



## Avalanche Canada Receives \$325,000

Avalanche Canada is receiving \$325,000 over two years from the Trust to help it continue its work of increasing public safety for winter backcountry users

[...full story](#)



## Projects Support Social Well-being

Twenty-eight projects that support social well-being have been approved to receive over \$1.3 million in funding from our Social Grants [...full story](#)



## Training for Heavy Industry

Individuals looking for training in heavy equipment operations will soon have local access to state-of-the-art simulator equipment [...full story](#)

## Events and Deadlines

**March 19**

Deadline

**Request for Proposals: CBBC Fibre Maintenance and Emergency Repair**

**March 20**

Deadline

**Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance**

**March 30**

Deadline

**Request for Proposals: Publisher for Columbia Basin Trust's Community Magazine**

**March 31**

Fairmont Hot Springs

**Trust Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 1**

Deadline

**Youth Action Grants**

[Go to events page.](#)



## More Affordable Housing Coming to East Kootenay

[Learn more](#)

## New Bridge for Valemount

A new suspension bridge spanning Swift Creek is part of a community vision to establish a mountain bike trail system and park.

[Learn more](#)

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## Avalanche Canada Receives \$325,000 from the Trust

Thursday, March 05, 2015

*Two-year support to go toward increasing public avalanche safety*

Avalanche Canada is receiving \$325,000 over two years from Columbia Basin Trust to help it continue its work of increasing public safety for winter backcountry users.

Avalanche Canada is a national public avalanche safety organization, with world-leading accident prevention programs and services. Based in Revelstoke, the organization produces daily avalanche forecasts throughout the winter for many of the well-used mountainous regions of western Canada, including the entire Columbia Basin. It has also developed an internationally recognized curriculum for recreational avalanche safety training, and support instructors who teach thousands of people each year.

"We are honoured by this support from Columbia Basin Trust," said Gilles Valade, Executive Director, Avalanche Canada. "Today's announcement is vital to the maintenance of our service level for the backcountry community, and it will also allow us to continue to innovate avalanche risk management tools."

"The services of Avalanche Canada are essential when it comes to winter safety, both here and elsewhere in the country. We know that both residents and visitors to the Basin benefit greatly from the daily bulletins and avalanche warnings," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "As a non-profit, the organization's funds come from a variety of sources and vary from year to year. We're pleased we can help increase Avalanche Canada's stability so it can strengthen these important services to the public."

The Trust's commitment includes \$100,000 per year for two years for ongoing activities, such as the Public Avalanche Warning Service, Avalanche Canada's training courses and youth-specific initiatives. It also includes a one-time \$125,000 grant that will enable the organization to continue developing its new website and its Mountain Information Network, which allows backcountry users to share real-time data and observations from the field. In addition, this grant will allow Avalanche Canada to make important information technology purchases that will help stabilize its public avalanche warning services and reach a broader base of winter backcountry recreationists.

To learn more about Avalanche Canada, visit [avalanche.ca](http://avalanche.ca).



## Projects Support Social Well-Being in the Columbia Basin

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

### *28 projects receive support from the Trust's Social Grants*

Twenty-eight projects that support social well-being have been approved to receive over \$1.3 million in funding through Columbia Basin Trust's Social Grants.

"These projects clearly illustrate the strength we have in our communities, with organizations of various sizes working on many levels to improve the lives of residents," said Liz Gillis, Columbia Basin Trust Acting Manager, Social Initiatives. "We're pleased to be able to support their efforts, which in turn helps us deliver on our goals of addressing systemic social issues, being responsive to community priorities and solutions, and strengthening social sector capacity."

One of the successful recipients is the Nakusp chapter of Options for Sexual Health. Its project involves renovating an existing building so it can house multiple community non-profits, including the local youth society, arts council, mental health and addictions counsellor, and other preventative health organizations.

"The Kinship Connection Centre creates sustainability amongst non-profit and preventative health groups," said Teresa Weatherhead, Certified Sexual Health Educator. "We will be able to share resources and amenities under one roof, enabling funds to be directed toward the socially impactful services they provide, while enhancing visibility and accessibility to all ages and genders of our community, with specific inclusion of our youth in Nakusp and region."

One of the successful recipients is the Blue Lake Forest Education Society. Its project involves piloting a four-day summer camp for Basin youth with special needs, which includes funding additional staff, providing additional training and developing a peer mentorship program.

"Blue Lake was approached by a number of concerned parents looking for specialized camping experiences for their children," said Todd Hebert, Executive Director. "With few, if any, special needs outdoor camping facilities in the Basin, Blue Lake decided to pursue the opportunity to assist these families with a locally organized program."

One of the successful recipients is the Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (COINS). Its project involves bringing together 15 West Kootenay elders for four days of cultural sharing and learning, plus hosting 16 additional gatherings to share teachings and ceremonies with Aboriginal families in their communities.

