

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 5 April 2022

Good afternoon everyone,

Before I get into the latest CED news I wanted to let you know I'm on holiday for three weeks from the end of Friday until the 2nd of May. So if you need anything, such as support letters for your ETSI-BC funding application, please let me know before Friday or please contact Sean Campbell, the GM of CFEK, in my absence (sean@cfek.ca).

Remember that there is up to \$375,000 earmarked for this Spring intake of the [ETSI-BC funding](#), covering the *Building Economic Development Capacity* and *Innovating and Advancing Key Sector* pillars. These funds are great opportunities for CED development within your communities. Let's make sure there is another strong contingent from the East Kootenays with this intake. Check out their upcoming information sessions on 6 and 10 April. [Details here.](#)

HOUSING

- **RDEK Short Term Rentals.** Staff will present a summary of the planning process and three options to regulate short-term rentals (STRs) this week. The 3 options are Zoning, Temporary Use Permits and Business Licensing. It will be on the Planning Committee Agenda on 7 April, and a request for decision will go to the REK Board of Directors meeting on 8 April. The RDEK Board of Directors will then direct staff on which option to proceed with. More details are [here](#) and [here](#).
- **UBCM released a report at the end of March on the affordable housing shortage**, countering the narrative that local government development approvals are the primary cause for the gap in supply. It outlined how resolving the shortage is more complex than just building more homes, and that multiple stakeholders are needed to move the challenge forward. Check out the [press release here](#) and the [report here](#).
- **Webinars on Workforce Housing in Rural Communities.** There are two webinars planned for the next week on insights and research into workforce housing. These webinars are targeted at community leaders, municipal staff, economic development practitioners and the non-profit sector in rural and Indigenous communities in BC that are seeking collaborative solutions for workforce housing. The webinars will be recorded and provided at a later date for those unable to join the live sessions. Please register using the links provided below.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR WEBINARS TO DISCUSS
WORKFORCE HOUSING RESEARCH IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation are inviting you to attend an upcoming webinar series to share insights and research on what works in workforce housing. Meet with a panel of workforce housing leaders to hear their experiences, ask questions, and discuss innovative ideas.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A computer or mobile device with a good internet connection.
- A pair of headphones if you are using computer for audio (recommended).
- Alternatively, these webinars can be accessed via telephone.

If you are not able to attend these webinars, please contact Gerri Brightwell directly with any questions: Gerri.Brightwell@gov.bc.ca

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE WEBINARS BELOW:

WEBINAR #1

What Works in Workforce Housing, and How to Get Started

DATE OPTION 1:
Friday, April 8th
2:00pm – 3:30pm

[To Register Click Here](#)

What Works in Workforce Housing, and How to Get Started

DATE OPTION 2:
Monday, April 11th
1:00pm – 2:30pm

[To Register Click Here](#)

WEBINAR #2

What Works in Workforce Housing, and How to Scale Up

Wednesday, April 13th
2:00pm – 3:30pm

[To Register Click Here](#)

DATA

- **CED Data Roundtable.** On the 30th of March I hosted a roundtable on *Measuring economic and community wellbeing in the East Kootenays*. The focus of the session was on starting the discussion as to what indicators we want to prioritize and measure regionally in order to look at community wellbeing and community economic development (CED) changes and improvement over time. The aim is to start to develop a regional story of CED needs and outcomes. You can view the [recording of the presentations here](#) and the [write-up of the discussion is here](#).
- **Elk Valley BRE Report.** The Elk Valley Economic Initiative (EVEI) have just released the report from their Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) study that was conducted at the end of last year. You can [read the report here](#). The study found that the three biggest factors impacting businesses in the Elk Valley are cost of doing business, housing, and workforce attraction.
- **Open Smart Communities in Practice.** Open North have recently released a report that documents the progress of several 'smart city' initiatives currently underway in communities across Canada. The report looks at challenges around adopting data and technology into local government projects and is a very interesting read. [Read more here](#).

NON PROFITS

- **Board Training.** In March CFEK ran a very successful Non-Profit Board Development series. The feedback was very positive and we are looking to run another training series in the Fall.
 - *"Really great session - even as someone who is completely new to boards I found everything easy to follow."*
 - *"Thank you for the wealth of knowledge that will help ensure that we run a fair and honest board of directors."*

If you know of non-profits who missed the training, please get in touch and I can pass on the recordings of the sessions.

Columbia Basin Trust also has a great series of webinars in April for non-profits. Make sure to pass on details of the [CBT Non Profit Advisors Spring Webinar Series](#) to non-profits in your community. Topics include fundraising and conflict resolution.

- **Non Profit Recovery and Resiliency Fund.** In late March the [BC Government announced a \\$34 million fund](#) to support the non-profit sector. The fund is anticipated to launch in June 2022, and interested non-profits should sign up to [get updates from the Vancouver Foundation](#).
- **Business Legacies Initiative Incubator.** Scale Collaborative's Business Legacies Initiative (BLI) aims to support non-profits to explore business acquisition as a social enterprise strategy, and ensure that essential goods, services and employment provided by local businesses remain in communities. Scale Collaborative is currently exploring opportunities to host a second BLI Incubator, which will be open to organizations province-wide (dates TBA). If you know of a non-profit or charitable organization within the East Kootenays that might be interested in participating, please email an expression of interest to awheeler@scalecollaborative.ca to be placed on a priority contact list.

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- College of the Rockies is one of three post-secondary institutions within BC who have recently received funding to support the EV Maintenance Program. This program will allow students to upgrade their skills to work on electric vehicles (EVs). [Find out more here.](#)
- The District of Elkford is asking for feedback from residents on a new tax exemption bylaw which aims to encourage commercial property investment, improvements to accessibility and the revitalization of the downtown area. [Read the news article here.](#)
- [Outside patio fees have been waived for another year in Kimberley.](#)

FUNDING

There are a number of new funding opportunities which have recently launched.

Canada Community Building Fund – Strategic Priorities

This fund supports infrastructure and capacity building projects that are either large in scale, regional in impact or innovative, and align with the program objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities. This fund is for local governments only. Applications close 30 June 2022

Plan H Grant Streams

This fund aims to support communities post-Covid to reconnect and build back better through more equitable policies and processes. The [Community Connectedness](#) stream offers grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that foster relationship-building among community members and create long-lasting social networks. The [Healthy Public Policy](#) stream offers up to \$15,000 for projects that seek to develop new or amend existing policy in order to improve the health and well-being of community members

Applications for both streams close 1 June 2022.

There is an information session on 12 April 2022 regarding this funding, [register here.](#)

Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF)

The LFIF is aimed at community-based, not-for-profit organizations with a mission to reduce food insecurity by establishing and strengthening their local food system. The focus for this round is small communities with populations of less than 29,999 (so all communities within the East Kootenays are eligible). Applications close 15 July 2022.

CleanBC Industry Fund

The CleanBC Industry Fund supports the development, trial and deployment of projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from large industrial operations. Only business with emissions over 10,000 tonnes of CO₂e per year and who submit a [GHG report](#) under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*, are eligible.

Three different funding options are available to eligible industrial operators: Emissions Performance (applications close 29 April 2022), Innovation Accelerator (applications close 27 May 2022) and Project Feasibility Studies (applications close 3 June 2022).

Other funding options that are still open:

- [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.
- ETSI-BC [Advancing Key Sectors](#) and [Building ED Capacity](#) streams. Applications close 1 May 2022.
- [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.
 - The recordings and slides from informational webinars are [now available](#).
- [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.