

AN EVALUATION OF LEARNING INITIATIVES
FOR RURAL AND NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
(LIRN BC) 2007/2008

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1. Acknowledgements

SPARC BC thanks the participants of LIRN BC who took the time to complete the post-workshop questionnaires. We also wish to express our gratitude to the local LIRN BC partners for participating in follow up interviews. Thanks to LIRN BC contributors and all other local partners. All available logos are featured below – many thanks!

Moreover, we wish to thank Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for generously supporting SPARC BC’s involvement in LIRN BC and, specifically, for contributing to coordination activities and the evaluation of LIRN BC in its second year of operations.



2. Executive Summary

Between June, 2007 and March, 2008, the BC Rural Network, Canadian Rural Partnership, Service Canada, the Self Help Resource Association of BC, and the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) collaborated in an effort to plan, deliver and evaluate sixteen workshops in rural, remote and Northern British Columbia. The LIRN BC partners employed a flexible approach to working with communities because they recognize the importance of designing workshops that are informed by the dynamics of the local context.

This evaluation report provides a summary of the LIRN BC strategy for building on community capacities and an analysis of the outcomes of the second round of LIRN BC activity. In most cases, the same LIRN BC evaluation framework was used to assess the outcomes of the workshops. For the purpose of this report, we only include the results of the standard evaluation, which was used at the following LIRN BC events: Chetwynd (Feb 08), Cortes Island (Mar 08), Dease Lake (Apr 08), Fort St. James (Dec 07), Gold River (Mar 08), Grand Forks (Mar 08), Quesnel (Nov 07), Revelstoke (Oct 07), Revelstoke (Jan 08), Revelstoke (Mar 08), Terrace (Apr 08), Tofino (Feb 08), and Trail/Cranbrook (Nov 07). Summary reports are available for events in Horsefly (Feb 08) and Prince George (Jan 08), which do not follow the standard evaluation framework.

The post-workshop questionnaire used a five point scale with comment options for participants. When participants were asked to rank the relevancy of the LIRN BC event, where 1 meant 'irrelevant' and 5 meant 'very relevant', the average rating for all communities was 4.5 out of a possible 5. When participants were asked to indicate their assessment of the degree to which the LIRN BC workshop connected them with other community members, where 1 meant 'not at all helpful' and 5 meant 'extremely helpful', the average rating was 4.1. Similarly, participants offered a positive response when asked to assess the degree to which the LIRN BC event increased their interest in exploring new ways to work with community members, where the average response was 4.3 out of a possible 5.

On a scale of 1-5, 1 meaning 'poor' and 5 meaning 'excellent', participants were also invited to indicate their assessment of their LIRN BC workshop's facilitator. Overall, LIRN BC participants rated their facilitators highly, with an average rating of 4.6. Similarly, participants offered a positive response when asked to assess the LIRN BC workshop's success at meeting anticipated outcomes. On a scale of 1-5, 1 meaning 'not at all' and 5 meaning 'a great deal,' the participants average rating was 4.2

In addition to the post-workshop questionnaires, seven follow up interviews with local LIRN BC partners and contributors were also conducted. These interviews explored both the LIRN BC planning process, as well as follow up activities in the community.

Interview participants identified a number of positive benefits of the LIRN BC process for their communities including: financial resources to hold an event on a locally relevant issue; the opportunity to convene a cross-section of community members around a particular issue; the provision of outside expertise and facilitators; a summary report outlining the event's activities; and a timely, straightforward, streamlined application process. Here are a few comments to that effect:

- “Well I think as a Committee member, it was really helpful to have some outside facilitators. We had been working on it for a long time, and we had got a bit introspective. Having outside facilitators allowed us to participate better in small groups and sit back and observe the input that came from the community.”
- “Actually having the report from the presenters was a good piece for me to have from the event.”
- “The application process was really easy. We heard back in good time. So those were two really positive things...This was a straightforward application that did not require onerous amounts of work.”

Interview participants also identified a number of positive outcomes that were a result of the LIRN BC event. For instance, the LIRN BC event provided important networking opportunities within the community. Five interview participants stated that their organization made new contacts at the event. One respondent did not think that his/her organization made new contacts, but the event helped to “build on” existing relationships.

Interview results suggest community organizations have started new projects with other groups and new projects internal to their organization as a result of the LIRN BC event. Four interview participants said that their organization was now involved in projects with other groups as a result of the LIRN BC event. A couple participants stated that since the event had occurred very recently in the community, it was too early to say if new collaborative projects will result; however, they do have plans to meet with other groups and discuss new steps. One interview participant saw the LIRN BC event to be a culminating piece for existing projects, “a tie in piece that brought everything together.” Three community partner organizations had also started new internal projects as a result of LIRN BC events.

Interview participants were also asked if they had accessed a new source of funding as a result of the LIRN BC event. One community partner had been successful at accessing new funding. Other organizations stated that it was too early to say if their funding applications would be successful, or that they were looking for a suitable funding opportunity to apply for.

Local partners offered closing remarks that included a set of very positive assessments of the initiative and some suggestions for how to improve the initiative. All suggestions for improving the initiative have been developed into a set of recommendations for consideration for the LIRN partners, which are featured in section eight of this report.

3. Introduction

This report is an evaluation of LIRN BC activities for 2007/2008. In addition to this report, there are also fifteen discreet proceedings reports for individual LIRN BC events, which included a summary of the local discussions and descriptions of next steps for the community. These reports can be downloaded from the BC Rural Network website.

This report begins with an overview of LIRN BC, which includes a discussion about the living definition and mission of the initiative, as well as a review of the origins of LIRN BC and the current partner organizations.

A description of the five implementation objectives and five phases of the LIRN BC implementation strategy is covered in the following section. In this section, we provide an analysis of the content that was selected by applicants to LIRN BC in 2007/2008. The next section includes a discussion of the key concepts in the evaluation framework, as well as an articulation of the outcome measures and our method for collecting data for each measure.

The evaluation results section is next, which consists of an overview of the institutional affiliation of LIRN BC participants. This section is divided into two parts. The first part is an analysis of participant responses to the post-workshop questionnaire, which includes responses from the following LIRN BC events: Chetwynd (Feb 08), Cortes Island (Mar 08), Dease Lake (Apr 2008), Fort St. James (Dec 07), Gold River (Mar 08), Grand Forks (Mar 08), Quesnel (Nov 07), Revelstoke (Oct 07), Revelstoke (Jan 08), Revelstoke (Mar 08), Terrace (Apr 08), Tofino (Feb 08), and Trail/Cranbrook (Nov 07) (LIRN BC evaluation results are not available for the LIRN BC events in Horsefly, Prince George and Port Alberni). The second part of this section is an analysis of the follow up interview responses of local LIRN BC partners.

In the second last section, a set of recommendations are articulated for consideration by the LIRN BC partners. The appendices make up the final section of the report, which include all questionnaires, the expression of interest for 2007/2008, criteria for selecting LIRN BC communities and a generic letter of understanding for the local partner and LIRN BC.

4. Overview of LIRN BC

In this section, we offer an overview of the living definition of LIRN BC and the general mission toward which it works. A brief historical background of LIRN BC is also provided, along with descriptions of the partner organizations.

4.1. Living Definition and Mission of LIRN BC

LIRN BC is a collaborative approach to building on the capacities of rural, remote and northern British Columbian communities. As LIRN BC partners, the BC Rural Network, Canadian Rural Partnership, Service Canada, the Self Help Resource Association of BC, and the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) have combined their expertise and resources to provide locally relevant one or two day workshops across the province. As one or two day events, the services offered by the partners of LIRN BC are discreet initiatives intended to open local dialogues and/or strengthen local capacity building initiatives.

The LIRN BC partners have developed a flexible approach to working with communities because they recognize the importance of building workshop designs that are informed by the dynamics of the local context. For this reason, the mission of LIRN BC is to build on community capacity by providing individuals and organizations with learning opportunities to identify local assets, issues, and related resources, build local knowledge and develop skills and collaborative action-plans that are relevant to their community and contribute to effecting local consensus-oriented change.

As a collaborative strategy for building community capacity, LIRN BC encourages government (municipal, provincial and federal), First Nations, non-government organizations (community-based, regional and provincial) and businesses to work together by planning, delivering and evaluating a locally relevant learning initiative.

The support offered by the LIRN BC partners includes curriculum resources and facilitation services related to each topic area, as well as financial support for event related costs such as venue rental, food, refreshments, and participant travel from adjacent communities. All successful applicants to LIRN BC are engaged at all phases of the planning and delivery of the event, and also contribute logistical support such as recruiting participants and identifying appropriate local facilities.

4.2. LIRN BC Origins and Partner Organizations

In the winter of 2006, non-government organizations, government, and academic institutions that have a mandate to engage in community capacity building gathered at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver for a dialogue about our respective work and related issues. One of the central issues identified during this dialogue was the absence of a collaborative and coordinated framework for organizing community capacity building work in rural, remote and northern BC.

As an initial attempt to address this issue, representatives from the BC Rural Network, Canadian Rural Partnership, Service Canada (New Horizons for Seniors Program) and SPARC BC, created a new partnership entitled Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC). The LIRN BC partners agreed to develop and sustain a coordinated process that: (a) invites community leaders to define local issues and learning needs; (b) engages community leaders in the process of developing learning events to address the given need; and (c) delivers a one or two day learning event in which community leaders learn and work in a manner that is locally relevant.

Half way through the first year of operations, the Self-Help Resource Association of BC joined LIRN BC as an official partner. In the following sections, we provide a short description of each of the LIRN BC partners.

BC Rural Network and the Regional Rural Forums

Founded in 2004, the BC Rural Network is a coalition of organizations, communities, and individuals who share a commitment to enhance the capacity of British Columbia to develop responses to rural and remote community issues. The BCRN is a non-profit organization whose members and Board of Directors come from all regions of British Columbia. Our objectives are to:

- Act as a coordinating body for the dissemination of information, tools, and resources of importance to rural and remote communities in British Columbia;
- Act as a catalyst to build linkages between communities, rural organizations, and policy-makers who work on issues of importance to rural and remote communities in British Columbia;
- Improve awareness of the current work of existing rural groups and organizations in BC by providing a forum for rural and remote communities and organizations to voice concerns and issues, and learn from each other.

For more information about the BC Rural Network and the Regional Rural Forums, please visit our website at www.bcruralnetwork.ca or contact us at info@bcruralnetwork.ca

Canadian Rural Partnership

Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) is a federal initiative which supports rural communities by helping to identify the issues they are facing, taking collaborative action to address these issues, and connecting community to community and community to government to share information on available resources and best practice in rural development. We identify issues by bringing rural community residents together for dialogue or at conferences. The information from these gatherings is shared with a federal/provincial Rural Team which can undertake collaborative action to address these issues and can provide the input toward influencing government policies and programs with a rural lens. We also share information from one community to another and from government to communities through listservs, newsletters, best practice guides, and program lists.

For more information about the Canadian Rural Partnership, please visit our website at: http://www.rural.gc.ca/team/bc/bchome_e.phtml

Service Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors Program

Service Canada is becoming the program delivery arm of the federal government. Over a dozen federal departments are working with Service Canada so it can become a single window of service and program delivery for the federal government. Service Canada is home to the Employment Insurance system, labour market programming to help unemployed people return to work, income support like Old Age Security and Canada Pension. Service Canada also coordinates the New Horizons for Seniors program, a program that provides funding for community-based projects that aim to encourage seniors to contribute to and become more engaged in their local communities. Service Canada is interested in strengthening linkages with communities for more effective delivery of federal programs and services. For more information about Service Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors program, please visit our website at: <http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/isp/horizons/toc.shtml>

Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) Community Development Education Program

SPARC BC, a registered non-profit society and a federally registered charity, was established in 1966 and is a leader in research, public education and advocacy regarding issues of community development, accessibility, and income security. SPARC BC is a provincial organization with over 15,000 members and is governed by a Board of Directors from across BC. Our mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all.

The Community Development Education Program is one of our methods for realizing our mission. The Community Development Education Program aims to empower individuals and organizations by providing them with learning opportunities to identify local assets

and issues, build local knowledge and develop skills and action-plans that contribute to effecting local consensus-oriented change. The curriculum resources and facilitation services of the Community Development Education Program are available to communities through the LIRN BC process. For more information about SPARC BC and the Community Development Education Program, please visit our website at www.sparc.bc.ca.

The Self-Help Resource Association of BC

The Self-Help Resource Association of BC (SHRA) promotes peer support approaches to community development, building the capacity of individuals and communities to become healthy, responsive and self-determining. SHRA programs and services focus on the processes of self-help and peer support, so that people can apply the information to their individual, organizational or community needs.

SHRA offers:

- Capacity-building workshops on group development and facilitation.
- Consultations, collaborations and partnerships related to peer support and community development initiatives.
- The Kinex Youth Initiative, a youth driven team supporting social and systemic change through peer support approaches.
- Information and referral services in the Lower Mainland.
- PeerNetBC.com, an online space for peer support communities.

Find out more about SHRA at www.selfhelpresource.bc.ca or contact us at cheryl.shra@telus.net.

5. Description of the Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy for LIRN BC was subordinated to five implementation objectives, which are defined as follows:

1. To assess community capacity building needs by inviting rural, remote and northern communities to submit an expression of interest;
2. To develop partnerships with community leaders in rural, remote and Northern BC;
3. To co-develop LIRN BC event agendas with local partners;
4. To deliver LIRN BC events in rural, remote and Northern BC;
5. To evaluate LIRN BC events.

In an effort to realize the aforementioned objectives, the partners of LIRN BC implemented the following phases of work between June, 2007 and May, 2008:

1. Phase One: Invite and respond to expression of interest;
2. Phase Two: Establish roles and responsibilities;
3. Phase Three: Engage in pre-event planning sessions with successful applicants;
4. Phase Four: Deliver LIRN BC events;
5. Phase Five: Develop proceedings report, conduct follow up interviews and write final report.

