



Waneta Expansion Project Is Now Generating Clean, Renewable, Cost-effective Power

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[...full story](#)



New Sport and Physical Activity Resource

People engaged in sport and physical activity in the Basin can look forward to



See What Your Community Said

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improved support through the newly formed PacificSport Columbia Basin Society. The Trust and ViaSport are providing \$800,000 and \$300,000 respectively. [...full story](#)

what's important to them and how the Trust should focus its efforts. Residents are now invited to read summaries and view photos. [...full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

April 21 to June 15

Various Locations

[Me. Inc. Workshops](#)

April 21 to May 5

Revelstoke, Cranbrook, Creston

[Social Enterprise Workshops](#)

May 1

Deadline

[Youth Action Grants](#)

May 29

Revelstoke

[Trust Board of Directors Meeting](#)

[Go to events page.](#)



Successful Climate Change Program Wraps up

[Learn more](#)

Attend the Keeping It Rural Conference

Do you care about rural communities and rural issues? Apply now to be one of 12 residents, sponsored by the Trust, to attend the conference on May 26 to 28 in Salmon Arm.

[Learn more](#)

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Waneta Expansion Project Is Now Generating Clean, Renewable, Cost Effective Power

Thursday, April 02, 2015

The Waneta Expansion Limited Partnership (WELP), a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust, announced today that the Waneta Expansion Project near Trail is now online and generating power.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

The \$900 million 335 MW expansion adds a second powerhouse, immediately downstream of the Waneta Dam on the Pend d'Oreille River, that shares the existing hydraulic head and generates clean, renewable, cost effective power from water that would otherwise be spilled.

The project included construction of a 10 km, 230 kV transmission line and provides enough energy to power about 60,000 homes per year. Long-term agreements are in place with BC Hydro to purchase the energy and FortisBC to purchase the capacity from the project.

Project benefits include the injection of over \$300 million into the local economy through the purchase of goods and services and wages. Employment reached over 1,400 people.

The eighth largest infrastructure project in British Columbia, the Waneta Expansion Project was completed six weeks ahead of schedule and on budget while maintaining an excellent safety and environmental protection record.

"This project is a testament to the can-do attitude of British Columbians," said John Walker, Executive Vice President, Western Canadian Operations, Fortis Inc. "As the majority owner, Fortis Inc. would like to thank all the workers that made this project a reality keeping it on budget and ahead of schedule."

"The Waneta Expansion Project is not only benefitting our province by providing clean, reliable power, but it's also helping local businesses thrive," said Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy, Mines and Responsible for Core Review. "This is a perfect example of a project that is committed to a high standard of quality, safety and environmental protection while delivering positive benefits to the local community."

"As a partner, and the Owner's Representative managing the project," said Frank Wszelaki, President and Chief Executive Officer, Columbia Power Corporation, "we are extremely proud of the project and thank the workers and SNC-Lavalin, the project contractor, for making this project a huge success."

"This achievement is the culmination of the vision and efforts of so many," said Neil Muth, President and Chief Executive Officer, Columbia Basin Trust. "This project provided many direct benefits from jobs to local spending, and the region will continue to see benefits as the Trust uses the revenues to support well-being in Basin communities."

The partners extend a huge thank you to the workers, contractors, First Nations, local communities, and the Community Impact Management Committee for their support throughout construction. To acknowledge the efforts of everyone who worked on the project, a keepsake book is being produced and a family BBQ is being planned. Register to receive your book and/or attend the BBQ at: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/waneta/>.

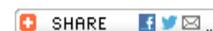
An official opening presentation will occur in the coming months with project and local, regional and provincial government representatives.

Columbia Power manages construction of the Waneta Expansion Project on behalf of WELP. For more information please visit: columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.

WANETA EXPANSION PROJECT QUICK FACTS

- Employed over 1,400 people.
- During peak employment, there were over 50 apprentices on site.
- 194 apprentices (from 13 trades) received skills training.
- Over 70 per cent of the workforce came from within 100 km of the project.

