

The Community
 Development Institute
 2020-2021 Annual Report
 University of Northern British Columbia
 Prince George, BC

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Letter from our Co-Directors

It is with great pleasure that we submit this report highlighting the work and achievements of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia for April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

This reporting year was marked by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety measures many thought would last only a few weeks, continued throughout the year. During this period, northern BC was challenged to adapt; to be flexible, innovative, and resilient in order to respond to challenges and opportunities this crisis presented. As the reporting year was drawing to a close, the vaccine rollout was beginning, bringing new hope and a sense of relief.

The pandemic illustrated the value of the CDI's work. We were called on by federal, provincial, and local governments to participate in round tables and dialogue sessions to discuss the post-pandemic future. Our message was that getting through the pandemic is one thing, but we also needed to think about policies and programs that would enable communities to come out of the pandemic stronger and better prepared for the future. The pandemic laid bare the need for investment and action to address long-standing issues in non-metropolitan communities. We encouraged government to collaborate and partner with First Nations, industry, business, voluntary organizations, the non-profit sector, and other levels of government to build resilient communities and diverse economies in non-metropolitan BC and Canada.

The CDI's community-based research program continued to provide information and insight into the challenges and opportunities facing non-metropolitan and resource-based communities and economies. Our research partners included academic, non-profit, and government organizations and our research was used by a wide range of audiences and stakeholders in BC, Canada, and around the world. Our findings have been published in books, journal articles, professional magazines, and reports. We were also invited to present our findings extensively using the Zoom platform.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to work with our partners on COVID-19 response and recovery with a view to encouraging support for transformative change that will reignite the future of non-metropolitan communities in northern BC and beyond. While it has been a time of great challenge, it is also a time of great opportunity. If we can work together, we can emerge with a strong vision and plan for the future.



Marleen Morris
Co-Director
Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia



Dr. Greg Halseth
Co-Director
Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia

About the Community Development Institute at UNBC – Our Vision

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) is dedicated to understanding and realizing the potential of BC's non-metropolitan communities in a changing global economy; preparing students and practitioners for leadership roles in community and economic development; creating a body of knowledge, information, and research that will enhance our understanding and our ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation; and mobilizing this knowledge to a wide range of provincial, national, and international audiences.

In keeping with the vision of UNBC, the CDI is committed to working with all communities – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to help them further their aspirations in community and regional development.

To realize this vision, the CDI provides programs and services in four broad areas. The 2019/2020 annual report is organized under each of these areas:

Community Transformation and Renewal

- Work with communities, industry, business, voluntary groups, and government to identify and assess opportunities, develop strategies, and facilitate partnerships for long-term community and economic benefit in a changing global economy.

Education for Community and Economic Development

- Provide academic and professional development programs and courses, and community education opportunities, to develop knowledge, expertise, and leadership capacity in community and economic development.

Research

- Provide community-based research and information that enhance our understanding and ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation.

Policy Dialogues and Advice

- Support multi-sectoral dialogue and planning as well as provide policy advice to prepare communities, industry, and government for future opportunities and challenges.

Community Transformation & Renewal

Since 2004, the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) has worked in partnership with more than 50 communities across north and central BC to develop and implement strategies for economic diversification and community resilience. We focus specifically on the global and local factors affecting these communities, how they impact a community's ability to respond to change, and what options are available for moving forward.

This reporting year was marked by the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts of COVID-19 have been significant, but the CDI has continued our efforts to assist communities within the parameters set by the World Health Organization, the Provincial Health Authority, and the UNBC Office of Research. Below are highlights for the work for 2020/2021.

Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John.

Through a partnership with the City of Fort St. John, the CDI embarked on a program to engage the community to enhance quality of life and strengthen and diversify the economy for the future.

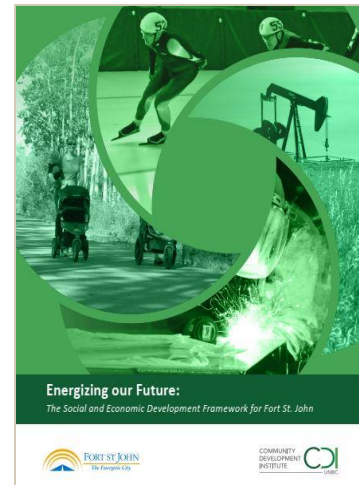
In 2017, the CDI opened its Fort St. John office at the City's Passive House. Known as The Forge, the CDI's office became a catalytic space for grassroots community development. At The Forge, passionate and involved citizens made a difference by participating in the creation of plans and activities for building social capacity and economic growth and diversification.

The CDI's approach was to engage and bring together leaders and organizations from business, industry, the public sector, and the non-profit sector to share perspectives and build common understanding. This work was supported by the CDI's research, including a community profile, community survey, and a program and service inventory. From this shared understanding, strategies and plans were discussed and developed to enhance quality of life and economic resilience.

The CDI's research and community development work in Fort St. John produced 31 reports, engaged over 1,600 people, and involved more than 75 organizations. The CDI organized and facilitated 55 dialogue sessions to gather community input, directly engaging more than 430 people.

Combined, these reports and events contributed to the development and implementation of ***Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John***. The final report included 15 areas for action and a total of 73 recommendations for action. The framework will serve as a tool to guide decisions, support consistent and effective results, and monitor progress.

Also included in the framework was a **Decision-Making Matrix**, developed as a tool to assess emergent opportunities and assess current projects against the social and economic development framework. The final report was presented to the community by Marleen Morris at a public event at the North Peace Cultural Centre hosted by Fort St. John Council.



College of New Caledonia, New Horizons Program: Bridging the Gap

In 2019, the College of New Caledonia, Mackenzie Campus formed a community stakeholders' group, applied for, and successfully obtained a [New Horizons](#) grant from the Government of Canada. As a member of the stakeholder group, the CDI's role in this partnership is to design and conduct an evaluation framework for the CNC Mackenzie's New Horizon's Program: [Bridging the Gap](#).

The purpose of the project evaluation framework is to assess how well *Bridging the Gap* is meeting its intended objectives, outputs, and outcomes. Our evaluation framework will also incorporate the evaluation framework and indicators developed for the domains of social inclusion and the collective impact model by the New Horizons Program.

The evaluation process will consist of three components:

Seniors' Perceptions: Measuring seniors' perceptions of social inclusion in Mackenzie, focusing on the domains identified by New Horizons: health, basic services, material and financial resources, social relations, socio-cultural aspects of society, civic participation, and neighbourhood and community.

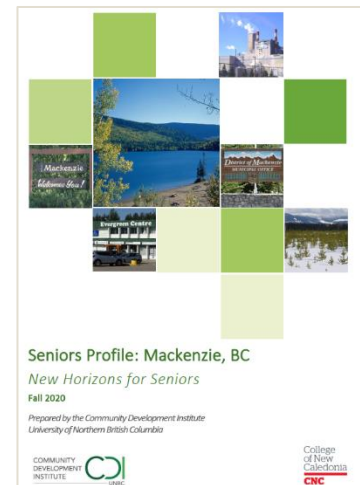
Community Partners' Perceptions: Measuring community partners' perceptions of the collective impact model in Mackenzie, focusing on the domains of common agenda, backbone infrastructure, mutually reinforcing activities, shared measurement, and continuous communication.

Program Evaluation: Tracking and evaluating the programs and activities offered, focusing on participant attendance, volunteer involvement, participant satisfaction, and program assessment.

Within each component, there will be a collection of measures to assess how well *Bridging the Gap* is addressing the social isolation of seniors and meeting its intended objectives, outputs, and outcomes.

The project evaluation program will employ both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies. Quantitative methodologies will include preparing a [Seniors Profile](#) to provide the demographic and community context for interpreting the evaluation results, and conducting surveys to identify broadly held perceptions on social inclusion and assess program satisfaction.

Qualitative methodologies will be based on seniors surveys and will include focus groups and interviews. These sessions will allow the CDI research team to explore, in greater depth, the behavioural patterns and beliefs of seniors in Mackenzie, thereby generating new and valuable insights that can increase understanding of participation, satisfaction, and community needs.



