

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 10 May 2022

Good morning all,



Happy Economic Development Week!

Thank you to all of you for the work you do to improve and sustain the vibrant communities we get to work, live and play within in the East Kootenays.

Take the time to reflect on all the great work you individually and as organizations are able to do within your communities – and share it so others know too! Through the Community Futures East Kootenay social media channels we will be highlighting a few projects across our region during the week.

BCEDA is putting on a few free workshops this week and you don't need to be a member to attend. [Take a look here](#) for more info and to register.

Congratulations!

Huge congratulations are in order to Janice Alpine (Ktunaxa Nation), Kristy Jahn-Smith (Cranbrook Tourism), Jikke Gyorki (Tourism Fernie) and John Hamilton (Tourism Kimberley) on the #KtunaxaHomelands initiative that has just been launched. If you haven't seen this great series of videos, produced by ZenSeekers, then make sure to check them out (and share them) today. This is a great regional collaboration.

- <https://www.zenseekers.com/story/hike-ski-and-connect-ktunaxa-rockies>
- <https://www.zenseekers.com/story/recharge-waters-ktunaxa>
- <https://www.zenseekers.com/story/adventure-through-ktunaxa-hoodoos>

Also congratulations to Kimberley, [voted BC's best small town by CBC readers!](#) It's a great promotion for the town and our region.

KEY CED PROJECTS

Although the snow and cold weather of late would have us believe otherwise, wildfire season is just about the corner. Wildfires, flooding, pandemics – these are all unexpected disruptions that have impacted businesses across the province in the last few years. Are businesses in your community ready if an unexpected disruption happens?

Community Futures BC has developed a FREE, online [Business Continuity Planning Tool](#) to give business owners the ability to prepare for almost any disaster or disruption to their business. Next Tuesday (17 May 2022), Colin O'Leary, the developer of this planning tool and a person with a wealth of knowledge and experience of disaster preparedness, will run a session for East

Kootenay businesses and organizations on why business continuity planning is so important and how best to use the tool. Help local organizations be prepared for the unexpected, and share this session widely.

Tuesday 17 May
12:00 – 1:30pm MT
Zoom Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodO6rqojEt0j3uarwDxUBjuv88_cJbPh



Do you know of youth who are wanting to make a difference to the Economic Development of the region?

[Cando](#) is hosting their Economic Development Youth Summit for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and non-Indigenous youth aged 18 to 30 from 8-11 August 2022. After being virtual last year, this year the summit is in person and being held near Calgary. Registration is by application and there are 50 spots. For successful delegates, registration, travel, accommodation and meals is provided. [Find out more and apply here](#). Applications close 30 June 2022.

BC PNP Program – Regional Pilot

Columbia Valley, Cranbrook and Kimberley are all currently part of the BC Provincial Nomination Program Pilot. Are any other communities interested in joining?

BCEDA are hosting a virtual information session for communities TOMORROW (11 May 2022) during International Economic Development Week to provide more details about the pilot. See more and register for this info session [here](#).

The enrolment deadline for communities wishing to participate in the program is **31 May 2022**.

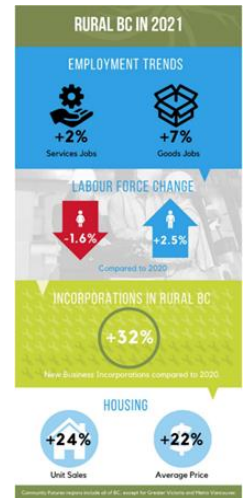
HOUSING

- RDEK are moving forward with their short term rental regulation. [Check out the release here](#).
- Great work by the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce on taking a leading role in supporting initiatives that help address the housing challenges within the Columbia Valley. They are looking to form the Columbia Valley Housing Society and are pursuing housing development opportunities. Find out more in their [press release](#).
- Whistler Centre is working with Small Housing BC on a project looking to identify the supports, tools and resources that local government staff need to overcome roadblocks and move forward more rapidly with gentle density. Interested in adding gentle density housing in your community? [Details are here](#).
- If you didn't attend the provincial government housing webinars that Gerri Brightwell and her team ran in April, I would highly recommend checking them out:
 - "What Works in Workforce Housing, and How to Get Started" [Webinar Recording](#)
 - "What Works in Workforce Housing, and How to Scale Up" [Webinar Recording](#)

