



It's Time to Apply!

Applications are now available for several of our funding programs:

- [Arts, Culture and Heritage Program](#) (deadline March 6 and 20)
- [Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Program](#) (ongoing)
- [Summer Works](#) (application forms available February 19)
- [Youth Grants](#) (deadline March 10)



Addressing Issues at Kooconusa

A new report aims to reduce some of the issues that have arisen around Kooconusa Reservoir due to increased tourism and recreation on Crown land

[...full story](#)



Social Focus Renewed

Our new *Social Strategic Plan* is now complete and will guide our social initiatives to 2019. We thank everyone who has helped us get to this point

[...full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

February 14 to March 1

Various Locations

**Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant
Writing Workshops**

February 19

Deadline

**Request for Proposals: Columbia
Basin Climate Resilience Program
Development**

February 20

Deadline

Job Posting: Summer Students

February 24 to March 19

Various Locations

Me. Inc. Workshops

March 3

Deadline

**Request for Proposals: Delivery of
Student Wage Subsidy Program**

[Go to events page.](#)



Ever Wondered About Becoming an Entrepreneur?

[Attend a workshop](#)

Water Smart a Success!

Since 2010, Water Smart communities in the Columbia Basin have steadily reduced local water consumption—and academics, experts and utility professionals from across Canada are taking note.

[Learn more](#)

CONTACT

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cbt.org

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Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant Applications Available

Friday, January 16, 2015

*CKCA and the Trust announce 2015/2016
programs*

Artists in all discipline -- as well as arts, culture and heritage organizations -- are invited to apply for funding through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), which delivers the Arts, Culture and Heritage Program on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

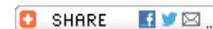
"We're proud that for 18 years we've been able to partner with the Trust to provide support for arts and heritage projects across the Basin," said Jacquie Hamilton, CKCA Chair.

For 2015/16, CKCA is receiving \$706,000 from the Trust. Funding is available for: individuals and groups through community arts councils; minor capital projects; touring; arts and heritage mentoring/master classes; organizational development; major projects; artists in education; major exhibitions; major heritage capital projects; and new heritage projects. Applications are adjudicated once a year by local arts councils and the CKCA Steering Committee.

"The benefits of having a thriving arts, culture and heritage sector extend to all the residents of the Basin," said Lynda Lafleur, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison. "Congratulations to CKCA in their efforts toward building sustainability for artists in the region."

Find out more and get application forms by visiting www.basinculture.com, contacting your local community arts council or phoning CKCA at 250.505.5505 or 1.877.505.7355.

Applications must be received by March 6 or March 20, 2015, depending on the program.



Grants Available for Grassland and Rangeland Projects

Friday, February 13, 2015

Over \$200,000 still available for projects in 2015 - 2016

Ranchers and individuals with Crown range tenures, environmental groups and non-profit societies are encouraged to apply for funding to improve and enhance grasslands and rangelands. Ranchers, for example, can use the support to build fences, install cattle guards and do other improvements on Crown land--activities that permit better livestock management practices and therefore result in better stewardship of rangelands.

"As a rancher, I have found that the funds available through the program provide an opportunity to address some long-standing issues and to improve my ability to manage my livestock on Crown range," said Basin rancher Jordy Thibeault.

Since April 2014, 27 projects have received over \$235,000, plus applicant-sourced contributions like volunteer labour, donated equipment and additional funding. Through these projects, recipients have worked to control weeds, rehabilitate damaged riparian areas, protect critical habitats and develop an educational program to help schoolchildren better understand the importance of these areas.

"Grassland and rangeland ecosystems are a very diverse and fragile part of the Basin environment, and are under constant pressure from a variety of sources," said Rick Allen, Columbia Basin Trust Program Manager, Environment. "This program helps Basin residents take active roles in promoting stewardship of this valuable resource."

Applications are accepted throughout the year. For more information or to apply, contact Steve Byford, Program Coordinator, at 1.250.426.4315 or kla@kootenaylivestock.ca. Learn more at cbt.org/grep.

The program is delivered by the Kootenay Livestock Association.



Small Business Owners: Apply Now for Wage Subsidies

Friday, February 13, 2015

Application forms for popular Summer Works Program available February 19

If you own a small business in the Columbia Basin, you can get financial help to hire a student over the summer by applying for a wage subsidy from Columbia Basin Trust's Summer Works Program.

