



MEASURING UP THE NORTH E-NEWS

September 28, 2009

Dear MUTN Communities:

The MUTN E-News is a bi-weekly update distributed to our MUTN Liaisons, Communities and other interested parties. Included you will find information on announcements, news from MUTN communities, upcoming events, funding, and the latest updates on our website. **Please feel free to distribute this e-news.**

If you have announcements or funding opportunities you would like to share, please send them to the MUTN Project Assistant: Kory Heyland (kheyland@bcpara.org).

Check out our website www.measureupthenorth.com for information on our Partners, News and Events, Resources and our Forum.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NEW TOOL IN THE ACCESSIBILITY TOOLBOX

Community accessibility grows a little more every day because of you. SPARC BC would like to thank all those dedicated to working for accessibility in their community and share with you our newest project that may be helpful to your work. The Accessible Community Bylaws Guide <<http://www.sparc.bc.ca/the-accessible-community-bylaws-guide>> is a landmark project to be introduced to municipalities across BC at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention today in Vancouver.

A vast document covering nine model accessibility by-laws with hundreds of recommendations and one employment policy, it is designed to give BC municipalities a practical tool for planning, and serve as a knowledge resource for anyone wanting a comprehensive understanding of community accessibility.

The Accessible Community Bylaws Guide aims to:

- Give British Columbia municipalities a set of tools which they can use to construct more accessible communities for people with disabilities, as well as include people with disabilities in decisions that affect their lives.
- Utilize the strength of local government to enhance the accessibility of a community, which has many positive outcomes.
- Contribute to higher quality of life for community members, ensure the long-term viability of a community through sustainable infrastructure, and set an example for community partners and other communities.

Click on the links below to:

- Download summaries, a community map, and the full Bylaws Guide <<http://www.sparc.bc.ca/the-accessible-community-bylaws-guide>>
- Access links to other accessibility resources <<http://www.sparc.bc.ca/resources-and-publications/category/26-accessibilityresourcespublications>>
- Join our email Network: BC CAN (BC Community Accessibility Network) <<http://www.sparc.bc.ca/join-the-bc-can-network>>
- Read our 2009 Policy Spotlight on the Ontario Accessibility Legislation <<http://www.sparc.bc.ca/resources-and-publications/category/37-public-policy-articles>>

COMMUNITY PROFILES

We need your help to create YOUR community profile. All you need to do is fill in the survey below and send Kory the photos you would like in your Profile. These profiles will be great PR tools for you and will also be great for us with the project as a whole. WE ARE DOING THE WORK FOR YOU! You will receive back a great looking profile that you can use for your PR!

MUTN Community Profiles: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229FKK3S453>

COACHING SESSIONS

I really would love to have "coffee" with you and your committee members or even you and your mayor and discuss where you want to go next in your community with your MUTN plans. Many communities have already taken advantage of this offer and we have had some great chats. Please contact Kory Heyland

kheyland@bcpara.org and make an appointment with me for October.

FUTURE THREATS TO, AND POSSIBILITIES FOR, DISABILITY STUDIES

You are cordially invited to the following talk. **To register**, please email your full name, phone number & requests for special accommodations (including ASL interpretations) to the Critical Disability Studies Students' Association at York University at cds_grad@yorku.ca by **October 12th, 2009**. See [POSTER](#) for more information.

UPCOMING NCA TRAINING

The following is the tentative NCA training calendar for 2009-2010. Full course descriptions and registration information will be posted to the NCA web site later this fall:

Retrofitting for Accessibility

Lake Mead, Nevada
January 25-29, 2010

A Universal Approach to Interpretive Planning, Programs and Design

San Antonio, Texas
March 8-12, 2010

21st Century Trails

Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana
April 28-29, 2010

Accessibility Coordinators Training

Portland, Oregon
June 22-25, 2010

All sessions are from 2 to 3:30 pm Eastern. For a complete listing of projects and presenters, along with registration information, go to www.ncaonline.org.

Information provided by Rural Team BC issued by Brandon Hughes

THE SIXTH RURAL COMMUNITIES SUMMIT

A joint conference of the BC Rural Network, Rural Team BC and the Municipality of Port Hardy March 16-18, 2010 Port Hardy Civic Centre - The BC Rural Network, in partnership with the District of Port Hardy and Rural Team BC, will host the 6th BC Rural Communities Summit in Port Hardy, BC. This biennial forum will take place at the Port Hardy Civic Centre, March 16-18, 2010. *Transforming Rural Economies: Change and Innovation* offers participants the opportunity to explore today's most innovative strategies in building a sustainable rural economy.

Summit workshops and presentations will feature industry leaders with the goal of:

- Creating and enhancing awareness around issues of importance to rural and remote communities across all regions of BC.
- Providing participants with practical tools and strategies that can be translated into actions in their communities.
- Offering valuable opportunities to network with and learn from rural colleagues.

A Call for Workshop Proposals will be issued in September 2009. For more information, contact: Maureen LeBourdais 250-392-1400 summit@bcruralnetwork.ca
www.bcruralsummit.ca

FUNDING NEWS

WALK BC

Provided by: BC Recreation & Parks Association, Heart & Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon
Information: [Click Here](#)
Unofficial Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2009

PUBLIC AWARENESS GRANT

Provided by: BC Recreation and Parks Association
Information: [Click Here](#)
Unofficial Deadline: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

ACT (AFFORDABILITY AND CHOICE TODAY) PROGRAM - SPRING 2009

Provided by: Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Partners
Information: [Click Here](#)
Unofficial Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2009

CELEBRATE CANADA PROGRAM

Provided by: Canadian Heritage
Information: [Click Here](#)
Unofficial Deadline: Sunday, February 28, 2010

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE LENDING PROGRAM FOR HOUSING-RELATED PROJECTS

Provided by: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
information: [Click Here](#)
Unofficial Deadline: Thursday, March 31, 2011

COMMUNITY GOALS & ACHEIVEMENTS

Community updates from the September 11, 2009 liaison conference call meeting.

Fort St. John: Lori Slater (Community Liaison)

- During the summer provided design input on the new Enerplex parking area.
- During the summer launched the Parking Placard campaign; took this to Council in August and unanimous support. Placards say: "Imagine being in my place. Please do not park in my space". Volunteers are placing them on parking violators in public parking areas (not private parking). Terrace has requested info on the placards. During the call, Daniel Pearce of Prince George also requested info so he can take back to his committee.
- Lori will send the placard electronically to Laurie and it can be posted on the MUTN website.
- Many of Lori's activities are curtailed due to illness.
- Plan to work on the OCP this fall as priority.

Prince George: Daniel Pearce (NCMA Liaison)

- Having been doing many sidewalk and curb cut upgrades. A list was developed by their Committee and forwarded to Public Works and they are working on them.
- Prince George will be working on its OCP this year. They have hired a consultant who will meet with the Committee Oct 14.
- Today installing an accessible transit shelter at AimHi location.
- Many transit shelters are accessible but plan is to make all accessible.

McBride: Glenda Thompson (NCMA Liaison)

- Completed the Village Park with many accessible features over the summer. This is a central park in the town and tourists have commented on its great features through a tourism survey which was completed. Grand opening will be end of September. Glenda will invite MUTN Representatives.
- Have not heard back yet on the Federal Enabling Accessibility Grant.

Williams Lake: Kary Fell (Community Liaison)

- Held first meeting after summer break last week.
- New curb cuts were installed downtown over the summer.
- Plan is to install new curb cuts in the residential areas.
- Kiwanis Park: work on this accessible park should soon be completed. This is a major park in Williams Lake. A great deal of funding was received. The cost for the park was \$300,000. Recycled rubber material is used for the foundation on the play structures. Will have a grand opening in the fall and invite MUTN representatives.
- Will be starting work on their OCP this fall.
- Created an Accessibility Award for businesses and already awarded one business this year.
- The Cariboo Regional District was looking to see if there was a National Award for Accessibility to show case their accessible trails feasibility study.

Tumbler Ridge: David Price (MUTN Coordinator) Unable to attend meeting but sent the following note:

- I won't be able to attend the teleconference today as I am covering the ambulance. However; one of the more interesting pieces of news is that a PhD student from UBC did a series of interviews (including yours truly) early in the summer on Community Health in mining towns. While the original focus was on what the issues were for mining families (up/down markets, regular moves, etc., etc.), she became very interested in my perspective of what it is like to live in a mining community if you are NOT a miner - particularly if you are an older citizen. She is coming back in early October (9th?) to hold a forum with managers of the mining companies, town council representatives, and people such as myself and Dr. Charles Helm to discuss how the companies could contribute to Tumbler Ridge in a truly meaningful way and, since the infrastructure is already in place due to the earlier mines, the obvious place to help out is in community health issues - development of services, funding overnight beds or special facilities, etc. We would also be discussing issues like air quality. Could be a great opportunity to get the coal companies on side to make some big changes that would benefit the seniors and others with special needs.

LIAISON CONFERENCE CALL DATES

Here is a list of dates for all the Liaison conference calls with Laurie:

- October 16, 2009 @ 10am
- November 13, 2009 @ 10am
- December 11, 2009 @ 10am

Please mark these dates on your calendars. Join Laurie to talk about how your communities are progressing.

MUTN WEBSITE UPDATES

<http://www.measureupthenorth.com/>

Web Related Contacts:

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