Forest Impact Recovery Program Info Session

March 23, 2023

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Economic Trust of
the Southern Interior

Topics for Today

1. Speaker introductions

2. Housekeeping (intro in chat & mute mics)

3. ETSI-BC overview

4. Forest Impact Recovery Program overview

5. Application tips

6. Criteria for decision making

7. Timelines

8. Q&A

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Land Acknowledgment

I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional, ancestral, unceded territories of the 33 First Nations Communities in our service area, including those belonging to the Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, Sinixt, Stó:lō and Syilx/Okanagan Nations, on whose land we live, work and play, as well as the 13 Chartered Métis Communities in our region.

It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nations and Métis peoples across the Southern Interior.

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About ETSI-BC

Strong economy
Stronger communities

Our Mandate as an Economic Trust: economic growth and diversity for BC's Southern Interior

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Who we Are

- Created in 2006 by the Province of BC to support economic development in the Southern Interior

- April 2021 – Re-Launched as ETSI-BC, the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior

- Regional Advisory Committees: Local elected officials from Thompson-Okanagan & Columbia-Kootenay regions

- Board: 8 elected officials, 5 provincial appointees

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Who we Serve

Population of 758K, spanning:

- 9 Regional Districts

- 53 Municipalities

- 33 First Nations
    - 27 in the TO-RAC area
    - 6 in the CK-RAC area

ETSI-BC Service Area

Our Strategic Pillars

BUILDING
Economic Development Capacity

SUPPORTING
Business Resilience & Growth
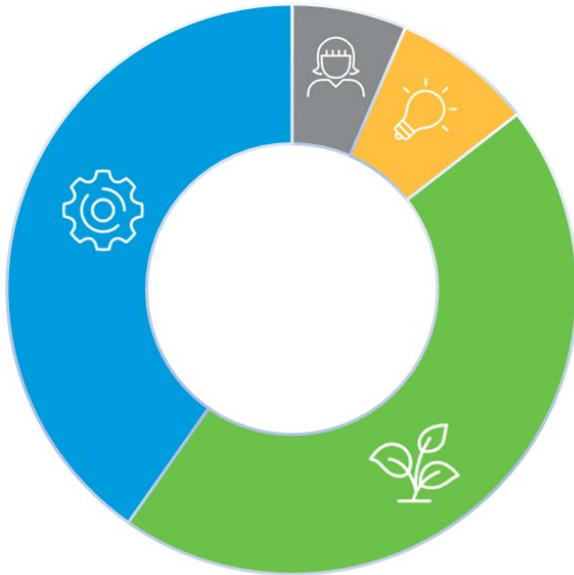
INNOVATING
& Advancing Key Sectors

