

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 8 February 2022

Good afternoon all,

Another very full update, with a number of funding opportunities that have just launched. If you want to discuss any projects or ideas or see how I can support, please get in touch.

PROMOTE YOUR EC DEC WORK

Celebrate yourself and your projects, or nominate someone else for the BC Economic Development Association's BC Economic Development Awards. These awards recognize the Province's best economic development programs, partnerships, economic reconciliation, resiliency and marketing initiatives.

Nominations close 28 February 2022. More details here:

https://www.bceda.ca/professional_awards.php

CHILDCARE

In collaboration with College of the Rockies, Kootenay Employment Services and the Childcare Resource & Referral Centre, I am hosting two webinars promoting the ECE sector within the East Kootenays and the training supports available. The aim is to increase the number of people entering the Early Childhood Education workforce. They are taking place at 6:30pm MT on Wednesday 2 March and 12:00pm MT on Thursday 3 March.

All interested attendees should register at www.bit.ly/kesece. Please promote within your networks and communities.

The graphic features a background image of children playing with colorful blocks in a classroom. Overlaid on this is the text 'Early Childhood Educator Supports Webinar' in large blue letters. Below this, a dark blue banner asks 'Have you considered starting a career in Early Childhood Education?'. The dates 'Wednesday, 02 March' and 'Thursday, 03 March' are listed, with their respective start times: 'Webinar beginning at 6:30pm (MST -7:00)' and 'Webinar beginning at 12pm (MST -7:00)'. At the bottom, it says 'to register please visit www.bit.ly/kesece' and 'Average ECE wage is \$21-\$28 per hour'.

Early Childhood Educator Supports Webinar

Have you considered starting a career in Early Childhood Education?

Join us

Wednesday, 02 March | **Thursday, 03 March**

Webinar beginning at 6:30pm (MST -7:00) | Webinar beginning at 12pm (MST -7:00)

to register please visit www.bit.ly/kesece

Average ECE wage is \$21-\$28 per hour

The BC Government also recently announced it is investing [\\$20 million in one-time grants to help licensed child care providers](#) meet the challenges of additional pandemic-related health and safety costs. Licensed providers who are open and regularly receiving provincial funding will get a grant of \$160 per space based on the facility's maximum capacity.

HOUSING

- Congratulations to the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce for their successful webinar on workforce housing that was held on 27 January 2022. If you were unable to attend, view the recording on [Employee Tenant agreements](#) from Derrick Murphy of the Columbia Valley Law Corporation and Generation Home's presentation on their [Workforce Housing development plan](#).
- The Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia have recently launched a [Housing Information Portal](#). The portal provides access to a range of information for non-metropolitan communities, in BC and Canada and includes population and housing data for more than 60 communities. [View the East Kootenay webinar](#) from late last year or check out the [presentation they did to the District of Invermere](#).
- Check out the recently released [Provincial Urban Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#).
- BC Housing have recently started their own podcast. [Take a listen here.](#)

LABOUR

- The **East Kootenay Career & Job Fair 2022** (presented by Kootenay Employment Services and College of the Rockies) has decided to go virtual again this year (1-4 March 2022). They will be recording Job Opportunity Sessions according to employment categories (i.e. Tourism, Trades, Finance, Health etc), with each recording including a maximum of five employers. With the switch to virtual costs have changed to exhibit (\$50 for a business and \$25 for a non-profit). [Registration for exhibitors is via this link](#).
 - As part of the career fair there is also a keynote speaker from 6:00-7:30pm MT on 3 March 2022. **Breaking Barriers – Deaf to Employment** is a virtual presentation & discussion with [Yat Li, from Presidents Group](#). [Register for this free keynote speaking event here](#).
- **CBT's Summer Works Program** provides **small businesses** with a wage subsidy to hire full-time high school and post-secondary students during the school summer break. Applications are now open.
- [WorkBC's Work Experience Grants](#) are now open. Grants are available to **non-profit organizations** and **federally registered charities** to provide a meaningful work experience opportunity to eligible participants throughout the province. Applications close 7 March 2022.

DATA

- Tomorrow is the last session of the [Using Data to Your Advantage webinar series](#) that I have run in conjunction with ETSI-BC. If you missed the series, or want to listen back on a particular session or view the presenters slides, [take a look here](#).
- The first release of [Census 2021 data](#) is being released tomorrow. In readiness for this StatsCan are running webinars – one was earlier today and the next one is on 10 February. Registration for the webinars or recordings once they are complete can be [found here](#).
- The [Community Information Tool](#) from the Province of BC [officially launched](#) just over a week ago. The team from Citizen Services demonstrated the tool last year at an East Kootenay webinar, and it is great to see it now officially launched. The tool aims to provide a central access point for community data, encouraging economic development and helping community planners and investment organizations.
- Selkirk Innovates are putting on a training session on creating [Successful Research Funding Proposals](#) in early April 2022. This free training would be useful for anyone looking to undertake research in the coming years.

