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BASINLink

Issue 37

December 2011

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CBT Continues to Boost Student Employment With New School Works Program

Monday, November 21, 2011

New program and \$3.5 million committed to student wage subsidies

CBT announces the [School Works Program](#) as part of a \$3.5-million commitment to increase employment opportunities for students in the Basin over the next three years.

This pilot program will provide an \$8/hour wage subsidy to encourage small businesses and non-profit, First Nation and public sector organizations in the Basin to provide part-time employment for full-time high school and post-secondary students in the Basin during the school year.

"The School Works Program benefits Basin-based students by encouraging small businesses and organizations in the region to hire students during the school year," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "This new program will complement our existing [Summer Works Program](#), creating valuable work experience and strengthening the Basin labour force."

CBT anticipates the Summer Works and School Works programs will create up to 900 student jobs over the next three years. Both programs will be administered by College of the Rockies, with the first School Works application intake starting December 1, 2011, and the next Summer Works intake starting in February 2012.

"We are very excited about continuing our partnership with CBT," said Tracey Whiting, College of the Rockies Contract Training and Business Development Manager. "Our role is to ensure employers easily understand the program and that they are supported throughout the entire process."



Kootenay Child Development Centre One Step Closer to Reality

Friday, December 09, 2011

CBT and Teck contribute \$400,000 to the child health and development services project

The East Kootenay region is one step closer to having a [Kootenay Child Development Centre](#), thanks to \$200,000 in support from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and \$200,000 from Teck. The project is being spearheaded by the Community Connections Society of Southeast BC (CCS).

The multi-service centre will coordinate health and development services and programs for children and youth in the East Kootenay by providing a full continuum of child health and development services in one central location.

"CBT is pleased to be able to support the final stages of construction for this facility that will benefit all families in the East Kootenay region," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "The centre is using a coordinated, community-based approach to addressing family needs. By centralizing services downtown, it will provide accessible, local services for parents and their children, eliminating the stress of travel, allowing families to focus on treatment and recovery and promoting overall well-being in the Basin."

"Teck is pleased to support this valuable project, which simplifies the ability for all the children and youth of the East Kootenay region to receive services. As an organization, we feel it is important to invest in the communities in which we operate and where our employees reside," said Nic Milligan, Manager Community and Aboriginal Affairs with Teck in Sparwood.

A one-stop shop for families with children up to age 19, the Cranbrook-based centre will house specialists like pediatricians, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists and physiotherapists. Space will be provided for visiting professionals, and there will be a family resource, equipment and toy loan program on site.

"The Kootenay Child Development Centre will be in a central location easily accessible to the community," said Gwen Noble, Executive Director, CCS. "This will make it easier for families to access services for their children while obtaining the expertise of a collective support team in one location. We thank CBT and Teck, and all other supporters, for their contributions in making this happen."



CBT Enhances Youth Opportunities in Basin Communities

Monday, November 28, 2011

First 10 communities announced for CBT's Community Directed Youth Funds program

CBT is pleased to announce the first communities participating in its new **Community Directed Youth Funds** (CDYF) program. CDYF aims to support services for youth ages 12 to 19 by providing each area with \$100,000 over four years to increase activities, opportunities and services for youth. The program will be available to the remaining Basin communities over the next two years.

"We are very excited to be putting funds in the hands of communities to benefit youth in their specific regions," said Wayne Lundeberg, CBT Director, Youth Initiatives. "These first communities demonstrated a readiness to come together in a collaborative manner to set priorities, address issues in their regions and enhance activities and services for their youth."

The six pilot communities and their surrounding areas that will begin the program this winter are: Revelstoke, Golden, New Denver/Silverton, Salmo/Ymir, Crawford Bay/Riondel and Montrose/Fruitvale/Beaver Valley.

"Our community is incredibly excited by the opportunity to enhance our youth services," said Daniel Seguin, Crawford Bay and Riondel area. "We look forward to working together and, with CBT, to finding the common ground on which consensus can be built as to where to direct the funding. It's definitely an inspiring time on the East Shore."

