



2007 Columbia Kootenay Boundary CED Forum Report

Growing Communities One Idea at a Time

June 18 – 19, 2007
Prestige Inn, Nelson BC



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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| CED Practitioner's Forum..... | 4 |
| Agenda..... | 9 |
| List of participants..... | 10 |

Introduction

About 40 Community Economic Development (CED) practitioners from across the Columbia Kootenay Boundary came together at the Prestige Lakeside Inn Resort in Nelson, BC for the CED Practitioner's Roundtable on Monday, June 18th, 2007.

On Day 2 of the CED Forum, more than 60 leaders, CED practitioners and those interested in the social, economic and environmental welfare of our region came together to hear presentations from across the province on innovative programs and opportunities. A link to copies of these presentations can be found at: www.futures.bc.ca.

The forum was sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust and the five Community Futures of the Columbia Kootenay Boundary. The Province of B.C. and the Leadership and Management Development Council of B.C. were also sponsors. The reporting was provided by CIEL, The Center for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Practitioner's Roundtable – June 18th, 2007

About 40 Community Economic Development (CED) practitioners from across the Columbia Kootenay Boundary came together at the Prestige Lakeside Inn Resort in Nelson, BC for the CED Practitioner's Roundtable on Monday, June 18th, 2007. In addition to a number of networking activities, groups were asked to respond to a number of questions. This report summarizes the major themes put forward during the roundtable session.

EMERGING TRENDS IN COMMUNITIES

Loss of rural lifestyle

- Big City people bringing "Big City" attitude/life style demands
 - Balancing development with retaining community character
 - Work/life balance

Demographics

- Black windows (second home buyers not living in homes most of year)**
- More people (e.g. Albertans, Lower Mainlanders) moving to area (rather than East Kootenay or Okanagan)
- Decreasing birth rate on school population
- Youth out-migration
- More residents choosing to retire in home town

Aging Population

- Affordable and available seniors housing
- Health care and services for growing senior population
- Training – succession planning for Baby Boomer retirement

Infrastructure

- State of Hwy #1
- Winter road conditions
- Rising cost of fuel
- Broadband – speed of change, dependence on a few experts, etc.
- Change in traffic flow

Housing/Real Estate

- Affordable Housing***
- Vacation rentals
- Demand for workforce housing
- Lack of rental housing stock

Employment/Labour

- Trouble Retaining Workers (employee incentives)
- Shorten business hours due to workforce
- Training – succession planning for Baby Boomer retirement
- Increase in Entrepreneurship (people want to stay for lifestyles, they need to create themselves employment)
- Labour Shortage and Skill Shortage (already happening in East Kootenay, businesses closing, etc)***

Economy

- Exchange rates
- Food Security
- Efficient organizations
- Hidden businesses (how do we reach them? Impact on municipal taxes)
- Home based business
- Fears around forestry industry dependence

Other

- Childcare as a major component of economy
- Generation Xers don't volunteer
- Capacity building for single parent families
- Knowledge loss
- Volunteer shortages

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Demographics

- Demographic shift (baby boomers retiring, etc)
- Immigration and our region
- No immigrant support
- Demographic change

Infrastructure

- Air access – reliability and cost
- Access to High speed internet (Slocan, Salmo)
- Support for home/small business (high speed internet access)
- Intercommunity transport**

Housing/Real Estate

- Affordable Housing***
- Fear of change (developments)
- Supportive Housing for homeless
- Barriers to change re: Housing (e.g. secondary suites)

Employment/Labour

- Skills shortage/labour shortage***
- Minimum wage – ability of small business to offer attractive incentives
- Attracting qualified professionals
- Attracting skilled labour
- Community attractive, but no employment

Economy

- Pine Beetle spin-off on log supply for local mills
- Mill closure (Meadow Creek – 125 workers)
- Residual debt from cost of education
- Lack of industry – diverse economy
- Second Home buyers – loss of community, they bring their goods with them, do not buy local**
- Balancing economic and environmental interests
- Succession planning for business owners (overpriced and no buyers)

