



Mike Thomas, Castlegar, on what living in the Basin means:

Community

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BASINLink

Issue 34

September 2011

New Program Helps Address Social Needs



CBT's new Social Grants Program, a three-year pilot program, will have a budget of \$1 million per year for projects that address social needs in the Basin...[full story](#)

CBT Announces New Youth Funds



CBT announces Community Directed Youth Funds, which target youth ages 12 to 19 and provide selected areas with \$100,000 over four years to increase activities, opportunities and services for youth. Expressions of Interest are being accepted until October 31, 2011...[full story](#)

Taking Action on Local Climate Change



Thirty-three local governments in the Columbia Basin have taken another important step toward reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and cutting energy costs by completing 2010 inventories of their energy use and emissions...[full story](#)

Get Involved

Sept. 16: [CBT Grant Writing Workshop](#) (Valemount)

CBT NEWS

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The Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative offers professional development events to strengthen the boards and staff of community service agencies. [Find out more.](#)

- Sept. 18: [SS Moyie National Historic Site Open House](#) (Kaslo)
- Sept. 22: [Enterprising Non-Profits Orientation Session](#) (Golden)
- Sept. 23: [CBT Annual General Meeting](#) (Kaslo)
- Sept. 24 & 25: [Arts and Heritage Organizational Development Workshop](#) (Nelson)
- Sept. 24 & 25: [Elk River Swim, Drink, Fish Festival](#) (Elk River)
- Sept. 25: [Slocan Valley Rivers Day Celebration](#) (Slocan Valley)
- Sept. 28: [Enterprising Non-Profits Orientation Session](#) (Castlegar)
- Sept. 28 – Oct. 1: [Columbia Salmon Festival](#) (Fairmont/Invermere)
- Sept. 29: [Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-op Annual General Meeting](#) (Castlegar)
- Oct. 3 – 6: [BC Museums Association Conference](#) (Cranbrook)
- Oct. 4: [Columbia River Treaty Information Session](#) (Jaffray) *Note: more sessions will occur throughout the Basin this fall. [Click here](#) to view the schedule.*

[View more events and deadlines.](#)



Construction of the Waneta Expansion Project is proceeding well, with [no lost time or major environmental incidents](#) and a new [public viewing area](#).



Is your community ready for the effects of climate change? Discover how several Basin communities are [planning for possible consequences](#).

New CBT Program Helps Basin Communities Address Social Needs

Monday, September 12, 2011

CBT commits \$3 million to the Social Grants Program

Communities throughout the Basin will benefit from a new granting program from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). Called the Social Grants Program, the three-year pilot program will have a budget of \$1 million per year for projects that address social needs in the Basin.

"Supporting social well-being has always been an important part of our mandate at CBT," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We recognize that Basin residents have been working hard to address a range of social issues, from connecting with isolated senior citizens to ensuring young families have access to early childhood development programs. CBT will support the efforts of Basin residents by funding projects through the new Social Grants Program."

Grant decisions will be made by a committee of volunteers made up of Basin residents with social sector expertise, plus community members from around the Basin. This approach will ensure that project decisions are made by individuals with technical expertise in social needs and issues, and those more broadly familiar with community development issues in the Basin. Members are being recruited until Friday, October 7, 2011; visit www.cbt.org/sgp for details.

Grant application deadlines for the Social Grants Program will take place twice a year; the first intake will be in winter 2012. For future notification of exact dates, sign up for CBT's *BASINLink* newsletter at www.cbt.org/newsletter or like CBT on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ColumbiaBasinTrust.

CBT also addresses social issues through several partnerships, including support of the Enterprising Non-Profits Program, Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative, Affordable Housing Resources Program and Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. For more information, visit www.cbt.org/social.



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CBT is supporting social well-being throughout the Basin through its new Social Grants Program.



CBT Announces New Youth Funds

Thursday, July 28, 2011

CBT is seeking communities to participate in its new Community Directed Youth Funds program to increase local activities, opportunities and/or services for youth. For more information and to apply with an Expression of Interest before October 31, 2011, [click here](#).

Strengthening communities with the new Community Directed Youth Funds program

CBT has a new program to support youth in Basin communities. Community Directed Youth Funds (CDYF) will be piloted in six communities and their surrounding areas this fall. CDYF targets youth ages 12 to 19 and will provide each area with \$100,000 over four years to increase activities, opportunities and services for youth. The program will be available to the remainder of the Basin over the next two years.

