



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

March 28, 2006

Volume 2, Number 2

*"Northern
Strength
to
Northern
Strength."*

Contact us at:

Greg Halseth, acting

Institute Director

University of Northern

British Columbia

3333 University Way

Prince George, BC

V2N 4Z9

Office: New Lab 8-141
Phone: (250) 960-5826
Email: halseth@unbc.ca

Welcome

We are pleased to present the March 2006 newsletter of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about developments at the CDI. Our plan is to send these e-newsletters out to our community contacts quarterly. If you have any comments on how we can improve the newsletter, or if you have news that you would like us to include in our next edition, feel free to contact our coordinator at manson@unbc.ca

In this Edition:

- The CDI at UNBC
- Regions and Links
- Notices
- Institute News

The CDI at UNBC

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming an important partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

The Institute emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, collaboration, learning, and complementarity. Research that is undertaken balances academic credibility with practical relevance. Beyond research, the Institute is involved in outreach activities and serves as a conduit to expand local educational opportunities related to community development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/>

Regions and Links

Over the past 3 years, there has been an increasing recognition across northern BC about the need to "scale-up" in order to be successful in community and economic development work. The CDI at UNBC is involved with groups of communities, regional clusters of service providers, and sectors of independent businesses who are each working to find ways to cooperate and grow together. This is building upon a recognition that they can be more effective, efficient, and can have a bigger impact on both public policy debates and the marketplace, when they work together.

Challenges for regional collaboration include that it is a relatively new undertaking for some groups and communities, and that funding to support such efforts is not typically part of government program design. But there are many positive signs. Funding for 2 "beetle action coalitions" is now starting to roll out in the mountain pine beetle affected central interior, and the Northern Development Initiative (<http://www.nditrust.ca/about.htm>) is up and running as demonstrated through successive announcements of funding supports.

Across northern BC we have much that ties us together. Nothing demonstrates this more than our river valleys and transportation corridors. Since time immemorial, these routes have supported the trade and commerce on which our communities depend. Recent announcements regarding a new container port in Prince Rupert and a possible new pipeline terminus in Kitimat have again highlighted the importance of corridors for linking all of our communities and economies. To meet the opportunities of the 21st century world, community development will require continued support for regional and other "scaling up" activities – recognizing that we are connected to each other and the world.

Notices

The Real Estate Foundation of BC - Communities in Transition initiative has a mission is to support values based planning processes that balance social, environmental, economic, and governance concerns to address regional and local land use and conservation issues in non-metropolitan BC. To find out more, contact info@communitytransition.org or visit <http://www.communitytransition.org/about.php>

The Foundation for Rural Living (FRL) is pleased to present Vol.2, Issue 1 of "Raising Rural", a newsletter resource for rural stories, events, and news. It can be accessed at: http://www.frl.on.ca/frl/NewsAndUpdates/newsletter/2006_Jan.htm

Statistics Canada publishes a regular Aboriginal Network Newsletter. If you would like to start receiving this newsletter, please contact Mary McNeill (mary.mcneill@statcan.ca) to be put onto the email list.

**** Reminder:** We can better understand the changes our communities are working through if we have good information. May 16, 2006 is "Census Day" in Canada.

The Northern BC Economic Forum was held in Prince George from October 26 to 28, 2005. The final report, titled "From the Bookshelf to the Bottom Line", will soon be available on the CDI website at: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/>

The 4th Annual BC Rural Summit will be held April 20-22, 2006 in Osoyoos BC. The event will be held at the Sonora Community Centre and the theme is "Strengthening Links Between Rural Communities." This year's event is a joint conference of the BC Rural Summit and the BC Rural Network. For more information: <http://www.bcruralsummit.ca/>

Gaining Ground: The Sustainable Urban Development Leadership Summit, June 15-17 2006, Victoria, B.C. Canada, Contact: www.gaininggroundsummit.com

Institute News

Speaker's Series

The UNBC Community Development Institute is proud to announce the Spring Lecture in its Community Speakers Series.

Dr. Anne Hardy will be giving a free public lecture titled:

**"The Rubber Tire Market:
An Exploration of the Nature and Size of a Rapidly Growing Market"**

**Prince George, Wednesday, April 05, Room 7-158,
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, UNBC Prince George Campus**

**Village of Queen Charlotte, Monday, April 10,
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Visitor Information Centre
Co-Sponsored by the Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Centre**

**Masset, Tuesday, April 11,
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, North West Community College Campus
Co-Sponsored by the Haida Gwaii Tourism Association**

**Port Clement, Wednesday, April 12
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, Gas Plus
Co-Sponsored by the Queen Charlotte Island Chamber of Commerce**

Industry based research suggests that 1 in 13 Canadians own a Recreational Vehicle. Self drive holidays (also known as rubber tire traffic) are at unprecedented levels. However, self drive tourism has rarely been researched. Little data exists which explains what travelers are looking for, whether they differ in their travel preferences, what motivates visitors to take self drive tourism holidays, how they make decisions whilst on holiday, and their impact upon local communities. Using data collected from recent research in BC, Anne Hardy will discuss the size and nature of the self drive tourism market.

Dr Anne Hardy is a faculty member in UNBC's Resource Recreation and Tourism Program. <http://www.unbc.ca/rrt/>

For further information about the CDI, please contact: Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca or phone (250) 960-5018