

# Beetle Bites



## Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition



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The Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) is committed to helping communities understand the probable effects of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic; and to develop and implement appropriate MPB mitigation measures in the southern interior. A membership based organization; SIBAC represents local and First Nations governments from across the southern interior.

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## Beetle Action Coalitions Partner for Green Energy Project Dollars



L-R: Rhona Martin, Chair of the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, Stephanie Killam, Chair of the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and Kerry Cook, Chair of the Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition viewing the new website for the Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool Project. [www.ruralbcgreenenergy.com](http://www.ruralbcgreenenergy.com)

### The three BC Interior Beetle Action Coalitions are pleased to announce the Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool Project.

A multi-year funding partnership has made this interior wide project possible. The partners include the federal government Community Development Program, the provincial Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Innovation Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and the Columbia Basin Trust.

"Interior rural communities and First Nations impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic are all interested in exploring how green energy development can contribute to regional and community economic growth and diversification," said Rhona Martin, SIBAC Chair. "This project provides information specific to rural green energy opportunities and examines the feasibility of systems in eight selected communities in the southern and central interior."

Some of the exciting information pieces available on the Project website will include:

- Green Energy Resource Guide
- Wood Bio-Mass Fact Sheet
- Local Government Green Energy Guide
- Green Energy Business Opportunities Analysis
- Case Study and YouTube video of the District of Lake Country micro-hydro system
- Case Study and YouTube video of the Hupacasath First Nation micro-hydro system
- Pre-feasibility reports for the District of Clearwater, City of Armstrong and Simpcw First Nation
- North Thompson Green Energy Opportunities Scan
- Village of Valemount pre-feasibility study for geothermal district energy
- Village of Slokan pre-feasibility study for micro-hydro
- Village of Telkwa pre-feasibility study for wood bio-mass heating

Regional Outreach Meetings will be scheduled in six different locations in the central/southern interior for the fall 2012 and winter 2013.

For more information about the Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool Project, please view the website: [www.ruralbcgreenenergy.com](http://www.ruralbcgreenenergy.com). ▲▲▲

## Okanagan Falls Economic Development Action Plan – COMPLETE

In February 2011, SIBAC provided \$18,000. in funding support in partnership with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Electoral Area "D" to create a long term, cohesive and viable economic and tourism development plan and prospectus for Okanagan Falls and the nearby communities of Kaleden, East Skaha, Vaseux Lake, Twin Lakes and Apex. The total project value was \$65,000. The project was completed in December 2011 ahead of schedule.

The intent of the project was to create a business and tourism development framework that similar size communities in the region can draw upon and replicate in the future. In particular, the goals and specific initiatives are useful for communities that are in the beginning phases of economic development and diversification.

Tools that have been created through this project to bolster economic development and tourism in Okanagan Falls and area include:

- Okanagan Falls Economic Development Strategy
- Okanagan Falls & Area D Prospectus
- Okanagan Falls & Area D Tourist Brochure
- OK Falls Facebook page

The Economic Development Strategy and Okanagan Falls & Area D Prospectus can be downloaded at: <http://sibacs.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/OK-Falls-Strategy-FINAL-JANUARY-30-2012.pdf> from the SIBAC website.

To learn more, contact John Powell, Economic Development Coordinator of Okanagan Falls & Electoral Area "D" at 250-809-2568 or email at: [jpowell@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:jpowell@rdos.bc.ca). ▲▲▲

### SIBAC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

#### Regional Districts of:

- Thompson-Nicola
- Columbia-Shuswap
- Central Kootenay
- East Kootenay
- Kootenay Boundary
- North Okanagan
- Central Okanagan
- Okanagan-Similkameen
- Squamish-Lillooet

#### First Nations:

- Lillooet Tribal Council
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- CFDC of Central Interior First Nations
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
- Nicola Tribal Council

## SIBAC supports the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo Association

In June 2011, SIBAC supported the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo Association fundraising campaign to complete the construction of the North Thompson Agriplex - phase one. The building was completed August 30, 2011 ahead of schedule.



**Barriere, BC** is situated at the confluence of the Barriere and North Thompson Rivers in the Central North Thompson Valley, 66 kilometres north of Kamloops on Highway 5. The community is 373 meters above sea level and has a population of 1,209. Barriere is in the Thompson Nicola Regional District and became incorporated as the District of Barriere in December 2007.

Barriere is primarily driven by the forest industry, however, the other industries which serve the town are tourism and agriculture. The economy of the area has been struggling since 2001 due to a number of factors which include; the impact of the mountain pine beetle epidemic, mill shutdowns, loss of income for cattle ranchers, and a general downturn in the global economy. Specific to the area; in 2003 wildfires destroyed the Tolko Mill in Louis Creek which was a major employer for Barriere. The fire also destroyed 72 homes and nine small businesses; with the resultant ripple effect of the disaster causing a number of other small businesses to close. Although the effect happened eight years ago the economic impact of losing a major employer is still felt.

Barriere has been the home of the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo since 1949 and is a leading event in the community, which is organized every year by the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo Association (NTFFRA). The aging fall fair facility hosts, on average, 100 events annually during the spring, summer and fall; serving local, regional and provincial needs. Growing community and regional interest in attending and hosting year-round events, combined with limitations associated with necessary upgrades to the current facility, resulted in the cost of replacing the facility being built into



*4H youngsters show their project beef animals inside the newly constructed North Thompson Agriplex, during the 62nd Annual North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo held the Labour Day weekend, 2011, in Barriere, BC*

the NTFBRA's 5-year plan. In January, 2011, the North Thompson Agriplex Committee was established and tasked with overseeing the fund-raising and construction of a new facility.

Phase 1 of the facility was completed August 2011, in time for the Annual Labour Day Fall Fair and Rodeo Event. As of December 2011, NTFBRA have raised \$534,539.63 in cash donations and grants from private citizens, community groups, fundraising activities, local government, and regional organizations. The project was a true community effort with a total-to-date of \$126,843.42 in In-Kind Donations. SIBAC provided funding assistance of \$50,000. The Agriplex is ideally situated to be the regional agricultural showcase of the Thompson area. ▲▲▲

## Moving Forward Together Workshop — A Huge Success

The purpose of the two day workshop was to explore economic development opportunities where local government and First Nations in the Shuswap region could work collaboratively. More specifically, the workshop was to learn more about each other and how to work together toward more effective multi community relationships, complimentary regional economic development, and fair, respectful social development. Organizers intended the workshop to stimulate the desire to develop regional bodies that will work collectively to find innovative solutions to region wide issues including the impact of the pine beetle devastation.

The workshop was hosted by the Adams Lake Indian Band and held at their Youth Centre northwest of Salmon Arm. The attendance was impressive with 101 participants on day one April 19 and 88 participants on day two April 20th.

SIBAC assisted in funding the workshops in partnership with the Learning Initiative for Rural and Northern BC (LIRNBC), and facilitated by Fraser Basin Council, Social Planning and Research Council of BC, and Columbia Shuswap Regional District Economic Development office. "The



SIBAC Board viewed this funding request as an excellent example of a region understanding the potential of all peoples working together" said Rhona Martin, SIBAC Chair and Columbia Shuswap Area "E" Director.

The Moving Forward Together Steering Committee is well represented with a broad cross section of communities and sectors from: Chase, Sorrento, the North Shore, Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Malakwa, Mara Lake, Adams Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith Indian Band and the Little Shuswap Indian Band. Specific agencies such as health/mental health, social services, employment and business development were also represented. ▲▲▲