

Annual Business Summit
February 22, 2019
Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC)
Feedback Summary

Jeremy Stone, Director of the Community Economic Development Program at Simon Fraser University, provided a presentation regarding CED and Chris Corrigan, former CEDC Co-Chair, facilitated table-top exercises. A key message in Stone's presentation was "Profit, People, Planet".

Participants were asked to discuss the keynote presentation on Community Economic Development in small groups and then report back to the group on the "Top Things that Kept Coming Up" in their conversations. Below is a summary.

- 1) **Community Economic Development Plan:** Creating an overarching, cohesive, community economic development plan was identified as a priority. The plan would include placemaking and the revitalization and regeneration of Bowen Island, and it would be included in all aspects of Bowen Island Municipality's plans and policies.
- 2) **Housing:** Participants expressed a desire for housing diversity including employees housing, rental housing and purpose-built non-market housing. Increased density and a commitment to avoiding becoming a "bedroom community" were highlighted. Ideas for facilitating loans to home owners to purchase pre-fabricated buildings included forming an entrepreneurial co-op, connecting with the off-island constituency that has homes on Bowen not necessary fully occupied year-round, and using the Community Lands for housing.
- 3) **Medical Services:** On-island medical services were identified as a priority. Extended health and dental coverage for those who were not covered by their employers could be accessed by organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce.
- 4) **Food Systems:** Both the slow emergency of climate change, and the potential for sudden disasters, were cited as reasons for prioritizing food production and distribution resiliency. Agricultural Land Reserve protection, local farming, community kitchen, composting, food storage and education were examples of steps in the direction of resiliency and lowering carbon footprint. It was also suggested that optimizing food supply could support local business, and that a tangible action plan applicable at an individual level could include a rainwater harvesting system.
- 5) **Barter System:** Tools for implementing a barter system included creation of a database, connecting business to business and neighbor to neighbor, implementing a service-based economy (log time and use that to obtain more services) and motivating people to give time towards basic needs, which included both "the heart" and "fun".

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Participants were then asked for a “Great Idea that Didn’t Make it to the List”. A few highlights included:

- 1) **Vulnerable members of Bowen community:** Prioritize senior support and ‘ageing in place’; invest in youth; facilitate group health plans and medical insurance; uncomplicate the opening of childcare facilities; provided disability access to all businesses.
- 2) **Co-working office space:** Bowen Island Community Co-Working Space (BICCWS); incorporate relevant support organizations for businesses eg credit union or other entrepreneurial supports.
- 3) **Education:** Provide workshops for Bowen business owners on finance, marketing, payroll, etc.; encourage residents to buy local and educate the economic benefits of such for the entire community.
- 4) **Communication:** Maintain consistent hours of operation and publicize such; create an online business registry.
- 5) **Community Efforts:** On-ferry courier on each sailing that can carry goods to the other side (keys, phone, wallet, medicine, etc); food and accommodation service businesses: volunteers create local events and address volunteer burn-out by rewarding volunteers through bartering.
- 6) **Primary Resources:** Create local products from trees in Bowen forests; conduct a local power production plant feasibility study.
- 7) **Emergency Planning:** Adapt the community centre to encourage community resilience and educate on, prepare for, and manage disaster relief.
- 8) **Recreation and Culture:** Use children as a resource for what they want on the island; support artists and musicians to come and live on Bowen.
- 9) **Tourism:** Control tourism.

Participants were finally asked “What can your business do to contribute to the local economy”? Responses included:

- 1) Provide a place for artists to sell their art; give the bulk of sales back to the artists; promote the Cross Roads to increase both local and tourist awareness of the 28 businesses on Bowen.
- 2) Bring people to Bowen who will get involved in the community by:
 - a. Supporting businesses
 - b. Supporting each other
 - c. Raising families
 - d. Schools, churches
 - e. Volunteering
- 3) Make homes that are healthy, efficient, resilient and green; develop a materials bank to re-use salvaged materials from each renovation or upgrade.
- 4) Support agricultural enterprises, food sovereignty and resiliency on Bowen. Support expansion of the Agricultural Land Reserve and composting.

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- 5) Chip in free shipping and other services.
- 6) Support local investment.
- 7) Provide essential services, employ 10 people, try to be environmentally friendly by doing all different type of recycling (meds, needles, papers, plastics) and would be able to be a big part of a health care team (Shahzad).
- 8) Facilitate dialogue. Bring people together. Work towards actions that produce results.
- 9) My work can facilitate and spread knowledge on how our local economy supports our community.
- 10) Connect Bowen business owners with monthly brainstorms by forming a business association and hosting meetings.
- 11) Hold meetings in public venues on Bowen to get people comfortable with increased density, sustainable finance and resilience.
- 12) Encourage transient boaters to visit mid-week.
- 13) Collaborate with other businesses to create package of “eat, sleep, play”, especially during shoulder season.
- 14) Offer design solutions for housing.
- 15) Employ students; social connections; physical health; participate in package offering; utilize local food provider
- 16) Collaborate with other trades to form a co-operative to help people out in need who can't afford urgent repairs.
- 17) Share expertise with other businesses and organization to increase access and inclusiveness.
- 18) Train and educate people about healthy forests and the risk of wild fires.
- 19) Host start-up incubator for initiatives.
- 20) Partner with the municipality and developers in the creation of a Whistler style staff housing model. Continue to improve the financial well-being of local population.
- 21) Engage with other Bowen Businesses where possible, as well as support non-profits.
- 22) Tourism Bowen is working on expanding the tourist season to the spring and fall to create year-round economic activity.
- 23) Upcycling agriculture. Teach people how to preserve and make remedies.
- 24) Collaborate with Bowen residents and businesses to develop practical, real life, skills that will equip and inspire students to be great community members and global citizens.

The evening ended with:

- 1) Short presentation by Jerrie Wilsons regarding **Provincial technology initiatives**.
- 2) Discussion regarding Municipal initiatives:
 - a. **Buy Local Campaign**
 - b. **Business Licensing Program**