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Issue 44

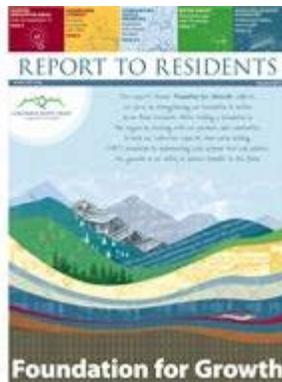
July 2012

CBT Releases its 2011/2012 Annual Report



Learn more about CBT and the activities it supports through its [2011/12 Annual Report](#). The Annual Report reflects CBT's performance for the year ending March 31, 2012, and details its financial investments, spending and program and initiative activities... [full story](#)

Report to Residents Now Available



Check out our 2012 [Report to Residents](#). The Report to Residents highlights activities and projects from around the region undertaken in the last year. Every home and business should have received a copy via Canada Post by mid-July. If you have not received your copy please contact us at cbt@cbt.org or by calling 1.800.505.8998 to have a copy mailed to you.

"Collaberation" Advances Community Innovation

CBT is partnering with [BC Ideas](#) to provide five \$10,000 cash awards to reward innovative solutions addressing issues

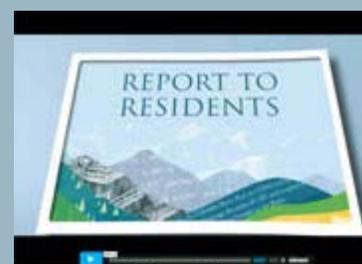
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View the
Report to Residents
Highlights Video

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



which will improve the lives of residents in the Columbia Basin region...[full story](#)

Get Involved

Check out the progress on the Waneta Dam from the [viewing platform](#) this summer.

August 11-12: [Columbia Basin Culture Tour](#) (Basin Wide)

August 12: [BibBity BobBity Boo Fernie Family Fun Fest](#) (Fernie)

Opportunities

[Request for Proposals: Water Loss Management: EOCP Training Registry Approved Training](#)

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Sept 6 & 7, 2012



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Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

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CBT Releases 2011/12 Annual Report

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

CBT focuses on strengthening its foundation to better serve Basin residents

Learn more about Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the activities it supports through its [2011/12 Annual Report](#) and [2012 Report to Residents](#). The Annual Report reflects CBT's performance for the year ending March 31, 2012, and details its financial investments, spending and program and initiative activities. Report to Residents contains a condensed version of the above plus highlights recent CBT-supported projects and initiatives, offering a reader-friendly and informative glimpse at CBT and its role in the Basin.

The theme of both reports, "Foundation for Growth," reflects CBT's focus on strengthening its foundation to better serve Basin residents. It is doing so by working with partners and communities to build collective capacity, and by implementing solid systems that can address the growth in CBT's ability to deliver benefits to the Basin.

"Over the past year, we significantly increased our ability to deliver benefits to the Basin by leveraging and expanding our strategic partnerships, implementing new programs and initiatives and continuing to work collaboratively with residents and communities around key issues," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "We've also been identifying potential new roles and opportunities to work with Basin communities, and will further explore some of those opportunities and their implications for CBT over the coming year."

In 2011/12, CBT returned a record \$18.2 million in direct funding benefits to Basin communities, up from \$11.2 million in 2009/10. CBT had a deficit of \$1.4 million, partly due to making more funds available to deliver benefits in the Basin, and partly due to a decrease in total revenues, which were \$22.9 million in 2011/12, down from \$29.5 million in 2010/11. However, CBT's earnings have increased over the past several years, resulting in surpluses. As such, CBT is in a strong cash position to fund future increases to its delivery of benefits.

"Due to deliberate and prudent planning, we were able to deliver a record \$18.2 million in direct funding benefits to the region in 2011/12 - 60 per cent more than in the previous year," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We're excited by a positive financial outlook moving into the new fiscal year and beyond, and plan to deliver \$20 million in benefits in 2012/13."

RELATED ITEMS

-  [2012 Annual Report \(1.74 MB\)](#)
-  [2012 Report to Residents \(6.59 MB\)](#)
-  [AR Backgrounder \(33.94 KB\)](#)
-  [Report to Residents Highlights Video \(2 min\)](#)



"Collabestation" Advances Community Innovation

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

CBT collaborates with BC Ideas Competition; up to \$50,000 in Basin awards available.

CBT is partnering with **BC Ideas** to provide five \$10,000 cash awards to reward innovative solutions addressing issues which will improve the lives of residents in the Columbia Basin region.

BC Ideas: Solutions for Stronger Communities is an online competition seeking to identify solutions to deal with challenges facing BC communities now and in the future. This "collabestation" is designed to promote collaboration and information sharing among participants and experts to improve well-being and strengthen society. All stages of solutions are welcome and encouraged, from ideas to established programs.

"BC Ideas is a unique platform that recognizes and helps advance innovative ideas and projects that may benefit Basin communities," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO.

"Participants can share their ideas to gain profile and solicit feedback. In turn, CBT's support for the competition will enable successful Basin innovators to turn their ideas into action."

Although a province-wide initiative, CBT has committed to providing five \$10,000 awards to be given specifically to entries from individuals and organizations that identify innovative and sustainable solutions that have strong potential to result in the greater social, economic and environmental well-being and self-sufficiency of people and communities in the Columbia Basin.

