



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

September 23, 2005

Volume 1, Number 4

*"Northern
Strength
to
Northern
Strength."*



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Welcome

This issue completes the first year of quarterly newsletters distributed by the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. Our intention is to keep people informed concerning the developments of the CDI, as well as to connect readers with some of the individuals, groups and activities that we have been fortunate to encounter. Please contact manson@unbc.ca with any suggestions that may help improve the newsletter. We also encourage you to send in links to your projects and organisations.

The CDI at UNBC

Most of the people on the CDI's mail-out list know that the Institute is concerned with community capacity and community development. The CDI's role is to partner with communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures. The CDI can act as a repository for information, share this information through outreach, support education outreach, and undertake practical, credible, relevant research.

For more information please visit our website: www.unbc.ca/cdi

Projects

Tourism and Development Foundation Project

Part of this summer's research has included developing connections with organisations in the tourism sector. Because tourism plays an important role in Northern BC's economy, the Tourism and Development Foundation Project was created as a way to attain an understanding of opportunities and challenges the tourism sector is facing.

Interviews have been conducted with economic development and tourism actors across Northern BC, from 100 Mile House to Atlin and from the Alberta Border to the Queen Charlotte Islands. These interviews, along with structured observations, are contributing to a foundation that will support more detailed research on community economic development across the region. This project builds upon, and works in conjunction with, the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project that has been underway for the past two years.

Community Connections / Summer Travel

This summer was the third one in a row that the CDI has been involved in furthering dialogue with as many community representatives as possible throughout UNBC's service region. Both formal and informal discussions have been taking place with government, industry, labour, small business, First Nations, economic development organizations, and community groups. The purpose is to add to our knowledge of what has gone on in the past, what is going on presently, and what people feel needs to be the focus going into the future. The CDI is already beginning to develop research projects based on community needs and is continually acquiring information for its intended resource library.

This summer the CDI visited every location marked on the map on the left hand side of this page, as well as many other surrounding communities. As part of its community connections, we added a number of 'community information pages' to our website:

http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/community_information/index.html

Links

Mountain Pine Beetle

Because of the economic, social, cultural, and ecological impacts of the Mountain Pine Beetle and their relevance to communities in Northern BC, the CDI has created a new link on its website. Visit www.unbc.ca/cdi then click on *Mountain Pine Beetle Links* for a guide to Mountain Pine Beetle information available on the internet. Links include the BC Forest Service, Canadian Forest Service, COFI, BC First Nations groups & more.

Profile of the Homeless and Those 'At Risk' of Being Homeless

Researched by Ken Cross and sponsored by Quesnel's New Focus Society, the primary purpose of this project was to develop a demographic profile of people who are homeless or 'at risk' of being homeless in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. A secondary purpose was to identify services to the homeless and increase community capacity to deal with these issues. The project was funded by the Government of Canada. For an online copy of the report click here: [Homelessness Project, Quesnel](#) or visit http://www.cfquesnel.com/bank/Documents/%7b9AC00F64-51DB-4D9E-A5D0-05B8DA519F35%7d_Final%20Report%20July%2019%202005.pdf

Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association (NRAHTA)

With the current focus on tourism as an important player in economic development, we suggest checking out NRAHTA, also known as HELLO NORTH. HELLO NORTH is a non-profit, independent organization with over 100 members representing tourism related businesses, municipalities, regional districts and chambers of commerce in Northeastern British Columbia. Their mission is 'to coordinate opportunities for sustainable tourism growth and development by fostering memorable, year-round visitor experiences and promoting social and economic benefits for our members and wider community.'

For more information visit: www.hellonorth.com

2006 National Conference on CED and the Social Economy

This conference will be held March 15-18, 2006 in Vancouver, BC. Organisers of the event, hosted by Fast Track to Employment, include the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet), the British Columbia Community Economic Development Network (BCCEDNet) and the Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program (CEDTAP) – visit the CDI Links page for connections to these organisations. "Rooting Development in Community" is the title of the conference which will offer keynote speakers, site visits, workshops, plenary sessions, and networking events. With 600 participants expected to attend, sessions will relate to: Community Sustainability, Community-Based Enterprises, CED and Youth, Aboriginal CED, and Building Bridges Across Sectors. Registration begins in December.

For more information visit: <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/conference.asp>

Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations Report Economic Strategies Initiative: *Working Together to Create Sustainable Wealth*

The purpose of the NWTT economic initiative project is to plan and develop an integrated and coordinated approach to northern economic development for those First Nations of northern British Columbia comprising the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations. This strategy document can be seen as part of a process of rebuilding First Nation communities to be vibrant, prosperous, and entrepreneurial-oriented and where First Nation people will establish successful businesses and find meaningful employment.

The final report may be downloaded at <http://www.nwttgroup.com/index.html>

Institute News – CDI Speakers Series

The Community Development Institute, in partnership with communities and funding agencies, has planned to sponsor two Community Speakers a year; one in the fall and one in the spring. Experts will be invited to speak on important and relevant topics.

The first Speakers Series took place this spring on 17-18 March 2005. Dr. Sean Markey, adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Sustainable Community Development, delivered his talk "Cows in the City and Other Rural Development Strategies" first at UNBC and then in Kitimat the following day. All events were successful and provided an ideal forum for discussion.

Richard Porges, Manager of Research Services for Tourism BC, has agreed to participate in the Speakers Series this fall. His lectures, if all goes as planned, will take place on 6 October 2005 at UNBC then on 7 October 2005 in Williams Lake.

For further information please contact Don Manson at (250) 960-5018 or manson@unbc.ca