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

"Both youth and adults in the community have been talking about addressing the gaps in youth services and opportunities for years," said Monica De, Golden and area. "Since CDYF became available, there is finally a flexible funding opportunity to help address the needs of youth in Basin communities."

Another four communities who submitted successful Expressions of Interest will begin the program in the spring of 2012. They are: Nelson/Harrop/Proctor, Trail/Warfield, Rossland and Kimberley.

The next deadlines for Expression of Interests from communities are March 16 and October 31, 2012. Guidelines and applications are available at www.cbt.org/youth. For more information, 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 Basin to share their art, ideas and experiences with each other through SCRATCH magazine and

www.scratchonline.ca.



Construction Begins on Building to House Arrow Lakes Archives

Tuesday, December 06, 2011

CBT contributes \$100,000 toward Centennial Building addition

Construction has begun on an addition to the Centennial Building in Nakusp, which will house the archives of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society. CBT has supported the project with \$100,000.

The Centennial Building currently houses the Nakusp and District Museum and Nakusp Public Library. The addition will unite the three services while providing a permanent, safe home for archival material.

"CBT believes in supporting projects like this that build local partnerships," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Moving the archives to this location will bring the three organizations together, reducing operating costs and offering a sustainable future to all three."

The two-storey addition, which should be ready to move into in fall 2012, will provide an elevator to the top floor for the archives office and the library, which is currently inaccessible to those in wheelchairs and the elderly. The lower floor will provide storage space, plus room for an additional diorama for the museum.

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society (ALHS) is a volunteer organization that collects, catalogues and shares archival records and artifacts dating back to the earliest days of the Arrow Lakes region.

"This information is used by residents, students and historians and is considered to be a very valuable resource in the community," said author and historian Milton Parent, ALHS.

"Moving the archives into a central location on the main road leading into Nakusp will increase visibility and make them easy to find."



Waneta Expansion Project Workers at Home for the Holiday

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust—are pleased to announce the results of a recent survey of workers on the project.

On behalf of the Allied Hydro Council of BC, the local labourer's union recently undertook an informal survey of approximately 100 workers employed at the Waneta Expansion Project to determine how many workers have been able to stay in the area, move back or relocate to the area as a result of the project.

The survey found that 25 per cent of workers moved back to the Kootenays or relocated to the area while 60 per cent were able to remain at home with their families while working on the project.

"These results are great news for our local families and economy," said Audrey Repin, spokesperson for the Waneta Expansion Project. "The owners are pleased the project has been able to keep local workers at home and attract new, skilled workers to the area. This is exactly what our projects are meant to do—create clean hydropower, support the economy and bring jobs to the region for local families."

Hiring for the project is done through Columbia Hydro Constructors Ltd. (CHC) under the terms and conditions of a collective agreement with the Allied Hydro Council of BC. Under this agreement, hiring preference is given to local residents (living within 100 kilometres of the project) and members of equity employment groups.

"The findings of this survey support this project as great news for local workers," says Chuck Chatten, representative from the Labourer's Union. "The feedback received from the workers was consistent—they are happy to be able to stay close to home and be a part of a project with such an emphasis on safety, quality and the environment."

The contractor, SNC-Lavalin Inc., has announced they expect construction activities to slow down over the holidays to give workers a chance to celebrate the holiday season with loved ones.

The Waneta Expansion Project is a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust. For more information please visit www.columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.



Affordable Seniors' Housing Opens in Valemount

Thursday, November 17, 2011

The Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society, in partnership with the governments of Canada and British Columbia and the Village of Valemount, gathered today to celebrate the official opening of Valemount House, a new development with 10 apartments of modular housing in Valemount for seniors in need and people with disabilities.

"Our government is proud to invest in affordable housing here in Valemount, to improve the quality of life for those who need it most," said Cathy McLeod, MP for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo. "Valemount House will help seniors living on low incomes and persons with disabilities in our community access safe and affordable housing that meets their needs."