DATA

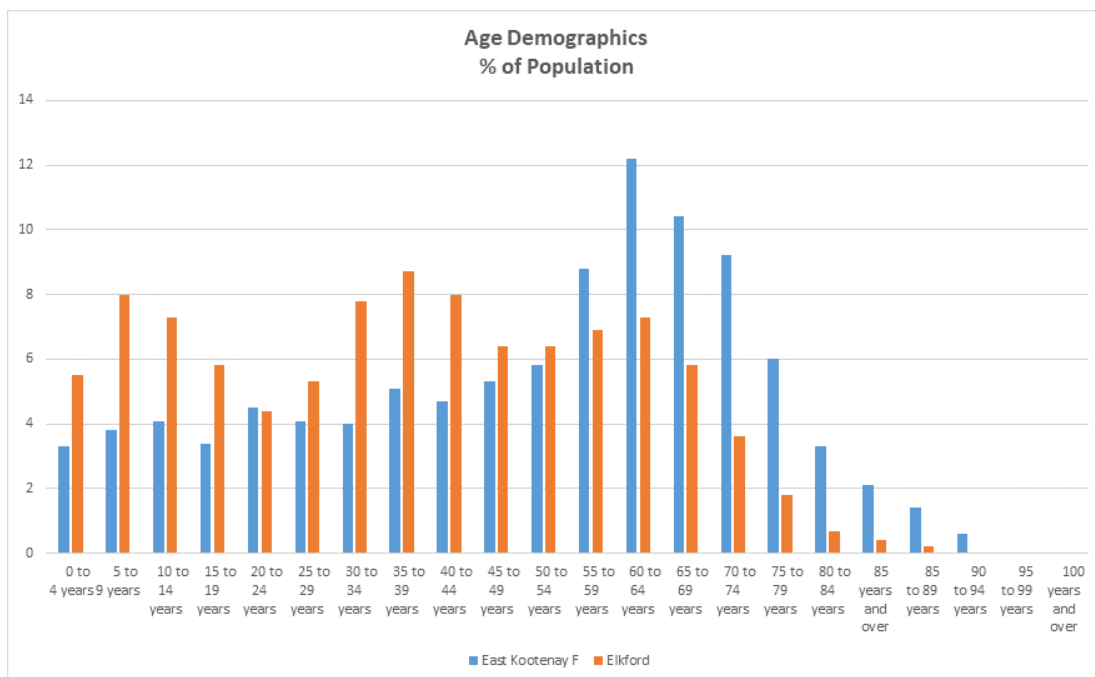
Rural BC in 2021. The latest Economic Bulletin from Community Futures BC has been released. It includes data on employment, labour and housing. [Check it out here.](#) One particular stat that stood out for me is that the Kootenay Boundary region leads the charge in percentage growth in business incorporations. Are you seeing more new businesses in your area? Is there more we need to be doing regionally to support these businesses?

Tourism. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Destination BC have been releasing biweekly reports tracking residents perceptions to tourism. In the [latest report \(8 April 2022\)](#) it was interesting to see that “84% of BC residents strongly or somewhat agree that ‘The tourism industry plays an important role in British Columbia’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.’” You can view all these (and other reports) on the [Destination BC research insights portal.](#)



Census 2021. At the end of April, more data from Census 2021 was released; this time age and more dwelling demographics. The amazing Jayme Jones from State of the Basin has already updated the State of the Basin site with the new [age data for the region](#) and there is a piece about [age and workforce implications](#) for you to look at too. If you are interested in the data for your community, [click here](#) and enter your communities name and you will see all Census 2021 data for your community listed.

As a data geek interested in trends and differences across the region I have pulled and compared data for all communities where Census data is available. Want to know more? Get in touch and I’m happy to share. We are a diverse and varied region – look at the differences in age profiles between Elkford (pop 2,749) and Area F in RDEK (pop 3,521).



CHILDCARE

Are you interested in being part of the conversation as to how best to support early childhood educators and childcare centres in the East Kootenays? Join the next East Kootenay ECE Roundtable discussion on 30 May 2022. Get in touch for more details.

UPCOMING CED EVENTS

- **How to be Successful at Economic Development Without Blowing the Budget.** 11 May 2022. Part of the HomeTown Advantage Series by Cooperatives First, this webinar looks at ways to do economic development on a small budget. [Register here.](#)
- **Creating Inclusive Economies: Building Bridges Between Public, Private and Civil Society Sectors.** 25-27 May 2022. A joint conference between the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CCRF) and the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC). You can join the virtual part of this conference for FREE. [Details here.](#)
- **Community Employment Benefits.** 21 June 2022. In this webinar from BCSPi, learn how you can incorporate community benefits in your next infrastructure or development project. [More details and registration here.](#)

FUNDING

A number of food related funding programs have just opened up, and one for event funding too:

- **[BC Farmers' Market Expansion Program.](#)** For those farmers' markets in the East Kootenays who didn't apply for funding in the first round of the BC Farmers' Market Expansion Program, there is a second round now open, closing 20 May 2022. Funding can include signage, equipment and infrastructure of up to \$15,000.
- **[BC Indigenous Agriculture Development Program.](#)** There are two streams for this program – one for communities / governments and one for Indigenous entrepreneurs.
- **[BC Agri-Business Planning Program.](#)** This funding is for food producer or processing businesses, and aims to support them in the business planning process.
- **[Tourism Event Program.](#)** Funding aims to provide supplemental marketing funds to event organizers to amplify the reach of an event and attract additional overnight visitors. Applications close 31 May 2022 and eligible events must take place between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023.

Other funding options that are still open:

- [Community Gaming Grants](#). Grants for Sport (closes 31 May 2022) is 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.
 - The recordings and slides from informational webinars are [now available](#).
- [CleanBC Industry Fund](#). Innovation Accelerator (applications close 27 May 2022) and Project Feasibility Studies (applications close 3 June 2022).
- [Plan H Grant Streams - Community Connectedness](#) and [Healthy Public Policy](#). Applications for both streams close 1 June 2022.
- [Canada Community Building Fund – Strategic Priorities](#). Applications close 30 June 2022
- [Local Food Infrastructure Fund \(LFIF\)](#). Applications close 15 July 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.