

UNBC Community Development Institute

Annual Report 2007

The Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC is pleased to present its 2007 Annual Report. This report covers the period from January to December 2007.

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

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

Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Overview 2006 COMPLETED

New Rural Economy Project - Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
2003-2007 COMPLETED

Under this initiative, 15 university researchers (across Canada) joined with rural people and policy makers to help build capacity in rural Canada. The research and education projects pursued four themes relevant to rural society: communications, environment, services, and governance. The UNBC research centre focused upon services issues.

<http://crrf.concordia.ca/nre/index.html>

'Trusts Governance Review' 2007 COMPLETED

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 'Trends Report' outlined emerging issues in the structure and organization of trust governance.

Distance Education Lessons: The case of McBride - Prince George BC
2007-2008 On-going

Under the direction of visiting scholar Dr. Rosemary Raygada-Watanabe, the CDI is examining the video education linkage between McBride Secondary School and DP Todd Secondary School in Prince George. Given the challenge that rural and small town places have with providing services, it is crucial that new information technology be investigated as a possible source of assistance. This project examines the case study with a view to identifying lessons on the application of distance teaching video technologies.

Village of Old Massett Economic Development Strategy 2007 COMPLETED

The purpose of this project was to develop an economic development strategy for the village of Old Massett. The work was carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC with the goal to provide community decision-makers with information relevant to local economic development strategies. Funding for the project was through the Office of Economic Development of Old Massett Village Council. The project involved a review of existing economic development materials and an analysis of existing Old Massett economic development materials so as to create a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Village of Old Massett.

Reports

Giesbrecht, K., Craine, J. and Halseth, G. (2007) Northern Medical Program: Evaluation report of impacts on recruitment and retention. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Reschny, J. , Van De Keere, L., Hoffman, C., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Seniors' Survey Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Hoffman, C., Halseth, R., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Population Background and Trends Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC

Reschny, J. , Hoffman, C., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project: Methodology Report. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Hoffman, C., Van De Keere, L., Manson, D., Halseth, G., and Hanlon, N. (2007) Peace River

Education

The Community Development Institute hopes to enhance capacity building through educational opportunities. This includes student training, work within the university curriculum, continuing education and regional offerings, connections with the northern colleges and with specialized education and training centres, and public talks/conferences to share information.

Student trainees at UNBC

2007

Jen Craine - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Chelan Hoffman - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Kyle Kusch - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Laurel van de Keere - research assistant, continuing undergraduate at UNBC

Catherine Fraser - research assistant, graduated May 2007

Priscilla Johnson - research assistant, graduated may 2007

Alex Martin - research assistant, current graduate student at UNBC

Ros Curry - research assistant, graduate student at UBC

Training 'new researchers'

2007

Jaime Reschny – research project manager

Kelly Giesbrecht – research project manager

Anisa Zehtab-Martin – research project manager

Mary Disney – community-based researcher in Old Massett

Valine Crist – community-based researcher in Old Massett

Research Practicum Student Supervision

2007 Dawn Sather (UNBC Social Work Program)

Sheri-Lynne Bishop (UNBC Social Work Program)

Presentations

2007 Spoke on issues relating to rural poverty and rural community renewal in Canada to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, meetings held in Prince George on Monday, March 5.

“Regional Population Change in British Columbia”, Japan-UBC Conference, Vancouver, BC, 7 September 2007

Keynote speaker – Social Policy Forum – hosted by Service Canada in Vancouver, 13 June 2007.

Keynote speaker – Canadian Foundation for Innovation board meeting – hosted by UNBC in Prince George 18 June 2007.

Conference Organization:

Member of organizing committee, ‘Tier Two – Kitimat Impact Dialogue’, Kitimat, BC, October 5 2007.

Member of organizing committee, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Inuvik, NWT, May 2008.

Member of organizing committee, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Northern Workshop, Whitehorse, YT, February 2008.

CDI Community Speaker's Series

The CDI's Community Speaker's Series invites experts to talk on important and relevant topics for northern BC. The Community Speaker's Series consists of classroom lectures at UNBC, a public lecture in Prince George, and a public talk in another northern BC community. These lectures are free and open to the public.

Spring 2007

Blair Lekstrom, MLA for Peace River South and BC's Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, spoke on the development opportunities and priorities for rural and small town communities.

