

**Community Development Institute
Community Speakers Series: Spring 2012
Speakers Biographies**

Topic: Building for the future: Foundations for sustainable prosperity

Panel Speakers



Jack Wong

**Chief Executive Officer
Real Estate Foundation of BC**

Jack Wong is the Chief Executive Officer of the Real Estate Foundation of BC, which funds non-profit organizations improving real estate and land use practices in British Columbia. With a focus on leading learning and aligning resources, the foundation plays a pivotal role in connecting people and organizations with resources, and with one another, to share knowledge that will help make BC communities more sustainable.

Prior to his CEO appointment in February 2011, Jack was with the Vancouver Board of Trade for ten years, most recently as Assistant Managing Director, Finance & Administration and formerly as Comptroller and Director of Administration. Jack has also worked as project controller for major real estate development projects in Greater Vancouver. He is a certified member and fellow of the Society of Management Accountants of British Columbia (FCMA) and holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Business Administration from the University of British Columbia.

Jack's volunteer involvement includes the Vancouver Chapter of CMA British Columbia, Canadian Society of Association Executives, Vancouver Police Foundation, Richmond Museum Society, and the University of BC's Sauder School of Business as an MBA student mentor. He is a fellow of the Ford Foundation's Regional Sustainable Development Program, member of Lambda Alpha International, and associate member of the Real Estate Institute of BC. During the latter part of his time at the Board of Trade, and immediately preceding his appointment as CEO, Jack served on the Real Estate Foundation's board of governors.



Craig Crawford
Vice President of Operations
BC Housing

In his current role as Vice President of Operations, Craig brings more than 20 years of experience in the development of a wide range of housing projects in partnership with the non-profit sector.

For the past six years, Craig has been the Vice President of BC Housing's Development Services Branch. During that time, Craig and his team worked with non-profit societies to deliver more than 10,000 affordable housing units across the province. Craig recently spearheaded the Strengthening the Social Housing initiative that resulted in the development of several tools to enable non-profit housing providers to deliver projects more effectively.

Craig holds a Masters in Business Administration from Simon Fraser University and is the executive sponsor of BC Housing's Leadership Development Program.



Mitchel Chilcott
Chief Executive Officer
North Peace Savings & Credit Union

As CEO of North Peace Savings and Credit Union with branches in Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, and Fort Nelson, Mitchel's primary responsibility is to lead 90 staff in achieving the Mission Statement on behalf of the credit union's 11,000 members. The Mission Statement is: "We are a sound, co-operative, financial institution that encourages the success and well-being of our member-owners, staff and community".

With 25 years of banking experience, all of which as been in rural based communities in Western Canada, Mitchel has witnessed first-hand the impacts of economic cycle highs and lows, as well as industry collapse on individuals and communities. During his 12 years in Fort St. John he has been extensively involved and responsible for North Peace Savings and Credit Union's commercial and retail lending portfolios, which are highly have dependent upon the communities' overall success.



Lorne Calder

**Chief Financial Officer
Integrus Credit Union**

Lorne started his career with the Bank of Montreal in 1978. He attended Simon Fraser University working towards an accounting designation before accepting a position with the Financial Institutions Commission working as an Auditor/Inspector/Director of Examination from 1984-1992. Lorne obtained his CMA accounting designation in 1992 and then accepted a position with Prince George Saving / Integrus Credit Union as Senior Manager Finance/C.F.O. from 1992 to present. Lorne has been an active volunteer with Prince George Hospice Society, Rotary, Prince George Chamber of Commerce, BC Chamber of Commerce, Initiatives Prince George, and many other organizations.

Lorne is a very active community volunteer, particularly with the Rotary Club. In 2011, he was named Prince George Citizen of the Year.



Bill Nicholls

**Interim Chief Executive Officer
Northern Savings Credit Union**

Bill has worked for Northern Savings Credit Union for the past 25 years in the Finance and Accounting department and currently serves in the position of Interim CEO. Northern Savings is an \$850 million credit union with four retail banking branches and three insurance agencies in northern BC, a mortgage brokering office in Victoria and a deposit agency in Langley. Bill obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at SFU and also completed the Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation. Bill was born and raised in Prince Rupert, and enjoys golf and squash. He is also very active in the local Rotary Club.



Greg Halseth

Director

Community Development Institute, UNBC

Greg Halseth is a Professor in the Geography Program at the University of Northern British Columbia, where he is also the Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies and the Director of UNBC's Community Development Institute.

His research examines regional development processes, rural and small town community development, and community strategies for coping with social and economic change, all with a focus upon the northern B.C.'s resource-based towns. The research links place-based and new regionalism theories with the practice of local development in a northern resource hinterland. At the Community Development Institute his work has included a wide range of community-based studies in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal places, the creation of a community transition toolkit, a large number of services studies looking at the needs of youth and seniors, housing research, a number of economic and community development studies, research on the voluntary sector and community capacity issues, and the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project.



Don Manson

Coordinator

Community Development Institute, UNBC

Don Manson is an Adjunct Professor in the Geography Program at the University of Northern British Columbia, where he is also a Research Associate on the Canada Research Chair's Rural and Small Town Studies Team and the Coordinator of UNBC's Community Development Institute. Don received his Masters Degree in Political Science from UNBC in 1997. Working with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, Don has been involved in a large number of community based projects, including the creation of a community transition toolkit, a number of services studies looking at the needs of youth and seniors, an examination of the service industry sector in northern BC, as well as a number of economic and community development studies, community capacity issues, and the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project.

Moderator



Marleen Morris

**Associate Director
Community Development Institute, UNBC**

Marleen Morris brings to the Community Development Institute over 20 years experience in executive and senior management positions in the health, housing, and education sectors. She has also been appointed to several senior governance positions. Organizations she has been involved with include BC Housing, the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board (Vancouver Coastal Health), BC Winter Games, Vancouver City Planning Commission, United Way of the Lower Mainland, and the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. Marleen currently serves as Board President of St. James Community Services Society, one of the largest community service organizations in the province.

Over the next two years, Marleen will lead a process to grow the CDI and ensure that it remains vital and sustainable into the future. Since its inception in 2003, the CDI has built a reputation for helping communities prosper, and as a result, the need and demand for the CDI's knowledge and expertise is growing. Through this process of development, the CDI will explore how it can best continue to contribute to building strong communities and regions in BC.

Local Respondents

Fort St. John

Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
Brent Hodson, Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce
Deanne McLeod, North East Native Advancing Society

Prince George

Councillor Albert Koehler, City of Prince George
Vincent Prince, Aboriginal Business and Community Development Centre
Christy Smith, Mt. Milligan Mine
Jocelyn Fraser, Mt. Milligan Mine
Michael Kerr, Kerr Consulting

Terrace

Councillor Brian Downie, City of Terrace
Janice Paulitchke, Terrace business community
Lori Ferreira, Kitimat Child Development Centre