



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY**

**Kaslo and Area D Economic Development  
Commission S109  
OPEN MEETING AGENDA**

**1:00pm**

**Monday, October 18, 2021**

**Village of Kaslo Council Chambers**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Commissioner Hewat	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Watson	Area D
Commissioner Gazzard	Area D
Commissioner Lang	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Taylor	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Brown	Area D
Commissioner Davie	Area D
Commissioner Johnson	Area D

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**STAFF**

Stuart Horn	CAO, RDCK
Ian Dunlop	CAO, Village of Kaslo
Catherine Allaway	CO, Village of Kaslo

**GUESTS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair will call the meeting to order

**2. LATE ITEMS**

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** and seconded,

**AND Resolved:**

The Agenda for the October 18, 2021, Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried/Defeated/Referred**

**4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

The September 13, 2021, Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 minutes, have been received.

**5. DELEGATE**

Eric Burton, Sarah Sinclair – Factor 5

Reports attached for review:

- a. EDC Coordination Report\_10\_12\_21
- b. Oct 5 CBT (Kelvin) Pat & Sarah
- c. Food & Beverage Report

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**7. BUSINESS ARISING**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**9. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair will call for questions from the public at 2:45p.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next for the Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 1:00pm.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** and seconded,  
AND Resolved:

The \_\_\_\_\_ meeting be adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_.

**Carried/Defeated/Referred**



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**STAFF**

Stuart Horn	CAO, RDCK
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Catherine Allaway	CO, Village of Kaslo

**GUESTS**

Eric Burton	Factor 5
Sarah Sinclair	Factor 5
Pat Desmeules	Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce
Richard Toperczer	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Valerie Cowan	Lardeau Valley Opportunity Links Society

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**2. LATE ITEMS**

Nil

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mayor Hewat asked if item 8.2. could be moved to the top of the agenda so it could be dealt with quickly before the delegation.

**MOVED** and seconded,

AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the September 13, 2021, Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting, be adopted with an amendment to move item 8.2. ahead of the delegation.

**Carried**

**4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

The July 12, 2021, Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 minutes, have been received.

Director Watson joined the meeting at 1:10 pm.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

2. Village of Kaslo – Request for a Letter of Support  
Columbia Basin Trust Outdoor Revitalization Planning Grant application for Vimy Park improvements.

**MOVED** and seconded,

AND Resolved:

That Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 provide a letter of support to the Village of Kaslo for their Columbia Basin Trust Outdoor Revitalization Planning Grant application for Vimy Park improvements.

**5. DELEGATE**

Eric Burton, Sarah Sinclair – Factor 5

1. Overall project update from Factor 5 including:
  - a. Has the work been contracted out for the other pieces and if so, what is the layout of those? – No report
  - b. Where are we at with the grant deliverables?

Eric Burton gave a presentation on Phase 1: Community Capacity Building.

2. Media release letting the public know what the work is, who is doing it and what the goals are. – No report.
3. An update on the application to Columbia Basin Trust for project management? – The Columbia Basin Trust grant has not been submitted.

Commissioner Lang asked what groups are being contacted, expressed concern that restaurants are closing and what could be done to support them.

Pat Desmeules requested the opportunity to speak to the question.

**MOVED** and seconded,  
AND Resolved:  
That Pat Desmeules be given freedom of the floor.

Pat Desmeules provided a report to the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce looking for solutions to the restaurant problem – considering advertising, Community Futures invite for Rural & Northern Immigration Pilot Project and working with Selkirk College on a culinary training program.

Director Watson felt the issues are lack of housing, and restaurants struggling with health order requirements.

Mayor Hewat questioned Factor 5 on the services and administrative support they intend to provide the Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission, and that the composition of the commission can only be changed by bylaw.

Commissioner Johnson commented that communication is a problem as there is no official support for businesses on social media.

Director Watson noted that Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission communications go through the Board, so Chamber may be better way to communicate directly.

Eric Burton suggested a labour market study.

Commissioner Gazzard asked if funding is available for training and business support.

Director Watson cautioned that would duplicate the Columbia Basin Trust Basin Business Advisors program.

Commissioner Brown asked if there are any actionable items out of the consultations with businesses.

Factor 5 will focus on supply-chain development.

