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Issue 20 - February 2010

## BASINLink Newsletter

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### CBT IN THE NEWS

**QUESTION** - Where have you seen or heard about CBT in your community?

- Community Newspapers
- Online Newspapers
- Radio
- Community TV stations
- CBT Staff
- Word of mouth
- Community Event
- CBT Website

**VOTE NOW**

### ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES GRANTS



**Accepting Applications**

[Click here for more details](#)



**Youth Encouraged to Register for Youth Action Summit**  
 Youth are encouraged to register for the first West Kootenay Youth Action Summit, taking place in Castlegar on March 27th and 28th. This event will have workshops on international humanitarian law, food security, how to become actively involved and more. ...more



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Communities across the Basin are looking at implementing Community Sustainability Planning and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is helping to provide guidance and solutions to municipalities, regional districts and First Nations who are in the early stages of this process.

In November 2009, CBT took a significant step to bridge communication, education and awareness of this topic amongst communities by teaming with FBC to host

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 2010 in  
 Revelstoke

CBT asked  
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a "[Moving Sustainability Forward](#)" workshop in Cranbrook. ....more

To download the "[Moving Sustainability Forward](#)" Workshop Summary Report [click here](#)



*"The Basin to me is all that is peaceful. It is all that is wild and pristine. It is the epitome of tranquility."*

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*Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.*

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1.800.505.8998

## Globally Minded Youth Encouraged to Register Now for Youth Action Summit

Thursday, February 04, 2010

For the first time in the Kootenays, the Canadian Red Cross and a community coalition of organizations that support youth leadership will be presenting a Youth Action Summit for youth in grades 10-12 who are interested in issues that affect young people and communities world-wide.

The forum will be held March 27-28 at the Castlegar campus of Selkirk College and will introduce youth to topics such as food security, human rights and international humanitarian law and more. Participants will also be given skills in how to take action and how to have an impact in creating awareness or change.

"This forum is modeled from a very successful youth symposium the Red Cross have hosted in the lower mainland for many years. We are excited to bring it to the Kootenays for the first time," said Melissa Koftnioff, Youth Summit Coordinator.

Koftnioff said the forum is open to any youth approximately in the age bracket of grades 10-12; however, there will only be registration room for 50 participants. **Registration will be open until March 1, 2010.**

"This is a unique and innovative experience for youth that CBT is thrilled to support," said Michelle d'Entremont, CBT Basin Youth Liaison. "This event is based on experiential learning that will be led by youth for youth. As a result the youth will also be given the skills, knowledge and support to engage peers or the greater public from their schools and communities in taking action and creating a healthier global society."

"The nature of this forum will speak to young people who are passionate and who genuinely care about global issues, and it will be a starting point for some to learn how they can get involved and where to find the support necessary to take action," added Koftnioff.

The community coalition is made up of the Canadian Red Cross, Selkirk College, Mir Centre for Peace, School District #8 and Columbia Basin Trust.

To register contact Melissa Koftinoff at [melissakoftinoff@hotmail.com](mailto:melissakoftinoff@hotmail.com) or 1.250.304.7724 or download a registration application form. A \$20 registration will be required which covers accommodation for the evening of March 27 and food for the duration of the event.

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### RELATED ITEMS

-  [West Kootenay Youth Action Forum Poster \(263.72 KB\)](#)
-  [Registration Application Form \(165.73 KB\)](#)

## Fernie Museum and Visitor Centre gets New Home

Friday, February 05, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) recently provided \$92,000 to the Fernie & District Historical Society (FDHS) to find a permanent home for the Fernie Museum.

Located at 491 Victoria Avenue, and formerly known as the old BC Hydro building, this will be the first permanent home for the museum since 1999. Provided to the FDHS by the City of Fernie for a 25-year lease at \$1 a year, it is one of the City's most distinctive heritage buildings and underwent significant redevelopment and renovation before the Society moved in January 2010.

"We are proud to support the Fernie & District Historical Society in finding a new home for their museum," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison. "It's clear this project is well-supported by the community and that it will bring value to those that live or visit the area in sharing the rich heritage and culture of Fernie."

Laura Nelson, President of FDHS, explained that CBT funding for the project was critical to its success: "The timing of this project presented many challenges because of recent funding freezes from other granting organizations. CBT's support gave us the security and ability to move forward, demonstrating just how valuable CBT and its programs are to supporting the needs of small communities."

At completion, the site will feature local, regional and national exhibits, a gallery and the Visitor Information Centre which will provide information on activities, accommodation, shopping and entertainment found in the Fernie area.

