

2022 Annual Report



Lower Columbia
Initiatives
Economic
Development

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A Message from the Board Chair

As we reflect on the successes and challenges of 2022, I wish to express my thanks to our Board of Directors and Administration Team. Change has entrenched itself as the new normal and the dedication and resiliency of our organization continues to meet these challenges. Each member of the LCIC brings an insight and skillset that adds to our ability to assess and pursue our mandate of promoting economic growth and sustainability.

I also wish to acknowledge the support from our different levels of government. Without their input and support, we would be unable to pursue the various opportunities that are available. Recognizing there is heavy competition for new business between municipalities, provinces, and countries, our government leaders play an important role in developing the environment that will make our area a competitive choice.

We are extremely fortunate to live in an area that is anchored by industry leading companies. The opportunity they provide to our area workforce and standard of living is the envy of many parts of our country. Our work focuses on enhancing the existing economy and highlighting our region to a global audience as a place to invest, work and live.

In 2023, the LCIC and Metal Tech Alley will continue working to enhance economic opportunities so that future generations can enjoy the Lower Columbia.



Dino Dorazio
Board Chair

A Message from the Directors

2022 was a productive year for the LCIC in both the investment readiness and Metal Tech Alley portfolios. We were effective at expanding our networks to improve our impact and made progress on several major initiatives.

On the investment readiness side, we completed an update to the commercial and industrial land inventory. This provides us with much needed, up to date information about the availability of commercial and industrial lands for development throughout the Lower Columbia. The new inventory will help us meet the needs of investors looking for land in the region. In addition, we completed the Regional Supply Chain Research Project and took it one step further. Based on the reports of transportation challenges we created a map specifically for the food and agriculture sector. The Food Distribution Map shows where local food is being distributed and received, helping businesses collaborate on shipping to reduce their costs.

Our advocacy efforts have also produced considerable success in 2022. We assisted a local entrepreneur in setting up a new Internet Service Provider company on the available fibre optic network. This new company will start providing service in 2023. We are very happy to welcome this new ISP because the existing fibre optic network is extremely underutilized. We were also able to make progress on the low-elevation crossing at Waneta. A meeting with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure along with the RDKB, indicated that future improvements to the Waneta Bridge are possible given sufficient commitment to make similar upgrades on the US side. We will be proceeding with research work necessary to build a case for upgrades to the Waneta border crossing infrastructure. This will be necessary to support future road infrastructure improvements.

Metal Tech Alley has seen a very busy year and the network continues to grow! We received \$100,000 from the Province of BC to pursue a Battery Hub Feasibility Study. This study will explore how the region can become a center for battery recycling, refurbishment, and component manufacturing in Western Canada. This is a very important project for Metal Tech Alley because it will be the avenue to attract industrial investment in the region and diversify our existing industry assets.

This year Metal Tech Alley received recognition from the province when Minister Conroy, MLA Anderson and Minister Heyman visited our region. They toured companies to learn more about how battery recycling is an important part of our economy. Metal Tech Alley was also featured as a case study in the Canadian Standards Association report “Rounding the Corner: Towards a Circular Economy in Canada”. Jacomien presented at BCIT’s Circular Economy course as a guest lecturer and at Selkirk College’s TEDx event. These activities are very important to increase Metal Tech Alley brand recognition and reinforce the region as a desirable place to invest, particularly for clean tech companies. We are starting to see this hard work pay off and Metal Tech Alley is now seen by many as a leader in industrial circular economy for our region.

Looking ahead to 2023 we’re excited to continue serving the region and build on our accomplishments from 2022. There’s still a lot of work ahead to achieve our goals, so stay tuned for more updates!



Rebecca Richards, LCIC Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Richards".



Jacomien van Tonder, MTA Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. van Tonder".