These public talks were held in Prince George on Monday, April 02, 2007, room 7-150 UNBC and in Burns Lake on Tuesday, April 03, 2007 room 007 at the CNC Campus.

Community partners included the Town of Burns Lake and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

Fall 2007

Dr Neil Hanlon from UNBC's Geography Program spoke on the linkages between population aging and the changing nature of health and care services. These issues are important parts of the efforts by northern BC's communities to

develop new economic opportunities by building community foundations for retaining and recruiting both residents and businesses.

Public talks were held in Prince George on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at UNBC and in Quesnel on Thursday, October 24, 2007 at the North Cariboo Community Campus.

These talks were co-hosted by The City of Quesnel, The Cariboo Regional District, and UNBC's South-Central Regional Office.

CDI Publication Series

The CDI Publication Series is a peer reviewed outlet that focuses upon invited reports on topics of relevance to the mandate of CDI and important to northern British Columbia's communities. The peer review aspect of the Series ensures that only high quality research is published.

The CDI is proud to announce the publication of the second paper in its publication series:

The Importance of University-Community Interaction: Community Involvement

Outreach

The CDI is a resource centre to which communities and decision-makers can turn in their search for timely and relevant information. It is also be a conduit through which information from outside the region is shared with communities. Building upon a strong "extension" tradition to connect research and training opportunities with community needs, and to translate best practices into applied tools, links are provided so rural and small town places can access additional information and resources. Important aspects of outreach for the CDI include support for local initiatives, our community visits, assistance with the Northern Economic Forum, our Community Contact Newsletters, and the CDI Website.

Mackenzie Dialogue Process

This past year, one of the major efforts of the CDI was to work with the District of Mackenzie in creating a community revitalization strategy. The research staff at the CDI has long experience working with the community and with local decision-makers in Mackenzie, and this current initiative builds upon the mutual trust and respect each party has forged.

On Tuesday, May 22, 2007, Canfor announced that it will indefinitely close its sawmills in Mackenzie effective mid-August. Canfor's annoohi

has been stayed, Mackenzie is continuing with the various components of its revitalization strategy to take advantage of new opportunities.

Support for Local Initiatives

- 2006 - Board membership on Prince George Aboriginal Business Development Association
- 2006 - Advisor to the Human Resources Project, Cariboo Tribal Council
- 2006 - Member of the Advisory Committee for Service Canada's 'New Horizons for Seniors' program.
- 2005 - Advisory role to Executive Director of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition.
- 2007 - Advisory role to the Tsilhqot'in Community Impact Assessment processes related to mining activity proposals within the traditional territory of the Tsilhqot'in National Government.
- 2007 Facilitated "Tier 2 Impacts Dialogue" in Kitimat on the topic of the ALCAN smelter rebuild

Community Contact Newsletters

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

Volume 3	No 1	2006	December
Volume 3	No 2	2007	March
Volume 3	No 3	2007	June
Volume 3	No 4	2007	September

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
- Annual Reports
- Community Speaker Series
- CDI Publications Series
- Northern Economic Forum
- Newsletters
- Mountain Pine Beetle Links
- Community Visits
- Institute Director
- Staff
- Research
- Information Sharing
- Links
- Contact Information

Under links, the website collects sites that may be of interest to our northern communities under the following categories

- Statistics & Data
- Governments
- First Nations
- Rural Studies Centres
- Non Governmental & Other Organisations
- Other Links
- Community Forests
- Northern BC Sites

Community Visits Schedule

Community visits form an integral part of the CDI mission. They are part of our ongoing efforts to build and grow relationships, collect and share community development information, identify new topics and issues of relevance to our community partners, and

Community Visits 2006:

February

Prince Rupert, Old Massett, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte

March

Prince Rupert, Old Massett, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte

April

Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof

May

Tatlayoko Lake, 100 Mile House, Vancouver, Williams Lake, Quesnel
Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston

June

McBride, Clearwater

July

Prince Rupert, Old Massett, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte

September

Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Whitehorse, Atlin, Dease Lake, Iskut, Stewart

October

Vermillion, Alberta, Lac La Biche, Alberta, Fort Mc Murray, Alberta, Athabasca,
Alberta, Peace River, Alberta, Tumbler Ridge, Quesnel, Kitimat

December

McBride, Valemount, Williams Lake, Quesnel