



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# Media Release

September 27, 2018  
For Immediate Release

## New Economic Development Coordinator for Slocan Valley

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Nelson, BC: The Villages of Slocan, Silverton and New Denver, RDCK Area H (Slocan Valley) along with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) would like to welcome and introduce Ron LeBlanc as the Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator.

In this newly-formed position, Ron will be tasked with implementing the recommendations of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Plan. The plan, drafted by EDCD Consulting, was developed in partnership with the Villages and Regional District and is the result of community and stakeholder consultations over the past few years. The overall goal of the plan is to encourage a thriving, resilient, local economy through appropriate economic growth.

“The Commission has done great foundational work over the years, and has laid the groundwork for this next step,” said SVEDC Chair Leah Main. “Having Ron working with the Commission to deliver our bigger goals will make it possible for us to nurture new businesses and industries, support existing ones, and grow deeper connections throughout the Valley. His demonstrated business capabilities, broad thinking and enthusiasm for new challenges will definitely be assets to the Commission.”

Ron is a long-time Valley resident and brings his education and experience in marketing and business to the role. Being a business owner in the Slocan Valley for many years has given him a practical understanding of its people and economy. He is best known in the community for previously operating Little Slocan Lodge and Littlefest music festival.

“I am excited by the opportunity this challenging new role represents, both personally and for the Valley,” said Ron. “I feel I am stepping up in a new way to serve my community, to help as best I can and offer my perspective moving forward.”

Ron continues to live off-grid in the Little Slocan Valley, where he helps steward a large property and caretake a strawbale lodge with micro-hydro system.

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For inquiries about economic development in the Slokan Valley, contact Ron at [RLeBlanc@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:RLeBlanc@rdck.bc.ca).

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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