Slocan Valley Economic Development Plan



This report presents an analysis of Stakeholder Engagement on the topic of economic development in the Slocan Valley. This report has been produced as part of the development of an economic development strategy initiative for the Slocan Valley.









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This report represents a glimpse into the thinking of Slocan Valley business and community members surrounding the concept of economic development and their opinions about what should be done to further economic development in the Slocan Valley. EDCD was contracted by the Village of New Denver, in consultation with the Villages of Silverton, Slocan and Area H, to develop an economic development strategy, a project supported by the Rural Dividend Fund and the Province of BC, for the Slocan Valley to use to guide its role in the economic activities of the area.

In order to build a strategy that is supported by both the business sector and the broader community, the project included a comprehensive participatory stakeholder engagement process involving interviews, meetings, listening sessions, focus groups and an online survey. This engagement was intended to create the foundation of support upon which a more targeted economic development strategy and direction could be developed to guide the Slocan Valley's economic development action over the coming years.

Specific dates of engagement were as follows:

- Initial Stakeholder Interviews, Focus Groups and Public Meetings February 21 24, 2017
- Economic Development Online Survey February 6 27, 2017
- Follow-up interviews and input February 27 March 10, 2017

This report outlines the project's stakeholder engagement process and provides a compilation of findings, analysis and conclusions that may be used to support the development of a comprehensive economic development strategy for the Slocan Valley. From the beginning of this process, it was evident that there is broad support for economic development within the Slocan Valley but that it must be well managed and focused.

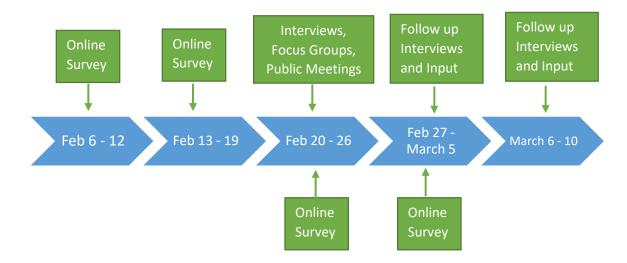








Timeline: Key Dates for Stakeholder Engagement



Approach and Methodology

For the purposes of this project, a people-focused community engagement approach that emphasizes broad and deep participatory engagement methods in order to create collaborative environments that produce alignment and support. Various engagement methods were used including public meetings, interviews, focus groups and an online survey. Below is a brief summary of what each method entailed followed by the Key Findings.

Initial Meetings and Interviews

The project began with a "Kick-off" meeting with the Steering Committee on February 21, 2017. From there, a week of meetings with the public and key stakeholders were held throughout the Slocan Valley including:

- Three public meetings
- One-on-one interviews with individual stakeholders
- Facilitated focus groups
- Provincial regional representative
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Community Futures Central Kootenay

Public Meetings

Community members and business owners were invited to attend one of the three public meetings that were held during the week of February 20-24, 2017. Approximately 60 attended the meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to ascertain what community members considered important for the









project both in terms of goals and objectives, and how to engage community and business participation in the project.

In particular, participants highlighted the importance of the following:

- The need to build a common language around the term "economic development"
- Understand the differences between the South and North Valley, including economic, available services and amenities, population, and demographics.
- In terms of opportunities, the area needs to retain the values and attributes that are most important to community members
- There is a need to attract new residents (families) to the area
- The distance from north to south sometimes seen as a challenge for effective working partnerships

Focus Groups

Nine focus groups were scheduled during the week of February 20, 2017. Focus group sessions are used to identify ideas and strategies that may be priorities pertaining to economic development in the Slocan Valley. Participants were asked similar questions as the Public Meetings in order to provide continuity and a direct comparison of responses. Extensive work was done by the community liaisons to get people to focus groups and about 25 people attended the sessions.

Stakeholder Interviews

Twelve key stakeholders, representing a cross section of local businesses and sectors, were engaged through one-on-one interviews. The stakeholders were identified by the Steering Committee and meetings were scheduled during the week of February 20, 2017. Interview questions were similar to both the public meetings and focus groups to provide continuity and a direct comparison of responses.