"The importance of having a permanent museum has been identified many times by the community during information gathering sessions for the Official Community Plan and by the City of Fernie," said Nelson. "We are thrilled with how the renovations turned out and how they highlighted the natural, historical features of the building."

Nelson encourages locals to stop by and check out the grand public space the museum has created for the community. An exhibit on the history of skis and skiing, and Fernie's early history are being developed for the Main Exhibit Hall. For more information, visit [www.fernziemuseum.com](http://www.fernziemuseum.com).



[Click to Enlarge](#)

CBT Community Liaison Jennifer Krotz recently toured the museum's new home with Curator, Mike Pennock (left of Krotz), Laura Nelson and Vice President, Rod Geddis.



## Meadow Creek Recreation Site Gets Ready For Services Development

Monday, February 08, 2010

CBT is supporting the Lardeau Valley Community Club (LVCC) to improve facilities at the Meadow Creek Recreation Site. Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison, recently toured the recreation site and presented the group with CBT's support of \$75,000.

"We are very happy to support communities that have come up with their own solutions for issues like job creation and sustainability in innovative ways that will also leave the whole community with a lasting resource," said Lafleur.

The Meadow Creek Recreation Site project will create a dozen local jobs for displaced forest workers with the construction of a shower house which will have sinks, toilets, showers and laundry facilities. With the upgraded facilities, LVCC hopes to see increased use of the recreation area which will help sustain the revenue base for the recreational site. It will also allow the LVCC, who manages it, to continue providing programs for local residents.

## Take Two for Bright Lites Theatre in Cranbrook

Friday, January 01, 2010

After a successful theatrical presentation of *Alice in Wonderland* in 2008, the Bright Lites theatre group in Cranbrook took the stage again in late December and brought the crowd to another standing ovation for *Cinderella*.

A partnership between Mount Baker Secondary and the Cranbrook Society for Community Living, Bright Lites was first introduced in 2008 as an extra-curricular program that sees collaboration between Mount Baker drama students and colleagues, and students or other community members with developmental delays.

CBT has been supportive of the production since its first year, and on December 18, Dana Welsh, CBT Basin Youth Liaison, attended the *Cinderella* show and was presented with a framed collage from the production team as a sign of gratitude for CBT's support.

"This has been an amazing project and involves many Cranbrook youth and community members," said Welsh. "Created by Rod Osiowy two years ago, it has been a wonderful experience to see it come together and give back a feeling of accomplishment, unity, equality and success to everyone involved. CBT supports projects that eventually can become self-sustainable and we believe that Bright Lites is now well on its way to accomplishing that goal."

Osiowy said the benefits of this program reach every person involved in the production, as well as those who come to cheer on the performers.

"This is a very worthwhile project for the community in that it addresses the needs of a very special group of people who deserve to feel the sense of accomplishment that few things, like theatre, can provide," said Osiowy. "I've done theatre for over twenty-five years and have never seen such a positive experience for all of those involved."

CBT would also like to congratulate Rod Osiowy, who recently received the *Cranbrook Citizen of the Year* award this year.

## Moving Sustainability Forward Workshop

Monday, February 15, 2010

Communities across the Basin are looking at implementing Community Sustainability Planning and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is helping by providing guidance to municipalities, regional districts and First Nations who are in the early stages of this process.

In November 2009, CBT took a significant step to bridge communication, education and awareness of this topic amongst communities by teaming up with Fraser Basin Council (FBC) to host a "Moving Sustainability Forward" workshop in Cranbrook.

"Communities have been showing increased interest in raising their awareness about sustainability planning," said Sabrina Curtis, CBT Director, Planning and Development. "To support communities that are ready to tackle the process, CBT has been collaborating with the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) to ensure they have access to the services and resources available through FBC's Smart Planning for Communities Program."

The workshop was an opportunity for local and First Nations governments to share lessons learned and hear about practical strategies used by communities that have started or have successfully completed sustainability plans. The workshop also gave CBT and FBC a better understanding of communities' struggles in moving forward with this type of planning.

"Basin communities are experiencing many changes that can influence the overall health and vibrancy of our region. Community Sustainability Planning is a process that can recognize both challenges and opportunities, and provide decision-makers with a clear direction for how best to move forward in their communities," said Curtis. "CBT is excited to be able to help address these challenges."

The next steps for CBT and FBC will be to reflect on the key themes heard during the workshop and continue to work with communities. In particular, CBT will be exploring ways to help communities creatively engage their citizens in sustainability planning. Read the full workshop report, [online Moving Sustainability Forward: Smart Planning for Practitioners](#).