In the following sections, a review of each phase of work for the 2007/2008 operating year is explained.

5.1. Phase One: Assess Community Capacity Building Needs through Expression of Interest Process

In order to invite as many communities as possible to host a LIRN BC event, an official ‘expression of interest’ was designed and distributed by the LIRN BC partners. The call for expressions of interest ensures that the selection process is open and transparent and allows LIRN BC partners to monitor changes in the number of applicants from one year to the next. A set of criteria was developed for the 2007-2008 EOI selection process which was conducted by the LIRN BC partners (refer to Appendices).

In the middle of summer, 2007, the LIRN BC partners asked communities to express their interest in participating in the initiative. A formal EOI was circulated through a wide range of provincial networks. The LIRN BC partners received 35 EOIs for up to twenty five learning events around rural and Northern BC. Using a framework for assessing and rating, the LIRN BC partners ranked each EOI according to community location, organizational profile, demonstrated community support, and community interests, issues and assets. All successful and unsuccessful applicants were notified about the decisions of the LIRN BC partners.

Although the LIRN BC partners could not meet all of the interest, there were occasions where a LIRN BC partner was able to re-direct an applicant to other sources of support. By distributing an EOI and following up with all communities regarding their community capacity building needs, the LIRN BC partners met their first implementation objective.

5.1.1. Summary of Selected LIRN BC Communities for 2007-2008

This table includes information about the community names and community organizations that hosted the LIRN BC workshop. The right hand column consists of the workshop titles in each community, which reflect the general content of each event. For complete details on each proceedings report, feel free to contact any of the LIRN BC partners, who would be glad to provide you with copies.

Community Name	Host Organization	Workshop Title
Bowen Island*	Bowen Island Community Foundation	Community Visioning
Cortes Island	Cortes Community Health Association	Learning Together: A Dialogue on Community Health
Chetwynd	Chetwynd Social Planning Society	Traction for Social Action: Towards a Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles for CSPS
Dawson Creek*	South Peace Enterprise Centre Society/Kiwanis Enterprise Centre	Building Partnerships Among First Nations and Non First Nations
Dease Lake	Northern Lights College	Working Together: Towards Community Enhancement in Dease Lake
Fort St. James	District of Fort St. James	Developing Sustainable Tourism: How Can Branding Help?
Gold River	Gold River Residents Association	Engaging Youth In Community
Grand Forks	CFDC Boundary	Exploring Economic Opportunities for the Boundary
Horsefly	Horsefly Board of Trade	Horsefly River Roundtable

Mackenzie*	District of Mackenzie	Building Partnerships Among First Nations and Non First Nations
Port Alberni	Alberni Stakeholders Committee to End Homelessness	Community Consultation for Community Plan to End Homelessness
Prince George**	Aboriginal Business Development Centre	Circle of Learning Conference
Prince George**	Prince George Native Friendship Centre	Circle of Learning Conference
Prince Rupert*	CFDC of the Pacific Northwest	Building Partnerships Among First Nations and Non First Nations
Quesnel	Quesnel Child Youth and Family Network	Aboriginal Cultural Tourism: Ideas, Opportunities & Networking (ACTION)
Revelstoke	CFDC of Revelstoke	Affordable Housing: Creating Projects and Gaining Community Acceptance
Revelstoke	Community Connections Society	Engaging Youth in Community
Revelstoke	Success by 6 (Nelson)	Early Childhood Educators Revel-ation Summit
Terrace	Terrace Make Children First	Building a Strategic Framework: Toward a Terrace Community Council
Tofino	Coastal Family Resource Coalition	Coming Together V: A Service Integration Forum
Trail/Cranbrook***	Greater Trail Community Skills Centre/Community Connections Society of Southeast BC	How to Prepare Your Community for Rural Immigration

*Event postponed until 2008/2009 fiscal year due to community reasons

**Two separate learning events were merged into one

***The same workshop was held in both communities on consecutive days

5.2. Phase Two: Outline Responsibilities of LIRN BC Lead, and LIRN BC Community Partner

Upon the selection of the communities and partner organizations, the designated LIRN BC partner, the local partner and, wherever appropriate, a local organizing committee discuss the roles and responsibilities of each party. Refer to “Roles and Responsibilities of lead LIRN Representative and Participating Community Organizations” in the Appendices for further details.

5.3. Phase Three: Engage in Pre-event Planning Sessions to Determine Workshop Content and Format

The pre-event consultations ensure that the LIRN BC event content and format are informed by community leaders and focused on the local context. Each deliberation between the LIRN BC partner and the local partner sought to clarify the particular community capacity interests of prospective participants. In many cases, local input was translated into a draft agenda and/or set of modules that were reviewed and critiqued by the local partner and organizing committee. In other cases, a set curriculum was used for the LIRN BC event.

Participants were given a wide range of general cross cutting topics from which to choose (refer to EOI in Appendices). Applicants were invited to select a limited number of topic areas that could serve as a starting point for discussions about the details of the content and format of the event. The chart on the following page is a summary of the final LIRN BC content areas that were selected for 2007/2008. The total number of selected topic areas slightly exceeds the total number of applicants because some applicants selected multiple topic areas.

5.3.1. Summary of Selected Topic Areas for LIRN BC Workshops

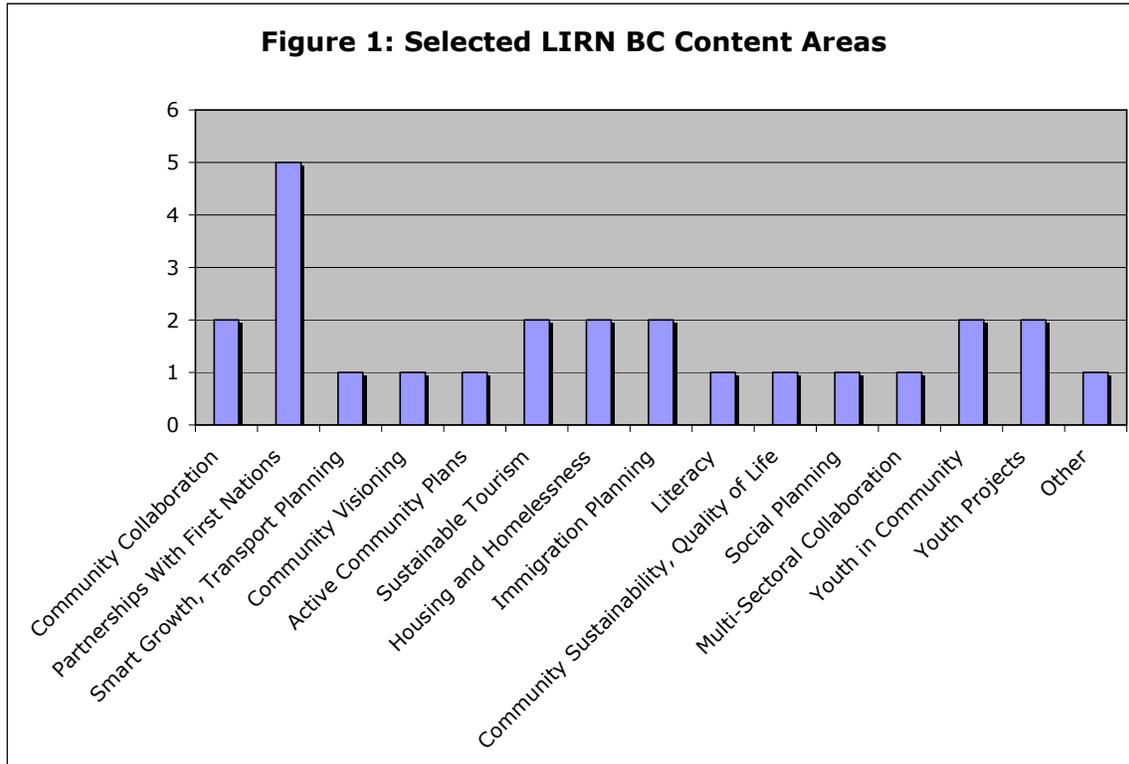


Figure 1 shows the content areas selected by the successful LIRN BC community partners. In 2007-2008, a range of topics were chosen by the LIRN BC community partners when planning their events. The most popular topic was building partnerships among First Nations and non First Nations with five selections. There were six topic areas which received two selections: building community collaboration; developing sustainable tourism; gaining community acceptance for housing and homelessness solutions; immigration planning for your community; youth in community; youth projects and youth in community economic development. There were eight topic areas which received one selection; building sustainable communities through Smart Growth land-use and transportation planning; community visioning; developing active community plans; literacy and community development; measuring community sustainability and quality of life: How can indicators contribute to community mobilization; pathways of community social planning: Principles, concepts and processes; and productive partnerships: Community building through multi-sectoral collaboration.

Based on the applicants' topic selections, the LIRN BC partners engaged in a set of pre-event consultations. The purpose of the pre-event consultations extends from a recognition on behalf of the LIRN BC partners that communities are often at different stages of 'readiness' for a community capacity building event and therefore it is necessary to design the event in a manner that is reflective of the given level of community readiness. The pre-event consultations allowed the local partner to define the scope of the event and allowed the LIRN BC partner to provide the appropriate support and assistance.

For each event that LIRN BC supported, the local partner, the LIRN BC partner and other stakeholders engaged in 2-3 pre-event planning sessions or consultations and, as such, achieved the third implementation objective. All records of the pre-consultations were recorded in an open source spreadsheet that was shared among the LIRN BC partners and other stakeholders.

5.4. Phase Four: Deliver LIRN BC Events

In total, the LIRN BC partners delivered sixteen workshops across fifteen communities. In one community, Prince George, the LIRN BC partners combined two separate LIRN events into one larger scale event. Another community, Revelstoke, hosted three different workshops throughout the LIRN BC year. One workshop, “Preparing Your Community for Rural Immigration,” was held in two communities, Trail and Cranbrook, on consecutive days. Four LIRN BC events were postponed into the next LIRN BC year for community reasons. By delivering sixteen workshops in rural, remote and/or Northern BC, the LIRN BC partners met the fourth implementation objective.

5.5. Phase Five: Develop Proceedings Report, Conduct Follow Up Interviews and Write Final Evaluation Report

There are two parts to the evaluation phase of the LIRN BC strategy: 1) An evaluation immediately following a LIRN BC workshop and development of proceedings report; 2) Follow-up interviews with local partners up to 6 months after the LIRN BC workshop and the final evaluation report.

In regards to the first part of the evaluation phase of LIRN BC, all participants were invited to complete an evaluation questionnaire at the end of each workshop. The results of the post event evaluation were analyzed and integrated into proceedings reports, which also offered an explanation of the content and format of the day, the profiles of the planning organizations, list of participants and a summary of group discussions and next steps. Each community partner was given a proceedings report to distribute to local stakeholders.

With respect to the second part of the evaluation phase, SPARC BC engaged eight partners in follow up interviews to elicit information about the LIRN BC process. The LIRN BC partners co-developed a set of interview questions that were designed to assist the partners improve the initiative. The analysis of these responses is featured in the following section. In developing proceeding reports for each LIRN BC event, conducting follow up interviews and writing this final report, the LIRN BC partners achieved the final implementation objective for the 2007-2008 operating year.

6. LIRN BC Evaluation Framework and Research Methods

In an effort to assess the LIRN BC activities as they relate to the LIRN BC mission, an evaluation framework was developed to help the LIRN BC partners improve their initiative over time. Our evaluation is informed by conventional program evaluation concepts and follows a tried and tested method for evaluating program outcomes. This section includes a discussion of the key concepts in our framework, definition of evaluation objectives, articulation of intended program outcomes and our method for researching the degree to which the program has achieved its intended outcomes.

6.1. Key Concepts of LIRN BC Evaluation Framework

Before articulating our research strategy and evaluation framework, it is important to note that we conceive of communities as open systems comprised of multiple interconnected levels that are changing in complex ways according to a wide range of variables that contribute to both intended and unintended outcomes. According to the makers of EvaluLEAD, an open-system approach allows evaluators to look at the “interactions and connectivity between activities, programs, people, organizations and communities.”¹ As noted by John Grove, *et al.*, the purpose of these explorations is not to strictly identify and document causal relationships between the program activities and reducible local results, but rather to facilitate three basic processes:

1. to better understand the associations between the results observed at specified levels of a community;
2. to gain an overall sense from observed patterns and examples of how a program works to accomplish its intended outcomes and broader mission; and
3. to share these understandings with key program stakeholders and use them as a basis for modest to major enhancements.²

The general aim of the EvaluLEAD approach to program evaluation is to map the space in which a program is expected to contribute to some form of change and collect information about what is happening in the designated space for the purpose of improving the program. The EvaluLEAD method assumes that programs can have an impact on multiple levels (individual, organizational and community) in three different ways: episodic change, developmental change and transformative change.

While the different levels of impact are self explanatory, it is useful to provide some discussion on the three different forms of change. Episodic change is defined as the cause and effect form of change. Typically, episodic changes are time-bound results that are stimulated by actions of a given program and/or its participants. Developmental change, on the other hand, occurs across time and is inclusive of advances, moments of inactivity and set backs, which are all part of a rhythm of activity that changes according to a wide range of local conditions. Results of developmental changes are open-ended and less

¹ Grove, John T., Barry M. Kibel and Taylor Hass. 2005. *EVALULEAD: A Guide for Shaping and Evaluating Leadership Development Programs*, The Public Health Institute, Oakland, California.

² *Ibid*, 4.

predictable than results of episodic changes and can be inclusive of new projects or ongoing discussions about working together. Finally, transformative changes represent fundamental shifts in individual, organizational or community values and perspectives that seed the emergence of fundamental shifts in behavior. According to the EvaluLEAD authors, “transformative results represent a crossroads or an unanticipated new road taken for the individuals, organization, or community, whereas episodic and developmental results are not nearly so unexpected or so potentially profound in their consequences.”³ Given that LIRN BC events are typically one day in length, our evaluation framework is limited to a focus on episodic and developmental forms of change at the individual, organizational and community levels.