"COINS is very excited to host the Strengthening Our Elders gathering in the West Kootenay region," said Kris Taks, Executive Director. "This project will support the preservation of culture and traditional ways, as well as offer Aboriginal children, youth and families opportunities for traditional healing and cultural connection."

Another successful recipient is Freedom Quest Regional Youth Services, a program of the Doukhobour Heritage Retreat Society. With the funds, it will produce a PhotoVoice video focused on marginalized and at-risk youth from the West Kootenay, which will be showcased at the Creating Caring Communities conference in May 2015 in Castlegar. The project will build awareness about youth and their experiences with substance use and mental health.

"I came here to share my story about the real repercussions that drug use can cause and the serious consequences it can have in one's life," said participant Cloe Henri. "My ultimate goal is to help others see the lifelong consequences."

"I feel like my experiences and stories will give perspective on what goes on in our country and our province and our streets--a lot of the times it is really hard stuff," said participant Kenneth Rougeau. "I feel I can shed some light."

Since the program was launched in 2012, the Trust has been able to distribute over \$3 million to improving social well-being in our communities. Granting decisions are made by the Social Grants Program Selection Committee, a volunteer group of Basin residents that includes individuals who have experience and expertise in the social sector and individuals who have broader community development experience.

For more information about the program, visit [cbt.org/socialgrants](http://cbt.org/socialgrants).

The Trust also has a new Social Strategic Plan, which will guide all its social initiatives through to 2019. Read it at [cbt.org/socialstrategicplan](http://cbt.org/socialstrategicplan).

## College Prepares Students for Heavy Industry

Thursday, March 12, 2015

*Simulator training helps Basin businesses hire local skilled labour*

Individuals looking for training in heavy equipment operations will soon have local access to state-of-the-art simulator equipment through College of the Rockies.

The college recently purchased heavy equipment operator kits that will enhance its existing mining haul truck simulator. The kits will enable students to train for other heavy industry careers, including forestry road building, highway construction, pipelines and more.

"We are proud to be helping the college diversify its training capability and enhance training opportunities for students in rural and remote areas of the Basin," said Lisa Kilpatrick, Columbia Basin Trust Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. "The additional training will make a real difference in preparing students for careers in heavy industry jobs. Trained students will help fill the demand for skilled heavy equipment operators in the region, making it easier for local companies to hire local skilled labour."

In 2013, **College of the Rockies received \$560,000 from the Trust**, as well as support from the **federal** and **provincial** governments, to purchase a mining haul truck simulator for its Haul Truck Operator Program. Within its first year, the program had demonstrated success with 93 graduates securing local employment.

This success created a demand for enhanced training programs. The current purchase is taking place thanks to \$100,000 from the Trust, **\$350,000 from Western Economic Diversification** and **\$250,000 from College of the Rockies**.



### More Affordable Housing Coming to East Kootenay

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Renovations are under way at Lilac Terrace, which will provide an additional 12 units of affordable housing for seniors with low to moderate incomes in Sparwood. The project is being spearheaded by the Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society and supported by the Trust and the governments of Canada and BC through the [Affordable Rental Housing initiative](#).

The newly expanded Lilac Terrace will soon offer 42 units for seniors with low to moderate incomes. The facility provides a safe environment for seniors to live independently while benefiting from meal services, community programming and both palliative and respite care services when needed. Renovations are scheduled to be completed by early 2016.

"The Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society identified an opportunity to improve the lives of local seniors, and we're pleased we were able to partner with the federal and provincial governments to help them take action," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "The Trust is committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen the well-being of our communities, and this affordable housing project provides a solid example."

This follows the recent addition of affordable housing for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes in Fernie. Funding from the Trust and the governments of Canada and BC allowed the Elk Valley Family Society to acquire 12 two-bedroom units of affordable rental housing in the 45-unit Veneto Place development.

[Read the full news release.](#)



## More affordable housing available soon in East Kootenay

SPARWOOD - Renovations are underway at Lilac Terrace, which will provide an additional 12 units of affordable housing for seniors with low-to-moderate incomes in Sparwood.

The newly expanded Lilac Terrace, located at 102 2nd Ave., will soon offer 42 units for seniors with low-to-moderate incomes. The initial 30 units were built in 2001 and were funded by the Government of B.C. The facility provides a safe environment for seniors to live independently while benefiting from meal services, community programming, and both palliative and respite care services when needed. Renovations are scheduled to be completed by early 2016.

This follows the recent addition of affordable housing for individuals and families with low-to-moderate incomes in Fernie. Funding from the governments of Canada and B.C. allowed the Elk Valley Family Society to acquire 12 two-bedroom units of affordable rental housing in the 45-unit Veneto Place development.

