



**Bulkley Valley
Economic Development Association**

PO Box 3243, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0 · Tel 250 847 4355 · www.bveda.ca

BVEDA 2017 1st Quarter Report

Administration and Finance:

January 2017 – Created new documents for tracking budgets and accomplishments for 2017

January 2017 – Spoke with Darcy Repen about the possibility of Telkwa joining the BVEDA

- Said not this year as they want to focus on creating marketing content and limiting costs through the use of contractors
- They are open to having something put in front of them as far as a plan goes for 2018 and joining in

January 2017 – Submitted a 2017-18 program proposal, work plan, and budget to BCIC

- Same funding, similar programs

January 2017 – Submitted 2016-17 Q3 report to BCIC

January 2017 – Met with Wouter Morkel regarding moving into an expanded space

- He is prepared to have a space available to the BVEDA on June 1st
- Would offer 5 rentable offices and more desk space

January 2017 – Signed a lease agreement with WellSpring Home Care Services to rent a desk in the Coworking Space

February 2017 – Submitted the 2016 LoveSmithers.com annual report to NDIT

- A requirement of the \$1200 they give the program each year
- The Smithers Chamber will be managing it in 2017

February 2017 – Responded to questions from BCIC regarding funding for the fiscal 2017-18 year

- Couple of small questions around the budget were sorted out.

February 2017 – Secured a grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund for \$17143 to go towards the expansion of the Smithers Coworking Space

- We'll match some funds, other sources pending

March 2017 – Connected the Town with BC Hydro's re-greening initiative

- Up to \$10,000 in funding for trees and plants for communities and public lands

March 2017 – Arranged for a replacement EiR for Carl Anderson

- Carl's schedule as CEO of BCIC is becoming too full for him to manage being an EiR
- Going to get Kevin Pettersen to become our EiR. Currently employed by ICS in Prince George

March 2017 – Completed a grant application to the Town of Smithers signage campaign

- A hanging sign for the front of the building for the BVEDA

March 2017 – Transferred LoveSmithers.com funds to the Chamber

- \$1263 to go to the Chamber as the remaining funds from sign up fees

March 2017 – Met with Soko Construction to get a quote on doing the renovations for the new coworking space

- Soko Construction is a participant in the VAP program

March 2017 – Completed a grant application for the BV Credit Union to provide funding for the purchase of desks for the new coworking space

Community Relations:

January 2017 – Met with Avi Sternberg of WorkBC to discuss what our offices are doing

January 2017 – Filled out a questionnaire for a student in Moricetown around economic development

January 2017 – Met with Rimas Zitkauskas of CF to discuss what we are up to at our offices

- Mainly a reason to stay in the loop with each other

January 2017 – Participated in the Startup Canada ramp up 2017 conference call

- Outlining what they are doing for the year and ways we can participate

February 2017 – Wrote a letter of support to the Dze L Kant Friendship Centre in support of hiring an aboriginal economic development officer

February 2017 – Participated in a discussion around marketing the old BV Child Development Centre building on Poplar road

- Businesspeople were asked to help generate ideas on how best to market the building as they have had zero offers in 2 years
- Looked at different uses for the property and suggested possible buyers

March 2017 – Met with Joe Bolster to discuss getting a sign made for the office for outside

- Asked landlord if that would be alright
- Will simply be the BVEDA logo
- Going to apply to the Smithers Storefront Spruce up program, signage portion
- They match funds up 50% up to \$1000

March 2017 – Wrote a letter of support for Moricetown Band for their application to Western Economic Diversification

March 2017 – Spoke with a representative from Bridgewater NS about joining Startup Canada

- A small town like ours is thinking of joining
- Went over the pros and cons of being part of it

March 2017 – Provided insight into how economic development officers can participate within startup communities

- Provided how a group should approach an economic development office so that they help rather than hinder

March 2017 – Won a draw to donate a laptop to a charity of my choice

- Chose the Smithers Library

March 2017 – Hosted a NW regional EDO summit in Smithers

- Discussed the future of INWBC and Local Intel
- Began preliminary steps towards a regional resident attraction campaign

March 2017 – Found various funding opportunities for 2 young entrepreneurs

- Career Focus grants, wage subsidies, northern focus programs
- 2 separate entrepreneurs were looking for information

Communications:

January 2017 – Promoted a local YouTube video producer on BVEDA's social media channels

January 2017 – Signed off on agreements with the airport to purchase signage for free parking and brochure display

January 2017 – Completed information for the new BVEDA microsite through LocalIntel

- Waiting for spatial mapping from the Town

January 2017 – Saw first draft of new BVEDA.ca website

January 2017 – Met with the Chamber to discuss management of the Love Smithers Programs.

