

BASIN YOUTH NETWORK LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



📍 Kimberley
Conference Center

🕒 May 4-6, 2018

📅 Apply before Feb. 27!

Columbia Basin **trust**

Youth Leadership Summit - Apply Now!

Youth from around the Columbia Basin are invited to attend an engaging Leadership Summit in Kimberley from May 4 to 6, 2018. It's a chance for youth to meet new people, strengthen their abilities, learn about their communities and have a lot of fun!...[full story](#)



100 New Child Care Spaces in the Basin

Children and families in the Columbia Basin will soon benefit from 100 new licensed child care spaces, new equipment and improvements to 41 facilities...[full story](#)



Improving our Natural Environment

From counting bird species to increasing composting, 32 projects from around the Columbia Basin will address environmental well-being thanks to Columbia Basin Trust's Environment Grants...[full story](#)

Events & Deadlines



Interested
in creating
affordable
housing units?

Join the Affordable Housing Expression of Interest Webinar! BC Housing and the Trust are seeking groups interested in creating new affordable rental housing in the Basin. Learn more about the program and EOI process at a webinar on January 22 from 1-3pm...[Learn More](#)

Ongoing Intake

[Early Childhood Educators Workforce Fund](#)

January 24

[RFP - Workforce Development Consultant](#)

January 30

[Non-profit Tech Grants Deadline](#)

February 1

[Arts & Culture Venue Grants Deadline](#)

February 1

[Recreation Infrastructure Grants Deadline](#)

February 2

[RFP - Columbia River Northern Pike Suppression](#)

February 7

[Energy Retrofit EOI](#)

February 8

[Affordable Housing EOI](#)

February 16

[RFP - Commemorative History Book](#)

February 27

[BYN Leadership Summit Deadline to Apply](#)
[Go to events page.](#)

CONTACT

1.800.505.8998
info@cbt.org
ourtrust.org

SHARE

Know someone who
might be interested in
this email?

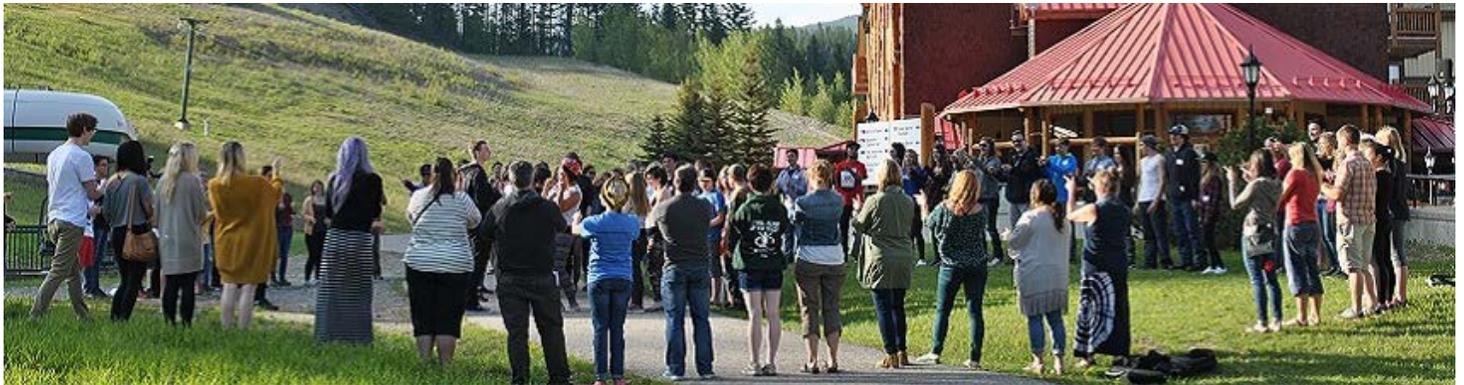
[Forward to a friend](#)

FOLLOW



Youth: Apply Now for Free Leadership Event

News: January 16, 2018



Youth Leadership Summit takes place in Kimberley this May

Youth aged 14 to 18 from around the Columbia Basin are invited to apply to attend the Leadership Summit in Kimberley on May 4 to 6, 2018 where they will strengthen their abilities, learn about themselves and their communities, and have fun!

