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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



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March 15: [College Community Service Awards Deadline](#) (College of the Rockies)

March 18: [CBBC Fibre Optic Network Expansion Request for Proposals Deadline](#)

March 20 to 22: [Provincial Columbia River Treaty Review Conference and Information Session](#) (Castlegar, Nelson and Online)

March 22: [Arts, Culture and Heritage Grants Deadline](#)

March 22 to 23: [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Cranbrook)

April 1: [College Community Service Awards Deadline](#) (Selkirk College)

April 1: [Youth Action Grants Deadline](#)

April 1: [Registrations Open for New Ways to Use Digital Technologies in the Field Workshop](#) (Castlegar)

April 2: [Administrative Assistant, Sector Initiatives, Job Posting Deadline](#)

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Job Posting

[Administrative Assistant, Sector Initiatives](#)

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PARTNER PROFILE



Focusing on Local Literacy



New Interactive Power and Water Map: [Learn more](#) about the river systems and hydro operations that have defined this region's past and will influence its future.



How does CBT earn the money that funds local projects and initiatives? [Read an overview.](#)



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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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Grants Available for Projects That Address Social Well-being and Benefit Youth

Tuesday, March 05, 2013

CBT's Social Grants Program and Youth Grants Program application deadline is April 12

Applications are now available for two CBT programs: the **Social Grants Program** and the **Youth Grants Program**. The deadline for both is April 12, 2013.

The Social Grants Program funds projects that primarily support social well-being and address social issues in Basin communities. The Youth Grants Program funds projects that primarily impact and benefit Basin youth aged 12 to 29.

"The Social Grants Program aims to help organizations tackle diverse social issues across the region, and we look forward to seeing what projects come forward in this second intake of the program," said Aimee Ambrosone, CBT Senior Manager, Sector Initiatives.

"The Youth Grants Program is continuing on the success it has had over the last seven years, supporting a range of projects that involve youth and build youth capacity and leadership."

Granting decisions for the Social Grants Program are made by a volunteer group of Basin residents who have experience and expertise in the social sector and broader community development experience. For more information on the program, visit www.cbt.org/sgp.

Applications to the Youth Grants Program are adjudicated by CBT's Youth Advisory Committee, a group composed of Basin residents aged 15 to 29 who provide a youth perspective and understanding of the needs of and challenges facing young people in the Basin. For more information on the program, visit www.cbt.org/ygp.

Organizations looking for assistance in applying or those organizations that are uncertain about which program to apply to should contact CBT at 1.800.505.8998 or grants@cbt.org. The next intake for both programs will be in fall 2013.



Simulators to Help Supply In-demand Workers

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Basin residents wishing to work in the Kootenays' thriving mining sector will be able to train on the latest mining haul truck simulators at College of the Rockies. The college is purchasing the simulators thanks to \$560,000 in support from CBT, \$580,000 from the provincial government and more than \$1.7 million from the federal government.

The simulators will help train a labour force that is in high demand by the local mining sector, which anticipates hiring thousands of people over the next five years, the majority of which start as haul truck drivers.

"This is an important program as it addresses two needs: the need of Basin employers to find trained labour, and the need of Basin residents to be qualified for local jobs," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Congratulations to College of the Rockies for leading this initiative and helping to foster the economic well-being of our region."

In addition to the simulators, the college will also purchase a truck and trailer to transport the equipment between campuses, ensuring as many students as possible can benefit from it.

For more information, read the [provincial news release](#) and [federal news release](#).



Looking Beyond Fundraising

Monday, March 11, 2013

The West Kootenay Women's Association explores ways to stabilize its finances

Fundraising is a familiar activity for non-profit organizations, but the West Kootenay Women's Association is hoping to find a way to spend less time seeking money and more time delivering benefits to the community.

For over 40 years, the association has been serving women throughout the West Kootenay through services like peer counselling and free food and clothing. With over \$2,500 in support from CBT, the association has hired a consultant for a one-day workshop and six months of follow-up support in order to explore alternative sources of revenue and create a more stable long-term financial model.

"Our current model was created when there was provincial funding for women's centres," said Tasha Bassingthwaighte, Executive Director, West Kootenay Women's Association. "Since this funding was cut eight years ago, we've been having a hard time filling the gap."

The goal is to find a new approach that will allow the association to continue to provide supports to women without relying on core funding from government.

"By working toward a more sustainable financial model," said Bassingthwaighte, "we'll be able to shift staff time and energy away from our bank account and toward the community."

"This is a unique approach to addressing an issue that affects so many of our region's non-profit organizations," said Rona Park, CBT Community Liaison. "The women's association is to be commended on this initiative to deepen their understanding of their finances."

The association runs the Nelson and District Women's Centre—the oldest rural women's centre in Canada—which is located in Nelson and serves the whole West Kootenay region. To learn more about the association and the centre, visit

www.nelsonwomenscentre.com.



Take Part in Provincial Consultations on the Columbia River Treaty

Tuesday, March 05, 2013

Please note: The conference and information session in Golden have been cancelled.

