

The Board Highlights provide a general overview of discussion items and major decisions made at the Columbia Basin Trust (the “Trust”) Board of Directors’ meeting on **January 30/31, 2015** held in Cranbrook, BC. These exclude confidential information such as business negotiations, personnel issues and legal matters.

- The Board elected Greg Deck as Chair of the Trust Board of Directors and Rick Jensen as Vice-Chair. Vickie Thomas (nominated by the Ktunaxa Nation Council) and John Dooley were recently appointed to the Board by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Learn more about the Trust Board at www.cbt.org/board.
- The Board approved \$325,000 over two years in capital and operational funding to Avalanche Canada to support their public avalanche safety programs that greatly benefit the Basin, a region with mountainous terrain and avalanche-prone areas. Avalanche Canada is a non-profit organization based in Revelstoke that provides leadership, development, communication, coordination and delivery of public avalanche safety products and services across Canada.
- The Board approved \$193,105 in funding to assist the Nature Conservancy of Canada in purchasing a 160 acre property in the Cranbrook/Kimberley area. The Pine Butte South property borders other conserved lands known as the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor in the Rocky Mountain Trench. This acquisition would expand the size of this corridor, thereby increasing the amount of core wildlife habitat available within it. The Trust’s Land Conservation Initiative supports acquisition and stewardship of private properties for ecological conservation purposes. Learn more at www.cbt.org/environment.
- The Board approved \$240,000 over three years to provide wage subsidies to Tourism BC Visitor Centres, located in the Basin, to hire summer students.
- The Board approved a commitment to the Student Wage Subsidy Program for a total of \$4,000,000 over three years to fund the *School Works* and *Summer Works* programs.
 - The [Summer Works](#) program provides small businesses in the Basin a wage subsidy to hire high school and post-secondary students, enrolled in full time education, in entry and career level jobs.
 - The [School Works](#) program provides small businesses, as well as non-profit, public and First Nation organizations in the Basin a wage subsidy to hire high school and post-secondary students part-time during the school year for part-time, cooperative or practicum jobs and apprenticeships.
 - Application forms for *Summer Works 2015* will be posted online on February 19, 2015.
- The Board approved discontinuing the College Community Service Award (CCSA) and reallocating the funds to the [Columbia Basin Bursary Program](#) (CBBP) for a total of \$220,500 over three years. The CBBP awards funding based on financial need rather than achievement and has been fully awarded each year, while the CCSA has been undersubscribed. An evaluation determined the greatest student need is for bursaries based on financial need; therefore, the Trust elected to grow its bursary program. Basin students can apply for support through the financial aid department of Selkirk College, College of the Rockies or the Revelstoke Campus of Okanagan College. www.cbt.org/cbbp

- The *Columbia Basin Trust Service Plan for 2015/16 – 2017/18*, which outlines Trust goals, performance measures and related targets and financial forecasts, will be presented in February to the BC Legislature as part of the Province's annual budget. The Service Plan can be found on our Trust website at www.cbt.org/publications as of February 17, 2015.
- The Board approved the appointment of Brooke Leatherman to the Social Advisory Committee for a three year term expiring February 28, 2018. Learn more about the role of Trust advisory committees at www.cbt.org/advisorycommittees.
- Following is the 2015 meeting schedule for the Trust Board of Directors:
 - January 30/31 Cranbrook
 - March 31/April 1 Fairmount Hot Springs
 - May 29/30 Revelstoke
 - September 18/19 Nakusp
 - November 27/28 Castlegar
- Following is the 2016 meeting schedule for the Trust Board of Directors:
 - February 12/13 Nelson
 - April 8/9 Sparwood
 - May 27/28 Valemount
 - September 23/24 Kaslo
 - November 25/26 Trail
- Board minutes from previous meetings can be viewed [here](#).

Residents are always welcome to attend the public component on the first day of the Trust's Board meetings. If you wish to make a specific presentation to the Board, please contact Jane Medlar at 1.800.505.8998 or jmedlar@cbt.org so we can best allocate time on the agenda.