To help businesses offer full-time summer jobs to high school and post-secondary students, the program provides a \$7 wage subsidy for entry-level jobs and an \$8 wage subsidy for career-related jobs. Since 2010, Summer Works has helped create up to 150 student jobs each summer in the Basin.

"We are really pleased with the success and continued growth of the Summer Works Program--it's been positive for everyone involved. Business get the help of an extra staff person and the students are able to stay close to home to gain valuable work experience during summer months," said Lisa Kilpatrick, Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits, Columbia Basin Trust.

The Element Bar and Grill in Castlegar was one of the businesses that benefited from the program last year.

"It's tough to do all the things I need to do in a day and still achieve work-life balance," said owner Florio Vassilakakis. "There are always projects on a list of to-dos that you hope to get to, but the day-to-day keeps you too busy. Hiring a summer student gives us that opportunity. Without the Summer Works Program it would be difficult to afford to pay a student what they're worth to do the job."

Summer Works also helped student Sara Einarson. "Working at the Element was a great summer job. I had the opportunity to be creative and I developed the confidence to take on new projects. I enjoyed the feeling of accomplishment when projects I'd planned and organized were successful."

People's Pharmacy in Nakusp was one of the businesses that benefited from the program last year.

"It is a great program for us," said owner Troy Clark. "It allowed us to support a local student working toward his degree and gave him workplace experience and training needed for his career as a pharmacist."

Summer Works also helped student Taylor Reitmeier. "This summer job has been the perfect opportunity to learn. Everything I see and do here will relate to my career as a pharmacist. Now that I'm further along in my degree, I am able to take on more responsibility and practice the skills I've learned. I can't say enough about how lucky I am to be able to benefit from this program. It has played a large role in getting me to where I am today."

Derailed Sports in Golden was one of the businesses that benefited from the program last year.

"The Summer Works Program helped fill a void that we would have had a hard time filling otherwise," said owner Jon Simpson. "It has helped our business grow and gave me more time to look at other growth opportunities."

"College of the Rockies is proud to administer the Trust's Summer Works Program," said Tracey Whiting, Manager, Continuing Education and Contract Training, College of the Rockies. "Our coordinator Wendie Cameron works very closely with businesses throughout the region who do not have the financial resources to hire students without the program's support."

Application forms are available starting February 19, 2015; because the program is popular, you're encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Learn more about the program at cbt.org/summerworks, email summerworks@cbt.org or call 1.877.489.2687, ext. 3644.



Youth Grants

The Youth Grants Program funds projects that directly benefit Basin youth aged 12 to 29 in the Columbia Basin Trust Region. Projects can receive up to \$15,000.

Applications are adjudicated twice annually by the Youth Advisory Committee.

Fall 2014 Intake: [List of Projects Approved for Funding](#)

Who Can Apply:

A range of organizations can apply -- including non-profit, public, First Nations groups, plus you aged 15 to 29 with a sponsoring organization. Projects must take place in the Columbia Basin.

How To Apply:

