



**Bulkley Valley  
Economic Development Association**

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## BVEDA 4th Quarter Report

### **Administration and Finance:**

October 2014 – Submitted quarterly report to BCIC for the VAP program

- 4 entries into the program
- Well within budget

November 2014 – Finished the work plan and budget for 2015

November 2014 – Signed up a long term lease for the co-working space starting in December

- Clara Donnelly will rent space 2 days a week for her position as a housing coordinator

November 2014 – Participated in the BC Acceleration Network monthly update meeting

November 2014 – Volunteered to lead the financial/fundraising efforts for Minerals North 2016

December 2014 – Attended the partners meeting

- Discussed 2014 highlights, 2015 plan
- Individual perspectives on economic development

December 2014 – Met with Gladys to discuss the tourism budget and other topics

### **Community Relations:**

October 2014 – Met with Darren McMillan of Paul's Bakery to discuss business

October 2014 – Created ideas to pitch to the Town of Smithers of ways they could support LoveSmithers.com with the funds they won at UBCM

- List of 6 things ranging from billboards to more canvas bags

October 2014 – Met with Otto Koldyk of Outback Promotions

- Discussed various municipal topics

October 2014 – Attended the Spectra Open House at NWCC

October 2014 – VAP client BV Energy Managers reported making their first sale

October 2014 – Connected Spectra Energy to 12 different locally owned and operated businesses to seek gift certificates from for a Rotary Auction basket

October 2014 – Spoke with Trevor Scott of PKF Consulting who is doing an appraisal of HBM

- Wanted to know about any economic drivers coming to Smithers so I told him about the reopening of Newpro, Red Chris, Gavin Mine, and the uptick in calls about industrial land in Smithers
- Told him to check out INWBC to get a handle on the activity in the region

October 2014 – Connected the SMBA to NDIIT for help with a funding application for the club

November 2014 – Attended a seminar on the BV Research Centre and what they do

- Natural resource information source
- Bring together stakeholders for conferences
- No core funding
- No revenue model other than an administration fee

December 2014 – Attended the Destination BC branding event

December 2014 – Wrote a letter of support to the Western Mountain Bike Association

- Was for the WMBA to consider holding the 2015 Mountain Bike Symposium in Smithers

December 2014 – Wrote a ‘save the date’ letter for Minerals North potential sponsors

- To be mailed in early 2015 as reminder that MN2016 will be looking for sponsors and donation

December 2014 – Met with a lawyer and accountant to discuss best ways to find out who has money in our community for a VCC program

- Didn’t come up with anything solid

December 2014 – Conference call with the STL group

- They are expanding to 30 communities next year
- I talked about approaching potential sponsors as a group with Telkwa, Houston and Burns Lake

## **Communications:**

October 2014 – Listed the BVEDA in the Smithers Exploration Group directory

- New edition comes out in January

October 2014 – Updated the Smithers Co-Working Space webpage

October 2014 – wrote an article for the Interior News on the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada

November 2014 – Uploaded a blog post to StartupSmithers.com

- About what projects John Egenolf is up to at Egenolf Alternative Energy Inc.

November 2014 – Posted a new article on the BVEDA website

- NSERC article

November 2014 – Submitted content for Northern Development Initiative Trust’s feature partner article in their monthly newsletter

November 2014 – Built a presentation for a Chamber speaking engagement

- Will be speaking about the Venture Acceleration Program and Carl Anderson

November 2014 – Participated in an INWBC conference call regarding future moves with the site

- Looking to convert all 4 sites into 1 mega site
- Capacity is being strained on NDI's part

December 2014 – Connected 200+ companies to a procurement opportunity held by Initiatives Prince George

- Great way for businesses to connect with lots of proponents
- Advertising this because it's a great way for all northern BC companies to participate
- Cost is prohibitive to run in Smithers

December 2014 – Updated the Community Snapshot on bveda.ca

- Added new information on Ambleside Park
- Updated the addition of Sportchek and Boston Pizza
- Mall redevelopment is complete

December 2014 – Posted an article on Startupsmithers.ca

- Townhall on Innovation meeting

## **Economic Development Programs and Services:**

October 2014 – Met with Darren McMillan of Paul's Bakery to discuss business

October 2014 – Met with Josh Marsh of Leavitt Machinery

- No new projects to report since last meeting in September

October 2014 – Attended the EiR summit in Vancouver for the VAP program

- Found some new venture capital companies that could be interested in projects/companies in the area

October 2014 – Talked with Selena Basi of the Major Investments Office about available land

- Wanted to know about the land next to PIR and any other properties that were 50-100 acres in size

October 2014 – Met with Megan Griffith of NSERC

- Federal funding avenue for companies doing R and D
- Includes straight grants to businesses!

October 2014 – Connected a local business to Huckleberry Mine for marketing purposes

October 2014 – Attended a workshop on doing business with the provincial and federal governments

- Largely about BC Bid and the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises
- Talked about do and don'ts of bidding

October 2014 - Had lunch with an aspiring app builder

- Told him to figure out who his customer is first before moving forward

October 2014 – Met with Brent Berezowski of EFC Developments who wanted to know what was going on in the area

- They do hangars and fuel for companies who lease charter aircraft
- He also met with Rob Blackburn

- Was very impressed by our community relative to other communities he has visited

October 2014 – Had a meeting with Senior Advisor of External Affairs for Chevron Marc Douglas regarding information sharing

- Privacy issues are causing gas companies to not be able to share information
- Connected Marc to Grant Harris at the Interior News about N2K magazine

November 2014 – Connected BV Energy Managers to Hy-Tech Drilling and Egenolf Alternative Energy Inc.

November 2014 – Reached out to the pipeline companies to get numbers of local businesses listed in their vendor databases

- 52 in the Spectra projects out of 530
- 95 in the Chevron vendor database

November 2014 – Met with John Egenolf regarding the VAP program for Egenolf Alternative Energy Inc.

- Is going to meet with Carl on Friday afternoon
- Also connected him with a recent engineering graduate looking for knots of people doing interesting things
- Connected him with NSERC promotion officer Megan Griffith for avenues to fund future R and D

November 2014 – Organized meetings for EiR Carl Anderson for his trip to Smithers

November 2014 – Met with a gentleman looking to open a franchise restaurant

- Wanted to know where he could find very detailed market research information
- I told him it was expensive to get that good of info and that he should go talk to other franchisees or restaurant owners in other communities about their experiences

November 2014 – Found 2 volunteers in Willowvale who are going to showcase their houses to CityWest

- CityWest wants to see how the wiring is done in the newest neighbourhood in Smithers
- Designed to help speed up the roll out of fibre in Smithers

November 2014 – Met with Phil Bulmer of Project Completions on what projects are coming up in the near future

- Want to meet again to go over projects that could be coming up in the region
- Got information from EDOs in other communities for them to use

November 2014 – Participated in a TRICORP study on the creation of a skills training and employment division of the organization

- Wanted to know about needs, how to go (and not go) about it

November 2014 – Consulted on a website design for a local company

- BV Energy Managers is building a website and wanted feedback

December 2014 – Connected with Chief Development Officer Keith Boyle of Chieftain Metals

- Project recently filed for their 43-101
- Connected him with SEG and their directory

December 2014 – Met with Mike Porter, Business Development Manager for Futurpreneur Canada

- Talked about how he can help 18-39 year olds achieve their entrepreneurial goals
- Talked to him about what Startup Smithers is, the VAP, success stories here, and how we are different from other northern BC communities

December 2014 – Attended “Ignite the North” event

- 35 people attended
- New ideas were spread and Startup Smithers can play a role
- Current business owners were looking for mentors were identified

December 2014 – Met with Lisa Mueller of ThriveNorth

- She’s a contest promoter for people with ideas/businesses
- Top prize of \$10k

December 2014 – Had lunch with a new startup company founder

- Wants to build an app for financial planning companies to generate leads
- Told him about the ThriveNorth competition

December 2014 – Met with Andrew Hill of Springbok Welding

- New guy to town, wanting to get involved with industrial projects
- Gave him information on pipeline proponent contacts, mine contacts
- Connected him with the Startup Smithers mentors

December 2014 – Met with the owner of a local business to discuss her business

- Asked her who she thinks her customer should be and who it is now
- Asked her to do some research and development on her own product such as freezing capability and travel ability

December 2014 – wrote a proposal to the BV Credit Union on behalf of the STL communities that are in their area

- Asking for them to buy 4 communities a bundle of canvas bags at a total cost of \$3000