

Results from 2009-2010

Core Business 1 – Information Sharing on Emerging Business Ideas	
	Fortune Minerals Report Provided a coordinated reply to a site location request for a NICO Mine processing plant in the region. Worked with economic development officers in the Peace River CN corridor to best position a number of potential sites that could meet client needs. Provided local knowledge on infrastructure providers and servicing options (144,000 KV lines).
	Women in the North Major sponsor/supporter. Attended by 110 persons - interests in value-added, diversification opportunities and product marketing. Conference rating was an 82% average.
	Grow the North Conference Sponsor/supporter of NADC/County of Grande Prairie & partners. Theme was infrastructure needs and improvements would influence development in northern Alberta. CN Rail expansion & service plans were main topics. Attended by 325 delegates. Rating above 80%.
	Community Economic Development Training Assisted Community Futures Peace Country fund four CED training sessions (Level 1-4). Each session had full attendance (over 80 persons) and above-average to excellent evaluations.
	Computer Game Expo Supported the event targeting the game simulation and competition to over 50 participations.
	Enbridge Gateway Community Action Board Participated as a committee member to design ways to identify Project risks and explore & design ways to address regional concerns and opportunities.
	The Jane Eckert Marketing Workshop Sponsored & promoted this leadership development mentorship initiative designed to build leadership skills in key Alberta local market agripreneurs. Topics on operational improvements & new business opportunities.
	Grains and Oilseeds Marketing Course Sponsored SARDA's workshop in Falher (54 attendees). Focused on marketing: using the FutureSim game that allows participants to market simulated produce from their farms.
	Peace River Environment Workshop Sponsored as part of Green Industry Development initiative. Attended by over 250 persons. Numerous topics on passive geothermal flooring, solar hearing application, alternative energy, & employment opportunities.
	2010 Direct Seedling Workshop Sponsored North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA). Attended by 135 people. Interests in new crops and applied research on seeding operations.
	Reels Short Film Workshops Funded/supported workshops. Had 19 screenings of 12 different film packages containing 72 short films including the 2009 Oscar-nominated shorts. Offered a school program - 13 schools participated: 6 local and 5 rural schools booked field trips and 2 local schools booked classroom visits as did the Centre for Creative Arts. Radical Reels Film Festival Supported festival - local film-makers producing short action/sport films.
	Learn Agri-Food Network Supporting Alberta Agriculture with the leadership and operations of an industry network of value-added agricultural & food producers.
	Peace River Songwriters Workshop Sponsored event - 30 budding songwriters at the 2nd annual Peace River Music Conference & Songwriters' Workshop.

Core Business #2 Pre-feasibility Business Cases

Industry Development

Identified and facilitated the advancement of new industry opportunities in the Region. Partnered with entrepreneurs and community economic development groups on projects that demonstrated a regional competitive advantage, local investment potential and value-added potential or leading edge concepts.

Angel Investor

Partnered with the Centre for Research & Innovation (CRI) to investigate the opportunity for An Investment Network concept for the region. Held a **Bill Payne Angel Investment** workshop.

Participated in the **IEDC Web Seminar - Developing Community-Based Venture Financing** – presentations by two community venture capital groups.

Innovation Initiatives

Provided financial resources for the **CRI** 'one-stop client services' office and an array of client projects. PREDA Executive Members participated on the CRI Advisory Team. CRI had 548 new client contacts in the past year of which 231 have completed and signed a client application form of which 153 have become active clients. CRI was instrumental in assisting nine (9) companies obtain AET Technology Vouchers in the amount of \$240,000. Examples include: flameless self-powered hydroponic heating system; sand line heater for the oil and gas industry; and others.

Pennycress (Bio-fuel) Year One

Partnered with Lesser Slave Lake REDA in the research & development of a new agricultural crop called Pennycress (substitute for canola for bio-fuels and ideally suited for marginal lands). Test plots yielded 59 bushels/acre and 2870kg/ha (2562 lb/ac.)