“An event like this is an exciting way to connect Basin youth, tap into their leadership potential and help them grow and make a difference,” said Aimee Ambrosone, Director, Delivery of Benefits, Columbia Basin Trust. “They’ll be developing the skills—including decision making, networking, collaborating and public speaking—that will carry them into their futures and give them the foundation for effectively engaging in their communities.”

During the weekend, youth will interact with new people, try new experiences and get their brains and bodies moving in a fast-paced environment. They’ll learn about community planning and collaboration, practice public speaking and stage presence, and take part in entertaining skill-building workshops.

Learn more about the Summit and apply online by February 27, 2018 at ourtrust.org/youthsummit. Successful applicants will be subsidized to attend this event for free.

Shawna Lukowski is the Youth Program Coordinator of the Salmo Valley Youth Network. “It is fun to see the youth come together as strangers and leave with a bunch of new friends,” she said. “It presents an opportunity for youth to learn further community engagement, and above all community cooperation to achieve goals. The thing that sticks out most for me is how the Summit holds space for youth to step outside of their comfort zones to accomplish something they may not have ever dreamed of trying before.”

Joni Laberge, Coordinator of Youth Action Sparwood, attended the last summit in May 2016. “The

Summit was a fun, inspiring event—for me and the teens,” she said. “I was amazed by how quickly the facilitators took down barriers and built connections. Our teens had a great time and evolved as young leaders, and chaperoning at this fantastic event is what inspired me to pursue youth work as a career.”

Mike Kent coordinates the Basin Youth Network. “The Trust launched the network in 2016 in response to the changing needs of youth and communities. Since then, it has directly impacted the lives of many youth—giving them places to go and things to do, and increasing their senses of self-worth and connection to community. The upcoming Summit takes our local successes and brings them together. Plus it’ll be fun! I encourage all youth to apply.”

The Trust’s Basin Youth Network helps communities increase local activities and opportunities for youth, enabling them to learn skills like leadership and engage more with each other and their communities. To date, the Trust has supported 28 local youth networks. Learn more at ourtrust.org/youthnetwork



100 New Child Care Spaces, Improvements to 41 Facilities

News: January 11, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust provides over \$1M for 41 projects

Children and families in the Columbia Basin will soon benefit from 100 new licensed child care spaces and new equipment and improvements in [41 facilities](#). This is thanks to over \$1 million from Columbia Basin Trust's new Child Care Capital Grants program.

"These new spaces are an essential step forward in helping families around the Basin access child care," said Johnny Strilaeff, CEO of Columbia Basin Trust. "We're also helping child care providers add equipment and upgrade their facilities to provide safer and more engaging places that support early learning and healthy child development."

This is the first intake of the program, which launched in fall 2017 and is offering \$1 million per year for three years. Projects are eligible if they create new licensed child care spaces or upgrade quality and safety aspects of their facilities and equipment.

One of the recipients is the Mountain Ridge Early Learning Program. The program is currently operating out of the Windermere Hall, but it will be constructing its own facility in Invermere. This will help ensure sustainability of its current 28 preschool and afternoon care spaces, plus add 41 new spaces.

"Although numerous families have asked us to expand our offerings, we do not have the capacity in our leased space," said Karyn Rohrick, Owner. "A ground-up build means we can provide a complete child care program to better meet the needs of families in the Columbia Valley. My dream is that our children will have the option of attending Mountain Ridge from infant through to school age and build strong attachments to consistent caregivers."