Education for Community & Economic Development

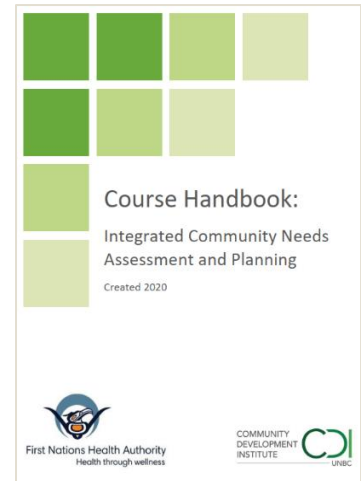
In the coming decades, BC will need people who understand and can provide leadership in community and economic development in government, business, community, and academic organizations. We will need practitioners who know how to build strong and resilient communities and economies. We will need leaders who know how to collaborate across sectors and across cultures. The CDI has a commitment to sharing our research and the learnings from our community development work with a broad range of stakeholders.

First Nations Health Authority

Course Handbook: Integrated Community Needs Assessment and Planning

In response to a request from the [First Nations Health Authority](#) (FNHA), the CDI developed and delivered a Community Development Certificate Program for staff in northern BC. The purpose of this professional development program was to provide community-based FNHA staff with information and best practices in effective community engagement, community-based needs assessments, and community capacity building. The eight-month program was delivered online, with three in-person modules at the UNBC campus in Prince George. The class completed the program December 2019.

In 2020, the CDI developed a course handbook for the students enrolled in this program. This handbook contains materials and background information from the course. The handbook contains four sections. The first includes background on the course and handbook; the second includes a record of the course content materials broken down by the delivered modules; the third is a compilation of the skills building assignments; and the final section is an appendix of tools shared through the course.



Building Knowledge: Housing in Non-Metropolitan BC Webinar Series

In December 2020, the CDI received funding from BC Housing to develop and deliver a series of webinars to share the findings of our most recent housing research: ***Building Foundations for the Future: Housing, community development, and economic opportunity in non-metropolitan Canada*** and, more specifically, the ***BC Addendum***. The webinars were developed in early 2021 and will be delivered between May and November 2021. [Visit our webinar link to learn more.](#)

Research

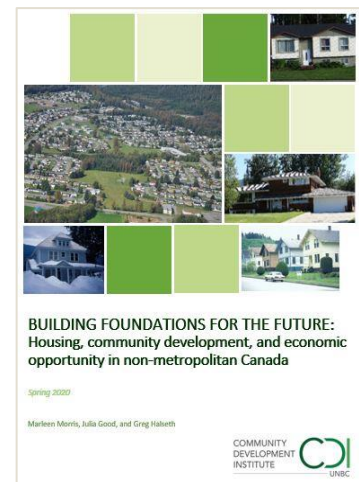
Along with the CDI's mandate to work with communities in northern BC, the CDI uses its close connections with academic institutions, community groups, business organizations, and others to conduct research that examines, explains, and analyzes aspects of community and economic development. Most of the CDI's research employs community-based research methods in order that the findings are useful and relevant to communities, government, business, and the non-profit sectors.

Building Foundations for the Future: Housing, community development, and economic opportunity in non-metropolitan Canada

This past year, the CDI released ***Building Foundations for the Future: Housing, community development, and economic opportunity in non-metropolitan Canada***, a ground-breaking research report on housing in non-metropolitan Canada (communities with a population under 100,000). Non-metropolitan Canada is home to over 15 million people and seven million dwellings. The research found that there is a housing gap in non-metropolitan communities across the country, and that this gap is having a negative impact on economic and community development potential. Specifically, the research found that the existing housing stock is not meeting the needs of the population. It identified a number of key factors driving housing issues including an aging population; increasingly smaller households; housing stock that is old, not energy efficient, and in need of major repair; lack of diversity in the housing stock; and increasing market demand. Together, these factors are having an impact on housing affordability and availability, making it difficult for these communities to attract investment and young workers and retain seniors.

For the purpose of this study, the research sample included two non-metropolitan communities from each province and territory. The populations of the selected communities ranged in size from 790 (Watson Lake, Yukon) to 63,260 (Medicine Hat, Alberta); they were commonly located some distance from, and had a weak connection to, a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA); they included a diverse range of primary economic activity (agriculture, forestry, mining, oil and gas, manufacturing, retirement living, and government services); and they had diverse histories and pathways of development.

The research findings were distributed to more than 145 stakeholders across Canada, including federal government departments, provincial housing ministries, local government organizations, industry, and the non-profit sector. The findings were also presented to several audiences.