Carbon Capture - Algae Project

Funded a development project to convert carbon dioxide and air pollutants into bio-mass (algae): utilize natural photosynthetic processes (sunlight, nutrients, and water) in algae to convert CO₂ and air pollutants into plant materials, which can then be used to produce a variety of potential products such as pharmaceutical/health additives/products. For 2010-2011 the project is being expanded to a commercial scaled pilot with NSERC (National Science and Engineering Research Council) targeting a 5-year CCI grant of \$2.3 million.

Branding the Peace

Funded and assisted with information resources on special projects.

River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Initiative

Participated in developing a concept for dinosaur education & tourism product development: Pipestone Creek Bonebed site plan and construction/preservation plan completed. Paleontological Marketing and Publicity initiative completed. Paleontological Sites of the Peace 2009 completed.

Cultural Industry Development

Tested and established the creation of a Connecting Culture Enterprise that will serve all art sectors. The services will nurture and advance cultural activities and products, elevating culture to be a significant driver of the economy. By marrying principles employed in economic development practices to cultural activity, this project will exploit the tremendous potential of the arts across the Peace region and beyond.

Medical Training Initiative

Working with GPRC and Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce and Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta a position paper was tabled to advance "Educational Opportunities and Initiatives in Rural & Regional Communities in Alberta, December 2009".

Peace Region Manufacturers Association (PeRMA)

An industry-led fabrication working group has been established in partnership with Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development: to lead and advance new ideas for increased markets and improved competitiveness.

Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS)

Investigated the possible economic opportunities in the Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS) industry for the Peace Region with the ultimate goal being a UVS manufacturing industry and/or training & testing centre in the region. Identified regional strengths and assets.

CCUVS Visit/Workshop - 30 business and municipal leaders attended.

Green Industry Development

Researched an array of ideas on Green Industry Development for the Peace - the willingness of industry to participate in developing a strategy and work on projects. Ideas and avenues include:

- Greening the Peace (GPRC/CRI) industry forum and report
- Bio-mass Project in affiliation with oil/gas companies in remote locations
- Peace River Environmental Workshop

Grande Prairie Business Visitation Initiative

Assisted the City of Grande Prairie to develop a survey, sample plan and undertake a business visitation exercise (81 firms participated) to identify client projects (innovation projects) and an Investment Attraction Marketing Strategy.

Productivity Phase One

Consisted of three initiatives: Strategic Alliances (Robert Porter Lynch); LEAN Principles and Practices (Skrypnik/Loblick); and Productivity Awareness & Communications. Added value - City of Grande Prairie staff participated in LEAN session.

Adding Value to the Agri-Food Value Chain – Creating Opportunities

Supported Community Futures Grande Prairie project: identifying new products that could fill an underserved market; accessing new industry and market opportunities; connecting them to professionals such as innovators and marketers who have ideas of how to improve, add value and/or change existing products to apply to an expanded marketplace.

Core Business #3 Labor Market Networks

Labour Market Networks

Assisted in planning, facilitating and sponsoring two networks, one in the north Peace by the Peace River Human Resource Association and the other in the south Peace by the Grande Prairie Chamber. Forums on generating ideas, identifying priorities and seeking out stakeholders were held. Both networks worked with Alberta Employment & Immigration on project ideas.

Aboriginal & Northern Studies

Funded the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services (GPACOS) Aboriginal & Northern Studies Degree Program Committee to undertake a series of community consultation sessions to gauge community and stakeholder support, to utilize multiple perspectives in order to make more meaningful decisions, and to develop principles to guide the development and delivery of the degree program.

Lifestyle Profiles

Funded three Lifestyle Profiles: researched, designed and produced for Peace River, Smoky River and Valleyview areas to supplement the Peace Country Investment Profile and Background Statistical Report. The Profiles are being used to reply to site location requests and promote the communities to local and regional companies working in the region.