- They are going to manage the Facebook page this year as well as the billing of clients

January 2017 – Met with Dana Walls of RTown.ca

- Company does digital marketing for small businesses
- Asked me for any companies I think might be interested

February 2017 – Attended an EiR/BCAN directors summit in Vancouver

- Talked about how better to communicate between BCIC and the partners
- Worked on marketing ourselves and the programs better

March 2017 – Rebuilt the Community Snapshot portion of the BVEDA.ca website for the new website

March 2017 – Provided 2 slides to BCIC to be shown on a rolling slideshow at the #BCTechSummit

- One touts that MDA founders are from northwest BC, other says there are 4 - \$50 million dollar companies that started in Smithers

March 2017 – Promoted FUNDNorth, an alternative funding seminar taking place on the 23rd

March 2017 – Promoted YYD Landing, a kick off to the developments at the Smithers Airport

March 2017 – Reached out to multiple venture capital corporations in Vancouver to introduce the office and the companies we are connected with

- 6 VC firms in total

Economic Development Programs and Services:

January 2017 – Participated in a conference call with SnoSeekers about the upcoming #SkiNorthBC campaign

- 12 organizations are participating including the BVEDA
- We are focusing on the potential relocators from major centres

January 2017 – VAP lunch with a local author interested in growing online sales

January 2017 – Spoke with a potential VAP client about a new app idea around mobilizing tickets on phones

January 2017 – Connected the Dzel K'Ant Friendship Centre with several entrepreneurs for their course on Aboriginal BEST entrepreneurship training coming up in February.

January 2017 – Spoke with Lorraine Doiron about the BVEDA's participation in the pre-feasibility study of a multipurpose building to host the library, chamber, CICK, and several other community groups.

January 2017 – Attended the Vancouver Resource Investment Conference

- Collected information on various mineral projects taking place in northern BC in order to disseminate to companies locally

January 2017 – Attended AMEBC Round Up

- Collected information on various mineral projects taking place in northern BC in order to disseminate to companies locally
- Dispersed the 2017 Smithers Exploration Group directories
- Attended the Seabridge Gold event and expressed our gratitude to them on behalf of the business community
- Met with an engineering company who spoke of Smithers and said I could help them on the ground if need be

January 2017 – Attended a meeting at BCIC regarding the Regional Innovation Opportunities event taking place in Terrace

- BCIC has taken the lead so far due to time constraints on the event but now wants help putting people in the room
- Event is focused on helping businesses access technology solutions to their challenges
- Reached out to local businesses/industry who may be able to supply challenges and solutions

January 2017 – Hosted 5 meetings as part of the VAP program

January 2017 – Sent VAP enrollment forms to Nathan Murdoch of SoKo Construction

February 2017 – Attended the BCIC Regional Innovation Opportunities event in Prince George

- 13 companies presented challenges they have and that are open to solutions
- A VAP client was able to immediately service one of the companies with another possible one coming up
- The event is going to be in Terrace on February 23rd

February 2017 – Began compiling the mining list for local companies

- Information on approximately 200 projects is being compiled

February 2017 – Finalized the 2017 mining list

- Detailed list of about 250 projects taking place in northern BC
- Sent it out to 200 local business contacts

February 2017 – Attended the Regional Innovation Opportunities event in Terrace

- Approximately 50 registrants
- 12 presentations from businesses seeking solutions

February 2017 – Met with Rick Budhwa of Crossroads Cultural Resource Management

- Introduced North West Research and Monitoring
- A local collaboration of researchers and monitors aimed at large industrial projects

February 2017 – Replied to a question from the Rural BC Dividend program

- They are about to announce who was been successful

February 2017 – Met with an entrepreneur looking to open a microbrewery

- Has plans but zoning will be an issue
- Has private backing
- Encouraged him to seek out advice from other brewers in the region as well as local expertise
- Want him to meet with Rimas to go over his actual plan

February 2017 – Hosted 5 VAP meetings with clients

March 2017 – Connected Kevin Stunder of HMBR to a group of investors who called the BVEDA

March 2017 – Attended the BC Tech Summit

- Connected with companies interested in testing their app with a local company in Smithers
- CareCrew is interested in working with WellSpring Home Care as part of their beta testing
- Met with a venture capitalist who is interested in finding projects in the north to fund, especially in the cleantech/agtech world

March 2017 – Met with Derek Baker and Joel McKay of Northern Development

- Talked about opportunities for them in the Smithers region around improvements to community halls and other facilities
- Were in town to present a cheque for the airport expansion

March 2017 – Connected an entrepreneur with a couple of building owners as possible locations for the microbrewery

March 2017 – Met with an entrepreneur interested in a retail outlet

- Interested in selling men's products
- Suggested a Christmas pop-up store as a test market