



Bulkley Valley  
Economic Development Association

# 2013 Work Plan

## Fourth Quarter Report

October – December

[www.bveda.ca](http://www.bveda.ca)



[www.investnorthwestbc.ca](http://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 October 1 to December 31, 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;

#201 – 3848 Third Avenue,  
P.O. Box 3243,  
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

or [allanstroet@bveda.ca](mailto: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.

# **Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association**

---

## ***LOCAL BUSINESS CLIMATE***

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Deb Sargent and Heather Gallagher about launching a new retail focused venture, “Small Town Love”

November 2013 (EDO) – Submitted content to the Prince Rupert Port Authority regarding the importance of the Port to a community like Smithers

November 2013 (EDO) – Had a table at the “Destined to Succeed” Moricetown Job Fair

November 2013 (EDO) – Had a phone meeting with Michael McCarthy, Senior VP for Business Solutions for Telus

December 2013 (EDO) – Worked on an article on amenity migrants for the Interior News

## ***INDUSTRIAL LAND***

December 2013 (EDO) – Helped a company search for a land in town to set up an operation

## ***COMMUNITY INFORMATION PORTAL***

October 2013 (EDO) – Sought out possible translation services and funding avenues for local marketing materials

November 2013 (EDO) – Fleshed out the RDBN “Regional Profile – Smithers”

December 2013 (EDO) – Spoke with Trade and Investment Reps for Europe about ways that Smithers can become more appealing to European investors

December 2013 (EDO) – Updated the Smithers and area portion of the Invest BC website

## ***BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION***

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Startup Smithers leaders to discuss their trip to Ottawa to meet with senior elected government officials

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with a local entrepreneur to talk about his store idea

December 2013 (EDO) – Met with Scott Power who wanted assistance with the opening of his new business

December 2013 (EDO) - Connected 6 drilling companies with Spectra Energy to go on the geotechnical drilling shortlist in the area.

# **Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association**

---

December 2013 (EDO) – Connected 4 expediting companies with Spectra Energy to go on the camp support setup shortlist in the area

December 2013 (EDO) – Met with Cybernet to discuss improving sales for their company

## ***NETWORK & DIALOGUE***

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Startup Smithers leaders to discuss their trip to Ottawa to meet with senior elected government officials

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Lucy Gagnon from the Moricetown Band about Kyahwood

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Coastal Gaslink Smithers Chamber luncheon

November 2013 (EDO) – Talked to Betty Barton, Chair of NSIS

November 2013 (EDO) – Met with Nathan Cullen and the Chamber regarding ‘asks’ for the riding from an Economic Development point of view

November 2013 (EDO) - Attended the Chamber luncheon featuring the Prince Rupert Port Authority

December 2013 (EDO) – Met with Nathan Cullen and the leaders of Startup Smithers

## ***RESOURCE INDUSTRY CLUSTER***

October 2013 (EDO) – Assisted in arranging an investor meeting with a local mining company

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Seabridge Gold/BC EAO open house on the KSM project

November 2013 (EDO) – Joined the Minerals North 2016 bid committee

## ***SUPPLY & SERVICE CLUSTER***

## ***TRAINING AND EDUCATION***

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended a Startup PG event at the Two Rivers Gallery “Maker Lab”

November 2013 (EDO) – Attended Startup Weekend in Prince George

## ***FOREST AND ENERGY PRODUCTS***

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended an event put on by SNCIRE and Waterlution with regards to scenario planning around LNG projects in the area

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Lucy Gagnon from the Moricetown Band about Kyahwood

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Spectra open house in Hazelton

# Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association

---

December 2013 (EDO) – Met with Dave Jacobs of Newpro regarding changes in forestry in the area

## ***AGRICULTURE***

## ***TOURISM***

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended the Smithers Mountain Bike Association marketing strategy session

October 2013 (EDO) – Participated in the Tourism Smithers “Future Moves” workshop

## ***TRANSPORTATION***

## ***KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY***

October 2013 (EDO) – Attended a Startup PG event at the Two Rivers Gallery “Maker Lab”

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Startup PG entrepreneurial leader, Shauna Harper

October 2013 (EDO) – Talked with Ernest Daddey of the Innovation Central Society about how the BVEDA can better position itself in the eyes of the BCIC

October 2013 (EDO) – Met with Startup Canada reps and Sean Mitchell about moving forward with Startup Smithers

November 2013 (EDO) – Attended a Startup Luncheon with 6 leaders

*November 2013 (EDO) – Had a phone meeting with Dean Prelazzi, Lead of the BC Acceleration Network about having BCIC fund Startup Smithers*

December 2013(EDO) – Met with 12 interested parties who wanted to talk about a solution for faster internet in Smithers

## ***ARTS & CULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE***

November 2013 (EDO) – Participated in the repatriation of the “First to Hazelton” medallion press conference for the BV Museum