"Basin communities have expressed the need for support in increasing activities or services to youth and this new program is a result of that feedback," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We are pleased to support communities in their efforts to address and meet local youth priorities."

The program is intended to bring added value to participating regions and to provide resources to communities that show the desire and the ability to work together to identify and address issues in their youth communities.

"The intent of Community Directed Youth Funds is to put resources in the hands of communities so they can enhance local opportunities and meet local youth priorities in their regions," said Garry Merkel, CBT Chair, Board of Directors. "This is consistent with CBT's belief that communities are best placed to make decisions regarding their priorities and consistent with our direction to provide resources and funding to communities to allow them to pursue their priorities." Merkel went on to say, "Youth are the future of the Basin and as such are an important area for CBT to be investing funds."

Guidelines and applications will be available in the fall, but those wanting to better understand the program are encouraged to call Wayne Lundeberg at 1.250.304.1625 or email cdyf@cbt.org with 'subscribe to CDYF info' in the subject line to receive program updates.

CBT works with youth and communities to increase youth opportunities and engagement through enhancing capacity, leadership and participation. In addition to this new program, CBT also funds youth developed projects through the Columbia Basin Youth Grants program and provides a forum for youth in the Columbia Basin to share their art, ideas and experiences with each other through SCRATCH magazine and www.scratchonline.ca.

For more information please see the program guidelines [here](#).



Taking Action on Local Climate Change and Cutting Energy Costs

Wednesday, August 10, 2011

Local governments complete emissions inventories

Thirty-three local governments in the Columbia Basin, including three regional districts and two First Nations, have taken another important step toward reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and cutting energy costs. As part of their climate change commitments, each local government has recently completed a 2010 inventory of its energy use and emissions.



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Thirty-three local governments have recently completed 2010 inventories of their energy uses and emissions.

"These inventories provide essential information for local governments that want to cut energy costs and take action on climate change by reducing how much energy they use," said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment.

These local governments signed BC's voluntary Climate Action Charter and have committed to becoming carbon neutral in their operations by 2012. A multi-year effort known as the Carbon Neutral Kootenays (CNK) project is supporting local governments and First Nations that are working toward becoming carbon neutral. CNK is funded jointly by CBT and the regional districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary.

"The inventories will help determine where energy use, costs and emissions can be cut and that means we will be meeting our climate change commitment," said John MacLean, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, Chief Administrative Officer.

The inventories look at how much energy—electricity, propane, heating oil, natural gas, etc.—is used in local government operations including fire halls, town halls, community halls, arenas, libraries and streetlights, as well as sewage and water treatment operations. The inventories also look at fuels used in public works vehicles and fleets.

"The inventories will help identify opportunities to reduce energy use and save money, which is one of the many benefits being delivered by the partnership between CBT and the regional districts," said Lee-Ann Crane, Regional District of East Kootenay, Chief Administrative Officer.

Based on these new 2010 inventories, pools, arenas and fleet vehicles, as well as water and wastewater operations, may be the biggest users of energy and provide the best opportunities for local governments to cut energy use, costs and emissions.

"As part of this project, we are collectively taking responsibility for reducing our use of fossil fuels, and the inventories keep us on track to meet our carbon neutral targets by 2012," said Jim Gustafson, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Chief Administrative Officer.

The Carbon Neutral Kootenays project is one of several climate change initiatives supported by CBT. Additional information about the project is available at http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?Reducing_Emissions.

2010 Emissions Inventories Have Been Prepared for:

First Nations

1. Akisq'nuk First Nation
2. Tobacco Plains Indian Band

Municipalities

1. Castlegar
2. Creston
3. Kaslo
4. Nakusp
5. Nelson
6. New Denver
7. Salmo
8. Silverton
9. Slocan
10. Golden

11. Revelstoke
12. Canal Flats
13. Cranbrook
14. Elkford
15. Fernie
16. Invermere
17. Kimberley
18. Radium Hotsprings
19. Sparwood
20. Valemount
21. Fruitvale
22. Grand Forks
23. Greenwood
24. Midway
25. Montrose
26. Rossland
27. Trail
28. Warfield

Regional Districts

1. Regional District of Central Kootenay
2. Regional District of East Kootenay
3. Regional District of Kootenay Boundary



The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Its Partners Join Forces to Protect Critical Grassland Habitat in the Columbia Valley

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, regional and national funding partners and the local community have come together to secure Marion Creek Benchlands, a 504-acre (204-hectare) native grassland property perched on the benchlands above Columbia Lake.