### Quick facts:

#### Lilac Terrace:

- Lilac Terrace is owned and operated by the Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society.
- The governments of Canada and British Columbia will provide a combined investment of \$600,000 through the Affordable Rental Housing initiative - [www.bchousing.org/Initiatives/Creating/ARHi](http://www.bchousing.org/Initiatives/Creating/ARHi) - under the Canada-B.C. Agreement for Investment in Affordable Housing 2011 [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2011/2011-07-04-0930.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2011/2011-07-04-0930.cfm) - which was extended until 2019 - [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2014/2014-03-04-1530.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2014/2014-03-04-1530.cfm)
- The Government of B.C. will provide construction financing of up to \$400,000.
- The District of Sparwood will provide \$255,907 in municipal grants, reductions, and the land valued at \$33,400.
- Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) will contribute \$500,000 and the Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society has committed approximately \$2.3 million in the form of equity.

#### Veneto Place:

- The governments of Canada and British Columbia provided joint funding of \$558,000 through the Affordable Rental Housing Initiative to Veneto Place, located at 1002, 1042 and 1092 1st Ave. in Fernie.
- The Government of B.C. provided long-term financing of over \$1.1 million, and CBT provided \$558,000.

### Quotes:

#### **David Wilks, Member of Parliament for Kootenay - Columbia, on behalf of the Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State (Social Development) -**

“Access to affordable, quality housing is very important, not only here in B.C. but across Canada. Our government is proud to invest in projects that provide low-to-moderate income seniors, individuals, and families with a stable and affordable place to live. This is great news for Sparwood and Fernie.”

#### **Bill Bennett, MLA for Kootenay East, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Core Review -**

“We are constantly looking at ways to increase the housing options available to seniors in our community. Continuing our partnership with the Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society will help increase capacity, expand services and provide a welcoming environment for residents.”

#### **Mayor Cal McDougall, District of Sparwood -**

“More and more seniors every year are choosing to remain in Elkford and Sparwood after they retire to enjoy this beautiful town and active community. This new trend has left little time for the local housing industry to evolve a full range of housing options for seniors. This worthwhile project is exactly the kind of

solution this community needs. It's more than just a simple renovation; we are helping to build communities here.”

**Neil Muth, president and chief executive officer, Columbia Basin Trust -**

“The Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society identified an opportunity to improve the lives of local seniors, and we're pleased we were able to partner with the federal and provincial governments to help them take action. The Trust is committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen the well-being of our communities, and this affordable housing project provides a solid example.”

**Robert Burritt, president, Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society -**

“The society is proud of the difference that Lilac Terrace is making in the lives of our seniors and is proud of the place that it has in our community. We are very fortunate to be able to provide even more housing and services to our seniors with these additional units.”

**Associated links:**

Annually, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), will invest approximately \$2 billion in housing. These investments improve 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.

Economic Action Plan 2013 continued this commitment with a federal investment of more than \$1.25 billion over five years to renew the Investment in Affordable Housing to 2019. The Government of Canada will ensure that funds provided to provinces and territories support the use of apprentices, which will support training of skilled labour. To find out more about how the Government of Canada and CMHC help Canadians meet their housing needs, call CMHC at 1 800 668-2642 or visit: [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca)

Since 2001, the B.C. government has invested \$4 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors, and families. This year, nearly 100,000 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services. To find out more, go to: [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)

Columbia Basin Trust delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. To learn more about Columbia Basin Trust programs and initiatives, visit: [www.cbt.org](http://www.cbt.org)

The Elk Valley Seniors Housing Society is a registered charity and non-profit housing provider. Their mission is to provide affordable supportive housing while striving to preserve and enhance the well-being, dignity, independence, and quality of life for seniors in the community. For more information, please see: [www.lilacterrace.net](http://www.lilacterrace.net)

**Stay connected:**

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- Follow BC Housing on Twitter [@BC\\_Housing](https://twitter.com/BC_Housing)
- Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

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## Bridge First Step in Improving Recreation in Valemount

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Valemount's Swift Creek Trail has a new suspension bridge spanning the creek, replacing an old, damaged bridge that was no longer safe. The project was funded in part by the Trust.

The bridge is part of a community vision to establish a mountain bike trail system and park, one that will serve residents and draw visitors to the area. The project is being overseen by the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA), which represents a variety of community stakeholders in developing and maintaining local backcountry recreation. Partners include the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA) and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

"This project has been a long-standing dream of many residents in the area," said Curtis Pawliuk, VARDA General Manager. "Valemount currently has the infrastructure—hotels, restaurants, etc.—to support increased tourism. Developing a mountain biking trail network is a logical and viable next step that will foster community recreation and health, as well as support the local economy due to increased tourism spending. The Swift Creek bridge is the backbone of this proposed system."

"This project is an excellent example of partnerships and community participation," said Lynda Lafleur, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison. "VARDA, YORA and other community partners have been working toward this vision for over seven years, and public meetings have highlighted the residents' interest in promoting Valemount as a recreation destination. This project has the potential to enhance the livability of the community while attracting a new form of economic benefit."

The bridge is opening to the public in spring 2015, and the next step of the project is to upgrade the current Swift Creek Trail.

