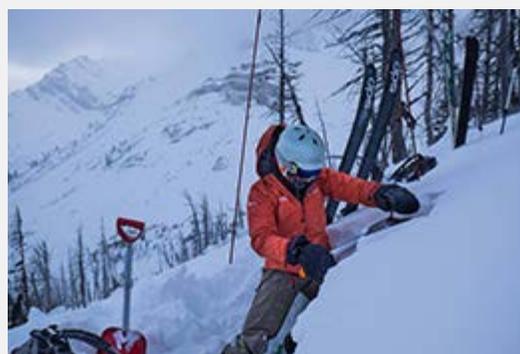




Trust Puts Economic Development Plan into Action

Columbia Basin Trust has a vision for economic growth and is putting a new plan into action. The Trust is purchasing a commercial building in the Waneta Industrial Park near Trail and working with a local tech industry entrepreneur to fill the facility with new jobs and new opportunities in what it sees as a model...[full story](#)



Want to Play in the Snow? New Funding Helps Keep You Safe

Winter backcountry users in Canada



Trust Announces New Heritage Program

The Trust is making history as it establishes a new program, a new

often rely on Avalanche Canada to help keep safe. To support the important work it does, Columbia Basin Trust is funding the non-profit organization with \$450,000 over three years...[full story](#)

partnership and new funding to support the Basin's heritage values. The Trust has allocated \$6.15 million for a three year large capital grants program for built heritage and \$600,000 for a Heritage Support Program...[full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

Various Dates

Basin-wide

[Basin Business Advisors: Me Inc., Social Enterprise, and Succession Planning Workshops](#)

Various Dates

Basin-wide

[CKCA Arts Grants Writing Workshops](#)

Deadline: Various Dates

Basin-wide

[Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program Funding](#)

Deadline: February 28

Basin-wide

[Career Opportunity: Communications Coordinator](#)

Deadline: March 2

Basin-wide

[Career Opportunity: CBBC Chief Operating Officer](#)

Deadline: March 7

Basin-wide

[Request for Proposals: Social Initiatives Consultant Support](#)

April 7-8

Golden

[Trust Board of Directors Meeting](#)

October 13-15

Kimberley

[Columbia Basin Symposium](#)



Report: Water Monitoring and Climate Change in the Upper Columbia Basin

[Learn more](#)

Request for Proposals: Social Initiatives Consultant Support

Columbia Basin Trust is seeking a consultant to support our Social Initiatives to advance the implementation of the Trust's Social Strategic Plan and Early Childhood and Childhood Development strategic priority and provide support to the Social Grants Program. **Closing Date is March 7, 2017.**

[Learn more](#)

[Go to events page.](#)

CONTACT

1.800.505.8998
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Trust Puts Economic Development Plan into Action

News: February 22, 2017



(from left) Local entrepreneur Brian Fry discusses his plan for an innovation centre with Columbia Basin Trust's Tim O'Doherty, Senior Manager, Investments, and Jon Exley, Manager, Assessment and Development

Working with entrepreneurs to bring ideas to life

Columbia Basin Trust has a vision for economic growth and is putting a new plan into action. The Trust is purchasing a commercial building in the Waneta Industrial Park near Trail and working with a local tech industry entrepreneur to fill the facility with new jobs and new opportunities in what it sees as a model for future projects.

“The Trust’s vision for economic development is to be a leader, a catalyst and an investor. We want to support economic growth, job creation and entrepreneurial opportunities in the Basin,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Trust President and Chief Executive Officer.

“Our intention with this project is to take a dormant facility and work with a company or companies that will fully utilize the building and the area’s workforce. This is much more than a building. The Trust is the catalyst for this entrepreneurial opportunity to bring ideas to life,” Strilaeff said.

Local technology entrepreneur Brian Fry of Rossland and his business partners, Pilar Portela and Tim Dufour, plan to create an innovation centre for their data technology company and establish a venture capital corporation to help emerging companies expand.

“The structure was originally built to leverage the world-leading metallurgical capabilities of the region. Now, with the Trust’s economic development focus and patient capital, we can once again leverage these capabilities and complementary tech industry opportunities,” Fry said.

“The Trust’s strategy is to maximize economic opportunities in all regions of the Basin, be that through increased employment, local investment or business development. This building is an example of an asset that can help achieve that vision,” Strilaeff said.

Economic development is a high priority with residents, businesses and local governments throughout the Basin. The Trust developed a new economic development [strategic framework](#) in 2016 to take a more proactive role in growing the Basin’s economy and allocated \$20 million over three years to put the strategy into action.

