

RURAL NETWORK INVENTORY

For British Columbia

Updated October 2005



For more information on this project, please call:
Fraser Basin Council
Gail Wallin
(250) 392-1400
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BC RURAL NETWORK INVENTORY

Network (n) 1. an interconnecting group or system, a system of intersecting lines or components

Community Economic Development

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
British Columbia Community Economic Development Network (BCCEDNet)	The British Columbia Community Economic Development Network (BC CEDNet) is an affiliate of the Canadian CED Network, a national organization of CED organizations and practitioners. The purpose of the BC CEDNetwork is to connect CED organizations in B.C., support CED best practices, and broaden the support for CED across the province.	Ellie Parks 250-653-9612 eparks@saltspring.com	www.ccednet-rcdec.ca
Pacific Community Network Association (PCNA) formerly BCCNA	The purpose of the PCNA is to promote the establishment of Community Networks in BC, to advocate equitable access to electronic information and network services, and to facilitate public education and awareness of the issues surrounding access to information and network services. It is also a link to regional CAP networks, OLT Community Learning Network projects, and Rural Broadband initiatives in the province.	Gareth Shearman 1-888-727-2226 bccna@bccna.bc.ca	http://hp.bccna.bc.ca
Voluntary Sector Knowledge Network	VSKN is a web-based service intended as a resource to assist managers of non-profit organizations. It is intended to be of specific interest to smaller, organizations such as those that are volunteer-led and those in rural and remote areas. This site includes a discussion board and email link to a mentor.	vskn@vskn.ca	www.vskn.ca/index.htm
Columbia Basin Trust	CBT is an organization working on behalf of the residents of the Columbia Basin, to bring benefits to the region most affected by the Columbia River Treaty. CBT promotes social, economic and environmental well being in the Basin by delivering through a variety of programs: Arts, Culture, & Heritage; Children & Families; Family Literacy; Economic Development; Education & Training, Environment; Youth.	Phone: 1-250-365-6633 Toll Free: 1-800-505-8998 Fax: 1-250-265-2246 cbt@cbt.org	www.cbt.org

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Community Economic Development...cont'd

Community Futures Development Association of BC	The CFDABC was established to promote, coordinate and facilitate community economic development initiatives; to foster a better understanding of the Community Futures program; and, to serve as a catalyst in promoting strong partnerships between key stakeholders involved in the community economic development process. The creation of a province-wide association of Community Futures groups in B.C. enables local CFDCs to build greater organizational capacity, and provides a framework and a forum for the discussion of issues and concerns affecting the members and the distinct regions in which they operate.	604-685-2332 info@communityfutures.ca	www.communityfutures.ca
Fraser Basin Council	Fraser Basin Council is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that works to facilitate problem solving by bringing together the people necessary to make decisions that balance social, economic and environmental values. The role of the Fraser Basin Council in these initiatives is to facilitate dialogue, act as a jurisdictional and conflict resolution agent, seek comprehensive solutions, and move objectives to action. Initiatives range from projects with Basin-wide implications to those focused on sustainability challenges in specific regions of the Basin.	604-488-5350 info@fraserbasin.bc.ca	www.fraserbasin.bc.ca
Povnet	Povnet is an Internet site for advocates, people on income assistance and community groups involved in anti-poverty work. It provides up to date information about Income Assistance, and housing laws and resources in BC. Povnet links to current anti-poverty issues, and provides links to other anti-poverty organizations and resources in Canada and internationally.	604-876-8638 povnet@povnet.org	www.povnet.org

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Community Economic Development...cont'd