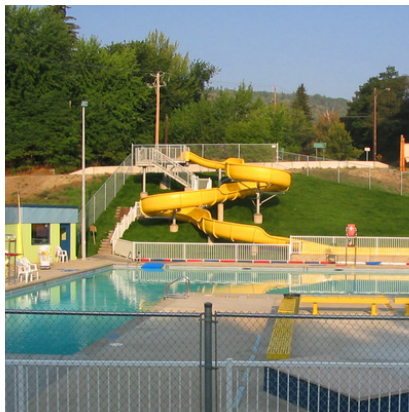
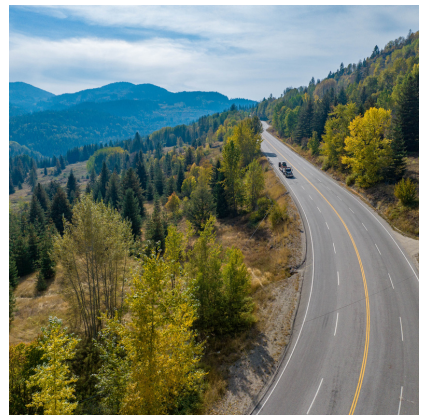
ABOUT THE LCIC

Our Purpose

To improve the well-being and quality of life for Lower Columbia residents and help shape the region's economic sustainability.

Our Mission

- Market the Lower Columbia's strengths and economic assets to the global community
- Identify and promote opportunities for investment in the Lower Columbia
- Support Circular Economy adoption and innovation in the Lower Columbia
- Identify and advocate for removing barriers to economic growth
- Identify and work to fill gaps in the regional economy
- Support existing industry to achieve sustainable growth and resiliency



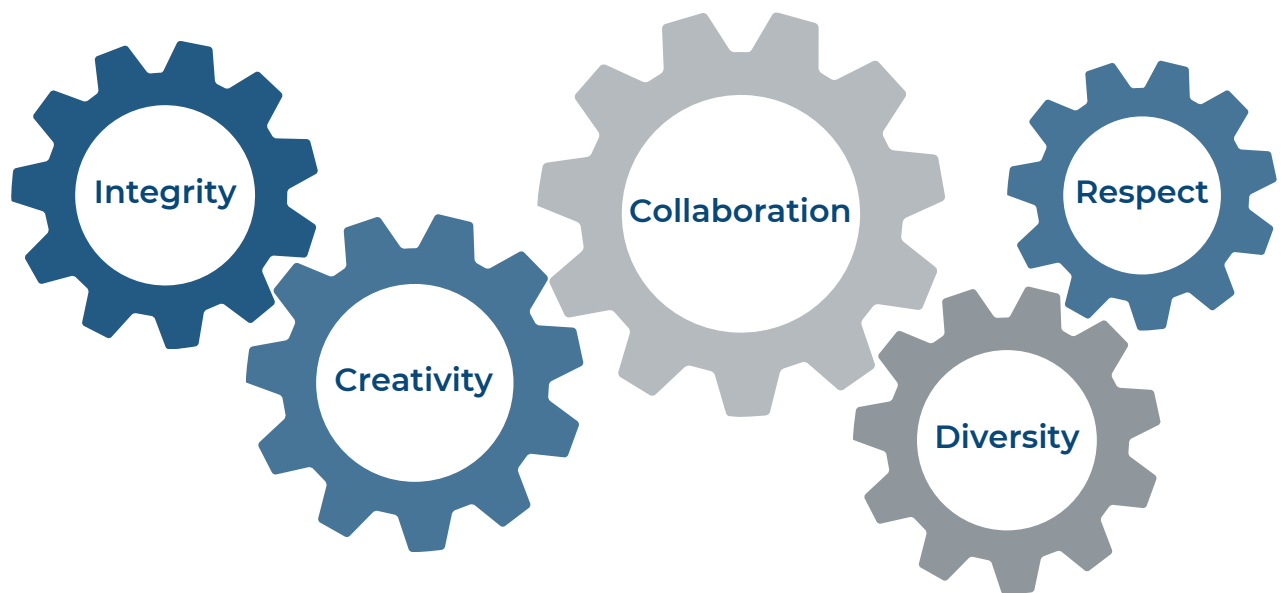
The LCIC serves the communities of Trail, Rossland, Area A&B, Warfield, Montrose, and Fruitvale

