



Keeping it Rural

2015 Conference

SOUTHERN INTERIOR BEETLE ACTION COALITION

If you care about rural communities and rural issues, the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition invites you to join us for three days of inspiring presentations from organizations and community leaders who have made a difference in their rural communities.

DATES: Tuesday May 26 (9:30 AM) To Thursday May 28 (4:30 PM)

LOCATION: Prestige Harbourfront Resort, Salmon Arm BC

REGISTRATION: Conference Registration Fee - \$300 Early Bird (May 1) then \$375
Conference Fee includes conference, 3 lunches, 2 breakfasts, & 1 dinner
Register on-line at www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2015/KeepingItRural2015.asp

Agenda No: 10.3
Mtg Date: MAR. 23/15

ACCOMMODATIONS: Prestige Harbourfront Resort is offering a conference rate of \$109 (250) 833-5800

other hotels in the area:

Best Western Salmon Arm (250) 832-9793

Podollan Inn (1-800-668-4180)

Comfort Inn & Suites (250) 832-7711

Super 8 Salmon Arm (250) 832-8812

Travelodge Salmon Arm (250) 832-9731

CONFERENCE SESSIONS: The conference will include a variety of keynote speeches, six panel presentations and two concurrent workshops on Thursday.

Conference Panel Sessions:

Panel # 1 – The Critical Role of Rural Development Organizations - Rural Development Organizations play a critical role in facilitating rural revitalization. This panel will highlight the mandates and major activities of successful rural development corporations.

Panel # 2 – The Role of First Nations Investment Organizations in Revitalizing Rural Economies - This session will explore the success that two First Nations from other parts of Canada have had in revitalizing the local economies in their territories.

Panel # 3 – Mobilizing Local Capital for Rural Economic Revitalization - This session will examine how Nova Scotia and Alberta have developed and use highly successful models to raise and invest local funds for rural economic revitalization.

Panel # 4 – Rural Lands – Rural Economic Development - This session will examine how two organizations have been successful in creating more rural business development and economic activity and value from their agriculture sectors.

Panel # 5 – Major Projects & Rural Communities – Creating Mutual Benefits - Presenters on this panel will share their experiences and opinions on how rural communities can derive greater economic and social benefit from major resource projects occurring near their communities.

Panel # 6 – Providing an Effective Rural Voice - Often rural communities feel that their issues are not well understood by those who make policy decisions which affect them. Yet experience in other jurisdictions has clearly demonstrated the need for rural policies and programs that facilitate rural economic revitalization. The presenters in this session will discuss their experiences in constructively advocating for rural communities.

Thursday Workshops On Thursday two concurrent workshops will be held to allow conference presenters and workshop attendees engage in more detailed discussions and questions and answers regarding the workshop topics. The workshops will start with short presentations from the conference presenters/resource people and then turn to a facilitated roundtable discussion of opportunities in the BC context:

- 1.) **Building Successful First Nations Investment Organizations**
(Resource people: Darrell Balkwill & Jennifer Deleskie)
- 2.) **Agri-food Sector Development in Rural regions**
(Resource people: Linda Best & Gray Harris)

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS Include:

- **Rankin MacSween**, President, New Dawn Enterprises Inc, Nova Scotia www.newdawn.ca
- **Dan Ohler**, Founding Board member, Sangudo Opportunity Development Investment Co-op, Alberta
- **Brian Depew**, Executive Director, Center for Rural Affairs, Nebraska www.cfra.org
- **Gray Harris**, Director - Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems, CEI Maine www.ceimaine.org
- **Darrell Balkwill**, CEO Whitecap Development Corporation, Whitecap Dakota First Nations, Saskatchewan, www.whitecapdevcorp.com
- **Rob Black**, CEO, Rural Ontario Institute, Ontario www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca
- **Jennifer Deleskie**, Senior Business Development Officer, Membertou First Nations, Nova Scotia, www.membertou.ca
- **Linda Best**, Director - FarmWorks, Nova Scotia www.farmworks.ca
- **Paul Cabaj**, Director, Co-op Development ACCA, Alberta www.acca.coop/unleashing/

PRELIMINARY AGENDA view at: <http://www.sibacs.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Keeping-it-Rural-2015-Conference-Preliminary-Agenda.pdf>