

***Eighty-Five Summaries for
Eighty-Five Great Projects***



Transferring the Knowledge

In 2006, the Rural Alberta Development Fund was created out of Alberta's Rural Development Strategy and capitalized with \$100 million. Its mandate: provide funding for innovative projects that would contribute to creating strong, vibrant and sustainable rural communities throughout the province.

During the past six years, we have committed the full \$100 million to 85 projects, which focused on economic growth, community capacity, rural health delivery and knowledge and skill development.

RADF has been the critical missing link in providing support to rural Alberta's passion and vision for innovation and sustainability. Not only did we fund 85 ground-breaking and exceptional projects in the province, these initiatives also involved 146 communities and 396 organizations. We can easily say that we supported ideas in every corner of the province!

In this document, we have provided current information for each of the projects we funded. We know that many rural communities are still facing the same obstacles and challenges that many of these communities faced. Our hope is that you will find answers to your questions: a contact, website, tool or resource that can assist you in your community.

We know these initiatives have transformed their own communities and regions. The intelligence, learning's and resources, developed over the past five years are provided to assist you in building the capacity and knowledge in your own corner's of Alberta.

Happy reading!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 211 COMMUNITY LINKS
- ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES
- ABORIGINAL SPORTS CAPACITY
- ACE COMMUNITIES
- AGING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
- AGRI VALUE-ADDED INVESTOR NETWORK
- ALBERTA 4-H FUND DEVELOPMENT
- ALBERTA ENERGY CORRIDOR
- ALBERTA FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC INITIATIVE
- ALBERTA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
- ASSIST PROGRAM – SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION
- BEST PRACTICE IN ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP
- BIOECONOMY INCUBATOR OFFICE FOR APPLIED RESEARCH
- BOREAL EDUCATION STRATEGY
- BUFFALO ADVENTURES MARKETING INITIATIVE
- BUILDING LAND MANAGEMENT TOOLS
- CANADIAN CENTRE FOR UNMANNED VEHICLES
- CENTRAL ALBERTA RURAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
- CHAIR – RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY
- CIRCLE M
- CLOSER TO HOME (C2H)
- COLLABORATIVE DELIVERY OF FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING FOR RURAL LEARNERS
- COMMON GROUND
- COMMUNITIES LEADING RECRUITMENT & RETENTION
- COMPOSITE TRAIN GRADING
- CREATING HOME – RECLAIMING SELF
- CREATING PATHWAYS
- DEVELOPING A CREATIVE CAMPUS
- EDMONTON REGIONAL TOURISM
- EMPOWERING RENEWABLE ENERGY CLUSTERS
- ENGAGING TRADITIONS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH
- EP-BR RECREATION PARTNERSHIP
- FAMILY SERVICES DELIVERY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION
- FARM MASTERS
- FINISHING THE DREAM
- FOOD PROCESSING TRAINING FACILITY
- FORESTRY TRAINING PROGRAM
- GRANDE ALBERTA ECONOMIC REGION
- GEOTOURISM SERVICES PRODUCT
- GROWING A CULTURE OF INNOVATION
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
- HIGH LEVEL OUTREACH PROGRAM
- HIGH PRAIRIE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
- JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT RURAL EXPANSION
- KILLAM REGIONAL ECONOMIC INITIATIVE
- KNOWLEDGE CONNECTOR
- LEARNING COMMUNITIES
- LINKAGES RURAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
- MOBILE TRADES FOUNDATION
- MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING
- NATIONAL BEE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE
- NEXTGEN ONLINE
- OLDER ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM
- OPPORTUNITY SHOP
- PEER CONNECTIONS
- PIPESTONE CREEK DINOSAUR INITIATIVE
- POST-SECONDARY TRADES RELATED OPPORTUNITIES
- RECREATION & HABITAT
- RISE – RURAL INFORMATION SERVICES INITIATIVE
- ROCKY LANE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM
- ROSEBUD CAPACITY BUILDING
- RURAL ALBERTA BUSINESS CENTRES
- RURAL ARTISTIC INITIATIVE
- RURAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- RURAL CO-OPERATIVE OUTREACH
- RURAL INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM
- RURAL ROAD SHOW
- RURAL SAFETY SMARTS
- RURAL YOUTH SCIENCE NETWORK– EDACITY
- SPORTS COACHING DEVELOPMENT
- STARS CRITICAL CARE & TRANSPORT
- SUNCHILD E-LEARNING
- THE CANADIAN BADLANDS TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
- THE COMMUNITY VILLAGE
- THREE LITTLE PIGS HOUSING COOPERATIVE
- TOMORROW’S PROMISE TODAY
- TOUR OF ALBERTA
- TURNING THE KEYS ON OPPORTUNITY
- UNLEASHING LOCAL CAPITAL
- VAUXHAUL ACADEMY OF BASEBALL
- VISTA
- VULCAN INNOVATION PROJECT
- WARNER COMMUNITY HOCKEY SCHOOL
- WESTWIND RODEO ACADEMY
- WIND ENERGY RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY

211 COMMUNITY LINKS



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Mental health for all

www.community-links.ca

Contact: Pride Lowe, Program Coordinator, Community LINKS

426-6 Street, South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 2C9

Ph: 403-328-5465

Email: info@community-links.ca

Project Description

To streamline access to a large range of human services in rural communities as there have been problems in the past for these regions to access human services.

Note: The proponent was one year into their business plan for implementation of 211 in southwest Alberta, when the national office of the United Way, changed the model for implementation of 211 services in Canada. The committee was concerned that the 211 services in the large urban centres (Calgary and Edmonton) would not address the unique needs of the rural communities. Therefore, the project continued with designing a “made in rural Alberta” 211 information and referral implementation and service delivery model.

Expected Results

- Redesign website linked to all rural communities in southern Alberta.
- Resource guides tailored to rural communities. A booklet called “Getting Connected” is distributed twice a year to communities.
- Redesigning information delivery methods to meet needs of each rural community.
- Rural marketing strategy.

Impacts

- *The Rural Resource Directory Project* has ensured that all of the rural communities in the Southwest Region are fully connected, via the website, which includes online copies of the resource directories and community events calendar. Hard copies of the directory are also available.
- For service providers, Community LINKS ties the services with people in need and reduces time and effort.
- At the policy and planning level, this type of service facilitates the improvement of programs and services.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES (ACE)



www.albertahub.com

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Project Description

The purpose of the ACE Project was to create Aboriginal owned and operated businesses resulting in economic benefits to Aboriginal communities and the Alberta HUB region in general. The project addressed issues of high levels of unemployment, limited resources for establishing new businesses, and the need for assistance to initiate economic development training at the Aboriginal community level.

Results

- Aboriginal Economic Development Facilitators received extensive training in Aboriginal community readiness, investment attraction and economic development. In their toolkit, facilitators have the resources and tools to form and develop strategic alliances, identify business opportunities, develop business plans, Agreements and MOUs.
- All training reflected the unique characteristics of community economic development in Aboriginal communities.
- Seven Aboriginal communities in the Northeast Hub participated. More than 25 business opportunities were identified.
- A Labor Force Capacity Survey was completed in 2010 and continues to be updated for each of the seven Aboriginal communities. Data resides on the respective community websites.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Numerous benefits were derived, but none more important than the training of the Economic Development Facilitators who are using the training in the region. These facilitators in turn have become trainers of training.

Impacts

- Creation of 27 new business-related jobs plus 7 Economic Development Facilitator jobs for a total of 34 new jobs in the communities.

ABORIGINAL SPORT CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT



www.aboriginalsports.org

Contact: Ted Hodgson, Executive Director, Indigenous Sport Council (Alberta)

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Email: info@aboriginalsports.org

Project Description

This project enables Métis and First Nations coaches, teachers, and other community leaders to get the training and resources they need to create long-term sport and recreation programs for their communities.

Results

- The project developed an Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Resource Manual (a training manual), a website, and an athlete leadership program.
- Coach and leadership training programs were delivered directly into the community, negating the need for participants to travel to major centres to take training and incur additional costs (a known prohibitive factor for many coaches not seeking training or certification).
- Between 2009 and 2011 over 300 individuals were certified in the Aboriginal Coach training, and 70 were certified in the National Certification Program Part A, and 30 in Part B. In addition, three individuals took advanced training as certified learning facilitators to teach coach training.
- Over 400 children participated in Run, Jump and Throw activities, 80 in soccer, 130 in golf, and over 100 in male/female hockey.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Youth participation increased in the five participating communities – Dene Tha' First Nation, Driftpile First Nation, Kehewin Cree First Nation, Kikino Metis Settlement, Montana First Nation, Pikani First Nation – because of the availability of sport and recreation programs.
- Coaches and community leaders have access to the tools they need to promote healthy active lifestyles for Aboriginal youth, their leaders and community.

Impacts

- Overall capacity of communities increased through the development of community recreation, sport, and leadership programs.
- Well trained coaches are seen as strong role models for Aboriginal youth.
- There was an economic impact of over \$500,000 through delivery of new programs.

ACE COMMUNITIES



www.acecommunities.arpaonline.ca

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Project Description

ACE Communities – Active, Creative and Engaged Communities – is an initiative of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) designed to get More people. More Active. More Often. The purpose of ACE Communities is to enhance quality of life in rural Alberta by strengthening community leadership, collaboration and innovation through recreation, parks, arts, culture and heritage.

ACE is comprised of 6 priorities:

- **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:** Enhance creative development and strengthen local capacity by using a variety of province-wide strategies that will nurture existing, emerging and undiscovered leaders to implement the community-led innovation that will result in active/creative communities.
- **ACTIVE/CREATIVE COMMUNITIES NETWORK:** Engage, coach and connect 20 rural and diverse communities/regions to work as partners along with other engaged communities in becoming Active Creative Communities.
- **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES:** Create youth-friendly communities by enhancing opportunities for youth leadership, physical activity, creativity, youth connections, training, education and rural careers.
- **RESEARCH:** Amass the Alberta-relevant intelligence needed to support active creative communities and deep end the understanding of matters important to the quality of rural living.
- **AWARENESS & SUPPORT:** Build understanding of the potential offered by active/creative communities at local, regional and provincial levels.
- **MANAGEMENT & EVALUATION:** Ensure effective Project Planning, Management and Evaluation.

AGING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES



www.theruralway.ca

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Project Description

Healthy communities are ones that plan for their aging population. And in planning, one needs new ways to think about how residents themselves can be at the centre of a process that meets their needs. The Rural Way Model is a new framework that assists older rural residents and their communities to design, plan, manage and implement their own Aging in Community projects across Alberta.

Results

- Development and testing of the Rural Way Model
 - a highly integrated grassroots community approach that relies on strong community engagement practices in the building of social capital and community capacity
 - explores financial, management and governance systems that encourage public private sector partners to work collaboratively with community in creating rural aging solutions such as housing and aging care service provision
 - components include: practical methods for project start-up, co-management approaches, communication/marketing methods, decision-making matrices, and strategies for project sustainability
 - reflects rural culture, values, lifestyle, community involvement and shared profit
 - engages seniors as consultants in decision-making on rural aging needs and interests

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Rural communities have access to a number of workshops and consulting services to help them mobilize their community in designing their own community-led housing developments.
- Keeping seniors in rural communities adds vitality to communities through increased economic opportunities for new business and service ventures by creating demand, identifying community interests and service gaps.

Impacts

- Proven research of having seniors age in their communities provides decision-makers in government, business and non-profit sector with the knowledge to ultimately create effective policies and strategies.

AGRI VALUE-ADDED INVESTOR NETWORK (AVNet)

On March 31, 2009 AVNet, due to their inability to secure adequate core funding to continue their operations, were forced to ceased operations. This in turn, resulted in the termination of the RADF project as noted above.

In their final report AVNet expressed their disappointment at not being able to secure necessary funding from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in these times of budget restraint, and as a result were unable to make full use of the RADF funding. The organization expressed the view that AVNet RADF project was showing outstanding momentum but that without core funding the project could not continue.

Project Description

- AVNet facilitates the introduction of agrivalue investment opportunities to investors with an interest in those types of investments. Those companies not yet ready to present to investors will receive coaching from the network, and if necessary, will be referred to one of a Province-wide network of strategic partners who provide appropriate training. AVNet serves as a link between companies, investors and organizations that help agrivalue companies.
- This project will allow for the creation of the position of Vice President, Rural Development who will provide matchmaking services, organize training and hold investor meetings where entrepreneurs and companies in rural Alberta can present their investment opportunities.

Impacts

- Investment attracted to rural Alberta's entrepreneurs and companies providing them with the financial means to grow and be successful.
- More knowledgeable investors in rural Alberta with an increased willingness to invest.
- Enhanced awareness of AVNet and its services in rural Alberta thereby ensuring rural Alberta is able to take advantage of our services.
- Greater awareness and understanding of the relationship between innovation, commercialization and the need for appropriate funding.
- Enhanced ability for rural Alberta communities and economic development regions to retain existing businesses and attract new companies.
- Number of registered Investor Members increased from 47 to 115.
- Twenty-three active company applicants registered on website.
- Nine company investment opportunities currently ready for the Investor Members to consider.

ALBERTA 4-H FUND DEVELOPMENT – ENHANCING RURAL ALBERTA THRU COMMUNITY CAPACITY



www.4h.ab.ca

Contact: Bruce Banks or refer to website for staff listing

Ph: 1-877-682-2153 (toll-free) or 780-682-2153

Email: foundation@4hab.com

Project Description

Alberta 4-H consists of three separate organizations – Branch, Council and Foundation – working together to ensure the development of leadership, communication, technical and life skills of 4-H members and leaders to strengthen communities. This project's goal was to see 4-H Foundation of Alberta become self-sufficient, thereby reducing reliance on government funding while positioning 4-H in new and innovative programming.

Results

- Through effective fund development, the 4-H Foundation of Alberta was able to exceed its original fund-raising goal of \$10M. At project completion, overall sponsorship and endowment cumulative total raised was \$10,843,534.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Provided support to new Agriculture for Life program resulting in \$1,245,000 in committed funding over three years.
- Established a partnership with Alberta Recycling Management Authority, providing over \$750,000 over five years for 4-H Clubs in Alberta.

Impacts

- Substantially decreased Alberta 4-H's reliance on government funding.
- Longer term investment allows for development of new programming for rural Alberta youth and provides Alberta 4-H with the stability it needs to succeed.

ALBERTA ENERGY CORRIDOR MARKETING INITIATIVE



www.albertaenergycorridor.com

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Project Description

The Alberta Energy Corridor focuses on economic development in the Athabasca, Boyle and Wandering River area. It exists to attract traditional and alternative energy sector industries to five growth nodes in the Alberta Energy Corridor. The corridor is 84 kilometers in length and runs from Boyle to Wandering River along Highway 63. A regional marketing strategy promotes the corridor locally, nationally, and globally as a viable economic alternative to higher-cost regions.

Results

- Alberta Energy Corridor (AEC) evolved into a regional marketing entity, gaining momentum within industrial, political, and community circles.
- A Land Use Strategy plan was approved by the municipalities of Athabasca County and the Village of Boyle.
- Alberta Energy Corridor operates as a not-for-profit organization serving private and public sector interests.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- As a new economic development region, the Alberta Energy Corridor provides a growing industrial and commercial base and a broad array of businesses involved directly and indirectly in oil and gas, construction, forestry and traditional agriculture, with new developments in alternative energy.

Impacts

- Positioned geographically on the key transportation route between the oil sands and Edmonton's refinery row, tremendous opportunity exists to diversify the region through attracting a myriad of businesses that increase long-term employment and community stability.

ALBERTA FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC INITIATIVES



Contact: Ken Horn, President, Teedrum Inc.
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Project Description

The Alberta First Nations Refinery Project (or Energy Centre) is an initiative by the Enoch Cree Nation, Teedrum Inc. (corporate partner) and all Alberta First Nations, to build Canada's only First Nations' owned petroleum refinery. The project will help to alleviate dependence on federal and provincial funding, and close the substantial gap that exists between living standards of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Alberta. It will provide economic opportunities that will stimulate sustainable economic and social initiatives.

RADF's financial support will be for the development of a feasibility and business plan for this large scale project. There will be a business plan template created for the use of other First Nations' projects.

Results

- Feasibility and business plans completed.
 - This covered in detail; the project development plan, market analysis and optimum product slate, distribution, feedstock, refinery configuration, site location study, environmental, regulatory and infrastructure. Order of magnitude estimate, risk management report, economic analysis and economic impact.
- Further advancement on strategic partnerships with federal and provincial support programs completed.
- Note: On February 8, 2012 the Government of Alberta reversed their support of the proposed refinery.

Alberta Rural Development Network



www.ardn.ca

Contact: Dee Ann Benard, Executive Director

Alberta Rural Development Network

215-50 Brentwood Boulevard

Sherwood Park, AB T8A 2H5

Email: exec.dir@ardn.ca

Project Description

The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) is a partnership of Alberta's 21 publicly-funded, publicly-governed colleges, universities, and technical institutes, working together to support and enhance rural development. These institutions have combined their expertise, ideas and resources to strengthen Alberta's rural way of life. The value of this network is that it draws on the strengths of diverse organizations, gathers and conducts extensive research, and perhaps most importantly, has deep connections in all regions of the province. ARDN creates rural connections through: Research, Education, Collaboration, and Networking.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- The post-secondary members of ARDN hosted over 100 community building workshops since inception the ARDN initiative.
- Partnering with Olds College, the three day Creating Rural Connections Annual Conference is a showcase for key stakeholders throughout rural communities. The conference provided excellent networking opportunities, well versed keynote speakers, sub-sessions for more interactive learnings, and workshops. It has been highly successful in bringing like-minded individuals from rural Alberta, the major cities, and post-secondary institutions together and creating connections that help communities prosper.
- Created many new partnerships, including:
 - The Alberta Centre for Child, Family & Community Research. – Project #ARDN-015 Homelessness Partnering Strategy
 - Francophone Secretariat – Provided funds for ARDN's Creating Rural Connections conference to support the francophone communities. ARDN is the only non-francophone partner.
 - Alberta Students Executive Council – exploring the opportunity to partner of a project called "Building Collective Impact: Closing the Rural Alberta Achievement Gap".

ASSIST PROGRAM – SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION IN CALGARY REGION



www.cartss.ca

Contact: Deanne McNeil, Executive Director, CARTSS

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Email: dmcneil@cartss.ca

Project Description

This project looks at exploring financially sustainable solutions for regional coordination of a suite of specialized transportation services. Working in partnership with the Calgary Regional Transportation Services Society (CARTSS), a pilot study took place within the broad geographic area surrounding Calgary. In an effort to avoid duplication of services and streamline operations, existing non-profit specialized transportation providers in 18 municipalities participated in the study.

Results

- New software (Trapeze) to assist with the scheduling and dispatching of rural transportation services was developed and piloted in Southern Alberta. The software package is the first of its kind for use by remote providers in small rural centres in North America.
- Volunteer Driver Program developed – designed to provide affordable and comprehensive risk management tools to mitigate the potential liability associated with volunteer drivers.
- Brokerage Service Learning report developed – identifies challenges to implementing vehicle sharing across organizations or municipalities.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- The concept to implement a specialized transportation shuttle service, a booking and dispatch call centre and volunteer driver program has resulted in a vast amount of learning of what will work and what won't work.
- A comprehensive report, *"The Storm before the Tsunami: Specialized Transportation in Rural Alberta"* was produced. The report focuses on the complexities associated with meeting specialized transportation needs in rural communities as it pertains to seniors and persons with disabilities as well as a broader population – the mobility disadvantaged person.

BEST PRACTICES IN ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP



www.banffcentre.ca/indigenous-leadership/

Contact: Brian Calliou, The Banff Centre

Box 1020, 107 Tunnel Mountain Drive, Banff, AB T1L 1H5

Ph: (403) 762-6327

Project Description

A first of its kind initiative in Alberta, and for Canada, the project provides tools for a systemic approach to understanding the critical success factors among best practices in Alberta's rural Aboriginal communities. Administered through the Banff Centre's Chair in Aboriginal Leadership, the project brought together five Aboriginal community partners and a host of stakeholders and community supporters. Together they built a tool box of skills and educational materials for rural Aboriginal leaders.

Results

- Built upon a model developed by Harvard, community members including youth were fully engaged in a sharing journey where they learned from each other through case studies and best practices. Leaders are now applying these tools and skills in their communities to foster sustained, self-determined social and economic development.
- Wise Practices in Indigenous Community Development were shared via a three-day symposium with Aboriginal people across Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand. The symposium brought people together of different backgrounds (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) to talk about indigenous philosophies, challenges, community needs and the successes of Aboriginal communities.
- Sucker Creek First Nation developed a five-year strategic plan following a two-day leadership and management workshop with the group.
- A documentary film showcasing the project's four successful case studies was produced and presented at the Symposium. The Banff Centre is in negotiations with APTN to premiere the documentary nationally.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Youth engagement played a significant aspect in this project. At project end, youth envision new hope for their communities and many are taking a leadership role in leading change.
- Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities have access to tools and resources in wise practices in indigenous community development, economic and community development tools and Best Practices.

Impacts

- A legacy project – provides important resources in community leadership development, governance and increased civic engagement in Aboriginal Communities for current and future leaders.

BIOECONOMY INCUBATOR OFFICE FOR APPLIED RESEARCH & COMMERCIALIZATION CENTRE (BIO-ARCC) INITIATIVE



www.draytonvalley.ca/bio-mile/

Contact: Kristina Vallee, Executive Assistant, Town of Drayton Valley

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Project description

BIO-ARCC, operating as a not-for-profit corporation, will be designed to support the unique needs of industries locating in the Town's Bio-Mile Project and foster the development and commercialization of new technologies, as well as products and companies to grow the bio-economy within the region and province. There are three mechanisms to the project; applied research, incubation & commercialization and training/education components.

Expected Results

- Increased employment for the Drayton Valley region.
- Development of a specialized knowledge resource for the bio-industry and Alberta.
- Enhanced skills development, training, and specialization for the bio-industry.
- Development and commercialization of new bio-industrial businesses.
- Increased diversification and competitiveness of bio-industrial businesses.

Impacts

- Funding approved for the new "Clean Energy and Technology Centre", BIO-ARCC facility.
- Proponent is working with local industry and academia to coordinate industry's needs to be tailored with the education and training provided at the CETC.
- Memorandums of Understanding between current tenants; Weyerhaeuser & TTS Inc. (fibre mat plant), and potential tenants, Mascoma and Catchlight to have projects housed within the BIO-ARCC.

BOREAL EDUCATION STRATEGY



www.insideeducation.ca

Contact: Steve McIsaac, Executive Director, Inside Education

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Ph: 780-421-1497; Email: info@insideeducation.ca

Project Description

Issues of remoteness and small numbers of students often mean students and teachers in remote northern Alberta communities lack access to some of the resources their urban counterparts receive. For the first time, this pilot project provided unique educational opportunities as presented by economic activity and environmental and community challenges in Alberta's boreal region – a region that had been under-served by curriculum support organizations.

Results

- Development and implementation of the Boreal Education Strategy
 - classroom presentations and resources and interactive field tours in natural resources and environment to Grade 4 to 12 students in Alberta's rural north, specifically schools located in the boreal region of the province
 - Society teachers travelled the northern third of the province teaching the relationship between environmental responsibility and economic development
 - through the direct support of a stipend, 57 teachers in the boreal region were able to attend professional development programs they would not have been able to attend ordinarily. In addition, 7 professional development programs were offered in the north.
- Over a three-year period, nearly 19,000 students were directly impacted by the project. This approach included reaching schools in Aboriginal communities and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the Inside Education's programming.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- The Boreal Education programming was an instrumental resource in helping urban educators understand the complexity of development issues related to the boreal region.
- Two learning resources were developed, bringing the total impact to Alberta's boreal region to more than 40,000 students. The "Voices of the Boreal" is a 5-part DVD highlighting stories of people living and working in Alberta's boreal region, and "Oil Sands for High School" is a Chemistry 30 exam bank of questions developed to help students apply their chemistry learning to the boreal region's most significant industrial development – the oil sands.

Impacts

- This project was selected as a finalist for the 2010 Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence Emerald Award, coming in as a close second runner-up.

BUFFALO ADVENTURES MARKETING INITIATIVE



www.visiteastcentralalberta.com

www.buffaloadventures.ca

Contact: Jennifer Ford or Gord Snyder, Buffalo Adventures

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Email: info@buffaloadventures.ca

Project Description

Buffalo Adventures offers experiential tourism activities that focus on the quality and authenticity of the region. Day trips and overnight experiences are all connected by themes of buffalo and rural life with each of the sites telling a part of the story of east central Alberta.

Results

- Other groups considering setting up a regional-based tourism attraction could benefit from the project's experiences — visitor attraction, visitor pricing, operating costs, marketing strategies, partnerships all contain valuable insight.
- Development of a highly interactive website (www.visitcentralalberta.com) helps visitors map and build their own adventure as they plan their experience of regional attractions, history, sites and services. The site includes video footage, a map and a printable trip itinerary. The technology platform is easily transferable for other regions to use.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Excellence in education — Working in partnership with Alberta Learning Network, Buffalo Adventures developed a teacher resource — "*Experiencing History : The Bodo Aboriginal Historical Archaeological Site*" — for Alberta's social studies curriculum (grades 4, 5 & 7).
- A recognized tourist attraction — Buffalo Adventures is a recognized product by Travel Alberta.
- Only program of its kind in Alberta — The Bodo Public Archeology Program offers amateurs the opportunity to dig with an archaeologist in western Canada.

Impacts

- Establishment of GO EAST — a collaborative regional tourism organization focused on tourism marketing and development for communities east of Edmonton and across east central Alberta.

BUILDING LAND MANAGEMENT TOOLS



www.imagingcenter.ca

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Project Description

The project will;

- Develop new software to translate images of the earth into information useful for land management decisions
- Will demonstrate the high value of using new remote sensing technology for land management decision-making
- Deliver real-time and historical data and information (imaging, classification, quantification)

Expected Results

- Launch new products and services.
- Expand regional presentations to identify early adopters of technology to build a national market.
- Communicate success; demonstrate proof of concept, work, and champion early adopters.

Impacts

- Six pilot projects were initiated with government, post-secondary and industry (\$108,666).
- Thirteen early adopters were identified within government, post-secondary and industry.
- Television, radio, newspaper, and magazine interviews were completed. Six formal presentations were made to various organizations.
- Video production, website development and promotional pamphlets were created.
- With their strong ties with post-secondary institutions, they have provided a commercial platform for test marketing of products and tools that assist in the processing of satellite imagery analysis. For example, the commercialization of the Goniometer, developed at the University of Lethbridge. ATIC sub-contracted the U of L to build the Goniometer for the US Naval Research Laboratory. Additional interest from the US Naval Research for more units, which has led to interest from China and Turkey.

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR UNMANNED VEHICLES



www.ccuvs.com

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Ph: 403-488-7208

Email: info@ccuvs.com

Project Description

The CCUVS will become a nationally recognized centre of excellence to help coordinate and develop Canada's UVS industry. The project goals are:

- Develop a national centre, headquartered in Medicine Hat, to facilitate sustained, profitable growth in the Canadian unmanned systems sector
- Facilitate unmanned vehicle systems technology commercialization
- Develop standards to enable Canadian Government regulations for UVS training and certification facilities for UVS in rural Alberta
- Become Transport Canada's unmanned aircraft systems safety partner
- Develop centralized and affective government UVS teams, which will support industry and academic partnerships through standards, policy, market initiatives, and funding programs
- Facilitate networking within the Canadian UVS industry.

Impacts

- CCUVS is now considered by the expert press as one of the most important global centres for furthering the deployment of civil and commercial unmanned systems technologies.
- CCUVS continues to develop powerful and productive knowledge network around the world.
- As a result of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, is now becoming known by more people in the global unmanned systems community.
- The network enables the flow of international knowledge and best practices into the Province. It also enables direct economic impact such as on the export sales of goods and services and the inward investment for the benefit of Alberta and Canada.

CARMA – Central Alberta Rural Manufacturers Association



<http://www.carmagroup.ca/>

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Ph: 403-347-2276

Email: admin@carmagroup.ca

Project Description

The Central Alberta Rural Manufacturers Association ("CARMA") is the voice of manufacturing in Central Alberta. It is a network of innovative manufacturers of all sizes, from a wide range of industry sectors, who work together exploring new ways of enhancing productivity and improving bottom lines. CARMA members compare notes on local issues and the challenges of competing in an ever-changing, global marketplace.

Results

- This network is playing a key role in helping Red Deer area manufacturers collaborate, enhance productivity and commercialize innovations.
- The marketing network promotes growth, development, competitiveness and economic efficiencies amongst 250 identified manufacturing related companies in Red Deer and central Alberta.
- CARMA offers supply chain collaboration solutions, learning events and trade shows.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Published a 2012 Total Compensation Survey that is available to serve as a baseline in assisting manufacturers in determining their competitiveness in the area of overall compensation.
- Formed a partnership with the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters Association (CME), which has allowed CARMA members to become affiliate members of this national association and have all the services and benefits this national organization provides - at no additional cost.

Impacts

- This project is a great example of how collaboration of regional businesses in rural Alberta can lead to more national and global competitiveness.
- *"It's all about being able to bring value in some way to make your customer's life easier. To make your company able to manufacture products cheaper, better, quicker."* Mark Burggren, Senior Advisor, CARMA.

RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT – CHAIR



Contact: Dr. Scott Odie, Executive Director
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Project Description

Red Deer College and Alberta Health Services (AHS) are partners in a Health Research Collaborative (HRC), an applied research project between the two organizations. This rural health initiative identifies health needs and priorities in central Alberta and shares this new applied research with area physicians, residents, and service providers. Red Deer College manages the project through the supervision of a Rural Health Chair. The Chair oversees the research that tests, evaluates, and demonstrates innovative rural health practices.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

Although the project has not quite wrapped up, the following are the expected outcomes and benefits of this initiative:

- Enhance health-centered partnerships between researchers, industry, and communities
- Provide local access to innovative health programs and leading-edge applied research activities
- Help facilitate better health outcomes for rural residents
- Increase innovation and improve health service delivery in rural areas
- Improve connections between rural health researchers
- Involve more rural Albertans, faculty, and students in research projects. Examples include:
 - 37 formal agreements (16 informal agreements) are in place with rural applied researchers and rural health workers to collaborate and share information
 - 17 research projects involving rural Albertans have been launched; 37 more project agreements have been negotiated
 - 25 faculty members and 65 students are involved in rural health applied-research projects
 - 14 rural communities are involved in the research or related application of findings
- Give local physicians, residents, and service providers access to health programs tailored to rural health needs

CENTRE FOR RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY



www.circle-m.ca

Contact: Cam Harder, Director, CiRCLE M

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Project Description

This non-denominational program is using on-line tools and the underutilized infrastructure and capacity of rural churches as a base for training local citizens in peer mentorship, crisis intervention, and community and economic development. This leadership training program is specifically tailored for rural communities with populations under 10,000.

Results

- Rural clergy and lay leaders are trained in rural community development and stress intervention. They actively build community self-esteem and leadership capacity as they mobilize local resources to address community needs.
- Development of an on-line resource centre and tools
- Establishment of effective partnerships and networks

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Development of the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree – this doctorate degree is the only accredited theological degree on the Prairies and requires full hands-on involvement between ministry and community on building community capacity and economic development.
- Program was launched in Alberta through local community organizations in Camrose, Banff, Millet, New Brigid, Oyen and Wainwright.
- Community projects are diverse and include: capture of seniors' wisdom/stories, wellness survey among Alberta church leaders, trauma study in Mennonite and Aboriginal communities, ecological practices in rural communities, building community in a transient tourist town, mobilizing community response to privatization of crown pasture land, and social impacts of development in bedroom communities.

Impacts

- A parallel program is operating in Saskatchewan with the support of Saskatchewan investors.
- This program equips rural clergy and lay leaders to help revitalize rural communities.

CLOSER TO HOME



www.awwoa.ab.ca

Contact: John Voyer, Executive Director

Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association

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Program Description

Closer to Home is a province-wide succession, training and community capacity initiative aimed at attracting and retaining qualified water and wastewater operators, addressing the need for community-based solutions as the generational turnover of skilled water and wastewater operators becomes more prevalent. This project will train qualified candidates as operators up to an initial Level One certification standard, giving rural communities the competency to operate rural systems to regulated requirements. The project's framework focuses on succession planning, recruitment, retention, mentoring, outreach support, ongoing competency development and community education.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Every community will have opportunity to train its operators to meet mandated obligations to protect health of individuals, communities and environment
- Rural communities will build capacity to competently operate rural systems, meeting current and future standards and regulations
- Addresses the generation turnover of skilled water and wastewater operations personnel
- Communities will create, share and grow a pool of knowledge and skills supporting their sustainable water and wastewater utilities

Additional Benefits

- Educating communities the need for succession planning
- Ensures long-term capacity for operational capacity in smaller rural communities

Impacts

- Population retention in rural communities throughout the province
- Quality water and wastewater treatment

COLLABORATIVE DELIVERY OF FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING FOR RURAL LEARNERS



www.norquest.ca

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Project Description

This project will increase access to quality learning for rural learners in NorQuest's stewardship region and beyond through a technology-supported, collaborative delivery model. The Alberta Education curriculum will be tailored to the specific needs of the adult learners through an online content management system, instruction delivered through video conferencing and locally provided, and learner supports adapted to the learner needs. The model will increase flexibility to access foundational learning opportunities, specifically flexible part-time, pre-high school academic upgrading and intercultural education.

Expected Results

- Collaboration with (9) rural community learning organizations, including NorQuest regional learning sites, community adult and Aboriginal learning organizations to meet identified adult learning needs. (CALCS are-Camrose, Edson, Hinton, Hanna, Kilam, Olds, Rocky Mountain House, Stettler and Vegreville)
- There will be (4) content streams offered; *pre-high school math, language and essential skills, Aboriginal literacy, and an intercultural education stream.*
- Develop the organizational and technical capacity of participating learning organizations to use SOLARO within their community.
- The model will combine SOLARO (Student-Oriented Learning, Assessment and Remediation Online) and videoconferencing delivery technology with a centralized instructional and rural community learner support model.

Impacts

- Completion of Math Pilot, Dec 14/12. Total of 32 students enrolled; 30 pre-algebra and 2-high school math prep.
- *English Language Arts, Gaining Skills for Employment and Academics, and Intercultural Communication Practitioners Certificate*; all launched in January, 2013.

COMMON GROUND



www.anfca.com

Contact: Executive Director, Alberta Native Friendships Centres Association (ANFCA)

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Project Description

Common Ground is an Aboriginal community-driven initiative that provides a process and resources to help local municipal governments and Aboriginal groups find common starting points for dialogue and action – in order to better address community needs. Based on the Medicine Wheel model, the process has four steps:

- Exploring issues/listening
- Identifying shared interests or priorities/learning
- Creating options/planning
- Committing to agreements or relationships/doing

Results

- Evaluation and validation of an Aboriginal capacity-building, community driven process that utilizes traditional Aboriginal perspectives, customs, practices and protocols to engage broad and diverse stakeholders in collaboratively identifying key community priorities, developing action plans, and establishing long-term relationship agreements.
- Development of a comprehensive Facilitator's Resource Manual that was widely distributed to 20 Alberta Friendship Centres and municipalities, 50 Common Ground stakeholder and project partners, the National Association of Friendship Centres, 13 provincial territorial Friendship Centre Associations, and provincial steering committee members.
- Pilot communities included High Prairie, Slave Lake, Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Relationship plans were developed and implemented.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- The Common Ground process was successful in increasing Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal collaboration as well as interagency collaboration in the four communities. This was evidenced through participation in community forums, steering committees and action committees.

Impacts

- Common Ground process addresses and removes issues that often cause Aboriginal groups and municipalities to abandon efforts to reach agreements and act on community priorities.

COMMUNITIES LEADING REGIONAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION (CLR3)



www.heartsforhealthcare.ca

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Email: heartsforhealthcare@coldlakechamber.ca

Project Description

The CLR3 project developed a long-term, permanent recruitment and retention model focused on, but not limited to, attracting physicians and skilled healthcare workers in the northeast Alberta region. Through development of a coalition process all available regional community resources were analyzed, optimized, and mobilized to provide hand-in-hand support for recruiting professional candidates and their families.

Results

- Establishment of a regional, multi-community inclusive coalition (Hearts for Healthcare) that acts as the administrative infrastructure providing systematic processes and coordinated operations
- Creation of a salaried coordinator position; the coordinator acts as the centralized point of contact between coalition members, health professionals and Alberta Health Services
- Coordinator's role as spousal/family liaison has been vital to being able to retain physicians (i.e. spousal career opportunities, travel and accommodation arrangements, social/education/religious networks)

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Increased ability to attract professionals in all disciplines through supportive specialized medical services and access to healthcare in general
- Improved staff morale at hospital and healthcare facility
- Created community awareness of local healthcare challenges
- Hosted medical student practicum to promote rural Alberta and small community medicine
- Secured approximately 1 million dollars in donations over a 3-year period
- The coalition became a registered non-profit society with charitable status (the Society is able to accept donations and issue taxable receipts to donors)

Impacts

- Attracted new and innovative medical services (e.g. CT Scanner)
- Reduced need for travel to larger centers for medical services, especially for seniors
- Provided Cold Lake with a stronger unified voice with society members participating on regional Health Advisory Board

COMPOSITE TRAIN GRADING



<http://www.battleriverrailway.ca/>

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Email: peter@BattleRiverRailway.ca - Sales

Email: kenesh@xplornet.com - Public Enquiries

Project Description

Battle River Railway brings improved grain marketing opportunities through new technology and advanced programming in composite train grading, identity preservation and tracking. Composite train grading allows regional farmers to customize grain shipments to best meet customer requirements, thereby optimizing the grain's value.

Results

- Composite blending passes value back to Battle River Railway users through a number of channels:
 - Producers know, in advance of loading, what grade they will be paid.
 - On-farm 'virtual' blending of producer's grain ensures maximum value is passed back to the producer.
 - On-farm inventory tracking.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- All the usual benefits of loading producer cars –no elevator fees, lower cleaning fees, shorter hauling distances, no elevator line-ups, supporting local business.

Impacts

- Within two crop years (August 2010 to July 2012) the total net increase in profits to farmers utilizing Composite Train Grading technology was \$667,000.
- Producers incur significant savings through reduced transportation costs — on average 72% shorter distances travelled to deliver grain which resulted in fuel consumption savings of 28,000 litres/year.

CREATING HOME – RECLAIMING THE SELF



www.bluequills.ca/log-homes

Contact: Ralph Bodor, Team Lead or Tina Houle, CFO

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Project Description

Creating Home – Reclaiming the Self is a social enterprise program aimed at helping Aboriginal youth address issues of chronic unemployment, insufficient housing, substance abuse and overall well-being. The Blue Quills First Nations College, along with its seven member bands, deliver the program through classroom and experiential teachings grounded with an Indigenous approach to holistic healing.

Results

- Provides business training and hands-on trades training in constructing solid timber, log-frame modular homes that is combined with program support in maintaining an addiction-free lifestyle to at-risk participants.
- Foundational pieces of the training pillars are in place and working well

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Provides communities and cottage owners with access to low cost housing alternatives.
- Four log-homes constructed and available for sale.

Impacts

- Project focuses on issues of addictions and healing while concurrently meeting economic development, education, infrastructure and housing needs
- Creates employment opportunities and increases number of skilled trades people, leading to stronger community capacity
- Creates opportunities for rural business incubators and retention/attraction of rural business, investment capital and labour

CREATING PATHWAYS



www.business.ualberta.ca/Centres/ABFI.aspx

Contact: Shauna Feth, Executive Director

Alberta Business Family Institute

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Project Description:

The ABFI is an institute under the School of Business that specializes in providing unique and customized educational programs, mentoring, and resources to current and future generations of entrepreneurial families and their trusted advisors. In rural Alberta, family enterprises are the largest and most significant group of business owners. Demographics suggest that with an aging entrepreneurial/family business sector, there is a looming transition of business and asset wealth, perhaps the largest in history. Despite the dominance on entrepreneurial families in rural Alberta, very few resources exist to assist families with planning the transition of assets, ownership and leadership. The ABFI is filling this gap by providing a unique suite of training and mentorship programs to the rural Alberta entrepreneurial/family business sector. Particular focus is on mitigating the risks associated with the transition through appropriate training and mentoring and through the development of comprehensive succession plans.

Benefits and Outcomes

- The proponent delivered the Family Business toolkit to 27 Community Futures sites in Alberta and included information on ABFI programs, services, and resource library to a total of 367 families and youths.
- Developed programs such as: Passing the Torch – 12 Steps of Succession Planning, and The Trusted Advisor.
- Provide support for the business family in identifying philanthropic goals that will have a direct impact on their rural communities.
- Supporting the next generation in identifying opportunities to remain in the rural business and in turn supporting the local economy.

Impacts

- More cornerstone businesses are retained in rural communities.
- More philanthropic investment in rural communities.
- More retention of next generation in rural communities.
- More opportunities for non-family employment and advancement.
- More success in sustaining thriving and prosperous rural communities.
- More economic resources remain in the hands of Albertan's as opposed to being sold internationally.

DEVELOPING A CREATIVE CAMPUS



www.yraf.com

Contact: Christina Johns, Executive Director, Creative Campus

Yellowhead Regional Arts Festival Society

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Project Description

The Yellowhead Regional Arts Festival Society (YRAF) proposes a two year pilot project to develop a regional cultural-based Creative Campus, which will bring together rural and small urban arts and culture organizations within the West Yellowhead Region. This will develop a vibrant and sustainable regional arts and culture delivery system.

Key supporters are; the Municipality of Jasper, Town of Grande Cache, Town of Hinton, Yellowhead County and Teck Coal Limited.

Expected Results

- Rural economic growth with a more diversified economic base (growth in fine arts in the hub of Hinton).
- A new 'leg' of economic sustainability to build on the existing pillars of Forestry, Coal, Mining, Oil and Gas and emerging Tourism.
- A fine arts school in the hub of Hinton, with satellite classrooms, offering workshops and classes throughout the year, and five day courses in the summer months.
- A more widely subscribed and more ethnically diverse regional arts festival, with events occurring and supported by each of the above mentioned communities.

Impacts

- The West Yellowhead Region is becoming well known as a vibrant arts and cultural community.
- More choral groups have started or increased their memberships and artists are choosing to stay and create art in the region.
- Both Jasper and Hinton have secured places for arts activities in the community.
- Edson Council has approved in principle, a large scale performing arts venue to be built in the next few years.

GREATER EDMONTON RURAL TOURISM PROGRAM



www.edmontonscountryside.com

Contact: Alexis Nelson, Edmonton Regional Tourism Group

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Project Description

Edmonton Regional Tourism Group (ERTG) was originally established in 1997 as a volunteer group, involving 23 municipalities surrounding Greater Edmonton. Its purpose was to promote rural tourism day trip activities outside metro Edmonton. With this project, the ERTG was able to move to the next level in product sector development and effective marketing programs for the region's tourism industry.

Results

- Completed a groundbreaking Land Use Study pilot project for agri-tourism, with Sturgeon County adopting the recommendations into their Municipal Sustainability Development Plan.
- An automated Economic Impact Model was developed and is now available across Alberta.
- Development of a six-month intensive "Grow your Business" Recommended Experiences Business Certification Program, with a focus on rural operators completing a quality assurance program that excels in customer services, sustainability, and Edmonton Countryside knowledge.
- Since 2010, 33 rural business owners graduated from the program and have been successful in taking their business to the next level. Graduates report substantial increases in business revenues and number of visitors.
- Extensive progress was made towards promoting and marketing tourism opportunities of small rural tourism and agri-business operators in Edmonton's countryside. Examples of such businesses include bed & breakfasts, U-picks, greenhouses, farm tours and cultural/historic venues, and rural businesses of all types.
- Incorporation of ERTG into a Chapter 9 Not-for-Profit Company, the hiring of a full-time Regional Tourism Manager, contracting of tourism experts, and the commitment of 23 municipalities to provide long-term funding for tourism marketing activities.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- From 2008 to 2010, 9 new start-up rural tourism businesses.
- Today, three other surrounding municipalities are interested in bringing the Recommended Experiences Program to their communities.

Impacts

- In 2008, visitors from Edmonton spent more than \$98.8 million in direct tourism dollars in Edmonton's Countryside. That same year, 1,695 people worked in Edmonton's Countryside in direct tourism.

EMPOWERING RENEWABLE ENERGY CLUSTERS USING RENEWABLE ENERGY CO-OPS



www.southgrow.com

Contact: Shilpa Stocker, Project Manager

SouthGrow Regional Initiative

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Program Description

SouthGrow will lead the “Empowering Renewable Energy Clusters in the SouthGrow Region Using Renewable Energy Co-ops” by building community capacity to develop municipal/community driven renewable energy initiatives through the development of rural renewable energy clusters and the development of rural renewable energy clusters and the development of a rural renewable energy cop-ops based on these clusters.