"We want to help communities understand what sustainability planning is and how it is done effectively," said Laurie Cordell, FBC Sustainability Facilitator. "Local and First Nation governments are working to balance many competing priorities. Sustainability planning can help communities work towards their vision for the future."

To learn more about sustainability planning, visit the Fraser Basin Council's Smart Planning website at [www.smartplanningbc.ca](http://www.smartplanningbc.ca).

## Call for Entry: Artists/Cultural Venues

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Call for entry: registrations are currently being accepted for artists/venues in the Columbia Basin to participate in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour (CBCT). The CBCT is a two day celebration of culture taking place August 14-15, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The CBCT is a self guided tour showcasing local arts, culture and heritage offered at no charge to the general public. Full colour tour directories will be available free of charge to the public as a guide to visit your studio, exhibition, museum, art gallery, cultural center or heritage site throughout the Columbia Basin during this special weekend event. And yes, "artists" includes visual, written, performing, media and inter-arts! Last year visitors loved this event and we are expecting increased interest in this second year.

Participating as a venue allows you to really connect with locals, develop a wider audience, educate the public about what you do, market your activities, and attract visitors to your community.

The CBCT allows visitors to meet the participants "behind the scenes" and allows them to: visit artists studios that may not regularly be open to the public, purchase works directly from the artists, visit art galleries, museums and cultural centres to view special interpretive displays, archives, demonstrations or performances. It is also a chance for them to meet people such as artists, curators, historians and volunteers that are such a vital part of our local culture.

### **FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 19, 2010**

Register by February 26 and save!

\$40: Early Registration (before February 26)

\$50: Registration (after February 26)

**Registration fee includes:** inclusion in printed directory, web page profile, placement on an on-line interactive map, event signage, province wide promotional campaign. If you plan to have any special programming or demonstrations at your venue, details can be included on your web page profile. Directories and web profiles will be released by the end of May. Artist/venue web profiles will remain online until December 31, 2010 to provide contact information for follow up queries.

The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) which administers and manages the arts, culture and heritage program on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust.

For information or to register visit: [www.cbculturetour.com](http://www.cbculturetour.com).

Contact:

Krista Patterson, Coordinator

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance

1.877.505.7355

## CBT'S Community Initiatives Program Now Accepting Applications

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) Community Initiatives (CIP) and Affected Areas Programs (AAP) are currently accepting applications across the Basin for community-supported projects.

The CIP and AAP are CBT's largest and longest running programs and will provide communities with \$3.3 million in 2010. This is the third of a three-year \$10 million-commitment by CBT.

"As long-standing programs at CBT, the CIP/AAP are intended to be flexible to help address the needs of individual communities and decisions on how to best disburse the funding are community-based," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO.

All areas of the Basin receive CIP funding, while additional AAP funds are allocated to areas of the Basin most affected by dam construction under the Columbia River Treaty. These areas are part of the Arrow, Kinbasket, Duncan and Koocanusa Reservoirs.

Funds for these programs are allocated on a per capita funding formula and are distributed once a year to CBT delivery partners: the Regional Districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, City of Revelstoke, Town of Golden, the Village of Valemount and the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

Click [here](#) for application forms and guidelines. Deadlines for submitting project proposals are:

Regional District of East Kootenay - **Monday, February 22 at 4:30PM MST**

City of Revelstoke and Area 'B' of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District - **Monday, February 15 at 4:30PM MST**

Regional District of Central Kootenay - **Thursday, March 18 at 4:30PM PST**

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - **Friday, March 26 at 4PM PST**

Village of Valemount - **Friday, March 26**

**Town of Golden** - Monday, March 29

CBT delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin.

## Lake View Village Opens its Doors Today

Monday, January 11, 2010

Lake View Village, the new \$14-million seniors' housing development at 1010 Seventh Street in Nelson, welcomes its first residents on January 11, 2010.

With 90 independent living suites for local seniors, Lake View Village provides excellent housing options and the security of various support systems to help seniors enjoy an active and independent lifestyle.

"We are so pleased with the warm welcome we have received from the citizens of Nelson. We look forward to developing our relationship with the community and, especially, our residents and their families," says Endre Lillejord, CEO of Golden Life Management. "We have a fine complement of friendly and skilled professionals on hand to provide housing and services that promote our residents' freedom, health, privacy and security.

