



The Trust Renews Its Strategic Priorities

The Trust has updated its *Columbia Basin Management Plan* for 2016 to 2020, which outlines how it will support Basin residents and communities over the next five years.

[...full story](#)

Learn more at [tomorrow's webinar \(Friday, October 16\)](#) or [upcoming open houses](#).



New Program to Strengthen Non-profits

A new Trust program helps Basin non-profits increase capacity, become more sustainable and become more efficient.

[...full story](#)



Funding Options Expand for Basin Businesses

Businesses that need financial support but aren't able to secure conventional financing may now find help through a new Trust fund.

[...full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

Ongoing

Various Locations

[Me Inc. Workshops](#)

October 16

Online

[Columbia Basin Management Plan Webinar](#)

October 19

Deadline

[Environment Grants](#)

October 20 to 30

Cranbrook, Golden, Nakusp, Castlegar

[Columbia Basin Management Plan Open Houses](#)

October 20 to November 19

Various Locations

[Grant Writing Workshops](#)

November 2

Deadline

[Youth Grants](#)

November 6

Deadline

[Job Postings: Program Coordinator; Manager, Assessment and Development; Business Analyst, Broadband](#)

November 15

Deadline

[Heritage Inventory Survey](#)

[Go to events page.](#)



More Funding for High-speed Internet in Rural Communities

[Learn more](#)

Community Facilities to be Upgraded

Several communities in the Basin are receiving over \$445,000 from the Trust, plus funding from the federal government's Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.

[Learn more](#)

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Columbia Basin Trust Renews Strategic Priorities

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Basin residents invited to learn more at open houses, webinar

Columbia Basin Trust has updated its Columbia Basin Management Plan for 2016 to 2020, which outlines how it will support Basin residents and communities over the next five years.

"All of our activities are driven by responding to the priorities and needs of Basin residents," said Greg Deck, Columbia Basin Trust Chair, Board of Directors. "Through extensive discussions, we have heard how we can best support the region and the issues we should focus on, and are now moving ahead with these ideas."

The Trust will continue to use three methods of supporting communities. 1) It will invest in opportunities that generate financial returns to support its activities. 2) It will offer responsive granting programs that empower residents and communities to take action on issues that are important to them. 3) It will undertake proactive, longer-term initiatives that address specific Basin-wide priorities.

It will also implement a new method, in which it will invest in opportunities where financial return is secondary to other positive community impacts.

"Residents told us that we often make the best use of our resources when we support initiatives that are common across a larger region, such as our affordable housing or broadband initiatives," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. "Economic development, for instance, was a top priority for most of the region, so we'll be allocating significant resources to finding ways to make an impact in this area."

The Trust has identified 13 strategic priorities, which it will focus its efforts on over the next five years. These are: affordable housing; agriculture; arts, culture and heritage; broadband; community priorities; early childhood and childhood development; economic development; environment; First Nations relationships; land acquisition; non-profit support; recreation and physical activity; and renewable and alternative energy.

Through the Our Trust, Our Future engagement process, about 3,000 residents connected with the Trust to offer ideas on how it can support them and their communities. This input helped the Trust renew its priorities and how it delivers programs and services to the Basin.

These priorities and the four main methods have been formalized in the Columbia Basin Management Plan Strategic Priorities 2016–2020, a document that guides how the Trust works to support communities. Read it online at cbt.org/cbmp.

The public is also invited to learn more at open houses to be held in Cranbrook (Tuesday, Oct. 20), Golden (Wednesday, Oct. 28), Nakusp (Thursday, Oct. 29) and Castlegar (Friday, Oct. 30). Or residents can join a webinar. Find details at cbt.org/openhouse.



New Columbia Basin Trust Program to Strengthen Non-profits

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Non-Profits Invited to Seek Organizational Development Support

Non-profit organizations that need help with organizational development can now access Columbia Basin Trust's new Non-profit Advisors Program. This program offers Basin non-profits a new approach to help increase capacity, become more sustainable and become more efficient.

"Non-profit organizations are vital to our well-being in the Basin—from providing activities for our children, to helping care for our seniors, to protecting our environment," said Lisa Kilpatrick, Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. "This new program helps a non-profit of any size or sector strengthen its internal structure, giving it the foundation it needs to be able to focus on its primary purpose."

The program offers expertise in areas like planning and direction, human resources, financial management, governance and community relationships. In addition to providing information resources, the program can connect the non-profit with an advisor who will assess the organization and provide recommendations. Where the advisor determines additional specialized consulting support is needed, the program may subsidize those services.

Eligibility is open to all Basin-based and registered non-profit organizations that actively deliver programs that support broad public good (not programs that primarily benefit membership) in the Columbia Basin region.

For more information, visit cbt.org/nonprofits or call 1.800.505.8998.



Funding Possibilities Expand for Basin Businesses

Friday, October 09, 2015

Columbia Basin Trust announces new \$2-million Impact Investment Fund

Businesses in the Columbia Basin that need financial support but aren't able to secure conventional financing may now be able to find help through Columbia Basin Trust's new Impact Investment Fund. The \$2-million fund is administered by Community Futures.

The fund is intended to support business opportunities that are high risk and may not offer adequate financial returns to an investor, but will benefit Basin residents and communities in some other way. For example, it may create jobs, address a community need, help the environment or support arts and culture.

"We will continue to invest in opportunities that give us the income we need to provide programs and services to the Basin," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. "However, sometimes an opportunity doesn't fit our standard financial requirements, nor is eligible for a grant--and yet deserves to be supported for other reasons. The Impact Investment Fund gives us the ability to help these businesses strengthen and grow."

This fund is one of the outcomes of the Our Trust, Our Future engagement process. From September 2014 to February 2015, the Trust connected with 3,000 Basin residents to get ideas on how it could better support their priorities.

All types of businesses can apply directly to Community Futures, including for-profits, non-profits, social enterprises, First Nations businesses and start-ups. The business must be located in the Basin, and the investment opportunity must demonstrate significant positive impacts in the Basin. Applications will be reviewed by Community Futures staff and an external adjudication committee made up of Basin residents appointed by the Trust.

"We have long noticed a gap in the financial resources currently available to businesses, and are pleased to partner with the Trust to deliver this innovative financial tool," said Don Freschi, General Manager, Community Futures of Greater Trail. "Working together, we are now able to better support the businesses in our communities--and therefore the communities themselves."

For more information, contact the Community Futures office in your area: Central Kootenay (1.250.352.1933, info@futures.bc.ca); East Kootenay (1.800.661.2293, info@cfek.ca); Fraser Fort George (1.800.661.2055, general@cfdc.bc.ca); Greater Trail (250.364.2595, info@communityfutures.com); Revelstoke (1.250.837.5345, info@revelstokecf.com).



More Funding for High-speed Internet Service in the Basin

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

The Trust's broadband initiative was successful in receiving funds from the provincial government's Connecting BC Program.

Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation, the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary, and 12 local Internet service providers (ISPs) have been granted nearly \$2.3 million to continue their work of improving high-speed access in rural communities around the Basin. Read the full news release [here](#).

This funding comes in addition to the **\$3.34 million already awarded** by the federal government's Connecting Canadians program.

The Trust is committed to improving high-speed Internet access in the region, and these grants are important steps toward enabling rural Basin residents to participate fully in the digital world.



Community Facilities to Be Upgraded

Thursday, October 01, 2015

Several communities in the Basin are undertaking projects to upgrade community facilities. These projects are receiving over \$445,000 from the Trust, plus funding from the federal government's **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program**.

"The Trust is supporting communities to leverage federal funding to improve infrastructure in our region," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "We're pleased to be able to assist projects that address Basin needs."

The projects are listed below, along with the maximum amount of the Trust's contribution. If there are additional projects, they will be added as they are confirmed.

- Village of Canal Flats: Tilley Memorial Park Upgrade: \$42,500
- Town of Golden: Renewal and Enhancement of the Golden Swimming Pool Facility: \$85,050
- Kaslo & District Community Forest Society: Earl Grey Trail Restoration: \$20,000
- Valemount Lions Club: Lions Hall Access, Mobility Upgrades and Revitalization: \$25,000
- St. Mary's Indian Band: St. Eugene Church Restoration: \$37,500
- Regional District of Central Kootenay: North Shore Hall Upgrades: \$61,637
- Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association: Renovations to the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre: \$100,000
- Friends of the Rossland Range Society: Rossland Range Rec Site Shelter Completion: \$42,500
- Village of Warfield: Warfield Centennial Pool Upgrade: \$31,375