DEVELOPING
Human Capital

CREATING
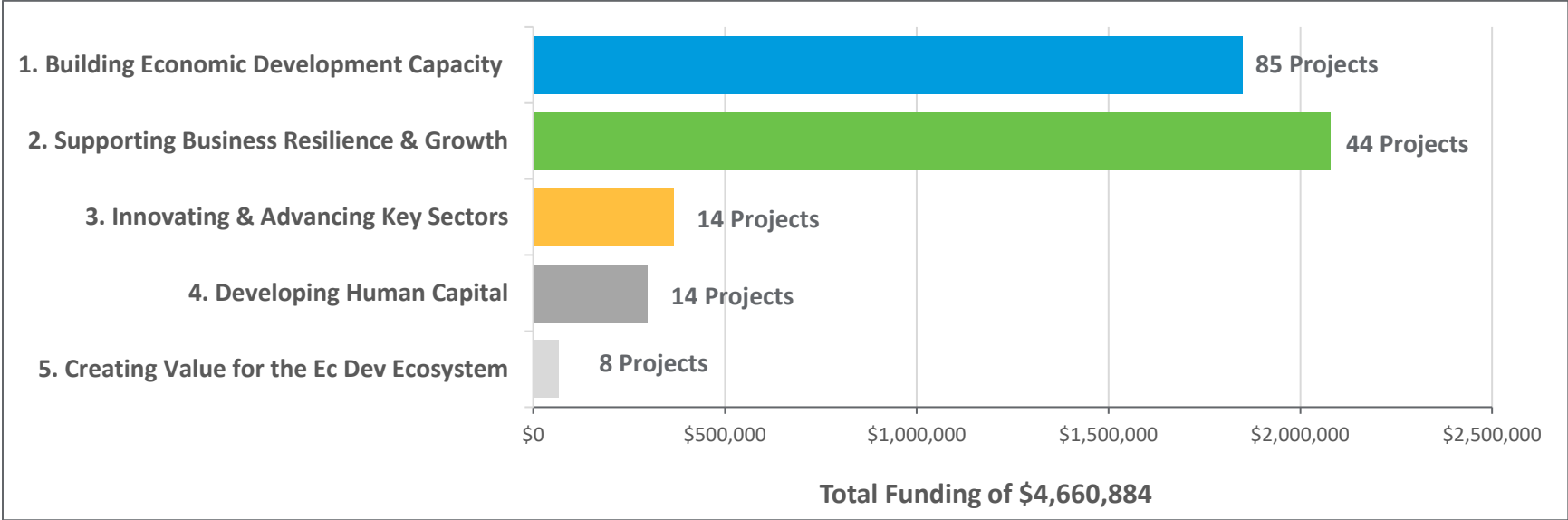Value for the Economic Development Ecosystem

Some Highlights

- $4.6+ million in grant funding to 165 projects since April 2021

- Total funding of $71 million since inception on 551 projects worth $256 million

- These projects helped create or maintain 14K+ jobs in our region (10K+ jobs since 2021)

Funding by Pillar since April 2021

Pillar	Projects
1. Building Economic Development Capacity	85 Projects
2. Supporting Business Resilience & Growth	44 Projects
3. Innovating & Advancing Key Sectors	14 Projects
4. Developing Human Capital	14 Projects
5. Creating Value for the Ec Dev Ecosystem	8 Projects

Axis: $0 $500,000 $1,000,000 $1,500,000 $2,000,000 $2,500,000
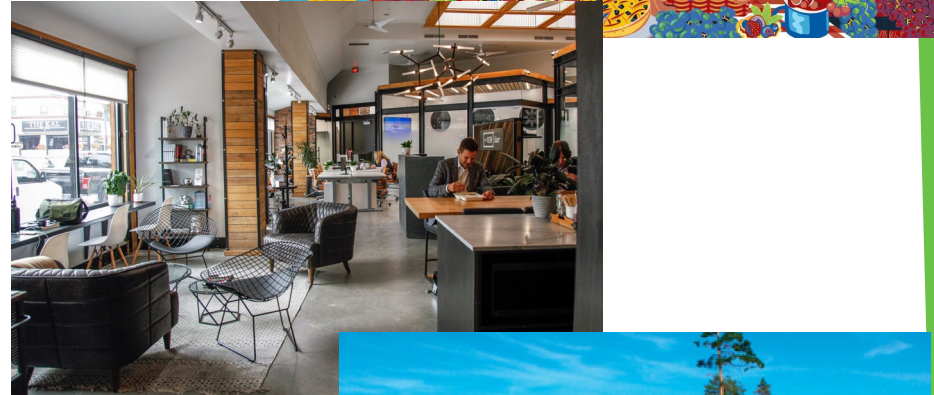
Total Funding of $4,660,884

Notes:

- Pillars 1 & 3 marked with * disbursed through Funding Intakes (75% of grant budget)
- Pillar 2 are partner programs delivered for the Province (RBCR and FIR Programs)

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ETSI-BC Mandated Focus Sectors*