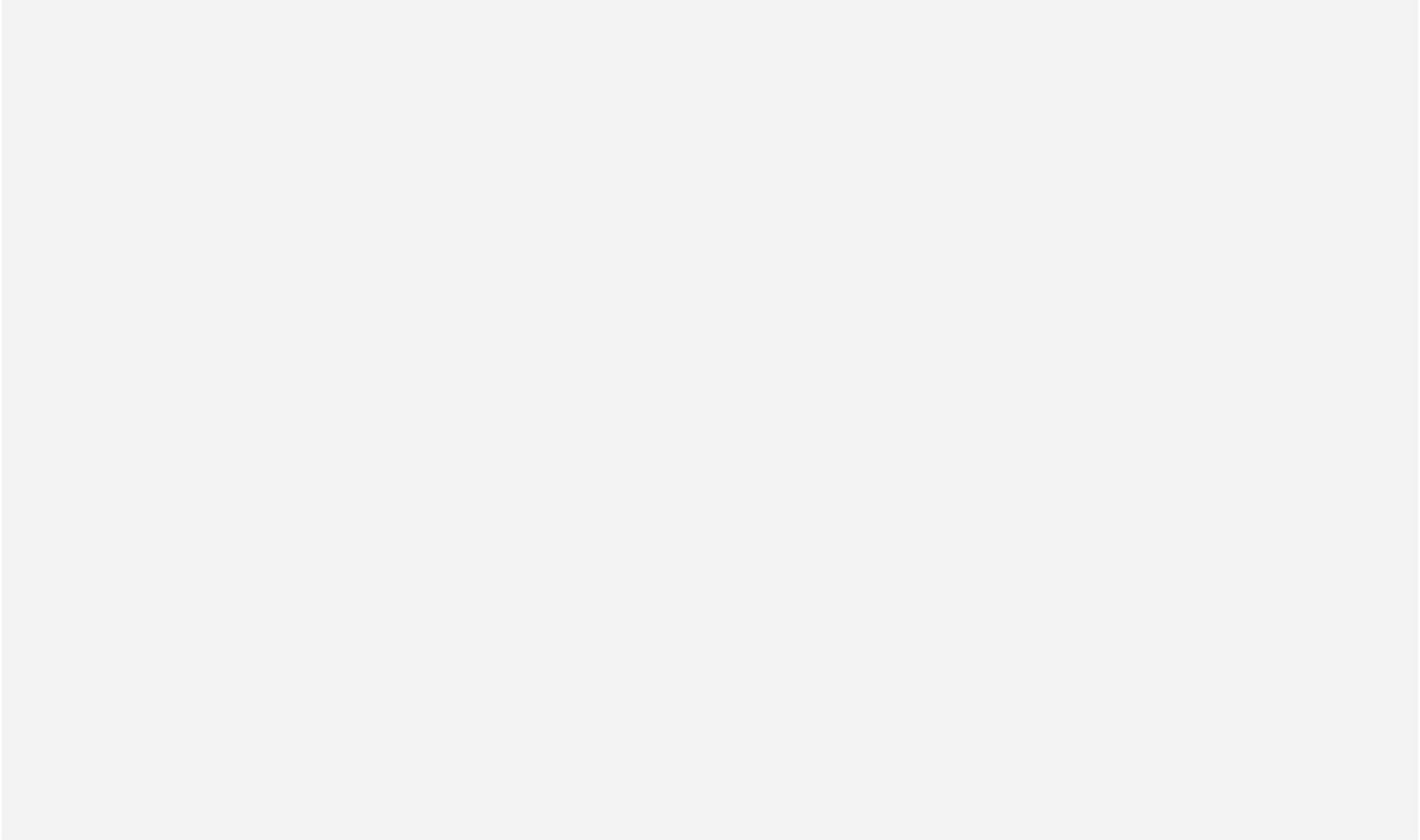
Application intake is now closed. The next intake will occur in fall 2015.

CONTACTS:

- **Michelle d'Entremont, Basin Youth Liaison**

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mdentremont@cbt.org



Report Recommends How to Address Recreation Issues at Kooconusa

Friday, February 06, 2015

Recreation use must balance economic value, ecological integrity and health and safety concerns

A new report aims to reduce some of the issues that have arisen around Kooconusa Reservoir due to increased tourism and recreation on Crown land. These issues include degradation of sensitive grasslands and wildlife habitat, impacts on cultural areas, excessive litter and garbage in the backcountry and public health and safety concerns.

The Kooconusa area is a regionally important tourism and recreation asset, attracting outdoor enthusiasts for activities that range from wildlife viewing to off-road vehicle use. It is also an area of traditional First Nations use and falls within the territory of the Ktunaxa Nation.

In 2014, MLA Bill Bennett and Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, initiated the Kooconusa Recreation Steering Committee (KRSC) to help address issues around the reservoir. The group includes representatives from the BC government, Ktunaxa National Council, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, Regional District of East Kootenay and Columbia Basin Trust. It commissioned the *Kooconusa Area Situational Analysis*, which recommends how to support recreation on Crown land while maintaining the economic value, ecological integrity and aesthetic appeal of the area for current and future users.

"Constituents in this area have identified long-standing issues," said Bill Bennett, MLA for Kootenay East. "That's why I brought this group of agencies together to explore how we can effectively maintain important tourism and recreation opportunities in the area while reducing some of the negative impacts."

To help identify issues and potential solutions, in summer 2014 consultants engaged with First Nations, government, residents, property owners, visitors, local businesses and non-governmental and community organizations. They also looked at existing management plans for the area, including the Cranbrook West Recreation Management Strategy, completed in 2005.