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

Nil

## **7. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of possible priorities not covered under the current Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program grant.

Mayor Hewat asked if employee attraction is something Factor 5 can look at and what actions the Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission could take.

Factor 5 will bring options to next meeting for:

1. Labour market shortage for restaurants
2. Engagement of community partners
3. Capacity building for community organizations

**9. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair called for questions from the public at 2:05p.m.

Richard Toperczer suggested that the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program grant could be pivoted to look at other priorities such as local labour market.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next for the Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2021 at 1:00pm.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** and seconded,  
AND Resolved:

The September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting be adjourned at 2:11p.m.

**Carried**

# EDC Coordination Report | 10/12/2021

## Overview:

Focus on communications and coordination:

Continue to meet and support local businesses and non-profit organizations

## Highlights from the past month:

- Kootenay Lake Historical Society
  - conversation with Gillian regarding e-commerce site, rails to steam storytelling opportunities, and funding plans.
  - Conversation with Catherine (VOK Staff), regarding federal funding opportunity for SS Moyie and where else to look for support and funds
- Sentinel Retreat and Wellness Centre
  - Support with a recent covid-19 outbreak, digital support, and resources
- Outreach to new businesses and contractors to let them know about the North Kootenay Lake website and connect with them
- Restaurant support and outreach: see report
- Kootenay Lake Innovation Centre
  - Conversations with a founding board member, Dan Trobak, on how to grow the org and challenges they are currently facing
- Interviews with some of the EDC Commissioners
  - Learning about the passions behind the board members and area(s) to focus our efforts
  - Looking forward to connecting with the remaining members
- Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce
  - Collaboration with Pat on Shop Local opportunities, business supports, and finding our “groove” for sharing information and avoiding duplicity
  - Met with Kelvin from CBT - he shared with us the upcoming funding programs and provided us with insight on our projects
  - Establishing a cohesive and comprehensive stakeholder list
- In-person meeting with Richard Toperczer
  - Discussed the EDC, Housing, what ec dev looks like in rural BC, and how we can build the storytelling to help share our projects
- Supporting the grand opening of the Front Street Park washrooms via social media posts, word of mouth, and email to local radio stations

# EDC Coordination Report | 10/12/2021

## Looking forward to next month:

- Connecting with Kathy Allaire at the Food Hub - now that the Farmers Market is over
- Connecting with the new LINKS coordinator - as Valerie has moved on
- Connecting with Kaslo Legion to help build out safe fundraising opportunities
- Attend Kaslo Housing AGM
- Ongoing support to non-profit orgs for board members, succession planning, and fundraising
  - \***Idea** > a job fair-style recruitment event (online and in-person) for all non-profits in our communities.
    - Requirements and to-dos:
      - All orgs to provide a wish list and their motto or purpose
      - We create a digital fair with all orgs represented in their “booth” highlighting their needs and their mission
      - We promote and those interested are able to connect directly to the org that is of interest to them
      - We circle back with the orgs to find out the results
- Supporting Chamber with the Supply Chain project
- Ongoing digital support to local businesses and non-profits

## Supporting Reports: (sent at attachments)

- Food and Beverage: Restaurant Closures
- Chamber Monthly Report: September 2021
- Stakeholders List: Spreadsheet



**MEETING NOTES: October 5, 2021**  
**Kelvin Saldern (CBT) Sarah Sinclair (EDC) Pat Desmeules (Chamber)**

**How are things going with ec dev efforts in Kaslo & Area D**

Subscribed to CBT newsletters - new programs launched

- Child Care Capital Grant - Periwinkle or new child care opps
- Community Readiness Programs
- Community Tech Programs - KLIC and Library
- Outdoor Active Recreation Grant Program - up to \$250k and 75% of project costs (Tennis and Pickleball Courts)

**Pat has only a couple of months left of ETSI-BC funding (end November)**

- Funding an issue and needs to be more consistent and dependable
- New intake stream opened on Oct 1 - for ec dev - apply for it jointly
- Business Recovery work: First report from May-July - pleased with the work done to date
- Extended reach by building database
- Challenging time with all the things occurring - food and bev industry

**What specific challenges are you referring to? (K)**

- Food and Bev - restrictions hit them harder than most, workforce crunch, lack of housing for workers
- Issues and solutions for restaurant closures – (ref F&B Report)
- Vax mandate - came as a surprise
- Two restaurant closures (Tacquiera closed a month early - Buddy's Pizza- unsure what is happening with Buddy's)

**New Businesses**

- Admiralty house - recording studio – Propel Studios
- 

**Housing**

**\*\*conceptualize the next project - purpose-built housing**

- The Village has land they will release for the purpose of housing - need a developer
- Rossland is getting 37 units in partnership with BC housing; has a workforce focus
- Abbey Manor: new board - more receptive to updates and new building possibilities to help support the housing crisis. Maybe seniors living in homes would move to the Abbey Manor opening up a new rental or home for sale.
- \*\*Talk to the Housing Society to find out if they have a second project in the works as it takes years to get these done.

**KLIC :: Kootenay Lake Innovation Centre**

- Build a stronger relationship with KLIC board - help them establish their identity as an independent non-profit society.
- Clarify the message and confusion around who they are and what they are doing.
- Support with funding opps and increase awareness to help support all the non-profit orgs.

# Food & Beverage Sector – Kaslo and Area D

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## AT ISSUE:

- Only 2 F&B open on Monday /Tuesday evenings:
  - Angry Hen which only currently serves snack foods
  - Chez Serge – take out only
- Tourists and Residents are unable to find a place to eat on these days and are complaining loudly on social media
- This hurts our Tourism Industry

## PLAN OF ATTACK:

- Find out why no one else is open on these days
- Attempt to find a solution
- What are the available resources?
- How can we create opportunities and find creative solutions?

## FINDINGS:

### 1. Workforce Shortage is the main issue.

- **CERB payments:** Why work hard for \$2000.00/month when the government will pay you not to work?
- **COVID:** Some are concerned about exposure if they return to work
- **NOT JUST KASLO:** This is a problem throughout the Kootenays, BC, and Canada
- **HOUSING:** Even if a restaurant could find a line cook/servers from out-of-town, the lack of affordable or available housing is the issue.

### 2. Most are unwilling to open additional evenings or move to Monday/Tuesday:

- **Unsustainable:** Employers/owners are working extremely long hours 60-70 hours plus and not getting any time off, resulting in burnout.
- **Not Worth It:** Less busy days and often didn't break even. Did it in the past and it didn't pay off for them
- **Staffing Shortage:** Lack of capacity (staff)
- **Personal preferences:** As owner-operators, they need a "down day" to regroup, do banking, and tend to personal appointments, etc
- **Less Traffic:** Waiting for US borders to open, and historically not busy with local or visitor traffic on Mon and Tues.

## EXPLORATION OF RESOURCES:

- Selkirk College:

- o attempt to access students from culinary courses (not successful... everyone is looking for line cooks!)
- Kootenay Career Development Society KCDS / Kootenay Jobs
  - o They don't have resources/manpower to assist employers with making the postings, but we are discussing the possibility of them coming to Kaslo for either a Job Fair or a training session
- WorkSafe BC
- Community Futures (see below)
- RNIP – Rural and Northern Immigration Program (report attached)
- *Kaslo & Area Youth (Shannon Isaac)- to be done*
- KABDA – Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency – Discussion with Jeff Sutherland
- IEC – International Experience Canada:
  - o International youth 18-35 years old
  - o Openwork permits
  - o *Working holiday category with 2 separate visits per person*
  - o *Appealing benefit: This category could supply seasonal staff top-ups with qualified workers. Possibilities for sponsorship for Permanent Residency when a good fit*

#### **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS and ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES:**

##### **Help Employers advertise their positions more effectively:**

- Many use only word-of-mouth or signs in windows.
- There are some specific Kootenay Job Boards that are not being utilized)

##### **CAN WE ENCOURAGE MORE LOCALS TO TRAIN IN THIS FIELD?**

- o Selkirk College is willing to set up some training for local residents.
- o What is needed is a commercial kitchen? *Kaslo and Area D has 4+ commercial kitchens available to rent - share this | make it known*
- o Discussion with Grant McKenzie (Rosewood Pies). They will rent out their kitchen on an hourly or daily basis, but he doesn't feel that he could accommodate more than 4 people at a time... will this be enough? Possibly.
- o Other public commercial kitchen venues to pursue – the Legion, the Arena, the School
- o Meeting with Vince Barletta, Selkirk College, and Martin Keyserlinkg, Culinary Program Selkirk College; - Discussion as to the feasibility of setting up the course, what could the course look like?
  - Draft course outline has been developed

- Note: one restaurant owner in attendance at this meeting was very excited at the prospect of this training, would want all her staff to take it; but funding would be an issue
- That raises the discussion of seeking grants etc. to make this available

## CAN WE APPEAL TO OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO GET BACK TO WORK?

- *Can You Make a Difference?* Editorial... a shot in the dark maybe, but **can we build on this?**
- Discussion with Dianna Ducs NKLT: Yes, possibly we can do some kind of advertising campaign, but if they assist, it would have to fit their mandate... to be explored.

## ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE EXPLORED AND/OR PROVIDED:

1. Discussions with both CAO Ian Dunlop and Fire Chief Doug Yee to expedite the process for one of the local restaurants to obtain permission to put in a mobile food truck, open 7 days a week and for dinner!
2. One of our restaurants is currently employing a skilled foreign worker utilizing a work visa. The RNIP may be a possible route for them for this and/or future hires.
3. Pat will be assisting another restaurant with posting

## RNIP: Rural and Northern Immigration Program

Here is the federal website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/rural-northern-immigration-pilot/pr-eligibility.html>

And our regional website:

<https://wk-rnip.ca/>

As a result of a meeting with Andrea Wilkey of Community Futures, Pat was invited to participate in a meeting with RNIP (Erin Rooney), Andrea Wilkey, CFCK, Village Mayor Hewet, and RDCK Director Amiee Watson. In discussion was the possibility to expand the territory to include KASLO AND POSSIBLY UP TO MEADOW CREEK for a pilot program to fast-track Permanent Residency applications for immigrants who meet certain criteria.

Here is a link to the program, but some of the highlights of the program and why it could work really well for not only the F&B sector but for others as well:

- They will give preference to foreign workers already working here in the region. This shows a willingness to live in the area and lessens the likelihood that the program will be used for a fast PR and then leave for Toronto as soon as they get it.
- These workers are generally higher-skilled and well-trained
- Good work ethic – they are coming to Canada for a chance to build a better life and they are not afraid to work for it.
- Adds richness and diversity to our region.
- Employers must show that they've attempted to hire Canadians for these positions
- Must be year-round employment with a minimum of 30 hours/week
- I requested that they not only extend the territory but if possible to include Hospitality/F&B as the desired sector

After our meeting, Erin Rooney/Andrea Wilkey made an immediate application to include Kaslo in the pilot program's reach. Pat (Kaslo Chamber) will be the local point person.

**Note:** Pat will NOT give any immigration advice as this would be contrary to federal regulations and subject to huge penalties ... but we can refer to the program. This program adds to the Chamber's capacity.

## **AVENUES TO EXPLORE:**

**Advertising Campaign:** Let's Get Back to Work! Working in the Kootenays

**International Experience Canada - Federal Youth Work & Travel Visas:** This is a good program whereby youth (17-30) from around the world (often with great skills and experience) come to Canada to work to pay their way to travel. COVID has limited the program but it could be a source of temporary workers. Currently, they must have a valid job offer from an employer. This actually would work better for our employers.

**Training Program** (Selkirk College) – an opportunity for locals to increase their skills, make better wages, and become more employable.

**Bring in Food Vendors to set up for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday – at Front Street Park** (Discussion with Ian Dunlop. He is now aware of the situation and will accommodate and expedite the process if we go this route)

**Job Fair/ Training Opportunities** – discussions with Community Futures, Selkirk College, KCDS, etc. Needs to be developed, but everyone seems pretty willing and open to the idea

**FUTURE PATIO PERMITS:** (As suggested by Teresa) Since this is a problem that has existed for years and not just because of COVID, propose to the Village that it be a stipulation for those restaurants applying for patio permits that they each take a turn at being open for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

**HELP KASLO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB** to attract someone to open and operate their restaurant

**AT ISSUE for many of these solutions: ... HOUSING!**