



# Community Connections

*The UNBC Community Development Institute Newsletter*

*Winter 2014: Volume 10, Number 1*

## Cumulative Impacts Forum

On January 10-11, the Health Research Institute (HRI), the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi), and the Community Development Institute (CDI) hosted a forum examining the cumulative environmental, community, and health effects of multiple natural resource developments in northern British Columbia. This event was moderated by the CDI's Co-Directors Greg Halseth and Marleen Morris.

The event commenced on Friday with a panel discussion on cumulative impacts from health, First Nations, and environmental perspectives. The three speakers were Cathy Ulrich of the Northern Health Authority, Kathy Lewis of the UNBC Ecosystem Science & Management Program, and Chief Ellis Ross of the Haisla First Nation. On Saturday, UNBC faculty addressed the issue from three perspectives: Mike Gillingham and Chris Johnson on environment, Greg Halseth on community, and Margot Parkes on health and well-being. These speakers were followed by community representatives – Fort St. John Mayor Lori Ackerman, John Disney (Old Massett), and Lana Lowe (Fort Nelson First Nation) – who provided insight from first-hand community experience. Saturday afternoon was devoted to small group discussions on health, community, environment, and integration. The highlights of these conversations were shared with the broader audience.

Speaking to the value of the forum, Mackenzie Mayor Stephanie Killam said “The opportunity to network, ask questions, probe into issues, and participate in discussions were many and I appreciated the forthrightness and feeling that went into each presentation. I look forward to the opportunity to attend such a forum again.”

## New Realities, New Relationships: Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation National Conference

The CDI will be hosting the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's annual conference, coming to Prince George September 25-27, 2014. The CRRF conference brings together professionals and academics from across Canada to exchange information and ideas.

**New Realities, New Relationships** will focus on the need for new responses, policies, tools, capacities, and relationships to respond to the opportunities and challenges emerging in rural Canada. The conference will host a series of panels and workshops on topics such as:

- Labour mobility and workforce camps in the resource sector
- Collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities
- Economic development and diversification
- Service delivery in rural communities

This will be an opportunity to highlight rural issues to the broader provincial and national audience.

The conference program will include two tours of the region: one of Prince George and the other of the Ancient Forest Trail, Mt. Robson, and the Robson Valley, as well as evening social events.

Watch for further announcements including registration information and a call for presentations at [crrf.ca](http://crrf.ca) and [unbc.ca/cdi](http://unbc.ca/cdi).

**Save the date: September 25-27, 2014**

## Community Development Manager at the CDI

The Community Development Institute is pleased to welcome David Loewen as the new Community Development Manager. David brings to the CDI extensive experience working in northern BC, especially with Aboriginal communities. He has led complex and diverse community projects and has developed community-based and community/industry partnerships. Prior to joining the CDI, David worked with the College of New Caledonia and as an independent consultant.

David was born and raised on Haida Gwaii. He has a Bachelor of General Studies (Business Administration specialization) and a Masters of Arts in Integrated Studies.

## BC Natural Gas Workforce Strategy Committee: Study of Best Practices in Rotational Work Practices

British Columbia is on the cusp of significant investment in natural gas activity. As industry expands, its first choice is to hire locally. However, the labour supply/demand research conducted by the BC Natural Gas Workforce Strategy Committee indicates that industry will need to use various sourcing strategies, including fly-in/fly-out work arrangements for permanent work.

The CDI will be working on a project to identify best practices around rotational work practices that have been implemented in other regions, such as Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Australia, and lessons learned from different types of labour practices. This information will then be used to help industry and communities maximize the benefits and minimize the risks associated with various forms of workforce sourcing strategies.

## You-nity (Youth + Community) Talks Volunteering

The CDI co-hosted this fun and engaging chat between young people and community organizations on what makes volunteering a meaningful experience for youth. This event was part of the Setting the Stage project, offered by the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George.

## CDI Spring Speakers Series

The CDI's Community Speakers Series sponsors talks on topics that are important and relevant for northern BC. The goal is to share information and encourage dialogue within and among communities. Talks are held in the spring and fall, are open to everyone, and are free of charge. **Watch for announcements on this spring's Speakers Series at [unbc.ca/cdi](http://unbc.ca/cdi).**

## Free Webinars

### *Citizen Series Webinar: 'Too Much of a Good Thing? Social Impacts of Rapid Industrial Growth in Rural Communities*

Join BC Healthy Communities and Northern Health for a dialogue on the factors that will improve health outcomes for people in northern BC (April 24). Register at [bchealthycommunities.ca](http://bchealthycommunities.ca).

## Workshops

### *Nineteenth National Congress: Rural Education in Canada – The Changing Reality of Rural Schools*

These discussions will focus on bullying, mental health, hunger, classroom diversity, and the effects of social media. Keynote presenters include the CBC's Ian Hanomansing, who will present 'Events Shaping Our World', and UBC's Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, who will speak on developing resiliency and optimism in today's youth (March 30-April 1 in Saskatoon). Register at [www.usask.ca/education/ruraled/](http://www.usask.ca/education/ruraled/).

### *Champions for Change: Leading a Backbone Organizations for Collective Impact*

This three-day workshop will help leaders of backbone organizations strengthen their abilities to bring together various sectors for effective dialogue, facilitate collaboration between these groups, and implement action plans (April 1-3 in Vancouver). Go to [tamarackcommunity.ca/champions-for-change.html](http://tamarackcommunity.ca/champions-for-change.html) for more information.

## The Community Development Institute at UNBC

The Community Development Institute at 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 economic and community development, and creating a body of knowledge, information, and research that enhances our understanding and our ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation.

In keeping with the vision of the University of Northern British Columbia, the Community Development Institute is committed to working with all communities – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – to help them further their community and regional development aspirations.

For more information contact: Marleen Morris, Co-Director by phone at 250 960-9806 or email at [marleen.morris@unbc.ca](mailto:marleen.morris@unbc.ca) or visit our website at [www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute](http://www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute)