

Regional Advisory Committee & Fall Funding Intake Summary
For Release: December 9, 2024

Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

At the Joint Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting for the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC), held on November 29, 2024 by Zoom, the RACs recommended 26 projects for funding, representing \$804,230 of ETSI-BC funding and a total project value of \$2.4 million.

The Board of ETSI-BC ratified the RAC recommendation at its December 6, 2024 board meeting, ensuring that these 26 projects would be approved for funding.

ETSI-BC Spring 2024 Funding Intake Approvals by RAC Region

	# Projects	\$ Approved	% of Total
Columbia-Kootenay	13	\$472,230	59%
Thompson-Okanagan	13	\$332,000	41%
TOTAL	26	\$804,230	100%

These projects help build and diversify the region’s economy, as part of the ETSI-BC Fall 2024 Funding Intake, focused on two of its core Funding Streams: *Building Economic Development Capacity, and Innovating & Advancing Key Sectors*. Project partners include local governments, First Nations, industry groups, Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures, and non-profit organizations in BC’s Southern Interior.

Projects approved in this Funding Intake will be carried out by two First Nation communities and in eight of the nine Regional Districts in the ETSI-BC service area. More information about this funding can be found in Attachment 1 of this document and on the ETSI-BC [News page](#).

Since April 2021, ETSI-BC has approved \$9.5 million in grant funding in support of its Strategic Pillars. This funding has supported projects valued at almost \$22 million that have helped create or maintain almost 23,000 jobs in the region.

At the November 29 RAC meeting, the Columbia-Kootenay RAC and the Thompson-Okanagan RAC also both approved a new meeting procedure and Code of Conduct. The Columbia-Kootenay RAC also appointed a new member, Frank Marino, Mayor of Warfield to join the Board of ETSI-BC effective immediately.

"On behalf of the ETSI-BC Board, I'm pleased to announce the results of our Fall 2024 Funding Intake," said Paul Donald, ETSI-BC Board Chair. "These initiatives will drive economic development, spark innovation, and accelerate progress in our region's key economic sectors."

ATTACHMENT 1

The following list of projects has been approved for funding by ETSI-BC, following the RAC recommendation made at the November 29, 2024 Joint RAC meeting.

ETSI-BC APPROVED FALL 2024 FUNDING INTAKE PROJECTS

Organization	Project Name	Approved	Total Project Value
?aq'am Community Enterprises Ltd.	?aq'am Forestry Business Development Scan	\$50,000	\$136,000
Barriere & Area Chamber of Commerce	Wayfinding Strategy Plan	\$25,000	\$52,500
Boundary Country Regional Chamber	Discover Grand Forks 2.0: Rebuilding Our Foundation for Tourism Growth	\$20,000	\$22,000
Castlegar and District Chamber of Commerce	Castlegar and District Thrive: Attraction Strategy for Residents, Entrepreneurs, and Developers	\$50,000	\$105,450
Community Connections Southeast BC	Cranbrook Alternative Food Distribution Pilot	\$45,000	\$266,000
Community Futures Central Kootenay	Connecting Local Youth with Local Jobs	\$25,000	\$50,000
Community Futures Central Okanagan	Sustainable Development Leadership	\$30,000	\$60,000
District of Sicamous Development Corporation	Tourism Economic Impact Study & 5yr Tourism Strategic Development Plan & Product Analysis	\$29,000	\$60,750
Enderby & District Chamber of Commerce	Enderby Chamber Business Engagement	\$20,000	\$21,000
Fields Forward Society	Feeding Futures - Service, Procurement and Distribution	\$45,000	\$149,500
Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association	Regional Tourism Experience Development Programming & Implementation	\$32,630	\$58,630
Lumby & District Chamber of Commerce	Lumby & District Community Profile & Investment Platform	\$20,000	\$30,000
Nakusp and Area Development Board	Nakusp Community Hub	\$50,000	\$520,000
Nicola Valley Fall Fair Association	Facility Enhancement and Marketing	\$20,000	\$24,130
Oliver and District Heritage Society	Fairview Interpretation	\$20,000	\$73,521
Penticton and Area Cooperative Enterprises	Inclusive Employment Development Program	\$20,000	\$52,000
Regional District East Kootenay	Phase II: Community Energy Facility Planning in Invermere & Radium	\$35,000	\$165,000
Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce	Revelstoke Business Retention & Expansion Report	\$34,600	\$72,600
Salmon Arm Economic Development Society	Zest Commercial Food Hub Phase 3: Program Development	\$50,000	\$118,934
Sc.wéñwen Economic Development Corp	Tkémłúps te Secwépemc Area Signage Plan	\$20,000	\$28,500
Shuswap & North OK Chamber Consortium - c/o Sicamous Chamber of Commerce	Gateway to the Shuswap and the Thomson Okanagan, Business retention and expansion project with a focus on tourism"	\$20,000	\$20,000
Silver Star Resort Association	Workforce Partnership Initiative	\$8,000	\$25,100
South Kootenay Lake Community Services	South Kootenay Lake Geothermal Economic Model	\$20,000	\$47,500

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association	Boundary Country Tourism Investment Attraction	\$15,000	\$25,000
Tourism Sun Peaks	Central Reservations and Visitor Data Analytics Project	\$50,000	\$100,000
Tri Region Consortium - c/o Castlegar & District Chamber of Commerce	Southern Interior Regional Economic Summit 2	\$50,000	\$110,000
TOTALS		\$804,230	\$2,394,115