Online Survey

Slocan Valley residents were invited to participate in an online survey which ran from February 6, 2017 to February 27, 2017. The purpose of the survey was to allow for additional broad based participation into the process. The survey link was provided on each municipality's website, advertised in the Valley Voice and the Public Meeting Input Flyer. In addition to quantitative analysis, the survey included openended questions. The qualitative responses were analyzed, enabling an exploration of stakeholders' perspectives at a deeper level on key issues and topics and are included in the key findings. The survey collected 148 responses online.











Online Survey

The survey included a total of 29 questions, however, respondents were not required to answer every question. Many of the questions offered respondents the opportunity to provide additional or expanded information. As well, there were a number of open ended questions. Appendix A provides the full and detailed responses to all survey questions.

The survey allowed for the filtering of responses based on resident location. For the purposes of this report the North and South Slocan Valley has been defined as:

- North Slocan Valley all areas and communities north of Slocan including Village of Silverton and Village of New Denver
- South Slocan Valley Village of Slocan and all areas south to South Slocan

The following analysis breaks out the responses to questions by resident location when there was a significant variance among combined responses. This applies to four questions:

- What does effective economic development mean to you?
- What are three of our greatest strengths that make the community a viable place for economic growth?
- What are the three biggest challenges facing the community as it works to improve jobs and economic growth?
- What should be the top three economic development goals for the future of the community?









Privacy and protocol is very important to the residents of the Slocan Valley and as such the survey included respondents to consent to the collection, use, disclosure, storage outside of Canada and access from outside of Canada, by the Village of New Denver, of personal information including opinion.

Of the 148 responses received six (6) did not agree to the collection of the information. In addition to the 148 responses through the online survey four individuals completed hardcopies of the survey with the instructions not to have their information kept through the online survey instrument.

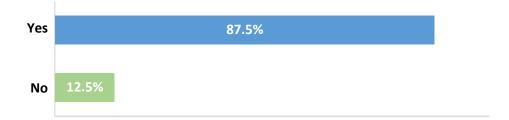
I consent to the collection, use, disclosure, storage outside of Canada and access from outside of Canada, by the Village of New Denver, of personal information including my opinions, for the purpose of community planning. This personal information will be disclosed to, stored by and accessed by Survey Monkey, EDCD Consulting and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute. This consent is valid from the date provided.

Answered: 148 Skipped: 0	Responses	
Yes, I agree to the above and will continue with the survey	95.95%	142
No, I do not agree to the above and will exit the survey	4.05%	6
Total		148

General Residence Information:

The survey began with a number of questions regarding residence. Not surprisingly the majority of the respondents were full-time residents (88%) and most have lived in the area for 15 years or longer (55%). For those who were not full-time Slocan Valley residents (12%) most lived elsewhere in the Kootenay Region (63%). There was a good mix of respondents throughout the Slocan Valley with the majority residing in Area H South (31%), followed by New Denver (25%), Area H North (22%), Silverton (13%) and Slocan (9%).

Are you a full-time resident of the Slocan Valley?







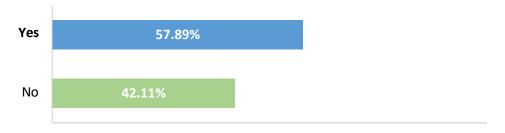




If you do not live full-time in the Slocan Valley, then where is your permanent place of residence?

	Responses
Elsewhere in the Kootenay Region	62.50%
Lower Mainland (BC)	6.25%
Other BC	0.00%
Alberta	12.50%
Other Canada	6.25%
Outside of Canada	12.50%

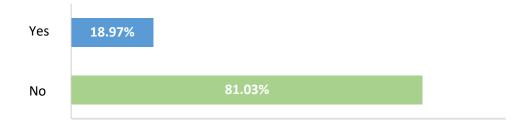
Do you have plans to live full-time in the Slocan Valley in the future?



Where do you reside?

Answer Choices	Responses
Village of Silverton	12.93%
Village of New Denver	25.00%
Village of Slocan	8.62%
Electoral Area H - North	22.41%
Electoral Area H - South	31.03%

Do you live in the Slocan Valley but work elsewhere most of the time?