The Province is hosting two free conferences that will explore the future of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) and secure input on alternative future scenarios and how Basin interests might be affected. The CRT Local Governments' Committee encourages Basin residents to attend one of these consultation conferences in Golden on March 20 or Castlegar on March 22.

These are the last consultations planned by the Province as it fulfills its commitment to consult with residents of the Columbia Basin to ensure their concerns are heard as part of the provincial review of the CRT. The CRT is an international agreement signed in 1964 by Canada and the United States to coordinate flood control and optimize hydroelectric power generation on both sides of the border.

"The Province has completed a number of important studies, including analyses of the potential impacts of CRT scenarios on Basin interests. It is important that Basin residents attend these consultation conferences to express their views on the Treaty options and on local issues related to the CRT," says Deb Kozak, CRT Local Governments' Committee Chair and Councillor, City of Nelson.

Decisions about the future of the CRT could influence how Canada operates local dams and reservoirs for power, flood control and other values, including the environment. Those changes could impact, among other things, water levels, annual payments from the U.S. to BC, and the amount of hydroelectricity generated in the Columbia Basin.

CANCELLED: Golden

Wednesday, March 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Golden Civic Centre, 898 Hwy. #95

Castlegar (will be live streamed)

Friday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sandman Inn, 1944 Columbia Ave.

To view the agenda, see the latest studies and register for these free conferences or the live streamed option, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty or call (250) 952-0777. The registration links are on the right side of the webpage.

As an alternative, join the Provincial CRT Review Team from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the dates and locations below for an overview of the Treaty options. Registration is not required for these information sessions.

CANCELLED: Golden

Wednesday, March 20

Golden Civic Centre

Nelson

Thursday, March 21

Prestige Lakeside Resort

The CRT Local Governments' Committee includes representatives of regional districts from across the Canadian Columbia Basin as well as the Village of Valemount and the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments. With the support of CBT, the Committee is working to help Basin residents and local governments engage in decisions about the future of the CRT.

Learn more and stay informed:

- Subscribe to the Provincial CRT Review e-letter at www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/enews-subscribe.html.
- Join the discussion on Twitter #crtreaty and Facebook.
- Take a tutorial on your own schedule at www.cbt.org/crt/tutorial.
- Learn more at www.cbt.org/crt.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LINKS:

- This short video presents key facts on CRT history: www.cbt.org/crthistoryvideo.
- This brochure provides an overview of the CRT: www.cbt.org/crtbrochure.



Waneta Expansion Project Providing Benefits to the Region

Tuesday, March 05, 2013

2012 Socio-economic Monitoring Report Released

Partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust—are pleased to release the 2012 socio-economic monitoring report, which indicates significant employment and economic benefits to the region.

This \$900-million project near the existing Waneta Dam has an independent contractor monitoring the social and economic impacts in the local area. The contractor works with the Community Impact Management Committee to ensure the quarterly and annual public reports are available and relevant to communities.

"The owners and Community Impact Management Committee members are pleased the project continues to provide positive impacts to our local communities," said Audrey Repin, spokesperson for the Waneta Expansion Project. "The report shows significant employment and economic benefits as a result of our commitment to local hiring and regional spending."

To view the full 2012 report, visit www.columbiapower.org/SEM2012. Highlights of the report include:

Employment

- 91,842 person days (equivalent of one person working an eight hour day) of employment;
- Employment income totaled over \$23.4 million;
- 76 per cent of the workforce resided within 100 km of the project;
- Nine per cent of the workforce declared themselves as a part of an equity group (female, person with disability and/or visible minority) and five per cent of the workforce came from an aboriginal ancestry; and
- Significant opportunities for labourers, carpenters, heavy construction workers, ironworkers, boilermakers and office/technical staff.

Local expenditures

- \$53 million was allocated to local businesses for the purchases of goods and services, bringing the total to \$125 million.

Safety

- No major safety incidents.

Planning is under way for a public community day celebration which will be held at the construction site this year.

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.



Baynes Lake Celebrates Anniversary of Affordable Housing for Seniors

Friday, March 08, 2013

The community and seniors in Baynes Lake celebrated the one-year anniversary of Spirit Pond Haven, a development providing eight units of seniors housing funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, along with CBT and other community partners.

"This is a great opportunity to celebrate the collaborative efforts of the community, local partners and government, and a chance to congratulate you all on the one-year anniversary of Spirit Pond Haven," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "This housing initiative is meeting a clear need for seniors housing, and we are honoured to be a part of it."

Under the Seniors Rental Housing Initiative, CBT has committed \$425,000 to the overall capital costs of seven sites in Basin communities, for a total of 114 units. In addition to Baynes Lake, projects have been built in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Creston, Golden, Revelstoke and Valemount.

To read more, [click here](#).



New affordable housing for seniors celebrated in Baynes Lake



March 8th, 2013

BAYNES LAKE, B.C. – Seniors in Baynes Lake celebrated the one year anniversary of Spirit Pond Haven, a new development providing eight units of seniors housing, funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia along with community partners.