Social

- Lack of daycare spaces**
- Financial stability for social services
- Program delivery – disconnect with front line
- Access to health care
- Demand for growth in recreation services
- Burnout of community leaders

Environment

- Climate change, air quality
- Sustainable community development – lack of capacity
- Urban wildfire management

Other

- Managing growth
- Urbanization
- “template” mentality (same solutions can work for different communities)
- Regionalism – working together
- Better collaboration between private, public and non-profit sectors

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

Education/Training

- MIR Centre for Peace
- George Penfold – Innovation Chair**
- Green Building (COTR and Selkirk courses)
- Trades training in High Schools

- CIEL Leadership Program (Leading Communities BC)
- Innovative training programs: Celgar, Tech Cominco Learning Centre, TILMA (note: investments risky because of open economy, people get training then move on)
- Kootenay Career Development – program for retiring/aging workers
- Centre of Excellence
- Marketing tool for pre-training of Olympics (Bid Book – Boundary CF)
- Initiative for Industry for skills training
- Skills Centre – support for social enterprise and exploring needs of immigrant workers
- Selkirk College involvement in Community

Partnerships

- Business/Social Sector partnerships
- Nelson Senior Housing Collaboration
- East Kootenay is forming a regional economic development partnership
- NEDP – co-operation vs competition**
- Greater Trail – Lower Columbia Community Development Team
- Kaslo – multi-sector community committees
- Nelson Economic Development Partnership – bridging industry sectors (e.g. hockey and arts)

Social Planning

- Social Planning Action Network (SPAN) in Nelson
- Getting new residents involved in volunteerism (new resident survey in Nelson)
- Ktunaxa First Nation Broadband, Language programs
- Affordable Housing Study (several communities including Nelson)
- Nelson Committee on Homelessness
- Canadian Society for Social Development (Kay Ryan)
- Revelstoke budget for social issues
- Integrated planning (Rossland, Revelstoke)

New Innovative Businesses/Organizations

- Sparwood Biodiesel Company
- Revelstoke Mountain Resort
- Community Health Co-op** (Nelson)
- Kootenay Co-op Radio (Nelson)
- Rideshare/Car co-op
- Eat Local Challenge – this August in Nelson
- Social Enterprises/ Co-ops (e.g. Kootenay Boundary Coop Resource group, Community Health Co-op, Right Stuff)
- Community Forest growth* in region
- Housing society in Castlegar
- Pacific Coastal Air (Trail, Cranbrook)

- Grandview Seniors Housing Co-op
- Local Caribou recovery centre for community voice

Business Strategies

- Innovation Council (East Kootenay)
- Invest Kootenay** (www.InvestKootenay.com)
- Award for Innovative businesses
- Access to capital – linking people to resources – Southern Interior Trust
- Retail strategy in Revelstoke
- Trail – Succession planning
- CBT benchmarks & indicators
- Growing entrepreneurial spirit (CF – SE program, high number of business licences in Nelson, CF/CIEL partnership for innovative community organization & community entrepreneur awards)
- Leadership BC (Cranbrook)
- Sharing info – Peer mentor program for businesses
- Christina Lake - plan to proceed with interpretive centre
- Manufacturing/Technology study

Other

- Native Plant landscaping
- Local plants and trees – timber framing industry
- Nelson Hydro
- CFDC & CD & COC Models (Revelstoke and Nelson)
- Amalgamation of community gov't
- Balfour Chamber of Commerce
- CF Directors – reps on other boards
- Employees' market (employers need to change, there is a disconnect between employers and employees)
- 95% of land is crown – 1% on the market would drop land prices
- CFDC – Youth outreach – focus groups – goal to connect youth and businesses
- Charitable capacity for NGO's (e.g. proposal writing)
- OCP reviews
- Strong economy
- Alternate energy projects
- “black window” phenomenon creates need to explore different tax structure
- Music festivals (e.g. Nakusp, Revelstoke each night throughout the summer)

