



# 225 New Affordable Housing Units

## \$28 Million for New Affordable Housing

BC Housing and the Trust announced a new partnership that will bring \$28 million in funding for new affordable housing around the Basin with a target to create 225 units in three years [...full story](#)



## Major Boost for Basin Ecosystems

A new \$10-million Ecosystem Enhancement Program will help maintain and improve the ecological health and native biodiversity in a variety of ecosystems [...full story](#)



## Columbia Basin Agriculture Forum

The Columbia Basin has a vibrant food and agriculture sector. Join us to explore regional agriculture issues, share ideas and knowledge February 27-28, 2018 [...full story](#)



## \$1 Million for 16 Social Projects Around Basin

From young to old, people with diverse needs around the Basin will benefit from 16 projects aimed at improving social well-being. Read about Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services and other projects...[full story](#)



## More support for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Arts, culture and heritage are a valued part of the tapestry of the Columbia Basin region that enriches our communities and the lives of residents. Trust announced \$11.6 million in support over the next three years...[full story](#)



### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

May your 2018 be filled with inspiration, well-being and success. Request your free 2018 calendar featuring photos from around the Basin ...[Learn More](#)

## Events & Deadlines

### December 25 & 26 and January 1

Columbia Basin Trust offices closed for the statutory holidays.

### January 5

[Basin Youth Network Consulting Services RFQ Closes](#)

### January 12

[Poverty Reduction RFP Closes](#)

### January 15

[Deadline to apply for #BCTECH Summit Funding](#)

### January 17

[Basin Youth Sport and Physical Literacy RFP Closes](#)

### January 30

[Non-profit Tech Grants Deadline](#)

### February 1

[Arts & Culture Venue Grants Deadline](#)

### February 1

[Recreation Infrastructure Grants Deadline](#)

### February 27-28

[Columbia Basin Agriculture Forum](#)

[Go to events page.](#)

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# \$28 Million for New Affordable Housing in the Basin

News: December 14, 2017



*The Trust and BC Housing to create 225 new housing units.*

People struggling to find an affordable place to live in the Columbia Basin region will have access to new affordable rental housing, thanks to a partnership announced today between the B.C. government and the Columbia Basin Trust.

This new partnership will create a variety of new affordable housing options that address community priorities around the region such as rental units for seniors, at-risk youth and service workers.

“I know British Columbians are frustrated with the lack of affordable housing options throughout the province,” said Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Providing more affordable housing across B.C. is our government’s top priority and we are thrilled to partner with the Columbia Basin Trust to make sure much needed housing gets built for the people who need it most.”

The Province and the Trust will each provide \$14 million over the next three years with a target to create 225 affordable rental housing units throughout the region.

“I have seen first-hand the struggle for people in the Basin who have been waiting for too long to find suitable housing,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development and Minister Responsible for the Columbia Basin Trust. “Housing is the foundation for the development of healthy families and this partnership with the Trust is a good start to delivering the safe and affordable homes that people in the region need.”

Projects will be approved on a community-by-community basis and will address individual community affordable housing needs.

“Basin residents and communities told us affordable housing was a priority, and we’re excited to bring more resources into the region to address immediate housing needs in our communities,” said Johnny Strilaeff, president and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust. “We have helped create over 400 new affordable housing units in the past few years, many in partnership with BC Housing, and we are pleased to develop even more.”

The Trust and BC Housing will coordinate project development to leverage existing funding in the Columbia Basin and create new affordable housing units that will address varying community needs.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) has been issued for groups interested in creating new affordable housing units in the region. The EOI closes February 8, 2018 at 2:00 pm PT/ 3:00 pm MT. For details, visit the [BC Bid website](#).

### **Learn More:**

The B.C. government has set a target to create 114,000 new units of affordable housing throughout B.C. in partnership with local governments, the federal government, First Nations and Indigenous organizations and the private and non-profit housing sectors. To find out what the Province is doing to improve housing affordability, please visit: [news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/bc-government-addressing-housing-affordability-challenges](https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/bc-government-addressing-housing-affordability-challenges)

For more information about the Trust’s work in housing: [ourtrust.org/housing](https://ourtrust.org/housing)



# Significant Boost for Basin Ecosystems

News: December 5, 2017



*Columbia Basin Trust announces new five-year, \$10-million program*

Ecosystems around the Columbia Basin will receive a major boost thanks to a new Ecosystem Enhancement Program announced by Columbia Basin Trust. The program will run for five years with a budget of \$10 million

The goal is to help maintain and improve ecological health and native biodiversity in a variety of ecosystems, such as wetlands, fish habitat, forests and grasslands. While the Trust has other programs that support ecosystem health—including its Environment Grants program—this new initiative is unique because it will carry out large-scale, on-the-ground projects with significant benefits.

“The intent of this new Ecosystem Enhancement Program is to have a meaningful and measurable impact in supporting and strengthening ecosystem health in the Basin,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “Based on input from Basin residents, one of our strategic priorities is to support healthy, diverse and functioning ecosystems. This program will bring benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitats that endure into the future.”

The Trust will identify projects focused on enhancement, restoration and conservation by seeking input from community groups, First Nations representatives and government experts, and reviewing existing regional plans and research. Through request for proposal processes, the Trust will work with organizations to implement the selected projects over the next five years.

Learn more at [ourtrust.org/ecosystems](http://ourtrust.org/ecosystems).

The Trust also helps Basin residents and groups address environmental priorities through programs like Environment Grants, the Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Program, the Invasive Species Partnership, the Land Conservation and Stewardship Initiative, and the Upper Kootenay Ecosystem

Enhancement Plan Grants. Learn more at [ourtrust.org/environment](https://ourtrust.org/environment).



# Attend the Columbia Basin Agriculture Forum

News: December 15, 2017



The Columbia Basin has a vibrant food and agriculture sector. You are invited to join us to explore regional agriculture issues, share ideas and knowledge, and build connections with others in the agriculture sector.

Agriculture producers in the region have identified that a key challenge is getting products to market. During this interactive two-day event, attendees will discuss and generate strategies, explore options and define what is needed to support market development for food and agriculture in the Basin.

Key topics include:

- Direct sales and institutional procurement
- Basin-tailored transportation, distribution and storage
- Regional branding
- Value-added production and opportunities.

This event has limited space and we want to ensure a regionally and sectorally diverse group of producers, retailers, restaurateurs and food system representatives. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the event form before January 16, 2018. [Online here](#) or by phone at 1.250.608.0757 or 1.800.505.8998.

We will contact you by January 23, 2018, to confirm your participation.

For more information, contact Bree Seabrook, Manager, Special Initiatives, Columbia Basin Trust, at 1.250.608.0757 or [agforum@cbt.org](mailto:agforum@cbt.org).

Learn more about the Trust's work in agriculture at [ourtrust.org/agriculture](http://ourtrust.org/agriculture).

# 16 Social Projects to Receive \$1 Million

News: December 18, 2017



Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, which runs a social enterprise offering recycling, shredding and firewood services, is one of the recipients of a Social Grant from the Trust.

## *Columbia Basin Trust announces its most recent Social Grants recipients*

From young to old, people with diverse needs from around the Columbia Basin will benefit from 16 projects aimed at improving their social well-being. These projects are being funded by \$1 million in Social Grants from Columbia Basin Trust.

“Our goal is to strengthen social well-being and address social issues in Basin communities,” said Aimee Ambrosone Columbia Basin Trust Director, Delivery of Benefits. “All of these projects are taking concrete actions that will have lasting effects, both on the individuals who access the services and on overall quality of life in our region.”

The Ktunaxa Nation Council is one of the grant recipients. They are developing and delivering a culturally appropriate Aboriginal justice system.

“This project will be based on the Medicine Wheel and use a holistic approach to address the areas of spiritual, emotional, mental and physical well-being,” said Debbie Whitehead, Social Sector Director. “Many of our Aboriginal young people are not only affected by developmental disabilities, they lack connection to culture and family. Without guidance and direction, they are vulnerable and easy prey to be welcomed into the crime community. The Ktunaxa Nation is committed to ensuring Aboriginal people involved in the justice system are not falling through the cracks. Our hope is this project will help to circumvent crime involvement and reduce recidivism by addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour.”

Another recipient is the Golden Family Center Society. It will increase its affordable counselling options to help people deal with challenging developmental and life concerns, including family issues, trauma, grief and loss.

“There is a high demand for affordable counselling services in Golden,” said Helena Oosthoek, Executive Director. “Our hope is that by introducing single-session walk-in counselling to our community, people can get some help when they feel their need is highest. Anyone can access walk-in counselling support with the intent that they will leave this single session with encouragement and a plan for action. Single-session counselling will not work for everyone, but it will be a welcome new option.”

Another recipient is Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. It will continue to develop and operate a social enterprise—consisting of shredding, recycling and firewood services—that will provide training and long-term employment opportunities for people with diverse abilities.

