

East Kootenay Community Economic Development update 23 January 2023

Good morning all,

Although January is more than two-thirds over, I still feel I need to say HAPPY NEW YEAR, as this is my first update of 2023!

I look forward to working with many of you in the coming months, and together continuing to make our communities vibrant places to live, work and play.

Congratulations to the following East Kootenay projects who received funding through the [ETSI-BC Fall Intake](#). It's great to see such a diverse range of projects moving forward in our region:

- Columbia Valley Housing Society - Workforce Housing Project Manager
- City of Cranbrook - Canadian Rockies International Airport Regional Employment Lands
- Kakin Corporation - qukin ?amak?is Property
- Kimberley & District Chamber of Commerce - Kimberley Health Centre Investment Opportunities Analysis
- KAST - Kootenay Net-Zero Innovation Action Plan

Before we know it, the Spring intake of [ETSI-BC's funding streams](#) will be open again, so please reach out if you want support to help pull a project and application together.

CED RESOURCES / INFORMATION / SUPPORT

- The BC government has recently announced a new [Manufacturing Jobs Fund](#), with a focus on rural communities. The fund will support high-value industrial and manufacturing projects to drive clean and inclusive growth by supporting established for-profit organizations to plan and launch shovel-ready projects that bring direct benefits and jobs to regional communities. Applications open on 28 February 2023 and is on a continuous intake. [More information can be found here.](#)
- For elected officials and those working in local government, there is an interesting webinar on the 25th of January that is being run by the Tamarack Institute - *Local Government Contribution: A Game Changer for Positive Social Change*. [Find out more and register here.](#)
- ETSI-BC are developing a Practitioner Network for the Columbia-Kootenay region, and are looking for proposals from qualified groups to facilitate this network. [Details can be found here.](#)
- Do you have a project you want to put forward for the BCEDA Economic Development Awards? These awards recognize BC's best economic development programs, partnerships, economic reconciliation, resiliency and marketing initiatives. Two awards are given in each category – based on population; one award for population under 20,000 and one award for population over 20,000. More information and the nomination guidelines can be [found here](#). Deadline for applications is 3 March 2023.

- Columbia Basin Trust will begin their Strategic Planning discussions this Spring. Make sure to be part of the conversations to share the needs of our communities and share your vision how we can all work more in partnership and collaboration for the betterment of all those who call the East Kootenays home. Full details can be found on their website - <https://future.ourtrust.org/>. There are [in-person community conversations](#) across the region in April, as well as plenty of [Zoom conversations](#). There are also two 1.5 days [symposiums](#) taking place in our region – in Cranbrook on 26-27 May and in Golden on 23-24 June.

HOUSING

- Have you seen the [Housing Resource Guide](#) that Golden CED have produced? It's a great asset to show housing options in a community. Have other communities done something similar or are looking at producing something like this? I'd love to share if so.
- The Town of Golden and Golden CED have entered into an MOU to develop an affordable housing project. This is incredibly exciting, and great to see the hard work by Jill and team come to fruition. [Check out the press release here](#).
- The Columbia Valley Housing Society is looking for a project manager. Do you know of anyone who is passionate about making resident-restricted housing a reality in the Columbia Valley? [Get them to apply today!](#)
- BC Housing has bought a property in Cranbrook to provide a permanent homeless shelter. [See the press release here](#).
- The Province's [Homelessness Community Action Grants](#) is open for applications. The program provides one-time funding for local planning and collaborative initiatives designed to better respond to the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. [Full details can be found here](#).
- The Canadian Rural & Remote Housing & Homelessness Symposium is taking place from 6-8 June 2023. This will be a hybrid event, hosted virtually & in person in Ontario. If you're interested, you can [sign up here](#) to get notified when registration opens.
- UBCM are hosting a province-wide housing summit in Vancouver on 4-5 April 2023. The conference aims to assist in the identification of solutions to address gaps in current policy, strengthen intergovernmental collaboration, and highlight best practices for local government. Details on registration and the program will be coming soon, but you can see [an overview here](#).
- Details from the property assessments for Kootenay Columbia can be found on the [BC Assessments website](#). Two interesting points for our region is that the greatest change in the East Kootenay region was in Sparwood (28% increase), and that the City of Fernie has the highest average assessed value of any community in the Kootenay Columbia region, with an average assessed value of \$838,000.

CHILDCARE

There are [more \\$10/day centres coming to the region](#):

- BCG Cranbrook; 36 spaces (12 infant-toddler, 24 2.5-years-to-kindergarten-age spaces)
- Little Summit Daycare (Cranbrook); 28 spaces (12 infant-toddler, 16 2.5-years-to-kindergarten-age spaces)
- Second Steps Group Day Care (Kimberley); 16 2.5-years-to-kindergarten-age spaces
- Windermere Valley Childcare; 82 spaces (12 infant-toddler, 25 2.5-years-to-kindergarten-age, 20 preschool, 25 school-age)

Kootenay Employment Services has a Childcare pilot program being offered this year. [Find out more on their website.](#)

They are running weekly information sessions on the program each Wednesday at 10am until the 25th of February 2023.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89246753454?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 892 4675 3454

K KOOTENAY
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES

DO YOU WANT TO OPEN YOUR OWN CHILDCARE CENTRE?