Lake View Village is a joint project of Golden Life Management, Pace Setter Construction and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). Currently, CBT has ownership interest in seven other seniors' care facilities in the region offering a total of 803 living suites.

"This is a beautiful facility in one of the best locations in Nelson, and we are very happy that it is now ready for residents to enjoy," says Johnny Strilaeff, CBT Vice President of Investments. "Our partnership with Golden Life Management has created senior's housing facilities throughout the Columbia Basin region, which are helping to meet the demand for this demographic in many communities, while positively expanding CBT's investment portfolio."

Housing options at Lake View Village feature independent living suites and several easily accessible common areas, including an elegant dining room, a comfortable computer lab, a well stocked library, an onsite beauty salon, fitness room, bistro and a spa room. Suites offer 24-hour emergency monitoring, 24-hour staff, laundry and housekeeping services, chef-prepared meals, scheduled transportation, organized recreation and social activities, and personalized services on a short-or long-term basis.

The public is welcome to attend an open house at Lake View Village on February 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served and staff will be providing tours of this state-of-the-art building.

A limited number of suites are still available for those interested in becoming one of the first residents at Lake View Village. To book a private viewing of a show suite and find out more about Lake View Village and the housing and services it provides, contact Golden Life Management at 250-352-0051 or visit [www.goldenlifemanagement.ca](http://www.goldenlifemanagement.ca)

## Local Governments Partner With CBT To Address Water Conservation

Friday, February 19, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is pleased to announce that 19 local governments will be participating in the Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative (Water Smart) to address water conservation in the region.

CBT is partnering with 17 municipalities and two regional districts to embark on this ambitious initiative to reduce community water use across the Basin by 20 per cent by 2015. Communities will determine their own local water conservation target that will contribute to the overall Basin-wide target.

"Feedback from Basin residents and local governments indicated that water conservation is a priority, and is key to ensuring a healthy and sustainable water supply for future generations. The response and interest from local governments has been fantastic and we are eager to start working with communities to achieve the Basin-wide target by developing local solutions around water conservation," said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment.

A Water Smart Team will provide one-on-one technical support to help communities prepare, develop and monitor a Water Smart Action Plan, and CBT will provide up to \$10,000 in matching funding to support the implementation of the plans.

Local governments will sign a Water Smart Charter demonstrating their commitment to water conservation and willingness to work with CBT and other Basin communities to achieve regional water conservation goals.

"Cranbrook is excited to partner with CBT in their Water Smart Initiative. It is an important program not only for water conservation, but for the long-term sustainability of Cranbrook and the Basin," said Scott Manjak, Mayor of Cranbrook. "I believe this partnership will create new and innovative approaches to water conservation and Cranbrook is proud to be at the forefront of this effort."

The Water Smart Team will begin working with the 19 local governments in a staged approach beginning in March 2010. The participating local governments include: Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Elkford, Fernie, Fruitvale, Golden, Kaslo, Montrose, Nakusp, Nelson, Radium, Salmo, Slocan, the Regional Districts of Central and East Kootenay, Sparwood, Trail and Valemount.

"Salmo is pleased to participate in CBT's Water Smart Initiative. We look forward to working with CBT to develop a program for our community that will educate our citizens on why we have to be smart in conserving our water and the costs associated with providing that water," said Ann Henderson, Mayor of Salmo.

Water conservation is a local, regional, national and global issue. Canada is the second highest per capita water user in the world, British Columbia is one of the highest per capita water users in Canada, and the Columbia Basin is one of the highest per capita users in British Columbia.

Regardless of where you live in the Basin, all residents can start to take immediate action to conserve water. Read CBT's [Water Smart Fact Sheet](#) to find out more about water conservation and how residents can become more water smart.

CBT is committed to working with Basin residents to improve their understanding of and involvement in water issues. Water Smart is one of several water initiatives funded and delivered by CBT. CBT is also working in areas related to water quality, water stewardship, water governance and trans-boundary water issues. For more information on CBT's Water Initiatives, visit [www.cbt.org/water](http://www.cbt.org/water).

## CKCA and CBT Announce 2010/11 Arts, Culture and Heritage Granting Programs

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) is inviting individuals of all artistic disciplines - as well as arts, culture and heritage organizations - to apply for funding provided by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) under its Arts, Culture and Heritage granting program, which was recently awarded \$550,000 for the 2010/11 fiscal year.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage program streams include: project funding for individuals and groups through community arts councils; minor capital project funding; funding support to touring; arts and heritage mentoring/master classes; organizational development; major project funding; artists in education; major exhibition funding; major heritage capital funding; and funding for new heritage projects. Funding applications are adjudicated once a year by local arts councils and the CKCA Steering Committee.