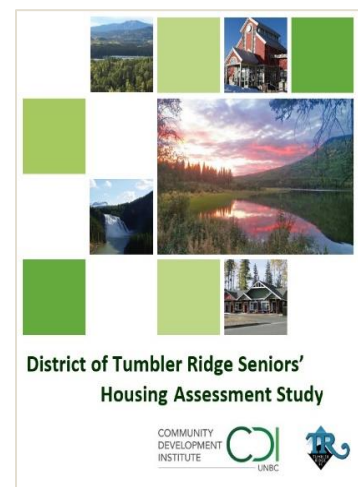
Please see the section on Roundtable Discussions, Meetings, Presentations, and Conferences on page 12 for details.

Building Foundations for the Future: BC Addendum

Following the release of the ***Building Foundations for the Future: Housing, community development, and economic opportunity in non-metropolitan Canada*** housing report, the CDI completed an expanded sample for the province of BC. About half the population, 2.3 million people, live in non-metropolitan communities. There are also about one million dwellings in non-metropolitan BC. The sample in the ***BC Addendum*** includes 14 communities and covers every region of the province. The data included in the ***BC Addendum*** is the same as in the full report.

Tumbler Ridge Seniors' Housing Assessment

The [District of Tumbler Ridge](#), along with health service providers and seniors' organizations in the community, identified the need to undertake an assessment to determine, at the household level, the housing and health support services that will be required in Tumbler Ridge to enable residents to age-in-place in the community. The purpose of the study was to equip local organizations that serve the seniors population with the information they need to plan and develop programs for the future. The assessment tool developed for this study provided a detailed analysis of the suitability of the housing stock to support aging-in-place in the community. The assessment collected information on exterior and interior stairs, bathroom accessibility and adaptability, kitchen accessibility, and the opportunity for living on one floor. Data was also collected to determine the programs and services required in order to support seniors to age-in-place in their homes, including the need for assistance with yard and home maintenance and repairs. The District of Tumbler Ridge took immediate action on the findings and recommendations of the report.



Nechako Region Community Development Scoping Project

The Nechako Lakes region has experienced considerable change over the past few decades. With funding support from Rio-Tinto, this project assessed community capacity and gaps under a series of topic areas. With focus on a long-term framework for sustainable social and economic development, these areas included community planning, financial planning, governance, economic development, education and training, social development, accessibility, housing, infrastructure, transportation, climate change, emergency preparedness, and recreation. The scoping review was completed for specific municipalities (Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, and Vanderhoof), rural communities (Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako), and First Nations (Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Skin Tye Nation, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Stelat'en First Nation, and Saik'uz First Nation).

BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

Through this project, the CDI worked with [BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner](#) (BCOHR) in developing, testing, and piloting a single, indexed stakeholder summary tool. The goal was to assist the BCOHR towards a robust stakeholder impact map for the province that would help guide its long-term engagement strategy. The research project built upon existing BCOHR stakeholder lists and assessment tools.

Publications

In addition to preparing research reports for communities, CDI researchers also publish their findings in books, academic journals, and other publications. Many of these publications are completed in collaboration with other researchers from Canada and around the world.

Book Chapters

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., Markey, S., Hanlon, N. and Skinner, M. 2021. Rural Community Development in an Era of Population Ageing. In Mark Skinner, Rachel Winterton and Kieran Walsh, (eds.), *Rural Gerontology: Towards Critical Perspectives on Rural Ageing*, pp. 152-163. Routledge: London (ISBN 9780367894795).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., & Markey, S. (Published online: 2020). Impact of Senior Government Policies on the Renewal of Built Capital for Rural Non-Profits. *Community Development*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2020.1825505>

Ryser, L., Halseth, G., & Markey, S. (Published online: 2020). Moving from government to governance: Addressing housing pressures during rapid industrial development in Kitimat, BC, Canada. *Housing Studies*, 1-26.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1789564>

Ryser, L., Halseth, G. and Markey, S., (Published online: 16 Jun 2020) Dis-orienting Mobile Construction Workforces: Impacts and Externalities within the Political Economy of Resource-based Regions. *Labour and Industry: a journal of the social and economic relations of work*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10301763.2020.1752353>

Markey, S., Ryser, L., & Halseth, G. (2020). Local content and mobile labour: The role of senior governments in capturing benefits for local communities. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 15(4), 1–23.