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Members of the public enjoy a walking tour of Marion Creek Benchlands, which CBT has helped secure. Photo courtesy of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Marion Creek Benchlands sits on the west side of Columbia Lake, and affords spectacular vistas of the Rocky Mountains and the internationally significant Columbia Wetlands. The property hosts an incredible diversity of habitats, including grasslands, wetlands, deciduous forests and ecologically unique cold springs. This mosaic of habitat types supports an abundance of native wildlife and plant species such as American badger, spotted frog, wood duck, common butterwort and Rocky Mountain elk.

Recognizing the incredible natural value of Marion Creek Benchlands, many groups and individuals rallied around this conservation project. Columbia Basin Trust, East Kootenay Wildlife Association, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Government of Canada, the Regional District of East Kootenay's Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund and others have contributed to the \$1.7 million required to protect these benchlands in perpetuity.

Now that the property is secured, the Nature Conservancy of Canada will conduct a complete inventory of the ecological values on the property, which will form the basis for a property management plan that will take into account environmental, First Nation and community values.

Quotes

"I am thrilled that so many people and organizations have come together to make this project a success," said Nancy Newhouse, Canadian Rockies Program Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. "This important tract of grassland habitat will now be protected thanks to the foresight and generosity of the local community and our partners."

"This acquisition marks another achievement under our government's Natural Areas Conservation Program. With this investment, we are taking real action to protect and conserve our ecosystems and sensitive species for present and future generations," said Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of Environment. "Your actions today will help to protect the abundance and variety of life that will constitute an integral part of our natural heritage tomorrow."

"We are extremely happy to be a part of this project given its ecological importance," said John Krebs, Crew Lead and Senior Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. "Land acquisition is just one of the many tools we are using to ensure that biodiversity is maintained in the region for generations to come."

"CBT is pleased it was able to provide \$336,000 to support the costs associated with purchasing the Marion Creek Benchlands for conservation purposes," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We are committed to the stewardship of the Basin's natural assets and protecting these important lands will mean Basin residents can enjoy them for generations to come."

"The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation is proud to provide \$250,000 to NCC to help purchase this valuable property," said Dr. Winifred Kessler, Chair of the Foundation. "The property provides critical habitat connections between existing conservation lands, and also provides non-motorized recreational opportunities for hunters, hikers and others."

Facts

- Grasslands support over 30 per cent of species at risk in British Columbia.
- Marion Creek Benchlands bridges two existing conservation areas: The Nature Conservancy of Canada's Thunder Hill Ranch and McKersie covenant lands, and The Nature Trust of BC's Columbia Lake – Westside property. Together these properties form an unbroken natural corridor that spans more than 30 square kilometres.

- Threats to the property include residential development and invasive species.
- The conservation of Marion Creek Benchlands brings the total amount of land protected in the Columbia Valley by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to over 6,400 acres (2,600 hectares).

Learn more about [Marion Creek Benchlands](#).



Plan Seeks to Improve the Lives of Street-Involved Youth

Monday, September 12, 2011

CBT supports Operation Street Angel's new youth-focused plan.

Street-involved youth in Cranbrook and area are the focus of a new business plan being developed by Operation Street Angel, a non-profit organization spearheaded by the Ktunaxa Nation Council. The Youth Engagement Collaboration project is being supported in part by \$10,000 from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).

Launched in fall 2010, Operation Street Angel assists Cranbrook's street-involved people by providing outreach and guidance services.

Between 80 and 100 people access it each day—and about 30 per cent of these are youth.

"The Youth Engagement Collaboration project will see the Ktunaxa Nation Council and 25 other partners—representing a large cross-section of services and opportunities—come together to develop effective programming to promote the mental health and well-being of youth at risk, including emergency housing," said Carrie Schafer, CBT Community Liaison. "The goal is to increase the capacity of Operation Street Angel to respond to the needs of youth accessing its services."

"Operation Street Angel did not anticipate such a high number of youth living on the street or at very high risk of joining street-involved culture," said Shannon Girling-Hebert, Manager of Health Services & Strategic Initiatives, Ktunaxa Nation Council. "It has been determined that youth-focused interventions are urgently needed to meet the needs of our young street-involved population. The Youth Engagement Collaboration project will help us identify what these interventions should be."