“Our government’s top priorities are creating jobs, economic growth and long-term prosperity,” said David Wilks, Member of Parliament for Kootenay-Columbia, on behalf of Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). “Through investments in Spirit Pond Haven, we have helped to increase the number of affordable housing options for seniors in need of a hand up and contributed to the economic and social well-being of the entire community.”

“Investing in safe, affordable housing for seniors is important to our government,” said Bill Bennett, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and MLA for Kootenay East. “Spirit Pond Haven has created new affordable housing options and will add to the community for many years to come. I would like to thank all partners involved, especially the Baynes Lake Seniors Housing Society for their current and future successes at Spirit Pond Haven.”

Through an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, the federal and provincial governments contributed a combined total of over \$1.1 million for the construction of eight seniors’ rental housing apartments. The Regional District of East Kootenay provided the land, valued at \$213,000. Columbia Basin Trust also contributed to the overall capital costs of this site. Spirit Pond Haven is managed and operated by the Baynes Lake Seniors Housing Society.

“The Regional District of East Kootenay is pleased that the Province had granted us the land so that we had it available to give to the society for the development of Spirit Pond Haven, providing seniors in our regional district with more affordable housing solutions they so richly deserve,” says Heath Slee, director, Regional District of East Kootenay - Electoral Area B. “I want to congratulate Doug Lyons and the Baynes Lake Seniors Housing Society for their success in fulfilling their vision for the Baynes Lake community.”

Columbia Basin Trust has committed \$425,000 to the overall capital costs of seven sites in the Columbia Basin region for a total of 114 units under the Seniors’ Rental Housing initiative, including Spirit Pond Haven. Other Seniors’ Rental Housing projects completed with Columbia Basin Trust commitment include Cranbrook, Creston, Golden, Kimberley, two sites in Revelstoke and Valemount.

“This is a great opportunity to celebrate the collaborative efforts of the community, local partners and government, and a chance to congratulate you all on the one-year anniversary of Spirit Pond Haven,” said Neil Muth, president and chief executive officer, Columbia Basin Trust. “This housing initiative is meeting a clear need for seniors housing, and we are honoured to be a part of it.”

“Residents of Spirit Pond Haven have truly taken great pride in making these homes their own,” said Doug Lyon, chairman, Baynes Lake Seniors Housing Society. “We are thankful for the support from our government partners and the community that made these apartments possible. We look forward to many more anniversary celebrations here at Spirit Pond Haven for years to come.”

The Seniors’ Rental Housing initiative was a result of a \$365-million joint investment under an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, which included 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, provided \$123.6 million, including \$104 million for seniors and \$19.6 million for persons with disabilities, to develop approximately 1,300 new affordable rental housing units, which has helped to stimulate local economies in smaller communities throughout B.C. Under terms of the agreement, the provincial and federal governments provided matching contributions of \$61.8 million.

The Canada – British Columbia Agreement for Investment in Affordable Housing 2011 – 2014, signed in July 2011, confirms the remaining three years of B.C.’s five-year allocation of the Government of Canada’s 2008 commitment of more than \$1.9 billion to improve and build new affordable housing and help the homeless. This means a further \$90 million in federal funding for British Columbians in housing need. With matching provincial contributions of \$90 million, a total combined investment of \$180 million helps to support affordable housing programs for B.C. residents.

The Government of Canada, through CMHC, will invest approximately \$2 billion in housing this year. Of this amount, \$1.7 billion will be spent in support of almost 605,000 households living in existing social housing. In British Columbia, this represents some 68,650 households. These investments are improving the quality of life for low-income Canadians and households living in existing social housing, including individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, seniors, persons with disabilities, recent immigrants and Aboriginal people.

For more information on this and other measures in Canada’s Economic Action Plan, visit: www.actionplan.gc.ca

To find out more about how the Government of Canada and CMHC are working to build stronger homes and communities for all Canadians, call CMHC at 1 800 668-2642 or visit: www.cmhc.gc.ca

Under BC’s Family Agenda, government is committed to improving housing for low-income families, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness. To learn more, visit: www.familiesfirstbc.ca

Since 2001, the government of B.C. has invested \$3.2 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families. This year, more than 97,000 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services. To find out more, visit: www.bchousing.org

A backgrounder follows.

BACKGROUNDER

Spirit Pond Haven

Spirit Pond Haven, located at 565 Baynes Lake School Rd. in Baynes Lake, is a Seniors' Rental Housing development that provides eight units of affordable modular housing for seniors and people with disabilities in need.

Modular housing has been used extensively for 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.

Partners and Funding:

The total capital cost of Spirit Pond Haven is over \$1.4 million for eight affordable seniors' housing units.

- The Government of Canada provided more than \$594,000 through Canada's Economic Action Plan – Housing for Low-Income Seniors and Housing for Persons with Disabilities.
- The B.C. government provided \$533,724.
- The Regional District of East Kootenay provided the land, valued at \$213,000.
- Columbia Basin Trust has committed \$425,000 to the overall capital costs of seven sites in the Columbia Basin region for a total of 114 units under the Seniors' Rental Housing (SRH) initiative. This includes projects that have been built in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Creston, Baynes Lake, Golden, Revelstoke and Valemount.

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