Professional Publication Articles

Morris, M., Good, J., and Halseth, G. (Fall 2020). [Building Foundations for the Future in Non-Metropolitan Canada](#). *Municipal World*, 130(9), 15-17.

Morris, M., Good, J., and Halseth, G. (Fall 2020). [Not in Stock: The challenge of meeting housing market needs and expectations in non-metropolitan Canada](#). *Plan Canada*, 60(3), 40-44.

Morris, M., Good, J., and Halseth, G. (Fall 2020). [Leaving the City Behind: Is Housing in Non-Metropolitan B.C. Ready?](#) *Planning West*, 62(4), 27-29.

Research Reports

Marleen Morris, Julia Good, and Greg Halseth (2020). Building Foundations for the Future: Housing, community development, and economic opportunity in non-metropolitan Canada. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Marleen Morris, Julia Good, and Greg Halseth (2020). Building Foundations for the Future: Housing, community development, and economic opportunity in non-metropolitan Canada: BC Addendum. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for Fort St. John. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Agriculture. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Alternative Energy. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Communications. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Community & Social. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Construction. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Education. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Energy. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Environment. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Forestry. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Innovation Support. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Manufacturing. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Professional Services. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Retail. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Services. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Tourism & Hospitality. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Transportation. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sally Western, Leanna Butters, Marleen Morris, and Greg Halseth (2020). Fort St. John Review of Past Plans & Reports: Vulnerable. Prepared for City of Fort St. John. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Marleen Morris, Julia Good, and Greg Halseth (2020). Seniors Profile: Mackenzie, BC, New Horizons for Seniors. Prepared for College of New Caledonia. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Julia Good, Marleen Morris, Laura Ryser, Aliya Jackson, and Greg Halseth (2021). District of Tumbler Ridge Seniors' Housing Assessment Study: Data Report. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Marleen Morris, Julia Good, Aliya Jackson, and Greg Halseth (2021). District of Tumbler Ridge Seniors' Housing Assessment Study: Methodology Report. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Marleen Morris, Julia Good, Laura Ryser, Aliya Jackson, and Greg Halseth (2021). District of Tumbler Ridge Seniors' Housing Assessment Study: Summary Report. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Sean Markey, Laura Ryser, and Greg Halseth (2020). The Critical Role of Services During Crisis and in Recovery: Learning from Smart Services and Infrastructure Projects. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's series on Supporting Rural Recovery & Resilience After COVID-19.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Community Profile: Bulkley-Nechako Regional District. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Community Profile: Burns Lake. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Community Profile: Fraser Lake. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Community Profile: Vanderhoof. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Summary: Cheslatta Carrier Nation. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Summary: Nadleh Whut'en First Nation. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Summary: Nee Tahi Buhn Band. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Summary: Saik'uz First Nation. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Summary: Skin Tyee Nation. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

Laura Ryser, Julia Good, Greg Halseth, Marleen Morris, Aliya Jackson, and Matt Sargent (2021). Summary: Stellat'en First Nation. UNBC Community Development Institute, Prince George, BC.

To view copies of these reports and other published works by the CDI, visit [Our Research Reports](#) page on the CDI website.

Policy Dialogues & Advice

Through our focus on policy dialogues and advice, the CDI is working to create platforms for discussions that build awareness and generate insight into issues in northern British Columbia and other non-metropolitan areas in Canada and around the world. Our platforms for discussion are where knowledge is shared and information is exchanged; where networks and relationships can be built; and where the challenges and issues can be explored.

Panels, Committees, and Working Groups

Council of Canadian Academies

Greg Halseth was invited to by the [Council of Canadian Academies](#) (CCA) to participate on an expert panel charged with identifying the legal/regulatory, ethical, social, and policy factors specific to the deployment and adoption of reliable high-speed broadband in rural and remote communities, including Indigenous communities. The CCA is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that supports science-based expert studies to inform public policy development in Canada.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Marleen Morris was invited by [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#) (CMHC) to participate on the evaluation panel for the national Housing Supply Challenge. The panel included a broad cross-section of housing experts from across the country. The first round of funding called for proposals on the collection and use of housing data. The Housing Supply Challenge is part of CMHC National Housing Strategy.