The plan will focus on both Cranbrook and the East Kootenay region as a whole, as many homeless youth from other communities gravitate to Cranbrook as the closest urban centre. Among others, it will identify opportunities that:

- empower youth and help them develop self-esteem and self-confidence;
- teach skills by which youth can find their purposes in life and identify goals; and
- open possibilities of self-expression, personal development and capacity building.

Goals include reducing anti-social behaviour, helping youth and their families access services and increasing family cohesion.

For further information on this project, please contact Debbie Whitehead, Director, Social Investment Sector, Ktunaxa Nation, at 1.250.489.2464 or dwhitehead@ktunaxa.org.



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Wendy Bond, Street Angel, with youth accessing the services of Operation Street Angel, which will be developing a new plan focusing on youth, supported by Columbia Basin Trust.

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Thousands of Visitors Enjoy Centre's Ecosystem Education

Friday, August 26, 2011

The Kokanee Creek Visitor's Centre at Kokanee Creek Provincial Park is in full swing this summer, thanks in part to \$20,000 in support from CBT's [Environmental Initiatives Program](#).

"The Kokanee Creek Provincial Park Visitor Centre has been a hub of ecosystem education in the West Kootenay Region for many years," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "The support from CBT helps ensure this continues."

The centre offers interpretive displays and programs that educate thousands of visitors and students about Basin ecosystems and what they can do to protect and enhance the environment. It is located steps away from the salmon spawning channel in Kokanee Creek, plus close to several provincial parks representing a wide variety of ecosystems, including wetland, floodplain, riparian, mid-elevation forest, old-growth and alpine meadow.

Focus areas for the centre include lake stewardship, the salmon lifecycle, wetland and floodplain hydrological functions and human disturbance of habitat. Programs reflect the complex interdependency of environmental issues and encourage watershed and ecosystem stewardship, water and energy conservation, mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change.

"The Kokanee Creek Visitor's Centre provides ecological programs to 10-12,000 visitors per year, plus provides information to 30-40,000 visitors through displays, videos and handouts," said David Reid, Executive Director, West Kootenay EcoSociety, which operates the centre. "Through partnerships, the centre will also be accommodating school visits in the fall, allowing about 4,000 students to engage with the environment and learn about the region's ecosystems."

A number of additional activities and programs also take place at the centre. More information about the centre and a schedule of events can be found at www.ecosociety.ca/kokanee-creek-nature-centre.



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[Prev](#) [Image 1 of 2](#) [Next](#)

The Kokanee Creek Visitor's Centre, supported in part by CBT, provides ecological programs and displays to thousands of visitors each year.



Creston Valley Emergency Services to Centralize

Monday, July 25, 2011

CBT provides \$100,000 toward the construction of an emergency services building

Creston Valley emergency services groups will soon have a centralized place to call home as CBT is providing \$100,000 toward the construction of an emergency services building, to be located at the Creston Valley Regional Airport.

"The emergency services building will be a great asset to the community, centralizing services while providing a training facility for volunteers," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "It will be beneficial to have one building for all four groups, as they all have similar needs."

Partners on the \$375,000-project include the Creston Valley Regional Airport Society (CVRAS), Civil Air Search and Rescue Association, Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Emergency Services and Ground Search and Rescue. The Town of Creston is also supporting this project by letting the building be constructed on land owned by the Town.

In addition to providing office space and serving as a training centre, the building will allow for the storage of emergency and safety equipment—an important feature as equipment is currently located in various locations around the Creston Valley. It will also provide a fixed base of operation during emergencies, as currently there is no command centre for support personnel to gather in.

"Not only will the new building enhance and streamline emergency services, but it will encourage all groups to work more effectively with better communication," said Mary Angus, Secretary/Treasurer, CVRAS. "We also anticipate that we will be able to attract more volunteers, which will enable us to respond more effectively to emergencies."

"This is an incredible opportunity to coordinate emergency services under one roof. The coordination and oversight of this project through the Creston Valley Regional Airport Society will ensure its long-term sustainability," said John Kettle, Board Chair, RDCK. "This could not have happened without the support of Columbia Basin Trust and our volunteers. We thank CBT for giving us a helping hand to make our communities better."



