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KEDC Seeks Private Sector Firms to Invest in Cranberries

KEDC, in partnership with the Cape Freels Development Association (CFDA) is seeking an expression of interest for private sector individuals to invest in Cranberry Farms within Zone 14.

KEDC and its partners will be holding a public information session this spring. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

This session will highlight the steps necessary for development, from initial site selection to business planning, funding and financing. Representatives from the Provincial Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency will be on hand to discuss the business case surrounding cranberry development in the region.

“Cranberry farm development has received significant interest and support from government and the general public” explains Jill Bennett, Executive Director with the Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation. “We’ve identified a number of individuals who are interested in developing and managing significant sized farms in the Kittiwake region,

and we’re looking for private sector firms to partner, or become involved to a greater degree.”

The Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation wishes to support the development of cranberry farms in the region and supports the cranberry commercialization strategy developed by the provincial government. As part of this strategy, the Department of Natural Resources’ Cranberry Industry Development Program is designed to offset the costs of developing the land. A subsidy of \$15,000.00 per acre is available.



KEDC Cranberry Information Session
 For more information or to register please call
 1-877-256-2595

KEDC Welcomes Doug Foley and Bev Burry to the Board

Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation is pleased to welcome Doug Foley and Bev Burry to its 2010 Board of Directors.

Mr. Doug Foley, Town of Gander, and Ms. Bev Burry, Town of Glovertown, will fill the positions of Large and Small Municipalities Representatives respectively. Mr. Foley, a returning Councilor from the Town of Gander will serve two years; a position that alternates every two years between Gander and Lewisporte. Ms. Burry will also fill her position for two years.

KEDC is looking forward to working with these individuals as they bring new perspectives to the economic development process.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to outgoing Large Municipal Representative, Mr. Lester

Watton, Town of Lewisporte, and Small Municipalities Representative Mr. Seymour Quinlan, Town of Birchy Bay. Thank you most sincerely for your time and commitment. KEDC appreciates the input your contribution has made to the community economic development process. All the best in your future endeavours.

KEDC would also like to encourage all stakeholders to communicate with their representatives so that they are kept up-to-date on the work being completed by KEDC’s Board and Staff. See www.kittiwake.nf.ca to view the board structure and to contact the office.

KEDC Gears up for 2010 Initiatives

With every year comes new and exciting opportunities, and 2010 will be no different for Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation. This year will see the continuation of some of KEDC's recent accomplishments as well as the addition of new initiatives that are mandated to stimulate economic activity within the Kittiwake Zone.

One of the initiatives KEDC will be continuing from the 2009 year will be the Exporting Project, which will continue to engage the Town of Lewisporte, fish processors, and freight carriers to explore the feasibility and/ or alternate mediums of exporting from Zone 14.

Natural Resources initiatives will be shifting gears this year to focus on a number of different projects, including a Cranberry Industry Development Program in Zone 14, a project assessing commercial uses for seafood

by-products, as well as a project to support and enhance the mining industry in the region.

In the Tourism Sector, KEDC will be working with a number of organizations and associations to advance various tourism objectives. These organizations include the Cape Freels Heritage Trust Inc., the Twillingate Islands Tourism Association, and the Carmanville Wetlands Interpretation Centre, to name a few.

KEDC will also continue to enhance partnerships in the Tourism sector, including the Central DMO, Destination Gander, Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, the Kittiwake Coast Tourism Association, the Road to the Beaches Tourism Association, the Shorefast Foundation, and the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation. KEDC looks forward to working with its partners as we move into the 2010 tourism season.



"We're excited to get working on the initiatives set out for 2010, it's going to be another great year for KEDC."

- Doug Churchill, President

KEDC AGM - April 21

KEDC will be holding its 14th Annual General Meeting on April 21, 2010.

For more information, please contact KEDC at kedc@nfld.net or 1-877-256-2595.



Regional
Economic
Development
Boards

Fogo Island Change Islands Agricultural Co-operative Formed

There is a new producer co-operative formed on the Northeast Coast of Newfoundland. The Fogo Island Agricultural Cooperative Inc. represents 29 members, consisting of farmers, retailers, and other businesses. Incorporated in November 2009, a seven member board of directors has been formed to oversee the organization. This co-op aims to create a sustainable agriculture industry on the Islands (Fogo Island and Change Islands) with a focus on high quality, and possibly organic food products. The mandate of this co-op is to develop or re-develop suitable agriculture land on the Islands, continue to support community gardening and food storage, and organize agricultural events and local farmers markets.

The co-op wishes to increase self-sufficiency over the agriculture industry by reducing the amount of food imports to the Islands. Currently, the Islands import approximately \$1.2 million in vegetables annually.

Co-operatives are not new concepts for Fogo Islanders. The Fogo Island Co-operative Society was formed in 1967 as a means to create a sustainable economy in the area. Following a process of community self-discovery now known worldwide as 'The Fogo Process', fishers formed the Fogo Island Co-operative Society, a community based enterprise on which the economy of the Island was built. Today, Fogo Island and the Co-op are a major force in the

international fish harvesting community with a 30 vessel fleet and three fish processing plants.

"Co-operatives are excellent business models where community stakeholders can pool their knowledge and resources, and ultimately become a strong force in the business community" explains Stephen Moss, Economic Development Officer with KEDC. "Co-ops have much greater survivability when compared to other ventures, they are successful because they are owned by local people who are committed to the organizations success."

KEDC is pleased to see the development co-operatives in the region, and looks forward to working with them as they move forward.

The Fogo Island Change Islands Agricultural Co-operative Society Inc., is accepting interested members, both on and off the Islands, to support their process. For more information, please contact Eddy Oake, Chair, at 709-266-2636, or Uriel Budden, Vice-Chair, at 709-627-3462.

The Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Co-operatives (NLFC) is the central agency representing the collective interests of the co-operative business sector in the province. The NLFC promotes the co-operative business model and supports the growth and development of co-op enterprise. For more information, please visit www.nlfc.coop.