Coastal Communities Network	Role is to link coastal communities, to develop common ground on resource and marine policy and to articulate the needs of coastal communities to senior governments, industry, media and the general public. Goals are to enhance the long-term viability of communities, increase their self-reliance and ensure a balanced and fair approach to the development of public policy related to the marine environment.	250-812-5652 coastcom@island.net	www.coastalcommunity.bc.ca
Social Planning & Research Council of BC (SPARC)	SPARC is a non-profit organization whose role is to research and make policy statements about social and economic concerns; foster innovative approaches to service provision; support social development interests throughout the province; and encourage citizen involvement in social issues. Publishes 'SPARC News', a quarterly news magazine on community affairs in BC.	604-718-7733 info@sparc.bc.ca	www.sparc.bc.ca
Western Economic Diversification Canada	A department of the Government of Canada. WD's Western Canada Business Service Network offers over 100 points of service across the West. Small and medium-sized businesses can access information and services to help their businesses grow and succeed through a network of: Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC), Women's Enterprise Initiative Organizations (WEI), Canada Business Service Centres (CBSC) and Francophone Economic Development Organizations (FEDO). WD's Business Service Network database can assist with locating the network offices nearest you.	1-888-338-9378	
The Innovation Network	The Innovation Network's purpose is to assist Peace Region entrepreneurs in developing innovative, commercially viable products and services. The Innovation Network assists entrepreneurs and businesses by increasing regional innovation capacity, providing client services and by developing a culture of innovation within the Peace Region of Alberta & BC.	Toll Free: 1 866 835 5005 innovation@peacecountrycanada.com	

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Technology

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
Innovation Resource Centre	The IRC forms part of a regional network of BC's science and technology organizations found in the communities of Kelowna, Prince George, Rossland, Kamloops, Fort St. John and Nanaimo. The IRC's mandate is to facilitate the development and implementation of solutions that support the growth of the high technology sector in Northern BC. IRC's mission is to enhance the regional economy by facilitating science, technology and innovation solutions.	250-564-2755 info@innovate.bc.ca	www.innovate.bc.ca
British Columbia Regional Science & Technology Network	The BCRSTN is comprised of seven innovation councils and four technology transfer centres throughout rural British Columbia. BCRSTN members foster business and community growth through the application of science, technology, and innovation. They provide services throughout their regions to the private sector, community agencies and post-secondary institutions, by engaging in Networking, Shared Best Practices and Professional Development Activities.	250-765-9745 rfilipiak@ouc.bc.ca	www.innovate.bc.ca/bcrstn/contact.html

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Natural Resources

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
BC Environmental Network (BCEN)	The BC Environmental Network (BCEN) is a network of community-based British Columbia environmental organizations. Organizations within the Network advocate for environmental responsibility and community participation in activities leading to ecological sustainability.	1-604-879-2279 info@bcen.bc.ca	www.ecobc.org
Canada's Forest Network: Directory of BC Community Forestry	Catalogue of Forestry initiatives in British Columbia that substantially serve local community interests and values.	250 335 2868 millen@island.net	www.denmanis.bc.ca/directory

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Food & Agriculture

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
BC Farm Women's Network	To unify and promote agriculture within and outside the farming industry, particularly where the issues affect farm women, and to share resources and information among members.	Lorraine Jerema 250-593-2384 hawthorn@telus.net	www.bcfwn.100mile.com
Vancouver Permaculture Network	Permaculture is typified by providing for the needs of people with local renewable resources. Permaculture design is about planning, organizing, and designing with nature and people to rearrange resources and elements in mutually beneficial relationships. Website lists resources, lending library, and listserv.	Harold Waldock 604-795-1797 haroldw@alternatives.com	www.alternatives.com/vpn
Small Scale Food Producers Association		Sandra Mark 250-370-5167 ssfpa@pacificcoast.net	www.ssfpa.net
BC Agriculture Council	On line network of BC agriculture-related links		www.bcac.bc.ca/programs.htm
Certified Organic Associations of BC	Information on organic growing and production in BC: database of certified growers, regional associations, and listserv. For use by consumers seeking organic produce, buyers wanting to check a farm's current organic certification status, or looking for information on organic growing and production in British Columbia.		www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