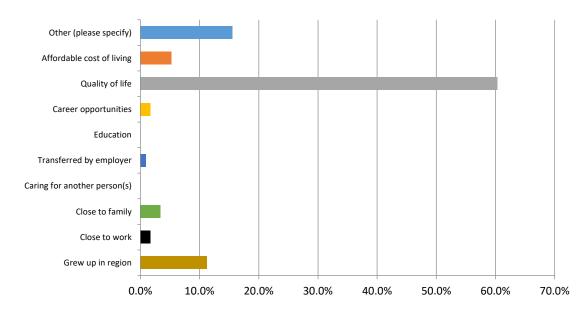






If the response was Yes, respondents were asked to specific what community they worked in. The top two communities were Nelson and Castlegar. Appendix A provides the full breakdown (Q.6).

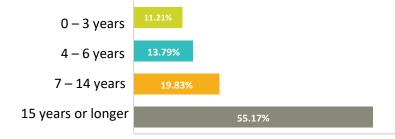
What is the primary reason you have chosen to live in the Slocan Valley.



Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Affordable cost of living and quality of life-I value homesteading lifestyle and community above income
- We liked the area and the lake and in turn have found that it is very affordable area to live in because there is very little opportunity to spend money
- Not as developed as many other areas of BC, less busy, no cell service, less traffic, good and rural
- Quality of life in a place still off the beaten path

How long have you lived in the Slocan Valley?







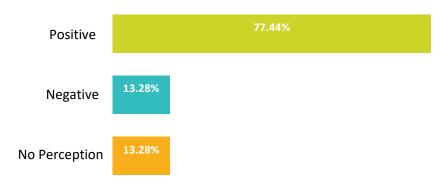




Slocan Valley Image

The survey collected input on how the Slocan Valley is perceived by both residents and non-residents. The majority of respondents perceive the Slocan Valley's image as positive (77%) and also believe that non-residents have a positive image of the Valley (61%)

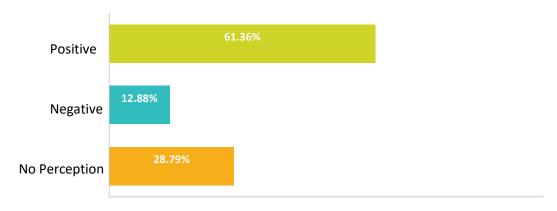
How do you perceive Slocan Valley's image as a community?



Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Interesting and creative residents; natural, undeveloped beauty; strong sense of community
- Wonderful, caring and compassionate people and great environment
- Living in the Slocan is a privilege

How do you think non-residents of Slocan Valley perceive its image as a community?



Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Non-residents would have a positive perception, because on the surface that is what it seems. Beautiful, nice valley, great river and lake... Once you look a little deeper, I would say it's not that positive!
- Visitors tell me so! People are so friendly here –It is so beautiful here









- It is a beautiful place with beautiful inhabitants, both human and non-human.
 What's not to love?
- Many people would love to live here, but finding employment, and/or housing can be difficult

What word or phrase would you use to describe the Slocan Valley?

This question received 117 responses and the following is a word cloud illustrating the responses. A word cloud works in a simple way – the more a specific word appears in a source of data, the bigger and bolder it appears in the word cloud. As you can see below, the words *beautiful*, *pristine*, *paradise* and *home* stand out since they were used more frequently





General Economic Development, Strengths and Challenges

Economic development means more jobs in the region (48%) and having existing companies stable and expanding in the region (21%) according to respondents. It was also important to have new companies opening in the region (20%) and new opportunities for entrepreneurs (19%). The survey asked respondents to provide input on what economic development means to them, what should be the focus and what are the strengths and weaknesses of the area. When asked what type of businesses should be expanded or located in the community, respondents choose both agriculture/agri-food processing and green energy (41%) as the top two choices.









When asked what are the strengths of the region the top three responses were close proximity to recreational opportunities (53%), affordability of housing (37%) and strong community pride (36%). Alternatively, when asked what challenges exist the top three responses were availability of jobs (69%), availability of diverse housing options (44%) and retaining youth/families (35%).

Respondents were then asked what the top three economic development goals for the future of the community should be. The combined results were:

- More jobs in the region 48%
- More small businesses and entrepreneurs 41%
- Attraction of new residents 28%

There was some variance to four of the questions in this section based on resident location. The tables below separate the responses by area for comparison purposes.

What does effective economic development mean to you? Respondents were able to choose two.

This question shows the difference of opinion when the results are broken down by resident location. Though both the north and south agree that more jobs in the region is what effective economic development means. The second and third choices begin to illustrate differing opinions on the primary efforts an economic development function should undertake.

