

**June 14, 2024 Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**  
**June 21, 2024 ETSI-BC Board Update**  
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**Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

At the Joint Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting for the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC), held on June 14, 2024 by Zoom, the RACs recommended 28 projects for funding, totalling \$625,000 of ETSI-BC funding and a total project value of \$1.7 million.

**ETSI-BC Spring 2024 Funding Intake Approvals by Region**

	\$ Approved	% of Total
Columbia-Kootenay	\$278,000	44%
Thompson-Okanagan	\$347,000	56%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$625,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

These projects help build and diversify the region’s economy, as part of the ETSI-BC Spring 2024 Funding Intake, focused on two of its core Funding Streams: *Building Economic Development Capacity, and Innovating & Advancing Key Sectors*. Project partners include local governments, First Nations, industry groups, Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures, and non-profit organizations in BC’s Southern Interior.

Projects approved in this Funding Intake will be carried out by one First Nation and in communities in eight of the nine Regional Districts in the ETSI-BC service area. More information about this funding can be found in Attachment 1 of this document and on the ETSI-BC [News page](#).

Since April 2021, ETSI-BC has approved \$8.4 million in grant funding in support of its Strategic Pillars. This funding has supported projects valued at almost \$19 million that have helped create or maintain over 20,000 jobs in the region.

The Columbia-Kootenay RAC and the Thompson-Okanagan RAC also both approved updates to their Terms of Reference to reflect the new provincial electoral districts and ensure representation by MLAs from all political parties elected in each region.

**ETSI-BC June 21, 2024 Board Meeting Update**

“On behalf of the ETSI-BC Board, I am delighted to share the results of the Spring 2024 Funding Intake,” said Paul Donald, a provincial appointee who was appointed the new ETSI-BC Board Chair at the June 21, 2024 Board Meeting. “These initiatives will help enhance economic development capabilities within our communities, foster innovation, and facilitate progress in key sectors of our regional economy.”

The other members of the Executive Committee include Alan Harrison, Mayor of Salmon Arm (Vice-Chair), Provincial appointee Peggy DeVries (Finance Committee Chair), and Steve Morissette, Mayor of Fruitvale.

Sharon Shepherd (former Board Chair) and Dr. Philip Barker (Finance Committee Chair) were both thanked for their service on the Board of ETSI-BC at the meeting. Their terms will conclude in August 2024.

## ATTACHMENT 1

The following list of projects has been approved for funding by ETSI-BC, following the RAC recommendation made at the June 14, 2024 Joint RAC meeting.

### ETSI-BC APPROVED SPRING 2024 FUNDING INTAKE PROJECTS

PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT NAME	ETSI-BC FUNDING
Accelerate Okanagan	Economic Impact Study of Okanagan Technology Sector	\$24,000
Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber	Local Sustainable Agri-Industry Connections	\$16,500
Chawathil First Nation	Economic Development Corporation Planning	\$20,000
Columbia Valley Tourism Marketing Society	Downtown Invermere Branding Initiative	\$20,000
Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen	Okanagan Food & Innovation Hub Project Implementation	\$50,000
Community Futures Revelstoke	Creative Cultural Cluster - land feasibility assessment	\$38,000
Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce	Exploring Rural Non-Profit Collaborative Social Enterprise Models	\$18,000
Elkford Chamber of Commerce	2024 ECOC Business Growth and Strategy Plan	\$19,000
Hope Business and Development Society	Downtown Revitalization: Business Facade & Community Amenities	\$25,000
Kamloops Innovation Centre Society	Business Services Expansion Strategy	\$10,000
Kicking Horse Chamber of Commerce	Golden Workforce Innovation & Youth Mentorship Program	\$13,000
Kootenay Employment Services Society	Southeastern BC Agriculture Forum	\$35,000
KORE	Re-Hub Mobile Repair Tour & Hardgoods Repair Lab	\$40,000
Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation	West Kootenay Recruitment Agency Incubation Pilot	\$25,000
North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce	North Shuswap Business Facade Improvement Program	\$15,000
Regional District East Kootenay	Columbia Valley Film Coordinator	\$20,000
Salmo District Arts Council	Salmo District Arts Council Business and Cultural Plan	\$20,000
Sand Creek Community Club	Economic Growth Plan/ Grant Writer	\$20,000
Shuswap Economic Development Society	Business Facade Improvement: Falkland, Silver Creek & Area	\$15,000
Silver Star Resort Association	Building Shoulder Season Capacity	\$40,000
Similkameen Country Development Ass'n	Keremeos & Area Economic Vitality Initiative	\$16,500
South Shuswap Chamber of Commerce	Business Attraction Retention & Expansion: DotheShu.com	\$20,000
Spallumcheen, Township of	Agri-Hub Business Plan	\$20,000
Thompson Nicola Regional District	"Love Where You Live - Blue River"	\$20,000
Tourism Golden Association	Feasibility Study for LMS Platform and Tourism Business Incubator	\$10,000
Tourism Kamloops	Establishing an Iconic Attraction for Regional Tourism Growth	\$20,000
Travel Penticton Society	Examining the Economic Impact of MICE	\$15,000
Vernon Jubilee Hospital Physician Society	Physician Waffle House	\$20,000