GOALS & VALUES

Our Goals

- Become a self-sustaining organization by seeking growth opportunities and practicing fiscal responsibility
- Support every company in the Lower Columbia to implement circular economy practices making the region a model for others. This will be done through promotion, education and encouraging profit generation through adaptation
- The Metal Tech Alley brand is directly responsible for attracting new companies to the region by promoting specific opportunities for industrial diversification
- Take measurable steps to address three major barriers to economic growth in the region: transportation, connectivity and land availability

Our Values



LCIC

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Columbia Basin Regional Food Supply Chain Map

Building on the supply chain research completed in 2022 and 2021, the Food Supply Chain map was created to show where local food products are being distributed throughout the Columbia Basin. This map will help local food producers overcome distribution challenges through cooperative shipping. *(More on Page 7)*



Basin Food and Buyers Expo:

Presented the Food Distribution Map to Expo attendees informing them about the purpose of the project and how the map can be used for improving distribution of local food products around the region. *(More on Page 7)*

A New Internet Service Provider: Ten Four Networks!

In 2022 the LCIC helped an entrepreneur connect with the Columbia Basin Broadband Corp to set up a new internet service provision business. The business was launched in November 2022 and we are excited for them to light up the network by providing high speed internet to local businesses.

(More on Page 12)

Land Inventory Update

In partnership with Selkirk College and MITACs, the LCIC was able to update the commercial and industrial land inventory which was 10 years out of date. The new inventory contains considerably more data, is searchable and scores parcels based on the opportunities for development. *(More on Page 7)*

Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Government (AKBLG):

Presented as a member of the EDPN to inform local government officials and staff about the purpose and activities of the EDPN. This was an opportunity to educate local government on how economic development practitioners working in communities across the region come together to collaborate on projects and share knowledge of various topics.

INVESTMENT READINESS

What is Investment Readiness?

Reducing barriers to economic growth, filling gaps in the local economy and supporting businesses through project-based activities. The goal is to create a regional economy that is ready for investment.

Land Inventory Update

In the Spring, the LCIC and Selkirk College with the support of MITACs, worked together to update the existing commercial and industrial land inventory for the region. A land inventory is an important tool for investment readiness. It provides staff with the necessary information for developers seeking land in the region. The new inventory includes many kinds of data for each parcel – all of which a potential investor might be interested in. The inventory will form the basis of creating a land development strategy which will further guide the LCIC to market the region in a way that meets the communities' needs. We're also working on web maps of all the parcels that are readily developable. These maps will be publicly displayed on the metaltechalley.com website.

Regional Supply Chain Project

In January, we completed the research phase of the regional supply chain project. The research has provided us with detailed information regarding industrial supply chains across several sectors in the West Kootenay region. This information is helpful in identifying where there are opportunities for new businesses and possible barriers to growth in these sectors.

One barrier consistent across all sectors is transportation expense and challenges. In an initial effort to mitigate this barrier, the LCIC created a Food Distribution Map for the food and agriculture sector. This sector has many small businesses that distribute their products locally and continually face high shipping costs. The map shows the distribution of products all over the region and will allow for easier collaboration between companies to reduce this transportation barrier. The project was received enthusiastically by producers, NGOs and government. A presentation on the project was given at the Basin Food and Buyers Expo and can be watched any time at

https://youtu.be/_Uem6Kr4XjE

For more information on the Food Distribution Map contact Rebecca Richards, rrichards@lcic.ca

MTA

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2022 SWANA Canadian Symposium

Jacomien presented on "Car Battery and other Recycling – Leading the Industrial Circular Economy" at the 2022 SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) Canadian Symposium