“Our goal is to create awareness and a sense of inclusion for all of our folks that possess some unique and special abilities,” said Tim Payne, Executive Director. “The social enterprise can help give them a platform to showcase the skills that they have and hopefully open doors for them to obtain ongoing employment. They are an integral part of our community and the social enterprise allows us to reinforce their value to the community and give them a sense of belonging.”

Another recipient is the Nelson Community Services Society. It will be continuing its Nelson Street Outreach Program, which responds to the immediate and longer-term needs of the city’s growing “street culture” population.

“People are taking the Street Outreach Team’s offers of help to get into housing, to go to addictions treatment and to take care of their health and mental health needs, and generally feel like someone cares about them and how they are doing,” said Rona Park, Society Executive Director and Chair of the Downtown Nelson Street Culture Collaborative. “There are lots of challenges in doing the work, but the members of the Collaborative, which includes several Baker Street business owners and police, believe we are on the right track and are getting closer to offering the kind of caring, coordinated responses we’ve been hoping for since the outset of the project.”

See the [backgrounder](#) for a description of all 16 projects.

The Trust has distributed more than \$6 million to improving social well-being in our communities since starting the Social Grants program in 2012.

For more information about the program, visit [ourtrust.org/socialgrants](http://ourtrust.org/socialgrants). To learn all the ways the Trust supports social well-being in the Basin, visit [ourtrust.org/social](http://ourtrust.org/social).



# Trust Expands Support for Arts, Culture and Heritage

News: December 7, 2017



*\$11.6 million in programs and support over three years*

Arts, culture and heritage are a valued part of the tapestry of the Columbia Basin region that enriches our communities and the lives of residents. Columbia Basin Trust is expanding its support for arts, culture and heritage with \$11.6 million over three years.

“Residents told us that the history and culture of the Basin needs to be celebrated through vibrant arts, culture and heritage sectors; that’s why we made it one of our 13 strategic priorities,” said Wayne Lundeberg, Columbia Basin Trust. “We’re focusing on enhancing the impact of arts and culture, supporting artists, preserving heritage assets and strengthening the capacity of organizations.”

Specific programs supporting arts, culture and heritage include:

- \$3 million for **Arts and Culture Venue Grants** to support the capital investment in an arts and culture facility or space, such as renovations and purchase of equipment. This program is now open and is accepting applications until January 30, 2018.  
[ourtrust.org/venuegrants](http://ourtrust.org/venuegrants)
- \$6.15 million for **Built Heritage Grants** launched earlier this year in partnership with [Heritage BC](http://Heritage BC) to support the conservation or restoration of major built heritage assets. See projects funded earlier this year online. The next intake opens February 2, 2018.  
[ourtrust.org/builtheritage](http://ourtrust.org/builtheritage)
- \$1.05 million for **Heritage, Museum and Archive Grants** to support the varied work of heritage organizations including museums, archives, historical societies and similar organizations, to support planning, programming, preservation and promotion. The first intake opens January 29, 2018. [ourtrust.org/heritagegrants](http://ourtrust.org/heritagegrants)

- \$750,000 for the **Arts and Culture Program** this year which is delivered by [Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance](#) (CKCA) and includes grants, grant writing workshops, the annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour and support for applicants. The next intake is January 15, 2018. [ourtrust.org/artsandculture](http://ourtrust.org/artsandculture)
- \$600,000 to build capacity in heritage organizations, including a dedicated **heritage professional** in the Basin. [ourtrust.org/heritageplanner](http://ourtrust.org/heritageplanner)

The Trust has a longstanding partnership with CKCA for the delivery of arts and culture programming, as well as representing the interests of the arts and culture community in the region.

“Over the past 20 years, we’ve seen firsthand the positive impact funding has on supporting arts and culture, in particular the many emerging artists in this region who have thrived,” said Laura White, CKCA Chair. “The Trust’s investment in arts, culture and heritage will make a difference for artists and organizations, while also enhancing exhibition and performance spaces.”

Learn more about our work in arts, culture and heritage at [ourtrust.org/artscultureheritage](http://ourtrust.org/artscultureheritage).



# Get your 2018 Desktop Calendar

News: December 11, 2017



Mortar Lake, St. Mary's Alpine Provincial Park by Dustin Lalik

The Trust's 2018 desktop calendar showcases the beauty and wonder of the Columbia Basin through photos taken by residents from around the Basin.

If you live in the Columbia Basin and would like to receive a free calendar, please complete the request [form](#) or call 1.800.505.8998.

