



Community Contacts Newsletter

March 2012

Volume 8, Number 2

*“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 March 2012 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

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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 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

EnergyConnect 2012

EnergyConnect 2012 Conference, April 27, 2012, Prince George, BC.

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

BC Community Forest Association Conference and AGM

Kaslo, BC, May 23 – 26. For more information visit:

http://www.bccfa.ca/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=219:plan-to-attend-the-2012-bccfa-conference-and-agm

7th BC Rural Communities Summit 2012

A joint conference of the BC Rural Network and Community Futures Boundary, June 7 – 9, 2012, Grand Forks, BC

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

Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities - 2011 Activities Summary Report

For More information visit: <http://bcforestconversation.com/>

OBAC puts CDI's Community Transition Toolkit online

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

Institute News

Marleen Morris new CDI Associate Director

UNBC's Community Development Institute has been there when communities have needed them, and the CDI wants it to stay that way. To ensure that the CDI remains vital and sustainable for the future, the Institute will expand its vision and capacity, and has hired Marleen Morris as Associate Director to lead that process.

For more information visit: http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/associate_director.html

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

2012 Community Visits

CDI Coordinator, Don Manson, will be visiting communities throughout BC this summer and fall. For a schedule of his visits: http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/community_visits/index.html

If you would like Don to meet with your community or organization please contact him at: manson@unbc.ca

Tracking the Social and Economic Transformation Process in Kitimat

When industrial investments come to small communities, the local social impacts can be significant and transformative. The town of Kitimat has been an industrial centre in northwestern British Columbia since the early 1950s. The town is now experiencing a large number of industrial construction projects that will change and renew the local economy and the community. This project involves a long-term tracking study of the economic and social transformation now getting underway in Kitimat.

For more information contact: Greg Halseth, Halseth@unbc.ca

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 Part One report is available at: http://www.unbc.ca/assets/cdi/research/111114_ldlc_final_summary_report.pdf

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.

Project reports include:

[Dimensions of Voluntarism in Aging Resource Towns: Preliminary Scan of Quesnel, BC](#)

[Dimensions of Voluntarism in Aging Resource Towns: Preliminary Scan of Tumbler Ridge, BC](#)

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

Re)Defining poverty in resource dependent rural and small town places

Based on a pilot study in the McBride region, this project explores how key factors, attributes of place, and institutional processes affect low income rural households. This includes exploring interactions between households and service support networks to develop a greater understanding of emerging issues for households in small communities undergoing intense economic and service change.

- [Pilot Study Summary Report](#)
- [A Review of Socio-Economic Characteristics in Robson and Canoe Valleys](#)
- [Methodology Report](#)

For more information contact: Greg Halseth, Halseth@unbc.ca

Clearwater Age-Friendly needs assessment project

In this project, the CDI will work in partnership with the District of Clearwater. Work will include one on one interviews, meetings with stakeholders, an Age-Friendly needs assessment survey, the creation of an inventory of the services, programs and initiatives that currently exist.

For more information please contact: Don Manson, manson@unbc.ca

Community Speakers Series

The Spring Speakers Series 2012 will explore how resource-dependent communities and regions can build the foundations of sustainable prosperity. The goal is to illustrate how communities can create a stronger future by taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to community and economic development.

The talk will consist of two elements: a panel presentation and a response from local representatives.

These public talks will be held in

- **Fort St. John on Monday, April 23, at the Pomeroy Sports Centre,**
- **Prince George, Wednesday, April 25, room 7-152, UNBC campus**
- **Terrace on Thursday, April 26, Room 103, UNBC Terrace Campus**

All talks start at 7:00 pm.

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

Past Community Speakers Series presentations are available at:

http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/speakers_series.html