



**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development**

Engaging on BC's Rural Development Strategy

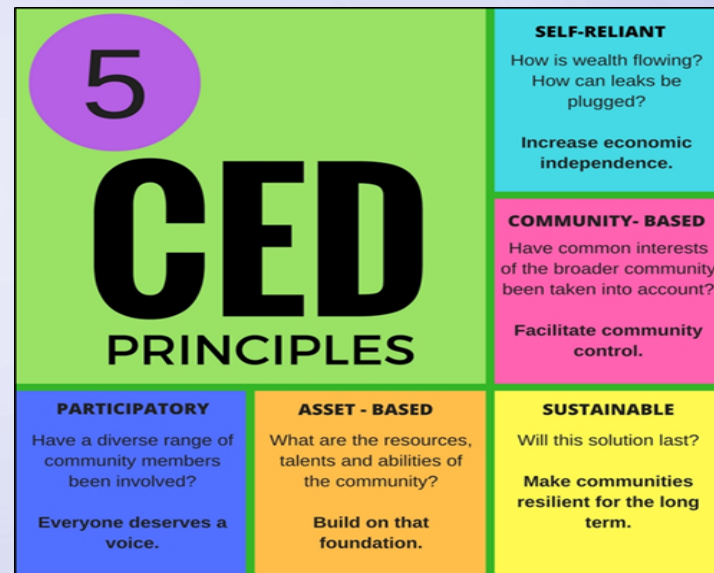
2018 Electoral Area Forum

January 31, 2018



Enhanced Focus on Rural Development

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and **Rural Development**.
- The Province is committed to a broader, more comprehensive rural development mandate.
- Community economic development will form the foundation of government's new rural development mandate.





Commitment to Release a New Rural Development Strategy

- Commitment to a new *Rural Development Strategy* to support diversified, resilient, and sustainable rural communities.
- Strategy will be developed by engaging with rural stakeholders.



Rural Engagement on Rural Strategy

Using a range of approaches to support rural communities in sharing their priorities for a new Strategy.

1. Key Informant Interviews

2. Face-to-face Sessions

3. Online Engagement

Strategy Framework



1. Key Informant Interviews

- Government is interviewing almost 50 individuals with knowledge, expertise, and experience of rural community needs and priorities.
- These rural stakeholders represent a variety of perspectives, resulting in a diversity of ideas.



2. Face-to-Face Sessions

- Over 15 rural engagement sessions around the province are being undertaken, in partnership with local organizations.
- Face to face sessions with First Nations are also taking place.
- Regional expertise is harnessed by having local partners design agenda and determine invitees .
- Sessions are scheduled over January – February 2018 (one in December 2017).



3. Online Engagement

- Online engagement ensures public input from citizens of all ages, backgrounds and areas of the province get an opportunity to provide input.
- Methods of online participation:
 - Upload a submission
 - Send an email
 - Participate in discussion forums
- Online URL:
www.engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraldevelopment



Local Government Input

- Some local government reps are being invited by local partners to rural face-to-face Sessions.
- For Area Directors, important to engage as a group, given the unique challenges of communities in unincorporated areas.
- Area Directors are also encouraged to participate in online engagement through the website.



Engagement Questions for Area Directors:

1. What are the key priorities to focus on for a Rural Development Strategy from your perspective?
2. How can government best maintain an effective dialogue with Rural B.C moving forward with finalizing and delivering on a Rural Development Strategy?
3. What role can area directors, local governments and UBCM play in helping the Province engage with rural stakeholders in your region?