

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 22 June 2022

Good afternoon all,

As a lifelong learner and incredibly inquisitive (I would say nosy!) person, I am always amazed by how many great resources are out there for those working in economic development. Check out some great resources below:

- The **Simon Fraser University CED** program runs monthly public lectures. Check out recordings from [previous lectures here](#). I would also highly recommend taking time to read the recently released [Step into the River: A Framework for Economic Reconciliation](#), written by Sxwpilemaát Siyám (Chief Leanne Joe, Squamish Nation) and Lily Raphael.
- **CANDO** runs regular webinars for Economic Development Officers and Lands Management Officers. Previous recordings can be found on their [YouTube channel](#) and upcoming webinars can be [found here](#).
- **Cooperatives First** have their Hometown Advantage Webinar Series which is specifically for Economic Developers. [Previous recordings are here](#).

BUSINESS UPDATES

- The **Canada Digital Adoption Program** is now open. The program aims to help small businesses take advantage of e-commerce opportunities and reach more customers online. Businesses can apply and find out more [here](#).
- The **BC Employer Training Grant** provides funding to businesses to support skills training for the workforce, including prospective new hires. Employers can apply as often as they need and may receive up to \$10,000 per employee, with a maximum annual amount per employer of \$300,000.
 - There is an information session TOMORROW, 23 June at 11:30am-12:00pm MT [via Zoom](#) on the “Just In Time - Economic Recovery” call which will present information about this Employer Training Grant.
- PacifiCan’s **Business Scale-up and Productivity program** is now open. This program is for high-growth businesses that are scaling up and producing innovative goods, services or technologies and have been operating in BC for a minimum of 2 years. More details and full eligibility criteria can be found [here](#). Express of Interest closes 27 July 2022.

DATA

- State of the Basin recently released their [2021 Subjective Wellbeing Report](#). It was interesting (although not surprising) to see that *“Of the various determinants of well-being, only one determinant shows an increased average score (indicating improved well-being) since the previous 2019 subjective well-being poll to residents – Access to Telecommunication Services Index. All other determinants either stayed the same or show a decrease between poll years.”*
- It is great to see our neighbors and colleagues in Revelstoke have just launched their [CED dashboard](#). The dashboard aims to support community conversations and identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration.

ECE

Applications are now open for childcare centres to become \$10/day centres. The application guide and more information can be [found here](#).

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- Cranbrook residents and businesses are encouraged to [take the survey](#) to help develop Cranbrook's Tourism Master Plan. More information about the plan and the process can be [found here](#).
- The District of Invermere has committed in principle to make available several parcels of lands to Lake View Manor at no cost to develop a 60-unit seniors housing project in downtown Invermere. [Find out more here](#).
- The Columbia Lake Management Plan has been presented to the RDEK Board for consideration and adoption. [Find out more here](#). *"The new Plan is intended to provide a framework for considering the future ecological health of Columbia Lake, needs of recreational users, protection of cultural values and economic opportunities as part of decision making and planning for the Lake. The primary scope of the Plan is to guide local government decision making, referral responses and policy direction."*

FUNDING

Columbia Basin Trust has a large number of funding programs open right now:

- [Non-profit Sustainability – Building Support Grants](#). This program supports non-profits and First Nations, with community purpose buildings, by providing funding for energy retrofits and structural and envelope building repairs up to a maximum of \$200,00. Expression of Interest closes 30 June 2022.
- [Climate Resilience Program](#) supports large-scale, multi-year, shovel-ready climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects that address sources of climate change or manage the risks of climate change impacts. To apply, you must first contact the Coordinator of the Climate Resilience Program at climateresilience@ourtrust.org to discuss your project idea and its eligibility. If the Project Idea is eligible the link to the online application form will be provided to you. The Project Idea submission deadline is 30 August 2022.
- [Community Readiness Program](#) helps communities meet their needs during emergencies and disasters such as floods, wildfires, extreme heat or sustained power outages. Eligible applicants may apply for funding for any or all the following activities:
 - the purchase of emergency readiness equipment and supplies to be made available for community wide benefit;
 - facility improvements to accommodate emergency readiness or to increase accessibility; and
 - training in the use and distribution of emergency readiness equipment.

Applications close 1 September 2022.

- [Outdoor Active Recreation Grants](#) support community efforts to create low-barrier outdoor recreational opportunities that encourages residents to live more active, healthy lifestyles. Applications close 13 September 2022
- [Thriving Families Grant](#) supports new projects that build meaningful connections and create more livable communities for children, youth and families. An online Expression of Interest must be submitted by 13 September 2022.
- [Food Access and Recovery Grants](#) support community-led projects that increase access to affordable, quality, local food, with particular emphasis on supporting vulnerable populations. This includes projects that support creating or enhancing communal growing/processing spaces and diverting food that would otherwise be wasted. Applications close 27 September 2022.

The [Creative BC Live Music Grant](#) opens in September (and closes 26 October 2022). This program supports BC-based live music events, creating engagement opportunities for audiences and artists. Make sure to share with relevant organizers in your community.

The [Canada Community Revitalization Fund](#) wasn't fully subscribed in 2021, so if your community was thinking of applying and didn't, I would recommend putting an application in! Downtown revitalization, improving outdoor spaces and creating green infrastructure are all projects that could use this funding. Priority will be given to applications received prior to 23 July 2021 (the previous closing date) and those that were granted extensions due to wildfires or mourning of the discovered graves in Indigenous communities, however it is still worth putting something forward if you have a project that meets the criteria.

Other funding options that are still open:

- [Age-Friendly Community Grants](#). Applications close 5 July 2022.
- [Local Food Infrastructure Fund \(LFIF\)](#). Applications close 15 July 2022.
- [CBT Non-Profit Tech Grants](#). Applications close 15 September 2022.
- [Community Gaming Grants](#). Grants for Human and Social Services (closes 30 November 2022) is currently open.
- [CFEK CED Fund](#). Continuous intake program, until all funds have been allocated
- [BC Indigenous Agriculture Development Program](#). No closing date.
- [BC Agri-Business Planning Program](#). No closing date.
- [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.