Companies to watch in 2022

Metal Tech Alley was featured in The Silicon Review as one of the "50 best companies to watch for in 2022"

- <https://tinyurl.com/metaltechalley>

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Waste ReForm 2022

Presented on The Future of EV Battery Recycling in Rural BC, at the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council

Circular Economy in Canada

MTA was used as a case study in "Rounding the Corner: Towards a Circular Economy in Canada" the Canadian Standards Association's report. This report was commissioned by the Federal Government as they look at public policy surrounding Circular Economy

- <https://tinyurl.com/mtareport>

Local Business Awareness

Lead a tour of KC Recycling, the largest battery recycler in Western Canada for Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance

Lead a tour of local businesses, KC Recycling, Teck and Cirba Solutions for George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Brittney Anderson, Nelson-Creston MLA, in August

TEDxSelkirkCollege

Jacomien was a speaker at TEDxSelkirkCollege Countdown in November, hosted by Selkirk College and the West Kootenay Climate Hub

West Kootenay Supply Chain Model

Building off the excellent LCIC's Supply Chain Research project, Metal Tech Alley developed a West Kootenay Supply Chain model for the MTA website (*more on page 8*)

Western Canada Battery Hub

The LCIC, in cooperation with the RDKB, received a \$100,000 from the Province of BC to conduct a Western Canada Battery Hub feasibility study (*more on page 8*)

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

What is investment attraction?

Marketing the Lower Columbia to outside audiences and highlighting existing economic assets and opportunities for development, especially as they relate to the circular economy.

Investment Attraction in 2021

Presenting Metal Tech Alley locally, provincially and internationally is essential in bringing awareness to the work local companies and MTA are doing in circular economy and battery recycling.

In 2022 MTA presented at the 2022 SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) Canadian Symposium, the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Waste ReForm, and was a speaker at TEDxSelkirkCollege Countdown.

Metal Tech Alley also led tours for MLA Katrine Conroy, MLA Brittney Anderson and George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Metal Tech Alley received \$100,000 from the Province of BC to conduct a study to establish our region as a battery hub for Western Canada. Trail is already home to companies involved in battery recycling and there currently no other recyclers in the Pacific North West, placing our region as a prime candidate for battery recycling sector expansion.

Greg Nesteroff of My Kootenay Now interviewed Jacomien about the Western Canada Battery Hub, you can read more about that here <https://tinyurl.com/batteryhub>

Building off the excellent LCIC's Supply Chain Research project, Metal Tech Alley now provides a West Kootenay Supply Chain model on the MTA website.

(<https://tinyurl.com/supplychainmodel>) This online interactive tool details the exact resources in our region and highlights the potential for more development.

This information is essential for developers looking to start new ventures in our region and aims to create more local supply chain resilience.

Metal Tech Alley was interviewed by Kootenay Biz upon the model's completion, for more information about the map and its development you can read the full article here

- <https://tinyurl.com/supplychaintool>

MTA TESTIMONIALS



Thanks so much for your talk today. I loved it! Circular economy is more important than ever and it's nice to see such passionate people tackling these big problems.

Kristin Vidi
Data Engineer CLIR Vancouver



I've been teaching Circular Economy at BCIT's School of Business since 2014. Every class includes an "innovator showcase" session that features circular economy leaders sharing real world insights. Many thanks to Jacomien van Tonder from Metal Tech Alley for being a part of that.



Rosemary Cooper
Project Director, Share, Reuse, Repair Initiative
Circular Economy - Instructor and Consulting Projects Faculty Advisor - BCIT School of Business



It was so nice to chat with you about our CSA project on management of EV batteries at end of life, and what standards if any would help to promote circularity. You provided a number of helpful comments to my team and me during an interview. The project report has recently been posted on the CSA website. Thank you again for your time and insights.



Maria Kelleher
Principal
Kelleher Environmental



A big shout out to the team at LCIC for assisting me with my business and settlement journey to the Kootenays with their guidance and assistance at every step. The support extended by the team for us investors made it easy to integrate into the business community faster and better. Kudos Team LCIC.



