

# Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC

## Call for Expressions of Interest

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### About Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN)

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LIRN can bring trainers and facilitators to your community to deliver a learning event for residents. You can select the topic of the event from the choices below and tell us why this is important in the spaces provided. **LIRN does not provide direct funding or cash.** The support offered by LIRN generally includes: event planning, workshop and/or dialogue design, facilitation, training, and reporting services that are related to each learning event.

LIRN is a collaborative approach to building on the capacities of rural, remote and Northern British Columbian communities. The LIRN process encourages government (municipal, provincial and federal), First Nations, non-government organizations (community-based, regional and provincial) and businesses to work together to plan, deliver and evaluate a locally relevant learning initiative. LIRN is made possible through a partnership of government and non-government organizations that recognize the strengths and challenges of rural, remote and Northern BC communities.

LIRN is a key part of the Capacity Development Consortium (CDC) which is a provincial association of organizations (government and non-government) that are committed to excellence in the practice of community capacity development in BC. The CDC vision is collaborative community capacity development that contributes to healthy, vibrant, sustainable and inclusive BC communities. Our mission is to improve community well-being through mutual learning, co-operation and partnership development. The LIRN process is facilitated by a working group of the CDC. The LIRN partners understand the importance of local opportunities to learn about and work on current issues, as well as assess, envision, plan and act for a better future.

The LIRN partners are the Canadian Rural Partnership, Service Canada (New Horizons for Seniors Program), the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (Community Development Education Program), PeerNetBC, Public Health Agency of Canada, Fraser Basin Council (Smart Planning for Communities), Ministry of Community and Rural Development (RuralBC Secretariat), Interior Health, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Heritage Branch - Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, and BC Healthy Communities. These partners have combined their expertise and resources to create safe spaces across BC in which community members learn and work together in a manner that is locally relevant. The content and format for a LIRN event is determined through pre-event consultations and therefore takes shape according to local input. In order to help you develop a focus for your event, the LIRN partners have developed a diverse list of learning topics from which you can select a limited number of options that are most appropriate for your development needs and interests.

**Successful applicants are expected to contribute to the cost of food and venue wherever applicable. LIRN partners do not award direct grants.**

Additionally, all successful applicants are expected to support the LIRN process by establishing a local steering committee that can help plan and deliver the event. These

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groups support the LIRN lead in planning and delivering the event, as well as contributing to logistical support such as recruiting participants and identifying appropriate local facilities.

### Who Can Apply?

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LIRN will partner with non-profit organizations, First Nations Band Councils and municipalities who:

- Are located in a rural, remote and/or Northern region of BC – rural is defined as communities that are below about 25,000 in population and beyond regular commuting distance from a larger centre;
- Can demonstrate support or partnership within the community (including coordination to avoid multiple applications from the same community);
- Can demonstrate local need for the learning event;
- Can articulate anticipated outcomes for a LIRN event in their community.
- Networks of communities can also apply with the potential to use video conferencing facilities.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in the opportunities offered by LIRN. All applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the LIRN partners in accordance with an objective list of criteria, which will be organized according to the following themes: (1) Community Location, (2) Organizational Profile, (3) Community Support, and (4) Community Interests, Issues, Assets and Anticipated Outcomes. The LIRN partners will try to provide learning events to as many of the applicants as possible within our budgets.

### Expressions of Interest Process

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**EOI must be received by June 21st, 2010**

**Please do not exceed the provided space of the EOI.**

**Please return your EOI as a Word attachment, by email to:**

**[Brandon.hughes@telus.net](mailto:Brandon.hughes@telus.net)**

<b>Community Location</b>
Which community, or communities, would be involved in the LIRN BC event? What is the population?

<b>Applicant's Organizational Profile</b>
Organization's Name:

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Contact Information:								
Organization's Mission and/or activities relevant to organizing learning events:								
<b>Community Support and Community Issues</b>								
<p><b>Community Support</b></p> <p>Which local organizations have you contacted that are willing and able to support and participate in a LIRN BC event in your community? We are supportive of workshops that are inclusive of different organizations in the community including representatives from the social, economic, cultural, recreation, and environmental sectors, as well as population specific groups such as youth, seniors, Aboriginal Peoples, immigrants/newcomers, etc..</p>								
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Organization name	contact	phone	email
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**Community Issues**

Identify up to three issues facing your community and how they relate to the topic/s you chose below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Select 3 Workshop topics (full descriptions of these topics are

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### **below starting on page 7.)**

Please **select up to 3 workshop topics** from the list below. The topics are grouped under 5 themes which may help in your selection.

We will work with a representative of your organization (and other relevant stakeholders) to try to meet your community's learning needs as expressed by your issues above and topics below, but we can not guarantee that all of your preferences will be accommodated.

#### **I. Getting community leaders to understand and use information about the community and the region to make strategic decisions.**

- 1. What Makes People Healthy? An Introduction to the Social Determinants of Health
- 2. Knowing which Way the Wind Blows: Getting Indicators to Work for Your Community
- 3. Knowledge is Power: Producing Community-Based Participatory Research

#### **II. Organizations (service clubs) and institutions (local government, hospitals, schools, churches) and Aboriginal groups in our community work together.**

- 4. Planning Together: Building Respectful and Effective Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relationships
- 5. Traction for Social Action: How to Create a Strategic Social Development Plan
- 6. Engaging Youth in Community Organizations

#### **III. Our traditional institutions (local government, schools, churches, businesses, etc.) are action oriented and responsive to the needs of the people who live here.**

- 7. Making Space for Everyone: Toward an Accessible Community.
- 8. Pathways of Community Social Planning: Principles, Governance Models and Methods
- 9. Connecting the Dots: Climate Change Response and Healthy Communities

#### **IV. Local government and community organizations carefully plan for the future through better resource utilization.**

- 10. . The Futures Game – Understanding how planning decisions can affect your community's future
- 11. Moving from clean energy to the green economy
- 12 Every Community is Unique - Designing a Meaningful Process for Community Sustainability Planning
- 13. Your Voice and Public Policy: How to Participate in Shaping Public

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Policy

- 14. Navigating Times of Change: How to Lead Strategic Planning for Nonprofit Organizations
- 15. Sustainability Planning 101
- 16. Heritage and Cultural Tourism – Getting your community noticed

### V. Community members have opportunities to strengthen individual skills.

- 17. Basic Skills for Effective Grassroots Groups
- 18. Grab the Grants: How to Write Grant Applications that Get Noticed
- 19. Why Wait? Civic Literacy for Youth
- 20. Healthy By Design: Linking Land Use, Transportation, Health and the Built Environment
- 21. Arts & Community Change
- 22. Your topic

### Community Assets

Identify the different organizations and/or groups you would like to see in attendance at your LIRN BC event? Please identify organizations that were not previously listed.

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

What resources can you provide towards the workshop – i.e. in-kind time from local planning committee, venue for the event, catering, etc?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review information on their own communities related to the social determinants</li> <li>• identify ways in which broader awareness and understanding of a social determinants of health approach might support local efforts to improve health and well-being.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Knowing which Way the Wind Blows: Getting Indicators to Work for Your Community</p>	<p>How can your community develop and use indicators in community learning, planning and action programs? This workshop helps show the way. Participants in this workshop will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire knowledge of key concepts used to discuss indicators and indicator monitoring projects;</li> <li>• Develop an awareness of indicator sources and resources for ongoing learning about indicators and indicator projects (i.e., vital signs, etc.);</li> <li>• Gain an understanding of one community-based method for designing and implementing a community indicator monitoring project that involves the public and is linked to action strategies.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Knowledge is Power: Producing Community-Based Participatory Research</p>	<p>Communities can be and should be directly involved in creating research about local issues that matter to local people. This workshop provides participants with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge about the theory, practice, ethics and examples of community-based participatory research;</li> <li>• Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods and analytical tools;</li> <li>• Skills to create research questions and a related research, analysis and knowledge transfer plan</li> </ul>
<p>4. Planning Together: Building Respectful and Effective Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relationships</p>	<p>The lack of meaningful, respectful engagement between local government, First Nations and community based organizations has been identified as a barrier to community planning in rural and northern BC communities. Participants in this workshop will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss principles for effective intercultural work between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples</li> <li>• Learn about Local Government and First</li> </ul>

