

May, 2009

Roni Holder-Diefenbach
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Carolyn Davis, Administrative
Assistant

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Okanogan

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Colville Confederated Tribes

Lael Duncan, 2nd Vice-Chair
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Okanogan

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Mgr. Sterling Savings Bank,
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Representative

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Kate Jones, Methow Arts Alliance
Arts Community Representative

Andy Lampe
County Commissioner

Kary Nichols
Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation

Jerome Thiele
Daily Business, Twisp

Mary Watson, Wenatchee Valley
College

Rich Watson, Lending Administrator
NCW Business Loan Fund

Tom Gehring
New Dimensions Painting, Twisp

Pam Leslie,
LM Energy Systems, Tonasket

Vacant
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Area Rep. #1

Vacant
Nespelem/Coulee Dam Area Rep. #2

The VISION

The Economic Alliance envisions the citizens and communities of Okanogan County working together to bring prosperity to all.

The MISSION

Form partnerships with Private, Government, and Tribal entities that will create an environment to nurture and support business and industry through:

- ** Gradual & controlled growth with proper planning, which protects the environment & rural atmosphere.
- ** Families & communities built on strong values & positive self-image of the individual.
- ** High quality public services provided at a reasonable cost.
- ** Respect for the diversity of cultural & recreational opportunities that abound in our regions.

Exactly what is Economic Development?

The International Development Council (IEDC) defines the term as a program, group of policies, or activity that seeks to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community, by creating and/or retaining jobs that facilitate growth and provide a stable tax base. Clearly there are a number of reasons why it is important to undertake economic development.

Why is Economic Development Important?

- Creating Jobs
- Increasing wealth and prosperity
- Expanding the tax base
- Improving the quality of life
- Stabilizing the Economy
- Revitalizing the community

If you ask the average person their definition of economic development, they'll tell you it's about one word: **JOBS**.

The Economic Alliance, Worksource Okanogan and the North Central Washington Workforce Development Council will be working together to strengthen the relationship between the business community and the Okanogan County workforce. We believe that we can do this by collaborating and providing information regarding services available to both the business sector and the job seekers. Ongoing collaboration through our Business Education classes, and Customized Job Service programs offered by both Worksource and WVC at Omak will meet the needs of our employers that are essential right now. At this time Worksource is offering a variety of classes that are also offered at a discount to our Okanogan County businesses. Classes such as QuickBooks and the Microsoft Office suite are offered at the local Worksource office. If you would like to attend these classes or would like more information regarding business education classes, contact Roni at 509-826-5107 or at rholderdiefenbach@economic-alliance.com.

NCW Business Loan Fund Update-by Executive Director Rich Watson

The North Central Washington Business Loan Fund is pleased to announce that we are the recipients of a \$100,000 award, by Wells Fargo Bank. While there are always many facets in receiving a national award like this, one of the key reasons we were awarded the funds was our partnerships and regional involvement. They viewed these partnerships as a major factor in helping ensure success.

Next, you may remember our hosting the SBA state and regional staff for presentations to the NCWEDD and to small businesses in Omak and Wenatchee. The positive impression created during that visit and the extent to which they saw regional cooperation and involvement through organizations such as NCWEDD, NCWBLF, the SBDCs, SCORE, Economic Alliance and others, prompted them to commit to additional training in this area. Specifically we are working to coordinate classes in becoming an 8A qualified company (preferences are given in government contracts to 8A qualified companies); surety bonding for small contractors and export/import financing programs (a key component to business growth in our region). Finally, their recognition of the growing opportunities in this region for smaller businesses led them to encourage the Loan Fund to become an SBA Micro-Lender. Should we elect to do that it would bring another \$1,000,000 in revolving loan fund money to the region and offer a much needed financing alternative for smaller businesses. Contact Rich at ncwloanfund@nwi.net for more info.



Prioritization Process & Public Facility Fund



Twisp Glover Street Project: Est. Construction start date April 27, 2009



Twisp Town Center-Acquired April 7, 2009 by the Twisp PDA

2009 Funding Awards

#1 Stampede Arena Redevelopment Project- City of Omak

\$20,000 annually City account
\$20,000 annually County account

#2 Acquisition of Forest Service Complex- Twisp PDA

\$30,000 Emerging Opportunity

#3 South Glover Street Project-

Town of Twisp
\$65,000.00

#4 Downtown Street Lighting Project-

Town of Winthrop
\$35,000.00

These Pictures reflect the projects selected in the 2009 funding cycle. We will continue to bring you updates on their progress as each brings an exciting opportunity to our Okanogan County municipalities.



Omak Stampede Grounds-Before Photo by Chad Short



Omak Stampede grounds during construction- Photo by Chad Short

Microsoft Elevate America comes to Washington State!

The information here will help you understand how to obtain vouchers to access the online training courses and exams you want and need.

Elevate America vouchers are being distributed through Washington State's WorkSource system. To receive a voucher, you'll need to be a current Washington State resident.

Before requesting a voucher, you'll need to choose a learning plan. If you're new to computers you don't need a voucher to access Digital Literacy and Window and Office Basics.

Visit Microsoft's **Elevate America** website and determine which course or exam best fits your skill level.

www.microsoft.com/About/CorporateCitizenship/US/CommunityInvestment/ElevateAmerica.aspx

A helpful visual is the Microsoft Learning Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Curriculum Roadmap at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/learning/education/roadmap/default.mspx>

Build Your IT Career Technical E-Learning Library*

- Web/Windows Developer MCPD, MCAD
- Support Technician MCDST, MCITP
- Database Administrator MCITP, MCDBA
- Systems Administrator MCSA
- Systems Engineer MCSE
- Enterprise Administrator MCITP
- Server Administrator MCITP
- Elevate America vouchers do not cover IT Certification Exams

**Get
Started**



**Basic Learning
No Voucher
Necessary!**

- Digital Literacy
- Windows and Office Basics

**Business Worker
Certification Learning
Plans and Exams**

- Microsoft Office Specialist (2003) MOS
- Microsoft Application Specialist (2007) MCAS

Courses are brought to you



**For More Information Contact
Worksource Okanogan at 509-826-7541
and speak to Robert Adams**

What needs to Exist?

When a business is researching relocation, expansion or business start-up, their main concern is how to increase business profitability and maximize their return on investment. There are a number of important issues to be considered:

- Wage rates
- Cost of utilities
- Transportation
- Local and state taxes
- Higher education resources

These companies may not choose the least expensive location, but they are definitely looking for the best value.

Another critical issue is the availability of trained or trainable labor. Companies need people to do the work. Primary industries seek communities which have a workforce that is either already trained in the industry or can be trained. Communities need to understand the importance of collaboration between economic development efforts and labor force training.

There needs to be a combination of responsive training for existing industries and proactive training for industries we want to grow or recruit.

However the most important aspect considered in site selection is available, existing sites, whether it is land or buildings. Economic development starts with real estate. The other issues described above don't come into play if there isn't available property. Because time is of the essence in so many industries, land is often not enough; they are seeking buildings. Infrastructure must be in place to service the industry, zoning must be appropriate for the industry seeking to locate, and permitting must be swift and reliable.

When considering infrastructure planning, it is important that the community employ a strategy to invest in infrastructure that will have the most economic impact. If a community is going to build, they must determine the benefits of doing so.

Because it is so expensive for companies to move, many communities and states have developed business incentives. These incentives make it less expensive for an industry to start operations. The return on investment from incentives is significant when considering job multipliers and increased tax revenues. With so many incentives available throughout the country, incentive programs for economic development activities are some of the most important investments a state can make.

Tough Economic Times

Successful economic development requires a combination of players such as EDOs, cities, counties, port districts, private sector firms, state agencies, workforce development and government. As state leaders, legislators need to continue to encourage economic development by providing funding capacity to invest in assets, like shovel-ready land, training, transportation systems, incentives and all the other issues outlined above which can affect a company's bottom line.

Healthy communities need your support to grow existing business and attract and recruit new businesses to Washington State. While the economic challenges are significant, it is important not to decrease the investment in economic development activities. Now is the time to invest.

Information provided by: Washington Economic Development Association

WEDA is a state-wide, non-profit association of private businesses, economic development councils, ports, governments and others committed to enhancing the state's climate for economic development. Contact WEDA at 1-800-718-1960 or by e-mail to: info@wedaonline.org. The website is: www.wedaonline.org.

What are companies looking for?





**NORTHWEST
NATIVE
DEVELOPMENT
FUND**

14 Moses Street · Nespelem, WA · 99155 · Phone: (509) 634-2624

April 21, 2009

Contact: Ted Piccolo (509) 634-2624

New access to capital and technical assistance coming soon

We would like to announce the formation of the Northwest Native Development Fund (NNDF), a Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Thanks to the initial generous contribution from the Colville Confederated Tribes in the amount of \$250,000, the NNDF has been created to provide new avenues of capital for Colville Tribal members, employees of the Tribe and it's enterprises, and members of other tribes.

Along with the access to other forms of capital the NNDF will also be offering and coordinating various technical assistance activities for qualified individuals.

The mission of the NNDF is to: *foster economic and financial independence for Native people by assisting in the development of personal assets through financial and entrepreneurial education as well as providing access to capital through creative lending products. NNDF will promote this mission by increasing home ownership and economic opportunities.*

As a non-profit corporation, the NNDF will be seeking more funding from other neighboring Tribes, the U.S. Treasury CDFI Fund, private foundations and other federal funding programs. With a goal of raising over \$7 million dollars in loan funds, through the first five years of operation.

"We are certainly not there yet," said Executive Director Ted Piccolo, *"but because of the forward looking vision of the Colville Business Council we have a running start."* The NNDF's first steps are to acquire more start up funding from other local Tribes and then to become a certified NCDFI by the fall of 2009.

"We hope to build partnerships with other lending institutions and technical service providers in order to aid customers in asset acquisition," said Piccolo.

The first loan products to come onto line will be:

- An employee loan program, intended to move individuals from the "Payday Loan" cycle.
- A small business "micro-loan" program
- A home ownership loan program.

The Okanogan County Tourism Council update!

Okanogan County Tourism Council (OCTC) has been working hard to promote Tourism in Okanogan Country. The OCTC markets tourism within the county and the adjoining area through its advertising, trade show participation, and with its website: www.okanogancountry.com.

The completion of the 40-page Okanogan Country Travel Planner Guide covers the whole county and beyond for adventures and attractions for visitors and residents as well. Many of these guides are on shelves in the Puget Sound area and in Canada to provide visitors with exceptional adventures at affordable prices. The OCTC Board of Directors and Marketing Committee are made up of volunteers and membership is open to all individuals, businesses, and organizations with an interest in Tourism. Your input and participation in OCTC activities are encouraged! If you would like more information about OCTC and upcoming activities or meetings, please call (509) 826-5107.



Save the date!

April 4 & 5, 2009-Washington Economic Development Association Spring Conference-Chelan WA
www.wedaonline.org

June 1, 2009-Washington Economic Development Commission-Omak Innovative Forum Koala Street Grill
1-4

Economic Alliance

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