Dhiraj Chatpar
Chief Technology Officer, Plex Canada Consultants



Jacomien has been a driving force for the circular economy in our region, generating intense interest for KC Recycling across the board - from college students looking for their perfect first job to elected officials seeking solutions for the sustainability demands of their voters.



Pete Stamper
CEO and General Manager KC Recycling

metaltchalley
Trail, British Columbia, CANADA
Timing is everything.

MTA TESTIMONIALS



"...Last month I had the pleasure of visiting K-C Recycling Ltd. It's the largest car battery recycler in Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest of the continent! ... Everything generated by their recycling process get sold back into the economy to be reused, as part of the circular economy. A circular economy keeps production waste out of landfills and minimizes the environmental impact of industry. It is a concept that many industries are moving towards as the need to do things sustainably becomes more and more urgent. General Manager Pete Stamper gave us the tour. We were joined by Jacomien van Tonder (Director of Metal Tech Alley), and Rebecca Richards (Director of Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation).

...One of the biggest recycling problems we face these days is plastics. There are simply not enough plastic recycling facilities to handle all the waste we create. That's why it was so important for our government to support KC Recycling with an \$852,997 grant through the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund for an expansion to their facility.

...We can all be proud that this important environmental work is being done right here in the West Kootenays. Many thanks to Pete for the tour and his extensive knowledge of the recycling industry. Thanks also to Kevin Hamill (Engineering Manager) and Miles Larsen (Business Development Manager) for sharing your knowledge!

To learn more about KC Recycling, the circular economy, and a quick video tour of the facility, check out this page: <https://metaltechalley.com/circular-economy-role-model.../>

For more info about government supported recycling initiatives, check out this news feed: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/Search?q=plastic+recycling>



MLA Katrine Conroy
Minister of Finance
Kootenay West



metaltechalley

Trail, British Columbia, CANADA

Timing is everything.

ADVOCACY

Our Role In Advocacy

The LCIC advocacy efforts target potential improvements and mitigate regional barriers to economic growth.

Connectivity

The LCIC worked with a local entrepreneur to assist him in establishing a new Internet Service Provider (ISP). The efforts were successful, and the new ISP launched in November 2022. This will give businesses and consumers a new option for local internet service provision on the fibre optic network. Future efforts will include raising awareness about the network and the benefit of fibre optic connection.

- For more information visit <http://www.tenfournetworks.com/>



Waneta Bridge/Border Crossing

This year the LCIC and RDKB were able to meet with a representative from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss the possibility of upgrading to the Waneta Bridge.

A new approach to the advocacy has been initiated which will focus on gathering evidence. Evidence gathered will include problems with the current border crossing arrangements and the economic opportunities of making improvements.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

When and how we work with others

The LCIC works with other economic development agencies locally and regionally across the Columbia Basin. Working with these organizations is important to ensure that the Lower Columbia is receiving a full array of economic development services.

Community Economic Development Information Session

In January 2022, the Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society, the Trail & District Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures Greater Trail and the LCIC held a community economic development info session. It was open to elected officials and municipal staff to educate them on economic development services in the region. The presentation covered each organization's mandate, activities, and funding model. Due to its success this information session will be held annually.

Rural and Northern Immigration Program (RNIP)

The LCIC continued to play a supporting role in the delivery of RNIP as the Chair of the Steering Committee. Since it began in 2020, RNIP has helped 58 immigrants in the Lower Columbia achieve permanent residency. This program has helped many businesses across the region hire employees, especially during the pandemic and the ensuing labour shortage.

- Link to RNIP success stories <https://wk-rnip.ca/success-stories/>

Economic Development Practitioners Network (EDPN)

The LCIC has a seat on the steering committee of the EDPN which brings together economic development practitioners from across the Columbia Basin. This group fosters collaboration for regional projects, helps with information sharing and provides elements of professional development.