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Construction proceeds on a new building for Creston Valley emergency services groups, supported by CBT.

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Support Granted to Environmental Projects Throughout the Basin

Thursday, August 18, 2011

CBT helps residents address environmental issues by continuing to provide funding

Forty-five environmental projects throughout the Columbia Basin will be receiving a total of \$580,000 in support in 2011/12 from CBT through its [Environmental Initiatives Program](#) (EIP).

"It is a priority for CBT to encourage long-term stewardship of Basin resources and help build the capacity of residents to take action in meeting environmental challenges," said Kindy Gosal, Director, Water and Environment. "We have been supporting residents, community groups and organizations since 2002 on projects that focus on reducing impacts on regional aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. We are excited about being able to help all the eligible projects."

EIP provides support to community-initiated and -supported projects, and includes a small grants stream geared at projects under \$10,000 and a large grants stream for projects up to \$20,000. See the list below of projects approved for funding in 2011/12.

Over the past 10 years, EIP has provided approximately \$4.5 million in funding for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. For more information about EIP, visit www.cbt.org/eip. To learn more about CBT's other environmental priorities, visit www.cbt.org/environment.



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The Kokanee Salmon School Program is one of the 45 projects receiving funding support in 2011/12 from CBT's Environmental Initiatives Program.

RELATED ITEMS

[PDF](#) [Environmental Initiatives Program: List of 2011/12 Projects Approved for Funding \(56.32 KB\)](#)

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Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Community Service Agencies

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative (KBCSC) is offering professional development events this fall, intended to strengthen the boards and staff of community service agencies. CBT is proud to partner with KBCSC as part of our efforts to strengthen community-based organizations working to address social issues.

Since the beginning of the CBT/KBCSC partnership in 2009, KBCSC has hosted or co-hosted 36 events throughout the Basin to over 1,000 participants. Though these events primarily target Basin community organizations, all residents are welcome to participate. Fall 2011 events include:

- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Through Effective Communication;
- Non-profit Board Development Day; and
- Administrative Professionals Learning & Networking.

For a full calendar of training opportunities, visit <http://thekoop.ca/events/> or call Eva Hernandez at 250.352.6786.

KBCSC also offers training subsidies to eligible non-profit agencies, which help reduce the financial barriers faced by rural community social service agencies when paying for staff training, travel, accommodation, etc. In the past year, 44 subsidies of \$500 each were given out to organizations in 19 Basin communities. The next round of subsidies is now available, with the amount increased to \$750 per organization. Details on the training subsidy are available on the KBCSC website.

KBCSC comprises 13 community social services agencies in the West Kootenay and Boundary region, which work together to plan and deliver community services and to support each other to maintain and improve the quality of services they provide.

CBT and KBCSC have partnered to build capacity for board and staff of community service agencies by:

- providing professional development opportunities;
- developing service models for rural areas;
- implementing standards to help agencies meet accreditation requirements; and
- strengthening regional projects where there are current gaps in services.

For more information on CBT's Social Initiatives, visit www.cbt.org/social. For more information on KBCSC, visit www.thekoop.ca.



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The Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative offers professional development events to strengthen the boards and staff of community service agencies.



Waneta Expansion Project Marks No Lost Time or Major Environmental Incident to Date

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

The partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—CBT, Fortis Inc. and Columbia Power Corporation—are pleased to announce the project has reached more than 450,000 man hours without a lost time or major environmental incident.

"This is an important milestone for the project," said Audrey Repin, Spokesperson for the Waneta Expansion Project. "It defines our dedication to a high standard of safety, environmental protection and quality workmanship, and is representative of the work done each and every day on site. The project partners are proud of this accomplishment and thank all of the workers and contractors for their commitments to date."

Construction progress is going well and the project is currently on schedule. Major construction activities on site include excavation of the intake, powerhouse and power tunnels.

Currently more than 200 employees are working on the project, with approximately 82 per cent living within 100 kilometres of the site. A commitment to providing opportunities for women, visible minorities, disabled persons and First Nations has proven successful, and the current workforce consists of 15 per cent equity employees.

A public viewing area was created across Highway 22A and is home to a platform lookout, which was donated by ASL-JV. Interpretive signage adds to the public viewing area, making it a popular spot to safely view construction activity and learn about the project.