Entries will be evaluated for innovation, impact and sustainability. BC Ideas has over \$200,000 in awards available province-wide. Visit www.bcideas.ca to submit ideas, nominate others or find out more information. The competition closes September 12, 2012.



Chamber Spaces to be Enhanced

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Businesses, community members and visitors will benefit from renovation.

Renovations are now underway to enhance the Cranbrook Community Business and Visitor Hub.

The Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce project includes:

- renovating the Chamber office;
- renovating the visitor information space and adding an Internet kiosk;
- adding three offices that can be rented to small business operators, and expanding an existing rental office;
- developing a state-of-the-art meeting and training facility for use by the entire community; and
- developing community business incubation and sector support services.

"This project will make better use of the existing space and make it more usable for local businesses, community members and visitors," said Karin Penner, Manager, Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce. "It will continue to grow the function of the Chamber building as the primary business and visitor information centre for Cranbrook."

The work is being done with \$42,500 in support from Columbia Basin Trust.

"The renovation will increase the Chamber's ability to deliver a range of services to a range of users," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison. "CBT is pleased it is able to support such a beneficial economic and community development project."



Increasing Student Employment Opportunities

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The **School Works Program** pilot, which began its successful run in January, is being offered again this fall to Basin-based businesses and organizations.

School Works provides 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.

"CBT is pleased to be able to continue the School Works Program this fall," said Sabrina Curtis, CBT Director, Planning and Development. "We are providing \$600,000 toward wage subsidies for Basin organizations to increase the availability of jobs for students."

College of the Rockies delivered the pilot and will continue to work in partnership with CBT to administer the program this fall.

"We are excited to continue collaborating with CBT after a very successful first run. The School Works Program has had such a positive impact on businesses throughout the Columbia Basin; we are thrilled to be a part of it," Tracey Whiting, Manager of Contract Training and Business Development at College of the Rockies.

From January to June, 64 businesses throughout the Basin hired students part-time with the support of the School Works Program.

The fall application intake for the School Works Program will begin on a first-come first-served basis on August 14. Check www.cbt.org/schoolworks for more information.



CBT Helps Communities Apply for Federal Funding

Thursday, July 19, 2012

CBT allocates \$530,000 to support local projects for August 2 deadline

Please note this program is now fully subscribed.

CBT has set aside \$530,000 to support communities applying for the federal government's **Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF)**.



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On July 5, the federal government launched CIIF, a new program that will invest \$150 million across Canada, with \$46 million dedicated to Western Canada, over the next two years. CIIF focuses on rehabilitating and improving existing community infrastructure that is non-commercial and accessible to the public, such as community centres, cultural centres, parks, libraries, recreational facilities and tourism facilities, as well as other existing community infrastructure assets which have a local community impact such as connectivity and broadband and local airports.

"This is a unique, one-time opportunity for CBT to provide matching grants to help communities leverage federal funding to improve infrastructure in our region," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "It's an extremely short timeline for groups to respond; that's why also offering funding to hire support to assist groups in meeting the deadline."

Applicants, including local governments, First Nations and non-profits, must leverage at least 50 per cent of the total eligible project costs through funding from sources other than the federal government, and projects requesting less than \$250,000 will be given priority.

CBT will make a maximum overall commitment of \$500,000 and support any successful application to a maximum of \$50,000 per project (up to 50 per cent of the communities' required portion). Project selection will be based on the CIIF criteria and CBT's support will be conditional until approval from CIIF is confirmed.

CBT will also assist applicants in submitting their CIIF applications to meet the August 2, 2012 deadline by making funds available (maximum of \$2500/application) for communities to hire someone to assist in compiling the required information for submission to CIIF. A maximum of \$30,000 has been committed for this form of support.

For more information about CBT funding and support, call 1.800.505.8998 to be connected with a Community Liaison.



Four Housing Projects to Move to RFP Phase

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

CBT and BC Housing select proposals in Fernie, Nelson, Revelstoke, Salmo

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and **BC Housing** have selected four proposals to move to the next phase of the Affordable Rental Housing initiative (ARHi):

- Salmo Supportive Housing Society, Salmo
- Elk Valley Family Society, Fernie
- Nelson CARES Society, Nelson
- Revelstoke Community Housing Society, Revelstoke

The partners evaluated nine submissions against the criteria requirements of the **Request for Pre-qualifications** (RFPQ) issued in March.

The four successful proponents will be sent an invitational Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop a full response, including a complete business case, for their project. At this time, they may also be eligible to receive support from BC Housing to engage a consultant to assist in developing their response to the RFP; however, final granting decisions under the ARHi will not be made until the next phase of the RFP process.

The deadline for the RFP will be set for fall 2012, and CBT and BC Housing will evaluate the proposals to determine which projects will receive grant funding under the ARHi before the end of the year.

Communities, including proponents unsuccessful in this phase, will have an opportunity to respond to a second call for proposals in the spring of 2013.

All inquiries about the RFPQ evaluation process and outcomes should be directed to Mike Lachocki at BC Housing at purchasing@bchousing.org.

CBT is contributing \$5 million toward this three-year, \$10-million initiative that is being delivered in partnership with BC Housing to support new affordable rental housing projects in communities across the Columbia Basin. Learn more about the program [here](#).