- Agriculture

- Economic Development

- Energy, Mining, Transportation

- Forestry

- Small Business

- Tourism/Sport

* As per our Enabling Legislation, the SIDIT Act

FIR Program Details

Purpose of the FIR Program

The Province of BC developed this program to help businesses and communities that have experienced:

- Significant forest sector curtailments since 2019

- Recent mill closures or layoffs, and/or

- Declining fibre supply due to

  - a recent or planned old growth logging deferral

  - Significant wildfire season

  - Pine beetle infestation, and/or

  - Cariboo habitat protection

FIR Program Overview

- ETSI-BC has $1.35 Million available to support rural communities impacted by mill closures, old growth deferrals and reduction in timber supply

- Funding to support hiring of Community and/or Business advisors in impacted communities

- Investment from Province of BC's Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative

- Program duration – our agreements will conclude by December 1, 2024.

SUPPORTING
Business
Resilience &
Growth

FIR Program Objectives

SUPPORTING
Business Resilience & Growth

- Support communities and businesses to mitigate the impact of changes to the forest sector and secondary industries

- Enhance rural communities capacity to support impacted businesses

- Leverage existing community and business support organizations

- Support rural communities to create economic recovery plans and diversify their economies

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Project Funding

- Priority for eligible impacted communities with <25,000 population

- Max grant **$75,000**

- Eligible communities may receive **100% funding** (i.e. no leveraging required)

- Funding is for the creation of a Forest Impact Recovery Advisor for the community and/or local businesses

- Other Province of BC supports: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/supports-for-forestry-workers

Eligible Projects will focus on:

1. **Community Economic Recovery and Diversification**
   (Ec. Dev planning, community consultation & engagement, diversification strategies)

2. **Business Advisory Services**
   (business needs, market diversification, financial analysis, identify specialized professional services)

3. **Combination of 1 & 2**

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Who Can Apply ?

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Resilience &
Growth

- Local governments & First Nations

- Economic development organizations

- Non-profit business support organizations

- Industry Associations /Business Accelerators

*Applicants must be located in the ETSI-BC service area AND be serving forest dependent impacted community

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Application Tip 1: *Prepare*

- Read the [Application Guide](#)

- Review the <u>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</u> on our website

- Confirm your community's eligibility

- If not sure about something, reach out!
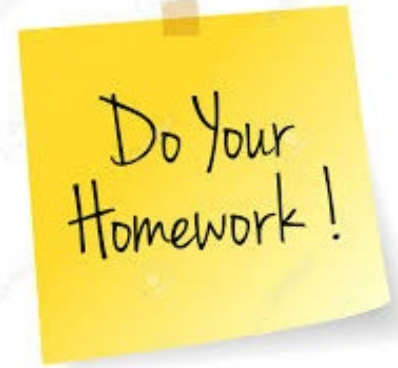
Don't start an application before talking to us.

Application Tip 2: *Rationale*

- What are the circumstances that make you an eligible community?

- How will the position support businesses in communities impacted by the downturn in the forestry sector?

- Why are you qualified to do the project?

- Does this build on previous work, economic data or studies?

- Letters of support

Application Tip 3: *Metrics & Money*

- Demonstrate your community's eligibility and identify the forest sector impacts being addressed

- Employ clear, measurable economic metrics - how do you know the project is successful?

- Identify the number of jobs created and/or maintained by your project

- Leverage other funding (not required but can show community commitment)