Answer Choices	Combined Responses	North	South
More jobs in the region	47.97%	51.52%	39.02%
Existing companies stable and expanding in the region	21.14%	25.76%	14.63%
New companies opening in the region	20.33%	25.75%	14.63%
Improved awareness (reputation) of the region	13.01%	16.67%	12.20%
More tourists visiting the region	13.82%	15.15%	12.20%
Better lifestyle amenities	17.89%	13.64%	21.95%
Better educational opportunities	9.76%	3.03%	19.51%
Higher standard of living for citizens	13.82%	6.06%	21.95%
New opportunities for entrepreneurship	19.51%	19.70%	17.07%
Other	13.82%	12.12%	19.51%







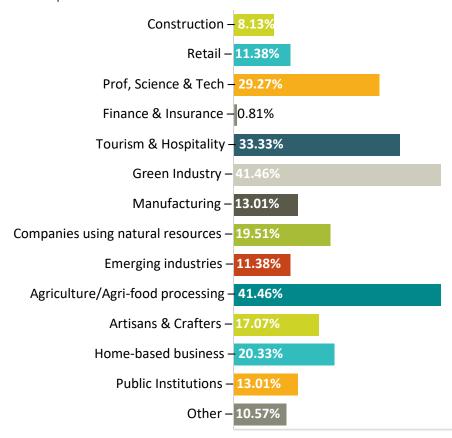


Other responses included the attraction of new residents, opportunities for youth and growth that is sustainable.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- I strongly believe that the economy as we know it will go through drastic changes – if not collapse – in the near term future. It is vital that our community develop local resilience and true sustainability
- Growth that is both sustainable and healthy for everyone, including the natural environment
- Thriving independent businesses, both new and existing
- With improved awareness about the community would come new economic opportunities i.e. tourism, jobs, entrepreneurship

What type of businesses would you like to see expand or locate in the community? Respondents were able to choose up to three.



Other responses were varied and included daycare, restaurants and medical clinic.

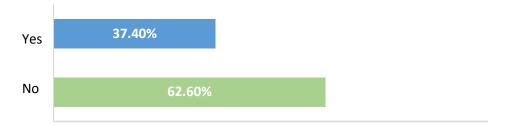








Do you own a business in Slocan Valley?



Thirty-one percent (31.11%) of the respondents who own businesses indicated they operated home-based businesses.

What are three of our greatest strengths that currently make the community a viable place for economic growth? Respondents were able to choose three.

The top three strengths do not vary much regardless of resident location. What is significant is the difference of skilled workforce, transportation access and entrepreneurial talent. The higher ranking of these three attributes indicates differing opportunities for economic development between the north

Answer Choices	Combined		
	Responses	North	South
Skilled workforce	15.89%	8.62%	21.62%
Transportation access (close to highways, ease of getting from place to place)	16.82%	12.07%	21.62%
Close proximity to recreational opportunities	53.27%	56.90%	51.35%
K-12 schools	34.58%	46.55%	24.32%
Local government leadership	5.61%	3.45%	5.41%
Entrepreneurial talent	22.43%	20.69%	29.73%
Affordability of housing	37.38%	34.48%	35.14%
Strong community pride	35.51%	34.48%	35.14%
Climate	19.63%	20.69%	10.81%
Proximity to a larger centre	2.80%	0.00%	8.11%
Diverse Population	16.82%	17.24%	16.22%
Other (please specify)	15.89%	18.97%	16.22%

and the south.









Other responses included the region's natural environment and talent of residents.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Highly educated and please take out growth and replace with adaptation
- This will become a more and more sought after place to live
- Do we want economic growth? What about stability?
- Artist/craftsperson/artisan talent

What are the three biggest challenges currently facing the community as it works to improve jobs and economic growth? Respondents were able to choose three.

Most are in agreement regarding the biggest challenges. However, there is significant differences between the north and the south regarding other challenges. For example, the north identifies retaining youth/families as a significant challenge (44.83%) while the south still identifies it as a challenge but at a much lower rate (21.62%). The availability of retail and other services has an impact on the retention of residents and respondents from the north consider this as a challenge three times more than the south.

