



Community Contacts Newsletter

September 2011

Volume 7, Number 4

*“Northern Strength
to Northern
Strength.”*

Past editions of the CDI
Community Contact Newsletter
are available at:

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/newsletters.html>

Welcome

We are pleased to present the September 2011 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

In this Edition:

- The CDI at UNBC
- 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/>

Notices

Research Skill Enhancing Workshop: An Introduction to Community Based Research and Academic Grant Writing

The Rural Health Services Research Network of BC has teamed up with Northern Health to bring you a Skill Enhancing Workshop as part of the 2011 Northern Health Research Days in Prince George.

For more information visit: <http://www.rhsrnb.ca/>

Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities Initiative

The Healthy forests-Healthy communities initiative reports from the six Community Dialogue Sessions held during the week of June 20th are now available at <http://bcforestconversation.com>. The CDI is partnering to host a dialogue session in Prince George – watch for further details.

Aboriginal Policy Studies Journal

aboriginal policy studies is an online, peer-reviewed and multidisciplinary journal that publishes original, scholarly, and policy relevant research on issues relevant to Métis, non-status Indians and urban Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

The current issue is available at: <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/aps/issue/current>

IMAGINE grants

IMAGINE grants are now available, to support health and well-being initiatives. Northern Health is looking for community partners to help improve the health and wellbeing of those living, working, learning and playing in Northern BC.

For more information visit: <http://northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/HealthyLivingCommunities.aspx>

Produce Preservation Program

The Produce Preservation Program provides hands on training, curriculum and resources to teach people how to harvest, home can, dry, freeze and cold store fruits and vegetables. Produce Preservation guides, “How to” videos and other helpful resources are available at www.PreserveProduce.ca

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***“Research Having an
Impact,
People making a
Difference”***

Institute News

The CDI and Bio-Energy

For the past 6 months, the CDI has been working with a growing number of interested parties in exploring the tertiary opportunities associated with bio-energy and bio-manufacturing – specifically the potential for utilizing “waste heat” for other community purposes. A lot is happening on this topic including very productive meetings with Minister Pat Bell, a presentation to the provincial Bio-Economy Committee, and some site visits. The number of groups and organizations interested in this topic continues to grow - please stay tuned for more on this topic.

The CDI at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities’ Convention

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities’ Convention (UBCM) is a province-wide organization that represents the interests of local governments in BC. Each year it holds an annual convention. In 2010, Greg Halseth from UNBC’s CDI gave two presentations to the UBCM Convention, and he was invited back again in 2011.

Greg Halseth participated in the following sessions:

Age-Friendly Communities

With the senior population projected to double over the next 20 years, there is an immediate need for local governments to ensure that they are planning for this aging demographic. Through presentations by provincial and local government officials, this session will offer information and ideas to assist communities in determining how age-friendly they are, what can be done to make their communities more age-friendly, and what resources are available. Best practices and projects will also be shared at this session to motivate local governments to action.

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

New Forest Economy

BC’s forest economy remains a vital economic foundation for BC communities. This session looked at the opportunities that the new forest economy presents for strengthening local economies. Forest industry icon, Irving K. Barber lead our panel; joined by John MacDonald, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates and Greg Halseth from UNBC’s Community Development Institute. For more information visit: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/ubcmnfe.html>

Working ‘away’: Community and family impacts of long distance labour commuting in Mackenzie BC

In the fall of 2011, the Community Development Institute at UNBC hosted meetings with residents, service providers, businesses, volunteer groups, industry, and government in Mackenzie to talk about the impact of long distance labour commuting on community and family life. The CDI will be producing a summary report from these meetings.

For further information, please contact Greg Halseth at halseth@unbc.ca.

The Transformative Role of Voluntarism in Aging Resource Communities

In the fall of 2011, the Community Development Institute at UNBC visited Tumbler Ridge and Quesnel to talk with residents about the role of seniors and volunteer groups in supporting older residents and influence community developing in aging resource communities. An interim community report will be produced later this fall.

For further information, please contact Neil Hanlon at hanlon@unbc.ca.

Re(Defining) Poverty in Resource Dependent Rural and Small Town Places

This fall, the Community Development Institute is visiting McBride to identify how issues of rural poverty are being affected by economic, social, and political restructuring. The team will explore the unique challenges and issues facing residents in more rural and remote settings as they attempt to access supports to help them overcome poverty. An interim project report is expected later this fall.

For further information, please contact Laura Ryser at ryser@unbc.ca.

Community Speakers Series

The Community Development Institute at UNBC and the District of Mackenzie are pleased to announce that this fall’s Speakers Series speaker is Dr. Glen Schmidt, Associate Professor and Acting Chair, the School of Social Work at the University of Northern British Columbia. Glen’s talk is entitled; **“The Social Aspects of Rapid Economic Growth”** The Talks will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 08, at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre, Mackenzie and 7:00 pm, Wednesday, November 09 at the Prince George Campus of the University of Northern BC.

If your community would like to co-host our next Community Speaker's Series event, please contact: Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca