



**Bulkley Valley  
Economic Development Association**

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## BVEDA 2016 3rd Quarter Report

### **Administration and Finance:**

July 2016 – submitted a proposal to the Town to display large LoveSmithers.com signs at each entrance of town

- 50% funded by Northern Development

July 2016 – worked with Vandergaag and Bakker on our financial statements

August 2016 – Invoiced VAP clients

August 2016 – Agreed to give some money from the ISI program to other partners who had a larger demand than the northwest

- Giving back \$17000 of the \$45000 that was allocated this year

August 2016 – Reviewed and suggested edits to the MRDT application to the Town of Smithers

### **Community Relations:**

July 2016 – Met with Anne Yanciw of the Town for an update on what is happening with the Town as well as the BVEDA

- Mentioned Fields and potentially moving the BVEDA office

July 2016 – Had a call with Startup Canada to see what they could do for us and vice versa.

- They are sending us some marketing materials

July 2016 – Helped a local non-profit with a social media campaign

- BV CDC needed assistance

July 2016 – Wrote 2 letters of support for the Moricetown band for funding applications to two different funding avenues

July 2016 – Had a conference call with the Kitimat economic development department

- Information sharing mostly
- Advised them to find out what separates Kitimat from everyone else

July 2016 – met with Donovan Dias and Chris Marrett of CityWest

- Shared information on what's going on with Smithers as well as CityWest's plans for expansion

August 2016 – Met with Telkwa EDO to discuss what's going on in the Bulkley Valley

- Talked about the VAP program and what makes the BV special such as the high number of engineers and remote workers

August 2016 – Met with Regina Saimoto about what is happening with NWCC

- Gave me an update on them focusing on more international students

August 2016 – Participated in a BCAN conference call

- There were some questions from partners that the group helped with

August 2016 – Spoke with a realtor in Squamish about the typical clientele they have moving into the community

- Similar to Smithers but on a larger scale (educated, entrepreneurs, amenity migrants)
- Suggested we focus on the affordability, the short flight to Smithers, and create a video showcasing our community

August 2016 – Wrote a letter of support for the Moricetown Band’s application to the Highway 16 Transportation Grant committee

August 2016 – Met with Doug Donaldson regarding a new mining technology that would reduce/remove the need for tailings ponds

August 2016 – Met with the co-chairs of the Minerals North committee to decide what to do with the profits from Minerals North

- Decided to donate funds to various charities and non-profits in the Bulkley Valley

August 2016 – Nominated Harvey Tremblay and HyTech Drilling for the Startup Canada Awards for BC and the North

September 2016 – Connected with Jennifer Moore of the North Peace Economic Development Corporation about building a coworking space

- They are planning on asking Northern Development for support
- If we both ask at the same time, the likelihood of both getting support is higher than if we do it separately as NDIT doesn’t normally fund these types of things

September 2016 – Helped a local company manage their social media accounts by showing them Hootsuite

September 2016 – Wrote a letter of support to the Moricetown Band’s application to the Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada’s grant program for the development of a website

### **Communications:**

July 2016 – Met with Jill Boland, marketing manager for HBMA

- Talked about plans for her regarding corporate retreats
- Frontier FarWest and Logpile Lodge are both also interested in package deals
- My role is to find tech companies who may be interested in something different via Twitter

July 2016 – Updated content in the INWBC website

August 2016 – Wrote an article for the Interior News about getting urban visitors to try out our town

August 2016 – Met with Joshua Seinen to discuss a name and logo for the Venture Acceleration Program

- Currently flying under the flag of the BVEDA where other jurisdictions have names like “Innovation Central Society” and “Accelerate Okanagan”
- Will do up some options for a name and logo

August 2016 – Added Chatter’s Pizza to Startup Smithers

- Gets them some free publicity
- Really good success story

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

July 2016 – Met with a past VAP client who may want to rejoin the program

- Harvey Gansner of Gansner Law

July 2016 – Client left the VAP program citing family reasons

July 2016 – Client left the VAP program after losing their main supplier for their product in Canada

- 4 companies remain the program

July 2016 – recruited a company for LoveSmithers.com

August 2016 – Ran a 2<sup>nd</sup> tech sector focus group

- Similar results to the first, some new ideas on how to reach potential tech sector workers were discussed
- Information added to the first tech sector report

August 2016 – Held a 2<sup>nd</sup> Raspberry Pi bake off

- More learning about projects than working on projects
- Lower attendance due to summer holidays
- Will fill out report to Startup Canada for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the funding for it

August 2016 – Did an impact report to Startup Smithers about our Raspberry Jam events

- Required in order to secure second half of funding
- Donated a Raspberry Pi 3 to the Smithers Library

August 2016 – Met with two more remote workers to get their advice on attracting more people in their field

- Suggested talking to companies who already had a remote worker here to visit as the sell would be easier

August 2016 – Recruited 2 more coworkers for the Smithers Coworking Space

- Chris Duncan of Synergy Arts Photography (Local company)
- Jason O’Bright of Terrapex Environmental Ltd. (Ontario based co.)

August 2016 – Attended a Labour Market meeting at WorkBC

- Unemployment is at 7.5% for this month, down from 8.5% in May
- Steady stream of people going into the self employment benefits program
- There was talk about how to engage employers with training as a recent business walk was done and it was identified.
  - I suggested making 2 minute YouTube videos featuring local business owners that managers/owners could watch on their own time. Time seems to be the biggest constraint to having people attend.
  - Made a list of people worth approaching to be in the videos

September 2016 – Attended the “What the heck happened here?” town meeting held by the Mayor

- Some really good discussion as to how to move forward and suggestions to move forward

September 2016 – Attended an EiR summit in Castlegar

- Really interesting to see how a regional VAP program provider works over a big area
- Built a metallurgical incubator around the biggest industry in Trail (Teck/Cominco lead/zinc smelter)

September 2016 – Participated in a conference call regarding funding from the Rural BC Dividend

- After listening, not as confident in our ability to secure funding as the program may not be focused on new projects rather than existing ones