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Issue 52

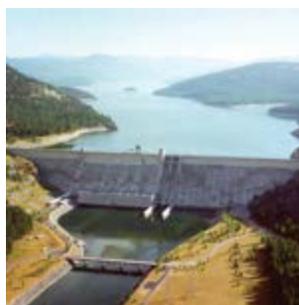
April 2013

Strong Budget Supports Local Efforts



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Koocanusa to Receive Fish and Wildlife Program



A new program will help protect and enhance fish, wildlife and habitats in and around Koocanusa Reservoir and its tributaries in the Kootenay River system thanks to a \$3-million commitment from CBT...[full story](#)

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**Affordable
Rental Housing
Initiative**
*Second intake
now open.*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PARTNER PROFILE



**A Local College
Extends Its Reach**



Get Involved

- April 19:** [Youth Community Service Awards Deadline](#)
- April 22:** [Enterprising Non-Profits Workshop](#) (Castlegar)
- April 29:** [CBT Job Posting and Request for Proposals Deadline](#)
- May 1:** [2013 Symposium Event Manager Opportunity Deadline](#)
- May 1:** [Youth Action Grants Deadline](#)
- May 4:** [Local Intelligence Gathering](#) (Nelson)
- May 23:** [Enterprising Non-Profits Deadline](#)

Opportunities

Job Postings

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- [Summer Student Administrative Assistant: Communications](#)

Request for Proposals

- [Delivery of Basin Business Advisors Program](#)

Opportunity

- [2013 Symposium Event Manager](#)

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Applications are now being accepted for small grants for CBT's [Environmental Initiatives Program](#).



Read the latest issue of [SCRATCH](#).





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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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Strong Budget Supports Efforts of Residents and Communities

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

CBT earmarks \$19.4 million in new funding for 2013/14

CBT will provide \$19.4 million in new funding in the 2013/14 fiscal year to support a broad range of social, economic and environmental initiatives throughout the region.

"A key approach in how CBT delivers benefits is to support Basin communities and residents in identifying their priorities, and to provide funds and other supports based on those priorities," said Greg Deck, Chair, Board of Directors. "CBT will deliver a substantial portion of this budget by involving communities in directly allocating CBT funds based on community-identified priorities."

CBT's Board of Directors approved the following budget allocation for 2013/14:

- \$3.5 million for **Social Initiatives**, including literacy, affordable housing, non-profit initiatives and \$1 million for the Social Grants Program;
- \$3.2 million for **Economic Initiatives** to strengthen the labour force, foster entrepreneurial ventures and encourage regional economic development partnerships within the Basin, including \$1.3 million for wage subsidy programs;
- \$3.3 million for **Environment** and **Water Initiatives**, including support for environmental restoration, conservation and education projects, for residents and communities taking action on water-related issues and for delivering programs such as Water Smart, Carbon Neutral Kootenays and Communities Adapting to Climate Change;
- \$4.3 million for a variety of community development initiatives that support a range of community projects and priorities, including \$706,000 to support **arts, culture and heritage**;
- \$1.6 million for **Youth Initiatives** to work with youth and communities to increase youth opportunities and engagement; and
- \$3.5 million for other initiatives and to address opportunities that may arise throughout the year.

"The consistently strong performance of our Investment Program means we can return more benefits to Basin communities," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "CBT's fundamental role is to support communities in achieving their aspirations, and this budget will allow us to continue to do so."

The Board also approved the **2013/14 – 2015/16 Service Plan**, which describes the overall mandate of CBT, sets out specific goals, measures and targets, and forecasts budgets for the next three-year time period. View it online at www.cbt.org/serviceplan.



Kootenay-Koocanusa Area to Receive Fish and Wildlife Program

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Columbia Basin Trust and Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program partner to protect and enhance the region's environment

A new program will help protect and enhance fish, wildlife and habitats in and around Koocanusa Reservoir and its tributaries in the Kootenay River system thanks to a \$3-million commitment from Columbia Basin Trust. The support will be going toward the creation of the Kootenay-Koocanusa Fish and Wildlife Program, which will help to enhance the environmental health of the area. The program will be delivered by the regionally based Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

"Through a variety of consultation processes, Basin residents have identified a program like this to be a priority for the region," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "Support has been overwhelming, so we're pleased to be able to partner with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to make the idea come to fruition."

