

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2009

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2009 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2009.

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 interested 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 e-mail.

Projects

Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project UPDATE

2009-2010 On-going

Completed in 2004, the community driven “Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project” (NEV) changed the way we approach community and economic development in northern BC. It provided the foundations for regional collaborations, enhanced resource revenue sharing programs, consideration of new energy issues, relationship building among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and attention to the key foundations (human, community, physical, and economic) needed for our communities to be flexible and responsive in the global economy.

In September 2009, the CDI launched NEV2. The economic downturn is forcing public and private sector interests to make difficult choices and adopt what they think are the best coping strategies so that they are poised, equipped, and ready to take advantage of the next economic upswing. In partnership with selected small local governments in northern BC, we will explore:

- the choices and decisions being made in response to the 2008/2009 economic downturn,
- the impacts of those choices / decisions as the economy begins to recover, and
- recommendations on how small local governments can and should respond to dramatic economic change

Distance Education Lessons:

The case of McBride - Prince George BC

2007-2009 Completed

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) 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.

Northern Medical Program Evaluation

2007-2009 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 used a questionnaire to interview local physicians and NMP organizers. The CDI also provided analysis of the social capital building aspects of the NMP.

Service Industry Sector Project

2007- 2009 Completed

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

2007-2010 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.

Two research institutes at UNBC, together with the Fraser Basin Council, are working to assist the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM) with the development, establishment, and initial implementation of a proposed “Northern Rockies Partnership: Building the Region Together!”

Over the last four decades, the Northern Rockies region of northeastern British Columbia has experienced economic ‘boom’ and ‘bust’ situations due to the growth and decline of numerous resource development activities. The Community Development Institute (CDI) and the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) at UNBC are assisting with the creation of a more integrative and collaborative dialogue approach to community and resource development that will bring together regional First Nations communities, natural resource industries, the provincial government, and the NRRM.

The Northern Rockies Partnership – Building the Region Together! presents a significant opportunity for the First Nation communities, the oil and gas sector, the provincial government, and the NRRM to work together to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the region. The partnership signifies a special kind of collaborative process that could result in substantive benefits to each of the parties. Initial work began in April 2009, and already there are several initiatives underway to start this partnership dialogue process.

Links: <http://www.northernrockies.org/>

The United Way has recently reorganized the way it delivers programming across northern BC. The United Way of Northern British Columbia now serves a region that extends from Quesnel to the Yukon border, and from the Alberta border to the Queen Charlotte Islands. The CDI at UNBC is working with the United Way of Northern British Columbia to collect and organize information that will support United Way activities in these northern communities.

Collected information included socio-demographic summaries for incorporated municipalities and surrounding rural areas, as well as local interviews to identify emerging issues and needs within communities. Collected through a consistent and rigorous methodology, the information will assist communities and regional districts to better understand the social challenges and pressures faced by their communities and work within local partnerships to address those issues. Addressing social issues will have a direct impact on the economic stability, quality of life, and sustainability of northern communities. It will also assist the United Way of Northern British Columbia with strategic planning, fund-raising

campaigns, and program investments. The CDI research team visited more than 26 communities.

National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development

2008 - 2011 On-going

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 network will be coordinated by Greg Halseth from UNBC’s CDI and Ray Gerow from the Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Centre.

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 second National Gathering is scheduled to be held in Ottawa during the Fall 2010, as well a gathering of academics is planned for April 2010 in Regina.

Link: <http://abdc.bc.ca/uaed/>

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.

Omineca Beetle Action Coalition's Future Forest Summit 2009 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.

Note: although OBAC Transition Toolkits were originally compiled in 2008, there are ongoing training, meetings, and possible future updating for this. Network tools were last updated January 2009 after the civic elections.

'North First' Community Dialogue Project 2007-2009 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 drove 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)
Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Expert dialogue on future forest and fibre use opportunities	\$83,282	2008 - 2009	Greg Halseth	
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)
Service Canada	Northern BC Service Industry Sector study	\$130,000	2007-2009	CDI at UNBC	
United Way of Northern British Columbia	Needs assessment across northern BC	\$60,000	2009	CDI at UNBC	

Reports

Nolin, C., McCallum, K. and Zehtab-Martin, A. (2009). *Regionalization BC 2008: Regionalization and Rural Immigration in British Columbia*, Working Paper Series #09-06, Metropolis British Columbia (MBC) Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity: Vancouver, BC, August, pp. 70.

Manson, D. (2009). *Northern British Columbia Service Industry Sector Study - Quantifying the Problem*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Manson, D. (2009). *Northern British Columbia Service Industry Sector Study - Solutions Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Manson, D. (2009). *United Way of Northern BC Planning Future Strategic Directions: Addressing Service Gaps - Methodology Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L. and Manson, D. (2009). *United Way of Northern BC Planning Future Strategic Directions: Addressing Service Gaps - Northern BC Summary Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Manson, D. (2009). *United Way of Northern BC Planning Future Strategic Directions: Addressing Service Gaps – Community Study: Village of Burns Lake, BC*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Manson, D. (2009). *United Way of Northern BC Planning Future Strategic Directions: Addressing Service Gaps – Demographic Profile and Service Inventory: Village of Burns Lake, BC*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

In addition to Burns Lake, the previous two reports were also produced for each of the following communities:

Chetwynd	Dawson Creek
Fort Nelson	Fort St. James
Fort St. John	Fraser Lake
Granisle	Hazelton
Houston	Hudson's Hope
Kitimat	Mackenzie
Masset	McBride
Port Clements	Prince George
Prince Rupert	Queen Charlotte
Quesnel	Smithers
Telkwa	Terrace
Tumbler Ridge	Valemount
Vanderhoof	

Watanabe, R. and Halseth, G. (2009). *Video Conferencing in McBride Secondary School: A Report Of Building Rural Educational Capacity*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Kusch, K., Manson, D., and Halseth, G. (2009). *Population Background and Trends Report: Northern British Columbia Service Industry Sector Study*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Ryser, L., Kusch, K., and Halseth, G. (2009). *Extracting the Value Report: Northern British Columbia Service Industry Sector Study*. 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

2009

Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Jen Herkes - research assistant, completed graduate student at UNBC

Kyle Kusch - research assistant, completed graduate student at UNBC

Ashley Kearns - research assistant, completed undergraduate at UNBC

Lila Bonnardel - research assistant, completed undergraduate at UNBC

Alex Martin - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Joe LaBourdais - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Courtney LaBourdais - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Training 'new researchers'

2009

Anisa Zehtab-Martin – research project manager

Research Practicum Student Supervision

Presentations

Neil Hanlon, Greg Halseth, David Snadden and Laura Ryser (2009) Recreating a sense of community: Establishing a new medical campus in an underserved area. Association of American Medical Colleges – Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, Nov 7.

Greg Halseth (2009) “Understanding and transforming a staples economy”. Smart Planning Workshop – Fraser Basin Council, Prince George, BC. July 2.

Neil Hanlon and Greg Halseth (2009) Professional voluntarism: the role of social capital in delivering a distributed medical education program. Annual Meetings, Canadian Association of Geographers, Ottawa, ON, June 2009.

Laura Ryser and Greg Halseth (2009) The long road between small towns: barriers to building community development partnerships in rural BC. Annual Meetings, Canadian Association of Geographers, Ottawa, ON, June 2009.

Catherine Nolin, Anisa Zehtab-Martin, Greg Halseth and Neil Hanlon (2009) Frontiers and foreign brides: Experiences of marriage and migration in northern BC. Metropolis conference, Calgary, March 17-20, 2009.

Neil Hanlon , Greg Halseth, David Snadden, Joanna Bates, and Chris Lovato (2009) Evaluating the impact of distributed medical education on physicians in an underserved region. Association of American Medical Colleges - Workforce Conference, Washington, DC, 30 April to 1 May.

Neil Hanlon, Greg Halseth, David Snadden, Joanna Bates, Chris Lovato (2009) Evaluating the impact of distributed medical education on physicians in an underserved region. International Association for Medical Education, AMEE 2009, Malaga, Spain, 29 August to 2 September.

Don Manson (2009) Plenary presentation – How to collaborate and not compete with your neighbours. The Heart of the Matter: Clearwater Health Symposium, Clearwater, BC, March 26-28.

Don Manson (2009) Workshop sessions (2) - How to collaborate with your neighbours. The Heart of the Matter: Clearwater Health Symposium, Clearwater, BC, March 26-28.

Keynote addresses:

Don Manson (2009) Keynote: Why communities need to plan. Sustainability planning: Why is it vital for the future of the North Thompson Valley Conference. Chu Chua (Simpchw First Nation), March 10.

Don Manson (2009) Closing address. Sustainability planning: Why is it vital for the future of the North Thompson Valley Conference. Chu Chua (Simpw First Nation), March 10.

(Re)constructing rural places in a globalized world I: Insights from place-based development, new regionalism, and competitive advantage theories. Opening keynote address, GARGIA CONFERENCE – 2009, Alta, Norway. October 22, 2009.

(Re)constructing rural places in a globalized world II: A new rural development vision for northern British Columbia. Closing keynote address, GARGIA CONFERENCE – 2009, Alta, Norway. October 23, 2009.

“Understanding & doing rural / small town economic development” Small Talk Forum keynote, Annual Conference of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Vancouver, Sept 29.

“Understanding & doing rural / small town economic development” Electoral Area Directors Forum keynote, Annual Conference of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Vancouver, Sept 29.

“The Public Administration and Community Development degree at UNBC”. Annual Meetings of the Northern BC Municipal Officers Association, Prince George, 18-20 March.

“Towns in Transition”. Meeting of the Northern Health Authority’s Population Health Council, Prince George, BC, July 16.

Keynote Address “Second home tourism and regional development”, Annual meetings of the Finnish University Network for Tourism Studies and the Finnish Society for Tourism Research, Savonlinna, Finland, June 2.

Keynote Address “Mining development and northern BC’s resource towns”. Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (North Central BC Branch) Annual General Meeting, Prince George, BC, June 25.

