

ACCESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

July - September 2001

COMMUNITY FUTURES B.C. CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIPS

By Community Futures Development Association of B.C.

The Community Futures Development Association of B.C. (CFDA) celebrated its partners at a gala event in Vancouver recently to mark the contributions made by federal, provincial and local organizations in creating jobs and opportunities in British Columbia's rural communities.

Western Economic Diversification Canada's Deputy Minister Oryssia Lennie and Acting Assistant Deputy Minister Keith Draper were on hand to receive the CFDA Partnership Award on behalf of WD. Mrs. Lennie was also the keynote speaker at the Gala Awards Dinner that was attended by close to 200 community leaders. WD provides core funding to the 34 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) across the province.

Other partners honoured include:

- **Forest Renewal BC (FRBC)** and the CFDCs established a partnership in 1996 to help diversify and stabilize the economic and employment base of communities dependent on the forest industry. The *Forest Community Business Loan Fund* has since helped 1,090 businesses and created/maintained more than 6,370 full and part-time jobs in B.C.
- The **Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)** has been working with 13 coastal CFDCs since 1997 to promote



CFDA Chairperson Dave Wilbur presents WD Deputy Minister Oryssia Lennie and A/ADM Keith Draper with CFDC Partnership Award.

diversification of the coastal communities' economies through loans and support programs for businesses in fishing or marine-related activities. The *Fisheries Legacy Trust* partnership has helped nearly 430 businesses and created more than 2,939 jobs along the coast.

- The **Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC)** launched the *Community Enterprise Investment Fund* with the CFDA in March 2001 to assist companies, co-operatives, community enterprises and entrepreneurs with ventures that help diversify local economies. ICBC will provide \$5 million in investment funds as part of its efforts to increase investment in B.C. All loans will be fully secured and protected by a WD loan loss reserve account.
- **BC Hydro** and the CFDA have worked together since 1994 on a range of projects, including: the compilation of a

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comprehensive economic development inventory now on-line at BC Hydro's Web site, board training and a group mentoring program for entrepreneurs.

- **Columbia Basin Trust** — The partnership between the Trust and the five CFDCs in Nelson, Cranbrook, Trail, Prince George and Revelstoke was established in 1997 to create a \$2.5 million regional lending program for small and medium-sized businesses. The program has helped nearly 25 businesses and created more than 350 jobs in the region.

- **Alcan** has worked closely with the CFDC of 16-37 in the Terrace-Kitimat area on a variety of community development projects and initiatives. "They're a strong corporate citizen," says CFDC Manager Joe Whitney. "They've helped us out tremendously, and we're looking forward to continuing to work with them on a number of projects that will benefit our communities."

The event was sponsored by: WD; the Canada Information Office; the Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers; Canadian Rural Partnerships; Royal Trust; and BC Hydro. ♣

BRIGHT IDEAS PUT TO THE TEST

By Caroline Hickton

Creative thinkers and innovators gathered in Burnaby on March 24th for the **Innovators Workshop** to learn what to do with their latest million dollar idea.

The Canadian Innovation Centre (CIC) and Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) hosted the workshop for inventors and entrepreneurs who are looking for a push in the right direction to get their idea to market.



The Canadian Innovation Centre specializes in helping innovators bring their products to market. Their services include: critical factor assessment, quick-look concept approval, software evaluation, market preview, technology assessment and custom market research. The CIC, in cooperation with partners such as WD, provides Canadians with ideas on how to enhance their business planning processes, and information and resources to improve their rate of success getting their concept to reality.

The workshop was well attended, with over 100 attendees. WD Program Delivery Officer Craig Fulton described the air in the room as "electric and filled with brilliant minds." Speakers included representatives from the CIC and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, and Patrick Rooney from Kelsan Technologies shared the story of his company's success with the audience.

Canadian innovation and entrepreneurship have gained increasing recognition since 1976 when the University of Waterloo established the Inventor's Assistance Program. The CIC was founded in 1981 as an independent not-for-profit organization to assist inventors and entrepreneurs. Since its inception, 70,000 Canadian entrepreneurs and innovators have benefited from its services.

WD funded the workshop and admission was free. Included on the agenda were helpful hints on technical and production factors, market demand, market acceptability and risk factors. The CIC also reviewed 10 key elements of successful new product licensing and marketing.

For more information, contact WD at (604) 666-6256 or toll-free at 1-888-338-WEST (9378). You can also contact the CIC at 1-800-265-4559, on the Web at: www.innovationcentre.ca, or by e-mail to info@innovationcentre.ca. ♣

Victoria Connects STEPS UP TO THE PODIUM TO PICK UP THE BRONZE IPAC AWARD

By Jean-Pierre Roy

It doesn't get much better than this — an IPAC award for innovation management, one of the highest prestige recognition programs in Canadian government. The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) established the award in 1990 to recognize outstanding organizational achievement in the public sector.

The theme of the 2001 IPAC award competition was "Developing the Public Service of Tomorrow." Sponsored by IBM Canada and PricewaterhouseCoopers, three award winners and four additional finalists were selected from among 100 entries from federal, provincial and municipal government bodies from every region of the country by a five-member jury.

Victoria Connects, an initiative that offers quick, convenient service delivery that reduces costs and improves efficiency for the government partners, was the proud winner of the 2001 Bronze Award.

Launched in October 1999, Victoria Connects is an innovative storefront operation run by three levels of government to provide business start-up and development services to the Greater Victoria region. The Greater Victoria Economic Development Commission, Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Government Agents' Services of the B.C. Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise partner to offer the convenience of a full range of municipal, provincial and federal business development services in one location.

Victoria Connects responds directly to the needs of Victoria's business community — from the start-up enterprise to the established or expanding business. The centre offers regulatory services, including: business registration, licensing and tax



payments, and business development support including information, training, workshops and business counselling.

Ken Stratford of the Greater Victoria Economic Development Commission said: "At the Economic Development Commission, we assist and advise in the start-up of over 200 new companies each year. What these new entrepreneurs want is access to needed government services and information that revolves around their needs as customers. They're busy - and they want fast answers, regardless of which level of government is responsible.

"Victoria Connects reverses the traditional role of government services. We say, 'tell us what you need, and we'll devise the fastest and most efficient way to get that information or service to you.' It's called one-stop shopping, and through the IPAC award, the whole country knows that we mean it and we do indeed deliver that level of service," he added.

Victoria Connects is located at: Suite G-7, Sussex Place, 1001 Douglas Street in Victoria. Business Service Officer: (250) 356-7907; Government Agent: (250) 356-7915; WD Officer: (250) 356-7834

For more information about the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), visit their Web site at: <http://www.ipaciapc.ca>. ♦

WESTERN CANADA BUSINESS SERVICE NETWORK - *B.C. Style*

The Western Canada Business Service Network of professionals can help you find what you need to establish a business or make it grow with services ranging from practical information and funding options, to counselling and support. In British Columbia, network partners include:

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Suite 700, Price Waterhouse Bldg.
601 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6B 5G9
(604) 666-6256 or 1-888-338-WEST (9378)

Canada/British Columbia Business Service Centre

601 West Cordova Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1G1
(604) 775-5525 or 1-800-667-2272

La Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique

1555, 7^e Avenue Ouest, bureau 220
Vancouver BC V6J 1S1
(604) 732-3534

Women's Enterprise Society of B.C.

#103, 1635 Abbott Street
Kelowna BC V1Y 1A9
(250) 868-3454 or 1-800-643-7014

Community Futures Development Corporations

CFDC of Alberni Clayoquot, Port Alberni
(250) 724-1241
CFDC of Boundary Area, Greenwood/Grand Forks
(250) 445-6618 / (250) 442-2722
CFDC of Cariboo-Chilcotin, Williams Lake/Bella Colla
(250) 392-3626 / (250) 799-5744
CFDC of Central Interior First Nations, Kamloops
(250) 828-9833
CFDC of Central Island, Nanaimo
(250) 753-6414
CFDC of Central Kootenay, Nelson
(250) 352-1933
CFDC of Central Okanagan, Kelowna
(250) 868-2132
CFDC of Cowichan Region, Duncan/Sooke
(250) 746-1004 / (250) 642-1510
CFDC of Fraser Fort George, Prince George
(250) 562-9622
CFDC of Greater Trail, Trail
(250) 364-2595

CFDC of Haida Gwaii, Masset/Skidegate
(250) 626-5594 / (250) 559-4499
CFDC of Howe Sound, Squamish
(604) 892-5467
CFDC of Mount Waddington, Port McNeill/Port Hardy
(250) 956-2220 / (250) 949-7888
CFDC of Nadina, Houston
(250) 845-2522
CFDC of Nicola Valley, Merritt
(250) 378-3923
CFDC of North Cariboo, Quesnel
(250) 747-1212
CFDC of North Fraser, Mission
(604) 826-6252
CFDC of the North Okanagan, Vernon
(250) 545-2215
CFDC of Okanagan-Similkameen, Penticton
(250) 493-2566
CFDC of Pacific Northwest, Prince Rupert
(250) 622-2332
CFDC of the Peace Liard, Fort St. John/Dawson Creek
(250) 785-6794 / (250) 782-8748
CFDC of Powell River Region, Powell River
(604) 485-7901
CFDC of Revelstoke, Revelstoke
(250) 837-5345
CFDC of Shuswap, Salmon Arm
(250) 832-2118
CFDC of South Fraser, Abbotsford/Chilliwack
(604) 864-5770 / (604) 793-0196
CFDC of the S.E. Region of B.C., Cranbrook
(250) 489-4356
CFDC of Sto:lo, Chilliwack
(604) 858-0009
CFDC of Strathcona, Campbell River/Courtenay
(250) 830-1141 / (250) 334-4415
CFDC of Stuart-Nechako, Vanderhoof/Fort St. James
(250) 567-5219 / (250) 996-0112
CFDC of Sun Country, Ashcroft
(250) 453-9165
CFDC of Sunshine Coast, Sechelt
(604) 885-1959
CFDC of Thompson Country, Kamloops
(250) 828-8772
Nuu Chah Nulth Economic Development Corporation, Port Alberni
(250) 724-3131
16-37 Community Futures, Terrace
(250) 635-5449
Community Futures Development Association of B.C., Vancouver
(604) 681-7130