REDIP Project Collaborations – Grant Pending

- **Entrepreneurship Program with KAST**

The LCIC will help deliver a regional entrepreneurship program targeted at post-secondary youth to help them realize business opportunities here in the Kootenays.

- **3rd Party Logistics Feasibility Study with Nelson Chamber of Commerce**

The LCIC will participate in overseeing the completion of a feasibility study that will determine a viable business model of a Kootenay-based 3rd party logistics firm.

- **West Kootenay Recruitment Agency Feasibility Study**

The LCIC will support Community Futures Central Kootenay in overseeing the completion of a feasibility study to determine a viable business model for a community organization or private company to deliver recruitment and other HR services in the Kootenays.

LOOKING AHEAD - 2023

Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation

Connectivity Infrastructure Assessment and Improvement Plan

The aim is to create an inventory of all the connectivity infrastructure assets in the Lower Columbia and its current capacity. This project will also include consultations with each community to explore potential connectivity improvements they would like to see, based on what is feasible with the current infrastructure. This plan will act as a guide for future connectivity improvements and as a basis for fundraising.

Low-Elevation Crossing Research

This research will gather evidence of the opportunities as well as the problems associated with the current Waneta and Paterson border crossings. This information is necessary for a formal proposal to invest in infrastructure upgrades at the Waneta border.

Representation

Presenting at the Community Economic Development Session in February. Attending the EDPN Dialogue held in Nakusp in March and the 2023 BC Economic Summit held at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre in April.

Land Development Strategy

With the inventory of commercial and industrial land complete, the next step is to create a strategy for future development. The goal is to get regional recommendations and a tailored strategy for each community to meet their individual needs and concerns regarding development.

Market Housing Initiative Planning

Due to the housing shortage, the region needs market housing development. Given the scale of this problem, we will be focusing on how the LCIC can better support the communities to engage developers and successfully attract investment for residential development.

Collaborative Projects – Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program

There are three pending projects waiting for funding approval which could start this year. The LCIC will be a partner on each of these projects spanning several topics including youth entrepreneurship, recruitment services, and 3rd party logistics.

LOOKING AHEAD - 2023

Metal Tech Alley

Representation

We will continue to present about the work and accomplishments of Metal Tech Alley at the provincial, national and international level. So far Jacomien plans to attend the BCEDA 2023 BC Economic Summit in April as well as the Battery Minerals & Supply Chain 2023 Conference in May. She has also been asked to speak in Seattle at the Circularity 23 event as an innovative thought leader and practitioner.

Education

Apply for funding to set up a training course with Selkirk College on industry-based Circular Economy. This course will be aimed at business students with a focus on industry.

Innovation

Begin research to set up the area as a battery ecosystem hub for all Western Canada. First steps will be defining what a battery hub is and completing a SWOT analysis with a feasibility study and recommendations.

Studies - Pending Funding

Begin a Metals Traceability Proposal feasibility study for a circular carbon capture project and a traceability study. This project will include industry partner Steve Thompson of Capacity Consulting. This study will look at a few critical minerals in laptops, tracing them from the source to manufacturing, use and then end of life destination. Information gathered will be used to better inform consumer choices.

CONTRIBUTORS

Canada 



Columbia Basin **trust**

Teck

etsi BC Economic Trust of
the Southern Interior



Regional District of
Kootenay Boundary

CITY OF
ROSSLAND




Village of Warfield



City of Trail

STAFF & BOARD

Board Members



Dino Dorazio
Owner
Canadian Tire



Dave Diplock
Principal
Bear Environmental Ltd



Thompson Hickey
General Manager
Teck Metals Trail Operations



Chris Legler
CEO & Founder
Axios Growth Consultants



Deanne Stevens
Instructor, School of Business
Selkirk College



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Retired



Pete Stamper
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KC Recycling



Don Thompson
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Brent Anhel
CEO & Founder
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