



Economic Development Cowichan » ecdevcowichan.com

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June 2019 Update

Economic Development Cowichan Update

New Faces at Economic Development Cowichan

Many changes are taking place at Economic Development Cowichan with regard to new faces in the organization.

Amy Melmock, who has been EDC Manager since August 2016, is taking on a new role with the Department of Agriculture in the Province of Nova Scotia. During her time with the CVRD, Amy championed the development of the Cowichan Industrial Land Use Strategy, the Cowichan Tech Strategy and the Air Transport Study. She also established a Strategic Plan for EDC and helped to create the new Economic Development Cowichan website www.ecdevcowichan.com

Janae Enns, the Special Projects Assistant with EDC, is leaving the CVRD to study law at Thompson Rivers University. Janae is a graduate from the Master of Community Planning program at Vancouver Island University and has worked both with EDC and Development Services during her tenure with the CVRD.

Barry O’Riordan is taking on the role of Special Projects Assistant in the wake of Janae’s departure. Originally from Ireland, Barry has lived in Canada since 2010 and moved with his family to the Cowichan Valley in early 2016. Barry is joining Economic Development Cowichan with a background in economics and community development and broad base of executive experience in non-profit, industry and local government sectors. Most recently, Barry was the Executive Director at both the Duncan Farmers Market and the HUB at Cowichan Station.

Heritage Workshop Planned for October 2019

Regional heritage association members and local government representatives are invited to “save the date” for a dynamic heritage workshop taking place in Cowichan on Friday, October 18, 2019.

Hosted by the Cowichan Valley Museum in cooperation with Heritage BC, Cowichan Tribes and Economic Development Cowichan, the Warmland Heritage Workshop is themed around linking heritage stories. The purpose of the event is to invite heritage representatives and local government to think differently about the concept of heritage storytelling and how best to support heritage. The event will provide examples of how shared history, First Nations heritage and today’s visitor preferences play a role in a contemporary storytelling.

The October 18 event will feature presentations and panel discussions with a wide variety of speakers – from provincial and municipal heritage planners, to celebrated exhibit designers, First Nations representatives and tourism industry advisors. To learn more about this event contact Kathryn Gagnon at the Cowichan Valley Museum at cvmuseum.archives@shaw.ca

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Study Explores the Demand for Local Inputs into Food Processing

EDC is collaborating with the Small Scale Food Processors Association (SSFPA) to assist in the development of a Food Processing Feasibility Study that will look into the demand for local food inputs in the food processing sector and explore capacity issues and opportunities. The study will provide the foundation for applying for support for a food hub in Cowichan. Food hubs are being championed by the Province of British Columbia as an important way to advance food production partnerships.

Air Transport Study Takes Wing

Dillon consulting is undertaking an Air Transport Study for the Cowichan region on behalf of EDC. The study, informed by a local advisory group, made up of various sector representatives, looks at the demand for air transport services in Cowichan over the coming decades. Considerations such as emergency planning, opportunities for industrial land partnerships, and the needs of community and business are part of the study.