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	<p>Nations Visioning processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand First Nations Governance Structures and Comprehensive Community Planning in First Nations communities</li> <li>• Study BC examples of collaborative approaches to organizing, implementing and evaluating intercultural projects</li> <li>• Explore next steps for local work between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples</li> </ul>
<p>5. Traction for Social Action: How to Create a Strategic Social Development Plan</p>	<p>Most BC communities include diverse government and non-government agencies who are working to build a strong local social safety net and related preventative initiatives. For leaders in social development sectors who feel that their community is moving in many different directions but not creating positive change in any one area, the development of a strategic social plan can help. In this workshop, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the components of a strategic social development plan, as well as the benefits and challenges of creating and implementing such plans;</li> <li>• Gain knowledge about an eight step process for creating a social development plan;</li> <li>• Engage in exercises that start the process of creating a social development plan for their community.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Engaging Youth in Community Organizations</p>	<p>Workshops to engage youth and/or youth service providers in learning exercises on meaningful youth engagement and strategies for sharing power with youth. These highly interactive workshops are rooted in a peer support approach to community development and based on shared learning.</p>
<p>7. Making Space for Everyone: Toward an Accessible Community.</p>	<p>By participating in this workshop participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the theory and practice of accessibility;</li> <li>• Gain knowledge about how to conduct an accessibility audit of their community and how to create strategies for increasing awareness of the</li> </ul>

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	<p>importance of accessibility;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain knowledge about and engage in dialogue regarding accessible living, transportation, building design, technology, signage, etc.</li> </ul>
8. Pathways of Community Social Planning: Principles, Governance Models and Methods	<p>Community Social Planning (CSP) is a local, democratic system for setting priorities, arriving at equitable compromises and taking action. It supports community needs and interests in social, cultural, economic, and environmental affairs. In this workshop, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the principles and activities inherent in community social planning, and understand different governance structures for community social planning;</li> <li>• Understand the organizational life cycle of community social planning councils (CSPC), and know how to establish and develop a CSPC;</li> <li>• Gain knowledge of community social planning methods and case studies of different methods.</li> </ul>
9. Connecting the Dots :Climate Change Response and Healthy Communities	<p>Increasingly local governments, parks and recreation departments and community programmers are facing multiple complex issues (i.e. climate change, childhood obesity, poverty, chronic disease) that require integrated approaches to problem solving. How do we address one problem without exacerbating another? How do we find common ground for mutually beneficial solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase quality of life?</p> <p>This interactive workshop will make the links between healthy communities, active living and climate action. BC Healthy Communities will lead you through an interactive workshop that discusses BC's current commitments for climate action (i.e. carbon neutral local governments), and opportunities to build solutions that are mutually beneficial to environmental and community health.</p>
10. The Futures Game – Understanding how planning decisions can affect your community's future	<p>The planning decisions we make today can influence a region's future environmental, population, and economic well-being. This highly interactive and participatory session will involve teams in a scenario planning exercise to examine possible futures. Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle the challenges of decision-making across the community, economic and environmental dimensions while incorporating global, national</li> </ul>

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	<p>and local issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the implications of local and regional decision-making on the future of the community;</li> <li>• Examine issues such as resource management, regional collaboration, economic revitalization and workforce development; and,</li> <li>• Engage in robust discussions on planning, community economic development, and sustainability.</li> </ul> <p>This futures simulation approach adds extra depth and strength to community/regional planning efforts and helps hone local leadership and decision-making skills.</p>
<p>11. Moving from clean energy to the green economy</p>	<p>Local governments and First Nations can bring substantial benefits to their communities by encouraging and supporting the development of clean energy and the transition to a green economy. Benefits include reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, local economic development through investment attraction and clean energy job creation, and increased local energy security. In this workshop, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess their community’s readiness to participate in the green economy;</li> <li>• Identify ways to exploit and take advantage of green initiatives;</li> <li>• Discuss ways to utilize training programs to support green initiatives and businesses;</li> <li>• Understand how to integrate and link existing community plans (economic development, sustainability and OCPs) with clean energy strategies.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Every Community is Unique - Designing a Meaningful Process for Community Sustainability Planning</p>	<p>This workshop provides an introduction to sustainability planning and examines how to create a sustainability planning process that will have a transformative influence on their communities. Successes/lessons learned from individual community and intercommunity processes will be shared and combined with targeted activities which will stimulate discussion and idea generation. Discussion will then focus on making sustainability planning fit your community’s situation and needs, concrete steps that communities can undertake to get started on their own sustainability process, and a listing of tools and resources that can support your efforts.</p>
<p>13. Your Voice and Public</p>	<p>You have the right to be involved in setting the agenda for public policy matters that affect your life. In this</p>

