


Research and Relevance: The Community Development Institute at UNBC

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A stylized silhouette of a mountain range is located in the bottom right corner of the slide. The mountains are rendered in a dark teal color, matching the background, and their peaks are jagged and irregular.

Research and relevance

- ◆ “Place” in the “Global” economy
 - As space becomes less important...
 - Place becomes more important
- ◆ Question
 - How to equip RST places to exercise place-based advantages and meet development opportunities/challenges on own terms

Research Institutes and Rural Revitalization

◆ Roles:

- Capacity building
- Economic drivers
- Community success / pride / confidence
- Critical facilities
- ‘Honest broker’
- Access to information / research

'Story' of UNBC

◆ Grassroots

- Idea developed in the north
- Opposed by prov gov / other BC universities

◆ 'Legend'

- \$5 petition drive
- Financed 'own' study

◆ Its about the people of northern BC

- their ownership
- 'their' university

An Engaged Campus

Mandate of a:

“university in the north, for the north”

- ◆ Research and teaching set within context of northern BC
- ◆ Wide range of disciplines addressing wide range of topics

Northern BC Community Development Institute



Northern BC Community Development Institute

Board of Governors approval, Jan. 2004

Strategic Research Plan:

“sustainability of communities”

“to support research and provide information so that people in northern BC can make informed decisions about their community’s future”

Northern BC Community Development Institute

Research:

- applied and basic work
- academic integrity, practical relevance

Outreach:

- information of tools/practices
- community needs to guide research

Education:

- role in community capacity building
 - skills/education transfer
- 

Research and Community Transition




Economic Dev. Projects

- ◆ McBride and Area Skills Inventory
- ◆ Implications of Changing Commuting Patterns in Mackenzie, BC
- ◆ NW Shopping Study
- ◆ Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board Project
- ◆ Tumbler Ridge Community Transition Study
- ◆ Housing Transition in Single Industry “Instant Towns”

Regional Dev. Projects

- ◆ Northern BC Service Sector Study
 - ◆ NW BC Regional Development Study
 - ◆ New Rural Economy Project – Can. Rural Revitalization Foundation
 - ◆ Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project
 - ◆ Upper Fraser Historical Geography Project
 - ◆ Tourism and Development Foundation Project
 - ◆ Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition – Future Forest and Fibre Study
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Seniors' Projects

- ◆ Terrace Seniors Project
 - ◆ Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview
 - ◆ Fort St. John and Taylor Seniors Needs Project
 - ◆ Peace River Regional District Seniors Needs Project
 - ◆ Tumbler Ridge Seniors Needs Project
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide showing a silhouette of a mountain range in a teal color, matching the background.

Community Dev. Projects

- ◆ Peace River Regions Women's Institutes: The Heart Of The Community
- ◆ Robson/Canoe Valleys - Services and Community Development Project
- ◆ Old Massett Village Council 5 Year Human Resources Strategic Plan
- ◆ Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition – Community Transition Study
- ◆ Mackenzie Community Transition Plan – economic emergency toolkit

Community Dev. Projects

- ◆ Peace River Regions Women's Institutes: The Heart Of The Community
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- ◆ Mackenzie Community Transition Plan – economic emergency toolkit

Partnership Projects

- ◆ 'Warmth of the welcome' Immigration project – w. Citiz. & Immig. Canada/SSHRC
 - C. Nolin UNBC
- ◆ Formal and Informal Health Care – CIHR
 - N. Hanlon UNBC
 - A. Ostry UVic
 - C. Hertzman UBC
 - A. D'Angueli TRU

Illustration

- ◆ District of Mackenzie

Economic Emergency Framework

◆ Mackenzie BC

- forestry dependent community of 4,500 people two hours north of Prince George
- ◆ May 22, 2007: Canfor (Mackenzie's 2nd largest employer) announces the indefinite closure of local mill
 - (loss of 450 direct jobs and 390 in-direct jobs).
- ◆ May 23: Meeting between CDI, Town of Mackenzie, Mackenzie Forest District to strategize a framework for moving forward

Economic Emergency Framework

- ◆ May 24: Special Council meeting
- ◆ May 30: Meeting at UNBC with 'Support Network' to develop short term, medium term and long term strategies
 - Brought immediate service assistance
 - Funding to develop longer range plans
- ◆ June 18: Town Hall Meeting (broadcast live on local radio) to review strategy

Economic Emergency Framework

◆ Summer 2007

- Created Economic Emergency Framework based on lessons learned

◆ Fall 2007

- Training sessions for local governments on Economic Emergency Framework
- Presentations at North Central Local Government Assoc meeting

◆ Spring 2008

- Worked with other local governments using Economic Emergency Framework

◆ Summer 2008

- Revised Economic Emergency Framework based on northern BC experiences and research from elsewhere

CDI @ UNBC

Opportunities looking forward

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Community Development Institute at UNBC

[Introduction](#)[Institute Description](#)[What's New](#)[Mountain Pine Beetle Links](#)[Community Visits](#)[Institute Director](#)[Staff](#)[Research](#)[Information Sharing](#)[Links](#)[Contact Information](#)

Community Development Institute - UNBC

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming a vital partner to communities interesting in making informed decisions about their own futures.



The town of Smithers, BC

The Institute emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, collaboration, learning, and complementarity between UNBC research centres. Research that is undertaken balances academic credibility with practical relevance. Beyond research, the Institute is involved in outreach activities and serves as a conduit to expand and enhance local educational opportunities related to community development.

The three foundations of the Community Development Institute at UNBC are:

- Research
- Education
- Outreach



www.unbc.ca/cdi

