



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

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*"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 July 2008 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

Reversing the Tide: Strategies for Successful Rural Revitalization

This conference, to be held in Prince George October 6-8, 2008, will share strategies for successful rural revitalization. For more information and to register for the conference please visit: www.civinfo.bc.ca/Conference/ruralrevitalization.asp.

Institute News

'North First' Community Dialogue Project

The purpose of this project is to conduct community-based interviews in UNBC's service region. Across community landscapes that are experiencing increasing pressures from social, demographic, economic, and political change, part of UNBC's mandate is to provide need education and research services. This project is being undertaken at the request of UNBC's Vice-President and Provost as part of an initiative to better connect UNBC's activities with the needs of its service region. Two basic questions drive the interviews; "what do our communities need to know?" and "what would they like the university to do?"

Community interviews was completed this past winter and spring. We would like to thank all of the community members who took time participate. A draft of this report will be completed soon.

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

Northern British Columbia Service Industry Sector Study

Project Objectives:

The objective of the project is two fold:

- 1) to use information from a cross-section of northern communities to identify labour issues in the Service Industry sector in northern BC,
- 2) to draw upon the participation of Service Industry sector employers to identify and develop practical strategies for dealing with labour issues in northern BC's Service Industry sector over the short and long term.

Round One of the community interviews was completed earlier this spring. We would like to thank all of the community members who took time to participate.

The "Extracting the Values Report" and the "Population Report" have now been completed and are available at: <http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

A draft of the "Quantifying the Problem" report will be completed by late summer.

The second round of community interviews/roundtables will be conducted this fall. Input from these interviews/roundtables will be used for the "Solutions" report.

Communities and Service Industry sector representatives interested in participating in this project should contact Don Manson at manson@unbc.ca or phone (250) 960-5018

Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop

Within all developed economies we find that rural and small town communities are experiencing considerable change. They are changing as a result of resource industry restructuring, demographic aging and youth out-migration, the restructuring of both public and private sector services, and the ongoing implications of urbanization. Within this context, communities and policy makers are working to meet challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. To be effective, both local and public policy decision makers need a clear understanding of the pressures driving change, the opportunities inherent in such changes, and the creative responses of similar rural and small town areas. To this end, the Community Development Institute at UNBC and the Enterprise Program at Simon Fraser University co-hosted the "Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop" May 15-16 at the UNBC Prince George Campus.

The workshop brought together community leaders, economic development officers, federal and provincial civil servants, and twenty-three rural and small town scholars from eight OECD countries to discuss possibilities about what our next rural economies will look like.

An edited book, with chapters contributed by the participating scholars, is in the works.

We would like to thank the community participants for their valuable input which made the workshop such a success.

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

Trusts Governance Review

At the request of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, the CDI completed a review of various regional trusts within BC and around western North America. Products included a summary of key features and issues faced by each of the reviewed trusts. A 'Trusts Review' report summarizes information on over 17 regional trusts, while a 'Trends Report' outlines emerging issues in the structure and organization of trust governance.

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

Speaker's Series

The CDI is pleased to announce that the fall 2008 Community Speaker's Series event will be held in Prince George and McBride in October. Kathy Lewis, Chair of Ecosystem Science and Management at UNBC, will be our speaker.

For information on past Community Speaker's Series presentations please visit: 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 or phone (250) 960-5018