- 13 Ktunaxa Nation citizens, including trades apprentices and journeymen, worked on the project.
- Regional spending on goods and services exceeded \$220 million.
- Project wages exceeded \$95 million.
- With over 3 million person hours logged there were only two minor lost time incidents and no major environmental incidents or concerns.
- Will power about 60,000 homes per year through clean, renewable hydroelectric power.
- \$50,000 is awarded annually to research, physical works, and other on-the-ground or applied terrestrial compensation projects. The program will continue for three years following completion of the expansion project this year.
- The project is situated in an area claimed as traditional territories by both the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Okanagan Nation Alliance. Benefit agreements with both First Nations were executed and the Owner and Contractors worked closely with First Nations to maximize opportunities and benefits.
- Rock and overburden removed: enough to fill 82,000 tandem truckloads.
- Concrete used: 85,000 m3, enough to fill over thirty Olympic sized swimming pools.
- Completed all rock blasting without damage to any neighbouring facilities and without injury to white sturgeon.
- A Community Impact Management Committee met on a monthly basis to provide ongoing support to encourage positive community impacts and a forum to discuss and address issues raised by the community resulting from construction of the project. The committee includes local residents, members of local and regional government, First Nations and representatives from the Owner and Contractor.



New Resource for Sport and Physical Activity in the Region

Thursday, April 09, 2015

The Trust and ViaSport are providing \$1.1 million

People engaged in sport and physical activity in the Columbia Basin can look forward to improved support through the newly formed PacificSport Columbia Basin Society. Columbia Basin Trust and ViaSport are providing \$800,000 and \$300,000 respectively toward this initiative over the next three years.

The society's primary goals are to promote sport and physical activity in the Basin; provide services and programs for local athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers; and promote health by encouraging and helping the public to participate in physical activities.

"The Trust has been working on this since May 2013 to determine how we can best support sport and physical activity in the Basin," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "We're pleased to partner with ViaSport to establish the PacificSport Columbia Basin Society. It will draw on the expertise of the broader provincial alliance to advance local priorities."

Still in its formative stages, the society will work with Basin communities and organizations, as well as access the broader provincial alliance of sports organizations that serves as a resource hub to educate, inspire and enable residents to participate, play and perform, no matter their activity or level of expertise.

"ViaSport's mandate is to increase awareness, opportunity and participation in sport across the province, at every stage of life and in every community," said Cathy Priestner Allinger, ViaSport CEO. "Working with the PacificSport Columbia Basin Society and partners in our Regional Alliance, we are helping to expand the possibilities for all British Columbians." Learn more about ViaSport at viasport.ca.

Working on the ground to develop sports and physical activity in the Basin, many Basin residents have been integral to this process:

"Being part of this network will help bring the Kootenays to a more equal playing field with the rest of the province, improve sport and physical activity opportunities for all residents, encourage regular physical activity and physical literacy and improve residents' health and wellness levels," said Sandi Lavery, new Board member and Program Coordinator/Instructor, University of Victoria East Kootenay Teacher Education Program at College of the Rockies.

"This will benefit people of all ages, from those wishing to have fun and stay fit, to those striving to excel in their sport," said Janis Neufeld, new Board member and President, Kootenay Sufferfest Society. "We'll make better use of the facilities we already have while improving our ability to attract and retain coaches and support our volunteers. By having communities work together, it will help eliminate some of the barriers and boundaries that this region encounters."

Nine members sit on the society's Board of Directors:

- Anthony Bell, Rossland
- Alan Chell, Revelstoke
- Karen Kettenacker, Cranbrook
- Sandi Lavery, Cranbrook
- Neil Muth, Castlegar
- Janis Neufeld, Nakusp
- Kim Palfenier, Procter
- Jordan Petrovics, Golden
- Glenda Newsted, Sparwood.

View the Board member's biographies [here](#).



See What Your Community Said

Friday, April 17, 2015

Summaries of Columbia Basin Trust's Our Trust, Our Future process now available

From September 2014 to February 2015, Columbia Basin Trust visited communities throughout the Basin to ask residents what's important to them and how the Trust should focus its efforts. Residents are now invited to read summaries and view photos of these community sessions at ourtrustourfuture.cbt.org.