"The Trust is pleased to be able to facilitate and convene this group around this important issue," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "By partnering and commissioning this report, we can now help identify actions to ensure the lands around the reservoir are appropriately maintained for all."

Over the coming months, KRSC will begin implementing the recommendations. The priority is to educate recreational users about appropriate behaviour and stewardship; this includes creating a recreation code of conduct, a brochure and website for the Kooconusa area and signage at popular recreation sites. It may also mean providing more support to Natural Resource Officers. The group also plans to explore partnerships with existing recreational groups in the region and enhance waste management facilities.

For more information and to read the report, visit kooconusarecreation.ca or contact one of the following:

- Hon. Bill Bennett, Kootenay East MLA: Bill.Bennett.MLA@leg.bc.ca
- Kindy Gosal, Director, Special Initiatives, Columbia Basin Trust: kgosal@cbt.org
- Andrew McLeod, Manager, Planning and Development Services, Regional District of East Kootenay: amcleod@rdek.bc.ca
- Harry Mitchell, Director of Authorizations, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations: Harry.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca
- Craig Paskin, Manager, Policy and Planning, Lands and Resources Agency, Ktunaxa Nation Council: CPaskin@ktunaxa.org.



Social Focus Renewed

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Our new *Social Strategic Plan* is now complete and will guide our social initiatives to 2019. We thank everyone who has helped us get to this point.

The plan sets goals in three areas:

- addressing systemic social issues
- being responsive to community priorities and solutions
- strengthening social sector capacity.

The plan is available online at cbt.org/socialplan.

We believe we can make the most progress toward social well-being by focusing on a few of the most critical issues, including poverty, affordability, isolation and social sector sustainability. At the same time, we've built flexibility into the plan to ensure emerging issues can be addressed.

The goals, objectives and activities of the plan were formed through discussions with Basin residents, communities and social sector stakeholders. Input and ideas were also generated through a broad public engagement that included online input, social sector round table conversations, community workshops and stakeholder interviews. A summary of comments on the draft plan, and the Trust's responses, can be viewed [here](#).

To achieve planned objectives, our role includes providing resources and funding, bringing people together around key issues, providing information and supporting collaboration on social initiatives and projects.



Basin Water Conservation Action and Collaboration Lauded as Model for Success

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Since 2010, Water Smart communities in the Columbia Basin have steadily reduced local water consumption -- and academics, experts and utility professionals from across Canada are taking note.

Water Smart is a Columbia Basin Trust water conservation program that helps regional districts and municipalities in the Basin address their local water conservation needs. Its aim is to achieve a 20 per cent Basin-wide reduction in community water consumption by 2015.

While the Basin faces the same challenges as other regions -- including reducing water loss from leaking pipes and educating the public about conserving water -- Water Smart's data-based and problem-solving model has supported measurable demand reduction in the 26 participating communities, and the model is transferrable to other regions and utilities.

"Basin communities are becoming leaders in this area and it's really rewarding for these communities to share their innovative work -- and to have others learn from their water conservation successes," said Meredith Hamstead, Water Smart Coordinator.

In 2014, the Water Smart team showcased Basin efforts at three conferences.

The first was the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments conference in Creston in April. Here, the Water Smart team gave an update and was pleased to find that elected officials are very aware of and supportive of the program. Elected official support for water conservation is an essential element of success in the long term.

In May the team attended the BC Water and Waste Association conference in Whistler. Here they presented to delegates from around the province, few of which were aware of Water Smart. The focus was on "water loss management," an essential but often overlooked water utility best practice that reduces the amount of water lost through leaks in municipal pipes. By addressing this type of loss, Basin communities have achieved water savings ranging from 5 to 40 per cent of total annual supply, and have reduced infrastructure wear and tear and operating costs -- which together support infrastructure resilience and sustainability.

Finally, Water Smart presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation conference in Prince George in September.

"Part of the participating communities' success has to do with Water Smart's model of regional collaboration supporting local action. While our presentation highlighted case studies of success in Basin communities, two other presenters highlighted Water Smart itself as a successful case study for effective collaboration supporting water utility sustainability," said Hamstead. "The work being done in the Basin has gained attention, not only for the amazing local water conservation outcomes, but as an example for how communities in a very large region can collaborate effectively."

To learn more about Water Smart, visit cbt.org/watersmart.

