



Bulkley Valley
Economic Development Association

2013 Work Plan

Third Quarter Report

July – September

www.bveda.ca



www.investnorthwestbc.ca

Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association

The Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association is pleased to present its 2013 Work Plan Report for the period from July 1 to September 30, 2013. The report will provide details of activities and the progress we've made toward implementing our 2013 Work Plan.

The Work Plan was developed using the Strategic Plan prepared by Lions Gate Consulting Ltd. (available on our website) and for 2013 focuses on the following four strategies;

1. Tourism
2. Mining
3. Partnerships
4. Business Expansion

This report provides information on the work and actions completed toward all the strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan.

The BVEDA invites your written comments. Please forward to;

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P.O. Box 3243,
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

or allanstroet@bveda.ca.

VISION STATEMENT

The Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association (BVEDA) will help build a resilient community with a shared vision of acceptable economic development amongst all three signatories and their constituents in the Bulkley Valley and the traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en. It will do this by supporting wealth-creating activities that are consistent with local values and interests. Through its partnerships and positive working relationships, BVEDA will be recognized as an economic development leader by governments, nongovernment organizations, industries, businesses, community groups and residents. Programs and assistance will be available throughout the region and it is acknowledged that development in individual communities will benefit all. The agency will target gaps in services, avoid overlap with other local and regional agencies, and will have stable long term operational funding.

BVEDA will operate as a legal entity governed by a board of directors appointed by and accountable to the signatories. The board's primary role will be to develop policy and oversight for the economic development function under the direction of a strategic plan. It will strive to minimize local political interference and will seek out larger regional initiatives.

Implementation of the plan will be through the agency's professional staff, which will be based in a stand-alone office.

Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association

MISSION STATEMENT

The BVEDA is owned and operated by three founding signatories, the Town of Smithers, Area A of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. The BVEDA supports individuals and community groups in the Bulkley Valley, members of the Wet'suwet'en and those interested in locating to the Valley. The BVEDA will facilitate economic development wherever possible but will focus on the following core services:

- Create and distribute research and economic information to those engaged in or interested in engaging in business and economic development and the community at large;
- Report out on the economic health, opportunities and stability of the Bulkley Valley and Wet'suwet'en territory;
- Provide brokering services to businesses, community groups and government agencies;
- Market and promote the region and recruit new investment;
- Secure investment in desired economic development activities and infrastructure from senior levels of government and the private sector;
- Where appropriate, provide/channel direct equity investment into key business operations; and
- Encourage, facilitate and assist the development of major resource projects where they fit the values and expectations of the people of the region.

BVEDA will have professional and technical economic development staff based in the region funded by the three signatories. The staff will develop close working relationships with business owners and operators and with local, regional, provincial, First Nation and federal governments.

The staff will proactively identify business and economic opportunities that will be shared with potential investors and entrepreneurs.

BVEDA will communicate, consult, inform and involve the broader community in its planning, implementation, and evaluation functions so that the organization becomes seen and valued as an economic leader.

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LOCAL BUSINESS CLIMATE

July 2013 (EDO) – Secured a grant from Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation for the creation of the Smithers Co-Working Space

July 2013 (EDO) – Met with Innovation Central Society Executive Director Ernest Daddey regarding potential partnerships with increasing the number of export companies in the Bulkley Valley

August 2013 (EDO) – Continued to update the information on local contractors to make it as complete as possible

August 2013 (EDO) – Attended the first Tech Talk event hosted by Startup Smithers

August 2013 (EDO) – Drafted a letter for Board approval to send to Telus and CityWest regarding wider broadband internet distribution to the Town of Smithers

September 2013 (EDO) – Met with Cybernet owner, Carrol Rosner to discuss ways to increase the access to bandwidth for businesses in the Bulkley Valley

INDUSTRIAL LAND

August 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Site Selector meeting in Prince George and had 1 on 2 discussions with site selectors

COMMUNITY INFORMATION PORTAL

August 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Site Selector meeting in Prince George and had 1 on 2 discussions with site selectors

August 2013 (EDO) – Added content to the BVEDA webpage

August 2013 (EDO) – Updated the INWBC Pretivm Resources page

BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

July 2013 (EDO) – Secured a grant from Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation for the creation of the Smithers Co-Working Space

July 2013 (EDO) – Connected Smithers Mall owner Adam Battistelli to potential tenants in Fields and V&S Department Stores

July 2013 (EDO) – Met with Innovation Central Society Executive Director Ernest Daddey regarding potential partnerships with increasing the number of export companies in the Bulkley Valley

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August 2013 (EDO) – Continued to update the information on local contractors to make it as complete as possible

August 2013 (EDO) – Helped a local law firm find new workspace furniture to be able to get back to work as soon as possible

September 2013 (EDO) – Met with Cybernet owner, Carrol Rosner to discuss ways to increase the access to bandwidth for businesses in the Bulkley Valley

September 2013 (EDO) – Judged the Business Façade Improvement Project with 3 other businesspeople

September 2013 (EDO) – Connected 5 helicopter companies with Spectra Energy and their requests for interest in working with them

September 2013 (EDO) – Provided tourism numbers to a chocolate company looking for a place to relocate.

