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*We are very fortunate and blessed.*

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## BASINLink

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CBT NEWS

### Aboriginal Gathering Places to Improve College Experience



Aboriginal students at Selkirk College and College of the Rockies will find support and a place to gather once construction is complete on the colleges' newly announced Aboriginal Gathering Places...[full story](#)

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### Kimberley Conference and Athlete Centre Now Open



CBT congratulates the community of Kimberley on the opening of the new Kimberley Conference and Athlete Training Centre. The \$6-million project was completed in part thanks to CBT's \$300,000 contribution...[full story](#)

## Get Involved

Dec. 17: Deadline to complete CBT's [Youth Voice Survey](#)

Jan. 27-29: [Sustainable Building & Living Conference](#) (Kimberley)

Jan. 28: [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Nelson)

[View more events and deadlines.](#)

## Opportunities

Request for Qualified Applicants  
[Consulting Services](#)

Job Posting  
[Director, Community Engagement](#)

Job Posting  
[Community Liaison, Southwest Basin](#)

## Aboriginal Gathering Places to Improve College Experience

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

*CBT helps fund projects at Selkirk College and College of the Rockies*

Aboriginal students at [Selkirk College](#) and [College of the Rockies](#) will find support and a place to gather once construction is complete on the colleges' newly announced Aboriginal Gathering Places. The two spaces, valued together at nearly \$2.5 million, will be built thanks in part to a \$400,000 contribution from CBT.

"The Aboriginal Gathering Places will enhance culturally relevant support for current and future Aboriginal students, as well as provide an opportunity for others to learn about Aboriginal culture," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO.

"We're pleased to help fund these projects, which will enhance our local institutions and improve the college experience of the Basin's Aboriginal residents."

According to the 2006 census, 6,695 status First Nations residents live in the Columbia Basin, including 677 on reserves in East Kootenay. Many live distantly from traditional support systems of family and community. The gathering places will also play a role in educating non-Aboriginal students about the history and culture of Canada's First Nations.

"Our Gathering Place will create a more supportive, welcoming and relevant environment for Aboriginal students and will support Selkirk College's goal to better attract, retain and graduate Aboriginal learners," said Angus Graeme, Selkirk College Interim President.

While the projects are different in structure, timing and scope, the two colleges have committed to linking the spaces, as well as one at Okanagan College, to enhance operations and the effectiveness of events and presenters visiting the region. The gathering place at Selkirk should be completed by late spring 2011. The College of the Rockies will complete its space in two to three years, with contributions like timber, sawn lumber, gravel and labour coming from local Ktunaxa organizations.

College of the Rockies President and CEO Nick Rubidge noted, "We truly appreciate this financial support from Columbia Basin Trust. College of the Rockies has a long history of collaborative partnerships with CBT, which we truly value, and we thank them for their continued support. Our Aboriginal Gathering Place will be a place of welcome to all Aboriginal people within the college and beyond, and will provide a welcoming environment for all college students and community members to meet, study and socialize."



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Selkirk College's Aboriginal Gathering Place is currently under construction. Angus Graeme, Selkirk College Interim President, accepts CBT's contribution from Wayne Lundeberg, CBT Community Liaison.

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## Wage Subsidy Program to Continue for Another Year

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

### *CBT's Summer Works program approved for summer 2011*

Columbia Basin students and businesses will be able to access the Summer Works program again in 2011, as CBT's Board of Directors has approved the program for another year. In addition, the program's budget will increase to \$500,000, from \$390,000 in 2010, allowing more students to be hired.

"CBT is committed to strengthening the economic well-being of the Basin, and the Summer Works program helps us do that by giving small businesses a helping hand to hire students," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "The 2010 pilot program was a success, providing 112 students with summer jobs, and we look forward to supporting even more students this coming year."

The Summer Works program provides Basin small businesses with wage subsidies to hire high school and post-secondary students, including mature students, enrolled in full-time education. In 2010, the program resulted in 112 summer jobs for students throughout the Basin: half for entry-level positions and half for career-related employment. Of businesses that took advantage of the program, 90 per cent said they plan on applying again, and 99 per cent said they would recommend the program to other businesses.

The program will continue to be administered by College of the Rockies.

"This partnership with CBT worked extremely well for both parties last year," said Tracey Whiting, College of the Rockies Manager of Contract Training and Business Development. "It resulted in a win-win situation for students seeking employment and the businesses that hired them. I'm looking forward to continued success this year."

Information on the application process and timelines will be available in February 2011 at [www.cbt.org/summerworks](http://www.cbt.org/summerworks).

## Kimberley Conference and Athlete Training Centre Hosts Grand Opening

Thursday, December 09, 2010

CBT congratulates the community of Kimberley on the opening of the new [Kimberley Conference and Athlete Training Centre](#). The \$6-million project was completed thanks to CBT's \$300,000 contribution and funding from the City of Kimberley, the federal and provincial governments and Resorts of the Canadian Rockies, which also donated the land.

"This project is an example of the community identifying a need and putting a plan together to realize their vision," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "CBT is proud to support the tourism and economic opportunities that this centre brings to Kimberley."

The largest in the East Kootenay, the 14,000-square-foot centre is located at the base of Kimberley Alpine Resort and can accommodate banquets of up to 390 and theatre-style meetings of up to 500, plus offers breakout rooms for smaller meetings. The centre was designed to exceed the Model National Energy Code by more than 30 per cent and was constructed entirely of locally harvested BC timber.

The centre also houses the city's Paralympic Training Centre, putting Kimberley closer to its vision of becoming a North American leader in providing quality Paralympic training facilities. CBT also helped Kimberley step closer to this goal last year, when it provided \$57,000 toward the renovation of the city's curling facility to provide barrier-free access for disabled athletes and spectators.