NO CERTIFICATIONS NECESSARY

SUPPORTED ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO GET YOU STARTED

- 1**
Get Paid to be apart of the Self-Employment Program
We qualify and assess your eligibility for financial support to assist with household expenses or business costs to assist you on your journey.
- 2**
Workshops Specific to the Childcare Industry
With access to dedicated workshops and training programs made for the Childcare industry, you'll gain knowledge and confidence in the field.
- 3**
Business Support & Guidance
You won't be on your own, with business coaching to guide and assist you within your first year of business.
- 4**
Access to Childcare Industry Specific Grants
Providing assisted access and application to grants like the "BC Start-Up Grant" that supports new businesses in B.C. communities.

Visit us at
kes.bc.ca to find
out more

FOOD

The Columbia Basin Food Supply Chain Map aims to connect businesses in the food and agriculture sector who are distributing their products in the Columbia Basin. The map shows what products are being shipped, where to and how often, and **aims is to help businesses overcome barriers to shipping in the region by collaborating to be more cost effective.** The map is only available to companies who sign up, and signing up is free! Just by filling in a very short form at <https://circularinsights.ca/login/> the company will be added to the map

- For instructions on how to add a company and data, [watch this video](#).
- [This video](#) explains how to use the map.

Please share with food producers in your communities. More information can be found by [watching this short video](#).

TOURISM

Destination BC have shared the results of their [2022 Public Perceptions of Tourism survey](#), and there are some interesting stats for our region:

- ✓ 86% of Kootenay Rockies residents feel that tourism is important to their community's economy (about the same as Vancouver Island residents at 87%).
- ✓ 27% of Kootenay Rockies residents believe tourism will be the largest contributor of new jobs and economic activity in their communities in the next five years. This was the highest percentage, followed by construction (14%) and mining (12%).

BUSINESSES

- The Project Zero Incubator supports entrepreneurs, businesses and non-profits to develop a circular future that has a lower impact on our planet. This FREE, 8-month program provides access to coaching, workshops and resources to help early-stage business ideas and organizations get established. More information can be found here: <https://www.project-zero.ca/incubator>. Applications close 13 February 2023.
- Small Business BC Awards are now open for nomination. It would be great to see more businesses from our region feature in the awards, so make sure to nominate your favorite businesses today - <https://smallbusinessbc.ca/awards/nominate-a-business/>

EAST KOOTENAY NEWS

- Congratulations to the Columbia Valley Community Foundation for the launch of their [Vital Signs report](#). This is a great source of community and economic development data, and I look forward to seeing how organizations and individuals within the Columbia Valley use the information to continue to improve the quality of life of all members of their communities.
- Don't forget to nominate people in your area for the RDEK Electoral Area Volunteer of the Year Awards. Nominees must be full-time residents of an Electoral Area (cannot reside in an incorporated municipality) and make voluntary contributions to the spirit, and culture, or people of their community/area. [Details are here](#) and nominations close 1 February 2023.
- Did you read Rob Gay's [year-in-review for RDEK?](#)
- Funding is coming from the Government of Canada for restoration of the Aquacourt at Radium Hot Springs. [See more details here](#).
- Teck recently released their yearly economic contribution report for 2022. [Check it out here](#).

- The [Kootenay Youth Entrepreneurship Program](#) is now kicking off on 11 February 2023 (it was originally planned for January). This program aims to introduce and develop entrepreneurial skills in those aged 16-30. A great initiative by KAST, College of the Rockies and Selkirk College.



FUNDING

Details of new funding opportunities that have recently opened:

- Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives and Affected Areas grant, is now known as [Resident Directed \(REDI\) grants](#).
 - Applications are now open for organizations within Golden and surrounding areas. [Check out the information here](#). Applications close 6 February 2023.
 - Applications are now open for organizations with the Regional District of East Kootenay. [Check out the information here](#). Applications close 15 February 2023.
 - Applications are on a continuous intake for organizations within ʔaąam, ʔakisq̓nuk, Yaąit ʔa-knuq̓iʔit and Shuswap Band. [Details can be found here](#).
- UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program supports local governments in reducing poverty and advance the Province's poverty reduction strategy. [Find out details here](#). Applications close 17 March 2023.
- For charities in Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie and Cranbrook the [Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies Grant Application](#) is open. Applications close 15 February 2023
- Grants from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance are now open for all art disciplines, and for both individuals and arts and culture organizations. [Check out their website for more information](#). Applications close early March (3 or 10 March 2023, depending on program)

- The Real Estate Foundation of BC supports projects that advances sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use practices in BC. Their general grants are open to non-profit organizations or community contribution company working on land use or real estate issues in BC. They support law and policy reform, applied research, community engagement, and professional and public education in five priority areas:
 - Land Use
 - Fresh Water
 - Built Environments
 - Food Sovereignty
 - Real Estate Profession

Applications close 16 February 2023. [Details are here.](#)

Other funding options that are still open:

- [UBCM Emergency Support Services](#). Applications close 27 January 2023.
- [Community Services Recovery Fund](#). Applications close 21 February 2023.
- [Connecting Communities BC](#). Applications close 16 February 2023.
- [UBCM Emergency Operations Centres & Training](#). Applications close 31 March 2023.
- [CFEK CED Fund](#). Continuous intake program, until all funds have been allocated