³ *Ibid*, 7.

6.2. Outcomes, Measures and Methods

In the table below, we define the intended outcomes of LIRN BC in terms of level and form of change. We also articulate the measures for each outcome and our data collection method for each measure.

6.2.1. Outcomes and Measures

Level of Change	Form of Change	Intended Outcomes	Measures
Individual	Episodic	Improved linkages/connections in the community	Number of participants who report that the LIRN BC workshop helped them to connect with other people in the community
Individual	Episodic	Increased interest in exploring new ways of working with people in the community	Number of participants who report that the LIRN BC workshop increased their interest in exploring new ways of working with people in the community
Organizational	Episodic	Initiated and/or strengthened collaborations between organizations within sectors and between sectors	Number of participants who report new and/or strengthened partnerships and/or collaborations between organizations within sectors and between sectors
Organizational	Developmental	Identified and acted on local issues raised at the workshop	Number of interview respondents that report they followed up on issues raised at LIRN BC event
Organizational	Developmental	Accessed new funding for projects	Number of interview respondents that report they were able to access new funding for projects partly due to the LIRN BC event
Community	Developmental	Identification of a project on which groups could collaborate	Number of respondents that report they are engaged in a new community development project partly due to a LIRN BC event

6.2.2. Research Methods

Our research method was designed to elicit information from LIRN BC participants (people participating in the workshop) and LIRN BC local partners (co-sponsor in planning and delivering workshop) about the degree to which their LIRN BC event(s)

contribute to each of the designated forms of local change at different levels of the community.

Two methods were used to collect data related to intended outcomes of LIRN BC. The first method is a self-complete questionnaire that is administered at the end of each LIRN BC event. All questionnaires are reviewed by both parties in a de-brief meeting regarding the workshop and then analyzed in the proceedings report. The second method of data collection is follow up interviews with a sample of local partners, that is to say the local representative who is primarily responsible for convening stakeholders for the LIRN BC event. The follow up interviews took place 2-6 months after the LIRN BC event. SPARC BC was responsible for conducting all follow up interviews. Seven interviews were conducted in total.

All data was analyzed in relation to the stated outcomes and is represented in terms of event averages in the main text of the report.

This research method is similar to the approach employed for the 2006-2007 LIRN BC year. However, there are three noteworthy differences between 2006-2007 and 2007-2008: the post workshop evaluation questions are dissimilar; workshops were offered in different communities in rural and northern BC; and the LIRN BC partnership's offerings varied. Since there are many different variables between the 2006-2007 year and the 2007-2008 year, comparing results across years is problematic. Thus, this report only contains the evaluation results from the 2007-2008 LIRN BC year and does not compare them to the previous year.

7. Evaluation Results

In the following sections, we review the evaluation results for the second round of LIRN BC activities. There are two sections in total. The first section is a summary of the results of participant responses to questions on the LIRN BC evaluation form. The LIRN BC communities featured in the first section include Cortes Island, Chetwynd, Dease Lake, Fort St. James, Gold River, Grand Forks, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Terrace, and Tofino. Results from the events in Horsefly, Port Alberni and Prince George will not be included in the first section because there are no LIRN BC evaluation results available. The second section provides an analysis of the results of the follow up interviews that we conducted with a sample of LIRN BC local partners.

A wide range of local organizations participated in the LIRN BC workshops. In the table on the following page, we provide an analysis of the institutional affiliation of all LIRN BC participants. The data in the following table is based on the evaluation results.

7.1. Results from Post-workshop Questionnaire

7.1.1. Institutional Affiliations of LIRN BC partners

When evaluating the LIRN BC workshops, participants were asked to indicate the organization type, government, business, or First Nation that they were representing. The table below illustrates that almost half of all participants represented a social service, community-based or educational organization. Government and First Nations were the second and third most represented groups, whereas economic and business groups, as well as environmental groups represented a small proportion of the total number of participants.

7.1.2. Number and Type of Institutions Represented at the 2007/2008 LIRN BC Workshops

Event	First Nation	Gov't	Social / Comm. Org.	Econ. Dev. Org. or Bus.	Enviro. Org.	Total
Oct 2007: Revelstoke	0	4	3	1	0	8
Nov 2007: Quesnel	4	1	5	5	0	15
Nov 2007: Trail/Cranbrook*	0	5	9	8	0	22
Dec 2007: Fort St. James	2	4	0	1	0	7
Jan 2008: Revelstoke	0	2	4	0	0	6
Feb 2008: Chetwynd	1	1	6	1	2	11
Feb 2008: Tofino	16	10	16	0	1	43
Mar 2008: Gold River	3	2	6	0	0	11
Mar 2008: Revelstoke	0	0	20	0	0	20
Mar 2008: Cortes Island	4	4	11	2	0	21
Mar 2008: Grand Forks	0	6	2	5	2	15
Apr 2008: Terrace	0	5	3	1	0	9
Apr 2008: Dease Lake	3	2	5	0	0	10
Total	33	46	90	24	5	198
% of Total	17	23	45	12	3	100

* Although separate LIRN BC workshops were delivered in Trail and Cranbrook respectively, we have truncated the two communities into one unit because the workshop and evaluation were the same in both places.

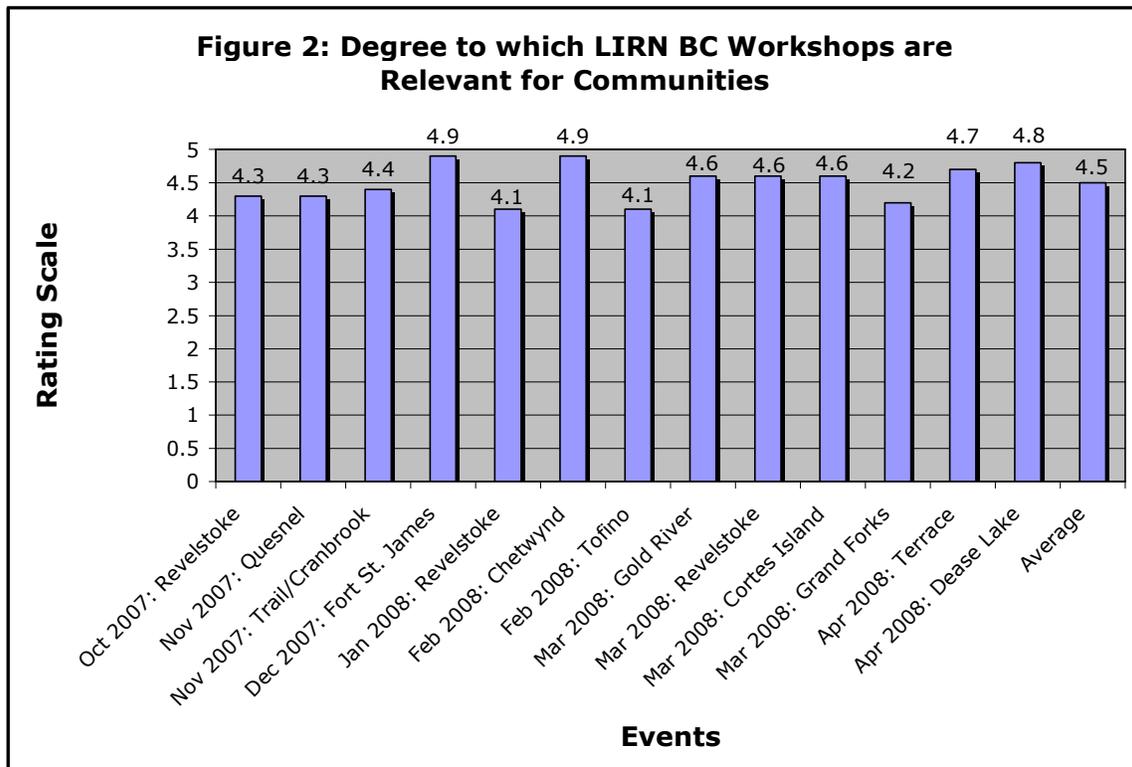
7.2. Post-Workshop Evaluation Results

The following charts and tables summarize the post LIRN BC workshop questionnaire results. A five point scale was used to frame response options for participants, with 1 representing a low level of quality or relevancy and 5 representing a high level of quality or relevancy. All response totals are the average response to each question.

The communities of Trail and Cranbrook are considered one unit of analysis in the following tables because the same workshop was delivered in both places, using the same evaluation questionnaire. LIRN BC events in Port Alberni, Prince George and Horsefly are not included in this portion of the analysis, as there are no LIRN BC results available for these events. The bar on the far right hand side of all charts is the average across events.

7.1.3. Relevancy of LIRN BC Workshops

At the end of each LIRN BC workshop, participants were asked to rate the degree to which the LIRN BC workshop is relevant for their community. Figure 2 illustrates the range of participant responses to the question; a scale of 1-5, 1 meaning ‘irrelevant’ and 5 meaning ‘very relevant,’ was used to frame participant response options.



The average rating across all events was 4.5, which suggests that the majority of participants who completed the questionnaire indicated that the LIRN BC workshop was very relevant. Here is a sampling of participant comments that explain, at least in part, why their LIRN event was relevant:

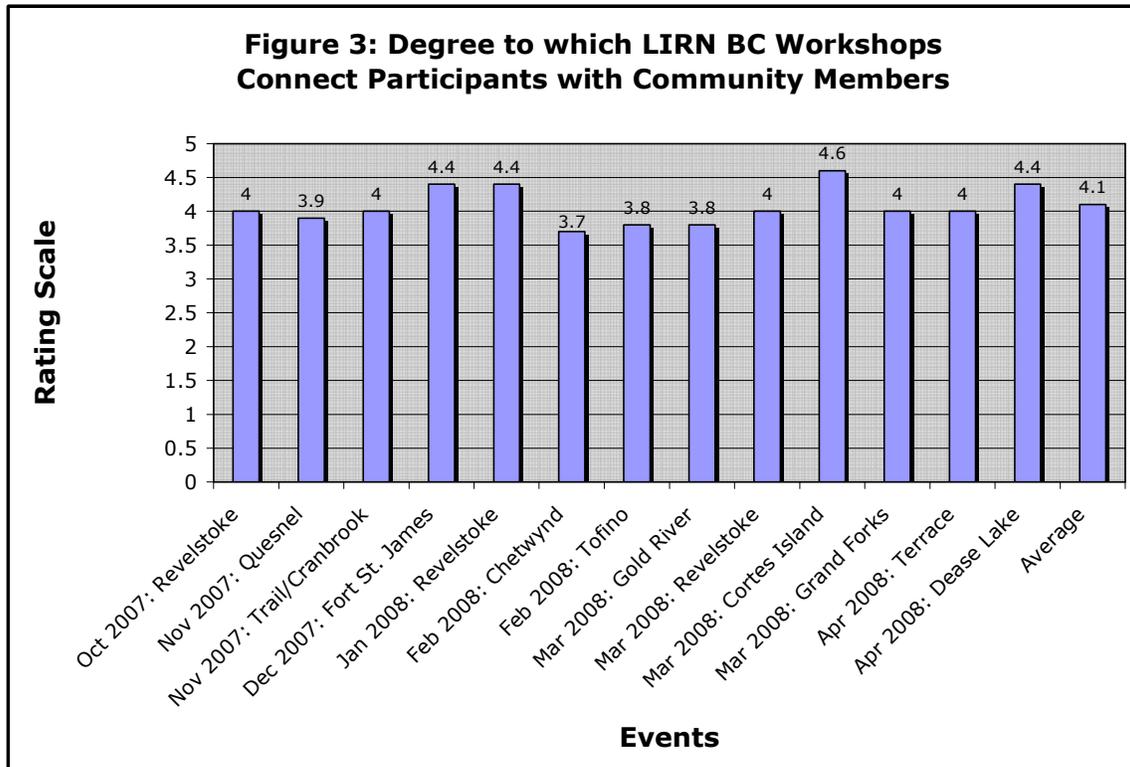
- “Very timely and fit within current initiatives and priorities.”
- “I learned a lot about First Nations tourism. Networking was also good.”
- “Certainly a topic and situation that will affect rural communities on many facets. Our community (almost desperately) needs more employees, and a lot of suggestions on how to alleviate the problem was to bring in foreign workers. This event you gave me a lot of information to work with. Thanks!”
- “Increased awareness of immigration/labour force – our biggest challenge over the next decade.”
- “I think it will be a great starting point for communicating/networking/planning.”
- “Very relevant in providing information and perspectives to all players in the community.”
- “Great to meet so many community members to share the wisdom and visions for our children and youth.”
- “I am better informed on our sector and community. We needed this workshop to cope with change. We need to diversify. I really liked the design of the day.”“Just what we need! We need more community involvement. We will have a real community council shortly. Great!”

In addition to these comments, two participants stated:

- “[The relevancy] depends on if First Nations will actually get consulted before the process.”
- “It would have been helpful to have a clearer picture and pre-reading prior to attending.”

7.1.4. Degree to which LIRN BC Workshop Participants Connect with other Community Members

Participants were also asked to indicate their assessment of the degree to which the LIRN BC workshop helped them to connect with other people in their community. Using a five point scale, where 1 means ‘not at all helpful’ and 5 means ‘extremely helpful,’ participants’ average rating was 4.1 out of a possible 5. The average response for each LIRN BC event is depicted in Figure 3.



The average response across events was 4.1, which suggests that most people who completed the evaluation form found that the event connected them with other community members. The written comments also illustrate that participants felt that LIRN BC workshops help to connect them with other community members. Here are a few examples:

- “Some people who don’t normally work together got connected.”
- “There were lots of groups represented at the meeting. It is important to get Aboriginal buy-in at the beginning of a project. Great cross-section of folks!”
- “Will be nice to have E-mail list. Please send names plus agency represented and position.”
- “New to community and this helped connect for me who is who and what programs and resources. I was able to not only meet, but get to know a few people in the community who will be useful contacts in my job.”
- “Relationships are key. Provides richness.”
- “Brought us together with focus – we were connected before.”

