

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 16 March 2022

Good afternoon all,

[ETSI-BC](#) will be opening their funding rounds on 1 April 2022 for both their [Building Economic Development Capacity](#) and [Innovating & Advancing Key Sectors](#) streams. What projects are you working on? How can I help develop the proposal? You don't need to wait until the 1st of April to start thinking about the projects – get ready well before the deadline of the 1st of May and start working on them today. Support letters are important for these funding opportunities as they show collaboration and support across the region. I am happy to write them for your projects so get in touch so I can know more and support you.

Now onto the latest CED news....

LABOUR

On 1 June 2022, the minimum wage will increase from \$15.20/hour to \$15.65/hour in BC. Check out the [news release here](#).

DATA

Canadian Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with StatsCan, is launching the Business Data Lab. This portal will provide dashboards, reports and policy briefs and aims to provide Canadian businesses with critical information to help them make better decisions and improve their performance. More details here: <https://chamber.ca/program/business-data-lab/>



We all want to live in vibrant, sustainable communities, but what does that look like? How should we measure the health and vitality of where we live? On the 30th of March I am hosting a CED Data Roundtable to look at some of the ways community & economic health is being measured in communities within the East Kootenays currently. We will also look at indicators and measures that exist provincially and federally and will start the discussion as to what we want to prioritize on measuring across our region.

Measuring Economic and Community Health in the East Kootenay Region

30 March 2022

10:00 – 11:30am MT

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87860950333?pwd=QkNTWGpWNHpuSHJmeUZkazB3aHIGZz09>

Email me if you'd like a calendar invite to this meeting for your reference.

Robyn Peel, Community Economic Development Coordinator

Email: ced@cfek.ca

CHILDCARE

- Community Futures East Kootenay produced a [short animated video](#) (thanks to Pat at Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce for his fabulous skills) to promote the Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector. We also [recorded the webinar](#) we put on in conjunction with Kootenay Employment Services, College of the Rockies and the Childcare Resource & Referral Centre which was about the supports available for training to enter the ECE sector. Please share within your communities to help promote this important sector.



- The BC Government has a Childcare Survey open at the moment. They are looking for feedback from a range of child care partners (child care providers, community service partners, school districts and child care advocates) about what you think is most critical as the sector continues to evolve. The survey closes 17 March 2022. [Find the survey here.](#)
- ECE is now one of the priority occupations within the BC PNP program. Early Childhood Educators who have a qualified, permanent job offer in BC will be given priority access to the BC PNP. [Find out more in the news release here.](#)

FOOD

- Community Futures East Kootenay has produced a resource for food business within the region. [Check it out here](#) and share with the food networks in your communities, including farmers markets.
- WeBC and the Small Scale Food Processor Association have a 6-session small group program for women looking to create vibrant businesses selling locally-made and grown food products all over BC. More information and the application process are [here](#). Applications close 18 March 2022.
- BC's first Agriculture and Food Co-op Conference is taking place on 24-25 March 2022. Themes include transformational leadership to be relevant in today's context, designing community resiliency, and participatory/people-centred processes. [Find out more here.](#)

TOURISM

- Are you looking for **International Workers**? Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and go2HR are offering virtual Drop-In Office Hours for BC Tourism and Hospitality employers. If you have any questions regarding hiring foreign workers, take advantage of this free service.

Upcoming Sessions:

- 22 March 2022 2:00-3:00pm PST ([Link](#))
- 29 March 2022 2:00-3:00pm PST ([Link](#))

More details on the go2HR events page: <https://www.go2hr.ca/events>

- On the 11th of March, the BC Government launched a [three-year roadmap](#) to rebuild the tourism sector within the province, aiming to rebuild to 2019 levels by 2024. Investments include post-secondary education and training, event-bid preparation and sponsorships to attract large-scale events, conferences and exhibitions and funding for Destination BC to market BC on the international market. More information can be found in the [press release](#).
- Destination BC are once again offering the **Tourism Digital Academy** for businesses. This 8 week course starts 28 March 2022. [Check here for more information and how to apply](#).

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- Golden Community Co-op have been renamed to Golden Community Economic Development. Check out their [new website](#) and their great [new business directory](#). The business directory is a fabulous resource and looks great. Well done to Jill, Melanie and the team.
- RDEK has provided a \$500,000 grant to the Elkford Seniors Housing project. [Read the news article here](#).
- Cranbrook airport is receiving \$600,000 from the federal government to support regional air transportation. Find out more in this [news article](#).
- The Town of Golden has committed to a renewable energy plan. [Find out more](#).
- Columbia Basin Trust have provided financial support to a range of outdoor amenities in the East Kootenays, including the skate park in Golden, the Elkford bike park and an adventure park in Kimberley. [Find out more here](#).
- The City of Cranbrook says their recently approved housing developments are helping meet their Housing Needs Report goals. [More information here](#).
- The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance is looking for artists and venues to participate in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour in early August. Applications close 15 April 2022. [Find out more here](#).
- Edgewater has a Redevelopment Planning Committee looking at future redevelopment in their community. [Read the latest here](#).

Transportation seems to be a key focus for local governments at the moment.

- [Invermere](#) are finalizing their Transportation Master Plan.
- [Radium Hot Springs](#) is looking for feedback on their active transportation plan.
- [Golden](#) are also in the process of developing their community-wide transportation plan.

If you or your community is looking at transportation, then make sure to check out the report that Sarah Breen from Selkirk Innovates oversaw on [Rural Transportation](#). There is an overview especially for [local governments](#).

EVENTS

- Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce are hosting their 2nd Annual Women's Retreat on 18 March 2022 - <https://www.cranbrookchamber.com/womens-retreat/>
- How to be successful at economic development without blowing the budget – by Co-operatives First. 13 April 2022, 12-1pm MT - <https://cooperativesfirst.com/april-2022-hometown-advantage-webinar/>
- CF EK are hosting a FREE Non-Profit Board Development series in March. There are two more sessions coming up on 21 and 28 March 2022, 4-6pm MT. [Registration is here.](#)



FUNDING

Canada Digital Adoption Program – for businesses

The Canada Digital Adoption Program was part of the Federal Government's 2021 Budget. The \$4 billion program aims to help get businesses online, boost e-commerce presence and help digitize business operations. In BC, Small Business BC have partnered with Digital Main Street to deliver the **Grow Your Business Online grant** to small businesses. Eligible businesses will receive a micro-grant of up to \$2,400 to help with the costs related to adopting e-commerce and be supported by a network of e-commerce advisors. The program is still being finalized, but you can sign up to get notified when it is ready [here](#).

Further information about the **Grow Your Business Online** and **Boost Your Business Technology** funding opportunities of the Canada Digital Adoption Program can be [found here](#).

Other funding options that are still open:

- [Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Fund](#). Applications close 31 March 2022.
- [BC Hydro Community Grants Program](#). Applications close 31 March 2022.
- [CIRA Community Investment Program](#). Applications close 13 April 2022.
- [UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program](#). Applications close 22 April 2022.
- [Community Gaming Grants](#). Grants for Arts & Culture (closes 30 April 2022) and Sport (closes 31 May 2022) are currently open.
- [CleanBC Communities Fund](#). Applications close 25 May 2022
 - For small communities stretched to provide all of the required info, the [Community Energy Association](#) is offering to complete an analysis of how projects will reduce local greenhouse gas emissions. A limited number of analyses is being provided, so [contact them](#) to see how they could help.
- [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.