

## East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 2 June 2022

Good afternoon all,

It is great to see so many clear visions for CED work across the whole region being brought to life right now. The [CFEK Strategic Plan](#) for 2022-2025 was released earlier this month, with CED being one of the pillars for this plan. Congratulations to Jill and the team at Golden CED on their new [CED Strategy](#) (2022-2027). Cranbrook's CED strategy is coming imminently and the Columbia Valley CEDO are in the process of creating their new strategic plan as well. These documents give the region a clear vision about the needs and priorities for CED work.

You can also check out the CFEK annual impact report [here](#).

**Impact on the Region 2021/22**

Led by a volunteer Board of Directors and a dedicated staff, Community Futures East Kootenay (CFEK) helps to foster strong, resilient local economies. Engaging in Community Economic Development along with local, provincial and federal government partners, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders, CFEK champions economic growth and sustainability throughout our vibrant service area.

Community Futures East Kootenay

EST. **1988**

**68,993**  
Population Served

**40,874**  
Sq. km covered

Sean Campbell  
General Manager

**4**  
People employed

Tracey Whiting  
Chair

**9**  
Volunteers

Click the link to see our full

# Regional Snapshot!

## **CFEK CED GRANT**

CFEK has always had a small budget to support CED grants, but now we are making the process official, transparent and hopefully easy to access for a wide-range of non-profit organizations across the whole region. **Starting today, non-profit and Indigenous organizations within the East Kootenays can apply for funding of up to \$2,000 for projects that support the economic vibrancy and sustainability of communities within the region.** We only have a small fund (\$15,000 for the year) so early application will be beneficial. More information and the application form can be found [on our website](#). Please share with non-profit organizations working on CED projects in your community.



## **HOUSING**

During Economic Development Week, BCEDA hosted a session by US company Golden Shovel Agency on ***Groundbreaking Strategies to Solve the Housing Shortage in Your Community***. You can [view the slides here](#), [a recording of the presentation here](#), and you can also download a white paper written by Golden Shovel Agency on Workforce Housing [here](#).

**Invermere** has 30 new affordable units available for families, seniors, and women and children leaving violence. You can read more about the completion of the Invermere Farmhouse project [here](#). And ground is about to be broken on **Sparwood's** [new affordable housing project](#).

## **CLIMATE**

The provincial government has announced the most strategic investment in local climate action in a decade ([see the news release here](#)). The [Local Government Climate Action Program](#) provides local governments and Modern Treaty Nations with predictable and stable funding to support the implementation of local climate action that reduces emissions and prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate.

Community Energy Association are now accepting nominations for the 2022 Climate & Energy Action Awards. [Find out more and apply here](#). The deadline to apply is 8 July 2022.

## **CHILDCARE**

We had a good discussion at the East Kootenay ECE roundtable that was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. It was great to hear that COTR will have 60 seats for their ECE program starting in September 2022, with more than half being filled by students from within the East Kootenays. This will hopefully start to ease some of the pressures across the region of not having enough trained ECE staff for childcare centres. For more information about what was discussed, see the write-up.



**ECE Training  
Roundtable May 20:**

Other childcare news:

- The new spaces stream from the BC Government has opened, with a focus on afterschool care and infant-toddler spaces. Check out the [press release](#) and the [webpage](#).
- The application for the next round of \$10/day daycare centres will be opening mid-June and closing 18 August 2022. We understand priority will be given to applicants from not-for-profit, public, and Indigenous-led organizations operating licensed facilities for children birth to 5 years of age (and multi-age programs), as well as applicants located in communities currently without a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre or with a low proportion of \$10 a Day sites based on child population.
- There is an information session happening on 15 June 2022 regarding the BC PNP programme. This program supports recruitment and retention in the ECE sector, as it assists international and out-of-province ECEs seeking permanent employment and residence in the province. ECEs have been given priority access to apply, which provides a better chance for assessment under the program's criteria. More information will be provided in the coming weeks and the link to register will be available soon on the [BC government engagement webpage](#).
- CBT have [released information](#) on how they have supported ECEs in the region in the past year.

## **DATA**

- Interior Health have new community health & climate change maps, which aim to help municipalities and organizations to understand climate-sensitive areas that could impact building or expansion projects. [Take a look here](#).
- The Elk Valley Economic Initiative (EVEI) have released their community-specific BR&E reports for [Elkford](#), [Sparwood](#) and [Fernie](#). Congratulations to Taylor and the EVEI Board on these very useful community-specific action plans.

- The provincial government recently released a [press release](#) stating that the BC Data Catalogue is new and improved. Make sure to check out the catalogue [here](#).
- StatsCan continue to update their library of Data Literacy Training Initiative Videos. [Check them out here](#).
- Open North is launching three Communities of Practice. It is open to staff from any local government or Indigenous nation who want to develop the skills and knowledge and collaborate with peers to design and implement projects focused on using data and technology for the common good in their communities. Interested? [Register your interest here](#).
- Don't forget for tourism data, the [go2HR employment tracker](#) is a great source of data that is updated monthly. Below you can see a graph from the tracker which shows employment in the tourism sector in the Kootenays is behind rates for the past 2 years. Go2HR have just also recently released their BC Tourism and Hospitality [Labour Market Information \(LMI\) Research Report](#), their Tourism and Hospitality [Workforce Profiles for the Kootenays](#) and their [labour recovery framework](#). All great sources of information and data on labour need for the tourism industry.



## **BUSINESS UPDATES**

- CF EK hosted a **business continuity planning session** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. You can find the recording [here](#). All the free planning templates and checklists that Colin mentions in the session can be found in the tool, so make sure to register today ([www.cfbcpc.ca](http://www.cfbcpc.ca)).
- June is **Free Education Month with Small Business BC**. Make sure to share [these events](#) with businesses in your community.
- WeBC have opened their **One-to-One Mentoring intake**. This program helps entrepreneurs to develop capabilities and skills, manage risk, and achieve their goals. Applications are open until TOMORROW - Friday, 3 June 2022. Learn more and apply at [go.we-bc.ca/1to1Mentoring](http://go.we-bc.ca/1to1Mentoring).
- KAST's **Investment Readiness Training program** will benefit tech startups who are ready to or already are, raising funds from investors. Successful applicants will learn the fundamentals of seeking investment capital from experienced entrepreneurs. [Find out more here](#).

## **EAST KOOTENAY NEWS**

- Great work by Columbia Valley Chamber on pulling together a place to promote work opportunities within the Columbia Valley - <https://www.cvchamber.ca/work-columbia-valley/>
- Check out Elkford's new [welcome pack for newcomers](#), a great initiative to allow those new to the area to find out about the resources and businesses they can support locally.
- Just under \$74,000 has been granted by the BC Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction to support local poverty reduction projects in the East Kootenays. [Find out more here.](#)
- [Check out](#) this collaboration in Columbia Valley, which had students from the COTR trades sampler work on projects with the Windermere District Farmers' Institute. Great to see collaborative projects like this providing win-win partnerships.
- Cranbrook's Downtown Revitalization Plan continues to develop. [More information here.](#)
- Downtown revitalization is also moving ahead in Sparwood. They have broken ground on their Centennial Square redevelopment. [Find out more here.](#)
- [Find out more](#) about the community organizations who were successful in receiving funding from the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies in their 2022 community granting program.
- Elkford will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (a year late due to Covid) in July. [Read the news article here.](#)

## **FUNDING**

**[Age-Friendly Community Grants.](#)** Local and Indigenous governments can submit applications for funding for age-friendly assessments and action plans (up to \$25,000) or age-friendly projects (up to \$15,000). The [full application guide can be found here.](#) Applications close 5 July 2022.

Not sure what an Age-Friendly Plan is? [Check out this one for Canal Flats from 2021.](#) A number of communities across the region have age-friendly plans and policies, but from a number of years ago. This funding could support the updating of these plans or to implement some of the projects that were discussed in these plans but not actioned.

**[CBT Non-Profit Tech Grants.](#)** This funding supports the acquisition of technology to increase efficiency and effectiveness of non-profits to improve operations and adapt programming. Applications close 15 September 2022.

### **Other funding options that are still open:**

- [Canada Community Building Fund – Strategic Priorities.](#) Applications close 30 June 2022
- [Local Food Infrastructure Fund \(LFIF\).](#) Applications close 15 July 2022.
- [Community Gaming Grants.](#) Grants for Human and Social Services (closes 30 November 2022) is currently open.
- [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.