In order to poise communities to embrace renewable energy projects in a collaborative fashion the project will entail an in-depth analysis of the Community Renewable Energy Assessments currently being conducted in the 22 SouthGrow communities. The analysis will result in the development of rural renewable energy clusters which will eventually form the basis for Renewable Energy Co-ops.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Trends and opportunities are identified for renewable energy clusters
- Clusters are mapped for development
- Key members are training for cluster development
- Diversified economies
- Best practice model developed
- Renewable energy toolkits will become available.

Additional Benefits

- Knowledge transfer in best practices model for renewable energy clusters

Impacts

- Community co-op development and collaboration
- Diversified energy sources
- Enhanced attraction for investment in the renewable energy industry within the communities

ENGAGING TRADITIONS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH



www.willmorewilderness.com

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Email: info@willmorewilderness.com

Project Description

Willmore Wilderness Park is a 4600 square kilometer wilderness area adjacent to the Jasper National Park. There are no public roads, bridges or buildings. Transportation within the park is only by foot, horse, mountain bike or skis.

The traditional businesses (guiding, outfitting and backcountry lodges) in and adjacent to the park are operating under capacity and require the creation of awareness of the area, training and skill development to bring the operators of this specialized industry into the 21st century.

This project will nurture these traditional businesses by helping them make the transition into the global economy. It will enhance the profile and marketability of the Park and build economic opportunities for the traditional businesses that have operated in the area for generations.

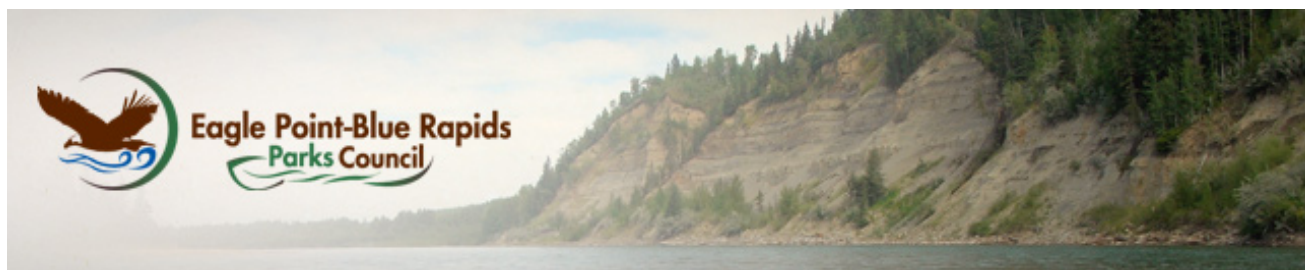
Expected Results

- Development of a regional identity/vision
- North Eastern Slopes Operating Committee-development of cultural, traditional and historical mountain ecotourism products
- HDTV documentaries, training videos, and social media development-to create awareness in the short-term, utilizing social media. And for the long-term awareness, the development of (4) one-hour documentaries and (4) seven minute training modules to be used by outfitters/guides.
- Development of Willmore Warrior Youth Mentoring program.

Impacts

- *The Women of Willmore* movie will be premiered April 10 in Banff at the Whyte Museum.
- (4)-seven minute training modules are in post-production: *Packhorse Pete on Diamond Hitch*, *Packhorse Pete on Packing Boxes & Packing Horses*, *Horsemanship with Larry Nelles 1 & 2*.

EAGLE POINT - BLUE RAPIDS RECREATION PARTNERSHIP



www.epbrparkscouncil.org

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Project Description

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Parks Council represents a unique partnership between the Government of Alberta and the local community, who work hand-in-hand on the planning, management and funding of the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. Local stakeholders, the Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County, along with industry, recreation and environmental organizations are involved in decisions on how the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System will meet the needs of Albertans.

Results

- The Parks Council, with support from the Government of Alberta, developed a draft Management Plan for the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. The content of the draft Management Plan was created collaboratively through extensive public consultation with target audiences, organizations, and members of the public.
- The Management Plan, which was officially approved by the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation on April 11, 2011, will be used to guide the preservation and recreation in the Park System for the next ten years.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- This project focuses on drawing more employment, tourism and investment to the Drayton Valley region.
- The project is a great example of how rural Alberta can diversify its economy in tourism while meeting the unique environmental needs of an area.

Impacts

- This parks initiative is not only good for Drayton Valley, but for other rural Alberta communities because it models what needs to be done to find community-based solutions to issues.
- The process of how the community was involved and engaged in the development of the community-based Management Plan has attracted international attention. A visiting delegation from Matagalpa, Nicaragua is also looking at a number of issues including gender equity, diversification of the economy, the promotion of eco-tourism related destinations and the conservation and protection of natural resources — in response, EP-BR Parks Council Management Plan is being transferred into Spanish as a Case Study in Best Practices.

FAMILY SERVICE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION



www.treaty8.org

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Project Description

In 2003, the Chiefs of the Treaty 8 First Nations mandated Children's Agenda. There was a need identified by the member communities to address the 'stovepipe' federal/provincial programming that is delivered to the First Nations people that is complicated, inefficient and difficult to navigate. The intent of Children's Agenda is to enhance the well-being and healthy development of Treaty 8 children and families.

The development of the draft 'Family Service Delivery Framework' was completed as Phase 1 of the Children's Agenda. Phase 2, which is the request to RADF, will be the implementation, test and evaluation of the draft Framework at the First Nation level. The work completed in (3) test sites will provide the important lessons learned to further refine the final versions of the Framework for all (24) First Nations communities.

Expected Results

- Increase participation of toddlers in quality learning experiences.
- Increase participation of youth in sustainable, youth driven programming, including skill development and work experience opportunities.
- Increased graduation rates.
- New and innovative programming and community planning opportunities through the multi-disciplinary team.

Impact

- Three test sites of *Bigstone Cree Nation, Loon River FN, and Sucker Creek FN*, all have Youth Councils formalized, Terms of Reference and non-profit society status completed.
- All three test sites have Family Service delivery system implemented as per community plan. *Bigstone Cree-Integration of Early Childhood Learning, Sucker Creek-Aboriginal Head Start program and Loon River-Maternal Child Health program.*

FARM MASTERS



www.farmon.com

Contact: Jackie Northey, Executive Director, International FarmOn Foundation

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Project Description

Farm Masters seeks to inspire young farmers by equipping them with the tools, knowledge and skills needed to increase their profitability and to ensure business success. The Farm Masters program is a web-based distributed learning platform that integrates existing business and financial training resources with the latest in social media technology.

Results

- Development of a highly integrated social media web platform that focuses on development of business skills, critical thinking, leadership qualities and peer networking opportunities.
- Young farmers have access to training, mentoring, supports and resources irrespective of time and location.
- Registered users have direct access to experts/professionals in agribusiness who willingly share their wealth of expertise.
- Users have on-line access to more than 100 agribusiness-related workshop videos, with new content being added continually, such as financial management, marketing, production and entrepreneurship.
- Resources focus on real-life stories of business owners who have learned from experience on what does and does not work.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Several individuals are pursuing development of business plans with support from the Farm Masters online facilitator.
- “Dear Luke” video focuses on recognizing one’s own skills and strengths while employing a team of successful people with the right skills to make for the required expertise.

Impacts

- Demand for resources continues to be high, with numbers of users increasing dramatically.

FINISHING THE DREAM



www.finishingthedream.ca

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Project Description

The project is two interrelated components; the (12) Community Engagement Sites (CES) and the supporting Olds Extended Community Engagement Site.

- Establishing 12 Community Engagement Sites. This component will provide 'service hubs' in 12 communities where citizens can access broadband technology, learning applications and support.
- Establishing the Olds Extended Community Engagement Site; the network of CES's will be connected to the Bell e-learning Centre-a Community Learning Campus facility located at Olds College, and a program delivery hub.

Expected Results

- Establish Community Engagement Sites (service hubs) where the public could access broadband services and support. *Fourteen CES's were opened in Central Alberta; Bowden, Delburne, Cremona, Sundre, Elnora, Red Deer, Olds, Spruce View, Carstairs, Innisfail, Didsbury, Penhold, Sylvan Lake and with the Sunchild E-Learning community.*
- Building a culture of use through demonstrating the value of employing this technology. The program areas were; science and technology, health, education & professional development, business and community arts.
- Participants were provided with services they were not currently receiving and the programming met the needs of the community.

Impacts

- There was greater engagement between communities, partnerships formed and sharing of ideas, programming opportunities and information.
- For the Olds Library CES; foot traffic increased 55%, with 5500 people accessing the site per month.
- A total of 16,508 rural members' accessed courses and programming through the 12 CES's over the three years of the project.

FOOD PROCESSING/FOOD SCIENCE TRAINING FACILITY



www.portagecollege.ca

Contact: Paul Pelletier, Manager Food Sciences Centre

Portage College

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Email: paul.pelletier@portagecollege.ca

Program Description

This processing facility will become the catalyst for the establishment of a regional food industry to grow in the region. The purpose of the project is to provide a new and innovative teaching facility in the northeast sector of the province. The facility will also address the lack of processing capacity and to provide unique training opportunities for the youth; students will be able to learn food sciences from real world producers. As well, real world producers will have access to the food sciences required to make their products retail ready. There are two main goals for the project:

1. Provide local food growers access to a fully functional micro food processor which meets all federal and provincial regulations.
2. Create a local workforce trained in food sciences for up to 140 post-secondary students annually.

Portage College brings the educational component and Community Futures brings the technical business expertise that will be required to mentor and coach prospective new companies in the region.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Establish a regional food processing facility that is available for local producers/businesses to process their products for the retail market.
- Provide a training facility for students to obtain hands-on experience in this industry. Become a catalyst for the development of a regional food industry.
- Create new food sciences programming unique to the region, which has 45 full time science students per year in various programs. Once all programs are running, enrollment is anticipated to be over 140 students in the certificate, diploma or degree programs.
- 15 local users of the business incubator facility each month.

Additional Benefits

- Food processing and commercialization opportunities for local “chefs”

Impacts

- Population retention by servicing the food science industry in the region
- Access to food processing commercialization in northern Alberta

FORESTRY TRAINING PROGRAM



www.w-o-l-f.ca

Contact: Dave Blackmore, Executive Director, Woodlands Operations Learning Foundation

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Email: dave.blackmore@telus.net

Project Description

WOLF develops and delivers training and certification to individuals, companies and businesses that have a share in the future of the forest industry in Western Canada. For this project, simulation equipment is essential to the project. Simulation training develops hand eye coordination that is critical for machine operators to work safely and productively before their real world training begins. This type of training can be delivered at a lower cost, and without the environmental or personal risk.

Expected Results

- To capture the best practices for safe, environmentally sound and operationally efficient forest resource development practice in its curriculum development.
- Increase availability and quality of forest equipment simulation training.
- Recruitment of students in this field.

Impacts

- Northern Lakes College adapted the WOLF curriculum for use in their Woodland Equipment Operator 12 week program and the Forestry Harvest Technician (FHT) eight month courses. Each of these courses leads into each other and into the NAIT Forest Technologist two year diploma programs.
- The development of the dual credit program will allow secondary students to receive both high school diploma credits and credits towards the FHT certificate.
- More and better health and safety training will reduce the risk of personal injury and lower associated costs.
- State of the art education for environmental understanding will ensure better environmental management of Alberta's forests.
- Business and operational training will assist the forest industry compete in the global markets, keeping the forested communities viable.

GAER's RESPONSE TO THE MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE



Please note; the project for RADF was completed Aug 31, 2011. Unfortunately, the GAER organization dissolved in March, 2012 and the overall project was unable to continue and be sustainable.

Project Description

In 2006-07, the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation was just one of many negative factors affecting the forestry industry in the region. Economic diversification was the solution for a community who relied heavily on this industry. The project goals include developing new, value-added industries, which could take advantage of the excess or beetle-killed lumber, as well as bolstering and finding new avenues for traditional, established industries in the region.

Expected Results

- Increase community capacity building
- Increase economic development and diversification opportunities
- Increase collaboration and partnerships
- Build internal capacity
- Continue development of the tourism sector
- Become a full service, fully-integrated agency

Impacts

- GAER was successful in engaging its stakeholders and focused on how the project could help with capacity gaps and providing solutions.
- (12) Individual Community Economic Development plans were completed. From these individual plans, the Regional Economic Diversification plan was developed and common themes identified.
- Development of Brazeau County's 100km Kitchen project during the course of the program. The women involved are launching a separate co-operative business.
- GAER partnered with Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation to complete a Tourism Investment Study. They also partnered with Alberta TrailNet to develop three maps: Northern Rockies, Grande Alberta South and Grande Alberta North.

GEOTOURISM SERVICES PRODUCT



www.geotourismcanada.com

Contact: Gary Christopherson, Director, GeoTourism Canada

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Project Description

Geotourism Canada will create a series of travel/activity guides (field guides) to describe +800 tourist sites in northern rural Alberta. These field guides will address the issue of attracting tourists to rural places. They will also provide recreational and educational opportunities.

Expected Results

- Increase tourism and associated revenue (\$150 gross revenue per each site visit and if each site visit attracted 1 visitor per week this would realize \$516,000 per month).
- Direct employment for 5 staff and contract income for up to 35 researchers and 2 part-time field workers.
- Showcase segments of rural Alberta for tourism purposes.
- Become a model for geotourism projects in other regions of Alberta.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- The identification of the novel *Mrs. Mike* as a significant tourism opportunity.
- The *York Boat* as an educational asset to teach northerners and aboriginal peoples their history.
- The importance of *A Taste of Alberta* as an asset to market Alberta's agricultural products.
- Turning historical & natural history sites into economic assets and the re-examination of historical sites from the perspective of tourism;
 - GTC discovered the location of the only known *Revillon Frères* fur trade post in Western Canada.
 - Vermilion Falls-it was discovered that Northern Alberta possesses the widest waterfall in North America and the or widest waterfall in the world.
 - Alberta's first highway map – GTC found a rare copy of Alberta's first highway touring map, one of only four other copies in the world.

Impacts

- The *Mrs. Mike Literary Tourism initiative*-linking 25 communities in Alberta and 24 outside the province.
- *Voyage of the York Boat 2011 & 2012*: voyages were 540 km long and took over two weeks to complete.
- The project identified 868 tourism sites, distributed amongst 235 communities. Each site is both a stand-alone site and part of a larger field guide to sites with similar themes. Forty guides were written, such as *Paddling the Peace*, *Haunted Heritage*, *Alberta's Amazing Mazes* and *A Taste of Alberta*.

GROWING A CULTURE OF INNOVATION IN NORTHWEST ALBERTA



www.TheCRI.ca

Contact: Bruce Rutley, Director, Centre for Research & Innovation

Grande Prairie Regional College

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Project Description

The Centre for Research & Innovation is a partnership between the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance and the Grande Prairie Regional College. Operations are from GPRC with a storefront location at Centre 2000 (Grande Prairie) for all innovation services and inquiries. Also, provide research and innovation resources within the region.

The mission is to facilitate rural innovation through education and by linking entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders to researchers, scientists, business and market development specialists and mentors.

Part of the purpose of the project is to inspire a “culture of innovation” that will shift the Peace Region’s dependence on a natural resource base economy to a knowledge based economy.