EVENTS

In the last update (26 January 2022) I outlined the **Social Procurement** events that are being put on by BCSPi to support social procurement knowledge and implementation. I now have a promo code which makes these events FREE. [Details of the events can be found here](#) and enter **BCBEST** when choosing your ticket, **before** clicking “Check out”.

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- KAST is bringing [Investment Readiness Training to the Kootenays](#). The program is for tech startups who are ready to or already are, raising funds from investors. Applications close 28 February 2022.
- [GLOWS has coding camps](#) coming up aimed at inspiring children aged 10+ to dive into the world of computational thinking, artificial intelligence and augmented reality.
- CBT has provided financial support to a [wide range of trails across the region](#).
- The Fernie Nordic Society and Equidae Benefit Society are the two East Kootenay projects that received funding in the second round of [CERIP Destination Development funding](#).
- KORE is highlighting the [outdoor recreation sector](#) within the region at a market in Kimberley on 12 February 2022.
- Skookumchuck Pulp Mill was the only East Kootenay business to receive funding through the last round of [CleanBC Industry Fund’s third round of investment](#). The next funding round should open soon.
- The growth of [daycares in Elkford](#) has hit the news.
- KAST is looking for an [Entrepreneur Program Coordinator](#), based in Cranbrook. Applications close 21 February 2022.
- The District of Sparwood is looking for a [Coordinator for the Socio-Community and Economic Effects Advisory Committee](#) (a part-time contract role).

FUNDING

Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Fund

Applications are now open for the Active Transportation Fund from Infrastructure Canada. Applications are open for both the planning and capital funding streams and will close 31 March 2022.

There are a number of webinars in the next month that will provide information on the process of developing and submitting an application for the Active Transportation Fund. [Sign up to the webinars here.](#)

BC Hydro Community Grants Program

The application portal for BC Hydro's community grants program is now open, and closes 31 March 2022. Up to \$10,000 is available for BC non-profits, registered charities and community groups.

Grants are approved at two levels:

- Broad Impact grants provide funding of up to \$10,000 for organizations that wish to expand an existing program's reach or to deliver a new program across multiple communities in BC.
- Grassroots grants provide funding of up to \$2,000 for local community-based non-profit programs and initiatives in BC.

Projects must align with one (or more) of BC Hydro's three focus areas:

- Workforce of Tomorrow - organizations and programs with a focus on youth educational programming in the areas of trades, science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.).
- Smart Energy Ideas - organizations and programs that make a difference in their communities through the smart use of energy.
- Safety - community initiatives that focus on public safety.

UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program

This program aims to support unsheltered homeless populations and address related community impacts. The goal of this program is to support local governments and Treaty First Nations that wish to take action, understanding that this will complement parallel provincial efforts. Applications close 22 April 2022.

Real Estate Foundation of BC's General Grants

The General Grants program from the Real Estate Foundation of BC is now open and supports non-profit organizations working to advance sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate practices in British Columbia. Applications close 25 February 2022 and full details can be [found here.](#)

Co-op Community Spaces Program

This program aims to improve community health and well-being by building places for Western Canadians to come together, build social connections and enable community development. There are three funding categories: recreation, environmental conservation or urban agriculture. Applications close 1 March 2022.

Other funding options that are still open:

- [CBT Buy Local Grants](#). Open until all funds are disbursed or 11 February 2022, whichever comes first.
- [Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program, round three](#). Applications close 11 February 2022
- [Tourism Accommodation and Commercial Recreation Relief Fund](#). Applications close 14 February 2022.
- [Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies community grants](#). Applications close 15 February 2022.
- [COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant](#). Applications are open until 28 February 2022 or until funds are fully committed.
- [Innovator Skills Initiative](#). Applications close 11 March 2022.
- [CleanBC Communities Fund](#). Applications close 25 May 2022
- [Tourism Relief Fund](#). This is a continuous intake program, until all funds have been allocated.
- [Indigenous Community Business Fund](#) This is a continuous intake program, until all funds have been allocated.
- [Job and Growth Fund](#). This is a continuous intake program, until all funds have been allocated.
- [Canada Cultural Spaces Fund](#). Applications are open on an ongoing basis.