Roundtable Discussions, Meetings, Presentations, and Conferences

Greg Halseth and Marleen Morris, “The Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations”. Meeting requested to discuss topics and issues related to his ministry and non-metropolitan BC. March 11, 2021.

Marleen Morris, “Taking Stock: Housing in Non-Metropolitan Canada”. Invited speaker for the Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. March 11, 2021

Marleen Morris and Julia Good, “Taking Stock: Housing in Non-Metropolitan Canada”. Presenters for Research Week at UNBC. March 4, 2021.

Marleen Morris, “Metropolitan Out-Migration: More than a COVID-19 Movement”. Invited speaker for Planning Institute of British Columbia’s series on the Impact of COVID-19 on planning. February 24, 2021.

Marleen Morris, “Roundtable Discussion with the Honourable Maryam Monsef on economic development in non-metropolitan Canada.” Invited speaker. January 29, 2021.

Marleen Morris, “Taking Stock: Housing in Non-Metropolitan Canada”. Presentation to the Province of Ontario - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. December 8, 2020.

Greg Halseth, Margot Parkes, Chris Buse, Art Fredeen “UNBC’s Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC)”. Presenters at the UNBC NRES Colloquium, November 27, 2020.

Marleen Morris and Greg Halseth, “Northern BC’s Community and Economic Future post-COVID 19”. Invited speakers for the Winston’s Breakfast Group. November 19, 2020.

Marleen Morris, “Energizing our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for the Fort St. John”. Invited speaker to the community launch of the report. September 30, 2020.

Greg Halseth, Sam Atukorala, Julie Rudner, and Katie Holmes, “Global Pandemic, Regional Response: Citizenship and Community in the Time of COVID”. Invited speaker at the Bold Thinking Series, La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia. September 15, 2020.

Marleen Morris and Julia Good, “Mackenzie Seniors Profile”. Presenters to Mackenzie New Horizons community stakeholder group. August 19, 2020.

Marleen Morris, “Housing in Northern and Rural Municipalities in British Columbia and in Canada”. Invited speaker for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Housing Research Working Group. June 14, 2020.

Marleen Morris, “Energizing Our Future: The Social and Economic Development Framework for the City of Fort St. John”. Presenter to the City of Fort St. John Mayor and Council. May 27, 2020.

Marleen Morris, “Housing in Northern and Rural Municipalities: A Preliminary Report” Invited speaker to the Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial Housing Research Working Group. May 25, 2020.

Marleen Morris. “Taking Stock: Housing in Non-Metropolitan Canada”. Presentation to the New Brunswick Ministry of Housing. May 25, 2020.

Greg Halseth, “Roundtable Discussion with the Honourable Maryam Monsef on Supporting Rural Canada’s COVID Response and Recovery”. Invited speaker. May 21, 2020.

Greg Halseth and Marleen Morris, “COVID-19 Business Roundtables”. Facilitators for a series of eight roundtables with community, business and local government on COVID strategies and responses across northern BC for Community Futures of Fraser-Fort George. Spring 2020.



Research and Contract Funding

Funding Agency	Subject	\$ / Year	Year	Principal Investigator(s)	Co-Investigator(s)
SSHRC – Insight Grant	Entrepreneurialism and rural/small-town local government	\$50,000/yr	2020-2024	Greg Halseth	Sean Markey, Kelly Vodden, Ryan Gibson, Lars Hallstrom
Rio Tinto	Nechako Watershed Socio-Economic Study: Community Summaries	\$15,000/yr	2020-2021	Greg Halseth	
BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner	Stakeholder Analysis Project	\$17,400/yr	2020	Greg Halseth	Marleen Morris
BC Housing Management Commission	Exploring the State of the Building Sector in Non-Metropolitan Areas of British Columbia	\$77,240/yr	2021	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
BC Housing Management Commission	Building foundations for the future: Knowledge mobilization for BC	\$73,400/yr	2021	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
District of Tumbler Ridge	District of Tumbler Ridge Seniors' Housing Assessment Study	\$30,000/yr	2020-2021	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
College of New Caledonia	Mackenzie/New Horizons	\$45,000/yr	2020-2024	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
District of Houston, BC	Housing Needs Assessment	\$22,000/yr	2019-2020	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
City of Fort St John	The Forge	\$300,000/yr	2019-2020	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth
City of Fort St John	Fort St John Readiness	\$90,000/yr	2017-2021	Marleen Morris	Greg Halseth

