



Peter Haubrich <oric.hq@gmail.com>

News from the Economic Development Commission - September 22, 2008

Economic Development Commission <edc@reply.enevision.com>

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OKANAGAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE PROVIDES INCUBATOR FOR TECHNOLOGY STARTUPS



Recent funding for the non-profit Okanagan Research and Innovation Centre (ORIC) to open a new Kelowna location in November, will nurture the valley's reputation as a Silicon Vineyard, a centre for high-tech research, development and manufacturing.

ORIC's mission is to seek out promising start-up companies and support them as they grow into successful businesses, provide high-paying jobs and create a stronger economy for the Okanagan region. ORIC already has one incubator up and running at the National Research Council's White Lake Observatory in Kaledon, near Penticton. Funding for the new Kelowna location is provided by the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT).

ORIC has already helped two companies, RFind Systems and Pro-Active Safety Systems Technologies transform their ideas into successful, rapidly growing companies. Two additional start-ups are signed on: VeriCorder Technologies Inc., and Vineyard Networks Inc.

ORIC President Peter Haubrich says the organization's ability to expand into Kelowna is "A critical step in transforming and diversifying the Okanagan economy."



National Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition May 11 to 14, 2009 – Kelowna

This internet-based business planning competition for Aboriginal youth in Grades 10 through 12 is designed to provide participants with valuable skills needed in today's marketplace. Participants will develop an awareness of entrepreneurship and e-commerce and be exposed to the business planning process. The competition also involves cash prizes, special milestone prizes, national and regional recognition and a competition awards event.

Registration deadlines for various award categories start at October 20, 2008.

For more information on ORIC go to www.oric.ca

PUBLIC FORUM

The Changing Face of Kelowna - Are We Ready?

Thursday, September 25

**Location: "The PIT" at Okanagan College, beside the KLO
Campus Theatre, 1450 KLO Road**

You are invited to attend the Public Forum that marks the culmination of the project: *The Changing Face of Kelowna: Are We Ready?*

After months of research, interviews and focus group meetings, the project leaders will share the results and welcome public input to creating an Action Plan.

12 to 1 pm - Presentation of the report and response from city, business, education and community leaders. Guest panelists include Mayor Sharon Shepherd, the Economic Development Commission's Robert Fine, the University of British Columbia-Okanagan's Carlos Teixeira; the Intercultural Society Central Okanagan's Joyce Brinkerhoff and Cyril Moore.

1 to 2 pm - Participate in strategizing an action plan with other community leaders.

**For more information contact
Joyce Brinkerhoff at (250) 861-1379
or jbrinker@shaw.ca**

OCTOBER 20, 2008.

For more information go to

www.bdc.ca/espirit

or call

Dianna Hudson at (204) 983-4477
or Cheryl Watson, (204) 983-3993.

Sixth Annual Lake Country Business Excellence Awards

***Nomination Deadline:*
Monday, October 6**

***Gala Awards Dinner:*
Thursday, October 16th - 6 pm
Gray Monk Estate Winery in the
Grapevine Restaurant**

Take a moment to recognize a business or person in Lake Country that has impressed you with their character, dedication, innovation, community commitment and/or service. Nomination forms can be accessed online at www.lakecountrychamber.com by clicking on the awards tab.

**Tickets are \$60 and available at
the Chamber office, #40 - 9522
Main Street, Lake**

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