

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 24 February 2022

Good morning all,

Earlier this week the BC Government outlined their [2022 Budget](#) and last week they launched the [Stronger BC Economic Plan](#). Have you taken a look at the 6 missions outlined within the economic plan (3 for inclusive growth and 3 for clean growth)? Is your community going to link your planning with this provincial big picture?

As someone interested in measurement and data, it is good to see there are [indicators](#) to go along with the economic plan, including core housing need, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, post-secondary education, new business openings and economic diversity. People are encouraged to [share their economic priorities and ideas online](#), to help inform future policy and guide the work of the plan.

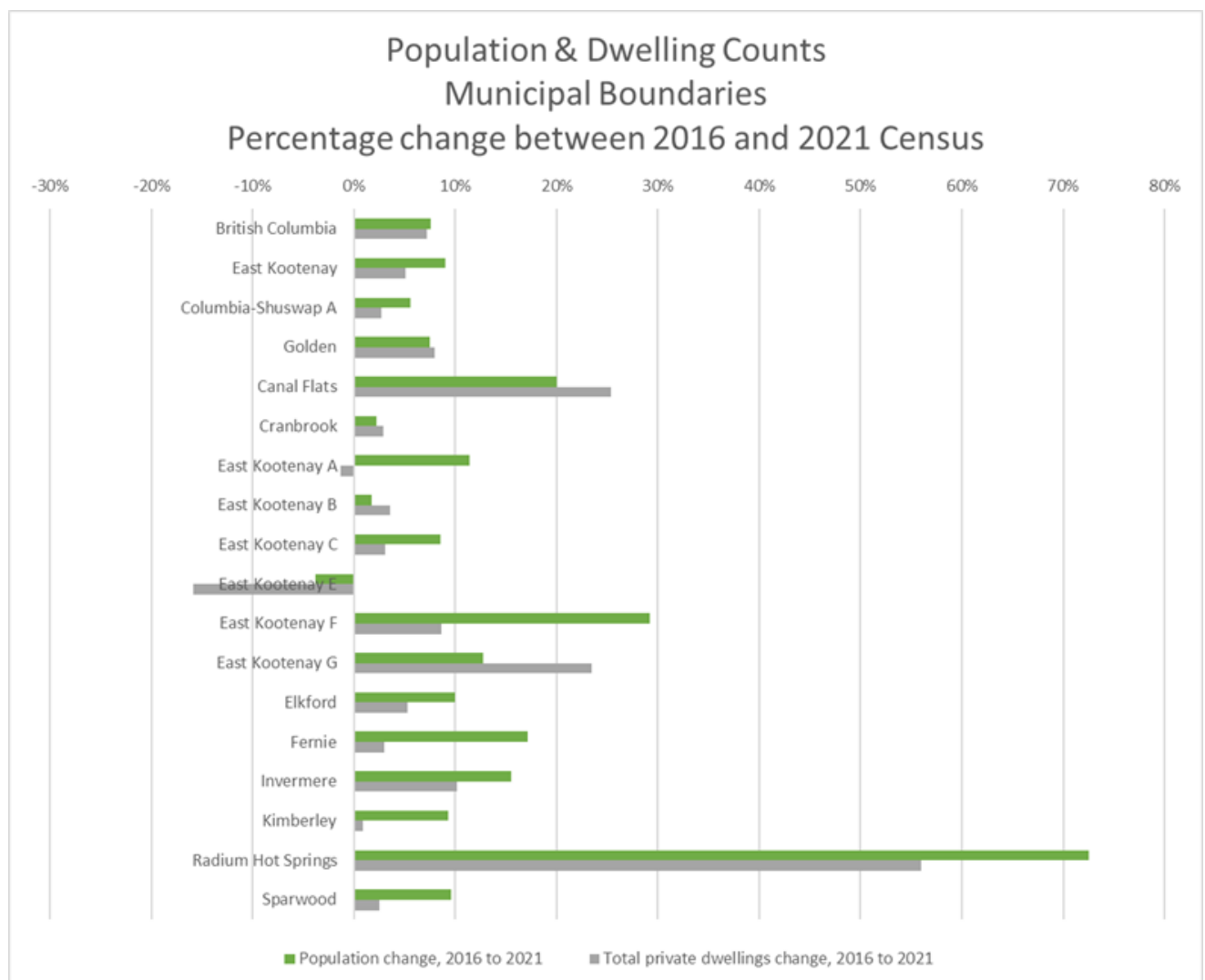
TRAINING

- [StrikeUP Canada](#) is Canada's largest online event for **women entrepreneurs**. Taking place on 3 March 2022, this FREE event is focused on growth, funding, digital adoption and global opportunities for women entrepreneurs. Please share with relevant business owners in your community.
- We (Community Future East Kootenay) are hosting a FREE **Non-Profit Board Development** series in March. The series will run from 4-6pm MT on each Monday in March (7, 14, 21 and 28 March 2022). [Registration is here](#) and please share with non-profit organizations in your community.