Impacts

- Creation of transferable best practices model for innovation services.
- Provide direct learning and influence and guide programs for innovation training for industry, colleges and schools.
- Advancement of regional expertise development and support an effective transfer of ideas and innovation to economic value.
- Creation of a network of SME’s, innovation ambassadors, points of access to angel and venture capital. Increased innovation capacity and create a robust system of innovation services for rural innovators.
- Development of commercialization strategies to match-make inventors and researchers to capital and the sale and licensing of intellectual property.
- Over the course of the project; *248 clients were met, 25 innovators advanced their ideas, 22 patents were filed and 2 patents were issued.*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



www.hfh.org

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Project Description

The Northern Development Project was designed to meet the expressed need for affordable home ownership in rural communities by training local committees to implement and sustain a transferable and affordable home ownership program to assist hard-working families. This project promoted and developed the infrastructure for rural communities to accomplish that purpose.

Results

- The Habitat for Humanity system, which was modified for rural communities, is in place. Rural communities can now access the knowledge, resources and infrastructure they need to establish their own Habitat for Humanity programs.
- Habitat for Humanity now acts as a consultant to help rural communities. Legal implications and needed accounting structure remains part of Habitat for Humanity's corporate offerings, thereby freeing up rural communities to focus at the grassroots level to identify need and begin construction.
- Pilot projects carried out in northern Alberta were very successful. During the project timeframe, 15 northern Alberta communities and their respective committees were equipped with the knowledge, tools and resources to carry out a successful Habitat for Humanity program. Six of these communities have successfully executed the program or are in the process of implementation.
- Communities reached include: Barrhead, Edson, Hinton, Wetaskiwin, Whitecourt, Cold Lake, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Rocky Mountain House, Vermilion, Wainwright, Slave lake, Peace River, New Sarepta, Westlock, Thorsby, Lac La Biche, St Paul and Athabasca.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Skills learned by participating communities allow them to build affordable housing for low-income families in their own communities using the Habitat for Humanity model.
- The program continues to grow on a self-sustaining basis.
- An example of how a successful big city program can be modified to work in rural communities.

Impacts

- Other rural communities can adopt this 'made for rural Alberta' housing model.

HIGH LEVEL OUTREACH PROGRAM



ACTION NORTH
Recovery Centre

**Contact: Rick Isaacs, Senior Counsellor, 10 005 House Society
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Project Description

Ten Thousand Five House Society had been operating a successful overnight shelter, providing a safe and secure environment for the homeless population in High Level. The goal of the Society is to provide an outreach program, which does not currently exist, for this population. The proposed programming will operate during the daytime hours to allow for 24 hour service provision. The program will provide two outreach workers for the shelter facility on a daily basis. This will allow for consistency in daytime operations that other community groups can build on.

Results

- Decrease client contacts with the Justice System by 25% over the term of the project.
- Increase client contacts with preventative and proactive community services.
- Promote long-term assistance with addiction and mental health issues.
- Increase positive employment opportunities and promote fair pay.

Impacts

- The outreach program was able to refer (39) individuals to detoxification services and an additional (13) to addictions treatment centres. To date, the Society is aware of (10) individuals who have maintained sobriety and are employed in the community.
- The economic impact of removing individuals off the streets is calculated at \$110,000/individual. There is also the benefit of an additional \$50,000/individual who becomes employed. Therefore, 10,005 House assisted (10) individuals seek healthier lifestyles and provided an economic benefit of approximately \$1,050,000 annually.

HIGH PRAIRIE REGIONAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



www.northernlakescollege.ca

Contact: Brad Hestbak, Senior Director External Relations, Northern Lakes College

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Email: Hestbak@northernlakescollege.ca

Project Description

This project will help meet the training needs of rural northern communities, including First Nation, Métis and non-aboriginal people; and the longer term economic sustainability of rural Alberta. This will be through an innovative partnership between Northern Lakes College and Tolko Industries. The main focus of the project will be the engagement of CTS students from regional school districts to participate in dual-credit high school/college programming. The Tolko mill in High Prairie will provide the lab space in which trainees will receive hands-on experience within an industrial setting.

Expected Results

- Hiring of additional instructional staff, project coordinator, RAP coordinator, Dual Credit Coordinator, and admin assistant.
- Set-up of training space. Work with mill staff on safety protocols, training activities, and operational requirements.
- Curriculum development (plant process operator).
- Three semesters of training; maximum 14 students in each trade per semester (electrician, welder, millwright, and process operator).
- There will be 40 power engineering students during the entire length of the project.
- Pre-employment training for 10 individuals in each trade will be available.

Impacts

- Program started September, 2012 with (8) welding, (8) millwright, and (28) power engineering students.
- +150 students from regional schools have toured the mill and/or have been introduced to the trades with hands-on participation.
- Enrolment for the second semester will begin in February, 2013.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT RURAL EXPANSION PROJECT



www.southern-alberta.jacan.org

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Project Description

Junior Achievement in Alberta provides training in personal finance, business, entrepreneurship, and career development to students in Grades 3-12, mainly in Calgary and Edmonton. This project took a large step forward in meeting the rural demand for Junior Achievement programs. For the first time, Junior Achievement was taken outside of major cities and piloted in several rural Alberta communities.

Results

- Twelve rural centres were established – Hinton, Edson, Grande Prairie, Lloydminster, Westlock, Fort McMurray, Brooks, East Central Alberta, Cochrane, Foothills, Strathmore, Airdrie.
- Enrolment was much higher than expected. During the first year, programming was delivered to 7,000 students in 292 classes.
- Over a three-year period 23,416 students were reached. In addition to educating hundreds of students about business, finance, entrepreneurship, and career development, Junior Achievement recruited and trained volunteers. More than 1150 volunteers were engaged with a base of over 500 rural volunteers trained to facilitate Junior Achievement programs.
- Junior Achievement was able to build a sustainable framework to increase delivery of its programs throughout Alberta.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- The development of eight Rural Leadership Councils allows key stakeholders from local communities to be part of the learning and execution of programming in their community.

Impacts

- Rural students have access to entrepreneurship, financial literacy and management coaching and training that was not available before.

KILLAM REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



www.town.killam.ab.ca/business_economic_development

Contact: Bill Gibb, President, Killam and District Business Development Association

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Project Description

Operating out of the Flagstaff District, this project was funded with the intent to influence and diversify agriculture business. Potential value-added businesses were identified and screened, with the most likely prospects approached and enticed to locate in the area. Industries targeted include ethanol and biodiesel processing facilities, a commercial food and food supplement greenhouse, a bio-mass refinery, and flaxseed production facilities.

Results

- Working as a single source of contact, the committee provides regional expertise in the areas of government, education, manpower, environmental, planning and regulatory, taxation, waste management, utilities, feedstock source for standard and custom requirements, housing and services, and much more.
- The project, which kicked off in August 2007 and ended in June 2008, resulted in increased diversification of crops, additional annual straw usage (50,000 to 150,000 tonnes), with an additional crop revenue of \$2.5 to \$7.5 million.
- Agribusiness is being attracted to the region, with NovaGreen locating a commercial refinery in the region. The refinery uses feedstock source to produce next-generation bio-refined products such as ethanol, sugar substitute xylitol, bio-refined lignins for use in bio-plastic and agricultural value-added products.
- The development of a multi-marketing kit provides prospective businesses with focused, customized information designed to help them make fully informed decisions regarding the location of their agri-business.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- In 2011, NovaGreen Inc. along with its consortium members Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures and Battle River Agri-Ventures Co-operative (BRAV-C) received \$1.823 million in federal funding towards innovative clean technologies.

Impacts

- Nova Green Inc., an Alberta-based specialty refinery that aims to make high-value nutritional and environmental products from low-value agricultural biomass, is poised to become North America's only producer of inulin in the next 24 months. *Excerpt from Nova Green "In the News" Apr 2012.*

KNOWLEDGE CONNECTOR: RURAL VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP



www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca

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Volunteer Alberta

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Project Description

The KnowledgeConnector Project is led by Volunteer Alberta in partnership with Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, Community Development Branch, with support from the Community Learning Network and volunteer centres across the province. The ASK Leadership Assessment Framework and Tool provides a comprehensive list of; attitudes, skills and knowledge (competencies) required to be an effective leader in the non-profit/voluntary sector.

A one-stop portal (knowledgeconnector.ca) was developed to enable Nonprofit/Voluntary Sectors (NPVS) leaders to connect directly with learning providers who offer professional development opportunities. A team of trained individuals (Regional Capacity Coordinators) worked with the rural NPVS organizations throughout Alberta to assess their individual leadership competencies and identify learning and development opportunities.

Outcomes and Benefits

RADF funding wrapped up in 2012; however, the Knowledge Connector initiative still remains strong. The following are some of the outcomes and benefits of this project:

- The ASK Leadership Framework identified six competency areas: Self-Awareness and Development; Strategic Thinking; Big Picture Thinking; Relationship Building; Management and Governance; Planning and Organizing.
- The KnowledgeConnector.ca website functions as a one-stop portal that links learners to learning and development opportunities and for the voluntary sector.
- There are currently over 80 learning providers participating on the KnowledgeConnector.ca website averaging over 40 learning opportunities posted per week.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROJECT: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



www.learning-communities.ca

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Project Description

Learning Communities provides unique learning opportunities for people living in Aboriginal communities in northern and remote Alberta. Working at the grassroots level, the initiative is creating a system of student supports, community-based education databases and access to e-learning opportunities based on the community's needs.

Results

- This program is working with Aboriginal communities to find educational programming that works for them. What's really innovative is whatever services are being offered are based on real world feedback and input from the targeted students.
- Aboriginal Mentor Circle and Learner Support Network was developed and is being implemented.
- In the past six months (July to December 2012), 741 learners have enrolled in some form of post-secondary education. Programs range from certificates/diplomas to trades training to university degrees.
- Education services are responding to local interests and building on people's existing education levels and professional or life experiences. A total of 23 Aboriginal communities are taking part in the project.
- Statistics indicate the project is reaching a very obvious need for learning and skill development and that the methods and processes being introduced are resonating with many communities.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Increases community capacity and quality of life of rural community learners.
- Expands learning and skills development in northern and rural remote communities of Alberta.

Impacts

- Establishes an innovative education model that can be adapted by other rural Alberta communities.

LINKAGES RURAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE -- DEVELOPING INTEGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS IN RURAL ALBERTA



www.link-ages.ca

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Email: info@link-ages.ca

Project Description

This project links seniors with young people in rural communities across Alberta. It gives seniors more opportunities to engage with their communities, while providing rural youth with leadership, communication, volunteer, and life skills experiences. Local youth and senior support agencies are given training, print resources, and consultation support to operate independently.

Results

- Resources and tools are now available online providing smaller rural communities with instantaneous, effective and cost-efficient ways to connect with other organizations interested in intergenerational programs.
- Small towns are able to put into action intergenerational programs based on Best Practices and theory. Over a two-year period, close to a dozen communities benefitted from the initial training to develop their own intergenerational programs.

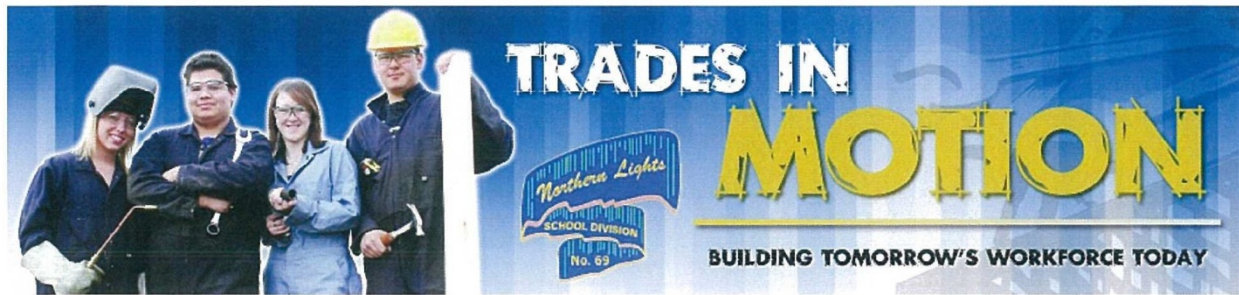
Additional Benefits of the Project

- This project is an innovative model of how rural service providers can increase interactions between generations and at the same time decrease stereotypical views of youth and seniors.

Impacts

- LINKages is now officially recognized as an expert in the field of intergenerational practice – bridging the gap between knowledge, information and implementation.

MOBILE TRADES FOUNDATION



www.nlsd.ab.ca

Contact: Dean Bischke or Ruth Isley, Northern Lights School Division

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Project Description

Mobile Trades Foundation Program introduces hands-on trades training at an earlier age to encourage students (grades 7 to 9) who may be at-risk of dropping out of school to pursue a career path in the trades. Piloted by Northern Lights School Division, the curriculum is supported by a mobile teaching and training centre that travels from school to school. The program began in the 2009-10 school year.

Results

- Development of a trades curriculum targeted at rural youth in grades 7 to 9
 - Trades in Motion curriculum
 - Introduction to Apprenticeship Curriculum Resource (a series of lesson plans familiarizing students with apprenticeship, work experience, RAP, and trades training)
 - Introduction to Welding Curriculum Resource (lesson plan exemplar for Journeyman welding instructors and/or CTS teachers).
- Over 1000 students in 15 schools have participated in the program. Student retention rates in the program are consistently high and popularity of program continues to grow.
- Three trades-based programs offered – automotives, construction and metal fabrication. A pilot electrician project with Portage College in Bonnyville is being offered.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Potential to earn dual-credit education in partnership with Olds College (i.e. ability to earn post-secondary credits while still in high school).

Impacts

- This is the first mobile trades program in rural Alberta that offers a middle school curriculum for students starting in grade 7, focused on creating career pathways in the trades and working toward trades apprenticeship opportunities.
- The mobility of the program via a mobile lab is proving to be program and cost effective as it gives schools the specialized facilities they need to provide this type of education without building special classrooms.
- Program is feeding directly into community employment requirements (trades-based labor shortage).

MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING & COMMUNITY CAPACITY



www.auma.ca

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Project Description

The purpose is to enable AUMA to initiate phase 4 of the Municipal Sustainability Planning Initiative. The focus is to build on the foundation of the earlier phases and create the human capacity required to allow communities to create and implement effective municipal sustainability plans.

Sustainability coordinators will be hired for each of the participating (6) regions or (5) communities .

They will work intensively with the communities to develop their MSP. A Provincial Coordinator will be hired to oversee the entire project and provide direction, support and knowledge sharing between the communities.

Impacts

- (29) individual MSP's and (6) regional MSP's were completed.
- (10) Full time coordinators were hired to work with the communities.
- 78% of communities have indicated that dollars have been requested for the implementation of the plans.
- These projects impacted nearly 220,000 Albertans in 40 municipalities.

Additional Benefits

- In many cases, the MSP was the first 'on-going' initiative of this scope which allowed for a longer period of time to discuss not only the challenges and issues, but to focus on the positive aspects and opportunities.
- Communication between communities and municipalities has increased and improved.
- Websites, twittering, and Facebook pages have been created in some of the projects to offer feedback and input.
- Communities are taking a more holistic and long term approach to planning.
- The greatest impact for rural Alberta, is for some small communities, they now have a living planning document that can be used as a baseline, revisited and modified.

NATIONAL BEE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE



www.gprc.ab.ca

Contact: Carlos Castillo, Applied Scientist and Manager, National Bee Diagnostic Centre

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Project Description

The NBDC will become a one-stop-shop for all bee diagnostic services required by beekeepers, government departments, and researchers from across Canada. This will be done for a fee-for-service basis starting at cost and increasing over time towards a cost recovery basis.

The Centre will be the first and only one of its kind in Canada; it will use molecular approaches to diagnosis-which are more robust than current methods being used. It will contribute directly to alleviate the significant negative economic impact to the region's and Canada's beekeeping industry.

Expected Results

- Recruitment of staff (scientist, technologist, admin support)
- Development of administrative procedures and support documents
- Development and testing of protocols and procedures
- Equipment purchased and commissioning of equipment
- Commissioning of office building
- Provide diagnostic services
- Technology Transfer Events

Impact

- Applied Scientist/Manager, Diagnostic Technician and admin support all hired
- Building and equipment fully commissioned-Grand Opening of facility Sept. 5, 2012
- Diagnostic services will begin April 1, 2013

CAREERS: THE NEXT GENERATION



www.nextgen.org

Contact: Wes Baker, CAREERS Online Project Manager

CAREERS: The Next Generation

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Project Description

NEXTGEN Online is an exciting project that utilizes new and innovative technology to actively engage ALL rural junior and senior high school youth in career development. Using interactive portals and social media technology as the online environment, students and educators can step inside industry and explore career opportunities. NEXTGEN Online builds on the platform of Alberta's SuperNet. By extending CAREERS services further into rural Alberta, more youth are able to benefit from career exploration and workplace internships within their community. There are a total of 34 interactive career options that students can access 24 hours a day. Further, the Careers Portal video conferencing equipment enables students to participate in job interviews and information sessions.

Outcomes and Benefits

- Enables students to explore career options.
- Helping students get internships to grow their skills and employability.
- Supporting career education.
- Promoting student awareness of industries with future job opportunities.

Additional Benefits

- The Edmonton Journal has partnered with CAREERS: The Next Generation for a 36-week campaign/feature that focuses on Trades in Alberta.
- Other provinces and organizations have expressed interest in the design of the portal and game interaction. The proponent is exploring options to license the design to assist with long term sustainability.
- The involvement with the Alberta Distance Learning Center (ADLC) has led to a partnership discussion around materials and inclusion of CAREERS information in career related material from ADLC.
- Community facilities with career centers also want access to the video engagement provided by CAREERS. These partnerships will ultimately provide greater awareness and resources at the CAREERS centers.

OLDER ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PRACTITIONERS



www.physicalculture.ca

Contact: Lesley McEwan, Physical Culture Association of Alberta

Address: Refer to website

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Project Description

This program provides training to practitioners, leaders, and volunteers who deliver physical activity and active living strategies to older adults living in rural seniors housing. Participants are taught how to maintain and improve seniors' functional abilities, enhance their well-being, and help them be functionally independent.

Results

- Development of the “Purposeful Movement for Older Adults” manual and training program.
- Practitioners receive practical and realistic strategies and program ideas to incorporate into their own local programs.
- Uptake for this project is wide-spread throughout Alberta, with a high demand from rural communities requesting resources and training.

Impacts

- This program addresses a significant gap in the industry of Physical Activity Programs for older adults residing in Alberta communities.
- As the demographics of Alberta shift toward an aging majority, the demand for exercise/physical activity programs specifically designed for the older adult is continually increasing. The manual provides practitioners and leaders with an exercise program appropriate and adaptable for older adults housed both within the community and senior's facilities.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP: CONNECTING LEARNING & WORK



Horizon School Division no.67

*An inclusive learning community
that engages and empowers all
learners for success.*

www.oppshop.horizon.ab.ca

**Contact: Dave Driscoll, Associate Superintendent-Programs and Services, Horizon School Division
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Project Description

The Opportunity Shop is a model that will combine elements of an educational program with part-time employment in order to support at-risk students and for employers to begin to develop their future workforce. This is a partnership between three school divisions: Grasslands, Horizon and Palliser in southern Alberta. Each division will implement the program differently based on the needs of the students, school and community.

Expected Results

- Reduce the number of 15-18 year olds leaving school for full-time work
- Identification of youth at-risk due to socio-economic conditions
- Increase the number of CEU credits earned by students participating in the two year program
- Increase the number of applications to apprenticeship positions and programs
- Increase employer satisfaction with young employees
- Increase in applications to college, universities and polytechnic institutes.

Impacts

- Rural communities are recognizing their students, realizing their potential and involving themselves in school activities in a positive light
- The project allowed students to earn a salary to assist their parents with large families
- Employers were able to hire part-time workers to help meet the needs of the business
- Youth were able to stay in school, earn a salary and gain work experience. Employers were supportive of the young person to stay in school and work within their academic schedule.
- *Horizon*-11 students stayed in school instead of leaving. In 2011, 15 students returned to school as a result of the program.
- *Palliser*-Young parents were starting to see the importance and value of more education, which leads to better earnings and greater career opportunities.
- *Grasslands*-most of the employers (20) were willing to take students for both years of the project.

PEER CONNECTIONS



www.camroseopendoor.com

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Email: info@camroseopendoor.com

Project Description

The PEER Connections program helps at-risk youth (before they become street entrenched) become productive employees. Its model approach combines development of employability and employment retention skills and participant productivity through hands-on experience, skill development and support through Cafe Connections – a social enterprise. Youth on the streets are also provided with the supports they need to make positive life changes that result in improved quality of life.

Results

- Establishment of a social enterprise program, the Cafe Connections.
- 60 youth participated in the program and developed employability skills in customer service, serving, money handling and cooking.
- Youth developed excellent relationships with customers, specifically seniors that would visit the cafe regularly.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- 45 of the 60 participants remain employed, in school or in another program.
- At end of program, youth were able to budget their own food expense, stop receiving services from food banks, and be self-accountable for their own income.
- Participants learned how to cook and eat healthy – for many, this was a first time they had cooked things that weren't processed.

Impacts

- The cafe provides meals towards the hot lunch programs that are being offered in two local schools.
- 3 full time jobs were created for staff.
- This is a first program of its kind in rural Alberta – a transferrable model for other communities.

PIPESTONE CREEK DINOSAUR INITIATIVE



www.curriemuseum.ca

Contact: Brian Brake, Executive Director, County of Grande Prairie

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Ph: 780-532-2362

Email: bbrake@countygp.ab.ca

Project Description

The Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative (PCDI) will strengthen the Alberta paleontological story. It will position the Peace Region as the northern anchor in the province's dinosaur initiative, offering the region benefits related to economic development, tourism, education and stewardship of the rich paleontological resource in northwest Alberta.

Impacts

- Developed the Northern Dinosaur Trail to aid tourism and economic development.
- Marketed the region's paleontological and geological assets to develop international interest.
- Assisted museums with the display and interpretation of their fossil holdings to aid tourism.
- Engaged the public to assist in the stewardship of paleontological resources.
- Created a Community Forum to list and describe fossils to aid professional research and stimulate amateur interest.
- Encouraged amateur collectors to donate/transfer their collections to regional museums using the process as defined by the Royal Tyrell Museum.
- Provided college level courses to the staff of regional museums on the cataloguing, preservation and display of fossils.
- Provided courses for paleontological enthusiasts.
- Developed the Pipestone Creek Bone Bed as a world-class outdoor classroom for teaching fossil excavation to paleontology students.
- Identified fossil outcrops.
- Construction of the Phillip J. Currie museum in Wembley will begin in the Spring 2013, for \$28.4 million.

LOCALLY AVAILABLE POST-SECONDARY TRADES-RELATED OPPORTUNITIES – PRE-EMPLOYMENT AND TRADES RELATED INITIATIVE



Contact: Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent, Battle River School Division

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Email: lpayne@brsd.ab.ca

Project Description

This project was to provide an innovative, flexible and cost-effective approach to providing post-secondary trades training in East Central Alberta. The approach to training would allow rural Albertans the opportunity to acquire trades-related training within their local region.

Results

- A number of different delivery options were explored, including offering courses in existing CTS facilities, teaching curriculum theory through video-conferencing, and establishing training sites where equipment could be set up locally.
- A database of trades-related businesses in the region was created.
- Advisory Committee and governance structures were established.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- A comprehensive report, *The Environmental Scan – Flexible Delivery of Trades and Apprenticeship Training*, was completed. The report showcases various approaches on how to deliver flexible trades training highlighting methods that have been adopted and adapted in other parts of Canada and other countries.

RECREATION & HABITAT LAND ACCESS AND STEWARDSHIP TRAINING



Alberta Fish & Game Association
Welcome to AFGA.ORG

www.afga.org

Contact: Reception, 6924-104 Street, Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7

Ph: 780-437-2342

Email: office@afga.org

Project Description

The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) plans to increase the involvement of rural Albertans in the stewardship of lands presently owned by their organization. They will do this through a number of activities including the development of a 30 minute television program and a fifteen minute DVD, as well as printed materials that will provide information about the Wildlife Trust Fund, its properties and volunteer stewardship opportunities. Activities will also include the development of a Volunteer Stewardship Manual that will outline the responsibilities of volunteer stewards. The AFGA will also visit 20 rural communities across Alberta and to begin training volunteers.

Impacts

- Open houses held in 20 communities
- Training completed for 20 volunteer groups.
- The *Volunteer Stewardship Manual* is available to download from their website.

RISE-RURAL INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES INITIATIVE



www.risenetwork.ca

Contact: Maggie Macdonald, CEO, Chinook Arch Regional Library System

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Ph: 403-380-1505

Email: mmacdonald@chinookarch.ca

Project Description

The Rural Information Services initiative (RISE, which will involve the three library systems of Chinook Arch, Marigold and Shortgrass) will enhance and add to the existing services at 77 rural and remote locations throughout southern Alberta by providing communities with access to videoconferencing using the Alberta SuperNet. This network will link the smallest village facilities through mid-size small towns and larger rural communities, RISE will reach more than 350,000 people in 89 rural municipalities in southern Alberta.

Expected Results

- Increase availability of library services
- A sustainable, inclusive, community-based videoconference network
- A model for similar projects throughout the province
- An increase in social capital and community capacity

Impacts

- The project has made a variety of programs available through public libraries in communities which had no such programs.
- Created a virtual meeting room and saved thousands of kilometers of travel for people in many different communities.
- Provided essential information to people who could not obtain it locally prior to the RISE project.
- Increased hours of operation and services at local libraries throughout the three regions.

ROCKY LANE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Contact: Kathryn Kirby, Assistant Superintendent, Fort Vermilion School Division
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Email: kathrynk@fvsd.ab.ca

Project Description

This project will provide students with practical skill and knowledge development opportunities related to the operation of a farm/ranch, as well as opportunities in entrepreneurship, leadership development, business operations and the First Nations views of land and its importance to mankind. It will do this by providing students with local “real life” off-campus learning opportunities that are connected to the provincial curriculum, but delivered through the operation of a farm/ranch. The program will also provide a collaborative framework between the school, neighbouring farming community and the neighbouring First Nations community. Today, the three exist as “three solitudes”.

Impacts

- Students have assisted with the construction of a barn, mechanical shop, and greenhouse. This has been through their BLAST program (Busy Learning and Serving Together) and the Mobile Career and Technology Studies (CTS) labs.
- The project is utilizing existing infrastructure through the partners; quarter section of land and farm equipment from the Beaver First Nations. With the planting/harvesting of a crop each year, the proceeds will assist with the sustainability of the program.
- Agriculture related micro-businesses are being planned, designed, marketed and managed by the students.
- Parental and community involvement in and support of the Rocky Lane School are strong.

ROSEBUD CAPACITY BUILDING



Contact: Adam Furfaro, Executive Director, Rosebud Centre of the Arts

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Email: execdir@rosebudcentreofthearts.com

Project Description

The Rosebud Capacity Building project supports the Rosebud Economic Development Committee by increasing economic, educational, cultural, and social sustainability in Rosebud and the surrounding area. Comprised of 12 community organizations, the committee is a unique concept in rural Alberta. It acts as a single coordinating body for the fundraising and planning needs of local residents, businesses, and organizations. The purpose of the project was to improve the capacity, quality of life, infrastructure and socio-economic future of Rosebud.

Results

- A comprehensive Area Structure Plan was completed and approved.
- Community capacity in fundraising development and marketing was increased.
- Secured \$3,183,000 in new dollars in two years.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- High speed wireless — a necessary asset to retaining and attracting new residents — was installed in Rosebud and surrounding communities.
- Because of this foundational work, Rosebud is better positioned to carry out future planning and growth.

Impacts

- New businesses emerged – 2 new restaurants, 1 new RV Park, new conference and dining facility as well as an expansion to the Centennial Museum was built.
- New fire hall built.
- Increase in jobs – 4 full time, 70-100 part time positions

RURAL ALBERTA BUSINESS CENTRES



Contact: Tammy Powell, Program Manager, Government of Alberta
www.rabc.ca
Hinton Training Centre Room 203, 1176 Switzer Drive, Hinton, AB
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Email: tammy.powell@gov.ab.ca

Program Description

The Rural Alberta Business Centre (RABC) Pilot Program is a partnership between the Government of Alberta and local organizations actively involved with the business community. As part of the three-year program, RABCs will provide advice and information services to entrepreneurs and small businesses to assist them in making informed business decisions. The rural business centres provide services to entrepreneurs, small business owners, and managers at all stages of the business life cycle from the start-up to expansion to succession planning. Each rural business centre is staffed by a small business advisor who assists in providing one-on-one business advice, seminars, workshops, and access to relevant information about small businesses and business opportunities. Information and materials will be tailored to the specific needs of the communities served by each RABC. The following eight communities are participating in the pilot program: Camrose, Cold Lake, Fort Macleod, Hanna, Grande Cache, Rocky Mountain House, Slave Lake, and La Crete.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Development of a more vibrant business community that creates more local jobs and opportunities as a result of higher small – medium business launches and growth.
- Improved access to information through a “one-stop shop” approach.
- Enhanced opportunities for youth retention in rural communities.
- Improved diversity in local business and economic activity.
- Strengthened supply chains for key sectors of Alberta’s economy.
- Additional capacity and skill developed in the target regions.

Additional Benefits

- Support for entrepreneurs in rural communities

Impacts

- Population retention
- Economic benefits and job growth

RURAL ARTISTIC INITIATIVE



www.empresstheatre.ab.ca

Contact: Brent Hutchinson, Executive Director, Empress Theatre Society

Box 99, Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0

Ph: 403-553-4404

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Project Description

There are three aspects to the project that will increase cultural awareness of classical music in the Fort Macleod area: the *Fort Macleod International Festival*, *Terra Summa World Music* and the *Empress Historic Film Initiative*. In addition, there are unique programs to be developed to include the greater rural population: *Project Muse*-a series of weeklong in-school residencies by musicians and composers for grades 4-6 and high school level. The *Gateway Program*; this is a three week training school for young aspiring classical musicians, who will work closely with musicians from the Festival. Last, *Music Unwrapped*- a series of family oriented informal performances introducing parents and children to classical music.

