



Helping Kids and Youth Be Active

The Trust's new Basin Physical Literacy and Youth Sport (PLAYS) Initiative helps community sports groups and schools offer safe, inclusive and quality physical activity programs for children and youth, aged four to 18...[full story](#)



Basin Businesses Get Support to Grow

The Basin RevUp program, developed by Accelerate Okanagan, supports non-technology based businesses that are positioned for growth and willing to commit their time and resources...[full story](#)



Land Matching Program Supports New Basin Farmers

Land matchers offer support and service by connecting land owners to farmers through meetings and helping young people enter into the agricultural industry...[full story](#)



Basin Sees Increased Support from Trust

Sixteen-hundred new projects and partnerships were funded in the last year through the 65 programs and initiatives, delivering a record \$57M in total benefits to the region...[full story](#)



Stories About People and Places in the Basin

The annual issue of Our Trust Magazine is coming to your mailbox soon. It features remarkable stories of the people and places in the Columbia Basin. PLUS check out our new story site where you can read past issues, watch videos and see photos about residents working together to bring extraordinary ideas to life...[read more](#).



Join Our Team

Our staff is working to support the ideas and efforts of Basin residents. We're seeking a **Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits** to join our team. Apply online by October 5. [...learn more](#)

Events & Deadlines

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[New Basin RevUp Program](#)

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[Early Childhood Educators Workforce Fund](#)

Apply Now

[Career Internship Program](#)

October (various dates)

[Basin PLAYS Community Meetings](#)

October (various dates)

[Non-Profit Advisors Program Workshops](#)

October 4

[Co-op Wage Subsidy Intake Opens](#)

Deadline: October 10

[Request for Proposals - Basin Business Advisors](#)

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New Program Helps Kids and Youth Be Active

News: September 28, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust launches \$3-million Basin PLAYS initiative

Healthy lifestyles for children and youth lead to healthy lifestyles for life. To help make this happen, Columbia Basin Trust is launching a new \$3-million, multi-year Basin Physical Literacy and Youth Sport (PLAYS) initiative—and is hosting a series of community meetings in October to share more information about it.

“Our aim is to help young people develop the motivation, physical competence and confidence to participate in healthy active living throughout their lives,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “The well-being of this region starts at the individual level, and Basin PLAYS will contribute to this in numerous, interconnected ways.”

Basin PLAYS will work with community sports groups, schools, volunteer coaches and others to provide the resources and support they need to help kids be more active. The initiative will offer training and capital improvement grants, an online resource hub, build relationships with community sports organizations, and collaborate with school districts to support physical literacy and sports in schools.

Learn more about the opportunities available through this initiative at ourtrust.org/plays or attend one of upcoming community meetings.

Community	Date	Time	Venue
Nelson	Oct 9	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Chamber of Commerce
Nakusp	Oct 10	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Emergency Services Building
Revelstoke	Oct 11	4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Revelstoke Community Centre
Valemount	Oct 15	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Community Theatre, Valemount Secondary School
Golden	Oct 17	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Golden Civic Centre
Invermere	Oct 18	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Columbia Valley Centre
Cranbrook	Oct 22	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Manual Training Centre
Sparwood	Oct 23	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Lounge, Sparwood Curling Rink
Castlegar	Oct 24	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Monashee Room, Castlegar Recreation Complex
Trail	Oct 25	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Muriel Griffiths Room, Selkirk College

The Trust is committed to enabling healthy lifestyles in the Basin. For example, its Recreation Infrastructure Grants program

invested \$9.4 million in 153 projects that involved constructing new or upgrading existing recreation infrastructure. Learn about all the ways the Trust is addressing this strategic priority at ourtrust.org/recreation



Basin Businesses Get Support to Grow

News: September 19, 2018



Trust seeking motivated companies for customized support and mentorship program

Businesses poised for significant growth can now get assistance to realize their vision through a new accelerator program being offered through Columbia Basin Trust and developed by Accelerate Okanagan.

The Trust is delivering the RevUp business growth accelerator program to support non-technology based businesses in the Basin that have active customers, increasing revenues and current plans for significant expansion. The goal is to help them address their individual business challenges to meet or exceed their growth objectives. Eight to ten companies will be selected to participate in the first round of the program.

“Economic prosperity in the Basin comes down to our individual businesses—their success contributes the region’s success,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “This program offers senior leadership teams concrete tools and access to industry experts to help growth their business, which in turn creates meaningful and sustainable employment for Basin residents.”

