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Issue 54

June 2013

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**Business
Advisors
Needed**

*Join the
BBA team.*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Get Involved

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Job Posting

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Request for Proposals

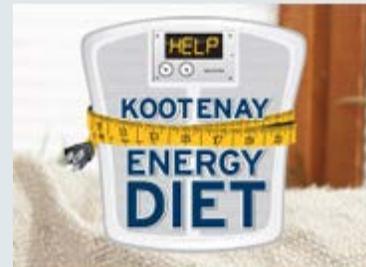
[Inventory of Information Technology Systems, Assets and Processes](#)

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PARTNER PROFILE



Connecting Children With Nature



Slim down on your energy bill by joining the [Kootenay Energy Diet](#). Complete an online application form or plan to attend a workshop this fall.



What do Basin manufacturing and technology businesses need to succeed? [Read the findings](#) from the business retention and expansion project.

Learn more.
Visit the
**Columbia River
Treaty**
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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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Survey Open: Show Us Your Priorities on Key Issues

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

CBT received over 10,000 thoughts; now show us what's most important

People throughout the Basin have given CBT their input on the key social, economic and environmental issues in their region, and how to address them. Now the public, those who completed the first step, plus anyone else who wishes to join the process, is invited to help increase understanding of the region's priorities. Visit www.cbt.org/engagement2013 by July 7, 2013.

"We had a terrific response for step one, with over 10,000 individual thoughts and ideas," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We got great, varied feedback on what the challenges and possible solutions are now we're asking everyone, even if you weren't able to participate in the first part, to show us your priorities from the ideas that were generated in your part of the Basin."

During the first step, Basin residents responded online to six open-ended questions. The second step now asks the public to review these thoughts and assign stars to the ideas they like best. Participant information remains confidential. Finally, CBT will share a final report with all participants.

"Over the coming months, we are renewing our social, economic and environmental strategic plans and we want to ensure we are considering a wide variety of opinions as we begin these and other planning efforts," said Muth. "We value residents' feedback as one of several inputs into these planning processes."

CBT is piloting an online engagement tool called THOUGHTstream.

To show us your priorities, visit www.cbt.org/engagement2013. Input is welcome until 11 p.m. on July 7, 2013.

Thank you for your input. The THOUGHTstream is now closed. Watch our website for more details coming soon!



CBT's Business Program Expands Services

Friday, June 07, 2013

Community Futures to deliver Basin Business Advisors program

In an effort to meet the growing needs of local businesses and help them succeed, CBT is expanding its popular Basin Business Advisors (BBA) program, which will be delivered by Community Futures.

"Since 2000, the BBA program has been helping build economic capacity in Basin communities by supporting businesses to grow and prosper," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "By expanding the program, more businesses and entrepreneurs will be able to benefit, ultimately having an impact on the economic well-being of the Basin."

BBA supports small- and medium-sized businesses in the Basin by providing free, one-to-one, confidential business counselling and assessment services, and by arranging and cost-sharing specialized consulting services. These services will now be available to all business models, including social enterprises. Starting in the fall, there will also be new services added such as pre-start-up entrepreneurship, workshops and education.

Steele O'Neil and Associates has delivered the program since its inception in 2000, with owner Barbara O'Neil now heading into retirement.

"We thank Barbara and business advisors Deanne Monroe and Will Nixon of Steele O'Neil and Associates for their commitment to excellence in delivering this innovative program that we are particularly proud of," said Muth. "They've made a real difference to hundreds of businesses that have accessed the program over the years and that continue to thrive today."

Muth added that CBT is pleased to welcome Community Futures on board and looks forward to working with them as they expand service levels to the business community.

"Community Futures is committed to helping people in the Basin who are currently operating or planning to start their own business, and the opportunity to deliver the BBA program will enhance our ability to provide comprehensive business services," said Andrea Wilkey, Community Futures Central Kootenay General Manager. "Community Futures in the Basin, with offices in Nelson, Trail, Revelstoke and Cranbrook, will work together to ensure the BBA program is visible and accessible and offers consistent service standards throughout the Basin."

To learn more about BBA, visit www.cbt.org/bba or call 1.855.510.2227.



Striving for Excellence in Agri-food Education

Friday, June 07, 2013

CBT supports project to identify and address Creston Valley needs

Creston Valley's agriculture sector has the potential to help feed the region and drive local community and economic development. In order to realize this potential, College of the Rockies (COTR), the agriculture sector and other community partners will be exploring what programs, services and facilities for agri-food education would best meet local needs. The project is being funded in part with \$17,000 from CBT.

"Changing demographic, economic and environmental conditions are demanding new approaches to farming and food production," said Laura Hannant, COTR Facilitator, Partnerships for Community Development. "This project will enable us to develop adequate, accessible supports that will help make it possible to adapt to these changes or to enter these fields and succeed."

Examples of potential programming include courses on beginner farmer training, farm/agri-business succession planning, environmental farm planning, dyke maintenance and agri-tourism.

"This is very inspiring to us, because it is probably only in the last five years that we have really met young folks who are wanting to farm again and they need to be supported," said Joanne Galius of Full Circle Farm.

The project also strives to build the community's ability to work collaboratively to address local issues. In addition to COTR, the project involves Community Futures of Central Kootenay, Creston Valley Agriculture Society, Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce, Creston Valley Food Action Coalition, Kootenay Employment Services, Lower Kootenay Band, Prince Charles Secondary School and other local groups and individuals.