Expected Results

- Significant and lasting impact on the quality of life (creation of life-long arts supporters) to be measured through regular surveys, public forums and committee reviews.
- Positive economic impact through increased theatre patronage and tourist activity.
- Increased community capacity achieved through higher levels of individual citizen participation in the project as volunteers, paid staff or through fulfilling contractual services.

Impacts

- Fort Macleod International Festival-91% increases in subscriptions; 53% increase with Single Patron sales. Overall, increased audience and press reviews. Developed stronger partnerships.
- The Project Muse-Seventeen schools were visited. Participants for school bookings increased to 1100 in 2011.
- Music Unwrapped-64% increase in ticket sales. Historic Film Festival-total number of patrons, 280. Up 125% from 2010.
- The theatre is able to convert to digital format, as the studios are quickly changing from 35mm to all digital media distribution. This will ensure the sustainability of the theatre.
- A Volunteer Handbook has been developed for Empress Theatre concert volunteers.

RURAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



www.cfna.ca

Contact: Judy McMillan-Evans, Senior Project Manager, Community Futures Alberta

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Email: Judy@cfna.ca

Project Description

The project will build capacity within Alberta's rural economic practitioners and community leaders to facilitate the development of rural business clusters. Three selected clusters have been identified for the project, (*Brooks Metal Manufacturing, Chinook Country Regional Cluster Development and Tourism Strategy Project and CARMA*) based on their potential to grow and increase the economic future of their rural communities. Cluster Coaches will build capacity through training, mentoring and the development of cluster tools.

Expected Results

- To increase the knowledge and capacity in rural Alberta to support and develop rural business clusters.
- To improve productivity in the three business clusters in rural Alberta.

Impacts

- New products/services – largest increase is with CARMA businesses
- New processes – 7 businesses reported significant changes to processes.
- Increased ways of marketing – survey examined the importance of 10 marketing methods. The most important marketing was in the category of e-marketing.
- Increased networking and collaboration –Networking with other industry players is reported to have increased in both CARMA and Brooks's projects, which also reported an increase in partnerships.

RURAL CO-OPERATIVE OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Welcome to the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

www.acca.coop

Contact: Michele Aasgard, Executive Director, Alberta Community Co-operative Association

#202, 5013-48 Street, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1L8

Ph: 780-963-3766

Email: maasgard@acca.coop

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to bring technical expertise in support of co-operative development activities in rural Alberta communities. The project has three aspects;

1. An exploratory aspect to determine the interest in and need for co-op development
2. An outreach aspect to introduce basic concepts of co-op development
3. A capacity building aspect to train key community members in co-op development for two selected communities. This phase will be hands-on and will include technical assistance for project development within each community. The two communities selected are Sangudo (Sangudo Opportunity Development Co-operative) and Two Hills (Alberta Solar Greenhouse Co-operative).

Impacts

- Members of rural communities are more informed of the role co-ops can play in their strategic plan for community economic development.
- Community capacity increased for leadership and business and co-op development.
 - Sangudo-Twenty-two members in the co-op. First investment was in purchasing a local abattoir from the retiring owner.
 - Two Hills – Three members in the co-op. The group focused on developing greenhouses suited for cold, northern climates by designing more energy efficient structures utilizing renewable energy resources.
- Community's quality of life is enhanced by co-op businesses or services that fill needs and gaps in the community.
 - Both co-op's indicated there will be multiple benefits for all members of the community and for the region.

RURAL INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM



www.ruralandregionalhealth.med.ualberta.ca/ugme/clerkship.htm

Contact: Dr Jill Konkin or ICC Administrative Coordinator, Sherry Sweeney, University of Alberta

Office of Rural and Regional Health, 2-115ECHA, Edmonton, AB T6G 1C9Ph: (780) 248-1103

Email: icc.ume@med.ualberta.ca

Project Description

The Rural Integrated Community Clerkship (ICC) Program is a core clerkship option for third year medical students interested in learning medicine in a generalist environment. Students are based in a family practice in selected rural communities for approximately 41 weeks of their third year. The Rural ICC was developed in collaboration with the University of Alberta and University of Calgary, and was implemented in September 2007 and in March 2008, respectively.

Results

- The ICC program uses rural family medicine practices as the core of a pedagogically sound clerkship experience that provides students with continuity of patient care, continuity of supervision (preceptor) and continuity of learning environment.
- The Rural ICC clinical education program was developed and supported by structured on-line learning sessions (web-based platforms) delivered by the program.
- During the two-year pilot study, 16 students successfully completed the Rural Integrated Community Clerkship program, with nine rural communities participating: Edson, Hinton, St Paul, Sylvan Lake, Taber, Pincher Creek, High River, Drumheller and Sundre.
- Today, the Rural ICC Program continues to be sustainable, offering student internships in several rural Alberta communities. In 2012-2013, nine rural communities participated in the Rural ICC.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- In April 2008, the Government of Alberta became a key supporter of the Integrated Community Clerkship Program.

Impacts

- The Rural ICC is one program of a world-wide movement of longitudinal integrated clerkships which have been implemented in the USA, Australia, the United Kingdom and at six other Canadian medical schools.

RURAL ROAD SHOW – PHASE 2



www.greenhectaresonline.com

Contact: Wendy Schneider, Executive Director, Green Hectares

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Project Description

Rural Road Show – Phase 2 creates opportunities for rural and agricultural communities to connect, collaborate and learn. This project is designing and implementing scalable models of delivery that address current barriers to entry or use of existing resources by developing tools and resources that enable existing infrastructure to work more effectively and sustainably.

Results

- Three integrated distribution models were developed.
 - The Hopper database –a unique web platform that links into existing websites focused on agriculture and expands the reach of those resources to agri-entrepreneurs while providing feedback mechanisms on learning requirements and needs
 - Entrepreneur Exchange – a series of face to face events that allow entrepreneurs to exchange business ideas and obtain business advice from industry experts
 - Community Connector – a facilitated community-based program designed to provide support and assistance to new and emerging entrepreneurs
- An online rural public spaces reservation system was developed.
- Rural Voices, an online rural and agricultural speakers bureau, was established. This robust system includes an analytics component to identify trends in speaker requests, topics, cost, etc.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- In 2012, the Entrepreneur Exchange facilitated 679 business connections.
- Users have access to nearly 200 business experts.

Impacts

- Project presents a framework that looks into building a future for Alberta's agriculture industry and has the potential to go nation-wide.

RURAL SAFETY SMARTS



www.abfarmsafety.com

Contact: Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Centre

Box 291, Raymond, AB T0K 2S0

Ph: 403-752-4585

Email: safetyctr@abfarmsafety.com

Project Description

The Rural Safety Smarts program was born in 1997 and in its first school year, 1998-1999, 2230 rural children received the program in southern Alberta.

In 2006-07, three instructors covered the rural schools in southern Alberta and travelled 72,697 km to reach 25,419 students in 1382 classrooms in 278 schools.

This project will modernize and make upgrades to their educational resources through the use of new computerized technology and the preparation of high-quality take-home materials. These new materials will result in an increase to the impact and lead to the expansion of their program across the province in rural areas.

In addition to new materials, the expansion includes increasing the number of instructors from 3 to 7 and the program being delivered province wide.

Impacts

- The highest stats for farm-related injuries involving children were in 1998 with 244. In 2010 it had dropped to 80.
- Between September, 2008 and June, 2011 the program was delivered into 7661 elementary classrooms, to 155,511 rural students.
- New age appropriate curriculum was developed for grades K-6. In the 4499 surveys completed by classroom teachers in 2008-2011, 98% responded with rating the program content, teaching materials and delivery methods as effective or extremely effective.
- Due to the success of the expansion of the program, major corporations are using this scalable model as an example that other programs could follow to build capacity and sustainability in rural Alberta.
- The children are becoming the shift in the cultural change on the farm regarding safety. They are learning that safety is a conscience choice, not an act of fate.

RURAL YOUTH SCIENCE NETWORK — EDACITY



(Formerly Science Alberta Foundation)

www.mindfuel.ca

Contact: Yvonne McDonald, Senior Manager, Development, MindFuel

Suite 260, 3512 - 33 St. NW, Calgary AB T2L 2A6

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Email: ymcdonald@MindFuel.ca

Project Description

The Edacity project is an innovative face-to-face and social media program aimed at engaging rural youth in science and technology by showcasing the need for science-related jobs of the future. Designed by students for students, Edacity makes science relevant to youth in rural communities and shows them the possibilities science offers them after they graduate.

Results

- Three regional networks – Red Deer College, University of Lethbridge, and Keyano College (Fort McMurray) are in place and functioning. Infrastructures are in place to actively engage youth with the post-secondary/business communities.
- Youth are working on science projects of their interest and collaborate to create digital content such as animations, videos and photography to showcase real science applications.
- Rural youth are highly engaged and interact via various social media applications. At last count, over 150 youth based out of 30 rural communities are members of the science network.
- Youth compete in face-to-face Edacity Xtreme Challenges, a series of science-based challenges that highlight programs and courses offered by the post-secondary institutions. These events are highly successful, with 98% of participants indicating they would recommend the event to others.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- Program participants develop proficiency in writing, multimedia skills, team-building, critical thinking, research and evaluation – all skills required to become successful workers of the future
- Increased knowledge and abilities of youth to create and learn about science and digital technologies.

Impacts

- Youth become better informed about science topics affecting rural Alberta
- Youth become excited about science and technology career opportunities existing in their own rural communities and realize potential for job growth in this sector.

SPORTS COACHING DEVELOPMENT



www.ASAWeCoach.ca

Contact: Mike Steele, Program Coordinator, Alberta Schools' Athletic Association

11759 Groat Road, Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

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Email: Michael@asaa.ca

Project Description

This project will involve the development of online coaching courses specifically targeting rural Alberta teacher coaches and non-teacher coaches. It entails working with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in the United States to modify existing courses. It will address the needs of ASAA and rural Alberta schools as an affordable, accessible and relevant educational experience designed to prepare interscholastic coaches for their roles in an educational setting. The courses will be less expensive, more accessible and less time consuming than any of the courses offered through the Coaching Association of Canada and are transferable to those who work with youth in rural settings e.g. club/community sport, recreation, etc.

Impacts

- The Learning Management System was developed and implemented in the Spring, 2011
- (4) courses were available to junior and senior high school coaches as of September, 2011
 - Fundamentals of Coaching
 - Engaging Effectively with Parents
 - Teaching and Modeling Behaviour
 - Concussion in Sports-What you need to know
- An additional (3) courses were added between April, 2012 and Feb, 2013
 - Athletic Injury
 - Tobacco-"Be the NORM"
 - Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity and School Sport
- [.ASAWeCoach](http://www.ASAWeCoach.ca) had 793 registered users from across Alberta and Canada
- 593 paid courses as of Dec 31, 2012
- Number of coaches trained and number of school-based athletes exposed to trained coaches has increased since the development of the LMS.

STARS – CRITICAL CARE AND TRANSPORT MEDICAL ACADEMY



www.stars.ca

Contact: Jane Styles, Manager, Major Gifts, STARS

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Project Description

This project delivers professional development opportunities that prepare rural medical professionals — nurses, respiratory therapists, physicians, paramedics — to function as members of a critical care team. Completely new and innovative to rural practitioners, the program is delivered in a blended format (distance learning, didactic or face-to-face teaching, human patient simulators and practicum), allowing medical professionals to continue learning while working.

Results

- The training teaches advanced skills that meet the special needs of critically ill patients before and during transport, as well as how to maintain stable procedures and hospital equipment while in transit.
- Built into the program design, rural medical professionals can learn new skills in their own community without having to take time off work or incur off-site travel expenses — a significant advantage to rural practitioners.
- 86 rural health care professionals (nurses, paramedics EMT-P, respiratory therapists, physicians) successfully graduated during the two-year project timeframe.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- With this training, rural communities have access to the most current and advanced level of pre-hospital care. Graduates also continue to have direct access to faculty members for ongoing support and continuing education.
- Prior to this program, opportunities for advancing skills and learning in critical care and transport medicine did not exist outside of Edmonton and Calgary.

Impacts

- This rural health education delivery model for critical care level training is the only one of its kind in Alberta (and North America). Other countries are interested in replicating this program.

SUNCHILD e-LEARNING COMMUNITY



www.sccyber.net

Contact: Martin Sacher, CEO, SCcyber E-Learning Community

Suite 200, B102-5212 48 Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 7C3

Ph: 403-872-0587

Email: sacher@sccyber.net

Project Description

The Sunchild e-learning community will work towards solidifying the Sunchild e-learning community business school. Aboriginal students from across Alberta will be able to learn their native language and receive high school credits in Cree 10, 20 and 30 towards their high school diploma.

Expected Results

- Development of the online Cree 10,20, and 30 course
- Development and piloting of the adult literacy courses levels 1,2 and 3
- Establishment of a secondary companion company for Sunchild e-learning
- The marketing and advertisement of the Sunchild name, logo and programs
- To investigate the potential for additional corporate enterprise
- To provide a position for an Aboriginal sales person.

Impacts

- The production of the Cree program to sell as a standalone language program.
- The Development of the Adult literacy courses is complete. The program was tested at various First Nation sights with excellent success and will be offered to several communities in the fall, 2008. And, the programs will be marketed and sold in Asia in the fall of 2008.

THE CANADIAN BADLANDS TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



www.canadianbadlands.com

Contact: Bob Davis, Executive Director, Canadian Badlands Ltd.

Box 1408, Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0

Ph: 403-823-7743

Email: bdavis@canadianbadlands.com

Project Description

This project is a new and innovative approach to creating an integrated, destination based tourism industry in southeastern Alberta. Central to this initiative is the joining together of 56 communities to develop and implement a strategic regional tourism plan; a plan that will coordinate activities and investments across the region to maximize benefits for all members rather than having each community make individual and isolated investments to promote tourism in their community.

Expected Results

- Training area-elected and volunteer leaders in leadership skills and the tools and methods for using tourism as an economic development tool
- Implementing a regional signage program
- Creating municipal tourism development master plans among the primary and secondary destination hubs
- Adopting municipal ordinances to develop Tourism Development Zones
- Creating regional/hospitality workforce training and recruitment programs to support residents, youth and developers seeking workers
- Fostering and nurturing the development of new or expanded tourism businesses within the region.

Impacts

- Seventeen programs were developed and delivered in the region, ranging from local tourism planning/training, scenic route studies, area/development/master plans, and the enhancement of (4) area visitor hubs and (4) secondary destinations.
- The enhancement of (8) major tourism attractions through “Attractions Planning” and “Development Planning” programs.
- Visit [://tdc.canadianbadlands.org/tdc/](http://tdc.canadianbadlands.org/tdc/) to see all (27) project master, tourism, leadership and development plans.

THE COMMUNITY VILLAGE



www.thecommunityvillage.ca

Contact: Michelle DuPont-Gillis, Board Chair, the Community Village Society of the Peace

10116-102 AVE, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1A1

Ph: 780-532-4494

Email: admin@thecommunityvillage.ca

Project Description

The goal of the project is to create a strategic co-location of non-profit organizations and social businesses designed to reach a target populations with quality and complete programs. The project focuses on building community capacity and increasing the quality of life of those served.

Expected Results

- Clients understand and are aware of the services available at the Village.
- Clients are referred and utilize the services provided by agencies at the Village.
- Agencies work collaboratively together and enhance their programming.
- Clients feel respected and have a sense of belonging; a “community” is created.
- Clients become involved in activities within the Village including volunteer roles.