Answer Choices	Combined Responses	North	South
Availability of jobs	69.16%	65.52%	72.97%
Availability of diverse housing options	43.93%	39.66%	54.03%
Keeping young skilled workers	39.25%	37.93%	35.14%
Inadequate transportation infrastructure	25.23%	20.69%	24.32%
Local government leadership	14.95%	17.24%	16.22%
Level of community pride	3.74%	0.00%	8.11%
School systems	6.54%	6.90%	5.41%
High costs (business and living)	7.48%	6.90%	10.81%
Availability of retail/restaurant/entertainment options	17.76%	22.41%	8.11%
Retaining youth/families	34.58%	44.83%	21.62%
Other (please specify)	15.89%	18.97%	16.22%









Other responses included the lack of capacity, seasonality and distance between communities.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Lack of affordable, reliable High Speed broadband internet
- Transportation challenges. cost of shipping into/out of the area. limited public transport for employees
- Our lack of cell service and high-speed internet.
- An attitude that we are dependent on the tourist economy, I think people need to be able to see that there are more opportunities, but keep getting stuck in the tourist trap - that this is our way to grow. Tourism in the end will destroy us like it has so many places. We need to collectively think outside the box. Our inability to get creative is our biggest challenge

What should be the top three economic development goals for the future of the community? Respondents were able to choose three.

Both north and south residents agreed that existing companies staying and expanding in the Valley and more small business and entrepreneurs are the most important economic development goals. There is a significant change in prioritizing other goals. The south ranks better educational opportunities (32%) as a priority while the north ranks it as last on the list (8.62%). As well, the south is very interested in promoting the Slocan Valley to an external audience (24.32%) while the north do not see this as a priority and it ties for last on the list (8.62%).

Answer Choices	Combined Responses	North	South
Existing companies staying (and expanding)	41.12%	43.10%	40.54%
Attraction of non-retail (Please specify in box below)	12.15%	17.24%	2.70%
Attraction of companies that use our natural resources	16.82%	18.97%	10.81%
More small businesses and entrepreneurs	41.12%	43.10%	40.54%
Better retail amenities/additional retailers	12.15%	15.52%	2.70%
Better lifestyle amenities	19.63%	12.07%	18.92%
Better educational opportunities	18.69%	8.62%	32.43%
Better tourism amenities	24.30%	24.14%	24.32%
Revitalization of older commercial areas	14.02%	15.52%	16.22%
Retaining young professionals	23.36%	27.59%	18.92%
Promoting Slocan Valley to an external audience	14.95%	8.62%	24.32%









Attraction of new residents	28.04%	36.21%	21.62%
Other (please specify)	20.56%	20.69%	27.03%

Other responses included limited housing options and attraction of new residents.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Attraction of professionals who can work from home. Building a non-tourist, professional community who want to live here because it is quiet, healthy, and affordable with incredible outdoor recreation and arts amenities
- Eateries that support local farmers, ecorecreational businesses, home based businesses, cottage industries
- Affordable, reliable, low maintenance, high speed fibre internet is essential to put the Slocan valley into a competitive position that will inevitably move its residents forward in business, education and commerce
- Promoting affordable housing of all kinds throughout the valley

Economic Development Structures

The remaining questions from the online survey were designed to collect input on economic development services and the best organization or model for delivering the services. Four types of structures or models of economic development that a community typically implements were outlined in the survey. The four structures were:

- Advisory Commission/Committee
- Local/Regional Government (in-house) Economic Development Department
- Economic Development Corporation or Society (arm's length)
- Service Contract with an existing organization

The models were explained and questions were included to gain a better understanding of what the community wants and to provide some of the necessary input to develop an economic development structure recommendation, a key component of the project.

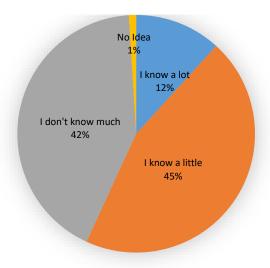








What best describes your knowledge of economic development programs and structures?



Who should be making the decision around the region's economic development? Respondents were able to choose one.

Answer Choices	Responses
Local Municipal Councils and Regional Directors	9.00%
The Councils and Regional Directors with input from a Steering Committee	29.00%
An arm's length economic development model	3.00%
A mix of some or all of the above	47.00%
Other (please specify)	12.00%

Other responses focused on having public/business input.









Who should be doing the work in providing economic development services? Respondents were able to choose one.