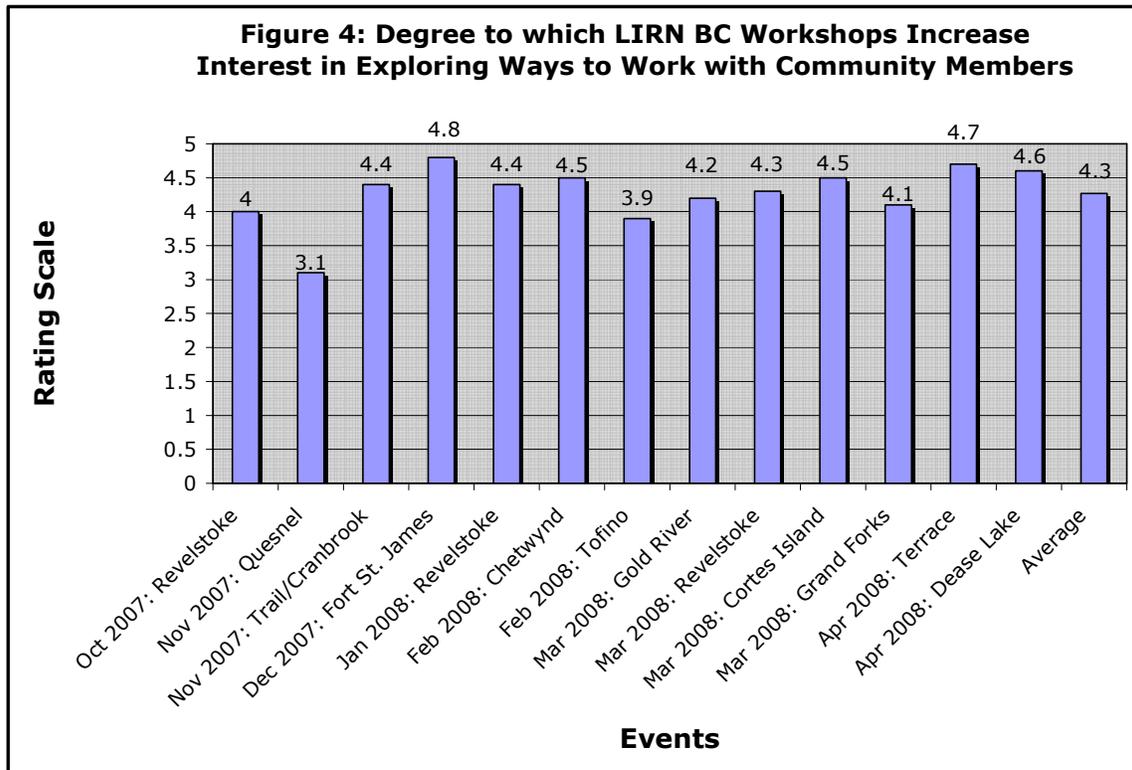
- “Given that I do not live or work in this community, most of my comments would be irrelevant. My observation says that most people here seem to have bought into the concept of collaboration. It seems to be time for this concept to percolate down to the front line. Breakdown the sites, figure out how to meet primary needs and allow information sharing. Encourage.”
- “Good conversation, collaboration and camaraderie.”
- “Interesting cross-section of people.”
- “I already knew most of the people, but I learned that they all really do care what we do or don’t do.”
- “I met new people. It was good to talk to others with the same concerns. It was good to network with people from a variety of backgrounds.”

Several participants also expressed some ideas about how networking opportunities could have been enhanced at their LIRN BC workshops. Here are some examples of their suggestions:

- “We should have done introductions at the beginning.”
- “Would have been more useful with more youth voice.”
- “In terms of connecting with people, perhaps we could have done a networking experience. Sometimes it’s hard for us to get together.”
- “Not long enough.”

7.1.5. Degree to which LIRN BC Workshops Increase Interest in Exploring New Ways to Work With Community Members

On a scale of 1-5, 1 meaning ‘not at all’ and 5 meaning ‘a great deal,’ participants were invited to assess the LIRN BC’s workshop’s success at increasing their interest in exploring new ways to work with people in their community. Figure 4 shows the average response for each workshop.



The average response across all LIRN BC events was 4.3, which suggests that the LIRN BC workshops did increase participants’ interest in exploring new ways to work with community members. Here are a few illustrative comments to that effect:

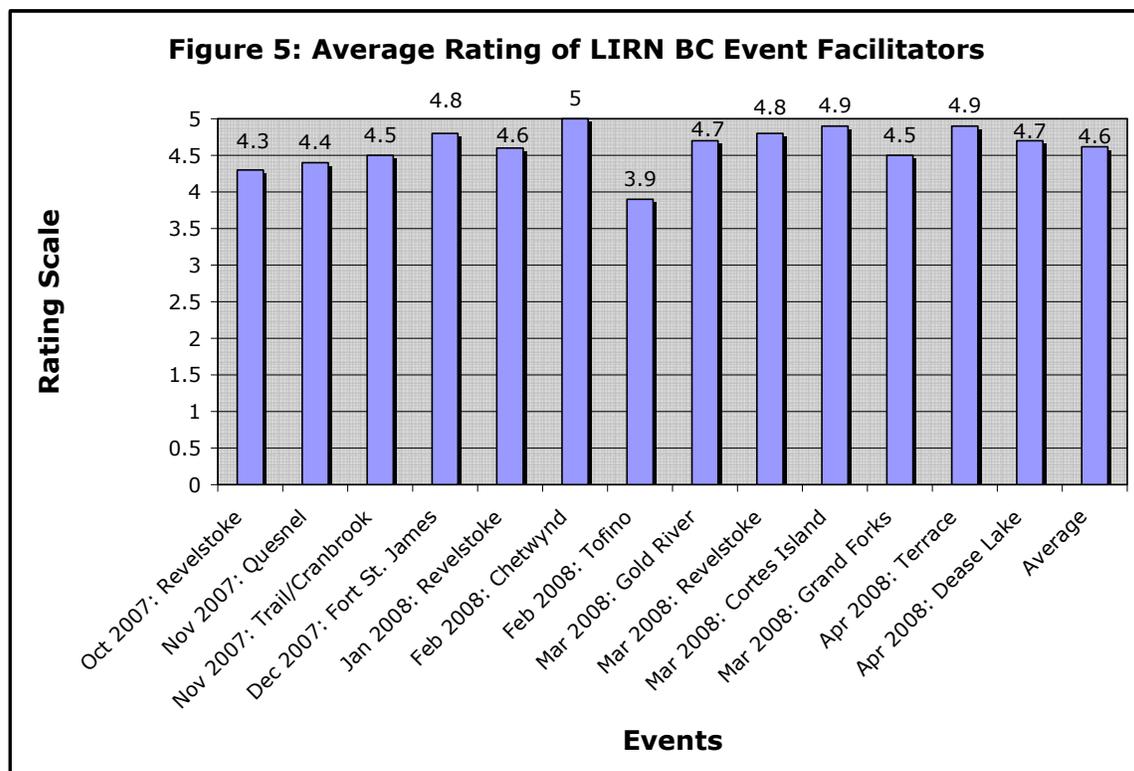
- “Day gave lots of options to explore.”
- “Very exciting to think how we can do this together.”
- “I am excited to bring the information from here to the other organizations in my community.”
- ‘Great starting point for social planning.’
- “Lots of great ways to say ‘what is important,’ community standards.”
- “Linkages – my favorite word of the day.”
- “Good connections”
- “New ideas”
- “New approaches for partnerships.”
- “Great group of participants, all from different sectors. All the community players were there and there are more workshops in place to stay on track. It was good to met other folks and get informed. There was good participation and good ideas.”

- “Yes, the LIRN workshop has provided a focus for interested parties with mutual goals.”
- “Yes, I feel more empowered, and now have a need to help.”

Workshop participants also stated “we need to focus more on bringing the various groups together – collaboration” and “it was already there – the interest – for me.”

7.1.6. Rating of the Event Facilitator

Participants were asked to rate their event facilitator on a scale of 1-5, 1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent. Figure 5 illustrates the average participant response for each LIRN BC event.



Across all LIRN BC events for 2007-2008, the average response is 4.6, which demonstrates that LIRN BC participants considered the facilitators to be highly effective. There were also a number of written comments which expressed participants’ satisfaction with the facilitators. Here are a few illustrative examples:

- “Straightforward approach and understandable.”
- “Well organized presentation.”
- “I enjoyed learning from them.”
- “Jean had some great stats that gave a great overview of where our community stands. Jody was a dynamic speaker! Could have listened to her all day. Very useful information.”

- “Fun, lots of laughter and learning.”
- “Energetic, relevant, knowledgeable, flexible and great.”
- “These guys are awesome. Dynamic.”
- “Super professional and able to adjust to the unexpected.”
- “Knowledgeable, personable and focused.”
- “Easily understood, good pace, met goals of group.”
- “Very intuitive to groups needs.”
- “Able to facilitate conversation and decision making by the group.”
- “Good guiding towards own end results.”
- “Scott has a nice manner; respectful, encouraging.”
- “Great job!”
- “Very clear, not too loud or too quiet, just right. Good work!”
- “Two very energetic well spoken and thought provoking presenters.”
- “Good to move around, kept us on track, good networking and sharing of ideas, excellent facilitation, Gail was great!”
- “Scott, thank you for being flexible and adjusting the schedule to meet the needs of the group.”
- “Scott did an excellent job of keeping us positive and on topic.”
- “Excellent balance between entertaining and giving information so not boring.”
- “Well prepared and able to communicate effectively.”

There were also a couple of recommendations about how to change the days’ agendas:

- “The morning activities were long—it could have been useful to use more of that time for topic discussion.”
- “A little too quick to move from discussion to SWOT analysis.”

7.1.7. Comments on the Usefulness of Event Materials

Workshop participants were also asked to provide feedback on the usefulness of the event materials. The written comments suggest that LIRN BC participants were happy with workshop materials. Here are a few comments to that effect:

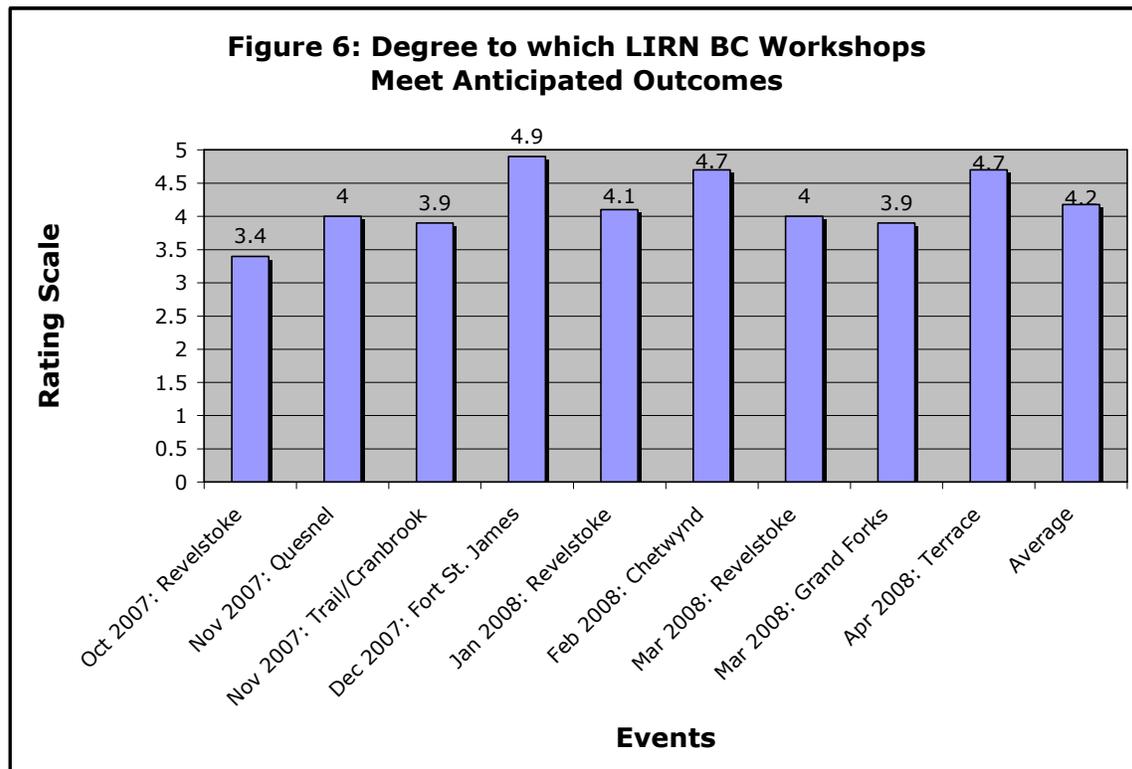
- “Good list of resources.”
- “Very relevant case studies provided.”
- “Materials were very useful.”
- “Matches our needs.”
- “Very valuable—helped calculate degree of NIMBY we may encounter.”
- “Great opportunity to meet others involved in community development. Materials informational and worth picking up.”
- “Very relevant for our community; shows us what we are capable of.”
- “I learned a lot, very useful and timely.”
- “It was good to look at what we already have in our community.”
- “Applicable and relevant.”
- “Good, lots of very current information.”
- “Timely materials. Information is of value as communities move forward. Challenge will be to truly be able to accommodate new immigrants while dealing with rural daily stresses and realities.”
- “Great! I look forward to reviewing these documents in greater detail and look forward to the material that will be forwarded to us.”
- “Need to have more time, but given time restraints was all excellent.”
- “New approach to immigrant issues. Good model for other communities.”
- “Fantastic, more ideas and examples of other communities, pictures, etc.”
- “Lots of interactive activities.”
- “I liked it. Colourful.”
- “Great games etc.”
- “All very relevant.”
- “I will have some interesting reading to do!”
- “Specific to the task at hand, but interactions was the best part.”
- “Very systematic approach to formalizing our group’s vision, mission, principals and goals.”
- “Need time to look through package still.”
- “Pleasantly surprised at the practicality and efficiency.”
- “Good contacts and ideas, e-mails and newsletters are good, new funding ideas and examples, would be good to have more materials like posters and plans.”