"The CKCA administers and manages arts, culture and heritage program funding on behalf of CBT," explained Jacquie Hamilton, CKCA Chair. "These programs support projects in all arts disciplines and give artists a chance to broaden their abilities, while also ensuring residents in the Basin have an opportunity to be exposed to great local talent."

Following up on last year's success, CKCA is also coordinating the Columbia Basin Culture Tour, a project that celebrates the rich culture, heritage and artistic talent in the Columbia Basin. It is a two-day, free, self guided tour taking place August 14-15, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any artist or cultural venue interested in participating in the culture tour must register before March 19, 2010. For more information on the tour visit [www.cbculturetour.com](http://www.cbculturetour.com)

"The goal of this program is to support those in the arts and heritage community to build long-term sustainability and to create a greater awareness of the wonderful talent, projects and resources within the Basin," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison.

More information, funding policies and funding application forms are available online at [www.basinculture.com](http://www.basinculture.com), from local community arts councils, or by phoning the CKCA at 1-250-505-5505 or toll free at 1-877-505-7355.

**Funding applications must be received by March 19 or April 1, 2010, depending on the program.**

## CBT Increases Funding For Environmental Projects

Thursday, February 04, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is now accepting community-initiated and community-supported project applications for its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP).

"This program has been very successful in the past and we want to continue to see the projects it supports making a difference in Basin communities," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment.

Including funding from this year, this program has provided \$4 million in funding over the past 9 years for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. This year, CBT has increased program funding by 40 per cent to \$630,000 and is looking to residents and groups in the Columbia Basin to submit innovative project ideas that will help maintain or enhance environmental conditions in and around their communities.

The EIP program includes a small grants stream, geared at projects under \$5,000 and a large grants stream for projects up to \$20,000. The EIP application form and guidelines are available at [www.cbt.org/programs](http://www.cbt.org/programs) and the deadline to apply is 3:30 PST March 19, 2010.

Following up on recommendations from an EIP Review in 2008, CBT worked to fulfill some of these recommendations by streamlining the program and making it easier for smaller groups to submit applications. CBT is continuing to improve access to the program again this year by hosting four community information sessions, which will give participants the opportunity to speak to CBT staff and the stewardship advisors directly about their project ideas before submitting their applications.

"These sessions are really our opportunity to help groups and organizations around the Basin understand eligibility requirements, to answer questions about the applications and to discuss what happens after they are successful," said Allen. "We also want to recognize and celebrate the hard work of successful applicants who will speak about their projects at the sessions, which also might provide attendees with insight into developing an application."

The sessions are taking place on the following dates and locations:

February 22 - Revelstoke

February 23 - Invermere

February 24 - Fernie

February 25 - Trail

Advance registration for the information session is required. Sessions must have a minimum of ten registered participants. Please RSVP to [golden@cbt.org](mailto:golden@cbt.org) by February 18, 2010. Detailed locations and times will be given at time of registration.

CBT also understands that some community groups may need technical assistance in the development of their project ideas. In order to provide this support CBT will make stewardship advisors available to those who require this assistance.

For more information about submitting an application, contact Rick Allen at [rallen@cbt.org](mailto:rallen@cbt.org) or Tracy Amies at [tamies@cbt.org](mailto:tamies@cbt.org) or call 1.800.505-8998.

Deadline for submitting an application is 3:30 PST March 19, 2010. Applications must be submitted electronically to [eip@cbt.org](mailto:eip@cbt.org) and an original signed hard copy, delivered to any CBT office. Applications should clearly be labelled, "EIP Program."

In addition to the grants provided through EIP, CBT also supports environmental education activities and has an active land conservation strategy. Visit [www.cbt.org/environment](http://www.cbt.org/environment) to learn more about these initiatives or to read CBT's Environmental Strategic Plan 2009-2012 which guides CBT's environmental directions.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

The Jim Smith Lake Community Association is an example of a group that received an \$8,000 grant from CBT's Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) in 2009. Shown here, Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment and Brian Passey, taking a water clarity reading at Jim Smith Lake as part of a Watershed Baseline Assessment project.

## CBT Welcomes Two New Faces

Friday, February 05, 2010

CBT recently welcomed two additional staff members, Amy Pol and Sara Davis.