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/initiatives](http://www.cbt.org/initiatives) or [www.cbt.org/programs](http://www.cbt.org/programs) or call 1-800-505-8998.

## About the Board

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A board of twelve directors governs CBT. The five regional districts of the Columbia Basin and Ktunaxa Nation Council each nominate a minimum of one and a maximum of four directors and the Province of BC nominates the remaining six directors. The Lieutenant Governor in Council makes all of the final appointments to the Board. All directors must reside in the Columbia Basin.

Following is the meeting schedule for the CBT Board of Directors in 2010/11:

- November 26/27 - Cranbrook
- January 28/29 - Nelson
- March 18/19 - Golden
- June 3/4 - Rossland
- September 23/24 - Kaslo
- November 25/26 - Kimberley

Residents are always welcome to attend the public component on the first day of CBT Board meetings. If you wish to make a specific presentation to the Board, please contact Maureen Forster at 1.800.505.8998 or [mforster@cbt.org](mailto:mforster@cbt.org).

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

- [August 09, 2010](#)
- [July 30, 2010](#)
- [July 19, 2010](#)
- [July 09, 2010](#)
- [June 14, 2010](#)
- [June 04, 2010](#)
- [May 05, 2010](#)

[View archive of Board Meeting Minutes](#)

## Field Community Hall Renovated to Ensure Longevity

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

### *CBT contribution helps revamp building's exterior*

The community hall in the Town of Field is in the process of getting new roofing, siding and soffits thanks in part to a \$25,000 grant from CBT.

"Field's community hall is the focal point of life in Field and provides a space for all residents, enriching their lives. This renovation will help preserve the hall for future generations," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "We work closely with Basin communities to help them respond to their needs and are happy to support Field with this community project."

The renovation will both improve the hall's appearance and extend its life, as the new work is expected to last a minimum of 25 years. In the past, CBT has also contributed toward the renovation of the hall's kitchen, deck, washroom and change room.

## Users of Cranbrook Skate Park Can Now Seek Shelter

Friday, November 19, 2010

Users of Viking Youth Park in Cranbrook can now seek shelter from the elements thanks in part to funding from CBT. The project was initiated by the youth who use the park, who were supported by Cranbrook Family Connections.

"It has been a long time coming, but we now have a fabulous shelter in the Viking Youth Park," said Sandra Davis of Cranbrook Family Connections.

"Thank you so much on behalf of Cranbrook Family Connections, the youth and parents who access the skate/bike park and all the citizens of Cranbrook who will access shelter for years to come in this centrally located community park."

CBT takes an active role in developing opportunities for young people 15 to 29 years old in the Basin. To learn more about CBT's Youth Initiatives, visit [www.cbt.org/youth](http://www.cbt.org/youth).



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Skate park users and supporters gather under the new shelter in Viking Youth Park. In the photo: Andrew Lamb, Ryan Lindsay, Brandon Luke, Brett Propp, Jesse Stanley, Jonn Miller, Dakota Hollister, Cody Collings, Tyler Hamilton, Chuck Wallis, Braylyn Lehman, Robyn Rader, Ron Miles, Allan Watson, Sandra Davis, Pat Chisholm, Bob Whetham and Gary Dalton.



## New Seniors' Housing Breaks Ground in Creston

Friday, November 26, 2010

The Town of Creston, in partnership with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia and Columbia Basin Trust gathered today to celebrate the official groundbreaking of a new 24-unit development in Creston for seniors in need and people with disabilities.

"In its second year, Canada's Economic Action Plan continues to help Canadians in need. It is allowing us to put more funding into places like Seniors Housing in Creston so that more senior citizens can continue to live independently, to remain in and to contribute to the communities they call home," said Kootenay-Columbia MP Jim Abbott.

"Creston seniors will soon have a greater access to affordable housing options in their local community," said Rich Coleman, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Minister Responsible for Housing. "This development is another example of the Province investing in housing solutions that benefit British Columbia's seniors."

This project is made possible through funding contributions from the Town of Creston, the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada and Columbia Basin Trust. This development is designed to stimulate the local economy and increase affordable rental housing units for seniors and persons with disabilities in smaller communities across the province.

"Creston is thankful that our community was selected to participate in this partnership. The 24 unit development at 200-11 Avenue South will greatly enhance the rental housing sector," said Mayor Ron Toyota. "During the past two months, I have taken several phone calls and visits to my office from citizens wanting to participate. Once the management organization or society is announced, our list of names will be forwarded."

"One of our goals is to assist communities in dealing with affordable housing issues, and in particular, to support new housing initiatives," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "This is a unique opportunity for CBT to be involved, not only in creation of 24 units here in Creston, but in the creation of a significant number of housing units Basin-wide, and increasing senior's housing throughout the region is something that we are really pleased to be part of."

Columbia Basin Trust has committed \$425,000 to the overall capital costs of eight sites in the Columbia Basin region for a total of 114 units under the Seniors' Rental Housing (SRH) initiative. Projects will be built in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Creston, Baynes Lake, Golden, Revelstoke (2) and Valemount.

The Seniors' Rental Housing (SRH) initiative is a result of a \$365-million joint investment under an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Initiative Agreement, which includes funding through Canada's Economic Action Plan and by the Government of British Columbia.

This initiative, initially announced by the two levels of government on April 8, 2009, will provide \$123.5 million, including \$104 million for seniors and \$19.5 million for persons with disabilities, to develop approximately 1,300 new affordable rental housing units, which will help to stimulate local economies in smaller communities across B.C. Under terms of the agreement, the provincial and federal governments will provide matching contributions of \$61.79 million.