RDI Annual Report

2015-2016

# SP1: State of the Basin / Digital Basin

## Activities & Deliverables Summary

The State of the Basin initiative monitors and reports on well-being within the Columbia Basin-Boundary region using a suite of indicators relating to four interconnected research pillars: economic, social, cultural, and environmental. Key information products include a short graphic-based indicator report, a series of brief reports analysing trends in notable well-being topics, a report generated from an annual primary research activity that polls residents regarding their perceptions, experiences and behaviours related to well-being topics, socio-economic community profiles, and the Digital Basin online assets and indicators geospatial portal.

### State of the Basin

The Annual Poll of Residents was released in October 2015: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Report_2015PollOfResidents_Final.pdf>

The State of the Basin Snapshot Report was released in December 2015: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/rdi-releases-2015-state-of-the-basin-report/>

### Trends Analysis Briefs

A total of 20 Trends Analysis Briefs were released: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/category/trends-analysis/>

### RDI Focus

RDI is now releasing a series of e-news stories designed to further support the mobilization of conditions and trends research.

“Democracy in Action: Voter Turnout in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region” was released in November 2015: <http://rdi.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/7D692E1F646B79CF/C6355147EAB5355AC9C291422E3DE149>

“Gifts of Good Living” was released in December 2015: <http://rdi.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/05F183EDF21C0B00/C6355147EAB5355AC9C291422E3DE149>

“The Changing Face of Basin-Boundary Region” was released in February: <http://rdi.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/2A0EE498EB2CA25E/C6355147EAB5355AC9C291422E3DE149>

“International Women’s Day: Gender Differences and Income Inequality in the Basin-Boundary” was released in March: <http://rdi.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/EB98D9B418F68A36/1E075841ED34358A9A8E73400EDACAB4>

### Community Profiles

The RDI’s series of **28** **Community Profiles** were released on September 30, 2015: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/updated-community-profiles-now-available/>

### Digital Basin

Regular **maintenance** of the online portal was undertaken and several **layers** (including social service organizations, 3 agricultural indicators, and many environmental, social and economic indicators) were added or updated in association with the Social Sector, Food Systems, and State of the Basin projects. In addition, the RDI team began work on designing a **front-end** to the Digital Basin that will improve utility and ease of use. The development of the enhanced front-end will continue in 2016.

# SP2. Applied Research & Innovation

## Activities & Deliverables Summary

### Business Retention and Expansion

The Business Retention and Expansion initiative provides support to Basin-Boundary economic development organizations to facilitate research into the health of the local business climate, aiming to inform planning and actions that enable retention and expansion of existing businesses. Key research products include project-specific reports detailing research results, a series of videos that highlight the experiences of project participants, and survey response datasets. The RDI provides participating communities with e-pulse CRM and research methods training, research advisory services (e.g. sampling, custom questions), data analysis and report writing support.

#### Community and Sector Projects

The Sparwood and Kimberley BRE reports were released in April: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/rdi-releases-bre-reports-for-sparwood-and-kimberly/>

The Kaslo BRE report was released on May: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/rdi-releases-kaslo-bre-report/>

The Revelstoke BRE report was released in October: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/rdi-releases-revelstoke-bre-report/>

The Nelson and Lower Columbia Mining and Metallurgical Sector BRE reports were released in March:

#### Pilot Project Wrap-Up and Regional Study

In association with the formal completion of the 3-year BRE pilot project, the RDI released a series of **regional-scale reports** in August: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/bre-pilot-project-officially-concludes/>

* Summary of findings from all projects completed to date
* Exploration of best practices and regional successes
* Regional perspectives on Basin-Boundary economic development capacity

The Regional BRE report was released in January: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/planned-business-expansion-represents-over-420-million-in-investment/>

The results of these studies were also shared in two **webinars** (see section on SP3)

### Food Systems Project

The RDI’s applied research project focussed on the Basin-Boundary food system aims to identify opportunities to increase food production and improve food security. The project is concluding and a series of research products with varying scopes and purposes will be released in April. RDI funding for this research project was leveraged with BC Real Estate Foundation Funding.

Analysis of existing food system research plans and policies  
40+ research documents were added to the research repository: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/resources/>

“Common Themes in Agricultural Plans of the Columbia Basin Boundary Region was released in February 2015: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/CommonThemesAGplans_final.pdf>

“Basin-Boundary Agricultural Planning: The Regional Perspective: video was released in January 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/wn_dzl22qlY?rel=0>

‘Inventory of Regional Resources for Food System Planning and Action” completed and scheduled for release in late March 2016.

