



Bulkley Valley **Research Centre**

Request for Proposal

BVRC Project #13-25: Valley Vision – Seed Money for Engaging Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Widzin Kwah Valley in Planning Initiatives

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre (BVRC) is a non-profit Society that has been in existence since 2002. The BVRC's mission is to support high-quality scientific research and collaborations to advance better stewardship of our natural resources across the northwest. The BVRC also serves to ensure dissemination of information to the public.

The Centre plays a unique role in our region as a research bridging organization connecting natural resource management knowledge with communities, the public, First Nations, industry, government, and academia. By doing so, the BVRC creates the space for dialogue, learning, and adaptation. The BVRC also fosters partnerships and collaborations. These five core elements are needed for the fundamental paradigm shifts required for natural resource management in the 21st-century.

Valley Vision

Valley Vision was a public engagement vehicle started in 2007 by a group of individuals who wanted to connect Valley residents with planning processes and relevant information, so the residents could contribute to a long-term vision for the Valley and make a difference in how planning decisions were being made.

With direction from a steering committee and funding from a private sponsor, the Vallevision.ca website was created in 2007 under contract by local companies. Site content was managed from 2007 to 2011 by a combination of paid and volunteer efforts. Although the project met its original objectives and the website received positive feedback, the project was not able to transition to a sustainable operation supported by an entity that could provide the necessary funding and volunteers. Content on the website



has not been updated since early 2012. Since 2013, options for finding an owner for the site have been periodically explored to no avail.

Please refer to the old content on the still-accessible-but-out-of-date website for further background information.

Project Champion Needed

In a nutshell, the Valley Vision project needs a champion to revive the project in a more focused version. An essential component of a revitalized Valley Vision project will be a plan for ongoing support from funders and volunteers.

Our hope and expectation is that this RFP will tap into new sources of creativity and ignite new energy needed to take over this initiative.

2.0 STATEMENT OF WORK

Purpose

Valley Vision has scoped down and focussed their purpose to providing context and links to planning agencies and relevant initiatives such as the Skeena Knowledge trust and semi-annual updates to the public on planning initiatives, e.g. new issues, new advances, new plans.

The Project Champion will prepare a proposal for revitalizing a public engagement vehicle for planning in the Valley. The work will include providing content for a Valley Vision Program page on the BVRC website, including uploading relevant concepts and background information, as well as uploading ongoing semi-annual planning updates.

The successful Project Champion will be provided with \$10,000 seed money. In order to be awarded with the seed money, the Project Champion must submit a proposal indicating how s/he will use this seed money to secure additional funding required for the website content and semi-annual updates, as well as innovative ideas on how to revitalize Valley Vision as a public engagement vehicle.

The Project Champion will require understanding of past, current, and leading-edge planning processes that have potential benefits and impacts on Valley Residents.

The Project Champion will be enthusiastic about engaging citizens in planning initiatives. S/he will have creative ideas on a public engagement vehicle that is cost-effective, meaningful, regular and ongoing,



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and that optimizes the time required by the Champion and the public wishing to engage. Minimal time and effort for maximum value.

The Project Champion will be driven, experienced, and successful in obtaining the future and ongoing funds required for the longevity of this project.

PROPOSAL

The proposal must:

- Provide a brief outline of the intended approach including basic tasks, schedule of activities, and budget.
- Briefly describe the personnel of the project team, areas of responsibility, time allotted and charge out rates.
- Provide a brief description of any similar projects undertaken. Include the timeframe that the work was undertaken and key individuals involved in its completion.
- Provide a fundraising plan outlining how the seed money will be used to leverage further funding, including contingency plans should plans fail.

The proposal deadline is January 31, 2019.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The proposals will be evaluated by a committee consisting of representatives from the BVRC and the Valley Vision Steering Committee.

1. Demonstrated understanding of community engagement needs in planning processes /5
2. Demonstrated knowledge of meaningful community engagement /5
3. Demonstrated creativity and innovation in public engagement initiatives /5
4. Demonstrated success in fundraising... /5
5. Keeness, enthusiasm, and the drive to play a positive role in helping residents shape a desirable future vision .../5
6. Experience and qualifications of Project Champion and team members .../5
7. Convincing proposal.../30