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Agenda

Pre Forum Event – Economic Practitioners Roundtable - June 18, 2007

- 1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Introductions
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Presentations – Bob Ivison – CBT State of the Basin, Jim Cameron - Ministry of Economic Development, George Penfold - Selkirk Regional Innovation Chair
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Networking Break
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. CED Round Table

Community Economic Development Forum - June 18, 2007

- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Registration & Networking Reception

Community Economic Development Forum - June 19, 2007

- 8 – 8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome
- 8:45 – 10:15 a.m. CED Dilemma Exercise
- 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30 – 11:30 p.m. Olympics: Rural Opportunities – Brian Krieger, 2010 Commerce Centre
- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. Asian Pacific Opportunities - Thomas Tam, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Guest Speaker – Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Provincial Nominee Program - Jim Cameron, Ministry of Economic Development
- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. BC Skills Project – Ron Trepanier, Leadership and Management Development Council of BC
- 2:15 – 3:00 p.m. HR Trends in Small Business – Shirley McPherson
- 3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Networking Break
- 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Community Leadership Project – Mike Stolte, CIEL
- 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. Wrap-up

Participants

Alec Dergousoff, Community Futures Central Kootenay
Amy Ambrosone, Columbia Basin Trust
Ann Harvey, MP Alex Atamanenko's Office
Anni Holtby, Selkirk College
Barb Williams, Community Futures Central Kootenay
Barry Auliffe, Selkirk College
Bob Ivison, Columbia Basin Trust
Bob Wright, Community Futures British Columbia
Brent Irving, Carmichael, Toews, Irving Inc.
Brent Holowaychuk, Finley's
Brian Baker, Creston Valley Economic Development Commission
Brian Krieger, 2010 Commerce Centre
Brian Uliana, Western Economic Diversification Canada
Cara-Lee Malange, Selkirk College
Christine Schmidt, Nelson & District Youth Centre
Darryl Willoughby, Community Futures Revelstoke
Dawn Lang, Kaslo Chamber of Commerce
Debra Wozniak, Community Futures Revelstoke
Denise Chernoff, Selkirk College
Derek Murphy, Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission
Gary McCandlish, Community Futures Central Kootenay
George Penfold, Selkirk College
Gord McAdams, City of Nelson
Gregg Berg, Kootenay Aboriginal Business Advocate Society
Ian Thomas, Community Futures Greater Trail
Jan Morton, Greater Trail Community Skills Centre
Jenny Henri, CIEL and West Kootenay Women's Community Economic Development Council
Jenny Hide, Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL)
Jerry Schmidt, Community Futures Greater Trail
Jim Cameron, Ministry of Economic Development
Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust
Judy Wray, Selkirk College
Kathi Thompson, Leadership & Management Development Council of BC
Keri Rinehart, Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council
Kevin Cormack, City of Nelson
Kevin Weaver, Ministry of Economic Development
L.K. Myhra, Heritage Credit Union
Larry Bomak, Heritage Credit Union / Castlegar Chamber
Lisa Erven, Community Futures Central Kootenay
Lynda Lafleur, Columbia Basin Trust
Maibrit Sorensen, Youth Employment Resource Centre
Margaret Maximenko, Community Futures Boundary
Michele Cherot, Greater Trail Community Skills Centre

Mike Stolte, Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL)
Nikki Bradshaw (Fyfe), Community Futures East Kootenay
Pamela Clausen, Community Futures Central Kootenay
Paul Wiest, Community Futures Central Kootenay
Ramona Mattix, Regional District of Central Kootenay
Rob Gay, Community Futures East Kootenay
Ron Perepolkin, Community Futures Greater Trail
Ron Trepanier, Leadership & Management Development Council of BC
Shirley McPherson
Thomas Tam, SUCCESS
Todd Kettner, Summit Psychology Group
Tom Thomson; Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce
Tracey Boyd, Community Futures Boundary
Wayne Lundeberg, Columbia Basin Trust
Wendy McCulloch, Community Futures Boundary