Funding Agency	Subject	\$ / Year	Year	Principal Investigator(s)	Co-Investigator(s)
SSHRC – Insight Grant	Resource Royalties: Returns to Producing Rural Regions	\$39,786/yr	2016-2023* (COVID extension from SSHRC)	Sean Markey and Greg Halseth	Neil Argent, Matthew Tonts, Fiona Haslam-MacKenzie
SSHRC – Partnership Grant	Rural Policy Learning Commons: Building Rural Policy through International Comparative Analysis	\$357,000 UNBC team works with \$5,000 per year	2014-2021	Bill Reimer, Concordia and Brandon Universities	Greg Halseth (UNBC), and about 45 other partners
SSHRC – Partnership Grant	On the Move: Employment-Related Geographical Mobility in the Canadian Context	\$357,000 UNBC team works with \$43,000 per year over 7 years	2012-2020	Barb Neis, Memorial University of Newfoundland	Greg Halseth, Sean Markey, Catherine Nolin, Angèle Smith
SSHRC – Insight Grant	Building Solutions to Housing Insecurity and Health for Older Women in Vulnerable Circumstances	\$93,344/yr	2020-2021	Denise Cloutier	L. Clack, H. Cook, G. Halseth, L. Higginson, K. Kobayashi, P. O'Shea, M. Penning, B. Samuel, D. Sheets, K. Stajduhar, T. Szczyry
CIHR grant	Supporting Resilience: 'Wraparound' Solutions to Homelessness for Older Women	\$47,000/yr	2020-2022	Denise Cloutier	Kelli Stajduhar, Karen Kobayashi, Margaret Penning, Debra Sheets, Greg Halseth

The CDI Team

Committed to working with communities, the CDI is known for its ability to effectively blend research with hands-on community development. Each CDI team member contributes a mix of skills and experiences which sustains the CDI's well-rounded reputation. Alongside staff, the CDI also partners with Faculty Associates and seeks input from the CDI Advisory Committee.

Staff

Dr. Greg Halseth, Co-Director, UNBC Community Development Institute; Professor, Geography; Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies
Marleen Morris, Co-Director, UNBC Community Development Institute; Adjunct Professor, Geography
Julia Good, Research Associate
Aliya Jackson, Administrative Assistant



Faculty Associates at UNBC

Dr. Stephen Déry, Professor, Environmental Science; NSERC/Rio Tinto Senior Industrial Research Chair in Climate Change and Water Security
Dr. Gail Fondahl, Professor, Geography
Dr. Scott Green, Professor, Biology
Dr. Mark Groulx, Associate Professor, Environmental Planning
Dr. Neil Hanlon, Professor, Geography
Dawn Hemingway, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Dr. Phil Mullins, Associate Professor, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management

CDI Advisory Committee

We would like to acknowledge the contribution and support of the CDI Advisory Committee:

Lori Ackerman, Mayor, Fort St. John
Mark Barnes, Director, Office of Research, UNBC
Jason Fisher, Vice President, Fibre, Pinnacle Renewable Energy
Sandy Jones, Retired Superintendent, SD52-Prince Rupert
Kathy Lewis, Acting Vice-President, Research, UNBC
Kevin McCort, President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Foundation
Barbara Neis, CM, Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Judy Rogers, CM, Board Chair, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Greg Halseth, Professor, Geography Program and Co-Director, Community Development Institute, UNBC
Marleen Morris, Co-Director, Community Development Institute and Adjunct Professor, Geography Program, UNBC

The External Advisory Committee meets annually to provide strategic advice and counsel to the CDI.

The Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia

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The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC was established in 2004 with a broad mandate in the areas of community, regional, and economic development. Since its inception, the CDI has worked with communities across the northern and central regions of British Columbia to develop and implement strategies for economic diversification and community resilience.

Dedicated to understanding and realizing the potential of BC's non-metropolitan communities in a changing global economy, the CDI works to prepare students and practitioners for leadership roles in community and economic development, and to create a body of knowledge, information, and research that will enhance our understanding and our ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation. The Community Development Institute is committed to working with all communities – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to help them further their aspirations in community and regional development.



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