Answer Choices	Response
An existing local/regional government staff member	5.00%
A new local/regional government staff member	10.00%
A new organization	5.00%
Existing local non-profit or business organization (i.e. Community Futures, Chamber)	16.00%
Volunteers	2.00%
Consultant(s) hired as needed	2.00%
A mix of some or all of the above	50.00%
Other (please specify)	11.00%

Do you think there will be challenges to establishing a long-term economic development program?

One hundred percent (100%) responded that they believe there will be challenges.





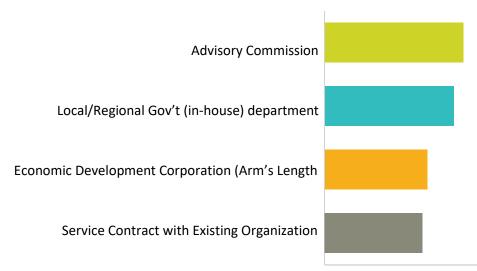




What will be the challenges to establishing a long-term economic development program? Respondents were able to choose as many responses as they wished.



Of the four structures defined which one do you think would be best for the Slocan Valley? Respondents were asked to rank in order of preference.



Respondents were asked for any other comments or input they may have. Appendix A includes all the other comments received.









Focus Groups, Stakeholder Meetings and Public Meetings

In addition to the online survey, residents and businesses were invited to participate in focus groups, one-on-one stakeholder meetings and three public meetings. Over 95 individuals attended either one or a combination of these opportunities for public input.

A set number of questions were developed for data collection consistency. Additional questions were added based on review of previous literature and a preliminary review of survey results prior to the community visit (February 21 - 24, 2017). The following questions were explored during these meetings:

- What are the strengths of the community/region?
- What are the challenges of the community/region?
- What new opportunities should be pursued to enhance the community/region?
- What does Quality of Life mean to you?
- How would you enhance the opportunities for agriculture and agri-food?
- How would you enhance the opportunities for tourism and hospitality?
- What other industries should be pursued and how would you enhance those opportunities?
- How would you see the community supporting existing businesses and supporting new entrepreneurs?

What are the strengths and challenges of the community/region?

The input received did not differ significantly from the online survey. Most participants cited the natural beauty, recreational opportunities, clean water/air/food quality, and the citizens of the valley as strengths. Challenges included housing options, declining population, transportation network, cell service/good internet and lack of accommodations, restaurants and services. During the public meetings it became evident there is a divide between the North and South Valley residents regarding how economic development should proceed. Input from the South Valley leaned towards a more "let's get it done" attitude versus a more cautious approach from the North Valley.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Lack of elder population because of lack of medical services
- Divided view on the future- different perspectives that have a hard time seeing common ground – needs to be facilitated
- So many little hubs of activity in different towns

- Great environmental values
- Small number of residents to support some business
- Natural beauty, pristineness, our environment









What new opportunities should be pursued to enhance the community/region?

Participants had some excellent ideas when asked about what types of opportunities could be pursued. There was an overall theme of ensuring any ideas must keep in mind the natural surroundings and quality of life that is valued by residents. Supported ideas throughout the process including expanding housing options, sustaining existing business and local food.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Education how to rent your house and help people from away understand regulations preparing to be rental
- Rental space for potential residents and office space for potential small business
- Food security, growing and or processing any business that respect the environment and people
- Building workshop/hub carpentry, etc., that we can all go to and use tools, etc., work on projects together with some assistance too

What does Quality of Life mean to you?

Quality of life is a term often used to describe how residents feel about their community. The challenge is defining exactly what quality of life means. Residents in the Slocan Valley are passionate about where they live and clean water, access to outdoor recreation and maintaining a work/life balance are important quality of life factors.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Easy access to outdoor recreation
- Clean drinking water
- Money not first or only motive

- Respectful of each other's way of life
- Living close to a pristine lake
- Simple lifestyle quiet healthy

How would you enhance the opportunities for agriculture and agri-food?

This questions was added after review of past literature. Agriculture and agri-food were identified themes in a number of previous reports. During the public consultation process agriculture, particularly local food production, became a key theme. Additional themes included creating or expanding agricultural education opportunities, agri-food tourism, providing land to youth/farmers and co-op farm and food processing/training.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

 Municipality and Regional District to provide free or low-cost land for production, space for processing and storage Agriculture land trusts – access to land for youth with no capital









- "Network" as in get a core of (young, hardy enthusiastic) people to help us older ones with our massive gardens & orchards
- Support community food centre learning/processing

How would you enhance the opportunities for tourism and hospitality?

