

# Community Readiness & Economic Transition Are We Ready?

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# Why Are We Here?

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***We are on the cusp of the most significant transformation of communities and economies since the 1950s***

Have the opportunity to create lasting benefit  
Invest & work ahead of the boom to leverage the opportunity



# Presentation Outline

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- Anticipated resource sector development
- Lessons from other places
- Dialogues on Readiness
- Policy Opportunities
- Summary

# Anticipated Resource Sector Development

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# Northern BC Today

- On the cusp of the most significant transformation of communities and economies since the 1950-1970s
- Significant private sector investment
  - \$70+ billion in resources and resource related projects underway or planned in the next 10 years
- Challenge: to leverage investment to create the next 'long boom'

# Resource Development: Three Phases

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- Construction
  - Next 5-7 years
- Operations
  - 5-30 years
- Next generation workforce
  - 25 years

# Construction Phase

- Large number of jobs, majority are short-term
- Jobs are highly specialized, many go to global work crews
  - Fly-in/Fly-out workers and camps: large contractors, small contractors
- Few jobs for unskilled workers
- Time of highest investment
- Greatest pressure on physical and social services infrastructure

# Operations Phase

- Industry job opportunities
  - Smaller number of jobs, most are permanent and long-term
  - Jobs are technical, specialized, managerial
  - Indirect jobs: supply and service
- Community job opportunities
  - Business, professional, retail, public, non-profit
- Have the time to educate local people
- Communities diversify and stabilize
- Healthy community. Healthy services.



# Next Generation Workforce

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- Working in a diversified local economy
- Embedded in a global economy
- Work anywhere, live anywhere, do business everywhere
- More educated, more skilled
- In a global competition for workers, why would they come to a small town in BC?

# Lessons from Other Places

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# Lessons from the Peace Region

- 12 specific theme areas of lessons
  - Pressure points, responses, advice to others
- Key issues:
  - Understanding scope and scale
    - Issues, opportunities, pressure points
  - Coordinated approach
    - Multi-sectoral collaboration
  - “Get in front/stay in front” of issues
    - No jurisdiction has ever caught up

# Lessons from Kitimat

- Readiness and collaboration
  - Everyone has a role
- Capacity will be taxed: local government, social, business sector
  - Must plan forward or opportunities will slip past
- Expect a spike in poverty: rents, cost of living
  - Social plans at least as critical as economic and infrastructure plans
- Establish community tables: multi-sectoral
  - Ongoing information exchange and planning

# Dialogues on Readiness

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# Key Themes in Community Readiness

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- Five overarching themes:
  1. Lack of knowledge about the oil and gas sector
  2. Narrow focus on the construction phase
  3. Need for social development focus
  4. Need for collaboration between economic and social development
  5. Demand for community-wide dialogue

# Economic Development: Construction

- Progress on workforce development: collaboration between colleges, school districts, industry
- Need for long-term vision – development and diversification:
  - Economic, business, community
- Transportation and infrastructure key priorities for local government
- Local government revenue lag
  - Looked at labour force, post-secondary education and skills training, economic development, business development, transportation and infrastructure

# Social Development: Construction

- Spike in demand: need for ‘accordion’ services
- Already under pressure: housing, food banks
- High level of anxiety
- Lack of information:
  - Impacting service planning and integration
- Need for community social development plans
  - Looked at housing, community and social services, public safety, health care, recreation and sports facilities and programs, cultural facilities and programs, kindergarten to grade 12 education



# Economic Development: Operations

- Strategy for developing the operations workforce
  - Transitioning a small proportion of the construction workforce to operations
  - Education and training for workforce entrants
  - Consideration of indirect and community jobs
- Strategy for transitioning the economy to operations
  - Business development, recruitment, partnership
  - Business succession planning
  - Looked at labour force, post-secondary education and skills training, economic development, business development, transportation and infrastructure

# Job Opportunities: Need to be Ready



# Social Development: Operations

- 'Smart' infrastructure investments
- Technology for service delivery
- Invest in next generation workforce
  - Learning workforce: invest across the life course
  - First Nations
- Impacts workforce attraction and retention
  - Looked at housing, community and social services, public safety, health care, recreation and sports facilities and programs, cultural facilities and programs, kindergarten to grade 12 education

# Policy Opportunities

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# Policy Opportunities: Construction

- Agency/Local/Regional social development plans
  - Access to need and demand information
- ‘Accordion’ service delivery model
  - Health, social services, local government services
- Cross-sector workforce transition
  - Forestry sector ‘adjustment’
  - Beware of job ‘bust’
- Infrastructure investments
  - High-speed internet, small airport strategy
  - Local infrastructure needs
- Voluntary and local leadership sectors

# Policy Opportunities: Operations

- Community and regional vision
  - Economic diversification
  - Social and community capital
- Construction workforce transition
  - Training for new operations opportunities
  - Opportunities for ongoing construction activity
    - Housing stock renewal, public infrastructure investments
- Investment in next generation workforce
  - Healthy babies
  - Readiness to learn
  - High school graduation

# Summary

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# Summary

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- We are on the cusp of the most significant transformation since the 1950s
- Identify the opportunities and risks
- Must have a vision: where you want to be
- Collaboration and integration are imperative
  - Local/regional/provincial economic strategy
  - Local/regional/provincial social strategy



# CDI

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- [\*Partners in Community Development: Board Voice\*](#)
- [\*Spring 2013 - Speakers Series - Housing in a Changing Community: Opportunity for Innovation\*](#)

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming a vital partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

The institute emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, collaboration, learning, and complementarity between UNBC research centres. Research that is undertaken balances academic credibility with practical relevance. Beyond research, the Institute is involved in outreach activities and serves as a conduit to expand and enhance local educational opportunities related to community development.

Major: [\*Public Administration and Community Development\*](#)

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# The Community Development Institute University of Northern British Columbia

For further information please visit our website at:  
**[www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute](http://www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute)**

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