September (EDO) – Met with Rob Whitwham, Mark Amandrud, and Evan Saugstad of Spectra Energy regarding opportunities for Smithers companies to participate in aspects of the proposed project

NETWORK & DIALOGUE

July 2013 (EDO) – Served hamburgers and talked about Startup Smithers at the Chamber of Commerce member appreciation lunch

July 2013 (EDO) – Met with Innovation Central Society Executive Director Ernest Daddey regarding potential partnerships with increasing the number of export companies in the Bulkley Valley

July 2013 (EDO) – Attended Start-Up Coffee at Bugwood Bean

July 2013 (EDO) – Attended the BV Nexus meeting at the Alpenhorn

August 2013 (EDO) – Planned and held the BVEDA AGM

August 2013 (EDO) – Talked to the Vanderhoof Co-op manager about opening a location in Smithers

August 2013 (EDO) – Connected a local construction company with the BC Construction Safety Alliance

August 2013 (EDO) – Attended the first Tech Talk event hosted by Startup Smithers

August 2013 (EDO) – Met with Rob Maurer of UTM/SEG about the discussion that Rick Braam and I had about growing the mineral exploration cluster in Smithers via calling Smithers “The Mineral Exploration Capital of BC”

September (EDO) – Met with Rob Whitwham, Mark Amandrud, and Evan Saugstad of Spectra Energy regarding opportunities for Smithers companies to participate in aspects of the proposed project

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September (EDO) – Attended the BC Oil and Gas Commission Open House

September (EDO) – Met with Dana Hibbard of the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition

RESOURCE INDUSTRY CLUSTER

July 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Northern Gateway Pipeline presentations at the Town Hall

August 2013 (EDO) – Connected a Chinese tourist/real estate developer to www.investnorthwestbc.ca through the BV Museum display of Chinese language brochure cards

August 2013 (EDO) – Met with Rick Braam to discuss the idea of creating marketing material for the Town of Smithers as “The Mining Exploration Capital of BC”

August 2013 (EDO) – Met with Mark Amundrud, Community Coordinator for Spectra Energy out of Terrace

August 2013 (EDO) – Met with Rob Maurer of UTM/SEG about the discussion that Rick Braam and I had about growing the mineral exploration cluster in Smithers via calling Smithers “The Mineral Exploration Capital of BC”

September 2013 (EDO) – Connected 5 helicopter companies with Spectra Energy and their requests for interest in working with them

September (EDO) – Met with Rob Whitwham, Mark Amundrud, and Evan Saugstad of Spectra Energy regarding opportunities for Smithers companies to participate in aspects of the proposed project

SUPPLY & SERVICE CLUSTER

August 2013 (EDO) – Talked to the Vanderhoof Co-op manager about opening a location in Smithers

August 2013 (EDO) – Met with Mark Amundrud, Community Coordinator for Spectra Energy out of Terrace

September 2013 (EDO) – Connected 5 helicopter companies with Spectra Energy and their requests for interest in working with them

September (EDO) – Met with Rob Whitwham, Mark Amundrud, and Evan Saugstad of Spectra Energy regarding opportunities for Smithers companies to participate in aspects of the proposed project

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

August 2013 (EDO) – Connected a local construction company with the BC Construction Safety Alliance

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FOREST AND ENERGY PRODUCTS

AGRICULTURE

TOURISM

September 2013 (EDO) – Provided tourism numbers to a chocolate company looking for a place to relocate.

TRANSPORTATION

KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY

July 2013 (EDO) – Secured a grant from Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation for the creation of the Smithers Co-Working Space

July 2013 (EDO) – Met with Innovation Central Society Executive Director Ernest Daddey regarding potential partnerships with increasing the number of export companies in the Bulkley Valley

July 2013 (EDO) – Met with Ania Wysocka who is a new resident looking for a job in the international relations field

August 2013 (EDO) – Attended the first Tech Talk event hosted by Startup Smithers

September 2013 (EDO) – Met with Cybernet owner, Carrol Rosner to discuss ways to increase the access to bandwidth for businesses in the Bulkley Valley

ARTS & CULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE