 7-150 at the UNBC campus and in McBride on Friday, October 03 at the Robson Valley Community Center, 441 Columbia Street, McBride.

This Community Speakers Series event was co-sponsored by the Town of McBride and the McBride Community Forest.

### ***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 third paper in its publication series:

*Professional Work in Remote Northern Communities: A Social Work Perspective*

By: Dr. Glen Schmidt  
School of Social Work  
University of Northern British Columbia

2008

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.

### ***National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development***

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), through their Knowledge Impact in Society program, has granted funding to support the creation of a "National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development".

The objective is to develop an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder national network of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers working in urban Aboriginal and Métis communities. This will include organizations, universities, federal/provincial/municipal governments, private industry, community groups, and NGO's. The network will focus on mobilizing economic development knowledge and strengthening organizational capacity.

The tasks include building the network, fostering better understanding of the key issues, hosting 2 national conferences, and establishing local Learning Circles to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building. The network already includes more than 25 organizations across Canada.

The network will be coordinated by Greg Halseth from UNBC's Community Development Institute and Ray Gerow from the Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Centre.

Funding support for the network includes \$100,000 per year for 3 years from SSHRC, as well as a matching cash contribution of \$102,000 per year for 3 years from the Federal Office of the Interlocutor within Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. An additional \$102,000 one time grant is also being made available by the Economic Development Branch of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The first activity of the network was a highly successful National Gathering held in Ottawa on October 28 and 29, 2008. More than 75 people attended this National Gathering to help form urban Learning Circles and develop the network's action plan.

### ***Enhanced Public Administration Education in Northern BC***

Effective local capacity is the key to building responsive and resilient communities and organizations. For local and First Nations governments, the public administration training and capacity of the staff is critical in determining the effectiveness and resilience the governing body. Recruitment and retention of local and First Nations government employees is an immediate and ongoing concern for communities in northern British Columbia. As a result, the CDI (together with Dr. Gary Wilson of UNBC's Political Science Program) is partnering with the Ministry of Community Development and the Fraser Fort George Regional District to initiate the creation of enhanced public administration education training opportunities in northern BC.

Some key issues include:

- That local governments in northern BC are training grounds or incubators of professional staff and it is not uncommon for professionals to move to larger and more sophisticated organizations.
- Stimulating interest in local and first nations government as a rewarding and desirable career choice.
- Succession training of existing staff is hampered by capacity / availability issues.
- Need to coordinate a range of options that meet the needs of a range of students and learning situations.

Some early actions will include:

- Development of a skills / responsibility list for local / first nations administration staff.
- Undertake a scoping study (help with defining objectives???)
- Needs assessment and review of what might others be doing elsewhere to address the issue
- Follow up with a wide range of stakeholders.

### ***Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop, May 14-17, 2008, Prince George, BC***

Within all developed economies, rural and small town communities are experiencing considerable change. They are changing as a result of resource industry restructuring, demographic aging and youth out-migration, the restructuring of both public and private sector services, and the ongoing implications of urbanization. Within this context, communities and policy makers are working to meet challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. To be effective, both local and public policy decision makers need a clear understanding of the pressures driving change, the opportunities inherent in such changes, and the creative responses of similar rural and small town areas.

To support local decision making, the CDI at UNBC and the Enterprise Program at Simon Fraser University (SFU) co-hosted "Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop" in Prince George, May 14-17, 2008.

The workshop brought together 23 rural and small town scholars from 8 OECD countries to discuss possibilities about what our next rural economies will look like. Older approaches to community and economic development focused upon a ‘space-economy’ with attention to comparative advantages and overcoming the cost of distances. This approach is being replaced by recognition of the growing importance of ‘place-based economies’ where the unique attributes and assets of individual places now determine its attractiveness for particular types of activities and investments.

Although the speakers are invited rural and small town development scholars, the workshop was open to local government and economic development representatives from across northern BC so that the dialogue from this opportunity can have an immediate impact. More the 70 people from northern BC attended to learn from this event. The resulting book publication through CABI Publications will highlight responses to challenges and opportunities for both rural communities and public policy makers so that they can positively engage with contemporary rural development challenges.

[http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/space\\_to\\_place.html](http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/space_to_place.html)

### ***Mackenzie Dialogue Process***

This past year, one of the major efforts of the CDI was to work with the District of Mackenzie in supporting their community revitalization strategy. The strategy was created last year in partnership between the CDI and the District.

Over the past year, this emergent Economic Emergency Framework was published in *Municipal World* so that it would be available to local governments across the country.

As well, with assistance from the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and the BC Ministry of Community Services, the CDI expanded the Framework into a full Community Transition Toolkit that combines transition best practices with a gap analysis of the social and community services available within the communities that can support transition.

### ***Clearwater - Wells Gray Country***

The CDI continues its mentoring role in the Clearwater - Wells Gray Country valley. This is now the 6<sup>th</sup> year that the CDI has been working with local groups. Mentoring has been done at the level of community organizations working for community and economic development. It has also been more recently directed to the staff and elected officials of the newly formed municipal District of Clearwater.

The CDI will be a featured participant at the valley forum this coming spring to talk about sustainability planning for the District and surrounding rural areas.

### ***Support for Local Initiatives***

- 2006 - Board membership on Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Association
- 2007 - Board membership on Community Futures of Fraser Fort George
- 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.
- 2008 report. Provided review and feedback to the Burns Lake homeless / poverty report.
- 2008 - The CDI, together with Gary Wilson and Tracy Summerville of UNBC's Political Science Program are coordinating a public engagement process with the City of Prince George with respect to the City's Community Sustainability Plan. The liaison is being headed by Tracy Summerville.

### ***Community Contact Newsletters***

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

Volume 4	No 1	2008	January
Volume 4	No 2	2008	March
Volume 4	No 3	2008	July
Volume 4	No 4	2008	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 Schedule 2008:

January 2008

Mackenzie

February 2008

Burns Lake, Houston

February 2008

Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Ft. St. John, Hudson's Hope, Tumbler Ridge,  
Vanderhoof

March 2008

100 Mile House, Burns Lake, Vancouver

April 2008

Laxgalts'ap (Greenville), Hudson's Hope, Prince Rupert, Smithers (includes the  
CDI Speakers Series), Terrace, Tumbler Ridge

May 2008

Barrier, Clearwater, Powell River, Sechelt (includes the BC Community Forests  
Association Meeting)

June 2008

Atlin, Ft St John, Fort Nelson, Inuvik, Teslin, Tuktoyaktuk, Whitehorse

July

Hudson's Hope, Tumbler Ridge

September 2008

Atlin, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Dease Lake, Faro, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John,  
Stewart, Tumbler Ridge, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Vanderhoof

October 2008

Burns Lake, Kitimat, McBride (including the CDI Speakers Series), Prince  
Rupert, Ottawa, Terrace

November 2008

Masset, Old Massett, Port Clements, Prince Rupert, Sandspit, Queen Charlotte

December 2008

Vancouver