Conference Organization:

With Rob Budde of UNBC’s English Program, organized “Bridges: An Arts & Culture Festival in Our City” at the University of Northern British Columbia, June 11–13, 2009.

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 2009

Dr. Gail Fondahl, UNBC's Vice President, Research, gave a presentation on "Building together - Community/UNBC research partnerships" in Prince George, Terrace, and Kitimat.

These public talks were held:

- in Prince George on Thursday, April 09, 2009 room 7-150, UNBC Prince George campus,
- in Terrace on Monday, April 06, 2009 at the Terrace campus of Northwest Community College, and
- in Kitimat on Tuesday, April 07, 2009 at the Kitimat Valley Institute.

This Community Speakers Series event was co-sponsored by:

The District of Kitimat,
Kitimat Valley Institute Corporation,
Northwest Science & Innovation
UNBC's Northwest Regional Office, and
The Community Development Institute at UNBC

**As part of Dr. Fondahl's visit to the Northwest via the CDI's Speaker Series, we also facilitated two community roundtables for UNBC's Vice-President Research "Building Together: Community and UNBC indigenous research". These were held April 7, 2009 in Terrace and April 8, 2009 in Prince Rupert. These events were planned in partnership with UNBC's Northwest Region Office.

Fall 2009

Mr. Tim McEwan, President & Chief Executive Officer of Initiatives Prince George Development Corporation, gave a presentation on "Building BC's 'New North' as a knowledge-based resource economy connected to the world" in Prince George, Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

These public talks were held:

- in Prince George on Wednesday, September 23, Room 7-158, UNBC Campus,

- in Vancouver on September 24, in the Earl & Jennie Lohn Policy Room of SFU's Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, and
- in Prince Rupert on September 25, in the Prince Rupert campus of Northwest Community College.

This Community Speakers Series event was co-sponsored by:
Northwest Community College: Prince Rupert Campus,
UNBC's Northwest Regional Office,
SFU's Centre for Sustainable Community Development, and
The Community Development Institute at UNBC

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 the 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 4th and 5th papers in its publication series:

Lessons from the Development of Northeast Coal in British Columbia

By: Mr. Graham Kedgley
2009

Co-Managing Research: Building and Sustaining a First Nation-University Partnership

By: Community-University Research Alliance (CURA), Tl'azt'en Nation, and the University of Northern British Columbia

Gail Fondahl
Pamela Wright
Deanna Yim
Erin Sherry
Beverly Leon
Wayne Bulmer
Sue Grainger
Jane Young

2009

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.

Between 2006 and 2009, 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.

UNBC's New North Foundation

The CDI competed the notes and report for the New North Foundation meetings with civic leaders in Dawson Creek. The work was completed for Rob van Adrichem.

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.

To date, Network activities have been highly successful. A National Gathering was held in Ottawa in 2008, 2 additional national gatherings of Learning Circle leaders have been held (in Ottawa and Vancouver in 2009), and more than 7 Learning Circles are underway in a variety of Canadian urban centres.

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 of 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.
- Needs assessment and review of what others might be doing elsewhere to address the issue.
- Follow up with a wide range of stakeholders.

Community Transition Toolkit - Dialogue Process

This past year, one of the major efforts of the CDI was to work with the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) in revising and publicizing the CDI's Economic Emergency Toolkit as a more general Community Transition Toolkit. The Toolkit was created first in a partnership between the CDI and the District of Mackenzie. The revisions were undertaken with support from OBAC and the Provincial Ministry of Community

Services. The expanded Toolkit now combines transition best practices with a gap analysis of the social and community services available within the communities that can support transition.

Over the past year, considerable energy was put into supporting communities using the Toolkit, including Chetwynd, Mackenzie, Fort Nelson/Northern Rockies, and the most recent case of Kitimat.

Clearwater - Wells Gray Country

The CDI continues its mentoring role in the Clearwater - Wells Gray Country valley. This is now the 7th 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 continues to be assisted by the Community resources Center of the North Thompson.

The CDI was a featured participant at the valley forum this past spring in discussions 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 -2009 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 - 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 5	No 1	2008	December
Volume 5	No 2	2009	March
Volume 5	No 3	2009	June
Volume 5	No 4	2009	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 Organizations
- 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 2009:

January 2008

Dawson Creek, Ft. St. John, Tumbler Ridge

February 2009

Burns Lake

March 2009

Clearwater

April 2009

Kitimat, Prince Rupert, Terrace

May 2009

Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Fraser Lake, Granisle, Hazeltons, Houston, Smithers, Kitimat, Mackenzie, McBride, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Telkwa, Terrace, Valemount, and Vanderhoof

June 2009

Chetwynd, Clearwater, Fort St. James, Hudson's Hope, Dawson Creek, Ft. St. John, and Tumbler Ridge

July 2009

August 2009

September 2009

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

October 2009

Vancouver, Burns Lake, Masset, Old Massett, Port Clements, Prince Rupert,
Sandspit, Queen Charlotte

November 2009

Victoria

December 2009

Vancouver, Victoria