

Regional Socio-Economic Development Institute of Canada (RSEDIC)

PRINCIPAL INSTITUTE PROJECTS

1. The Recent History of Occupational Structure and Regional Economic Strategy in Non-Metropolitan Regions

The initial phase of this work focuses on two activities. The first is a research workshop, to be hosted 11 and 12 June 2016 at UBC's Okanagan Campus and the Community Core of Westbank First Nation. The objectives are:

- To enable scholars, librarians and archivists to exchange and co-create knowledge, and to lay the foundations for further study by conceiving an international research network on the history of occupational structure and regional economic strategy in non-metropolitan regions;
- To explore the possibility of supporting the new network through a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, for submission in November 2016.

Workshop topics include: the history of occupations in the British Columbia Interior and in other non-metropolitan regions, in Canada and internationally; First Nations occupational research; oral history and other methods for occupations history analysis; methods to engage publics to begin strategizing about their regional economic development; occupational history as a catalyst for creating regional economic strategies.

The second activity in the initial phase of this work is public exhibitions, to be hosted Fall 2016 at UBC's Innovation Library, in the Kelowna Branch of the Okanagan Regional Library, and the Sncəwips Heritage Museum, Westbank First Nation. The objectives of the exhibitions are to enable scholars, librarians and archivists to exchange and co-create knowledge with citizens, in particular:

- To gain insights from citizens about historical data for the Okanagan. For example, insofar as findings are presented using quantitative data from recent censuses and other formal records, a simple label - such as fruit farmer, rancher or logger - identifies an occupation. More precisely what those labels mean, and imply for the lives of those people more generally, varies across time, regions and nations. Citizens in particular regions with direct experience of the economy - or indirect, for example from conversations with grandparents - might have insights to offer academic researchers on those meanings and implications.
- To stimulate citizens to begin strategizing about the Okanagan's economic development. Our intention is to use the history of the region's occupational structure to inspire citizens to think about and imagine what people might do and be in the region in the future.

This project is being pursued in conjunction with international partners. The work on economic history is in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Cambridge (England), with which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in April 2016. The work on engaging citizens about regional economic strategy is being pursued with Orkestra - Basque Institute of Competitiveness, (Spain), and in discussions with the Glasgow School of Art (Scotland) and the Department of Public Leadership and Social Enterprise at the Open University (UK).

It is envisaged that the project will yield significant experiential learning opportunities for students, for example associated with the opportunities for research projects on the history of the Okanagan.

The group of UBC colleagues organizing the project are: Ruth Frost (IKBAS - history); Eva Gavaris and Laura Thorne (Library); Malida Mookan, Caitlin Sirett, Roger Sugden and Marcela Valania (Faculty of Management). Confirmed workshop participants include: Heather Berringer (Library);

Arjun Bhardwaj, Mike Chiasson, Keith Culver and Eric Li (Faculty of Management); Mary Butterfield (Office of Research Services); Ross Hickey (IKBSAS - economics); Christopher Hives (UBC Archives). Confirmed participants from elsewhere include: Jordan Coble (Curatorial and Heritage Researcher, Sncəwips Heritage Museum, Westbank First Nation); Tara Hurley (Archivist, Kelowna Museums Archive); M Erdem Kabadayi (Department of History, Koc University, Turkey); Ian Pooley (Okanagan historian); Patricia Roy (Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Victoria); Tracy Satin (President, Okanagan Historical Society and Heritage Officer/Curator, Sncəwips Heritage Museum, Westbank First Nation); Leigh Shaw-Taylor and Keith Sugden (Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, University of Cambridge, UK).

2. Position the British Columbia Wine Industry for International Growth

Working with KEDGE Business School (Bordeaux, France) since Fall 2012, colleagues from UBC's Okanagan campus have been engaging the British Columbia wine industry on its strategic development. A notable initiative has been the introduction in 2014 of the annual UBC-KEDGE Wine Leaders Forum, which offers winery owners and principals an independent and challenging arena for open participation, free expression and collective learning.

As a result, Western Economic Diversification Canada is providing \$630,000 funding in a \$1.3M project over three years (2015-2018), to enable the institute to support the emergence of British Columbia as a global wine region. An industry task force on wine labeling and presentation has been organized, and future activities include: establishing a task force on the industry's identity; analyzing intelligence that the industry gathers from international trade shows; using research and industry knowledge to identify and assess options for the industry's organization, modelling from advanced wine regions in the world.

In carrying out these activities, the project is deliberately aiming to lay foundations for an internationally networked centre of excellence for the British Columbia wine industry.

The group of colleagues organizing the project are: Kim Buschert (UBC Library); Malida Mooker, Roger Sugden and Marcela Valania (UBC Faculty of Management); Jacques Olivier Pesme (KEDGE Business School, Bordeaux, France).

3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets and Urban Density

Originally an Okanagan Sustainability Institute initiative, this project brought to bear expertise from engineering, management, economics and political science on the question of appropriate greenhouse gas emissions targets for the City of Kelowna. The project developed targets in light of urban density planning options and residents' preferences. In addition to fostering inter-faculty research collaborations, the project provided extensive experiential learning opportunities for graduate students.

INSTITUTE ORGANIZATION

Following appointment of the Director in March 2016 and on the basis of discussion that will take place amongst colleagues across the Okanagan campus who have participated in establishing the institute, an objective is to develop the institute's organization over Summer 2016. In particular, the intention is to form the Steering Committee (responsible for formulating institute strategy, chaired by the Director and comprising appointed UBC faculty); appoint the Administration Manager (a member of staff responsible for organizing the support for administering activities); and begin formation of the Advisory Board (responsible for providing guidance on the strategy and operation of the Institute). In addition, websites are being developed, specifically a general site and, linked to that, two project sites, respectively: rsedic.ok.ubc.ca; occupations.ok.ubc.ca; ubckedgewine.ca