



# Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

June 28, 2007

Volume 3, Number 3

*"Northern  
Strength  
to  
Northern  
Strength."*

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## Welcome

We are pleased to present the June 2007 newsletter of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. We hope that this quarterly newsletter will help to keep you informed about developments at the CDI. 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](mailto:manson@unbc.ca)

## In this Edition:

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## 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 Responses

One of the hallmarks of the increasingly connected global economy is that economic cycles and changes will be more quickly felt. This faster pace challenges the responsiveness of our senior governments and our traditional economic development tools. In 2003-2004, the CDI led the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy (NEV) Project. Outcomes included calls for more coordination and support among our northern communities, and the need for a responsive regional development support structure.

As both good and difficult economic news has challenged northern BC communities to respond over the last 3 years, we are collectively much better equipped today. Support across the north for the new port development in Prince Rupert and the airport upgrades in Prince George builds from a recognition that wise infrastructure investments will generate broad benefits. The creation of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, and the 16/97 Economic Alliance (all 'regional' initiatives with active provincial government support) are putting new tools in the hands of those closest to the ground. To these, the Northern Trust not only brings tremendous new resources, it also creates the important opportunity of adding a broader vision and sense of coordination.

For such regional development structures, the NEV project identified seven key principles:

- Institutional Stability
- Inclusive Representation
- Responsive Governance
- Clear Roles and Responsibilities
- Independent Funding

- Northern Location, and
- Complementarity with Local Action

While each of the above organizations is new, and while more can always be done, a solid start has been made across the board. These organizations, and the tools they bring, not only create solid building blocks for the future but are also important as northern BC's 'first responders' to economic opportunity and challenge.

## Notices

### Rural Development Videos

The Rural and Small Town Programme at Mount Allison University has created a video series exploring how rural and small town places are organizing to build sustainable and viable communities. The videos are available for viewing/downloading at:

<http://www.mta.ca/rstp/nrevideos>

### Aboriginal Tourism Bibliography

[http://www.unbc.ca/assets/ortm/research/at\\_bibliography\\_final.pdf](http://www.unbc.ca/assets/ortm/research/at_bibliography_final.pdf)

For more information contact: Patrick T. Maher, UNBC's Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program, Tel: (250) 960-5235, E-mail: maherp@unbc.ca

### Using Data in Aboriginal Communities

Mary McNeill, Aboriginal Communications Officer with Statistics Canada has posted the "Tools for Success: Using Data in Aboriginal Communities Final Conference Report" to the conference website at:

<http://www.toolsforsuccess.ca/>

## Institute News

Much has been written about the rise of the Service Industry sector in the North American economy. As knowledge and information become increasingly valued commodities, the need for workers in all parts of the Service Industry sector is crucial to extracting value and GDP from traditional economic sectors. A working definition of the Service Industry sector, drawn from Statistics Canada, includes:

- Goods Support (Wholesale Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, Retail Trade)
- Administrative Support (Administration, Public Administration, Management)
- Social Support (Education, Health Care, Social Assistance)
- Cultural Support (Information, Culture, Arts, Entertainment, Recreation)
- Finance Support (Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Technical)
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Waste Management and Remediation

Once funding has been confirmed, the CDI will be carrying out a project examining this labour market issue so as to identify practical responses to addressing needs in both the short and long term. Communities and Service Industry sector representatives interested in participating in this project should contact Don Manson at [manson@unbc.ca](mailto:manson@unbc.ca) or phone (250) 960-5018

## Publications Series

The CDI is proud to announce the publication of the second paper in its publication series.

*The Importance of University-Community Interaction: Community Involvement and Political Sustainability in Canada's Publicly Funded Research and Teaching System*, by Dr. Peter Adams, PC (retired MP and Professor Emeritus at Trent University).

This item will soon be on the CDI website. All of the CDI publications are made available on-line at: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/publications.html>

## Speaker's Series

In April 2007, Blair Lekstrom (MLA for Peace River South and the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development) presented the 5th edition of the CDI's Community Speaker's Series in Prince George and Burns Lake. The talks were on development priorities and opportunities for rural and small town communities.

For information on past Community Speaker's Series presentations please visit:

[http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/speakers\\_series.html](http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/speakers_series.html)

If your community would like to co-host our next Community Speaker's Series event, please contact: Don Manson at [manson@unbc.ca](mailto:manson@unbc.ca) or phone (250) 960-5018