East Kootenay Community Economic Development update
9 August 2022

Good afternoon all,

There continues to be lots of CED activity across the region. Make sure to check out the list of funding at the end of this update - there are lots of new opportunities currently open.

Congratulations to Elk Valley Economic Initiative (EVEI) on the release of their community profiles for Elk Valley, Fernie, Sparwood and Elkford. There has never been a community profile for the Elk Valley before and the EVEI hopes it is the first step, along with the 2021 Elk Valley BRE report, in presenting a unified front to address the key community issues that are affecting the whole Elk Valley. The focus is on community centered economic development, aiming to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of the community.

DATA

- Please take the time to head to our **Thought Exchange** and share your thoughts on what the **most important indicators of CED are in your community**. This is part of developing a regional story of CED needs and outcomes and looking at CED changes and improvement over time. Even if you've already added your thoughts, make sure to head back again to rate others thoughts. The exchange closes on 9 September 2022.

- Everyone living in the Columbia Valley should be completing the latest **Vital Signs Columbia Valley survey.** This project from the Columbia Valley Community Foundation is a great way to measure the vitality of communities and the significant trends related to quality of life. The survey gauges the communities' concerns and priorities on various areas of interest and provides a clear basis for community decisions in the future. Be part of this important data project today.

- The **Community Information Tool** (CIT) is now on version 4.0, with lots of updates that those of us across the region fed into during their initial release. The updates in this release include:
  - *Choose your own data adventure*: Select from a variety of dropdown options to get to the data that is relevant to you
  - *User-friendly interface*: Easily access a variety of datasets in one report
  - *Compare areas*: Use a side-by-side comparison to view data from one community with another, a community with a region or a community with the provincial average.
  - *Discover areas with particular characteristics*: Filter for areas of BC that match certain criteria like economic health, access to education and health care, connectivity, infrastructure, or emergency management.
  - *Interactive data*: Modify your search to select and change the features you are interested in viewing.

  For those working in local government, the CIT team is running a webinar on 16 August 2022 from 2-3pm MT for local government staff and elected officials to learn how to use this powerful tool to discover new insights about their communities. Register here.

- Open North have **free online courses on data and technology issues** for community-based practitioners and municipal staff. The Open North Training Centre (also known as ONTraC)

features 21 introductory and advanced courses covering a wide range of topics such as data governance, open and social procurement and open data standards.

HOUSING

As mentioned in a previous CED update, ground has been broken on the new affordable housing complex in Sparwood, run by the Elk Valley Family Society.

In late July a press release was released from the federal government, highlighting this project. The release noted that the Government of Canada is contributing $2 million through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF), while the Province, through BC Housing, is providing approximately $3.65 million through the Community Housing Fund. Additionally, the Columbia Basin Trust is contributing approximately $812,000. The new development at 400 Evergreen Cres. is a four-storey building consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom homes for people with moderate and low incomes. Seven of the units will be accessible. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- The Kimberley to Wasa fibre optic project will see 30 km of backbone fibre optic cable installed between the two communities, benefiting all the rural residents along that route. Work is expected to start this Fall.
- High-speed internet has been expanded between Jaffray and Roosville.
- The Village of Radium is asking for resident feedback on their draft Active Transportation Network Plan. Feedback is requested by 14 August 2022.
- The Ktunaxa Business Showcase Event is taking place in October. Make sure to share this opportunity with eligible businesses.

OTHER NEWS

The BC Centre for Social Enterprise have recently launched the **Canadian Social Enterprise Directory**. It allows potential customers to search social enterprises by good or service; geography; and social / environmental / cultural cause. It also allows social enterprises to 'find each other', in order to network and share best practices. And for those municipalities looking at social procurement, it helps you find social enterprises to work with in your area. Adding a social enterprise listing is free and easy, so make sure to share with your community today.

FUNDING

There are a lot of funding programs which have recently opened up or are about to open up, mainly for municipalities and Indigenous governments.

- The **BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program** will open on 6 September 2022 and offers two grant options for Indigenous governments and local governments, including municipalities, regional districts and Indigenous Economic Development corporation where the Nation is the shareholder. Applications close 21 October 2022. There is a webinar (Zoom link here) for economic development professionals and service providers to learn more at 10:30am MT on Thursday 8 September 2022.

- The **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund** is a suite of funding streams to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies. The funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by UBCM. Two new funds have just opened up:
  - o Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Training & Equipment. Applications close 21 October 2022.
  - o Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training. Applications close 25 November 2022.

- The **Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program** is for farmers and ranch businesses to increase farm-level climate resilience to extreme weather events. This is a new funding stream, and there are three streams for the pilot intake:
  - o Wildfire Preparedness Stream
  - o Flooding Preparedness Stream
  - o Extreme Heat Preparedness Stream
  Eligible applicants can access up to $35,000 in cost-shared funding. Applications close 15 August 2022

- The **Community Social Services Technology Fund** will provide grant funding to community social service organizations to offset the added IT costs of adapting to new ways of working and delivering services. It can also provide grant funding for purchasing laptops, equipment, and covering IT costs related to increasing clients' access to virtual supports, learning opportunities and employment. This fund is expected to launch in September 2022, and interested organizations can sign up to be informed here.

- **UBCM Community to Community Forum.** The goal of a Regional C2C Forum is increased understanding and improved overall relations between First Nations and local governments. Forum events are intended to provide a time and place for dialogue to build on opportunities, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest, or concern, and/or to advance tangible outcomes. The C2C program can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities, to a maximum of $5,000. Applications close on 2 September 2022, for events between 26 September 2022 and 31 March 2023.

- **Natural Infrastructure Fund - Small Projects Stream**. The Natural Infrastructure Fund supports projects that use natural or hybrid approaches to protect the natural environment, support healthy and resilient communities, and contribute to economic growth and jobs. Projects must be primarily for public use and/or benefit. Projects must reflect at least one of the following categories:
    - Planting and restoring green space;
    - Construction or restoration of naturalized water retention or detention systems;
    - Naturalized water diversion and infiltration; or
    - Natural or hybrid infrastructure that supports biodiversity and connectivity
  Applications close 27 September 2022

Other funding options that are still open:
- CBT Climate Resilience Program. Project Idea submission deadline is 30 August 2022.
- Community Gaming Grants. Grants for Public Safety (closes 31 August 2022), Environment (closes 31 August 2022) and Human and Social Services (closes 30 November 2022) are currently open.
- CBT Community Readiness Program. Applications close 1 September 2022.
- CBT Outdoor Active Recreation Grants. Applications close 13 September 2022.
- CBT Thriving Families Grant. Expression of Interest must be submitted by 13 September 2022.
- CBT Non-Profit Tech Grants. Applications close 15 September 2022.
- CBT Food Access and Recovery Grants. Applications close 27 September 2022
- UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation. Applications close 30 September 2022.
- Non-Profit Recovery and Resiliency Fund. Applications close 30 September 2022.
- Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program. Applications close 7 October 2022
- Creative BC Live Music Grant Applications close 26 October 2022.
- UBCM Emergency Support Services. Applications close 27 January 2023.
- UBCM Emergency Operations Centres & Training. Applications close 31 March 2023.
- 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.