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<p>Policy: How to Participate in Shaping Public Policy</p>	<p>workshop, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government in Canada;</li> <li>• Understand different strategies for participating in public policy formation;</li> <li>• Identify the key players in locally relevant public policy areas and begin developing policy positions on key issues.</li> <li>• Gain the skills to create a local strategy to engage in policy dialogue with political leaders and government officials in selected policy areas.</li> </ul>
<p>14. Navigating Times of Change: How to Lead Strategic Planning for Nonprofit Organizations</p>	<p>This workshop is for organizational leaders who want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the theory and practice of effective strategic planning, and learn about examples of strategic planning processes of non-profit organizations;</li> <li>• Develop the skills and knowledge to lead a strategic planning process.</li> </ul>
<p>15. Sustainability Planning 101</p>	<p>This interactive workshop will provide information on sustainability planning: what it is, why it is valuable and how a community can begin a sustainability planning process. A presentation will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a quick introduction to the Smart Planning for Communities program and services;</li> <li>• review sustainability frameworks and approaches</li> <li>• provide examples of the great work that other communities in BC are already doing.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion will then focus on making sustainability planning fit your community's situation and needs, concrete steps that communities can undertake to get started on their own sustainability process, and a listing of tools and resources that can support your efforts.</p>
<p>16. Heritage and Cultural Tourism – Getting your community noticed</p>	<p>In this workshops participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain an understanding of how communities can develop cultural tourism and heritage strategies, providing economic opportunities for their region;</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategies to identify and protect cultural landscapes;</li> <li>• Explore the smart growth benefits of heritage conservation.</li> </ul>
<p>17. Basic Skills for Effective Grassroots Groups – choose two</p>	<p>These five 3.5 hour workshops are designed to improve skills required for effective peer-led community groups. Aimed at people who want to improve their group participation skills to create more effective groups in their community, participants could include neighbourhood or community associations, peer support groups, emerging co-ops, community project teams and many others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Managing Group Conversations - gain knowledge of basic communication theory; explore skills of active listening; learn to minimize communication roadblocks.</li> <li>2) Problem-Solving &amp; Decision-Making - define common problem-solving and decision-making processes and practice the problem-solving model by using participatory decision-making tools.</li> <li>3) Group Development and Learning - identify the five stages of group development and determine strategies to accommodate group dynamics within stages; define different learning styles and ways to optimize learning in group settings.</li> <li>4) Power and Diversity - identify different forms of diversity; define oppression and raise awareness of power imbalances that affect groups, consciously or unconsciously; describe ways to level uneven power dynamics in groups.</li> <li>5) Project Management for Grassroots Groups - Understand the 5 project management phases; explore the similarity between project management phases and problem-solving models; practice the project management model by using various decision-making methods.</li> <li>6) Other topics –Go to <a href="http://www.pcernetbc.com">www.pcernetbc.com</a> to see our full range of workshops.</li> </ol>
<p>18. Grab the Grants: How to Write Grant Applications that Get Noticed</p>	<p>The Grab the Grants Session will assist organizations in developing strategies for preparing a grant application that will get noticed by funders. It will provide information such as:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining if a grant is the right funding tool for your organization</li> <li>• How to get started in developing your application</li> <li>• Identifying common errors that applicants make</li> <li>• How to write strong proposals</li> <li>• The New Horizons for Seniors Program application process</li> </ul>
<p>19. Why Wait? Civic Literacy for Youth today</p>	<p>Youth are not merely adults in waiting. They have experience, information, skills, ideas and solutions today.</p> <p>In this workshop you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about civic literacy for youth from the successful YouthCore model from the City of Victoria</li> <li>• find out how youth can be actively involved in your community to influence healthy public policy</li> <li>• learn how to develop youth/adult ally teams for reciprocal mentoring opportunities and for taking action on community issues</li> </ul>
<p>20. Healthy By Design: Linking Land Use, Transportation, Health and the Built Environment</p>	<p>This session will be of interest to planners, health practitioners, and anyone interested in how to promote active, healthy communities.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-identify opportunities to create healthier built environments and more active communities</li> <li>-learn from what other rural communities in BC are doing</li> <li>-learn about how digital storytelling can be used as a public engagement and communication tool</li> <li>-learn about networks and resources that are promoting healthier built environments in BC</li> </ul>
<p>21. Arts &amp; Community Change</p>	<p>A participatory opportunity to discover creative ways to address issues in your community using the arts as effective methods for dialogue and exchange.</p>