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Health

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
BC Mental Health Coalition	The British Columbia Mental Health Coalition is comprised of four provincial advocacy organizations (CMHA BC, BC Schizophrenia Society, Mood Disorders Association of BC, Anxiety Disorders Association of BC), concerned with the availability and quality of mental health services in BC. This monitoring is essential to ensure appropriate resources and services are provided to improve treatment and community support for people with mental illness in BC. Member groups all link off the CMHA BC homepage.	604-688-3234 Toll Free: 1-800.555.8222 office@cmha-bc.org	www.cmha-bc.org
HEAL: Healthy Eating & Active Living in Northern BC	Individuals, organizations and communities from 100 Mile House to the Yukon border, working together to prevent Type 2 diabetes. This project is funded by Health Canada and sponsored by the Northern Health Authority, and spreads the word about the importance of healthy eating and active living through projects, e-lists, newsletters, news releases, presentations, networking, workshops, and the HEAL Web site.	Mary Anne Arcand 250-565-2150 marcand@uniserve.com	www.healbc.ca
HIV Community Based Research Network	This site is operated by the Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) in Vancouver. They support a global network of people using research to guide community action on HIV prevention, treatment and care. The main commitment of community-based research is engaging communities in producing knowledge that directly assists them in managing their own situation. Here you can exchange experience on a scale previously unimaginable. Browse the library, contribute your own work, connect with others doing similar studies or participate in ongoing dialogue and commentary.	604-736-0091 http://cbr.cbrc.net/modules.php?name=Feedback	http://cbr.cbrc.net/

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Health...cont'd

BC Network of
Community Health
Centres

A network and learning exchange for those interested in promoting community health centres and primary health care renewal in British Columbia. The goal of the network is to contribute to primary health care renewal in BC by providing a forum and an ideas and information exchange for those in BC who are interested in CHCs and more generally in primary health care innovation.

Barbara Bell, Chair
604-254-5456
info@chcnet.bc.ca

www.chcnet.bc.ca

FAS/E Support
Network of BC

The purpose of the FAS/E Support Network of British Columbia is to provide information; support and education for families, professionals and the broader community around prevention and intervention issues pertaining to alcohol related birth defects, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and other disabilities caused by drug use during pregnancy. Their mandate is to specifically aid in, and advocate for the development of home, school and community based services which will meet the needs of affected individuals, their families and professionals working with them.

www.fetalalcohol.com

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Francophone

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
Federation des Francophones de la Colombie - Britannique	The Federation is the representative of the Francophone community in British Columbia. Its mission is: "To promote, represent and defend the rights and interests of British Columbia's Francophones, and to protect their linguistic and cultural heritage." It supports linguistic duality and multiculturalism as fundamental Canadian values. FFCB facilitates discourse between its members and offers a wide range of support and development services in the areas of communications, culture, education, economy, youth and community action. Links to francophone organizations around the province.	1-888-730-3322 ffcb@ffcb.bc.ca	www.ffcb.bc.ca

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First Nations

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
Turtle Island Native Network	North American-wide network posting decisions and information on issues relevant to Native North Americans. This particular link is related to BC land claims and forest management	infocom@pro.net	www.turtleisland.org/news/news-forestry.htm
Aboriginal Mapping Network	The Aboriginal Mapping Network is a collection of resource pages for First Nation mappers who are looking for answers to common questions regarding mapping, information management and GIS. It is a network where First Nation mappers can learn about what other native mappers are doing, and share their own experiences throughout the aboriginal community. The AMN has a British Columbia focus, but is not limited to this geographic region. It is intended to be used by any group who is active in aboriginal mapping, from the introductory level, to the advanced. It is a source for both technical information on GIS mapping, to general information relevant to decision makers.	604-682-4141 info@nativemaps.org	www.nativemaps.org/aboutus.html
BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society	The mandate of the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society is: "To Promote the Betterment of Aboriginal People with Disabilities in the Province of British Columbia. BCANDS provides a variety of support services and resources to help B.C.'s aboriginal people with disabilities, and others associated with the disabled.		www.bcands.bc.ca/resctr.html
First Nations Information Project	This project is intended to provide a mechanism to share knowledge, interests, and effective practices connecting the Aboriginal community from around the country and the world. Vision is to create an on-line atmosphere connecting the Aboriginal community with each other and sharing the aboriginal experience with those who desire this experience.	webmaster@johnco.com	www.johnco.com/firstnat

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Education

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
Provincial Learning Network (PLNet)	In August 2000, the provincial government completed the PLNet, a program that gives all BC public schools, colleges and other institutions full access to the Internet. PLNet means that learners, teachers and administrators in BC schools - regardless of location or school size - will have access to the Internet. The fundamental goal is to provide equitable access to educational opportunities and information resources available on the Internet.	1-888-769-5678 plnet@eds.com	www.bced.gov.bc.ca/plnet
SchoolNet: Network of Innovative Schools	Members of NIS are strengthening the capacity for innovation in schools through the integration of information and communications technologies (ICT) across the curriculum, research on the impacts of ICT on learning and sharing of innovative practices for the use of ICT in the classroom.	1-800-575-9200 nis.rei@ic.gc.ca	
Literacy BC	Literacy BC works with 13 Regional Literacy Coordinators to implement literacy initiatives in every region of the province. The role of a Regional Literacy Coordinator is to: strengthen & support regional literacy networks; coordinate regional professional development training for literacy & ABE practitioners & volunteer tutor program coordinators; provide consultation, information and support to literacy & ABE practitioners, volunteers, students & community members; build awareness about literacy within community agencies & organizations.	1-800-663-1293 info@literacy.bc.ca	www.nald.ca
Association of Community Educators of BC (ACEbc)	ACEbc is dedicated to fostering and promoting all aspects of Community Education and Community Schools in British Columbia, through liaison, information dissemination and training programs. ACEbc has been active in BC since 1975 and is affiliated with other provincial, national, and education and community organizations. ACEbc is a non-profit organization with membership open to individuals, groups or organizations having an interest in Community Education.	Linda Corrin Membership Chair, ACEbc 604-664-8849 lcorrin@stoneycreek.sd41.bc.ca	www.acebc.org

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Children & Families

NAME	PURPOSE	CONTACT INFO	WEBSITE
Seniors Network of BC	The mission of the Seniors Network - BC is to provide a central advocacy body through which seniors' groups in BC, and people advocating for seniors, can discuss their concerns, take action when necessary and present their common views to various levels of government.	aakube@telus.net	www.vcn.bc.ca/srsnetbc
First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition	First Call is a cross-sectoral, non-partisan coalition in BC. The coalition is made up of over 60 provincial organizations and 25 mobilizing communities. In addition, there is a network of thousands of community groups and individuals.	1-800-307-1212 info@firstcallbc.org	www.firstcallbc.org

RURAL DEFINITIONS

One frequently runs into the question "What is rural?" Rural is not a cut-and-dried concept. There are many definitions and no one definition is universally accepted. Included here are several definitions of rural used by the Canadian government or by organizations that work with rural populations.

StatsCan

The Statistics Canada definition of rural is frequently used, and refers to people living outside the commuting zones of larger urban centers, especially outside Census Metropolitan Areas (with populations of 100,000 or more) and Census Agglomerations (with populations of 10,000-99,999).

Most people agree that "rural" includes northern communities, because much of the Canadian North is sparsely populated and very isolated. Others believe that some remotely located cities, which may not fit the initial definition of rural, are in fact were all in terms of geographical isolation, economic and labor force characteristics and access to service and amenities. By this definition, approximately one-quarter to about one-third of the Canadian population can be considered rural, depending on whether the statistics Canada definition or less restrictive definition is used. In other words, as many as 10 million Canadians are rural residents.

Saskatchewan Status of Women Office

The definition of "rural" is determined to be "all persons living in a community with a population less than 7000."

College of Family Physicians of Canada

A practical definition in current Canadian application defines "**rural remote**" as communities ranging from 80 to 400 kilometers from a major regional hospital and "**rural isolated**" as communities and more than 400 kilometers away or about four hours transport time in good weather. In some of the agricultural zones of Canada, the population is widely dispersed and served by hospitals that are rural in nature but within 80 kilometers of small urban centers. Facilities that meet these characteristics can be defined as "**rural close**".

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

A community (generally a municipality in the West and a township in the East) is defined as "rural" if its population density is less than 150 people per square kilometer.

A region, or census division, is defined as "**rural and remote**" if more than 50 percent of its population lives in rural communities. To recognize the diversity of "rural and remote" regions, these regions can be further divided into three types: those adjacent to Metropolitan centers (**Metro-adjacent sub-regions**), those not adjacent to Metropolitan centers (**non-adjacent sub-regions**), and **northern hinterland sub-regions**.

A region is defined as "**intermediate**" is between 15 percent and 50 percent of its population lives in rural communities. In an "**agglomerated**" region, less than 15 percent of the population lives in rural communities. These regions contained Canada's largest cities.

Sources:

Rural Canada: A Profile. *Creating rural indicators for shaping territorial policy*. OECD. 1994.