**Amy** has joined the Communications department in Castlegar as a Communications Coordinator.

Amy brings with her ten years of event planning experience and six years in corporate communications and marketing. In addition to her communications education, Amy also carries a skill set in graphic design and managing interactive design including websites.

Originally from Calgary, Amy moved to the Basin not quite three years ago, following her sister's footsteps. Today Amy says the region has become home, and working with CBT, she says, will be a way for her to learn more about the Basin's diversity in its people, ecology and culture.

"I see working with CBT as a great way to make a difference," said Amy. "The Basin is where I want to someday raise my family and having the opportunity to build and contribute to my community is important to me. I am inspired by the programs and initiatives that are driven by the residents."

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**Sara** has joined the Planning and Development department in CBT's Golden office in a six-month contract position that will also serve as her Master's thesis in her Public Administration degree from the University of Victoria.

Sara will be completing a review of creative community engagement strategies, focused on sustainability planning. The review will include recommendations to CBT on how to create a resource or program to assist Basin communities.

Sara originally comes from Saskatchewan, and prior to her Master's program in Victoria, was the Outreach Coordinator with the Golden Women's Resource Centre.

"At the Golden Women's Resource Centre I had the opportunity to work with many community members, help problem solve and negotiate government support systems for my clients and apply for funding and develop new programs. After two-and-a-half years, I decided to go back to school so that I could address the systems that affected my clients, rather than the symptoms," explained Sara.

"I wanted to work with CBT, because the organization has the ability to act strategically across the region while staying connected to the community," said Sara who has also completed coop terms as a policy analyst in the Provincial and Federal Governments.

CBT is looking forward to working with Linda, Amy and Sara. Get to know more of our staff [here](#).

### Last Chance to Register for Free Youth Writing Workshops

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) in partnership with Selkirk College are hosting free writing workshops for youth aged 15-29 on Saturday, February 27 in Trail, Nelson and Castlegar for those interested in submitting short stories to CBT's SCRATCH Writing Challenge.

"These workshops are a great learning opportunity for all aspiring writers, and we sincerely hope youth embrace the occasion," said Michelle d'Entremont, CBT Basin Youth Liaison.

During the workshops, participants will learn about the elements of a well-written short story and how these elements will be applied during the evaluation of their short story submissions.

The free workshops will be held at:

- The Castlegar Public Library from 1-4 p.m.
- The Nelson & District Youth Centre from 12-3 p.m.
- The Trail Selkirk Campus 12-3 p.m.

To register for a workshop, email [cbtyouth@cbt.org](mailto:cbtyouth@cbt.org) or call Michelle d'Entremont at 1.800.505.8998 by Wednesday, February 24, noon PST.

Launched in December, the SCRATCH Writing Challenge is an opportunity for youth to submit a 3,000-5,000 word fictional piece for the chance to win cash prizes and be published in a special Summer Reading Edition of CBT's SCRATCH Magazine - a glossy magazine distributed Basin-wide that promotes youth art and writing.

SCRATCH Writing Challenge rules and guidelines, as well as additional resources to guide the writing experience in the challenge can be found online at [www.scratchonline.ca/challenge](http://www.scratchonline.ca/challenge). Closing date to enter the SCRATCH Writing Challenge is March 31 at 4:30 PST.

CBT delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. To learn more about CBT programs and initiatives, visit [www.cbt.org](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1-800-505-8998.

## CBT Seeks Input on Draft Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan

Friday, December 11, 2009

Part of CBT's mandate is strengthening the economic well-being of the Columbia Basin.

Currently, CBT is looking to determine its role in providing economic support to communities, and has therefore created a Draft Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan for 2010-2012.

"The Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan is CBT's commitment to strategically move forward on its mandate to create a legacy of economic well-being," said Lisa Erven, Manager, Planning and Development. "The plan will build on the assets of residents, communities and economic organizations, and provide resources in strategic areas to inspire a thriving, self-sustaining Basin economy."

This Draft Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan was developed from input received through a CBT-commissioned assessment of economic development in the Basin, a study on the labour and trade issues in the Basin, conversations with CBT's Economic Advisory Committee, evaluation of existing programs with economic focus, and consultation with Basin organizations, businesses and residents currently engaged in addressing economic issues.

This draft plan is similar to those recently developed to guide CBT's activities in each of the social and environmental sectors, and will enable CBT to link decisions around resource allocation to specific goals and objectives.

CBT welcomes feedback on the Draft Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan through a short online survey which will remain open until February 28, 2010.

For more information, please contact Rina Gresiuik at 1.800.505.8998.

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### RELATED ITEMS

[LINK](#) Draft Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan