



# OVERVIEW

## CBT SOCIAL INITIATIVES



*CBT can look at common issues across the region and work with diverse groups to develop solutions to those issues.*

### STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL FABRIC IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) envisions a region where social considerations are fully integrated into community plans and activities that support community well-being. A number of social issues affect the daily lives of residents of the Columbia Basin. Based on input from communities, CBT is committed to helping address the most pressing social issues affecting residents.

#### Social Strategic Goals for 2009-2011

- Strengthen the ability of organizations and communities to respond proactively to complex social issues and adapt to change.
- Assist Basin communities to enhance their ability to effectively address affordable housing issues.

#### Guiding Principles of the Social Strategic Plan

CBT's work to address social issues is reflected in its guiding principles:

- Be mindful that social considerations and actions are interconnected to economic, environmental and cultural considerations and actions.
- Encourage organizations and communities to work collaboratively on activities that strengthen their sustainability and well-being.
- Acknowledge and build on existing community strengths.
- Facilitate and lead action to address issues.
- Recognize that social issues are complex, and in developing solutions, consider a variety of roles for CBT over both the short and long term.

#### Taking Action on Social Issues

CBT is a partner, a facilitator, a funder and an information resource for residents, communities and organizations interested in fostering vital communities. CBT also:

- Hosts workshops on social issues.
- Supports the provision of relevant, accessible skill-building to Basin organizations in the social sector.
- Supports social enterprise.
- Strengthens community social service organizations.
- Facilitates research and distribution of knowledge about housing issues.
- Identifies housing expertise and helps Basin residents access this resource.
- Funds new housing initiatives and projects.

To read CBT's Social Strategic Plan or learn more about CBT's Social Initiatives, visit [www.cbt.org/social](http://www.cbt.org/social).

## CURRENT SOCIAL INITIATIVES

### Enterprising Non-Profits Program

Enterprising Non-Profits (enp) is a granting program that assists non-profit organizations along the entire social enterprise business development path by providing grants of up to \$10,000 for technical assistance, such as support toward a feasibility study, developing a business plan or in putting together a marketing plan.

Social enterprise refers to business ventures operated by non-profits, whether they are societies, charities or co-operatives. These businesses sell goods or provide services in the market for the purpose of creating a blended return on investment, both financial and social. Their profits are returned to the business or to a social purpose, rather than maximizing profits to shareholders.

The enp program has a bi-annual intake in the spring and fall; all participants entering the program are required to attend an orientation workshop. enp is a partnership of eight funders including CBT.

For more information on enp, or for information on the next orientation session in your community, visit [www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca](http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca).

### Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative Partnership

In a unique partnership, CBT and the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative (KBCSC) are working to strengthen Columbia Basin non-profit community service agencies.

The partners are working to build capacity for board and staff of community service agencies by providing professional development opportunities, developing service models for rural areas and implementing standards to help agencies meet accreditation requirements.

KBCSC is comprised of 12 community social services agencies in the West Kootenay and Boundary region. These organizations work together to plan and deliver community services and to support each other to maintain and improve the quality of services they provide.

Together, CBT and KBCSC will work with all community service agencies in the Basin to strengthen their ability to do valuable work in communities.

### Affordable Housing Resources Program

CBT is helping communities and organizations make decisions around affordable housing efforts by providing the best possible information through a partnership with the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA).

Through the partnership, communities and organizations are able to evaluate options related to existing housing projects, assess potential housing projects and develop plans, and understand how to work with a housing developer. The partnership will link communities and organizations with experienced affordable housing consultants and with other communities or other organizations that have relevant experience. The cost of accessing these resources are subsidized by CBT.

BCNPHA is a provincial, member-based organization that represents the non-profit housing sector, and provides leadership and support to housing providers in order to facilitate a high standard of affordable housing throughout BC.

To access the program, contact CBT at [housinghelp@cbt.org](mailto:housinghelp@cbt.org) or 1.800.505.8998.

### Literacy

CBT partners with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) to promote lifelong learning in the Columbia Basin. CBT has been partnering with CBAL since its inception in 2000. By working together, literacy efforts are supported in local communities through programs such as reading, writing, early language learning, English as a second language support and computer literacy.

For more information on CBAL, visit [www.cbal.org](http://www.cbal.org).



*CBT partners with CBAL to deliver a range of literacy programs in the Columbia Basin.*



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