There was some constructive feedback including:

- “More details needed.”
- “Too much time on initial presentation of background/demographic info – a lot has been heard before – pick the info that may be new to focus on.”

7.1.8. Degree to which LIRN BC Workshops Meet Anticipated Outcomes

Participants were also asked to rate the degree to which the anticipated outcomes were met at the workshop. Relative to the other scaled questions the response rate for this question was low; as a result, there are only nine LIRN BC events with results for this question. Unlike the other evaluation questions which remain consistent regardless of the topic area, this question was sometimes tailored to reflect the outcomes specified in the Expression of Interest. Some workshop evaluation forms asked a generic question, “were anticipated outcomes met” which is relatively ambiguous as the participant may or may not be clear on what the anticipated outcomes were supposed to be. Other evaluation forms defined the anticipated outcomes for the participant; for instance, one form asked, “Did the LIRN event assist you in development of a mission, vision and guiding principles for CSPS?” Because of the inconsistency in terms of how this question was structured, the results should be interpreted with caution. Figure 6 depicts the average response for event on a scale of 1-5, 1 meaning ‘not at all’ and 5 meaning ‘a great deal.’



The average response across events was 4.2, which suggests that the participants thought that the anticipated outcomes were met. Unlike other questions, there were not many written comments. Here are the available comments:

- “Yes, although the turnout was low”
- “Good networking” (9), “good ideas” (3), “relevant,” “good to get more knowledge on rural issues,” “good ideas to overcome obstacles”

The lack of written comments may reflect confusion on behalf of participants as to what the anticipated outcomes were supposed to be.

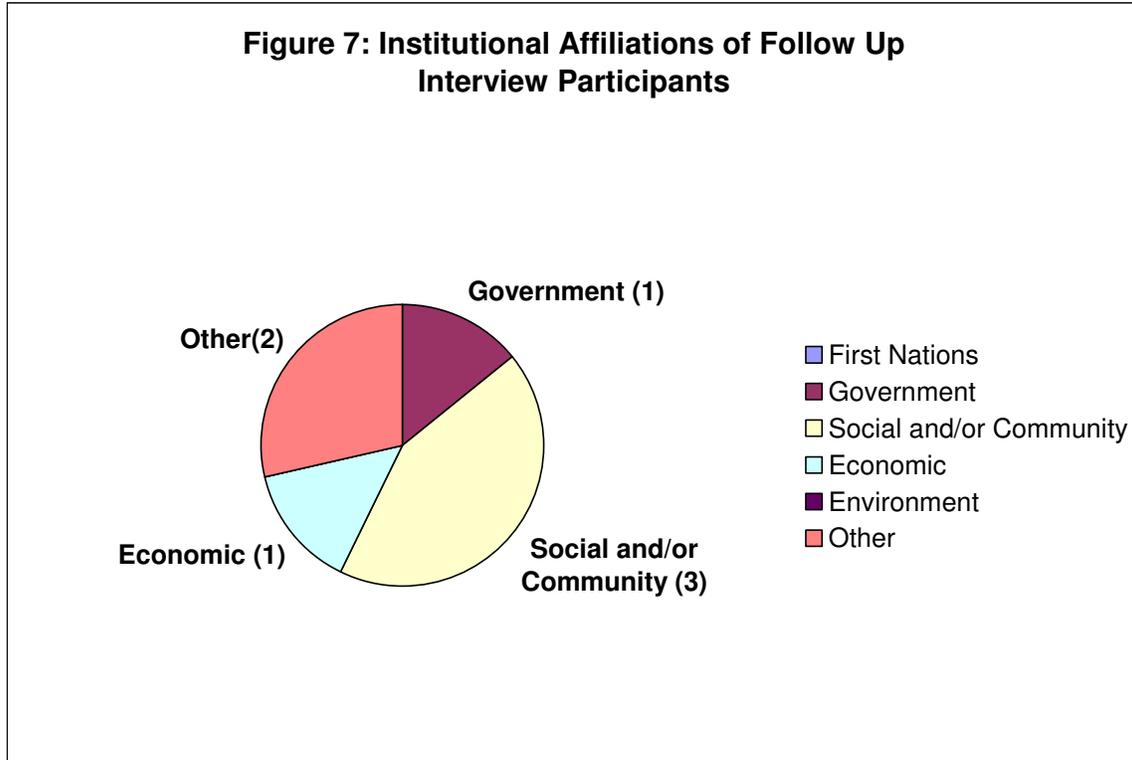
7.2. Results from Follow Up Interview with Local LIRN BC Partners

In addition to the post-workshop evaluations questionnaires, the LIRN BC partners decided to interview seven local LIRN BC partner organizations.

The interviews asked participants a range of questions about their experience with the LIRN BC process and their perceptions of how the LIRN BC workshop contributed to local change. In the following sections, an analysis of participant responses is provided, starting with a review of the institutional affiliations of interview participants.

7.2.1. Institutional Affiliation of Local Partners who Participated in Follow Up Interviews

The selection of interview participants was based, in part, on institutional affiliation as it targeted community partners from a range of organizational types. Within each organizational category, interview participants were selected at random. Figure 7 illustrates that follow up interview participants represented a variety of types of organizations.



Three follow up interview participants were from the “Social and/or Community” category which encompasses cultural groups, groups serving families, youth, women and seniors, educational institutions, etc. Two interview participants fell into the “Other” category as they were from groups which have representation from a cross section of different types of organizations including local government social and/or community groups, and the First Nations community. One interview respondent was from the “Government” category and another was from the “Economic” category.

7.2.2. Assessment of Time Allocated for LIRN BC events

Local partners were asked if “the amount of time provided for the LIRN BC event was sufficient?” This question generated a range of responses. Most participants (four) thought that the duration of the event was good as is. Two participants mentioned that their LIRN BC event would have been better if it was an hour or two longer. One participant said that it would be preferable to have a longer multiphase project, where there are three different day events over time.

The fact that most participants thought that the duration of the events was appropriate reflects the flexibility of the LIRN BC process. Some events are short in duration (i.e. one evening) while others are full day or two-day events. The duration of the event is determined through communication between the LIRN BC partner organization and the community partner organization.

7.2.3. Assessment of Positive Benefits of the LIRN BC Workshop to the Community

Follow up interview participants were asked “what were the positive benefits of the LIRN BC process to your community?” Respondents noted many positive outcomes. One participant spoke to the benefit of having funding to bring representatives from different communities together:

- “This was the first time we had some outside funds, for the hall rental, travel, food. It’s a big help for us because our communities are rural and isolated. Having funding for travel from rural communities was important. The food was important. Traditionally, it is important to offer food when inviting people to come, especially when you are pulling communities together and want to honor them for coming. It helps us to incorporate those traditional [First Nations] values. Part of the goals for our coalition is cross cultural learning, so it really supports that.”

Another participant discussed the benefit of bringing in outside expertise and facilitators:

- “Well I think as a Committee member, it was really helpful to have some outside facilitators. We had been working on it for a long time, and we had got a bit introspective. Having outside facilitators allowed us to participate better in small groups and sit back and observe the input that came from the community.”

Three participants found it useful that LIRN BC events are followed by a summative report which outlines the event's discussion. Some examples of participant responses to this effect include:

- “Actually having the report from the presenters was a good piece for me to have from the event.”
- “Creating a hard copy of the ideas generated at the meeting. People who attended wear many hats in our community and many take an active role in expressing ideas and concerns. For years, generating discussion has been encouraged and has been successful. For the community to have this opportunity to put all those ideas on paper is of great benefit!”
- “This is one of the few times that we actually got the report.”

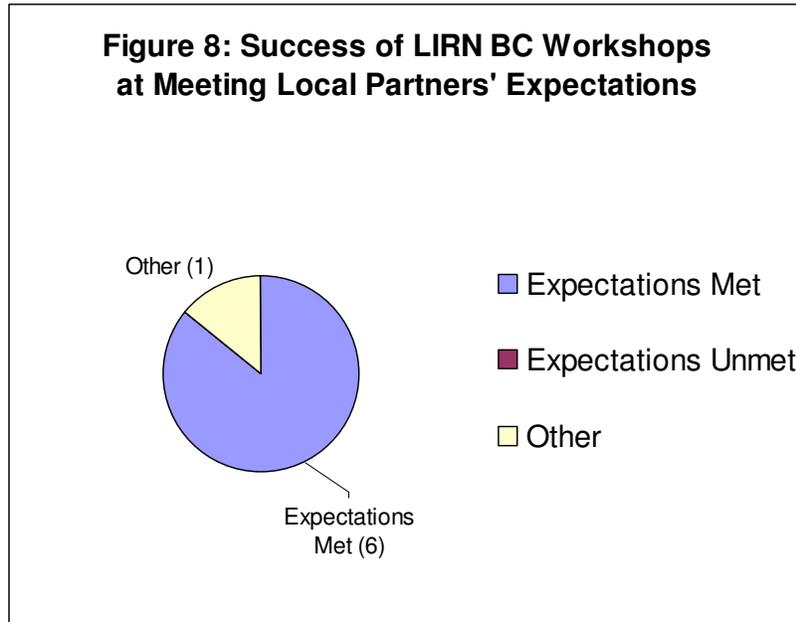
One participant mentioned the benefit of having a timely, straightforward, streamlined application process:

- “The application process was really easy. We heard back in good time. So those were two really positive things...This was a straightforward application that didn't ask for onerous amounts of work.”

Overall, participants thought that the community benefited from the results of the LIRN BC process in a variety of ways. Here are a few mentions of the results:

- “People started to see the possibilities of Aboriginal Tourism.”
- “Gave us some next steps in terms of branding our community...It brought a lot of people together to talk about the same thing.”
- “It helped us to focus on community priorities for actioning and implementing our service integration model. It is a process that we have been going through for a few years.”
- “It has brought some awareness of immigration issues to the forefront, and there continues to be people working on those issues.”
- “We explored economic diversification techniques. It was a really good starting point for a couple of projects that we have been working on actively, one being tourism and another agriculture.”
- “The benefit was community consultation about the direction that the Horsefly River Roundtable should proceed. We identified people's expectations, concerns, and what they thought was important about the river, in regards to development and conservation.”

7.2.4. Expectations for the LIRN BC Workshop



All interview participants were asked “Did the LIRN BC event meet your expectations? Yes or No and Why.” Six of the community partners said yes, while one of the community partners said both yes and no. A few key themes emerged from their responses.

Three respondents praised the quality of the outside facilitators who were brought in for LIRN BC events. It was mentioned that the LIRN BC facilitators were effective at tailoring the content for the specific needs of the community, and bringing new perspectives. Here are some illustrative comments:

- “Yes, I think it did. They were really good about tailoring the expertise to what we wanted to do. It was great that they brought in Aboriginal presenters.”
- “Yes, the presenters were very well prepared. They had done their homework. They were able to speak to the group in a way that was understood and digested. We really appreciated that.”
- “We got an opportunity to hear some speakers come in from different places and give their overview of the issues.”

Three participants mentioned that LIRN BC events provided a forum for community members to convene around a particular issue. Here are some supporting comments.

- “Yes, it brought the issues to the forefront. There were people beforehand who are policy makers and in key positions, and were skeptical about whether there was an issue. They didn't see it as something that affected them. Attending the event, looking at the demographics, and the need for immigration. There was a turnaround on those attitudes.”
- “Yes, it did and gave us an opportunity for public input. We were able to update the plan and include some of the information from the public. There are some

groups that we hadn't considered, the fetal alcohol syndrome [group]. We didn't realize that there were as a high number of people with fetal alcohol syndrome who were having trouble maintaining housing. There were some eloquent speakers who used to be homeless, and shared their story. When you get that firsthand contact with the person it affects, it really motivates you to keep on. Keeping the public informed is another duty of the community. It gave us an opportunity to report what we had done for the next stage of going to City Council. Now the plan is at City Hall waiting for adoption.”

- “Yes. It provided an event where local citizens were comfortable to give their opinions. A formal meeting would not have accomplished that.”
- I think it did what it intended. It raised the profile of that economic opportunity in the community and the need for social development to make it work. We actually got the report. Usually that never happens!

One participant responded by saying “Yes and No” because the LIRN BC event accomplished a lot, but not as much as the community organization had intended. Nonetheless, the event was considered a success because they addressed so much in a limited time frame. Here is an illustrative comment:

- “Yes, in some ways, we did get to identify some priorities, and we do have some goals for our management resource team. No because we had really hoped to talk about indicator monitoring and developing some indicators, but we didn't get to that, but it is okay because maybe we bit off too much.”

7.3.5. LIRN BC Workshop’s Contribution to Building Contacts in the Community

Type of Responses	My Organization Made New Contacts	Participant Organization(s) Made New Contacts
Yes	5	6
No	1	0
Uncertain	1	1

Each community partner was asked if their organization had developed any new contacts as a result of the event. Five said “Yes,” they definitely had made new contacts. One participant said “No,” the event served to build on existing relationships as opposed to developing new relationships. One participant was uncertain because a former colleague had organized the event, and he had been less involved with the organization of the project. The community partners were also asked if to their knowledge, participating organizations had developed new contacts. Six said “Yes” participants had made new contacts with one another, while one respondent was unsure.

