

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update
14 December 2022

Good morning everyone,

This is the last CED update for the year so I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

I am heading back to New Zealand for some sun and family time, so will be uncontactable between the 20th of December and the 9th of January. Best of luck for everyone putting in [REDIP applications](#) on the 4th of January, and I am available until the 20th of December to support if we haven't been in contact already.

There has been plenty happening in the past month, so see below for a whole lot of CED updates.

CED RESOURCES

- [State of the Basin](#) have recently released their yearly Snapshot Report. This report provides a summary of current State of the Basin research and is a great overview of current data for the region. [Check out the full report here.](#)
- ESTI-BC are once again partnering with Mitacs, providing funding to support part of the Mitacs research internships if they are from post-secondary institutions in the Southern Interior region. This is a fabulous opportunity to use regional student talent to look at innovation, research and business challenges in the region. Applications close on 31 March 2023 and find out [more here.](#)
- BCEDA have developed their #EcDevToolbox into a standalone website. It features free and paid tools, information and resources for Economic Development professionals from BCEDA and partner organizations. Check it out at www.ecdevtoolbox.ca.



NON PROFIT

- [Vantage Point](#) is asking “Should there be a formal provincial network of non-profits?” in British Columbia? They are running an online community conversation for the Kootenay region on 17 January 2023 that you can sign up to be a part of [here](#). Please share with the non-profit organizations in your community.
- Following on from the well-received Non-Profit Board Development series that Community Futures East Kootenay ran in March this year, we are running another four FREE sessions in early 2023:
 - ✓ Volunteer Attraction, Retention, and Succession on 30 January 2023 – [Zoom Registration Link](#)
 - ✓ Board Development & Performance on 6 February 2023 – [Zoom Registration Link](#)
 - ✓ Role of Planning on 27 February 2023 – [Zoom Registration Link](#)
 - ✓ Advances in the Social Economy on 6 March 2023 – [Zoom Registration Link](#)

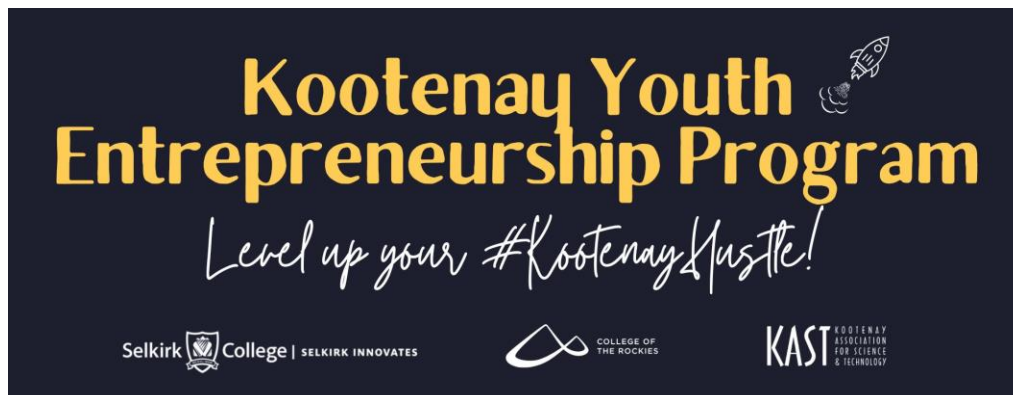


HOUSING

- As most of you will be aware, housing is now its own standalone ministry within the provincial government. Hon. Ravi Kahlon is now the Minister of Housing and you can read his mandate letter [here](#). There has also been a [recent release](#) about a number of legislative changes, including the province having the power to set housing targets for municipalities with the greatest need and take a variety of actions to ensure compliance.

WORKFORCE

- Congratulations to Columbia Valley on their [new workforce website](#). Built on the success of the Work In Fernie site, it's great to see good practice being shared across the region.
- The [Canada Summer Jobs Wage Subsidy](#) is now open and closes 12 January 2023. The program provides wage subsidies to employers from not-for-profit organizations, the public sector, and private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to create quality summer work experiences for young people aged 15 to 30 years. Make sure to work with businesses and non-profit organizations in your communities to take advantage of this support.
- Selkirk College, College of the Rockies, and the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) have launched the **Kootenay Youth Entrepreneurship Program**. This new, ongoing, extra-curricular series introduces entrepreneurial skills to youth across the Kootenay Region. This program will expose youth aged 16-30, free of charge, to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, while providing training and experiences to aid in skills and career development. The first of this new program's activities is happening 14 January 2023. [Get more information and register here](#).