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program has a long history of delivering similar programs elsewhere in the Basin and the province, and has a delivery framework already in place. The existing program, which is funded by BC Hydro, is managed through a partnership with the Province of British Columbia and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to conserve and enhance fish, wildlife and their supporting habitats affected by the creation of BC Hydro owned and operated generation facilities in the Coastal, Columbia and Peace regions of British Columbia. By building on this existing framework, cost savings can be realized and an effective, integrated approach can be taken for delivering this new program.

"The Fish and Wildlife Program Board welcomes this opportunity to work with Columbia Basin Trust and strengthen our partnership. We are looking forward to the planning process and hearing from local community members and First Nations to develop and deliver an Action Plan that will benefit fish and wildlife in this area," said Dave White, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Board member representing the East Kootenays.

Koocanusa Reservoir was created by the construction of Libby Dam in Montana, one of the Columbia River Treaty dams. While the other Canadian reservoirs created by the Columbia River Treaty have fish and wildlife compensation programs in place, there is no water licence associated with Libby Dam issued by the Province of BC, so there is currently no fish and wildlife compensation program associated with the historical footprint impacts of Koocanusa Reservoir in Canada.

The new Kootenay-Koocanusa program will cover an area of more than 20,000 square kilometres, including the Kootenay River drainage and associated tributaries within Canada, such as the Elk, Bull, St. Mary's, Lussier, White and Wigwam rivers and the Koocanusa Reservoir itself. Please see the map at www.cbt.org/KootenayKoocanusaProgramMap.

The next steps are to develop a Kootenay-Koocanusa Watershed Action Plan that will set goals, outcomes and proposed activities. The development of this Action Plan will be guided by a strategic planning working group made up of representatives from Columbia Basin Trust, the Fish and Wildlife Compensation board, provincial government agencies, First Nations, local governments, industry and community groups within the geographic area.



Environmental Projects Receive Support

Tuesday, April 09, 2013

Projects to benefit Basin environment, communities and residents

Thirty-six projects striving to help maintain or enhance environmental conditions and environmental education in and around their communities will be receiving over \$1 million in support from CBT through its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP).

"These projects will have positive effects on the Basin environment through both direct action and education," said Sabrina Curtis, CBT Director, Sector Initiatives, "helping reduce the impacts people have on our region's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems."

One of the approved projects is the Kootenay Community Bat Project by Silverwing Ecological Consulting. A follow-up from previous success, the project involves continuing community-based bat inventories, visiting landowners who have bats in their buildings, providing educational programs and promoting bat houses. It also involves engaging community members in collecting long-term monitoring data on bat populations at roost sites in buildings.

"The response to this project has been wonderful. We are so excited to be able to provide continued support to residents who have bats in buildings, while helping others to encourage bats to roost by building bat houses," said Project Biologist Juliet Craig. "CBT has been critical to our success."

Another approved project is Improving Mountain Caribou Calf Survival Through Maternity Penning. This is a community-led endeavour piloting a three- to five-year caribou penning recovery project in the Revelstoke region. The grant supports year one of the project, which includes constructing a pen to temporarily hold ten pregnant female caribou from the Columbia North herd.

"The Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild Society thanks CBT for its support of community-based caribou recovery," said Sarah Boyle, Vice-Chair of the RCRW Society. "These funds will help construct the maternity pen that will protect caribou and their calves at their most vulnerable time."

An additional approved project is Our Wish for BC Fish 2013. This environmental education and outreach program raises awareness and encourages stewardship in youth of BC's natural resources. Aimed at grade five students, the program covers a variety of subject matter, including wild habitat preservation, human impacts, trout and sturgeon lifecycles, sturgeon as an endangered species and geographical and historical impacts.

"The response to this program has been overwhelmingly positive, both from the teachers' perspectives and the students'," said Leanne Jones, Outreach Coordinator, Kootenay Trout Hatchery. "By offering students interactive, hands-on opportunities to experience alternate methods of learning, we have enabled a wider audience to grasp various concepts. This program is an excellent example of combining learning with fun."