Impacts

- Volunteer program was extremely successful with over 5000 hours and 140 different volunteers recorded.
- 100% of the clients surveyed indicated they felt respected and had a sense of belonging at the Village.
- 2010 data indicated there were 32 referrals per week to agencies within the Village.
- Enforcement Services-reported appreciating that the homeless and street people of Grande Prairie/area have a place to go for supports.
- Partners/Agencies-have experienced increased sense of community and collaboration; increased information flow and partnering.
- Partner Agencies outside of the Village-ease of referrals for outside agencies has increased.
- Savings to Law Enforcement/Medical-unable to assign dollar value, however, RCMP reported a reduced number of calls/transport to medical facilities.

THREE LITTLE PIG'S HOUSING COOPERATIVE



Bonnyville Affordable Housing Association

www.town.bonnyville.ab.ca/index.php/business-in-bonnyville/local-economy

Contact: Town of Bonnyville

Bag 4000, Bonnyville, AB T9N 2J7

Ph: 780-826-3496

Project Description

The purpose of the Three Little Pigs Housing Co-Operative, a project of the Bonnyville Affordable Housing Association, was to develop an innovative, affordable housing co-op model that could work in rural Alberta. The Housing Association worked with community residents and industry partners to build a housing design model that incorporates green technologies to reduce utility and maintenance costs.

Results

- A cooperative, sustainable housing tool kit and business plan now exists that shows how to develop an affordable housing cooperative in rural Alberta.
- Other municipalities have access to the information kit that outlines the process and shares knowledge about green technology products that were identified as suitable and workable at that time.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- A great deal of learning by local developers has been done on the use of green technologies in home building.
- Through the process, individuals also recognized opportunities of other niche markets for capitalizing on value-added (complementary) lines of business for the region.
- A business plan was completed, articulating a go-forward strategy for soliciting financial support and outlining the critical path for next phase of development.
- The incorporation of the Cooperative under the Part 9 of the Companies Act of Alberta provides the governance model to move this project forward, when ready, to the next phase – development and construction. The result will be more affordable entry-level homes in Bonnyville for families with modest incomes.

TOMORROW'S PROMISE TODAY



www.clicthreehills.com

Contact: Kevin Edwards, Project Director

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Project Description

The Tomorrow's Promise Today project had three principal intended outcomes:

- Increase broadband infrastructure in east-central Alberta
- Increase access to new opportunities for learning, economic growth, community capacity building and health care, and foster a culture of broadband use
- Transfer the sites of the ClicSite project to other communities

Results

- Technologies employed in the ClicSite consisted of much more than “plug and play” activities. A major milestone included getting the Mac and Windows operating systems integrated and working seamlessly. The Web 1.0 community portal was re-imagined as a highly interactive Web 2.0 platform.
- The ClicSite was developed as the prototype for facilities that would become nodes of an expanding network of knowledge centres.
- A transferrable document, the “Clic Brand of Excellence” offers practical supports and shares acquired knowledge in the form of templates, guides, policies, manuals, protocols and best practices for use by other communities.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- This project represented a field test in how to adopt and adapt Apple and Windows technologies into an integrated technology platform.

Impacts

- This project broadened and deepened the culture of broadband use in east-central Alberta, providing data capacity to an otherwise remote region in rural Alberta.

TOUR OF ALBERTA – CANADA’S PRO CYCLING FESTIVAL



www.tourofalberta.ca

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Email: info@albertapeloton.ca

Program Description

The Alberta Pro Cycling Festival will become Canada’s premier professional cycling event, which will feature both a yearlong rolling festival of community activities and the 10 day event, including a televised 6-day professional road cycling race. This will be routed to travel through 60-70 rural communities, with 10 acting as host communities. Each year the host communities will change to allow an opportunity for different regions to participate. The purpose of the Festival is to bring a world class, proven and successful event platform to Alberta that will provide exciting opportunities for rural communities to showcase their unique areas, strengthen economic growth, enhance community capacity, and promote partnerships, volunteerism, and community connections. The event will also promote wellness and healthy lifestyle activities for the communities.

After receiving UCI sanctioning, the Tour of Alberta is scheduled to begin in Edmonton on September 03, 2013 and finishing in Calgary on September 08, 2013. The rural host communities include: Strathcona County, Camrose, Devon, Drumheller, Strathmore, Black Diamond, Canmore, and Okotoks.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Creating a successful inaugural event forming the foundation for a sustainable and continued annual festival
- Bringing the economic and community benefits of a new international scale event to rural Alberta
- Promoting and increasing tourism for host communities
- Increasing GDP for host and pass through communities
- Increasing awareness on wellness opportunities and benefits
- Implementation of a new educational component in rural schools
- Creating a legacy of cooperation amongst rural partners
- Increasing cultural awareness of each respective community
- Providing new and exciting volunteer opportunities for rural youth, seniors and Aboriginals

ACCESS PROSPERITY: TURNING THE KEYS ON OPPORTUNITY



www.accessprosperity.ca

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Central Alberta, Access Prosperity

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Program Description

Turning the Keys on Opportunity (TKO) project is a regional, economic development project that supports targeted foreign direct investment (FDI), by including both investment attraction and business retention and expansion that is beyond initial leads generation. Through development of innovative tools and processes, the TKO project will “turn the key” and connect “investment ready” businesses in central Alberta to international investment opportunities. This unique project is driven by a highly collaborative partnership that builds on those relationships to develop a cooperative model to assist in the economic diversification, direct investment and enhanced global competitiveness of the central Alberta region. Other sub-regional and municipal partners within central Alberta who recognize the value of this project are also being invited to participate.

TKO strives to further both local business expansion and foreign direct investment within rural communities of central Alberta by strategically fostering economic diversification and sustainability at a business-to-business (B2B) level.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Development of a highly skilled workforce that plays a major role in bringing economic growth to central Alberta.
- A more diversified and stabilized economy through increased international investment in central Alberta via bricks-and-mortar investment, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances.
- Key partnerships with local businesses and international buyers and suppliers
- Increase in GDP and population retention

UNLEASHING LOCAL CAPITAL



Welcome to the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

www.acca.coop

Contact: Paul Cabaj, Project Coordinator, ACCA

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Ph: 780-913-1271

Email: coop@acca.coop

Project Description

This project will educate rural Albertan communities on the Community Investment Model and facilitate the establishment of Community Investment Funds (CIFs). CIFs are a “pool of capital, formed through the sale of shares, to persons within a defined community, created to operate or invest in local business.” A local committee of stakeholders administers the CIF, and identifies and invests in local business opportunities. This model redirects formerly outward-bound investments towards local businesses, keeping local capital circulating through local communities.

The project will also develop a series of tools and training opportunities which would assist rural communities in using the cooperative investment model to invest directly in their own economic development and retaining local autonomy with respect to investment choices.

Impacts

- Produce a “Raising Local Capital Guide” and associated workshops. The Guide will provide step-by-step instructions for rural community leaders to develop investment cooperatives.
- Provide access to legal and accounting professionals as well as Alberta Securities Commission to review all documents.
- Three pilot communities were selected with succession issues and who have suitable investment opportunities. (*Vegreville, Falher and Crowsnest Pass*) They are provided 18 months of support to develop CIF and identify local opportunities. These communities will be included in the development of all related resource materials.
- Develop online support material including training curriculum for community leaders and economic development professionals.

VAUXHALL ACADEMY OF BASEBALL



www.vauxhallbaseball.com

Contact: Todd Ojala, President, Vauxhall Academy of Baseball

Box 618, Vauxhall, AB T0K 2K0

Ph: 403-654-2145

Email: Todd.ojala@horizon.ab.ca

Project Description

The goals of the Academy are to provide a year-round amateur baseball development program for student-athletes from across Canada. The primary focus areas are to directly develop specific athletic skills, enhance and develop the athletes' academic abilities, and to teach/build strong community minded youth.

The Academy was formed at a time when the community lost its grain elevator, rail line, alfalfa dehydration plant and the region was suffering from the impact of the BSE crisis. The school was losing 20 students per year, which meant the loss of a teacher and important subjects that could not be taught.

To stop this downward spiral, the teachers, community members and leaders assessed their strengths and determined that their local baseball program could be the "best in the world" and attract students/players from across North /America.

Impacts

- The program has been successful in attracting 21-35 new students each year, which equals 1-1.5 FTE teaching staff.
- In 2009, the Government of Alberta announced an \$18M renovation to the Vauxhall High School. Completed in the fall of 2012.
- The local economy is supported by the additional traffic (25-50 people between coaches/athletes/family) that is brought to the community for the 30+ games hosted each year.
- The Academy received provincial recognition for their efforts with partnering with Alberta Mental Health and their successful anti tobacco campaign.

VALUE-ADDED INCUBATOR SERVICES THROUGHOUT ALBERTA (VISTA)



The project was not sustainable and the website for VISTA is not longer in service.

Interested communities interested may contact their office and obtain information on how to set-up an incubator in their community.

Inquiries can be directed to **The Business Link at 1-800-272-9675**

Project Description

VISTA, will be a common set of information, resources and services designed and packaged for use by rural incubators and incubator proponents across the province to support the planning, implementation and operation of local incubator programs. The VISTA project has two primary elements:

1. To provide access to information, resources and diagnostic services that will assist interested communities in evaluating the merits and the long-term sustainability of establishing an incubator; and
2. To provide a group of services that will directly benefit the resident rural entrepreneur as they start their new enterprise.

Expected Results

- VISTA will serve rural incubators in a variety of ways;
 - Incubator start-up
 - New business start-up
 - Provincial networking
 - Brokering and communication facilitation

Impacts

- (20) Communities were introduced to VISTA and the toolkit.
- (5) Service agreements were signed with incubators.
- A research service was created for incubators that can be used by the community for their clients or for their own research into the development of an incubator.
- Newsletters were created as part of the marketing services.
- A website, www.vistaalberta.ca, was created and developed as a resource on business incubation.

VULCAN INNOVATION PROJECT: SUSTAINING RURAL DEVELOPMENT



www.vulcanbusiness.ca

Contact: John Allan, Economic Development Officer, Vulcan Business Development Society

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Email: info@vulcanbusiness.ca

Project Description

The VIP project will utilize existing rural assets, resources and infrastructure, within the region to bring knowledge, skills, abilities, and ideas to residents. This will translate into commercial and personal benefit and lead to an impact in Vulcan and District. Technology will be used to leverage increased workplace employability and business resources; to increase the capacity for technology use in businesses and the community; and provide local resources to build technology usage in the community.

Impacts

- Increased rurally located employment skills training in Vulcan and District -MOU signed with Lethbridge College for the Lethbridge College Vulcan County Rural Campus.
- Foster innovation for business development – The Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Alliance was formed with 72 rural and urban members.
- Building community capacity-(13) workshops/technology showcases provided for +1157 participants.
- Intergenerational barriers were reduced – seniors contributed to the history blog; (14) regular contributors. Summer student was hired to work one-on-one with +10 seniors on how to use their computers.
- Develop and support new & existing businesses - +240 participants in various technology courses offered. Seventeen (1) hour sessions were offered in villages for those needing assistance with social media tools or home computers.
- Web voucher program for businesses and organizations to develop their web presence – (42) sites were completed and/or in progress during the project.

WARNER COMMUNITY HOCKEY SCHOOL



www.warnerhockeyschool.com

Contact: Mikko Makela, Head Coach/Director of Hockey, Warner Community Hockey Society

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Project Description

The Warner Hockey School is an innovative idea to keep a small southern community and school vibrant and sustainable. The Society was started in order to help reverse the sharp downward trend in enrolment at Warner School.

The Hockey School combines education and hockey to meet the needs of young, female hockey players from around the world. All graduates from the program are enrolling in post-secondary education and are receiving some type of hockey scholarship.

The program has increased school enrollment; and in obtaining our support, it has become stable and self-sustaining by expanding their current service offering with the development of an Athlete's Centre.

Impacts

- The Athlete's Centre provides fitness courses, physio and massage therapy services to not only the players, but the community. +400 memberships sold in 2010.
- The community was able to host a Midget level Provincial Playoff, with the construction of the Centre and addition of three new dressing rooms.
- The number of hockey players attending the program has maintained itself; 2009 (21), 2010 (20) and 2011 (19).
- Seventy-eight of the eighty-four graduates of Warner Hockey School has gone on to play post-secondary varsity.
- In the 2009-2010 season, \$1,000,000 in scholarships and financial aid were awarded to the hockey students. Since the start-up of the program in 2003, \$4.3M has been awarded.
- The Village of Warner has been able to sustain their enterprises and maintain services to the community through the continued support and financial revenues from the Hockey School.

WESTWIND RODEO ACADEMY



www.westwindrodeoacademy.com

Contact: Shellee Shaw, Administrator, Westwind Rodeo Academy

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Project Description

Based out of Cardston, the Westwind Rodeo Academy combines education, horsemanship, and rodeo to aspire Grade 10-12 students to complete high school while focusing on their passion. Talents developed by the students in the sport of rodeo and horsemanship could open opportunities for scholarships and provide motivation to explore future employment in careers like competitive equine sports, horse training, veterinary medicine and equine-related handicap therapy or psychology.

Results

- New programs continue to be developed and offered – sports performance, equine facilitated therapy, hippo-therapy and recreational equine activities.
- The right business model is in place. The Academy is at full capacity in the Sports Performance Division and the Equine Facilitated Therapy Division and is financially sustainable.
- Successful negotiation of a contract with the local school division for the Academy's services.

Additional Benefits of the Project

- A new indoor riding arena was completed with additional funding raised through private donations.
- A transferable model – the Blood Tribe Reserve established its own program replicating the model of the Westwind Rodeo Academy. Other schools such as Ponoka and Stathmore are also interested in developing similar programming.
- Community has access to equine facilitated therapy services, services that are beneficial for mental and physical therapies.

Impacts

- 13 new jobs were created in the community.
- An additional \$1.3M was invested into the local community for capital development.
- The main essence of the Academy is learning – academic education and equine-related education encourage students to enter agricultural sector for employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

WIND ENERGY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY



www.lethbridgecollege.ca

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Lethbridge College

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Program Description

The Rural Wind Energy Capacity Development project based out of Lethbridge will establish southern Alberta as a world leader in the wind energy sector. The project develops long-term durable training programs, educational products, and stakeholder coalitions. Residents in the region will have opportunities to gain quality employment, diversify their incomes, and support the emerging wind energy sector.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- The retention of youth and an increase in employment through enhanced access to high quality employment in the wind energy sector.
- Increased rural income diversity which builds the sustainability of rural economies.
- The establishment of new infrastructure and educational technologies.
- Community success in supporting the development of the wind energy sector would bring confidence to pursue other innovations in support of community sustainability.
- New employment opportunities for First Nations communities.
- Rural communities who enable wind energy development will become more stable through increased tax revenues which could then be used to fund amenities in their communities.

Additional Benefits

- Youth engagement and education related to renewable energy technology
- Curriculum development related to the safety and maintenance of wind turbines

Impacts

- Better safety and maintenance of wind turbines throughout the province
- Knowledge transfer of renewable energy uses to leaders in Alberta communities