

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 17 October 2022

Good morning all,

Happy Small Business Week! This is a great week to celebrate all of the amazing small, local businesses in our communities, and of course the support agencies that support those businesses. Below there's information about webinars and events that you can join or share with businesses who would benefit.

Over the weekend five new mayors were elected in our region (although many were previous councilors), along with 29 new councilors. Now is a great time to reignite conversations with elected officials and local government staff about the CED needs, projects and people in your communities.

The past month has been a blur of in-person meetings and events, but it's been great to connect with so many of you again. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Cranbrook Chamber Business Walk on the 28th of September, eating so much great local food at the Food Buyers Expo in Invermere in early October, and I look forward to connecting with a number of you at the KORE Summit in Kimberley this week.

BUSINESSES

- [BDC, Small Business BC](#) and the [BC Chamber of Commerce](#) are all running a wide range of webinars for Small Business Week this week. Make sure to click the links, sign up and share. And also check out your local Chamber for events they are putting on too.
- The BC Chamber [2022 Collective Perspective Survey](#) is now live. This annual survey captures insight from across the province, making it the largest economic snapshot of BC's business climate. Make sure to help get the East Kootenay data amongst it. The results of the survey look to identify evolving trends and inform advocacy efforts for the BC Chamber. The survey deadline is this Friday, 21 October 2022.
- Go2HR are launching a Tourism & Hospitality Wage Survey for the Kootenay Rockies region. Wages are a key theme for tourism businesses in our region, and the aim is that by conducting a wage survey, businesses will have data before the new year in time for the next business-planning cycle. The survey will be open from 19 October 2022 until 16 November 2022, with results being shared with participants at the end of November 2022/early December. To sign up to participate, employers should click this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRTwagesurvey>
- Columbia Basin Trust has just launched [Business SMART Grants](#) which aims to help small- and medium-sized businesses reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Businesses with annual revenues of at least \$75,000 and 2-50 full-time paid employees are eligible. Up to 50 per cent of project costs can be covered, to a total grant amount of \$100,000. Applications close 18 January 2023 but interested businesses are encouraged to get in touch as early as possible (at least six weeks before the deadline) to obtain the support of an advisor.

CED FUND

A reminder that CFEK has a small fund to support CED projects across the region. 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. Projects must have broad community benefit (ie. a large portion of the community's population will feel or recognize the project's impact) and take place in the CFEK service area.

Some of the projects we've supported this year have included the Columbia Valley Community Foundation's Vital Signs report, the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce Business Walk and a Rental Housing Board to be added to the Work in Fernie website. Please share this opportunity with non-profit organizations working on CED projects in your community and get in touch if you have any questions.

Applications are assessed and reviewed every 6-8 weeks, and if you get an application in by Monday 7 November, you'll have a response (and the money if successful!) by the end of November.

More information and the application form can be found [on our website](#).



CED NEWS & LEARNING

- Did you miss the excellent sessions on Rural Resiliency put on by Athabasca University and the Rural Development Network? No fear, the recordings and information sheets can be found [here](#).
- Community Futures BC have received \$5.5 million from PacifiCan to support businesses and enterprising not-for-profits impacted by natural disasters across the province. We are fortunate in the East Kootenays to not need this support ***at the moment***, but for those regions impacted by last year's climate events, this is great news. [See the press release here](#).
- InBC have released their [investment policy statement](#) which outlines that "InBC will invest on a triple bottom line basis. This means InBC's investment objective is to optimize financial returns, act as a responsible steward of shareholder capital, and pursue positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes." The four impact objectives of the fund are Driving climate action, Innovations for the future, Advancing reconciliation and Elevating inclusive communities. Check out the news release from the BC government [here](#).

NON-PROFIT

Columbia Basin Trust are running a number of [in-person training for non-profits](#). Those in our region are:

Golden – Financial Management: QuickBooks, 27 October 2022

Invermere – Financial Management: Basics , 15 November 2022

Canal Flats – Recruitment & Retention of Staff and Volunteers, 24 November 2022

Cranbrook – Meaningful Marketing, 7 November 2022

Fernie – Savvy Social Media, 8 November 2022

Sparwood – Board Governance, 25 October 2022

There are also [online webinars](#) taking place over the next few weeks too.

For those non-profits who are setting up social enterprises or are looking to prepare themselves to take on investments, the [Investment Readiness Program](#) is open again. This is a great opportunity for non-profits to grow their capacity and look beyond the usual grant cycles to set themselves up for sustainability. Applications close 22 November 2022.

HOUSING

- Have you seen the [Municipal Housing Database](#) that shows the gap in housing needs in each municipality? This database has been produced by Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) and the Cooperative Housing Federation (CHF) and pulls data from the housing needs assessments completed by each municipality.
- The [Housing Central Conference](#) is taking place from 21-23 November 2022. You can attend in person in Vancouver, or view it online.

CHILDCARE

The write-up from the last East Kootenay ECE roundtable (held in September 2022) can be found on the [CFEK website](#) (under the heading “Focus Areas”). A number of regional activities were discussed and I will be working to support these in the coming months.

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty is a two day conference (October 28 and 29) to be held in Cranbrook which will look to develop solutions to the issues of homelessness and poverty within Cranbrook and the wider East Kootenay region. [Register here.](#)
- New treatment and recovery options, as well as expanded mental health and substance use services are coming to Cranbrook. [Read the press release here.](#)
- I hope to see a number of you at the Ktunaxa Business Showcase taking place on 27 October 2022 in Cranbrook.



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Ktunaxa Nation Council Economic & Investment Sector

FUNDING

The [CanExport Community Investments program](#) provides financial support to communities and non-profit organizations to help them attract, retain and expand their foreign direct investment activities. It is a valuable support to investment attraction planning, promotion, training and travel for meetings or missions. The program provides non-repayable contributions between \$3,000 and \$500,000 to cover up to 50% of eligible expenses. Agreements are made for a one-year period, from January 1 to December 31.

This year's application intake is now open and closes on 2 November 2022. Applications are made from the [CanExport Portal](#); application guide can be reviewed [here](#).

The [Extreme Weather Preparedness Fund](#) for farmers and ranch businesses is now open for a second round. The aim of the program is to increase farm-level climate resilience to extreme weather events. There are 3 streams:

- [Wildfire Preparedness Stream](#)
- [Flooding Preparedness Stream](#)
- [Extreme Heat Preparedness Stream](#)

Eligible applicants can access up to \$35,000 in cost-shared funding. Applications close 25 October 2022.

Other funding options that are still open:

- [UBCM Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Training & Equipment](#). Applications close 21 October 2022.
- [BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program](#). Applications close 21 October 2022.
- [Creative BC Live Music Grant](#). Applications close 26 October 2022.
- [CBT Trail Enhancement Grant](#). Applications close 26 October 2022.
- [Community Social Services Technology Fund](#). Applications close 31 October 2022.
- ETSI-BC [Building Economic Development Capacity](#) and [Innovating & Advancing Key Sectors](#) streams. Applications close 1 November 2022.
- [BC Arts Council Accelerate Program](#). Submissions due no later than 15 November 2022.
- [UBCM Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training](#). Applications close 25 November 2022.
- [Community Gaming Grants](#). Grants for Human and Social Services currently open. Closes 30 November 2022.
- [Connecting Communities BC](#). Applications close 15 December 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.
- [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.