

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 18 November 2022

Good afternoon all,

With the end of 2022 fast approaching, there is plenty of CED announcements and projects taking place.

Earlier this week the PacifiCan office in Cranbrook [officially opened](#). This is a great opportunity for us to look at larger regional projects that can be supported by the Federal government and I look forward to working with Corey and all of you across the region to support these to come to life.

The provincial government also released details of two large economic development funding opportunities this week as well. The [Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program](#) (REDIP) and the [Destination Development Fund](#) are mentioned in more detail later in this update but both are great sources of funding for larger projects across our communities. REDIP is a program that will have intakes over three fiscal years (from the current intake for 2022/23 to 2024/25) so if timing doesn't work for this intake (which closes on 4 January 2023), then let's begin to think about what opportunities this funding could have in store for our communities in the coming years. I am happy to be a sounding board and help communities think and develop these projects, so please get in touch. And of course I'm always here for letters of support if you feel those are needed as well.

OTHER CED NEWS, RESOURCES AND EVENTS

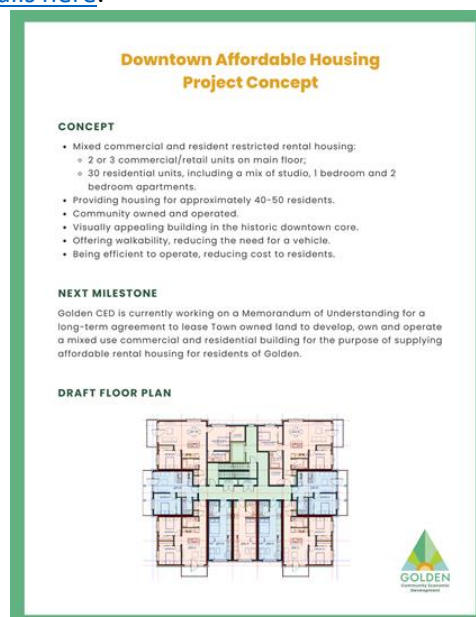
- The [Living Wage calculations](#) were released yesterday across BC, including in four East Kootenay communities. A living wage is the hourly amount two parents working full-time needs to cover basic expenses (including food, rent, clothing, childcare and transportation) in order to support a family of four. This year the living wage has increased across BC in all of the communities where it has been calculated in the past and is driven by two essentials: food and shelter. Living wage is one piece of information within a larger economic puzzle that we are all dealing with in terms of CED and I would love to work with communities on CED projects that might support this increased cost for members of our communities.



- BC Stats conducted a study of the Kootenay Economic Region to examine the impacts of new high-speed internet services. [The Kootenay Connectivity Benefits Study](#) finds high-speed internet connectivity expansions in rural, remote and Indigenous communities positively impacts both local and provincial economies in the short and long term.
- Imagine Kootenay are putting on a Foreign Direct Investment Workshop on 7 December 2022. Join this interactive virtual workshop to learn about foreign direct investment and telling the Kootenay Region's story to an international audience of investors looking for business opportunities. [Register for the free event here.](#)
- The Community Energy Association have an online meeting on 24 November 2022 for new and returning mayors, councilors, and electoral area directors looking to integrate climate action in their communities over the next term. [Find out more and register here.](#)
- Thanks to Sarah Breen for pointing me in the direction of the great work Shorefast have done on Supporting Community Economies. Check out the report on their latest project [here](#) which looks to answer the question, "How do we strengthen community economies?"
- Do you have Terms of Reference document that you use when working with partner organizations? Golden Community Economic Development are looking to develop a TOR to help clarify roles and responsibilities and sharing of information when working in partnership with other community organizations. If you have an example of this, then please share it with Caroline (caroline@goldenced.ca).

HOUSING

- Congrats to Jill Dewtie and the team at Golden CED on the downtown resident-restricted housing project concept they are working on with the Town of Golden. Details are in the image below or [find more details here.](#)



- The [Rapid Housing Initiative Funding](#) from CMHC is currently open for applications. This funding is for capital contributions for the rapid construction of new housing and/or acquisition of existing buildings for rehabilitation or conversion to permanent affordable housing. If you're interested in learning more, there is a webinar on 23 November 2022 from 12-1pm MT. [Get details here](#).
- If you or someone in your community is working on a workforce housing project, please get in touch, as there is a regular group who meets to discuss their work, and it is a great way to share ideas, learning and information.