"Last fall, people involved in agriculture in the Creston Valley met to identify challenges and new ways to work together," said Gary Ockenden, CBT Director, Community Initiatives. "This project is a practical step out of that meeting and should lead to tangible progress."

Members of the public are invited to attend an open house to learn more about the project and share their perspectives on the kinds of agriculture and food security learning supports that would benefit them most. The open house takes place Monday, June 17, 2013, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at COTR's Creston campus. People may also get in touch through calna@cotr.bc.ca or by calling 250.428.5332, ext. 4181.



Waneta Expansion Project Community Day a Great Success

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

The partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and CBT—welcomed over 1,500 guests to the project on June 23, 2013, to celebrate Community Day.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase a clean, renewable energy project that is growing the economy in the Columbia Basin by providing 350 good-paying jobs and over \$150 million in economic benefits," said Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines. "Once completed, the expansion will provide enough clean, cost-effective energy to power about 60,000 homes per year."

Tours of the construction site occurred throughout the day. Participants were transported from the festivities site to the construction site by bus, with stops at the intake and powerhouse areas, where project representatives were waiting to share the project's progress to date. The celebration also included all-day entertainment, First Nations cultural presentations, live music, children's activities, a complimentary BBQ and informational displays.

Currently, there are over 350 people working directly on the project with a local hire rate of 75 per cent. To date, local spending on goods and services has exceeded \$150 million. With a focus on a high standard of quality, safety and environmental protection, the project has logged over 1.5 million person-hours with no major safety or environmental incidents.

The partners would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the contractors in preparing the construction site to host the public. Tour participants were thrilled to have this rare opportunity to experience a large-scale capital project while still under construction.

The Waneta Expansion Project is a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and CBT. Columbia Power manages construction of the project on behalf of the partnership. The project is on budget and is scheduled for completion in spring 2015. For more information, visit columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.



Self-help Fundraising for the Arts Expands to the Basin

Friday, June 14, 2013

The Basin has been selected as one of the regions to roll out the 2013/14 artsVest program, which is being supported with \$30,000 from CBT.

ArtsVest helps small- and mid-sized arts organizations help themselves through effective private sector fundraising. Run by Business for the Arts, the program provides training workshops that teach relationship building and fundraising with the private sector, plus incentive funds that match the money raised by participating groups.

"ArtsVest provides an opportunity for our local arts, culture and heritage organizations to learn how to approach and connect with businesses, and to establish and grow their funding relationships," said Neil Muth, President and Chief Executive Officer. "This in turn strengthens the sector and contributes to the diversity and well-being of the Columbia Basin region."

The next workshop in the Basin takes place June 22 in Castlegar. Learn more [here](#).

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



Improvements Slated for Fernie Seniors Drop-in Centre

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

CBT funding helps increase centre's safety and functionality

Fernie seniors, along with other residents and community groups, will be able to enjoy an upgraded seniors drop-in centre thanks in part to \$25,000 from CBT.

"This renovation will help increase safety for seniors and working conditions for volunteers," said Jim Booth, President, Senior Citizens Club of Fernie and District. "It will also make the centre more appealing for outside groups who wish to access the facilities, sustaining the rental income that's so vital to supporting new and existing seniors programs."

The renovation will include replacing interior and exterior doors with accessible entrances, replacing flooring to reduce the risk of tripping and upgrading washrooms with amenities like accessible bathroom stalls. The kitchen—relied upon to make hot lunches, snacks and bake sale items, plus used by event caterers and others—will receive a new stove and new countertops and cabinets.

"This community asset is used frequently by a variety of groups," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison. "The renovation project will help improve it for those who currently use it, plus increase opportunities for the centre to expand, increase membership and offer new programs to the broader community."

The seniors club has existed since 1960, providing a place for Fernie seniors to meet and socialize. It has over 200 active members.



Students Learn About Their Local Watershed

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Two grade eight science classes from Revelstoke Secondary School spent a day travelling around the city and area to learn first-hand where their water comes from, where it goes after it's used and how important it is to look after water and keep watersheds healthy.

Students participated in tours of both the Greely Creek Water Treatment Facility and the Waste Water Treatment Facility. They met with the City's Environmental Coordinator, Penny Page-Brittin, to learn about the Greely Creek Source Protection Plan, pesticide bylaws and storm drains, plus travelled to Montana Creek to conduct water quality monitoring with Know Your Watershed Program Educator Janette Vickers.

Students also took part in a Student Action Project led by Rowland Bell with the North Columbia Environmental Society, spending an afternoon planting 200 willow stems at Martha Creek as part of the Martha Creek Riparian Restoration Project.

The field trips were part of Know Your Watershed, a water stewardship program developed by CBT and local environmental educators. To learn more, [click here](#).



Local Groups Come Together to Coordinate Events

Friday, May 31, 2013

CBT helps Nakusp chamber develop event management system

Organizations in and around Nakusp will soon have a coordinated way to manage and market events, thanks in part to \$7,000 from CBT. The project is being spearheaded by the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President Dawn Devlin said: "We are very excited to be working together with the help of an events coordinator. Together we will be able to bring together and work with local community groups and include their events on an events calendar and collaborate on marketing. Fundraising will be streamlined, and businesses will be able to view the calendar and plan their giving in advance. In addition, businesses will know when events are taking place and be able to prepare for large groups of visitors."

Bringing local groups together will maximize community benefits, while more organized cultural and sporting events will encourage locals to come out and will attract more visitors to the area. The local economy as a whole will benefit.

"This project encourages partnerships between community groups, businesses and suppliers," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "It will help the area boost events-related tourism, and should increase economic benefits within the region."