Agricultural Indicators  
New asset and indicator layers added to the Digital Basin include: Agricultural Land Reserve, Farmers Markets, Productive Farmland, Underutilized Farmland, and Value of Underutilized Farmland. “Agricultural Climate: Conditions and Trends” report will be released in late March 2016.

#### Remote Sensing

Research undertaken by the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre focused on identifying underutilized farmland and relied on two methodologies. The first cross-referenced BC Assessment data and soil capability information to identify agricultural land with strong agricultural potential. The second involved developing a remote sensing methodology to identify land with high productivity potential. This research was piloted in the Columbia Valley. A report on the results of the two assessments will be released in late March.

Supply chain Analysis: Beef  
An analysis of innovation in the beef supply chain (primarily based on results from a series of interviews) is nearing completion and the report is scheduled for release in late March.

### Non-Profit Social Sector Project

The Non-Profit Social Sector project aims to develop a baseline understanding of the state of the region’s social non-profits. Activities are focused on gathering data on non-profit experiences and characteristics, exploring the presence and role of collaborative networks in the sector, and highlighting successful examples of innovation.

#### Research

“Exploring Characteristics and Capacity of the Non-Profit Social Sector in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region” report was released in February 2016: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Exploring-Characteristics-and-Capacity-of-the-Social-Non-Profit-Sector-RDI-Report-on-Survey-Results-Winter-2016.pdf>

Results are being shared in multiple **presentations** to various audiences (see section on SP3).

#### Inventory

An **inventory** of over 170 non-profit organizations was completed during the reporting period in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust. The inventory was mapped and added as an [asset layer](http://www.cbrdi.ca/digitalbasin/wpPrtDriver.php?Community=Select%2520a%2520Community&Theme=Wellness&Pillar=Social&Category=Social%20Svc%20Organizations&AdjustExtent=1) on the Digital Basin.

### Workforce Innovation Project

The RDI has been working with the Regional Workforce Development (KWD) Initiative’s steering committee and coordinator. The Regional Innovation Chair (RIC) facilitated the steering committee’s work plan planning session in June 2015 and helped develop the annual strategic action plan. The RIC identified the following information needs and research opportunities that could best advance the regional initiative, including:

* support outcome measurement of pilot projects – RDI is currently developing a methodology to measure the long-term impact of Project Heavy Duty ; (East Kootenay)
* produce an inventory of existing industry / education / community collaboration and track the impact of these and future efforts – RDI will support the West Kootenay-Boundary and East Kootenay KWD Coordinators in compiling the inventory;
* revisit labour market data in an effort to inform the sectoral focus of future industry / education / community collaborations – a series of related Trends Analysis Briefs, including:
  + High School Completion: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_HighSchoolCompletion_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Employment: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_Employment_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Income Distribution: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_IncomeDistribution_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Population by Age and Gender: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_Population_2015r1.pdf>;
  + Unemployment: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_Unemployment_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Workforce Education: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_WorkforceEducation_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Wages: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_Wages_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Student Enrollment: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_StudentEnrollment_2015_Final.pdf>;
  + Population Estimates and Projections: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/TA_Population_2016.pdf>;
* conduct research focused on better understanding the needs and service gaps of the underemployed and best practice service provision examples from other jurisdictions (see below);
* develop an inventory of key employers in order to better understand their in-house training needs and the ways in which they are willing to support workforce development efforts – RDI has incorporated a related question into the Business Retention and Expansion Survey and related data has / is being collected for Nelson, Creston and Fernie;
* support the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan to track the impact of the 2-year pilot initiative – this work will take place in 2016-17.

#### Research

RDI funding was leveraged with funding from the Southern Beetle Action Coalition and MITACS to undertake research focused on better understanding the transition of young adults into the workforce. A doctoral student from SFU was hired to undertake this work and the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation sponsored / supported the student’s research work. “Consultation Summary – Training, Engagement, and Retention: A ‘Learning Region’ Approach to Rural Youth” will be released in late March 2016. <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/youth-training-retention-engagement-explored/>

A series of Knowledge Briefs were released in January 2016 (see Section on SP3).

# SP3. Knowledge Mobilization (Outreach & Extension)

## Activities Summary

### Knowledge Briefs

The RDI’s series of knowledge briefs aim to provide concise, accessible summaries of current research on topics of regional importance.

“Understanding Labour Force Survey Variability for the Basin-Boundary Region” was released in June 2015: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Understanding-the-LFS-Methodology-Brief.pdf>

“Youth Engagement” was released in January 2016: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Engagement-Knowledge-Brief.pdf>

“Youth Retention” was released in January 2016: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Retention-Knowledge-Brief.pdf>

“Youth Training and Education” was released in January 2016: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Traing-and-Education-Knowledge-Brief.pdf>

“Youth Workforce Development” was released in January 2016: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Workforce-Knowledge-Brief.pdf>

### Training & Presentations

The RDI delivered 17 presentations to a total estimated audience of 842. Highlights included:

* a workshop with the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/innovations-highlighted-at-aging-in-the-kootenays-event/>
* a Workforce Development Forum: <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/workforce-development-mobilized-by-strategic-doing-teams/>
* a presentation to a provincial audience at the Keeping it Rural Conference in Salmon Arm and presentations to international audiences at the Global Growth Agendas and Building Community Resilience Conferences. Note: RDI funding was not used to cover travel for presentations outside of the region. <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/rdi-engages-in-policy-discussions-and-sharing-of-our-lessons-learned/>

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Subject** | **Audience Size (estimated)** |
| April 2015 | Farm Food Fork | Agricultural Data | 100 |
| 16-Apr-15 | LCIC Metals Group Meeting | Clusters | 12 |
| 22-Apr-15 | AKBLG | RDI Intro | 100 |
| 24-Apr-15 | AKBLG | Evidence-Based Decision Making and Research Priorities Workshop | 100 |
| 5-May-15 | Global Growth Agendas Conference | Colleges as Anchors of Innovation | 25 |
| 26-May-16 | Keeping it Rural Conference | Rural Issues | 125 |
| 27-May-15 | Keeping it Rural Conference | SIBAC Priority Setting | 65 |
| May 2015 | Credit Unions Meeting | State of the Basin | 50 |
| 30-Jun-15 | RDI Webinar | BRE | 17 |
| 18-Sep-15 | CBT Social Advisory Meeting | Social Survey Results | 20 |
| 16-Sept 15 | Building Community Resilience Conference | Engaging Communities Through Research and Knowledge Mobilization | 20 |
| 23-Sep-15 | RDI Webinar | BRE | 5 |
| October 2015 | AKBLG Aging in the Kootenays Learning Event | State of the Basin - Demographics | 60 |
| Nov 2015 | Workforce Development Forum | Workforce Development | 70 |
| Nov 2015 | Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy AGM | State of the Basin | 16 |
| January 2016 | Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism – AGM | Tourism Data and Decisions | 60 |
| February 2016 | RDI Webinar | Social sector research project | 15 |
|  |  | **Total** | **842** |

### Student Research Internships

Once again, the RIC administered the annual **TeckServ** student internship over the summer term with funding support from Teck Metals. This year’s internship was hosted by the West Kootenay Boundary Community Services Cooperative and focused on the state of the family in the region.

### Research Partnerships

Occasionally, the RDI supports research led by other organizations if the research topic is related to the RDI’s ongoing activities and a noted priority for the region. The RDI developed a partnership with **Selkirk College** and **College of the Rockies[[1]](#footnote-1)** researchers focused on **mountain culture**. (<http://selkirk.ca/event/exploring-mountain-culture-forum>) Our ongoing partnership with the Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society **Metallurgical Committee** was also active during the reporting period, with support being provided for a **BRE project** focused on the mining and metals sector, and research advisory services focused on an **analysis of the sector’s supply chain**.

### Data Provision and Research Advisory Services

The RDI’s data provision services target organizations in need of information to support their program management and planning decisions. Research advisory services are provided to organizations that are undertaking their own research and seeking input on research methodology or interpretation of results. 35 individual services were provided by the RDI during the reporting period. 22 referrals were also made.

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| **Date Submitted** | **Organization** | **Nature of Support** |
| April 2015 | Teaching and Learning Institute | Research Advisory Services |
| 3-Apr-15 | SNC Lavalin (on behalf of Ministry of Transportation) | Information and Data Requests |
| 13-Apr-15 | CBT | Information and Data Requests |
| 10-Apr-15 | Selkirk College Teaching and Learning Institute | Information and Data Requests |
| 8-Apr | Melissa Flint | Research Advisory Services |
| 17-Apr-15 | Nelson Food Cupboard | Information and Data Requests |
| 14-May-15 | RDCK Area D | Information and Data Requests |
| 5-Jun-15 | NCOH, Slocan Valley Senior's Housing | Information and Data Requests |
| 25-Jun-15 | CBT | Information and Data Requests |
| 29-Jun-15 | resident | Information and Data Requests |
| 26-Jun-15 | Village of Fruitvale | Information and Data Requests |
| 20-Jul-15 | Ministry of Childhood Development | Information and Data Requests |
| 10-Jul-15 | CBT | Information and Data Requests |
| 27-Aug-15 | Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training | Information and Data Requests |
| 27-Aug-15 | Kootenay Resilience Project | Research Advisory Services |
| 30-Sep-15 | Kootenay Career Development Society | Information and Data Requests |
| 13-Oct-15 | City of Fernie (via CBT) | Information and Data Requests |
| 9-Nov-15 | Nelson Careas | Information and Data Requests |
| 30-Oct-15 | West Kootenay Eco Society | Info and Data Requests |
| 12-Nov-15 | Castlegar Community Foundation | Information and Data Requests |
| 29-Oct-15 | CBT | Information and Data Requests |
| 16-Nov-15 | Upper Columbia CoOp Council | Information and Data Requests |
| Nov-15 | Boundary Chamber | Information and Data Requests |
| 25-Nov-15 | Koop | Research Advisory Services |
| 27-Nov-15 | Creston Valley Trails Society | Information and Data Requests |
| 30-Nov-15 | Amenity Migration Institute | Information and Data Requests |
| 18-Jan-16 | MDB Insight (on behalf of Columbia Valley) | Information and Data Requests |
| 27-Jan-16 | Affirming Workplace | Information and Data Requests |
| 3-Feb-16 | Granite Pointe Golf and Recreation Society | Information and Data Requests |
| 11-Feb-16 | Columbia Basin Trust | Information and Data Requests |
| 19-Feb-16 | Castlegar and District Community Services Society | Information and Data Requests |
| 23-Feb-16 | Community Futures Boundary | Information and Data Requests |
| 25-Feb-16 | Village of Silverton | Information and Data Requests |
| 25-Feb-16 | Student | Research Advisory Services |
| 4-Mar-16 | Family Action Network | Information and Data Requests |

** By The Numbers**

*2015-16*

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| **Key Performance Indicators** | **2014-15** | **2015-16** |
| Total Visitors | 3,384 | 8,123 |
| Total Visitors - New | 1,837 | 3,995 |
| Total Visitors - Returning | 1,547 | 4,128 |
| Digital Basin Layers Viewed | 4,070 | 2,420 |
| Report Downloads *(note: started collecting Sept 3, 2014)* | 1,565 | 3,590 |
| Data Provision / Research Advisory Services | 44 | 35 |
| Brokering / Referrals | 11 | 22 |
| Training Workshops / Presentations | 32 | 17 |
| Training Workshops / Presentations Attendees | 604 | 842 |
| Moderate to High Partner Awareness | 84% | *forthcoming* |
| Moderate to High Local Government Awareness | 37% | *Forthcoming* |
| Use of RDI research and tools by partners | 82% | *Forthcoming* |
| Use of RDI research and tools by local government | 21% | *Forthcoming* |
| ‘RDI supported’ informed decision making reported by partners | 71% | *Forthcoming* |
| Advancement of desired outcomes reported by partners | 71% | *forthcoming* |

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| **Digital Basin Layers** | **2014-15** | **2014-15 (%)** | **2015-16** | **2015-16 (%)** |
| Economic | 996 | 24% | 699 | 29% |
| Social | 1063 | 26% | 486 | 20% |
| Cultural | 364 | 9% | 267 | 11% |
| Environmental | 1072 | 26% | 503 | 21% |
| Cadastral | 406 | 10% | 298 | 12% |
| Geographic Boundaries | 169 | 4% | 167 | 7% |
|  | **4070** | **100%** |  | **100%** |

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| **Top 5 Layers (2015-16)** | **Views** |
| Wellness, Social Service Organizations | 119 |
| Cadastral Fabric, Ownership | 87 |
| Infrastructure, Transit Systems | 78 |
| Workforce, Employment Rate | 76 |
| Cadastral Fabric, Zoning | 63 |

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| **Top 5 Reports (2015-16)** | **Views** |
| 2015 State of the Basin Report | 227 |
| This community has not yet participated in the regional BRE project | 140 |
| 2014 State of the Basin Report | `115 |
| Agriculture Planning: Common Themes Report | 78 |
| Characteristics of the Non-Profit Social Sector Report | 44 |

1. Due to capacity limitations / changing of responsibilities of the institutional partner contact College of the Rockies was unable to participate. The RDI provided research advisory services to this project. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)