DATA / RESEARCH

- **Data Training.** If you weren't able to attend the data webinar series *Using Data to Your Advantage* that we ran in conjunction with ETSI-BC, a reminder that all the sessions were recorded and you can find them, along with presenters slides and a full resource of data sources [here](#).
- **Census Population Data.** For those of us data lovers, the 9th of February was a big day – the first release of Census 2021 data. What did you do with the new found information of population data for your community? What does this new data mean for you and your decision making? Jayme at [State of the Basin](#) has updated the population data for our entire region and you can take a look [here](#). For me what stood out for the region was the difference in population change compared with dwelling counts.



- **Tourism Insights.** The City of Cranbrook has TELUS Insights data for the city and the entire East Kootenay region that they have included on their [Data Portal](#) (great work Darren!). It compares 2019 data with 2021 and the changes are interesting. I personally like the monthly visitors by province graph, broken down by month.
- **Rural Community Resilience Project.** A team of researchers from the Centre of Rural Health Research would like to better understand the resilience that they have seen over the past few years in BC due to the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, heat domes and flooding. They recognize the best way to do this is through the voices of British Columbians. [The survey](#) should take no more than 30 minutes and if you wish you may be entered into a prize draw for one of five \$200 gift cards of your choice. Survey closes 27 February 2022.
- **Enhancing Rural Community Resiliency to Climate Change and Ecosystem Disruption.** This is another research project from the Centre for Rural Health Research. They are hosting a virtual community forum at 6:30pm MT on 7 March on their CCEDARR project. Anyone involved in food security or community economic development across the East Kootenays is welcome to attend this Kimberley forum to join the discussion on our emerging themes of rural community resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. [Zoom details are here.](#)

CHILDCARE

As part of the Stronger BC Economic Plan the [BC Government have committed to](#) investing in early childhood educator (ECE) recruitment and retention. In the East Kootenays we (Community Futures East Kootenay) are partnering with Kootenay Employment Services, College of the Rockies and the East Kootenay Childcare Resource & Referral Centre to promote the training supports that exist to allow more people to enter the ECE workforce. Please share these upcoming webinars with your community.



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

LABOUR

- BC's latest Labour Market Outlook [forecasts more than one million job openings in the next decade](#).
 - Nearly 80% of these future job openings will require some level of post-secondary education or training.
 - The largest number of job openings are expected in the health-care, social assistance and education industries. Many of these openings will provide services such as early childhood education, counselling, child protection and community housing and food services.
 - The latest edition of the College of the Rockies Employment and Education Forecast ([Ascend](#)) outlines what COTR are doing to address these healthcare challenges in our region. [Make sure to read it here](#).
- The BC Government outlined a [number of supports for tourism businesses](#) on the 10th of February. This included adding Human Resource specialists for two years in five tourism regions, of which Kootenay Rockies Tourism is one of those regions.

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce is [hosting townhall meetings](#) on 24 February and 2 March, centered around the uptick in petty crime, homelessness, and mental health and addictions struggles in the city.
- Teck have released [their economic impact report for the Elk Valley](#). This study measured the economic contribution of Teck's Elk Valley operations in terms of GDP, labour income, employment, and government revenue. It states that "... the Elk Valley operations' economic contribution reflected roughly 80% of the total GDP and 40% of all jobs in Southeast BC (Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie, Cranbrook), as well as created or sustained roughly 1 in 5 of all jobs in the Regional District of East Kootenay."
- Great to see that [COTR's entrepreneurial centre](#) is up and running. Well done Paul.
- [Sparwood's annual livability study survey](#) is now open (closes 10 March 2022). This study tracks changes in the quality of life in Sparwood.
- COTR are running STEM camps for kids during Spring Break. [Find out more here](#).
- Columbia Valley are hosting an in-person Job Fair on 10 March 2022. [Register to take part here](#).

FUNDING

ETSI-BC have an information session on their Spring intake on the 10 March 2022. Find out about key details of the funding intake and also celebrate their first anniversary with them. [Register here](#).

Two new funding opportunities have, or are about to open up:

[Community Gaming Grants](#). These grants are for non-profit organizations throughout BC, and are broken down by sector:

- **Arts & Culture:** Apply between 1 February and 30 April 2022.
- **Sport:** Apply between 1 March and 31 May 2022.
- **Human and Social Services:** Apply between 1 June and 30 November 2022.
- **Public Safety:** Apply between 1 July and 31 August 2022.
- **Environment:** Apply between 1 July and 31 August 2022.

[CIRA Community Investment Program](#). This grant opens on 1 March 2022 and funds innovative community internet projects. Applications will close 13 April 2022, and there is a [webinar on 8 March](#) to find out more.

Small grants (up to \$100,000) are available for:

- a) broadband infrastructure
- b) digital literacy
- c) cybersecurity and/or
- d) community leadership.

This year CIRA are focusing on:

- a) Northern, rural and Indigenous communities
- b) Students (kindergarten to grade 12 and post-secondary) projects.

Other funding options that are still open:

- [Real Estate Foundation of BC's General Grants](#). Applications close 25 February 2022.
- [COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant](#). Applications are open until 28 February 2022 or until funds are fully committed.
- [Co-op Community Spaces Program](#). Applications close 1 March 2022.
- [Innovator Skills Initiative](#). Applications close 11 March 2022.
- [Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Fund](#). Applications close 31 March 2022.
- [BC Hydro Community Grants Program](#). Applications close 31 March 2022.
- [UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program](#). Applications close 22 April 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.