

Regional Advisory Committee & Spring Funding Intake Summary

For Release: June 10, 2025

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 6, 2025 by Zoom, the Regional Advisory Committee members recommended 28 projects for ETSI-BC funding of \$1M. This represents new investment in the region of \$2.8 million.

ETSI-BC FY2026 Spring Funding Intake Approvals by RAC Region

	# Projects	\$ Approved	% of Total
Columbia-Kootenay	13	\$484,000	48%
Thompson-Okanagan	15	\$516,000	52%
TOTAL	28	\$1,000,000	100%

These projects help build and diversify the region's economy, as part of the ETSI-BC FY2026 Spring 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 three First Nation communities and all 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 \$10.8 million in grant funding in support of its Strategic Pillars. This funding has supported projects valued at almost \$26 million that have helped create or maintain almost 23,300 jobs in the region.

"On behalf of the ETSI-BC Board, I am happy to share the outcomes of our FY2026 Spring Funding Intake," said Paul Donald, ETSI-BC Board Chair. "The projects selected this year will strengthen our region's economy, encourage new ideas, and support growth in our most important sectors."

ATTACHMENT 1

The following list of projects has been approved for funding by ETSI-BC, following the RAC recommendation made at the June 6, 2025 Joint RAC meeting.

ETSI-BC APPROVED FY2026 SPRING FUNDING INTAKE PROJECTS

Organization	Project Name	Approved	Total Project Value
Boston Bar Indian Band	Boston Bar FN Forij Forest Farms Feasibility Study	\$40,000	\$100,000
Central Interior Business Accelerator Society	Regional Innovation Hub: Expanding Technology, IP and Supply Chain Integrations	\$50,000	\$100,000
Central Kootenay Food Policy Council Society	Kootenay-Boundary Food Products Aggregation Pilot	\$50,000	\$140,000
Chase, Village of	Marketing Initiative for Business Attraction	\$25,000	\$30,000
Chawathil First Nation	Concept Plan and Economic Infrastructure Review for Hope IR#1	\$50,000	\$150,000
City of Greenwood	Greenwood Tourism Strategy Implementation Capacity	\$25,000	\$35,000
Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce	Co-Working Space Pilot Project	\$25,000	\$45,610
Community Futures Boundary	Boundary Economic Development Coalition	\$25,000	\$25,000
Community Futures North Okanagan	Rail Trail Readiness Program - North Okanagan/Shuswap	\$23,000	\$40,500
Community Futures Shuswap	Feasibility study for a Community Farm Cooperative	\$20,000	\$46,700
Community Futures South Kootenay	Imagine Kootenay: Regional Expansion	\$45,500	\$76,000
Creston, Town of	Creston Valley-Kootenay Lake Economic Action Partnership Governance Structure and Strategic Plan Update	\$35,000	\$99,500
Destination Osoyoos Development Society	South Okanagan Farm Trail Plan	\$45,000	\$75,000
District of Lake Country	Lake Country Business Park Area Structure Plan	\$55,000	\$460,000
Fernie Chamber of Commerce	Fernie Downtown Business Working Group	\$25,000	\$27,000
Fernie, City of	Elk Valley Gap Analysis	\$19,750	\$23,750
Golden Community Economic Development Society	Golden Area Investment Attraction Package	\$25,000	\$25,000
Kimberley Trails Society	Economic Impact Report & Future Opportunities of Kimberley Trails and Trail Initiatives	\$27,750	\$57,750
Kootenay Climbing Association	Cube 2.0: Regional Fund Development and Capital Investment Strategy	\$50,000	\$575,000
Ktunaxa Nation Council	Ktunaxa Business Showcase 2025	\$42,000	\$81,900
Lower Nicola Indian Band	Micro Algae Cultivation - Feasibility Study	\$35,000	\$100,000
Lumby, Village of	Lumby Industrial Park Marketing Plan	\$25,000	\$27,000
Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism	No Better Time No Better Place - An area A, Balfour and surround marketing initiative	\$24,000	\$34,792

Regional District of Central Okanagan	Okanagan Manufacturers' Alliance	\$60,000	\$107,500
Revelstoke, City of	RADAR - Rural Analysis for Diversification and Resiliency	\$40,000	\$105,000
Summerland Bottleneck Drive Winery Association	Summerland Wayfinding Project	\$63,000	\$147,240
Thompson Nicola Regional District	Community Grant Writer Pilot	\$25,000	\$35,000
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TOTALS		\$1,000,000	\$2,798,242