A couple of participants mentioned the importance of developing relationships with groups they were already in contact with. For instance, a couple of participants spoke to

the value in building a relationship with the First Nations community, which can take a long time. Here are some illustrative comments:

- “Not really within the community. We already know each other. Just building on relationships and that takes a long time with Aboriginal people.”
- “I think it helped build relationships with the Aboriginal community. I think they are seeing the value in collaborating with outsiders.”

A couple of community partners mentioned the value of forming connections with the outside facilitators. Here are a couple of comments to that effect:

- “Yes, in terms of the people who came into the community and spoke.”
- “Yes, in particular with Vaugeois who spoke. I have been able to talk to the presenter for the agriculture on a number of different pieces. It has worked out quite well.”

Two interview participants mentioned that they formed connections with representatives from groups that they do not regularly come into contact with, such as different levels of government, local politicians, First Nations groups, social and/or community groups. Here are a couple of illustrative examples:

- “Yes, definitely. We have really solidified our partnership with the Vancouver Island Aboriginal Transition team, and they have just become an interim authority to take on child/family services. That transformation has just started, it is really important to have that connection and have them on. We also established a great partnership with Service Canada. The regional director came, and was a great resource. She has been sending a lot of resources. She is now going to be part of our management team as well. We are going to have representation of all levels of government (fed, prov, municipal, bands). It has strengthened partnerships with the Nuu-chuh-nulth Tribal Council. We were already working with them, and it helped strengthen those relationships.”
- “Yes, we met contacts in the Cranbrook area, and connected with the MP's and MLA's office. It expanded some contacts with the major industries in the town. There were employers that we contacted, that I would not have necessarily in been in contact before, and even if they couldn't attend, there was still discussion.”
- “Yes, with the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome group, and with the First Nations groups. We had FN representation there and they had a chance to put in their experience. People have become aware of the Stakeholders group, and now we have some citizens that sit on it.”

7.2.6 LIRN BC Workshop’s Contribution to New Projects in the Community

Type of Responses	My Organization Has Become Involved in a New Collaborative Project with Other Groups	Participant Organization(s) Have Become Involved in (a) New Collaborative Project(s)
Yes	4	4
No, Not Yet, and Uncertain	3	3

Interview participants were asked if their “organization has identified a specific project or activity to work on with other groups partly due to the LIRN BC event?” Four respondents said, yes, they have started a new project or initiative in collaboration with other groups as a result. Here are a few illustrative examples:

- “Yes we put in a proposal to BC150.”
- “Yes, we have been asked to participate with the West Kootenay Regional Skills Council on developing a Welcoming Communities Strategic Plan around immigration.”
- “We have identified other projects since then. There is an old former RCMP building, and now we are trying to get the City to give that for an Emergency/Zero barrier housing. The stakeholders group went to City Hall, and they put a six-month stop on demolishing the building. We have six months to come up with a plan for the adaptation of the building. It's a very sturdy building, and we'll be able recycle it. We have people from Community Futures, and VIHA who want to go in it. It would be a one stop centre for people who have addictions and other issues.”
- “Yes, building a campground by the river.”

Two interview respondents stated that since the event happened very recently in their community, it was too early to say what projects will be started as a result. However, there are plans to meet and establish next steps:

- “We haven't as of yet. The event is really recent and we are following up on the work that came out of that workshop, and we are following up on a plan, i.e. a youth priority was to develop a youth forum to bring youth and elders together to mentor one another in a modern day. People are bringing resources together to make this model happen.”
- “We haven’t yet, but we are about to. We are using it as how we are moving forward to brand our community. We will gather together that same group of people to decide what to do next.”

In one instance, the LIRN BC event was viewed to be a culminating piece which brought existing projects together:

- “No, they were already happening. This was a tie in piece that brought everything together.”

The LIRN community partners were also asked, “To your knowledge, have the other participating organizations identified a project or activity to work on with other groups as a result of the LIRN BC event?” Four respondents said “Yes,” they were aware of projects that participants were involved in with other groups. One respondent was unsure because some subsequent community activities could be viewed to be a result of the event, but it is difficult to say if the event was a causal factor. Two respondents were not aware of any projects that came into being as a result of the event. Here are a few comments describing activities that have taken place since LIRN BC events:

- “The Friendship Centre put forward a proposal for the pine beetle money.”
- “I know that some ladies from Hornby Island came to our event and they were very curious and impressed with our process. So I think they might do some similar planning. I invited some people from HELP (a UBC program). They want to send some researchers to us to figure out our process.”
- “Some are involved in the Regional Skills Council and the Welcoming Communities Strategic Plan.”
- “I know that some of the groups that were involved, some of the non profits, have started working with the natives on the housing issues. I don't know if it was the result of the conference, or just the timing. Now we hear that they are doing housing surveys with the First Nations. I'm not sure that it was a direct result, but it happened after the conference.”
- “LIRN BC has been a springboard for our community. Since then, we have been actively working on events for Literacy Now. As the college administrator, I also have been approached by the local detachment of the RCMP to partner with them on their next project. The community is much more aware of the benefits of collaboration and partnership.”

Type of Responses	My Organization Has Started an Internal Project	Participant Organization(s) Have Started (an) Internal Project(s)
Yes	3	3
No, Not Yet, and Uncertain	4	4

The community organizations were also asked if they had initiated any internal projects as a result of the LIRN BC event. A couple of community organizations had difficulty answering that question because the community partner organization was not one organization, rather it was a coalition of different organizations, local politicians, etc. who were working together on a particular issue. Thus, a project that is internal to the coalition or committee was also collaborative project with different community groups involved. As a result, they found it difficult to differentiate between what was an internal project and what was an external project. Nonetheless, both coalitions stated that the

event made them consider how their coalition functions. Here are a couple of comments to that effect:

- “The Coalition is a group of providers from the 8 nations and 2 municipalities. It is not so much an organization as it is a group. It’s changing the way you function internally and externally.”
- “We are really wanted to evolve and determine what kind of group we want to be. We want to find out whether we want to be a committee of the City, or an Advocacy group, or a nonprofit. Now we are going through a Terms of Reference. We don't have any formal process, or rules, now we are evolving and becoming more structured as we develop new goals. Do we want to be a task force of the City. Maybe we will just be an advisor of the City? The City has been providing meeting space free of charge. We want to be at arm's length distance so that we can lobby everyone and all levels of government. I think going through this process is making us stronger. We are becoming a more cohesive group, more defined and less ad hoc.”

One respondent mentioned an internal project that arose:

- “Yes, the project identified that we need improvement in the radio contact abilities of the fire dept & ambulance service -- both under 911, and our radios do not work well. This was placed as a major priority”

One respondent was “unsure” about new internal projects, because the event happened very recently. Another participant did not think that anything “formal” has been carried out, but the information was shared among the staff. A couple of community partner organizations had not started internal projects.

Community partners were also asked if they were aware of any new internal projects within the participant organizations. One internal project was identified. Here is an illustrative description of that project:

- “The Red Bluff Indian Band, incorporated all of the priorities of the workshop into their economic development plan. He's the chief of the band. The museum is going to start work that will interconnect with the issues raised in the workshop.”

Two respondents thought that the information was likely used within participating organizations to support existing work. Here are a couple of illustrative comments to that effect:

- “Yes, I think as a result of these forums, organizations change the way that they work with families. For example, since that event, the Family Ties Coordinator from NTC Tribal Council have now decided to provide pregnancy outreach on reserve. It became clear that families are not going to travel out, so it makes sense for outreach workers to travel in. I think there are a lot of situations where people will rethink the way that they do business.”
- “Homelessness is a project that is internal to some groups that provide crisis support. I think the Conference provided them with some encouragement, we all

get information about what else is happening in town--we all work in silos. As a group, we realize that the work adds up to a greater sum. Some are starting to have free garage sales, and give the stuff to people moving into new homes. It was really successful, so now they are going to do it every month. It has helped them to define other projects that they should be involved in. I see new projects coming about, but it is difficult to know if it is the result of the event.”

Four of the interview participants were not aware of any internal projects within the partner organizations.

7.2.7 LIRN BC Workshop’s Contribution to Securing Funding Opportunities

Type of Responses	My Organization Accessed New Funding	Participant Organization(s) Accessed New Funding
Yes	1	1
No, Not Yet, Unsure	6	6

Community partners were asked if their organization “has been able to access new funding for projects partly due to the LIRN BC event?” One organization was successful at securing funding. Here is an illustrative comment:

- “We did get some funding from VIHA, because they see homelessness as a health issue. They gave us money as a part time organizer. They gave us some money to cover cost of resources, there are two \$5000 grants that we got from VIHA, to finish the plan, and to secure resources for the RCMP building.”

One respondent mentioned that it was still too early to tell if their funding applications would be successful. Here is a comment to that effect:

- “Too early to tell, will have to wait for BC150.”

Another organization is still waiting for an appropriate funding source to apply to. Here is an illustrative comment:

- “No, not yet. We have looked at some different call for proposals, but felt that some weren't appropriate for our area, and others that we don't have the capacity to pull off. We are communicating some of these to other groups that we think may have an opportunity to use it.”

One organization thought that the LIRN event is helping the organization become more aware of funding opportunities and is helping them to make more informed decisions about where current funding is allocated, as the following quote illustrates:

- “We haven't as of yet, but I would say yes we will, and we will be more effective with how funds are spent, and have funds going to the right places. More awareness of funding opportunities.”

Community partners were also asked if they were aware of other participating organizations that have been able to access funding partly as a result of the LIRN BC event. One respondent knew of a successful attempt. Here is a comment to that effect:

- “I know that the Crisis Line has had some funding to do planning for First Nations housing off the reserve. The Canadian Mental Health got a second position for a homeless outreach worker, and that was new. Those two are the only ones that I am aware of.”

The other six respondents were not aware of any successful attempts to apply for funding.

7.2.8 Unanticipated Outcomes of LIRN BC Workshop

When asked about other changes or unanticipated outcomes that have happened at least partly as a result of the LIRN BC event, respondents offered a range of comments. According to one participant, “the various organizations that worked together that day realized that we have many goals in common and should work together, instead of against each other.”

Through the LIRN BC process, a couple of community partners were introduced to ideas for follow up activities. One community partner was asked to present her community’s experience in regards to immigration at a provincial conference. She also learned about an international trades training centre that was coming to the community and is following up with that. Another community partner was introduced to the idea of converting an RCMP building to a homeless shelter.

7.2.9 Suggestions on How the LIRN Partners Could Improve LIRN BC

The community partners were asked “what could the LIRN partners do to improve the initiative?” Five respondents thought the process was effective and did not have any recommendations for improvement. Here are a few comments to that effect:

- “You guys were really supportive. You guys did so much, I was really grateful.”
- “I think they were just excellent. The conference calls that we had beforehand were helpful and kept us on track. It really helped us keep on track and let us know all the stages of planning a conference. The six weeks of weekly calls helped, and of course the funding, we don’t have any funding, the funding from LIRN BC is what paid for the pamphlet and the food and brought everyone together. It was really the glue that made it all happen. They made it easy because they have the skills to do the warm up exercises, and different ways of getting feedback and recording it and it made it all flow together because of their expertise. We really valued that.”

- “We thought it was great as is.”
- “I don't think so. I think you guys did a fabulous job. There is an awareness and a good follow through.”

One participant asked for clearly outlined Service Canada funding requirements during the early stages of the planning process. Here is a comment to that effect:

- “We had some issues with the funding and the travel [expenses]. For the process, it would be helpful if the expectations of the host agency were more clear in the beginning about the requirement of the Service Canada's representatives [being in attendance at the event].”

One respondent asked for a predetermined timeline to follow when organizing the event. This would assist community partners in staying on track and having sufficient time to address Service Canada funding requirements. Here is an illustrative comment:

- “It would have been helpful in the beginning to have an outline of some time frames that I should have been aiming for, that would have helped me get organized.”

One respondent mentioned that it would be beneficial to have ongoing long-term support for LIRN BC communities, as the following quote illustrates:

- “It would be great if it was more long term about support and advice”

One participant recommended that facilitators spend more time in the community prior to the event building a relationship with community members. Here is a comment in support of this:

- “I think it could help if there was more time for facilitators to come out and build a relationship with the community. It would help to get a flavor of what people want from those days. This would help prioritize the time, etc. I know that would take time and resources, but it is on my wish list.”

Another recommendation was to “improve on the time it takes to get a representative to the community” because one event was delayed from December to April due to scheduling conflicts.

7.2.10 Local Partners’ Final Comments on their Experience with LIRN BC

At the close of the interview, participants were asked if there were any further comments that they would like to add to the discussion. Here are the responses:

- “It was a wonderful experience and the timing for us was just perfect, because we had the duty to do public consultation and we had no vehicle. This gave us the vehicle. We really appreciate the expertise and the funding to put it on.”

- “Thanks again for the opportunity to work together that LIRN BC has provided. It is much appreciated.”
- “Thank you for the opportunity.”

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

For the most part, participants who provided responses to either the post-workshop evaluation questionnaires and/or the follow up interviews indicated that LIRN BC is a very useful and locally relevant approach to building community capacity. These events provide an opportunity for community members who do not normally work with one another to connect on a particular issue. As a result, workshop participants make contacts across sectors and build relationships with other community members. LIRN BC workshops also introduce new ideas and approaches to community members, which increases workshop participants' interest in exploring new ways to work with others in their community. The evaluation results also indicate that the workshop facilitators are highly effective and that the event materials are relevant and appropriate for the communities' needs. Finally, LIRN BC community partners and workshop participants report a high level of satisfaction with LIRN BC's ability to meet anticipated outcomes.

Although most participants and local partners indicated that LIRN BC workshops are valuable community-based activities, several participants and local partners also noted some ways to improve the initiative. The following four recommendations are based on recurring comments by local partners and participants.