- The **East Kootenay Career and Job Fair** will be in person for 2023 and registration is open! Taking place from 10:00am to 3:00pm on Wednesday 1 March 2023 at the College of the Rockies Cranbrook campus, this event is open to local and national employers and non-profit organizations looking to grow their team or to promote a career in a specific industry. Businesses and non-profits can [register here](#) at a cost of \$175 for Businesses (includes in person and video submission), \$50 for Non-Profit organizations (includes in person and video submission) and \$25 – Online - video submission only. Once College of the Rockies receives your registration you will receive an invoice via email within 7 business days.

- The **BC Provincial Nomination Program (BC PNP) skills immigration stream** is making it easier to attract international talent to rural communities. For those who are offered a qualifying job outside of Metro Vancouver, who have worked at least one year outside of Metro Vancouver, or who have recently graduated from a post-secondary institution outside of Metro Vancouver, they will receive higher priority and greater access to the program. [Find out more here.](#)

CHILDCARE

- After delays due to Covid, it is great to see Canal Flat's childcare centre will be opening in the New Year. [See the news article here.](#)
- The Kids on Campus Children's Centre in Cranbrook has become part of the \$10/day Childcare BC program. It is good to see another centre in our region joining this great opportunity. [See the news article here.](#)
- On the 1st of December, families across the province paid less for their childcare, due to a fee reduction from provincial government for all those attending licensed childcare. [See the news release here.](#)
- Check out the write-up from the December East Kootenay ECE Roundtable on the [CFEK website](#), under the "Focus Areas" heading.

TOURISM

- The **Tourism Digital Academy** is back. This FREE 8-week program supports BC tourism businesses who are interested in building their knowledge and skills in digital marketing to an intermediate level. Find out more and apply for the programs starting in January 2023 [here.](#)
- The second **Indigenous Tourism BC "Spark" Program** has recently launched. The initiative aims to spark new Indigenous tourism ideas and experiences which authentically represent, celebrate, and promote Indigenous cultures, heritage, language, cuisine, and communities in BC. Applications close 18 January 2023. To find out more, [check out the website here.](#)
- Nominations for the [2023 BC Tourism & Hospitality Awards](#) are open until 22 December 2022. The Awards are presented by BCHA and TIABC to recognize and celebrate the excellence, leadership, and innovation in BC's tourism & hospitality industry. [Nominate an organization today.](#)

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- Have you checked out the report from the East Kootenay Poverty Reduction Conference that was held in October? [View it here.](#)
- PacifiCan have funded over \$2 million in support of public spaces across the East Kootenays. [Find out more here.](#)
- Outdoor Recreation supports across the East Kootenays have been recently announced by Columbia Basin Trust. [See the list here.](#)

FUNDING

The [Community Services Recovery Fund](#) is a one-time investment of \$400 million from the Federal Government that will help charities, non-profits and Indigenous Governing Bodies to acquire the tools they need to adapt and modernize so they can better support pandemic recovery in communities across Canada.

Funding from the Community Services Recovery Fund will enable charities, non-profits and Indigenous Governing Bodies to invest in their own organizational capacity to:

- adapt the way they deliver services to support the needs of their staff and volunteers;
- buy equipment such as computers and software;
- create new ways of working, such as developing new fundraising approaches;
- provide support for staff and volunteers, such as staff training, supports for mental health and wellbeing; and
- develop plans to receive funding from diverse sources.

The Community Services Recovery Fund will open for applications on 6 January 2023, with the deadline for applications being 21 February 2023. Check out the eligibility criteria and learn about the program on the [Community Services Recovery Fund website](#).

Other funding options that are still open:

- [Connecting Communities BC](#). Applications for round one close 15 December 2022, but round two opens 16 December 2022!
- [Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program \(REDIP\)](#). Applications close 4 January 2023.
- [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