



## Cariboo Strong Update

April 6, 2017

Since the beginning of 2017, the Cariboo Strong program has begun to expand from the South Cariboo to the entire region. Throughout the winter, Cariboo Strong Advisory Tables were set up in each sub-region with a mandate to help inform, advise and provide capacity for the work taking place. The Advisory Tables first met the week of January 23, 2017. Meetings were held two weeks later with elected officials in the three sub-regions.

### South Cariboo:

- Approximately 50 interviews have taken place in the South Cariboo area to date with individuals representing a variety of sectors including industry, business, tourism, community services, agriculture and non-profit.
- In March, the Senior Facilitator spent two days in the South Cariboo meeting with individuals interested in joining the program. Meetings took place in Clinton (4 meetings) and in the Lone Butte and Interlakes area (3 meetings). A key discussion that has emerged so far is the development of an Antique Cluster. Further community engagement will take place throughout the spring in the South Cariboo.
- Since the beginning of 2017, the Senior Facilitator has been establishing action groups in the housing and tourism sectors to capitalize on identified opportunities. The Housing Action Group has formally met three times to date with informal and small group meetings happening regularly. The Tourism Action Group met for the first time at the end of March. These groups continue to grow and new members are welcome.
- Through the Cariboo Strong program, the South Cariboo Housing Action Group continues to offer support to the 55+ Housing Survey and Report in the South Cariboo. This survey and report are informing future opportunities for housing in the region and forming a path to actions that need to take place.

### Central Cariboo/Chilcotin:

- To date, approximately 40 individuals have been interviewed in the Central Cariboo.
- In March, the Senior Facilitator spent two days in Williams Lake meeting various individuals and businesses. This spring, the Senior Facilitator will begin public engagement with individuals identified in the pocket communities and Chilcotin region.

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- Many opportunities have been identified and actions are currently being examined in the agriculture sector and arts and culture sectors.

*North Cariboo:*

- Community engagement started in the North Cariboo in March 2017 with 15 interviews conducted in both the Quesnel and Wells areas.
- During this time, the Senior Facilitator met with the Agriculture Working Group comprised of many local producers and professionals within the Agriculture Sector in the region. At this meeting, discussion started to take place on how Cariboo Strong and the Working Group can collaborate on identified initiatives.

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