EIP provides support to community-initiated and -supported projects. It includes small grants geared at projects under \$10,000 and large grants that, in the fall 2012 intake, funded projects up to \$50,000. See the [projects approved for funding](#).

The next large grants intake will take place in fall 2013. A small grants intake will be opening shortly; visit www.cbt.org/eip for details.

Over the past 11 years, the program has provided over \$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.

Celebrate Local Expertise

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

To celebrate our region's expertise, presenters from business, the arts, education, technology, medicine and more will come together for a one-day event called the Local Intelligence Gathering. The event takes place May 4 in Nelson, and is hosted by CBT, the City of Nelson, Selkirk College, Transition Nelson and the West Kootenay EcoSociety.

The gathering will highlight local talent, experience, innovation and skill, helping participants connect to each other and to the experts, catalyzing deeper engagement in the community. One of the event's main goals is to encourage dialogue between diverse groups and collaboration across sectors.

"CBT recognizes the need for and benefits of cooperation between the various sectors working on community issues," said Rona Park, CBT Community Liaison. "This gathering represents a trend in collaboration that CBT is pleased to support."

The Local Intelligence Gathering takes place on May 4 at Mary Hall, Selkirk College, 10th Street Campus, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Lunch and dinner are included. Tickets are \$59 and bursaries are available. Registration is through the Kootenay School of the Arts or by calling 250.352.2821.

For more information, [click here](#).



Heating Homes With Wood Waste

Friday, April 12, 2013

Basin projects are among those throughout BC that will explore using wood waste to heat buildings and homes.

The Wood Waste 2 Rural Heat program helps rural communities increase the use of local wood waste in efficient and cost-effective heating projects. The expansion of this program is taking place thanks to \$60,000 in support from CBT and \$180,000 from the provincial government and other organizations.

Wood waste is produced by ecosystem restoration projects, community forests, woodlots and other small tenure holders. Converted into pellets and chips, this waste can power heating projects for smaller communities and businesses, a practice that has been hugely successful in Europe.

For more information, visit the [Wood Waste 2 Rural Heat website](#) and read the [provincial news release](#).



City of Castlegar
For Immediate Release
March 18, 2013

STRENGTHENING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

The City of Castlegar invests in maintaining and enhancing cultural initiatives

The City of Castlegar recognizes the importance of the creative economy to its overall economic health, which is why it's supporting the second year of its Creative Economy Project with over \$184,000, including \$60,000 from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).

The first year of the project, started in fall 2011, saw several achievements. For example, Sculpturewalk was able to hire an executive director, collaborate with other local and regional arts and culture groups and increase its marketing reach through a partnership with Kootenay Rockies Tourism. The city was recognized at the Communities in Bloom national awards, retaining its five-bloom status and coming first in its population category. The city also continued to develop plans to revitalize its downtown.

Year two continues this momentum. The community of Castlegar is highly vested in the Creative Economy Project—in bringing together community groups and working together to revitalize our core and attract both locals and visitors,” said Mayor Lawrence Chernoff, City of Castlegar. “Our community is very proud of the Sculpture Walk program. Our citizens are excited about the city’s new reputation as an arts centre and the positive attention this is bringing regionally.”

Sculpturewalk has been a key factor in this success, and a very visible one. In 2012, there were 30 sculptures exhibited in the downtown core, in addition to over 10 purchased and leased works located throughout the city. This is why much of year two will focus on strengthening this community asset.

“Sculpturewalk has had three solid years of success under its belt, with increasing success and stability each year,” said Joy Barrett, Sculpturewalk Executive Director. “Investing in its development and sustainability will benefit the community as a whole. It’s an exciting time for us and we are grateful for the continued support.”

Another objective for year two is to increase understanding of the economic impact of cultural industries on communities. This will be worked toward by partnering with the Rural Development Institute to devise a research model that can analyze the impact.

“Partnerships like these will affect not only Castlegar’s creative economy, but those throughout our region,” said Gary Ockenden, Director of Community Initiatives, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). “This project is a great opportunity for the city to continue to develop a unique identity, encourage tourism and attract new residents and investment.”