DATA

- School enrollment data from School Districts 5 & 6 have been received for the 2022-23 school year. [You can access the data here](#). It's a good way to show changing needs within your communities. Remember there is a database of East Kootenay-related data sources, [that you can find here](#).
- As part of the [Shorefast project](#) I mentioned above, there are two resources that focus on data that are useful for all us data-geeks out there!
 - A set of recommendations and leading practices in visual analytics that can guide communities in the development of a Data Hub / Community Economy Indicator Dashboard. [Check it out here](#).
 - Unique and novel methodologies for measuring and using economic data, and strategic considerations to support data-informed economic development efforts. [Check it out here](#).

CHILDCARE

Michelle Kirby from the Ministry of Education and Childcare fund had some great conversations with municipalities around the region last month about the New Spaces Fund. If you are looking at applying for this funding in your community then please get in touch so I can link you with other projects taking place that are supporting childcare in our region. Or head along to the next East Kootenay ECE roundtable meeting on Monday 5 December 10:30am MT. Contact Robyn (ced@cfek.ca) for more details.

BUSINESSES

- The BC Chamber have released the results from their [2022 Collective Perspective Survey](#). In it, 78% of businesses feel confident or very confident about their future success, a 16% reduction from 2021. The most important factors that were identified to help BC businesses succeed are the ability to recruit and retain talent (68%), the ability to innovate (33%) and access to capital (30%).
- WeBC have released [three, free guides to support businesses](#). The topics are *Taking the Leap to Entrepreneurship*, *Starting Your Business* and *Growing Your Business*.

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- It was fabulous to see the [Ktunaxa Homelands](#) campaign recognized at the EDAC awards. [See the news article here.](#)
- Congratulations to all the winners in the Business Awards held around the region recently:
 - [Elkford](#)
 - [Sparwood](#)
 - [Ferne](#)
 - [Columbia Valley](#)
- Feedback from the first two phases of the Cranbrook OCP can be found [on their website](#), with economic growth and economic development featuring in both feedback reports.
- The finale of the KAST Kootenay Investment Challenge is taking place on 24 November 2022. [Find out more here.](#)
- The Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce have released a report on the business walks they ran at the end of September. Check out what businesses in Cranbrook are saying [here](#).
- Congratulations to the East Kootenay tourism events such as the Wasa Triathlon, Cranbrook Sam Steele Days and Kimberley JulyFest which received funding through the [BC Government Tourism Events Program](#).
- It was great to see so many familiar faces at the [Ktunaxa Business Showcase in Cranbrook](#) and the [KORE conference in Kimberley](#). Congratulations on two great events over the past few weeks.

FUNDING

Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP)

This large funding opportunity from the BC Government has three funding streams: Economic Capacity (for communities with less than 2,500 population), Economic Diversification (for communities with less than 25,000 population), and Forest Impact Transition. Eligible lead applicants include Local Governments, Regional Districts, Indigenous communities and organizations, Indigenous Development Corporations and Not-for-profits. Full details of the funding streams can be found in the [Program Guide](#), but overview of funding amounts is below:

- **Economic Capacity** (REDIP-EC) - \$100,000 over two years (Up to \$50,000/year for two years) at 100% funding
- **Economic Diversification** (REDIP-ED)
 - Development Grant –\$100,000 at 80% funding
 - Implementation Grant –\$1 million at 80% funding
- **Forest Impact Transition** (REDIP-FIT) - \$500,000 at 100% funding

Applications must be submitted through the online application system by 4 January 2023.

A “Just in Time” Webinar will talk about REDIP on 25 November 2022. The aim of this webinar is to inform economic development professionals and service providers about the new funding stream. Login details are below:

Date: Friday November 25, 2022

Time: 9:00-9:45am PT/10:00-10:45am MT

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 255 907 587 705

Passcode: rCuZRk

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 604-343-0564,,226311536#](#) Canada, Vancouver

Phone Conference ID: 226 311 536#

[Destination Development Fund](#)

This provincial funding provides \$30 million in one-time grants to support the development and rejuvenation of tourism infrastructure, assets and experiences. Local governments, Indigenous governments and development organizations and Not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply and the fund will award grants across two streams:

- **Stream 1 funds up to \$1,000,000 per project.** Your project needs to build or rejuvenate: Tourism infrastructure, Visitor amenities, Tourist attractions
- **Stream 2 funds up to \$500,000 per project.** Your project needs to improve destination competitiveness through: Modernizing tourism experiences, Building capacity and skills, Adopting and adapting technology. Enhancing sustainability practices

It is a two-stage application process, with an expression of interest needing to be put in before 7 December 2022. More details can be [found here](#).

Other funding options that are still open:

- [Investment Readiness Program](#). Applications close 22 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 for round one close 15 December 2022, but round two opens 16 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