This questions was added after review of past literature. Tourism and hospitality were identified themes in a number of previous reports. During the public consultation process the industry received varying degrees of support. Residents do not want to see an over developed tourism industry but many realize the importance of tourism related to other economic development activities including resident attraction. There was support for expanding tourism beyond the summer months. Cell service was discussed with most supporting the need for Valley-wide service while some stating lack of cell services can be promoted as an advantage, i.e. disconnect and relax here.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- I would not encourage any enhancement to H & T. Let's look at a need that fulfills the local sustainability
- Develop shoulder season and winter tourism. We need a more coordinated effort region-wide
- Signage at both ends of the Valley, showing map and services available
- Remediate the mill site soil & water. Create beautiful, healthy landscape and build a couple of carefully selected tourist facilities (brew pub on the lake? Canoe rental?)

What other industries should be pursued and how would you enhance those opportunities?

This question illustrated the divide between what residents want. While some supported waterfront development others strongly spoke against it. The lack of cell service was discussed and although there was some opposition the majority understood the importance of connectivity for safety, and economic and community development. A few common themes emerged including the support of a craft brewery, shared office space and there was support for development of the Slocan Mill Site. Many people in the region believe that this location could become one of the main centrepieces to encourage economic development with a focus on tourism. Support exists for a detailed site plan to be developed that encourages a mix of tourism, commercial, community assets, and residential development.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Slocan Mill Site revisited (a university, a market centre, a sailing school/canoe, etc., research centre par excellence for soil remediation)
- Food manufacturing/production brewery/distilleries → craft

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- Education- school of music and dance, space for movement-based arts
- Create a centralized small business hub for an address for deliveries, meetings, internet hub workspace











How would you see the community supporting existing businesses and supporting new entrepreneurs?

There was strong support of existing businesses and new entrepreneurs. Residents want to keep what already exists in the Valley and are open to attracting new entrepreneurs who can enhance what is already here. We heard of several businesses in the region that have started and grown to be well established companies such as Ice Creek Lodge, Sockeye, Valhalla Pure Outfitters and the Passmore Lab. The success of these businesses could provide opportunities to demonstrate that you can be successful in the Slocan. A cross over from previous questions included the creation of a cooperative or shared office space/facility. Other common themes included expediting permitting and approvals, increased business support by local residents (i.e. shopping and eating at existing restaurants) and by the Chamber of Commerce. Suggestions received by residents in the North Slocan Valley included improving or beautification of Main Street and other commercial areas.

Example Quotes from Respondents:

- Would like to see the Chamber of Commerce provide more support for nontourism businesses
- Create a shared worker space for home office/tele-workers
- Some good active internet website, social media, etc., promoting local businesses
- Regular social and educational events for business owners/entrepreneurs (drinks night, brainstorm clubs, speakers)
- We need a space to work out of and a brew pub









Conclusion

The results of the stakeholder engagement process provided the following conclusions:

- Community residents are passionate about the Slocan Valley and, even after being surveyed a number of times, they want to participate in shaping the Valley's future
- Stakeholder input from this process supports other initiatives and surveys that have previously been completed
- Stakeholders almost unanimously agree that economic development is important to remaining relevant in today's economy and in being able to manage the Valley's future
- Stakeholders understand the importance economic development can play in the attraction and retention of residents
- Stakeholders want to ensure the quality of life that brought many of them here is maintained and that economic development activities enhance it and not change it
- The top two industries that stakeholders identified as being future drivers were agriculture and green industry. Many stakeholders are supportive of tourism, however, are apprehensive about making tourism the key economic driver
- Stakeholders want to see improved support to local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Stakeholders indicated there is support for a share office space
- There is an expectation from stakeholders that the economic development strategy emerging from this process will be realistic and include projects or initiatives that enhance the Valley









Appendix A — On-line Survey Results (Detailed Findings)

Detailed results from the on-line survey are attached as a separate document.

Appendix B – Input Received at Public Meetings

Input received at the public input meetings are attached as a separate document.