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	<p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-learn how arts are used in many diverse agendas, e.g. health promotion, social justice, environmental, inter-generational and inter-cultural work</li><li>-learn how to engage decision-makers, youth, business, and all sectors of the community in safe and effective dialogue</li><li>-learn from regional and international examples of arts for social change</li></ul>
22. Your Topic	<p>You can choose to write your own workshop description. The partners will try to accommodate this if possible.</p>

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DEADLINE**  
**June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to [Brandon.hughes@telus.net](mailto:Brandon.hughes@telus.net)**

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### About the LIRN Partners

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#### **Canadian Rural Partnership**

Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) is a federal initiative which supports rural communities by helping to identify the issues they are facing, by taking collaborative action to address these issues, and connecting community to community and community to government to share information on available resources and best practice in rural development. We identify issues by bringing rural community residents together for dialogue or at conferences. The information from these gatherings is shared with a federal/provincial Rural Team which can undertake collaborative action to address these issues and can provide the input toward influencing government policies and programs with a Rural Lens. We also share information from one community to another and from government to communities through listservs, newsletters, best practice guides, and program lists. For more information about the Canadian Rural Partnership, please visit our website at:

[http://www.rural.gc.ca/team/bc/bchome\\_e.phtml](http://www.rural.gc.ca/team/bc/bchome_e.phtml)

#### **Service Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors Program**

Service Canada is becoming the program delivery arm of the federal government. Over a dozen federal departments are working with Service Canada so it can become a single window of service and program delivery for the federal government. Service Canada is home to the Employment Insurance system, labour market programming to help unemployed people return to work, income support like Old Age Security and Canada Pension. Service Canada also coordinates the New Horizons for Seniors program, which is a program that provides funding for community-based projects that aim to encourage seniors to contribute to and become more engaged in their local communities. Service Canada is interested in strengthening linkages with communities for more effective delivery of federal programs and services. For more information about Service Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors program, please visit our website at: <http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/isp/horizons/toc.shtml>

#### **Rural BC Secretariat**

At the 2008 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the creation of the RuralBC Secretariat, which is working hand-in-hand with rural B.C. communities to ensure they each have the tools to achieve their unique vision for the future. The RuralBC Secretariat within the Ministry of Community and Rural Development provides a direct service and information link between the provincial government and B.C.'s rural communities. The Secretariat's regional managers are there to assist communities to access the most appropriate programs and sources of provincial and federal funding and to identify opportunities to diversify local economies.

The Secretariat works with rural communities to:

- assist local governments to apply for provincial and federal government infrastructure funding programs;
- diversify regional economies;

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- assist resource-based workers in transition;
- increase community socio-economic health and sustainability; and
- enhance response to opportunities and urgent needs of communities.

For more information about the RuralBC Secretariat, please visit our website at <http://www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca/>

### **SPARC BC (Community Development Education Program)**

SPARC BC, a registered non-profit society and a federally registered charity, was established in 1966 and is a leader in research, public education and advocacy regarding issues of community development, accessibility, and income security. SPARC BC is a provincial organization with over 15,000 members and is governed by a Board of Directors from across BC. Our mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all.

The Community Development Education Program is one of our methods for realizing our mission. The Community Development Education Program aims to empower individuals and organizations by providing them with learning opportunities to identify local assets and issues, build local knowledge and develop skills and action-plans that contribute to effecting local consensus-oriented change. The curriculum resources and facilitation services of the Community Development Education Program are available to communities through the LIRN BC process. For more information about SPARC BC and the Community Development Education Program, please visit our website at [www.sparc.bc.ca](http://www.sparc.bc.ca).

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### **PeerNetBC**

PeerNetBC provides training, resources and support to peer-led initiatives across BC, fostering opportunities for people to learn and make connections.

PeerNetBC key programs include capacity-building workshops on group development and group facilitation and Kinex, a youth driven team supporting social and systemic change through peer support approaches. We also offer information and referral services in the Lower Mainland and province-wide support for online peer support communities. Find out more about PeerNetBC at <http://www.peernetbc.com/>

### **Heritage Branch – Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts**

The Heritage Branch, within the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts provides advice and information to the minister, local governments and others on heritage conservation legislation, policy and best practices. The Branch builds partnerships with other levels of government, institutions, non-profit organizations and the private sector to facilitate increased investment in heritage initiatives. The Branch also builds capacity for community heritage conservation and collaborates with the Government of Canada, through the Parks Canada Agency, on national heritage initiatives, including British Columbia's participation in the Historic Places Initiative.

