



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

New Economic Development Professional Certification Available

PENTICTON, B.C., May 8, 2024 – Brian Coombes, Chair of the British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA), announced the launch of the Certified Economic Development Professional of British Columbia (CEDP.BC) certification today. This new British Columbia certification program marks a significant milestone in the economic development field.

The CEDP.BC certification prioritizes practical skills over rigid educational requirements. It recognizes the diverse and interdisciplinary nature of the community and economic development sector, as Economic Development Officers fall under code 41402 - Business development officers, market researchers, and analysts in the National Occupation Classification, the CEDP.BC aims to address the need for certified professionals in this field, potentially influencing future classification updates.

This certification program aims to encompass a wide range of industry-relevant practices, including community development, business development, traditional economic development, and related professions. Participation in the certification process will be optional, providing professionals with an opportunity to enhance their skills and credentials.

Established in 1981, BCEDA has been at the forefront of economic development in British Columbia, supporting practitioners and community leaders across various economic development activities. "The introduction of the CEDP.BC certification is an important step as BCEDA works to bridge the gap in provincial certification programs, while emphasizing the importance of integrating economic development into every community in the Province. This unique certification program will ensure that EDOs have new tools for skills advancement in all aspects of economic development practices," said Brian Coombes, Chair of BCEDA.

The CEDP.BC certification will:

- Assist Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in building economic capacity by ensuring professionals meet a minimum standard of expertise and knowledge.
- Establish a standard for ongoing professional development in this vital community role.
- Enhance recognition for economic development professionals by providing a baseline credential for employment in the community and economic development sectors.
- Collaborate with existing certifying bodies nationally and internationally, including CANDO, EDAC, and IEDC.

Further information on CEDP.BC certification will be released over the next few months, with an official launch on August 1, 2024. The first official mandatory course, Economic Development Leadership



Learning Exchange, will be held in Nanaimo from October 20 to 22, 2024. Participants of this course in the past five years will have that attendance automatically added to the requirements for certification.

To discover more of BCEDA's economic development initiatives, please visit www.bceda.ca

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About BCEDA

The BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is the leading professional association of economic development practitioners in the Province of BC. BCEDA currently has over 450 members from communities throughout the province. BCEDA provides services that help member communities grow and expand new and existing businesses, attract new business investments, and work towards strategic infrastructure investment, land use planning, and community enhancement. BCEDA services include an annual summit and networking event, educational and professional development opportunities, public relations, advisory services and resources and partnering with communities and the Province of BC to market British Columbia for business investment.