CBT supports efforts to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. To learn more about CBT programs and initiatives, visit www.cbt.org or call 1.800.505.8998.



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Second Intake Announced for Housing Initiative

Tuesday, April 09, 2013

Last spring CBT announced its partnership with the federal and provincial governments to offer the Affordable Rental Housing initiative (ARHi), which is providing \$10 million over three years to support new affordable rental housing projects in communities across the Columbia Basin. (View the original news release [here](#).)

After a successful first intake in spring 2012, the partners are now announcing the opening of the second intake. BC Housing has posted the Request for Proposals, which can be viewed [here](#).

Mandatory information meetings will be held in several Basin locations, and a proponent wishing to submit a proposal must ensure that a representative of his or her organization attends one of these meetings. The sessions take place as follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 29

- **Cranbrook:** 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, College of the Rockies, Room 205, 2700 College Way.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

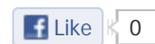
- **Golden:** 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. MDT, Golden Civic Centre, Great Hall Room, 898 Hwy 95.
- **Nakusp:** 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. PDT, CMH K2 Rotor Lodge, Conference Room, 515 Broadway Street West.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- **Nelson:** 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. PDT, Selkirk College Tenth Street Campus, Room PAT 303, 820 10th Street.
- **Valemount:** 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. PDT, Videoconference, Village of Valemount Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.
- **Trail:** 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. PDT, Cominco Arena, McIntyre Room, 1051 Victoria Street.

All queries and information requests about the RFP are to be made **in writing only** to the BC Housing contact **Mike Lachocki** via email to purchasing@bchousing.org.

Deadline for Applications: 2:00 p.m. on June 7, 2013.



A Local College Extends Its Reach

Friday, April 12, 2013

It may have seven campuses, but the reach of **College of the Rockies** (COTR) extends far beyond its campus boundaries. By partnering with CBT, the college is helping us deliver benefits to students, businesses and others Basin-wide.

COTR administers our popular **Summer Works** and **School Works** programs, which offer wage subsidies to encourage businesses to hire students over the summer, and businesses and other organizations to hire students during the school year. The college is involved from start to finish, from accepting applications, to selecting recipients, to following up with the businesses, organizations and students during the course of the program.

Nelson's Earth Community Clay Studios is one of the businesses that has benefited.

"I don't think I'd have been able to succeed without the Summer Works Program," said owner Diane Walters. "The upkeep of my business is too much for a one-woman show. Running the studio is expensive and labour-intensive. Without a student here, I wouldn't have been able to get to the job of recycling my used clay, which in turn would have had a negative environmental impact."

Earth Community's summer student Hannah DeBoer also enjoyed the benefits: "I wanted to have a job where I worked hard and had the opportunity to learn something new every day. Because of my job and the Summer Works Program, I was able to fund my education and living expenses. And it's very rewarding to work where you live and be a part of the local community."

COTR is also the administrator for CBT's **Training Fee Support Program**, which helps people throughout the Basin pay for short-term training and education essential to securing immediate employment. Similar to the student wage subsidy programs, COTR administers all aspects of this program.

In addition, CBT supports students Basin-wide through two additional programs, which COTR administers for its own students. These are the **College Community Service Awards**, which help Basin residents pursue post-secondary education or training, and rewards and encourages volunteerism, and the **Columbia Basin Bursary Program**, which promotes access to education and training based on financial need.

"College of the Rockies and CBT have had a number of very successful partnerships that have provided Basin residents with many post-secondary opportunities to improve their skills and employment prospects," said Douglas McLachlan, COTR Vice-President, Education. "CBT's forward thinking and support continues to allow COTR to be creative in meeting the needs of students and regional employers."

A recent announcement provides another example of partnering to meet students' and employers' needs: Basin residents wishing to work in the Kootenays' thriving mining sector will be able to train on the latest mining haul truck simulators at COTR, which 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. [Read more.](#) COTR's campuses are located in Cranbrook (two campuses), Creston, Fernie, Golden, Invermere and Kimberley. The college offers vocational, trades, career technical and academic programs and services, both in person and online, and in 2011/12 had over 2,420 full-time equivalent students and approximately 8,000 continuing education students. To learn more, visit www.cotr.bc.ca.