"The Province has made the creation of affordable housing for seniors a priority. These units provide options for seniors to stay in the communities they love," said Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Valemount, Minister of Public Safety, Solicitor General and Attorney General. "The opening of Valemount House provides the perfect opportunity to commend the Valemount Council for their leadership and hard work ensuring that this project moved forward. I am very proud that the Province has been a key contributor in this partnership."

The Government of Canada contributed \$742,500 to support the construction of Valemount House. The Province of British Columbia provided \$739,519 for this project. The Village of Valemount provided the land equity valued at approximately \$85,500 for this development and waived \$26,410 in municipal fees. Columbia Basin Trust also contributed to the overall capital costs of this site. The construction of developments such as Valemount House help to stimulate the local economy and increase affordable rental housing units for seniors and persons with disabilities in smaller communities across the province.

"There is a great need for more affordable housing options for our seniors in Valemount," said Mayor Bob Smith, Village of Valemount. "The opening of Valemount House is a great step in the right direction to help our seniors in need. I would like to thank all the partners, the Village council and most importantly our great community that made this opening possible."

"Columbia Basin Trust is committed to supporting initiatives that result in increasing affordable housing options for Basin residents," said Garry Merkel, Columbia Basin Trust Board Chair. "We are pleased to be involved in this partnership, with all levels of government and various community partners, to increase the number of seniors' housing units both here in Valemount and in six other communities across the Basin."

"Our early settlers wanted to remain in the valley; thus, many of the local seniors decided to build a senior complex that became the Golden Years Lodge. It was necessary to increase the number of units when more seniors decided to make Valemount their home," said Mrs. Joan Nordli, Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society. "Now we are pleased to have the governments of Canada, of British Columbia and of Valemount, as well as Columbia Basin Trust, supporting our local seniors. Their contributions, combined with local efforts, result in our celebrations today of the official opening of Valemount House. As a resident of the Village of Valemount for 46 years, I look forward to the time when my 'home' will be the Valemount House or the Golden Years Lodge."

The Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society, which manages and operates Valemount House, was incorporated in 1978 and provides affordable housing for seniors in the local community.

The Seniors' Rental Housing initiative is a result of a \$365-million joint investment under an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, which includes funding through Canada's Economic Action Plan and by the Government of British Columbia. This initiative, first announced by the two levels of government on April 8, 2009, will provide \$123.5 million, including \$104 million for seniors and \$19.5 million for persons with disabilities, to develop approximately 1,300 new affordable rental housing units, which will help to stimulate local economies in smaller communities across BC. Under terms of the agreement, the provincial and federal governments are providing matching contributions of \$61.79 million.

Columbia Basin Trust has committed \$425,000 to the overall capital costs of eight sites in the Basin region, for an approximate total of 114 units under the Seniors' Rental Housing

initiative, including Valemount House. Other Seniors' Rental Housing projects in development with the Columbia Basin Trust commitment include Baynes Lake, Cranbrook, Creston, Golden, Kimberley and two sites in Revelstoke.

Modular housing has been used extensively for the seniors' rental housing developments, as it allows construction to take place in a factory with less dependence on weather conditions. The modular units meet EnerGuide 80 standards, and are designed to be easily accessible for seniors and people with disabilities. This includes room sizes that allow for wheelchair access and manoeuvring, shelves and light switches at an accessible height and bathroom grab bars or step-in showers.



Information Sessions

CBT, in partnership with the CRT Local Governments' Committee, hosted 12 community information sessions between June and November 2011 in Valemount, Jaffray, Cranbrook, Castlegar, Trail, Golden, Revelstoke, Nelson, Nakusp, Creston, Meadow Creek and Kaslo. Four online information sessions were also held in fall 2011.

More than 1,000 residents across the Columbia Basin attended these information sessions to learn more about the Columbia River Treaty. Dozens of people recorded their ideas on video as part of CBT's "speakers' corner," a video project to capture and share ideas across the Basin.

Summaries, presentations and videos from the 2011 information sessions will be posted here soon.

[Contact us](#) if you want CBT to make a presentation on the Columbia River Treaty in your community.

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2012 Community Information Sessions

Community	When?	Where?
New Denver	Tuesday, February 21, 2012	Please check back later
Columbia Valley	2012	Please check back later