1. **Recommendation One:** With regard to follow up support, wherever applicable provide subsequent workshops to advance the development of action strategies for addressing local issues that are identified at the one-day LIRN BC workshop.
2. **Recommendation Two:** With regard to enhancing the transparency of funding requirements, there should be improved communication between LIRN BC funding organizations, LIRN BC partner organizations, and LIRN BC community partners.
3. **Recommendation Three:** With regard to assisting the LIRN BC community partners in organizing the LIRN BC event, an outline of organizational timeframes and funding deadlines should be provided to LIRN BC community partners at the beginning of the planning process.
4. **Recommendation Four:** With regard to building connections among workshop participants, wherever applicable, there should be a networking session connected to the LIRN BC events.

These recommendations will be used to inform the planning, organization and delivery of future LIRN BC events. As such, the LIRN BC partners will work together in the 2008/2009 year of operations to build on the successes of the second year and act on the lessons learned to make the LIRN BC process even better.

9. Appendices

The appendices are comprised of the following items: an expression of interest for 2007/2008, criteria for selecting communities for 2007/2008, a table outlining the roles and responsibilities of lead LIRN representatives and participating community organizations, LIRN BC evaluation questionnaire (post LIRN BC workshop) for 2007-2008, and follow up interview questions for 2007-2008.

Expression of Interest 2007-2008

About Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC)

LIRN BC is a collaborative approach to building on the capacities of rural, remote and northern British Columbian communities. The LIRN BC process encourages government (municipal, provincial and federal), First Nations, non-government organizations (community-based, regional and provincial) and businesses to work together to plan, deliver and evaluate a locally relevant learning initiative. LIRN BC is made possible through a partnership of federal and provincial governments, as well as non-government organizations that recognize the strengths and challenges of rural, remote and Northern BC communities. The LIRN BC partners also understand the importance of local opportunities to learn about and work on current issues, as well as assess, envision, plan and act for a better future.

As LIRN BC partners, the BC Rural Network, Canadian Rural Partnership, Service Canada, the Self Help Resource Association of BC, and the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) have combined their expertise and resources in an effort to maximize community capacity building opportunities for people living in rural, remote, and northern parts of the province. The objective of the LIRN BC process is to create a safe space in which community members learn and work together in a manner that is locally relevant. The content and format for a LIRN BC event will be determined through pre-event consultations and will take shape according to local input. In order to help you develop a focus for your event, the LIRN BC partners have developed a diverse list of learning topics from which you can select a limited number of options that are most appropriate for your development needs and interests.

The support offered by the LIRN BC partners includes curriculum resources and facilitation services related to each topic area, as well as financial support for event related costs such as rent, food, refreshments, and participant travel from adjacent communities. As such, the LIRN BC partners do not award direct grants. All successful applicants to LIRN BC are expected to engage in planning and delivering the event, as well as contribute logistical support such as recruiting participants and identifying appropriate local facilities.

Who Can Apply?

LIRN BC will partner with community-based organizations who:

- Are located in a rural, remote and/or northern region of BC;
- Can demonstrate support or partnership within the community (including coordination to avoid multiple applications from the same community);
- Can demonstrate local need for the learning event;
- Can articulate anticipated outcomes for a LIRN BC event in their community.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in the opportunities offered by LIRN BC. All applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the LIRN BC partners in accordance with an objective list of criteria, which will be organized according to the following themes: (1) Community Location, (2) Organizational Profile, (3) Community Support, and (4) Community Interests, Issues, Assets and Anticipated Outcomes. The LIRN BC partners will

try to provide learning events to as many of the applicants as possible within our budgets. We will notify all communities of the results in the early part of August, 2007.

About the LIRN BC Partners

In the winter of 2006, non-government organizations, government, and academic institutions that have a mandate to engage in community capacity building (CCB) in rural, remote and northern BC gathered at SFU in Vancouver for a dialogue about our respective work and related issues. One of the central issues identified during this dialogue was the absence of a collaborative and coordinated framework for organizing CCB work in rural, remote and northern BC.

As an initial attempt to address this issue, representatives from the BC Rural Network, Canadian Rural Partnership, Service Canada (New Horizons for Seniors Program) and SPARC BC, created a new partnership entitled Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC). The LIRN BC partners agreed to develop and sustain a coordinated process that: (a) invites community leaders to define local issues and learning needs; (b) engages community leaders in the process of developing learning events to address the given need; and (c) delivers a one or two day learning event in which community leaders learn and work in a manner that is locally relevant.

Now in our second year of activities we anticipate another successful round of working with community-based organizations from across the province. We are also honoured to have the Self-Help Resource Association of BC join us as an official partner in our second year of operations. On the following pages you can read a short description of each of the LIRN BC partners.

BC Rural Network and the Regional Rural Forums

Founded in 2004, the BC Rural Network is a coalition of organizations, communities, and individuals who share a commitment to enhance the capacity of British Columbia to develop responses to rural and remote community issues. The BCRN is a non-profit organization whose members and Board of Directors come from all regions of British Columbia. Our objectives are to:

1. Act as a coordinating body for the dissemination of information, tools, and resources of importance to rural and remote communities in British Columbia;
2. Act as a catalyst to build linkages between communities, rural organizations, and policy-makers who work on issues of importance to rural and remote communities in British Columbia;
3. Improve awareness of the current work of existing rural groups and organizations in BC by providing a forum for rural and remote communities and organizations to voice concerns and issues, and learn from each other.

For more information about the BC Rural Network and the Regional Rural Forums, please visit our website at www.bcruralnetwork.ca or contact us at info@bcruralnetwork.ca

Canadian Rural Partnership

Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) is a federal initiative which supports rural communities by helping to identify the issues they are facing, by taking collaborative action to address these issues, and connecting community to community and community to government to share information on available resources and best practice in rural development. We identify issues by bringing rural community residents together for dialogue or at conferences. The information from these gatherings is shared with a federal/provincial Rural Team which can undertake collaborative action to address these issues and can provide the input toward influencing government policies and programs with a Rural Lens. We also share information from one community to another and from government to communities through listservs, newsletters, best practice guides, and program lists. For more information about the Canadian Rural Partnership, please visit our website at:

http://www.rural.gc.ca/team/bc/bchome_e.phtml

Service Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors Program

Service Canada is becoming the program delivery arm of the federal government. Over a dozen federal departments are working with Service Canada so it can become a single window of service and program delivery for the federal government. Service Canada is home to the Employment Insurance system, labour market programming to help unemployed people return to work, income support like Old Age Security and Canada Pension. Service Canada also coordinates the New Horizons for Seniors program, which is a program that provides funding for community-based projects that aim to encourage seniors to contribute to and become more engaged in their local communities. Service Canada is interested in strengthening linkages with communities for more effective delivery of federal programs and services. For more information about Service Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors program, please visit our website at: <http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/isp/horizons/toc.shtml>

Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) and the Community Development Education Program

SPARC BC, a registered non-profit society and a federally registered charity, was established in 1966 and is a leader in research, public education and advocacy regarding issues of community development, accessibility, and income security. SPARC BC is a provincial organization with over 15,000 members and is governed by a Board of Directors from across BC. Our mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all.

The Community Development Education Program is one of our methods for realizing our mission. The Community Development Education Program aims to empower individuals and organizations by providing them with learning opportunities to identify local assets and issues, build local knowledge and develop skills and action-plans that contribute to effecting local consensus-oriented change. The curriculum resources and facilitation services of the Community Development Education Program are available to communities through the LIRN BC process. For more information about SPARC BC and the Community Development Education Program, please visit our website at www.sparc.bc.ca.

The Self-Help Resource Association of BC

The Self-Help Resource Association of BC (SHRA) promotes peer support approaches to community development, building the capacity of individuals and communities to become healthy, responsive and self-determining. SHRA programs and services focus on the *processes* of self-help and peer support, so that people can apply the information to their individual, organizational or community needs.

SHRA offers:

- Capacity-building workshops on group development and facilitation.
- Consultations, collaborations and partnerships related to peer support and community development initiatives.
- The Kinex Youth Initiative, a youth driven team supporting social and systemic change through peer support approaches.
- Information and referral services in the Lower Mainland.
- PeerNetBC.com, an online space for peer support communities.

Find out more about SHRA at www.selfhelpresource.bc.ca or contact us at cheryl.shra@telus.net.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the LIRN BC Partners:

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Expressions of Interest Process

EOI must be received by **July 20, 2007**.

Please do not exceed the provided space of the EOI.

Please return your EOI by fax, email or mail to:

LIRN BC

C/o BC Rural Network

104-197 Second Avenue North

Williams Lake, BC V2G 1Z5

TEL: 250.620.3505

FAX: 250.620.3771

info@bcruralnetwork.ca

www.bcruralnetwork.ca

1.	Community Location
	a. Which community, or communities, would be involved in the LIRN BC event?
	b. Is your community located in a rural, remote* or northern** region of BC? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	* Rural or remote is defined as any community that has a population of less than 25,000. **The northern region of British Columbia is entirely or in major part above the 54th line of latitude. This means communities including and north of Prince George and Kitimat would be considered in this category.
2.	Organizational Profile
	a. Organization's Name:

b. Contact Information:

c. Organization's Mission:

d. Current Projects and/or Initiatives:

e. Please confirm whether your organization and partners will be able to provide support to LIRN BC in the form of time and commitment from volunteers to organize, promote, and follow up on the event.

Yes

No

3. Community Support

Which local organizations are willing and able to support and participate in a LIRN BC event in your community? Please include stakeholders from different sectors and First Nations.

Organization name	contact	phone	email
Organization name	contact	phone	email
Organization name	contact	phone	email
Organization name	contact	phone	email
Organization name	contact	phone	email
Organization name	contact	phone	email

4.

Community Interests, Issues, Assets and Anticipated Outcomes

a. Community Interests

In order to make a LIRN BC event relevant to your community, we will work with a representative of your organization (and other relevant stakeholders) to adapt the event’s format and content to issues and assets in your community. Session formats include:

- **Facilitated Dialogues** - open-ended conversations that assist community members to build new understandings, explore different aspects of local issues and assets, examine common assumptions, and brainstorm possible change strategies;
- **Facilitated Workshops** - focused discussions and activities that promote learning about a specific topic, building new skills, developing vision, and engaging in strategic planning for current and future community activities.

The possible content for a LIRN BC event is diverse. The list of topics below covers a wide range of community development concepts, principles and practices. Most topics are delivered through a workshop and some topics are delivered as dialogues. Since we have tried to offer a comprehensive list of content choices, you will notice there is some overlap between topic areas. Please underline four topic areas that are most relevant and suitable to your community’s learning interests and needs. The LIRN BC partners will try to meet as many of your requests as possible but can not guarantee that all of your preferences will be accommodated.

Topic	Description
1. Building Community Collaboration	Community support and commitment is often vital to long-term sustainability projects. To achieve this, key steps and approaches need to be implemented from pre-planning through implementation. Basic factors will be shared and applied through hands-on examples in this workshop.
2. Building Partnerships among First Nations and Non First Nations	First Nations and Non-First Nation communities often face similar challenges and opportunities. This workshop will look at successful case studies and identify key practical ideas for successful and effective partnerships.
3. Building Sustainable Communities through Smart Growth Land-Use and Transportation Planning	These workshops focus on assisting rural communities develop land-use and transportation policies that protect agricultural and forest lands, revitalize downtowns and main streets, provide more affordable housing, and facilitate transportation alternatives.
4. Community Visioning	Does your organization or community have a vision for the future? This session provides community members with the opportunity to engage in the process of creating

	<p>a vision of the future for their community or organization. Given that each community and organization is at a different place in their own developmental process, this session can be either a workshop to continue the visioning process or a dialogue to begin thinking about a vision for the future.</p>
<p>5. Community Dialogues between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples: Toward Healthier Intercultural Relations</p>	<p>Building understandings between people from different cultures requires time, space, mutual respect, recognition and a willingness to share. These dialogues will be planned and delivered in collaboration with local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations and will focus on topics that are locally relevant.</p>
<p>6. Building Collaborative Community Leadership</p>	<p>This workshop will explore leadership as a collaborative community process and look at how building collaboration across sectors, interests, and differences can be a powerful tool for community change. By examining different leadership approaches, participants will deepen their understanding of the core competencies for community leadership and how this relates to their own community experience.</p>
<p>7. Developing Active Community Plans</p>	<p>These workshops will support communities to develop Active Community Plans to improve activity levels of local residents.</p>
<p>8. Developing Sustainable Tourism</p>	<p>These workshops are designed to help communities learn about topics related to economic development through tourism. Examples might include: (a) sharing examples of BC innovators in tourism, (b) assessing tourism assets, (c) developing a tourism strategy, (d) packaging or product development, (e) community signage or others as identified.</p>
<p>9. Effective Meetings</p>	<p>Meeting design along with effective facilitation helps communities and organizations achieve clear outcomes. This training session will share specific skills and knowledge that can be immediately applied.</p>
<p>10. Environmental Initiatives for Communities</p>	<p>This workshop will offer presentations on environmental initiatives, discuss specific proposal ideas with groups and go through application forms, discuss the Green Source (funding guide), applicant's guide, EcoAction Community Funding Program, Environmental Damages Fund, and Georgia Basin Action Plan.</p>

11. Facilitation Skills	These workshops build facilitation skills for a diversity of individuals, service providers, group leaders, and community workers. Topics include basic listening, inclusivity and diversity, and peer/professional roles.
12. Gaining Community Acceptance for Housing and Homelessness Solutions	The objective of this workshop is to provide participants (municipal representatives and related housing providers) with a forum to develop and share strategies to overcome community resistance to affordable housing and homelessness services.
13. Group Development	These workshops are about the theory and practice of working with small groups, including concepts of self-help/peer support, stages of group development, and organizing groups, rooted in a peer support approach to community development, interactive and based on shared learning.
14. High Impact Projects: Writing Grant Applications that Get Noticed	This session would draw on experiences and learning taken from Service Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program and other programs. The session would cover generic tips on focusing your application and provide some successful examples.
15. Immigration Planning for Your Community	Immigrants offer a wide array of social and economic benefits and can support sustainability of communities. This information session will provide an overview of immigration programs that may be of interest to communities in addressing local skilled worker and labour market shortages. The session will also include a discussion on newcomer retention, welcoming communities, and local immigration strategies.
16. Internet and Information Technology - Community Progression Score Card	This workshop is on an easy-to-use tool for communities to see where they are in their use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). A group that represents a cross-section of the community gather together to answer questions that gauge the level of infrastructure, access, adoption and use of ICTs by the community. The results enable communities to assess where they need to focus ICT development activities as part of an overall community plan.

