

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2006

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2006 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2006.

Background:

The mission of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is to support the research, information, and development needs of Northern BC's rural and small town communities as they adjust to change in the new economy. The CDI is interested in two fundamental issues for northern BC's communities: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting community outreach, the CDI is becoming a vital partner to communities interesting in making informed decisions about their own futures.

Under changing social and economic conditions, communities need the capacity to respond. Community capacity refers to:

the ability of residents to organize their assets and resources to achieve objectives they consider important. These objectives may be reactive, where people are faced with a challenge, or innovative, where new visions are established and pursued. Community capacity is built and maintained by the norms, traditions, regulations, and social relationships enabling otherwise disparate individuals to co-ordinate their actions for collective ends.

To enhance this capacity requires community development. In a general sense, community development concerns:

improvements to local social and cultural infrastructure. It is most often identified with increasing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of residents to access information and resources and to then use these tools to create strategies and partnerships which can take advantage of changing circumstances.

The three foundations of the Community Development Institute at UNBC are:

- Research
- Education
- Outreach

The Annual Report is organized under each of these foundations.

Research

The Community Development Institute at UNBC maintains a clear focus upon research. Its goal is to balance both applied and basic work so as to maintain academic credibility and to be of practical relevance to communities. Copies of all completed project reports have been sent to community partners, funding agencies, the Weller Library at UNBC, and most local government/band offices and public libraries in places where the research was carried out. Reports and other research information are also placed on the CDI website (www.unbc.ca/cdi) as an integral part of our mission to share research widely across northern BC. Additionally, summaries of projects are also noted in the CDI Newsletters, which are published quarterly and distributed across northern BC via email.

Projects

From Planning to Action: Reconciling Community Development Strategies with Regional Assets and Infrastructure 2005-2006 COMPLETED

The purpose of this project was to produce information that will help to overcome a persistent barrier in economic development planning: the gap between planning and implementation. Across northern BC, people have told the research team that their communities are frustrated by being “studied to death” while not seeing their efforts translated into viable action. The findings, and ongoing research associated with the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, illustrate that there are two significant gaps that contribute to this impasse: 1) community economic development options, plans, and strategies fail to adequately address and integrate the capabilities and capacities of the local and regional infrastructure and assets; and 2) proposed strategies fail to adequately comprehend or consider practical questions of competitive advantage, on their own and in association with a more regional approach. The project used a case study approach in the Terrace region to explore this gap between planning and implementation.

Fort St. John and Area Seniors’ Needs Overview 2006 Continuing

The purpose of this project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the City of Fort St. John, Peace River Regional District Area C, and the District of Taylor (the Study Area). The work will be carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC from May 2006 until December 2006 with the goal to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local planning and infrastructure investments.

Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Overview 2006-2007 Continuing

From August 2006 to April 2007, the CDI will be working with the Peace River Regional District to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the areas outside of Fort St. John, Electoral Area C, and the District of Taylor. The purpose is to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local

Industry Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada	Tourism and Development Foundation Project	\$18,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Don Manson, Anne Hardy, Pam Wright
UNBC Northern Landuse Institute	Tourism and Development Foundation Project	\$18,000	2005-2006	Greg Halseth	Don Manson, Anne Hardy, Pam Wright

Reports

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006). Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: Project Report. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006). Innovative Services and Voluntary Organizations: Executive Summary Report. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada: A Cross-Canada Summary Report. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places: A Report for Mackenzie, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G. and Ryser, L. (2006) Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places: A Report for Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Kusch, K., Hoffman, C., and Durkee, S. (2006) Communication Tools and Resources in Rural Canada: A Report for Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Kusch, K., Hoffman, C., and Durkee, S. (2006) Communication Tools and Resources in Rural Canada: A Report for Mackenzie, British Columbia. Montreal, QC: Initiative on the New Economy, project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Concordia University.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Martin, C., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Executive Summary Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Ryser, L., Martin, C., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Methodology Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Ryser, L., Halseth, R., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Population Background and Trends Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Halseth, G., Ryser, L., Martin, C., and Hanlon, N. (2006). Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project Final Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Fall 2006

Manley McLachlan, President and CEO of the BC Construction Association, spoke in Prince George and Fort St. John to talk on the international, national, and provincial trends impacting labour in the BC construction industry.

Community Contact Newsletters

The CDI Community Contacts Newsletter is published quarterly with the goal to share information and news about community development activities.

January 2006	Volume 2 No.1
March 2006	Volume 2 No.2
June 2006	Volume 2 No.3
September 2006	Volume 2 No.4

CDI Website: ***<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/index.html>***

The CDI website is one of the key tools for collecting and communicating information about community development issues as they affect northern BC. Information on the website is organized under the following topics:

- Introduction
- Institute Description
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