



# **BCCFA AGM**

# **Rural Development Strategy**

Presented by Marc Imus

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

### Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division

#### Rural Development Unit

- Innovation, Bio-Economy and Indigenous Opportunities Branch
  - Building an innovation driven clean-tech based forest bio-economy in rural and indigenous communities in BC.
- Rural Policy and Programs Branch
  - Supporting rural communities , offering the Rural Dividend and shaping government's rural mandate.
- Regional Economic Operations Branch
  - Responding to regional needs and opportunities, mitigating economic shocks and fostering diversification.

## Rural Engagement Process

**Key  
Informant  
Interviews**

**Face-to-Face  
Engagement  
Sessions**

**Online  
Engagement**



# Key Informant Interviews

- 42 Key informant interviews with a wide range of rural stakeholders:
  - Academic institutions
  - Community groups
  - Provincial and national associations
  - Youth
  - First Nations
  - Local agencies
  - Entrepreneurs

## Face-to-Face Sessions

- 16 face-to-face engagement sessions across the Province organized with local partners:

Cranbrook  
Creston  
Fort St. John  
Hazelton  
Kamloops  
Merritt  
Nelson  
Port Alberni

Port McNeill  
Prince George  
Quesnel  
Prince Rupert  
Vernon  
Wet'suwe'ten  
Smithers  
Williams Lake

# Online Engagement

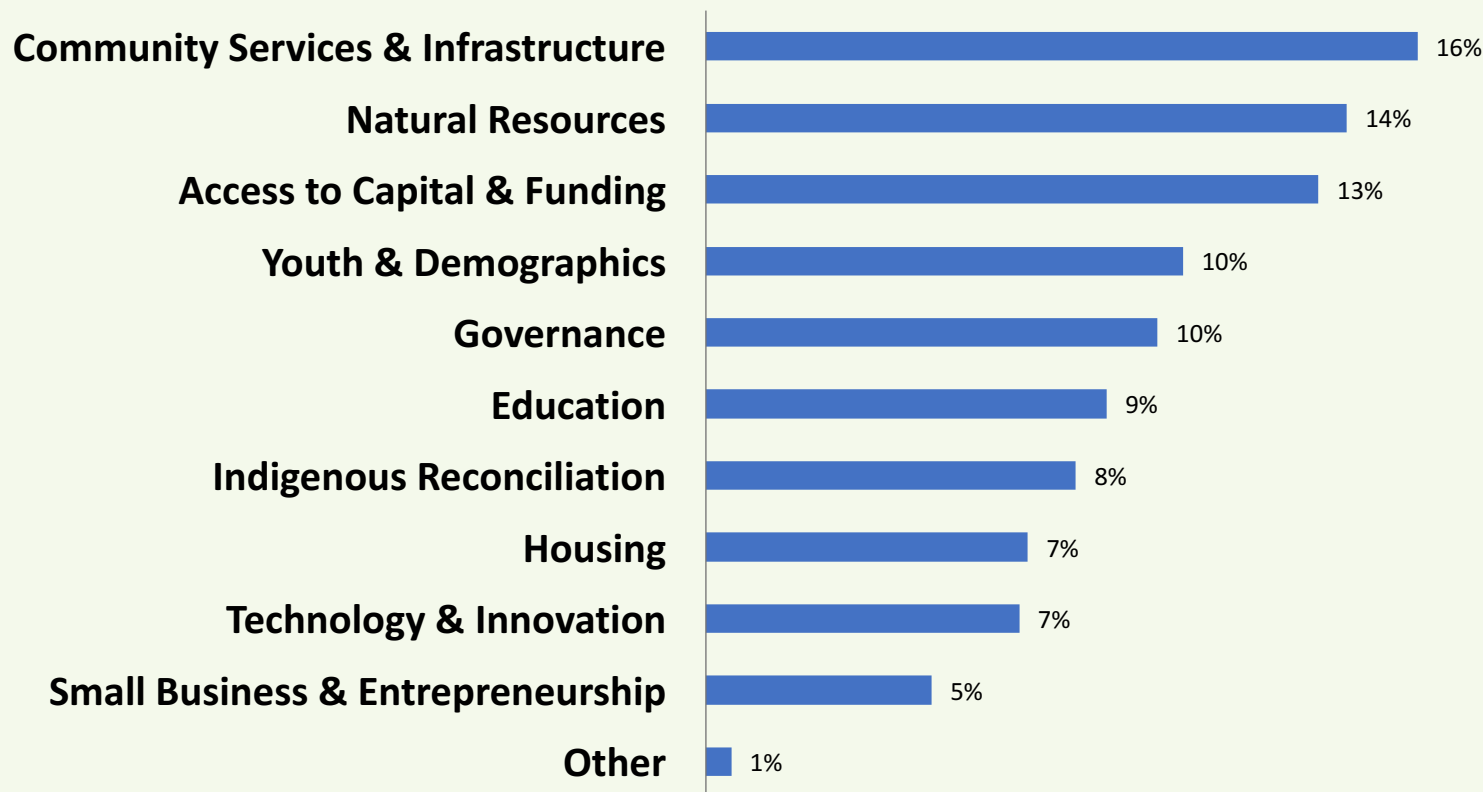
- Five moderated discussion forums:
  1. Attracting and retaining youth and young adults in rural communities.
  2. Developing meaningful partnerships between First Nations and non-First Nations communities.
  3. Strengthening rural community services and the role of technology.
  4. Supporting rural communities' access to capital to implement their own solutions.
  5. Diversifying rural economies; enhancing rural stewardship of land and natural resources.
- Submissions on a wide range of rural issues, including education, transportation, forestry, farming, investment models, and co-operatives.

# Rural Engagement Outcomes

- “*What We Heard*” Report to be released Spring 2018.
- <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraldevelopment/> for updates.

# Rural Engagement Results

## Common Themes





# Focus on: Forestry

Forests, lands and natural resources under the stewardship of the Province.

- Review of policies & practices
- Clarity of vision and goal
- Land Management

*“We need to move beyond traditional forestry practices to diversify manufacturing and fully utilize fibre.”*



# Focus on: Community Forestry

Forest licence managed by a local government, community group, First Nation, or combination of local governments, First Nations and community groups, for the benefit of the entire community.

- Governance
- Integrated management
- Wildland Urban Interface

*“We see so much potential for  
Community Forests”*



# Focus on: Value Added Manufacturing

All wood products, other than dimensional lumber, and the associated processes.

- Wood products
- Market Access
- Business Sustainability

*“We need new opportunities in manufacturing through the creation of new forest products.”*



# Focus on: Technology

Technologies such as renewable energy, innovation, broadband, internet, and telecommunications.

- Wood Fibre Utilization
- New Technology
- Broadband
- Telecommunications

*“Technology has the potential to be a catalyst for true innovation.”*



# Focus on: Indigenous Reconciliation

Advancing the government's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

- Training Programs
- Social Enterprise Model
- Access to Education

*“In the era of reconciliation there needs to be ways to recognize and uplift the Indigenous economy operating in rural and remote regions.”*





# Questions?