### **BC Healthy Communities**

A Provincial initiative, BC Healthy Communities is part of the World Health Organizations international Healthy Communities/Cities movement, active in over 80 countries around the world. BCHC provides capacity building support to communities and local governments to make the links between the interconnected and multiple determinants of health for enhancing overall individual and community health and wellbeing. We offer capacity building learning events, forums and workshops as well as on the ground and specialized supports for visioning, planning and action to address complex community health issues. For more information visit <http://www.bchealthycommunities.ca/content/home.asp>

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### Public Health Agency of Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) was established in 2004 to strengthen public health in Canada. PHAC is one of six departments and agencies that make up the federal government's Health Portfolio and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Health. The mission of PHAC is to promote and protect the health of Canadians through leadership, partnership, innovation and action in public health. While health care focuses mainly on treating individuals, public health targets entire populations to keep people from becoming sick or getting sicker. One of the goals of public health is to promote physical and mental health as intricately connected to the environment and society we live in.

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2008/cpho-aspc/cpho-aspc02-eng.php>

### Interior Health

The Population Health Unit is part of Interior Health's Public Health department. While health services are essential, they represent only one set of factors that affect health. 'Population health' is a new way of thinking about health. It looks at the broader social, environmental and economic setting within which people live, work, and age. It recognizes the range of conditions and factors that influence our health, including our early childhood development, education, employment, income level, where we live, and our social support network.

Individual behaviour and lifestyle choices certainly affect health outcomes, but many of the risk factors for common conditions can be more profoundly influenced by changing the social, economic, physical, and policy environments in which individual lifestyle decisions are made --the so-called 'social determinants of health'. These underlying root causes of ill-health explain why some populations are more susceptible than others to preventable injuries and chronic diseases.

For more information, please view our website at <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/choose-health.aspx?id=234>

### Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a unique organization that is focused on advancing sustainability throughout the entire Fraser River Basin. The long-term vision of the FBC is to ensure that the Fraser Basin is a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment – a true reflection of sustainability. Since it was established in 1997, the FBC has played a key leadership role in helping to resolve conflicts, educate the public about sustainability and take advantage of opportunities to advance sustainability throughout the Fraser River Basin. For more information visit <http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/>

**If you have any questions, please contact any of the LIRN Partners:**

**Brandon Hughes**

**Janice Nelson**

# Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC

## Call for Expressions of Interest

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Canadian Rural Partnership  
TEL: 250.499-9562  
[Brandon.hughes@telus.net](mailto:Brandon.hughes@telus.net)

**Scott Graham**  
Social Planning and Research Council of BC  
Community Development Education Program  
TEL: 604.718.8501  
[cde@sparc.bc.ca](mailto:cde@sparc.bc.ca)

**Cheryl Hewitt**  
PeerNetBC  
TEL: 604.733.6186  
[cheryl@peernetbc.com](mailto:cheryl@peernetbc.com)

**Lex Baas**  
Interior Health  
TEL: 250.505.7239  
[lex.baas@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:lex.baas@interiorhealth.ca)

**Berdine Jonker**  
Heritage Branch  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts  
TEL: 250-356-1044  
[Berdine.jonker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Berdine.jonker@gov.bc.ca)

**Denise Weber**  
Public Health Agency of Canada, BC/Yukon  
Region  
TEL: 604-666-6064  
[Denise.Weber@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:Denise.Weber@phac-aspc.gc.ca)

Community Initiatives & Policy  
BC/YT Region  
Service Canada  
TEL: 250-220-3274  
[janice.nelson@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:janice.nelson@servicecanada.gc.ca)

**Jodi Mucha**  
BC Healthy Communities  
TEL: 250 356 0930  
[jodi@bchealthycommunities.ca](mailto:jodi@bchealthycommunities.ca)

**Maureen LeBourdais**  
Manager, Smart Planning for  
Communities  
Fraser Basin Council  
250-392-1400  
[mlebourdais@fraserbasin.bc.ca](mailto:mlebourdais@fraserbasin.bc.ca)  
[www.smartplanningbc.ca](http://www.smartplanningbc.ca)  
[www.toolkit.bc.ca](http://www.toolkit.bc.ca)

**Patricia Summers**  
RuralBC Secretariat  
Ministry of Community and Rural  
Development  
TEL: 250-356-8883  
[Patricia.Summers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Patricia.Summers@gov.bc.ca)