Learn more about the Trust’s economic initiatives [here](#).



Want to Play in the Snow? New Funding Helps Keep You Safe

News: February 10, 2017



A member of Avalanche Canada's South Rockies Field Team helps keep backcountry users safe. Columbia Basin Trust is committing \$450,000 over three years to the organization.

Columbia Basin Trust to fund Avalanche Canada with \$450,000 over three years

(Columbia Basin) – Winter backcountry users in Canada often rely on Avalanche Canada to help keep safe. To support the important work it does—including notifying backcountry users of avalanche conditions and risks—Columbia Basin Trust is funding the non-profit organization with \$450,000 over three years.

“We’re blessed with beautiful mountains here in the Basin, which means we have to be smart when we play out there in the winter,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “The efforts of Avalanche Canada not only help protect residents, but help our region continue to attract winter tourists. This boosts our economy, as does the fact Avalanche Canada and its employees are based right here in the Basin.”

“We are extremely grateful for this support from Columbia Basin Trust,” said Gilles Valade, Executive Director, Avalanche Canada. “Predictable multi-year funding is critical for our operations and allows us to maintain our services for the backcountry community.”

To increase public avalanche safety, Avalanche Canada issues daily avalanche forecasts throughout the winter for many of the mountainous regions of western Canada, providing this free information via their website and mobile app. It also coordinates and delivers avalanche awareness and education programs, acts as a central point of contact for avalanche information and performs avalanche research projects. In winter it employs over 30 people through its head office in Revelstoke and its field team in Fernie.

Virtually the entire Basin is served by its programs and services. Of its 12 forecast regions, eight are in the Basin, making up over half of the area it covers. The Basin is also where most avalanche fatalities occur in Canada: 52 per cent between 2000 and 2014. That's why the work of this organization is so vital to this region.

The Trust also funded Avalanche Canada in 2015, with \$370,000 over two and a half years. In addition to continuing its ongoing activities, the organization used this for items like developing a new website, upgrading its technology and introducing the Mountain Information Network, which allows backcountry users to share real-time data and observations from the field.

The Trust has also committed \$50,000 over two years to help Avalanche Canada deliver a program specific to youth. In 2015/16, the organization delivered the program to 36 schools in 26 Basin communities, raising avalanche awareness and reducing risks amongst nearly 4,000 students of all ages.

To learn more about Avalanche Canada, visit avalanche.ca.



Trust Announces New Heritage Program

News: February 7, 2017



From left: St. Eugene Church, Rossland Miner's Union Hall and Kaslo City Hall

\$6.75 million committed for three year partnership

The Trust is making history as it establishes a new program, a new partnership and new funding to support the Basin's heritage values.

The Trust has allocated \$6.15 million for a three year large capital grants program for built heritage and \$600,000 for a Heritage Support Program that will see a professional heritage position established in the Basin to support a broad range of heritage organizations.

“This is the first time the Trust has developed a program specifically for the heritage sector. It has three components: maintaining an inventory of heritage buildings and assets, the heritage position that will provide guidance and expertise, and the capital grant program,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Trust President and CEO.

“We are also creating a new partnership with Heritage BC to help us deliver the program. They are a natural choice. Their expertise will make them an effective delivery partner for our heritage goals,” Strilaeff said.

With their experience overseeing grants on behalf of the province, Heritage BC can provide program models, advise on criteria, provide adjudication expertise, and oversee the heritage position. This will be their first position outside of Victoria and the Lower Mainland. The heritage position will spearhead efforts to build local organizational capacity for heritage in the Basin.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for heritage, and with this investment Columbia Basin

Trust sets a new standard for heritage conservation in our province,” said Gord Macdonald, chair of Heritage BC. “The Trust clearly understands the significance of heritage for BC communities, and we are very pleased to be partnered with them as part of this initiative.”

Last year, the Trust identified 155 built heritage assets in an inventory of the Basin’s heritage buildings based on historical, aesthetic, architectural, cultural, social, spiritual and scientific significance. Updating and maintaining the inventory will be part of the support program. See it here: ourtrust.org/heritagereport.

“The Heritage Federation of Southeastern BC (HFSEBC) commends the Trust for their recent decision to provide funds for the conservation of heritage assets in the Basin,” said Laurie Charlton, President of HFSEBC.

“The Basin is well known for its wide variety of historic buildings, and it will be exciting to see such properties preserved for future generations. It is by honouring the legacies left by those who came before us that we may enjoy them today and into the future,” said Charlton

The Trust and Heritage BC will finalize the details of the new partnership this spring and anticipate the heritage position will begin later this year. The first intake for the grant program will follow.

Heritage BC is a charitable not-for-profit supporting heritage conservation through education, training and skills development, capacity building in heritage planning and funding through the Heritage Legacy Fund. They are focused on building links between heritage conservation and tourism, economic and environmental sustainability, community pride and an appreciation of our common history.

Supporting the heritage sector is one of the [13 strategic priorities](#) in the Columbia Basin Management Plan.

PHOTO: The Trust has supported restoration and preservation work on many heritage buildings in the Basin, including St. Eugene Church, ʔaq’am, the Rossland Miners Union Hall and Kaslo City Hall.



Learn More About Water Resources in the Basin

News: February 2, 2017



New Trust report highlights status of water resources and future opportunities

(Columbia Basin) – A natural abundance of clean, fresh water defines the Columbia Basin and is an indispensable element of ecosystems and communities across the region. Since both climate and land use can influence water quality and quantity, understanding relevant changes and trends is increasingly important for Basin communities and resource managers.

Responding to growing interest in current information about water resources in the Basin, Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust) commissioned a study about water quality and quantity in the region. The report outlines ways to increase our understanding of Basin water resources in a changing climate. It will be useful for natural resource managers, professional and citizen scientists, communities and residents to better understand and prepare for changes to come.

“One of our roles is to provide well-researched and current information that can support residents and communities to strengthen well-being in the Basin,” said Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust Manager, Water and Environment. “That’s why we commissioned this report: to summarize current knowledge about water in the Basin and to identify knowledge gaps that could be filled to support ecosystem stewardship, community water supply planning and a range of other activities.”

The report provides a snapshot of current scientific knowledge about water resources within the Basin. It outlines:

- the state of water monitoring efforts

- how climate change is projected to affect various types of water resources such as snowfall, glaciers, rivers and lakes
- opportunities to strengthen understanding of water resources in the future.

“Acquiring long-term data about water is essential as it helps us better understand the effects of climate change on Basin water resources,” said Mel Reasoner, a Nelson-based climate scientist. “In turn, this informs planning processes that can help Basin communities address water-related challenges in the future.”

Water monitoring is particularly relevant to higher-volume water users such as communities, hydropower operators, agricultural producers, industrial operations and snowmaking at ski resorts, and can also benefit commercial and private recreational users.

“Having sufficient water at all times of the year is critical to keeping our hydro facilities running so that Basin residents can continue to have reliable power,” said Wendy Horan, Columbia Power Corporation Manager, Environment. “This report will be a valuable tool for assisting us in being better prepared for what the future holds.”

Addressing gaps in knowledge through improved water monitoring would help Basin communities and land managers to plan for and adapt to current and future water-related challenges.

“Climate change is impacting our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, groundwater and glaciers. Water quality and quantity data are necessary for informed decision-making regarding water allocation, source water and ground water protection, environmental flow requirements for fish and healthy water-based ecosystems,” said Katarina Hartwig, Director at Living Lakes Canada. “Community based water stewardship is an opportunity for communities and citizens in the Columbia Basin to work collaboratively to collect the data necessary to help support informed water decisions and to build climate resilient communities.”

Numerous opportunities exist to strengthen understanding and stewardship of Basin water resources in a changing climate. The report suggests things like improving the monitoring and measurement of snow and glaciers, using existing data to understand snowfall in relation to climate change, increasing monitoring of smaller streams used for community water supplies and enhancing groundwater monitoring as a few examples.

The report was prepared by Martin Carver (Aqua Environmental Associates), with contributions from Greg Utzig (Kootenay Nature Investigations Ltd.) and Faron Anslow

(Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium), among others.

To read *Water Monitoring and Climate Change in the Upper Columbia Basin*, visit:

- [Highlights Report](#)
- [Complete Report](#)

The report is just one way the Trust supports efforts to safeguard and enhance the quality and availability of water in the Basin for a variety of human and ecological needs. It also supports initiatives like the Columbia Basin Water Quality Project, the Canadian Columbia Basin Glacier and Snow Research Network and the Columbia Basin Watershed Network, plus offers Environment Grants and a Climate Action Program. Learn more at ourtrust.org/environment.



Request for Proposals: Social Initiatives Consultant Support

News: February 15, 2017



Columbia Basin Trust is seeking a consultant to support our Social Initiatives to advance the implementation of the Trust's Social Strategic Plan and Early Childhood and Childhood Development strategic priority and provide support to the Social Grants Program.

Closing date is **March 7, 2017 at noon PT/1:00 p.m. MT.**

View the document [RFP Social Initiatives Consultant Support](#).

View the document [Questions and Answers](#)