ᑭᓐᓐᓐᓐ Daycare located in the community ᑭᓐᓐᓐ will implement its project called “A Starting Place to Dream,” which is based in the ᑭᓐᓐᓐ strategic vision known as Ka kniᓐwi-tiyaᓐa – Our Thinking. The 16-seat daycare will renovate its kitchen and play areas to support expanding nutrition and ecological learning activities, add sliding walls to better support children with differing needs, and hire a Ktunaxa artist to design and decorate the entire space, surrounding the children with ᑭᓐᓐᓐ values, principles, language and traditions.

“Keeping our licensed child care facility open has been a challenge over the last few years, and these improvements will assist us with continuing our long-standing history of providing quality child care spaces within the community,” said Michelle Shortridge, Director of Operations. “This project, which will be implemented over the next few months, involves both our department of Community Health and Wellness and our department of Operations, and highlights the community’s collaborative working approach to implementing its strategic vision.”

The Valemount Children’s Activity Society will be converting administrative space into child care space to accommodate eight more children—an essential move as it’s the only licensed child care provider in the area. The additional space will also enable it to offer new services like after-school programs.

“The centre has a long waiting list, causing parents to wait many months to get their children licensed child care, and in turn forcing some parents to turn down employment opportunities,” said Krista Voth, Manager. “Completing this project will reduce our waitlist, provide our current staff with full-time positions and help us meet increasing demand as the community grows.”

In Castlegar, Silly Monkeys Childcare provides care for children aged six months to 12 years. It will be improving its outdoor play space by adding art, music and water elements and purchasing equipment like scooters and helmets. It will also upgrade its indoor environment with additions like new furniture and cubbies.

“Opportunities to enhance outdoor play are always good investments in the growth and development of the children and can allow us to target a wider range of abilities and interests, especially since we operate with multi-ages,” said Danielle Kozak, Owner. “Age-appropriate furnishings allow children to gain independence and intrinsic pride over daily successes.”

See the full list of projects [here](#).

The next grant intake will take place in spring 2018. Learn more at 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 already helped improve the quality and safety of 300 child care spaces. Learn about all the ways the Trust supports social well-being in the Basin at ourtrust.org/social.



32 Projects to Improve Our Natural Environment

News: January 19, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust approves \$870,000 in Environment Grants

From counting bird species to increasing composting, 32 projects from around the Columbia Basin will address environmental well-being thanks to \$870,000 from Columbia Basin Trust Environment Grants.

“These projects will make a difference in improving terrestrial and aquatic habitat, helping communities adapt to climate change, monitoring water resources and engaging Basin residents in environmental stewardship,” said Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. “Together, these projects will contribute to the well-being of the diverse landscapes, waterways, fish and wildlife in the Basin.”

All projects focus on one or more of the Trust’s four environment goals: ecosystems, climate, water or environmental education. See the [backgrounder](#) for a complete list and descriptions of all 32 projects.

One of the recipients is the BC Wildlife Federation. Its project aims to help restore, enhance and conserve wetlands at locations in the Creston Valley, near Salmo and near Rossland, and provides workshops to educate the residents and build capacity among wetland stewards.

“There was a time when wetlands were considered wastelands, and many have since been lost or severely degraded in the Columbia Basin,” said Neil Fletcher, Wetlands Program Manager. “However, they are now being recognized as valuable to both our communities and our local wildlife. Our project aims to support those who want to help restore and maintain wetlands.”

Another recipient is Living Lakes Canada. It will continue monitoring groundwater quantity at 12 priority aquifers around the Basin, develop ways to more efficiently manage and share groundwater data. It will also host community workshops about groundwater stewardship.

“Groundwater stewardship is integral to water sustainability in the Columbia Basin,” said Heather Leschied, Program Director. “Groundwater helps maintain surface water levels vital for communities and healthy ecosystems, and is important for climate resiliency as we experience increased use and demand in our watersheds.”

The Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada is also receiving a grant. It will plant whitebark pine seedlings in several locations in the Basin to help restore this endangered species, and will collect seeds from healthy trees to send to nurseries and researchers.

“Whitebark pine seeds are a very important food source for the Clark’s nutcracker, red squirrel and grizzly bear,” said Randy Moody, President. “But in the Kootenay-Columbia region they are greatly declining—as many as 90 per cent of the trees are infected by white pine blister rust in some stands. As only mature trees produce cones, it’s important to restore the trees to increase future seed availability in the ecosystem.”

Biologist Penny Ohanjanian will help reintroduce northern leopard frogs to the Columbia marshes. Once widespread, this species of frog is currently endangered in BC with populations limited to the Creston valley and a recently established population at Bummers Flats in the East Kootenay. This project aims to re-establish them near Brisco.

“It is vital reintroduce the frogs to as many sites as possible to avoid extinction,” said Ohanjanian. “As part of the Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Team, I’ll be helping to oversee these reintroduction activities and support continued trans-locations to ensure adequate numbers are released to establish a population.”

Supporting healthy, diverse and functioning ecosystems is one of the Trust’s 13 strategic priorities. Since 2002 the Trust has provided nearly \$11 million through our Environment Grants program to improve environmental well-being in the Basin.

Learn more about the Trust’s other environment programs, including its Climate Action Program and new Ecosystem Enhancement Program at ourtrust.org/environment.



Expressions of Interest

Explore Expressions of Interest (EOIs) issued by BC Housing to create or support affordable housing projects.

Expression of Interest for Columbia Basin Investment in Affordable Housing (CBIAH) - December 2017

BC Housing and Columbia Basin Trust issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) to non-profit housing societies, First Nations communities, municipalities, the private sector and other community groups interested in creating new affordable rental housing units for low to moderate income households within the Columbia Basin Trust Region.

Respondents to this EOI and their employees are expected to have the necessary experience, resources and capacity to undertake such a project. Respondents may partner with other organizations to strengthen their proposed project.

Funding Details and Submission Information

Please see review the following documents for program background, funding details, requirements and submission information and more.

- [Expression of Interest for Columbia Basin Investment in Affordable Housing \(CBIAH\)](#)
- [Columbia Basin Investment in Affordable Housing - Addendum Two](#)

Submission Deadline: February 8, 2017 at 2 pm PT

Information Webinar - January 2018

A web-based interactive information meeting was held on January 22 to explain the program and the EOI process. Attendees were given the

opportunity to ask questions and have them answered during the webinar.

[View Webinar](#)

[CBIAH Presentation](#)

If you have questions about the webinar, please send an email to:

piah@bchousing.org.

Questions?

Contact [Michael Lachocki](#)

Expression of Interest for Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) - January 2018

Through the Regional Housing First Program, this Expression of Interest is issued by the Capital Regional District, Vancouver Island Health Authority and BC Housing Management Commission to non-profit housing societies, the private sector and other community groups interested in creating new affordable rental housing units for low to moderate households, and housing units to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness within the Capital Region.

Funding Details and Submission Information

Expression of Interest No. 1070-1718/81

Please see review the following documents for program background, funding details, requirements and submission information and more.

- [Regional Housing First Program \(RHFP\) - Expression of Interest](#)
- [Appendix A & B: Respondent Submission Form and Information](#)
- [Appendix C: Regional Housing First Program Framework](#)
- [Appendix D: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Submission Deadline: March 16, 2018 at 2 pm PT

Information Meeting

A WebEx-based interactive information meeting will be held to explain the program and the EOI process.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered by emailing rhfp@bchousing.org.

Date: 14 February 2018

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Pacific Time

***Please note:** Webinar log-in details will be posted closer to the date*

Questions?

Following the Information Meeting respondents will have the opportunity to submit further questions via email to: [Michael Lachocki](#).

An addendum of all questions, along with answers, will be posted via MERX and on the BC Housing and CRD websites.