



New and Improved Child Care Options

The Trust's Child Care Capital Grants recently created 122 new Basin child care spaces and improved another 722 spaces. These improvements include outdoor play equipment, strollers, classroom renovations, and assistance to meet licensing requirements. [...full story](#)



Improving the Well-Being of Basin Residents

Seventeen projects will receive funding through the Trust's Social Grants Program. Included in these projects are an after-school care program that encourages outdoor play, anti-violence services for men, youth mental health programs and more. [...full story](#)



New Basin Art Coming to Communities

From alley-way art galleries to murals and art benches, 13 new works of public art will be installed around the Basin through the Trust's Public Arts Grants. These unique projects will be sure to inspire others to apply for the next intake in Spring 2019. [...full story](#)



School Works Program Now Open

The Trust's wage subsidy program is evolving to better meet the long-term needs of Basin employers. In addition to the long-running subsidy program for part-time work, which now has a new career-related work focus, the program also offers subsidies for level 1 and 2 apprentices in 17 different types of trades. [...full story](#)



Fernie Community BBQ and AGM September 21

Join us for a FREE BBQ, catered by The Bridge Bistro and made with local ingredients. Enjoy live music by Fernie band, RedGirl. Our Annual General Meeting takes place beforehand at the Best Western from 4 to 5 P.M. Meet the Trust board and ask questions about our work in the region. [...more info.](#)



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Our staff is working to improve broadband connectivity in the Basin. We're seeking a **Business Services Coordinator** to join our team. Apply online by August 31 [...learn more](#)

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September 21

[Annual General Meeting in Fernie](#)

September 21

[*Fernie Community BBQ*](#)

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122 New Child Care Spaces Created, Plus 722 Spaces Improved

News: August 7, 2018



The Trust's Child Care Capital Grants support 42 child care centres

Families in the Columbia Basin will soon have new and improved child care options. Columbia Basin Trust is providing \$546,780 to [42 child care centres](#) to upgrade equipment and make other improvements to 722 current spaces, plus create 122 new spaces.

“Knowing how essential child care is to so many Basin residents, our aim for this intake was to help create at least 75 new spaces—and these projects will create that and 47 more,” said Aimee Ambrosone, Director of Delivery of Benefits at Columbia Basin Trust. “We’re supporting child care providers to upgrade their spaces so they can meet licensing requirements and complete renovations without as much financial stress, ultimately creating inviting spaces for children in our region.”

Golden Child Daycare, operated by Blaeberry Holdings Ltd., is one of the recipients. It will add 16 new child care spaces—doubling its capacity—by building an addition to its facility and adding to its outdoor play area.

“There is a high demand for daycare spaces in our community. It will be so nice to be able to say “yes” to parents when they ask if there are spaces available,” said owner Pamela Tretraut. “Our facility will now be able to add six spaces for children under 3 and 10 spaces for children ages 3 to 12. Plus, the new playground will be a wonderful addition where all of the children can play and climb.”

In Castlegar, Desiree’s Family Daycare will be creating six new



Click the photo to enlarge.

child care spaces after purchasing indoor and outdoor play equipment and car seats.

“Before this grant I simply did not have enough equipment for all the children,” said owner Desiree LePage. “With the grant it allows me to have enough for six more children. They will also have a safe environment, and I can provide activities that will help the children be more active as they learn through play.”

Fernie’s seven-space Busy Bees Family Daycare will upgrade its indoor and outdoor play equipment and purchase a new stroller.

“We spend a lot of time outdoors, especially in the summer,” said owner Louise Wight. “I know the children will be so excited with the upgrades, and their parents love to see them playing and having fun outside too.”

Revelstoke’s Stepping Stones Child Care Centre, operated by the Revelstoke Child Care Society, is one of the recipients. It will be adding 12 new child care spaces after renovating a classroom next to its existing facility.

“The Revelstoke Child Care Society has an extensive infant and toddler waitlist,” said Linda Chell, Executive Director for the Revelstoke Child Care Society. “With this support from the Trust, after much needed renovations to the room and outdoor play area, this space will be a vibrant and inviting Infant and Toddler Centre to help meet the needs of Revelstoke’s families.”

For more information on Child Care Capital Grants, visit ourtrust.org/childcarecapitalgrants.

This program is one way the Trust is supporting child care in the Basin. Through its \$3.6-million Child Care Support Program, announced in fall 2017, the Trust also offers a Program Advisor and the Early Childhood Educators Workforce Development Fund. These help child care providers address business challenges and workforce needs. Learn more at ourtrust.org/childcaresupport.

Early childhood and child development is one of the Trust’s 13 strategic priorities. Over the past five years, the Trust has helped create over 200 new child care spaces and improved the quality and safety of over 1,700 spaces. Learn about all the ways the Trust supports social well-being in the Basin at ourtrust.org/social.



Improving the Well-Being of Basin Residents

News: July 31, 2018



The Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club will offer after school care that will encourage outdoor play.

Columbia Basin Trust commits nearly \$965,000 to 17 projects that address social issues

Seventeen projects that aim to improve the lives of Columbia Basin residents by addressing social issues will soon be making a positive difference with nearly \$965,000 in Social Grants from Columbia Basin Trust.

“Through projects like these, the Trust is supporting the efforts of community organizations to help Basin residents address challenges, and improve the quality of their lives,” said Aimee Ambrosone, Columbia Basin Trust Director, Delivery of Benefits. “We applaud the tremendous dedication that people in our region put into aiding others—and we’re glad we can be there to support their efforts.”

The Social Grants program helps Basin residents rise above challenges in three significant areas including improving quality of life for vulnerable populations, like seniors or those living in poverty, helping children with mental health and developmental needs, and increasing the capacity of non-profit organizations in the social sector.

The Castlegar and District Community Services Society is one of the grant recipients. It will deliver support services and programming aimed at preventing homelessness, and will help people at risk of becoming homeless find and keep housing. Its project will also identify the issues that contribute



The North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society will deliver a range of mental health programs for youth.

to housing instability and homelessness, and begin to address them.

“We will work with clients to deal with the causes of homelessness and ensure that clients are connected with the appropriate resources to help put their lives back on track,” said Kristein Johnson, Executive Director. “We will provide outreach services and financial assistance—to a limit—for costs like rent and damage deposits and for other basic needs that help prevent homelessness.”

Another recipient is the Cranbrook Boys & Girls Club. It will offer an after-school program for children aged five to 12 that will encourage outdoor play and help build a long-lasting healthy lifestyle for participants.

“Opportunities for children to play, especially outdoors with other children, have been declining, while anxiety, depression and feelings of helplessness have risen,” said Lori McNeill, Executive Director. “Our new program will address these concerns by providing supervised care exclusively in outdoor spaces such as forests, lakes, rivers and parks in all four seasons.”



Castlegar and District Community Services Society will deliver support services aimed at preventing homelessness.

Another recipient is Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. It will provide a range of anti-violence services for men in the Nakusp area, including outreach, education and counselling.

“Men were coming into our office asking for help and we didn’t have a program to address their needs,” said Tim Payne, Executive Director. “Our program aims to provide outreach and support to men involved in many diverse situations, discover what their needs are and connect them with the right resources to end the violence in their lives.”

Another recipient is the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society. It will deliver a range of early intervention and prevention mental health programs in for



Arrow and Slovan Lakes Community Services Society will provide a range of anti-violence services for men.

youth in Kaslo.

“Living in a rural area can often mean limited access to resources and a social stigma associated with asking for help,” said Danielle Byers, Executive Director for North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society. “This project has many benefits. It will help connect our youth with the help they need sooner and it also shows our youth that their input is

valued and their ideas are supported in our community.”

See the [backgrounder](#) for a description of all 17 projects.

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



New Basin Art Coming to Communities

News: August 15, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust provides over \$244,000 to 13 public art projects in 11 communities.

Residents in 11 Columbia Basin communities will soon have new opportunities to interact with art created in the Basin by local artists. That's because [13 works of public art](#) will be installed with support of over \$244,000 from Columbia Basin Trust's Public Art Grants.

"Public art has long-term impact in several significant ways," said Aimee Ambrosone. "It can engage minds, offer learning experiences, help provide a living to local artists and create a draw that affects the economies of our communities."

Through these grants, Basin communities can purchase original works of fixed art—from murals to sculptures—created by Basin artists and install them in well-travelled spaces accessible by all. This was the first intake of the \$750,000, three-year program.

The City of Trail is one of the recipients. It will hire Basin-based mural artist Tyler Toews of Canadian Murals to paint a 3D mural of a bookshelf filled with books on local history, adorned with kid-friendly reading sturgeon and other aquatic life and wildlife indigenous to the Columbia River. This will be located on the Jubilee Park retaining wall behind the community's new Riverfront Centre, which houses the integrated museum and archives, library and visitor centre.



"This mural, as well as Trail's other public art, features predominantly heritage themes. This encourages greater appreciation for both our city's roots and the medium through which it is depicted," said Sarah Benson-Lord, the City's Museum and Archives Manager. "The enhancement of the retaining wall will create a whimsical and inspiring ambiance and will reinforce the welcoming, inclusive and creative environment of this facility and our community."

The Elkford Arts Council Society will oversee a collaborative process to install public art on a wall in the community's main facility: the Elkford Community Conference Centre. It will be putting out a call to Basin artists for entries for artworks in any two-dimensional medium, from metalwork, to mosaics, to photography. The final piece will be unveiled during Wildcat Days in June 2019.

"Elkford is fundamentally an industrial town, and while most of us have grown up in the area or moved here for work, we believe that public art has the power to energize and enhance our public spaces, making us think and transform where we live, work and play," said Brian Bisset, Elkford Arts Council Director. "Public art helps celebrate the qualities that make one town different from another and will often reach a demographic that would never otherwise set foot in an art gallery or museum."

In Cranbrook, the Ktunaxa Nation Council will paint a mural on all four inside walls of its publicly used government building gymnasium and on an outside wall of its Operation Street Angel drop-in centre. Painted by ʔakisq̓nuk artist Pj Gilhuly, the gym mural will depict seasons of the year and associated Ktunaxa cultural activities and beliefs, while the Street Angel mural will show a landscape and the Ktunaxa creation story.



"These are a great way for us to creatively represent aspects of our cultural identity using art as a medium," said Donald Sam, Director of the Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector. "Art has a way of connecting with people on different levels—everyone will be able to connect with various parts on an individual basis and collectively it will depict a story of our cultural foundations. Cultural expression through art is a progression through healing and toward reconciliation."

The Revelstoke Visual Arts Society will put a unique spin on public art—by placing it in alleyways. Twelve large-scale digital artworks by local artist Rob Buchanan will be printed on aluminum, framed, hung on alley walls and lit. Themes in these "Art Alleries" will range from landscapes to abstract art, with the locations and art selections still to be determined.



"Alleyways lie on the edges of society and are not often associated with art or tourism—however, they are vital as potentially thriving public spaces in new urban design," said Victoria Strange, Executive Director. "The unexpected walk through an Art Allery will hook locals and visitors and encourage them to rethink the idea of how art can enhance alternative spaces and create a beautiful experience within a typically marginalized area."

Basin arts councils, local governments and First Nations are eligible to apply to the program. The grant will fund up to 80 per cent of the cost of the artwork and installation, to a maximum of \$30,000. The next intake will be in spring 2019. Learn more at ourtrust.org/publicart.

This program is the latest way the Trust has addressed its arts, culture and heritage strategic priority. The Trust also offers an [Arts and Culture Venue Grant](#) and provides support to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance to deliver the Arts and Culture Program. Learn more at ourtrust.org/artsculture.



Wage Subsidy Boosts Basin Student Job Opportunities

News: August 8, 2018



School Works provides funding for apprenticeships and career-related positions

A program to support Basin employers is evolving to better meet their long-term workforce needs and to support Basin high school and post-secondary students and trades apprentices to gain local career-related work experience.

Columbia Basin Trust's School Works program now provides wage subsidies for level 1 and 2 apprentices in 17 different types of trades. The program will continue to create part-time job opportunities for students during the school year with a new focus on career-related work experience. And, under new guidelines launching in September, the program will also offer expanded support for employers to hire post-secondary students full-time for Co-op work placements.

"We recognized that there were enhancements that could be made to the program to increase benefits to businesses, students and the trades, and create a greater impact for the region," said Lisa Kilpatrick, Economic Senior Manager at the Trust. "This program helps support meaningful work experiences that build the skills of our younger workforce."

Ryan White, owner of Big Horn Auto in Revelstoke, can speak to the value of bringing students into the trades. When he decided he wanted a local student to be part of his growing business, he hired first-year automotive apprentice Larado Riesen with a School Works wage subsidy.

"The benefit of having an apprentice is that I'm able to give Larado tasks that give her experience and that allows me more time to focus on other aspects of my business," said Ryan. "What does Larado gain from this? At a young age, she's getting real world work experience and a feel for the type of work for which she's signing up. Speaking for the automotive industry, anything that interests and pulls new faces into the trades is helpful."

School Works is open to business, non-profit, First Nation and public sector organizations located in the Basin. This program is delivered by the College of the Rockies on behalf of the Trust.

Applications for part-time student wage subsidies and apprentice wage subsidies open on **August 16, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. PT / 2:00 p.m. MT**. The co-op wage subsidy application will launch in September.

Program Guides outlining eligibility requirements and program details are available online now at ourtrust.org/schoolworks. Online applications and instructions will be posted when the program opens. Applications are accepted on a first-received, first-served basis.

For more information about the School Works program, visit ourtrust.org/schoolworks. To view the Trust's economic development strategic framework visit ourtrust.org/economic.

