



BASIN BOUNDARY BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

Business retention and expansion (BR+E) has been identified as a regional priority through consultations with key economic development stakeholders and local businesses. The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) recognizes the need to support the ‘process’ of BR+E based on best practices, the need to standardize data collection and analysis, the need for local level training to build capacity, and the importance of linking research with economic development plans and follow-up actions. The RDI is supporting communities and innovation councils in their BR+E implementation efforts through the provision of training, best practice tools and research support. With funding from the Columbia Basin Trust, the RDI has acquired a regional license for the BC Business Counts program. Communities can access this license, including the BR+E web-based application that supports analysis at the local, regional and provincial levels. In addition to providing communities with research and training support, the RDI will engage in applied research focused on better understanding business assets, gaps and opportunities at the regional and sub-regional levels. Research will also explore the use of best practice tools in the context of rural communities with varying levels of economic development capacity. Indicators for the State of the Basin Initiative will also be developed from this rich data set.