17. Is Your Community Accessible Yet?: Learning about the Components of an Accessible Community	This workshop will explore: accessible living (housing and support); access to work (education and employment); moving around (transportation, accessible building design, technology, signage); access to participate (civic involvement); and access to play (recreation, arts, culture). The workshop will help communities develop strategies to remove local barriers and to increase awareness of the importance of accessibility.
18. Literacy and Community Development	This workshop explores how to build on literacy skills across age groups and sectors in rural communities, focusing on a cradle to grave strategy to promote and engage in life-long learning.
19. Measuring Community Sustainability and Quality of Life: How Can Indicators Contribute to Community Mobilization?	These workshops provide participants with an overview of different methodological approaches to measuring community sustainability and quality of life. Particular attention is given to learning about how to involve the public and build action strategies into indicator projects.
20. Pathways of Community Social Planning: Principles, Concepts and Processes	These workshops are intended to support the development of community social planning organizations. These workshops facilitate learning about community social planning, and related principles, concepts and processes. Workshop activities include: brainstorming on a strategic social plan, social inclusion assessments, group discussions about the role of human rights in social development work, etc.
21. Productive Partnerships: Community Building through Multi-Sectoral Collaboration	These workshops are for people who are interested in building partnerships and collaboration in their community development work. The workshop provides an outline of the benefits and common pitfalls, as well as ways of linking social, economic, environmental and cultural activities through partnership agreements.
22. Project Evaluation and Demonstrating Value	These workshops cover ways to evaluate your work from the beginning, including: choosing the evaluation that fits your program and building in an effective evaluation plan that includes input from all involved and a communication strategy that tells your story well in your community and beyond.

23. Recruiting and Using Volunteers	These workshops will look at trends and best practices in recruiting and supporting volunteers. The session will rethink how volunteers contribute to the mission of organizations.
24. Research that Matters: Community-Based Participatory Research	Workshops on this topic introduce participants to the concept and ethics of community-based participatory research. A wide range of methods will be explored through group exercises, including: kitchen table discussions, focus groups, video-voice, open-space, speak-out, etc.
25. Sustainability for Projects and Non-Profit Organizations	How do we keep a great project going and leave a legacy? These workshop sessions cover strategies and tips on how to continue successful programs after major funding has ended. This would include developing a plan on how to increase the potential for long-term sustainability of a project.
26. What is a Social Enterprise and How to Access ENP Funding?	Social enterprises are businesses operated by non-profits that have the dual purpose of providing goods and services in the marketplace and providing a social, environmental or cultural value. This workshop presents an overview of social enterprise, what it is and the development path. Participating organizations qualify to apply for ENP grants.
27. Youth in Community	Workshops on this topic engage youth and youth service providers in learning exercises on meaningful youth engagement and strategies for sharing power with youth. The workshops are rooted in a peer support approach to community development, based on shared learning and are highly interactive.
28. Youth Projects and Youth in Community Economic Development	This workshop will cover strategies for youth engagement. It will also cover how to support youth in identifying their assets and needs and how to develop strategies and programs that empower youth.
29. What Stage is My Community At? The Communities Matrix	The Communities Matrix is a quick “first step” tool for communities thinking of planning or taking action. Using a simple self-assessment tool, this session works with communities to help draw out the perceptions held by residents about their community and the assets and barriers that exist around community development. It

assists communities in measuring what stage of development they are at, and then facilitates a conversation for the community to determine the actions, tools and resources that are most appropriate for their stage of development. More information: www.theCIEL.com

b. Community Issues

Identify the top three issues facing your community from the perspective of your organization.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

c. Community Assets

Identify the different organizations and/or groups you would like to see in attendance at a LIRN BC event? Please identify organizations that were not previously listed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

How will you get the organizations and groups named above to participate in a LIRN BC event?

What, if any, resources are available in your community to ensure that decisions and discussion points are followed up?

d. Anticipated Outcomes

What outcomes do you anticipate from the LIRN BC event(s)? Your explanation should include 'change' words, such as: increased... decreased... enhanced... diminished... strengthened... weakened..., etc.

What type of markers of success will you use to know that a change has occurred in your community partly due to the LIRN BC event? Key words for describing your markers of success include: extend to which..., level of satisfaction..., quality of..., number of...etc.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DEADLINE
IS JULY 20, 2007**

Community Selection Criteria and Considerations 2007-2008

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for assessing, rating and ranking applicants to the Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC) for 2006-2007.

Section 1 consists of a reiteration of all LIRN BC EOI questions, as well as a set of corresponding considerations for the LIRN BC partners that will enable them to select the most suitable BC communities.

Section 2 consists of a table for recording ratings and comments on each criterion. Use the table in Section 2 to rate each category on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 meaning a low score, 5 a high score) and note any issues and/or concerns. Indicate the name of the organization and the community in the first box in the section 2 table. Each EOI must have a corresponding Section 2 rating sheet. These sheets will be used in the final round of selection.

The total potential score (for all 4 areas) is 20.

Section 1: Criteria

1. Community Location ___/5

EOI Questions

a. Which community, or communities, would be involved in the LIRN BC event?

b. Is your community located in a rural or Northern region of BC?

Yes

No

LIRN BC Partner Considerations

- Is the lead applicant a rural/Northern-based organization?
- What is the size of the community?
- Does the application include a regional focus?
- Is the community located in a northern or rural location?
- Is the community accessible from the rest of the province (e.g., airport, train station, bus route, etc.)?

2. Organizational Profile____/5

EOI Questions

a. Organization's Name:

b. Contact Information:

c. Mission:

d. Current Projects and/or Initiatives:

e. Please confirm whether your organization and/or partners will be able to provide support to LIRN BC in the form of time and commitment from volunteers to organize, promote, and follow up on the event.

Yes

No

LIRN BC Partner Considerations

- Has the applicant committed to supporting follow up for the event? (Successful applicants will work closely with LIRN BC partners to ensure that follow up activities take place)
- How could current community initiatives relate to a LIRN BC event?
- Does the applicant demonstrate a capacity to promote and coordinate the LIRN BC event in a comprehensive and consistent way to organizations and individuals in the area?
- Are there any conflicts or difficulties within the community that would prohibit a successful LIRN BC event? Are any other organizations offering similar activities?

3. Community Support____/5

EOI Question

Which local organizations are willing and able to support and participate in a LIRN BC event in your community? (Please provide contact information and consider including organizations from different sectors)

LIRN BC Partner Considerations

- Is the applicant supported by other organizations (governmental and non-governmental) that span across different sectors (cultural, environmental, social and economic)?
- Are there any networks (formal or informal) already in place between/among the partner organizations which could support LIRN BC?

4. Community Interests, Issues and Assets____/5

EOI Questions

a. Please select the format that is most appropriate. You can select more than one format.

- b. Select the content areas that are most appropriate. Please note that the key word descriptions for each content area do not exhaust what can be covered in a given area
- c. Define three priority issues that your community is dealing with:
- d. Which local organizations (government, business, community organizations, etc.) and/or groups (seniors, youth, etc.) would you like to see in attendance at a LIRN BC event?
- e. How will the LIRN BC event address the stated issues and what will be different after the event (i.e. what outcomes do you anticipate)?
- f. What, if any, resources are available in your community to ensure that decisions and discussion points are followed up?

Questions to consider:

- Can we accommodate the applicant's learning interest?
- How well has the applicant articulated the issues facing their community?
- How well has the applicant articulated their view of the anticipated outcomes of a LIRN BC event?
- Is the applicant supported by other organizations (governmental and non-governmental) that span across different sectors (cultural, environmental, social and economic)? Also, see applicant's response to question 3.
- To what extent can the applicant provide in-kind contributions to ensure that action extends from the LIRN BC event?

Total Score ___/20

Section 2: Rating

Name of Organization:	
Name of Community:	
1. Community Location	/5
Note any issues or concerns:	
2. Organization Profile	/5
Note any issues or concerns:	
3. Community Support	/5
Note any issues or concerns:	
4. Community Interests, Issues and Assets	/5
Note any issues or concerns:	
Total:	/20

Roles and Responsibilities of lead LIRN Representatives and Participating Community Organizations

Below is a checklist designed to outline the responsibilities of both LIRN BC representatives and your organization in preparing for, implementing, and evaluating your community learning event.

Table 1. Pre-LIRN BC Tasks and Materials

Tasks and Materials	LIRN BC	Local organization
Consultations, participant information collection and material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consult with local organization about content and format for event <input type="checkbox"/> Develop agenda and related materials <input type="checkbox"/> Supply registration form: emailed to you <input type="checkbox"/> Supply posters: emailed to you <input type="checkbox"/> Supply press release template: emailed to you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Convene and chair organizing committee meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Approve final agenda for day and related materials <input type="checkbox"/> Complete registration form: excel sheet to track name, position, organization, address, phone, email <input type="checkbox"/> Enter details in poster: Fill in information, photocopy and distribute <input type="checkbox"/> Enter details in press release: Fill in information and distribute to local media

Table 2. LIRN BC Event Tasks and Materials

Tasks and Materials	LIRN BC	Local organization
Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide projector and laptop computer	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide a screen or blank wall to project onto <input type="checkbox"/> Provide pens for registration, note paper, etc.
Refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide payment for refreshments	Provide: <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee (Caf, Decaf) <input type="checkbox"/> Tea (Caf., Decaf) <input type="checkbox"/> Cream, sugar, and sugar substitute <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit or vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Treats
Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide information pamphlets and resources <input type="checkbox"/> Provide evaluation forms and collect forms <input type="checkbox"/> Provide name tags	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide directional signs – post for room and building as needed
Other Preparation		<input type="checkbox"/> Provide information table <input type="checkbox"/> Provide volunteers to take notes and, wherever appropriate, facilitate discussions

Table 3. Post-LIRN BC Event Tasks and Materials

Tasks and Materials	LIRN BC	Local organization
Report and Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Compose summary report about discussion points and outcomes of LIRN BC event <input type="checkbox"/> In some communities, SPARC BC will be inviting participants to complete a short survey about any changes in your community that have resulted from the LIRN BC event. This survey will be administered 6-8 months after the event and will assist us improve our effort to provide community capacity building opportunities across BC.	<input type="checkbox"/> Produce an accurate and complete contact list containing the names and contact information for each participant

LIRN BC Evaluation Form 2007-2008

Thanks in advance for completing this form and helping us improve our efforts to facilitate capacity building activities in rural and Northern BC.

1. Please indicate the sector in which you work.

First Nations (Government or groups)	Government (Federal, Provincial, or Municipal)	Social and/or community (Cultural groups, groups serving families, youth, women, and seniors, etc.)	Economic (Community futures, chamber of commerce, employers, etc.)	Environment (Conservation groups, etc.)

2. Please indicate how relevant this event was for your community?

Irrelevant Very Relevant
 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

3. Please indicate how the LIRN event helped you connect with the people in your community.

Not at all Helpful Extremely Helpful
 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

4. Did the LIRN event increase your interest in exploring new ways to work with people in your community?

Not at all A Great Deal
1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

5. How would you rate the event facilitator?

Poor Excellent
1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

6. Please comment on the usefulness of the event materials?

Comments:

**7. Were anticipated outcomes met?
(Use anticipated outcomes from the community's EOI to frame these evaluation questions)
E.g. Did the event increase your understanding of how to build community capacity?**

Not at All A Great Deal
1 2 3 4 5

8. What other outcomes were achieved?

Comments:

THANKS!!

LIRN BC Follow Up Interview Questions 2007-2008

1. **What type of organization do you work for? (ie. social service, economic development, youth, seniors, First Nations, organization for people with disabilities, cooperative, local government, other)?**
2. **In your opinion, was the amount of time provided for the LIRN BC event sufficient?**
 - **If no, how long should it have been?**
 - **If yes, was it sufficient or was it too long? Why?**
3. **What were the positive benefits of the LIRN BC process to your community? (i.e. forming a local steering group, developing a proposal for LIRN and planning the event)**
4. **Did the LIRN BC event meet your expectations? Yes or No and Why.**
5. **Has your organization undertaken any of the following activities since the LIRN BC event?**
 - a. **Has your organization has been in touch with new contacts which were identified partly due to the LIRN BC event. Yes or No and Why.**
 - b. **Has your organization identified a specific project or activity to work on with other groups partly due to the LIRN BC event. Yes or No and Why.**
 - c. **Has your organization developed an internal project as a result of the LIRN BC event? Yes or No and Why.**
 - d. **Has your organization been able to access new funding for projects partly due to the LIRN BC event. Yes or No and Why.**
6. **To your knowledge, have other participating organizations undertaken any of the following activities since the LIRN BC event?**
 - e. **Have other organizations been in touch with new contacts which were identified partly due to the LIRN BC event? Yes or No and Why.**
 - f. **Have other organizations identified a specific project or activity to work on with other groups partly due to the LIRN BC event? Yes or No and Why.**
 - g. **Have other organizations developed an internal project as a result of the LIRN BC event? Yes or No and Why.**
 - h. **Have other organizations been able to access new funding for projects partly due to the LIRN BC event? Yes or No and Why.**
7. **Apart from what has already been mentioned, what other changes or unanticipated outcomes have happened, at least partly, as a result of the LIRN BC event?**
8. **What could the LIRN Partners do to improve the initiative?**
9. **Any other comments?**