The six-month program connects established companies and their leadership teams with experienced mentors (executives-in-residence) and provides customized growth plans, mentorship and coaching for the leadership team, tailored training opportunities and peer-to-peer engagement.

“The RevUP program was designed to help tackle growth issues and promote future success,” said Program Manager at Accelerate Okanagan, Thuy Tran. “The program has supported growth stage companies that have created and employ over 450 people in the Okanagan. We foresee this same success translating to the Basin.”

Accelerate Okanagan has been successfully delivering RevUp to BC businesses for over five years. The program has been piloted and continually revised to achieve results for businesses year after year.

The Trust is looking for non-technology based companies who are willing to commit time and resources to grow. Learn more about the Basin RevUp program and support available for technology based companies at ourtrust.org/basinrevup.

The Trust is committed to helping Basin businesses thrive. In addition to Basin RevUP, the Trust supports businesses through its Basin Business Advisors program, offers business financing and partnership opportunities and has a range of programs that help businesses hire staff, from students and apprentices to interns. Learn all the ways the Trust supports the region’s economy at ourtrust.org/economic.

Columbia Basin Trust supports the ideas and efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit ourtrust.org/economic or call 1.800.505.8998.

B.C. Land Matching Program Supports New Farmers in Columbia Basin

News: September 20, 2018



The Trust is part of new provincial program to create opportunities for young and emerging farmers in the Basin

New and young farmers in the Columbia Basin are receiving support and services from a dedicated land matcher, as part of the new B.C. Land Matching Program.

This program connects farmers looking for land with landowners wanting to lease their land for farming.

“This program will help young people enter into the agricultural industry, which might otherwise be a challenge because of the rising cost of land in some regions of B.C.,” said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture. “We’re helping British Columbians new to farming get access to land, and in turn, boosting the province’s food security and increasing prosperity. Let’s get farmers onto the land, and let’s get farming!”

Land matchers offer support and service ranging from hosting land-linking events to developing relationships with landowners, land seekers and community leaders, to facilitating negotiations and terms of leasing arrangements, with the support of a lawyer, between landowners and land leasers.

“We are really excited to see the growing interest in programs that offer hands-on support for land access in B.C.” said Sara Dent, Young Agrarians BC’s program director. “New and young farmers need good, long-term land opportunities. Please reach out to us if you have farmland for lease.”

The price of land in some parts of the province is making farming unattainable for many families, especially where some of the highest-quality agricultural soil is found. Many established farmers aging out of the industry are trying to develop succession plans to ensure their land is kept in production. As well, farmland owners who are not farming are often motivated to support local food systems and provide an opportunity to a young farmer entrepreneur by leasing their land.

Hailey Troock is the dedicated land matcher for the Columbia Basin. Her professional background in public policy, bilateral negotiations, environmental advocacy and business coaching, brings a level of expertise to the table that will help local communities within the Columbia Basin promote and strengthen sustainable and independent food systems.

There are also dedicated land matchers for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and the Okanagan.

The B.C. Land Matching Program aims to create opportunities for new farmers by supporting affordability in farmland and encouraging farming production while increasing access to locally grown foods for all British Columbians.

The B.C. Land Matching Program is delivered by Young Agrarians, a program of FarmFolk CityFolk Society, with a \$300,000 investment from the Government of B.C., and also draws support from municipal and regional partners such as the Columbia Basin Trust, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Metro Vancouver, Township of Langley, City of Surrey and the Bullitt Foundation, with in-kind support provided by Cowichan Green Community.

“Supporting and growing our local agricultural resources is a key value for Basin residents,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust president and CEO. “The Land Matching Program will ensure that agricultural lands continue to be used, providing the region with business opportunities and increased availability for locally grown food.”

Grow BC is a mandate commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture that supports young farmers and food producers who are looking for a career in B.C. agriculture and addresses major challenges for new farmers such as gaining access to land in regions around the province.

The B.C. Land Matching Program is part of the Province’s larger New Entrant Strategy, a framework for increasing the number of new and young farmers working in B.C.’s agriculture sector.

To read the full release, click [here](#).



Basin Sees Increased Support from the Trust

News: September 13, 2018



\$57 million in benefits delivered through 65 programs and initiatives last year

Columbia Basin Trust delivered a record \$57 million in funding benefits and commercial investments to residents and communities in the Columbia Basin region, as released in its 2017/18 Annual Service Plan Report recently.

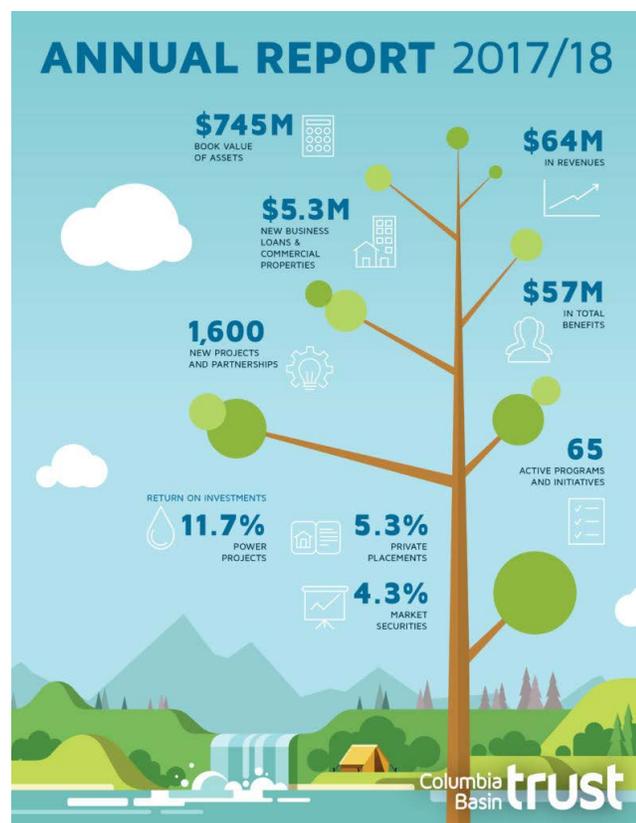
This included \$2.7 million in capital investments related to broadband and economic development, \$5.3 million in business loans and commercial properties and \$49 million to support 1,600 projects and partnerships through 65 active programs and initiatives.

“Being able to deliver this many programs is a testament to how much effort Basin residents, organizations and communities put into making this region the best it can be,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “While we’re proud to be able to deliver such extensive support, we’re even more proud of how people in the Basin use this support to make a difference.”

In 2017/18, the Trust earned \$64 million in revenues—up from the previous year’s \$59 million. This was primarily due to the solid performance of its investment in local hydropower facilities which account for 85 per cent of the revenue. Other sources of revenue include business loans, real estate investments and market securities.

“Our continued strong fiscal performance is a result of carefully investing to ensure we generate a predictable, sustainable and growing income stream to support our delivery of benefits to the region,” Strilaeff said. “The performance of our power facilities exceeded our expectations, contributing to a boost in revenue.”

The Trust supports the ideas and efforts of people and communities in the Basin to strengthen the region’s social, economic and environmental well-being. Through extensive consultation, the Trust developed 13 strategic priorities for 2016-2020, and has made significant progress with many new programs and initiatives announced in 2017/18, including:



Click the photo to enlarge.

- \$28-million partnership with BC Housing to create new affordable housing units over three years and \$4.5 million to support First Nations communities with affordable housing over three years.
- \$10-million Ecosystem Enhancement Program that will help maintain and improve ecosystem health and native biodiversity over five years.
- \$3.6-million child care support program to maintain and create new child care spaces over three years.
- A fibre-optic link between Kaslo and Balfour to increase broadband capacity in the area through the deployment of a 36-kilometre underwater optical fibre cable in Kootenay Lake.
- Expanded support for arts, culture and heritage, with \$11.6 million in programs and support over three years.

Join staff and the Board of Directors at the Trust's annual general meeting in Fernie on Friday, September 21 from 4 to 5 p.m. MT at the Best Western Plus Fernie Mountain Lodge. The AGM will be followed by a free, family-friendly community barbeque from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Fernie Community Centre that will also feature live, local music. Visit ourtrust.org/ferniebbq for details.

Read more about the Trust's fiscal performance in the 2017/18 Annual Service Plan Report at ourtrust.org/annualreport.

Learn more about the Trust's progress on its strategic priorities at ourtrust.org/priorities.

Watch for *Our Trust* magazine in your mailbox this fall for stories of some of the projects the Trust supported, or sign up for the Trust's monthly e-newsletter at ourtrust.org/newsletter.