An independent socio-economic monitor has been hired to objectively monitor the impacts of the project on the greater Trail area. The first report is available at:

<http://www.columbiapower.org/pdf/2011SocioEconomicReport.pdf>.

The Waneta Expansion Project is a partnership between CBT, Fortis Inc. and Columbia Power Corporation. For more information, visit:

www.columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

There have been no lost time or major environmental incidents on the Waneta Expansion Project.



Waneta Expansion Project Marks Construction With Opening of Public Viewing Area

Friday, July 22, 2011

The partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—Fortis Inc., CBT and Columbia Power Corporation—opened a new public viewing area across from the construction site.

A project this size draws great excitement from both local residents and travellers; having the viewing area open for the busy summer months was a priority for public interest and safety.

Local and provincial government, First Nations and community representatives were also on site for the opening, which included a construction site tour. The viewing area is located directly across Highway 22A and provides a safe place to observe construction and view interpretive signage about the project. Work on this 335-megawatt, \$900-million hydroelectric project began last fall, and is on schedule and budget. Construction activities currently underway include intake and powerhouse excavation and work in the powerhouse area to provide access for excavation of the power tunnel. In keeping with the project's emphasis on safety and environmental protection, there has been no lost time or major environmental incidents to date.

"The Waneta Expansion Project is vital to BC's energy infrastructure and will help FortisBC meet our current and future capacity demands with long-term, reliable electricity from a renewable resource," said John Walker, President and CEO, FortisBC. "With operations in the province dating back more than 100 years, FortisBC has a strong history of working with communities and partners such as the Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust. The \$460-million investment in the expansion project is reflective of the Fortis group of companies' commitment to investing in the communities it serves and being a leading energy service provider."

"Projects like the Waneta Expansion are part of our long-term vision for clean, renewable and cost-effective power for all British Columbians," said Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines. "It will provide enough clean energy to power about 60,000 homes per year and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 400,000 tonnes, the equivalent of taking 78,000 cars off the road."

Over four and a half years, this project is expected to provide more than 400 jobs and an estimated \$200 million in wages and benefits. Local, qualified workers are given preference in hiring and equity provisions are in place for women, visible minorities, disabled persons and First Nations.

The project provides economic benefits to the region through the purchase of local goods and services.

"The 400 construction jobs created by the Waneta Expansion Project will boost the local economy over the next four years and provide a legacy of skilled workers for the Columbia Basin, setting the stage for future economic growth," said Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. "When the project is up and running, it will provide revenue to Columbia Basin Trust, which will be invested to benefit residents of the area socially, economically and environmentally."

The Waneta Expansion Project is a partnership between Fortis Inc., CBT and Columbia Power Corporation. For more information, visit:

www.columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.



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The opening of the public viewing area across from the Waneta Expansion Project construction site included a tour of the construction grounds by representatives from CBT, Columbia Power, Fortis Inc., local and provincial governments, First Nations and nearby communities.



Climate Change: Is Your Community Ready?

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

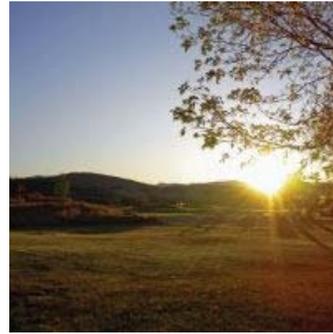
Is your town ready for a flood that could damage bridges or roads? What about an avalanche that closes roads in and out of where you live? Or a forest fire that impacts your community's drinking water? What would you do if your food, water or power supplies were disrupted for several days or more? Are you prepared?

Thanks in part to CBT's [Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative](#), several communities in the Columbia Basin are aware of how the climate may be changing and what that could mean locally.

Kimberley, Elkford, Rossland, Castlegar and RDCK Area D/Kaslo have developed climate change adaptation plans and are better prepared to deal with possible consequences of a changing climate. (To read these communities' case studies and reports, view the Related Items under the Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative subhead [on this page](#).) With a new phase of the initiative beginning this fall, even more Basin communities will have the opportunity to plan for the future.

This innovative CBT initiative has attracted international attention and the Basin communities are regarded as leaders in climate adaptation planning, which is something Basin residents can be proud of.

Communities that want to start planning for the future should contact Initiative Coordinator Kate Mahoney at adaptation@cbt.org.



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Basin communities prepare for climate change through CBT's [Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative](#).