Trust staff connected with residents at 55 community workshops and meetings, plus gathered feedback online and through mail-in workbooks. About 3,000 people participated, generating over 17,000 thoughts and ideas.

"We thank every person who gave their time; your input will not only help shape the Trust, but help shape the future of our region," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "We are currently reviewing the information to develop recommendations on where the Trust should focus its efforts in the next five years."

While residents brought forward a range of themes and topics, one that was mentioned most frequently across communities was economic development and diversification. Other topics include agriculture, healthy food and food security, arts and culture, community infrastructure, community transportation alternatives, education, energy efficiency and sustainability, and recreation and physical activity, among many others.

The Trust also heard that it should consider additional methods to support communities. These include taking a more strategic, focused approach on specific Basin wide issues and innovative ways of investing in Basin projects.

"While we would like to take action on all the ideas submitted, we simply don't have the resources," said Muth. "Our current efforts will enable us to hone in on measurable, achievable priorities. Residents can expect to have another opportunity to engage with us in the next few months with some draft recommendations, and then we'll finalize our strategic priorities this fall."



Successful Climate Change Program Wraps up

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative makes way for new programming

Since 2008, communities throughout the Columbia Basin have been planning for a changing climate with help from the Trust's Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative (CACCI).

Fourteen Basin communities have received support and over 30 innovative projects have demonstrated pioneering work around climate adaptation. For example, Revelstoke was one of the first communities to consider future climate in its source water protection plan. Nelson and Castlegar assessed the vulnerability of their stormwater infrastructure. Kaslo developed a framework to track the impacts of climate change on local watersheds.

The District of Elkford is particularly notable as it was the first municipality in BC to address climate adaptation in its Official Community Plan. Its approach was even included in a United Nations guidebook that assesses various climate adaptation options. The District has since created a new bylaw for subdivisions and other land developments that deals with stormwater flows affected by changing climate conditions. It is also improving its dikes.

"By working with CACCI, we have developed three goals when it comes to managing stormwater," said Dean McKerracher, Mayor of Elkford. "The first is to reserve and improve the environment and natural resources for present and future generations. The second is to reduce the risk of health hazards, loss of life and property damage. The third is to conserve social and financial resources by treating stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product."

All Basin communities have benefited from many innovative adaptation tools and resources, from leading-edge climate science to a model climate-resilient bylaw--including the recently released *Indicators of Climate Adaptation in the Columbia Basin* report. CACCI partnered with the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) to develop a suite of indicators to measure community progress on climate adaptation. Funded by Natural Resources Canada and the Trust, the indicator suite complements RDI's State of the Basin monitoring initiative. Learn more about all the tools and resources at adaptationresourcekit.squarespace.com.

"We wish to thank all the communities, individuals and organizations that helped make CACCI a success," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "Not only have the efforts improved the resilience of participating communities, but they have been recognized provincially, nationally and internationally for their innovation and achievements."

Although CACCI is now complete, the Trust will continue its work on climate change issues, aiming to build awareness, provide information, support science and develop tools that help communities and the Basin at large adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is one of five priorities in the Trust's *Environment Strategic Plan 2014-2019*, and the organization is developing new approaches to address climate change issues.



Keeping it Rural Conference 2015

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Apply now to be one of twelve residents, sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust, to attend.

The **Keeping it Rural Conference** will be held on May 26 - 28, 2015 at the Prestige Harbourfront Resort in Salmon Arm, BC.

If you care about rural communities and rural issues, the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition invites you to join them for three days of inspiring presentations from organizations and community leaders who have made a difference in their rural communities. The conference will include a variety of keynote speeches, six panel presentations and two concurrent workshops on Thursday.

[Click here](#) for the Keeping it Rural 2015 Conference Info Package.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit a paragraph outlining why you would like to attend and how the conference could benefit you and/or your community. Applicants must be a resident of the **Columbia Basin region**.

Sponsorship will include conference registration and reimbursement for accommodations and transportation expenses to a maximum of \$700. Notifications will be made by May 1, 2015.

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS NOW CLOSED.