- Partner with neighbouring communities and/or service providers

Application/Funding Decision Timelines

March 15, 2023	FIR Funding Intake opens
April 15	Funding Intake closes (4 pm)
April 15 – 30	Due Diligence/ applicant follow up
May 15	Funding announcement
May 16 – 30	Applicants advised/contribution agreements signed
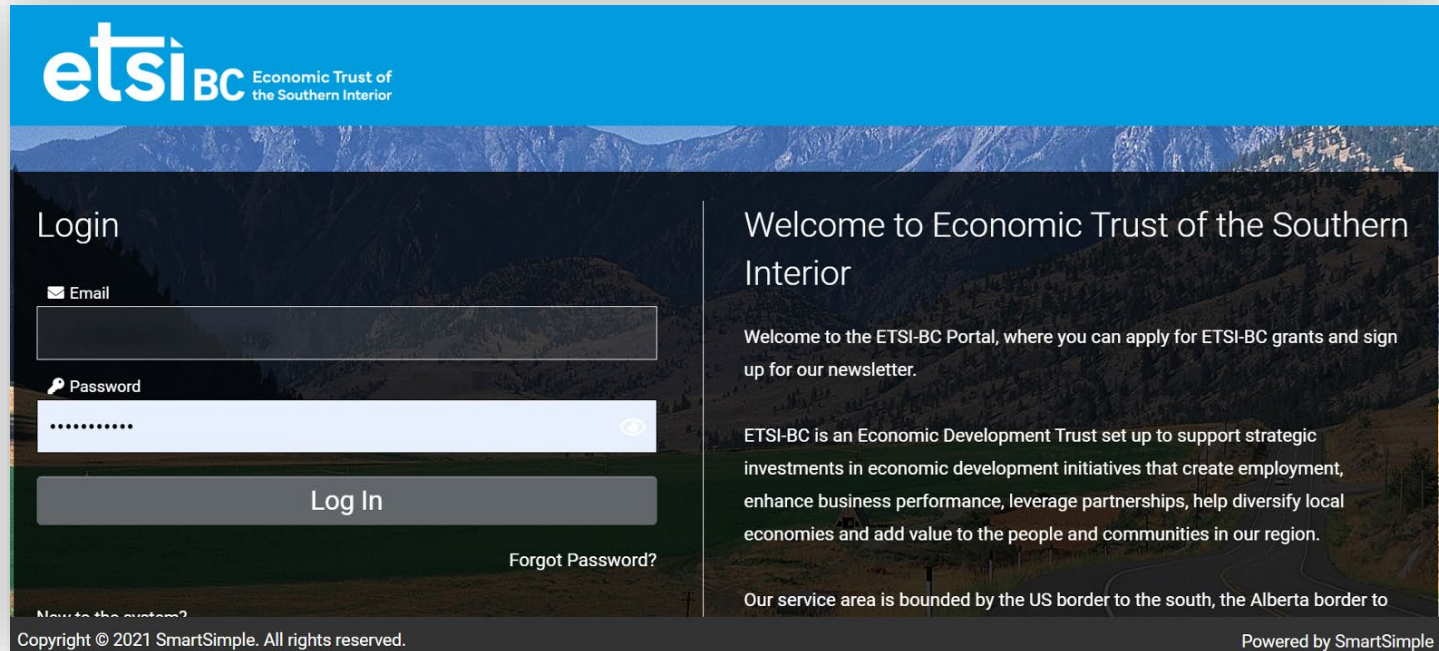
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Register on our Grant Application Portal https://etsi-bc.smartsimple.ca

The ETSI-BC Team

Laurel Douglas

Chief Executive Officer
laurel@etsi-bc.ca

Mary Beadman

Program Administrator
mary@etsi-bc.ca

Paul Wiest

Project Consultant, Columbia Kootenay
Boundary (+ Hope & FVRD Areas A & B)

Renata King

Project Consultant, Thompson Nicola
Shuswap Okanagan Similkameen

Aleece Laird

Community Engagement Consultant

Read More

Michael Dorsel

Loan Specialist, Kelowna

Stacy Smith

Controller
accounting@etsi-bc.ca

Questions？ Who to Contact

Renata King

Thompson | Okanagan | Shushwap | Nicola | Hope & FVRD Areas A&B

Email: Renata@etsi-bc.ca

Cell: 778-833-1430

Paul Wiest

Columbia | Kootenay | Boundary
Email: Paul@etsi-bc.ca

Cell: 250-354-8366

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We look forward
to working with you !