

What is a Community in Bloom?

Scattered throughout British Columbia there are many excellent examples, and they are not all located in typical tourist areas!

CiB is a community enhancement program to inspire pride and to celebrate uniqueness and galvanize residents to be part of the solution.

Assessing a community on its tidiness effort, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, floral displays and landscape areas with community involvement as the thread that runs through each criterion, is what makes this program valuable to our participants.

Having the unique CiB criteria to follow creates a focus and deadline to affect real change.

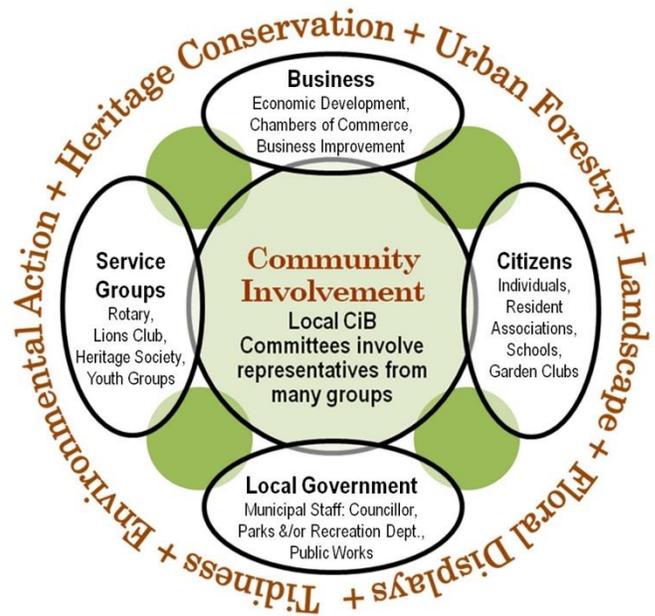
Local committees will build a team of volunteers with varied backgrounds: landscape professional, urban planner, master gardener, media, economic development, chamber of commerce or business owner, parks and recreation, public works, Mayor or Councillor all working together to help their community.

It also provides recognition for local volunteers that go under the radar: garden clubs, trail groups, cemetery historians, or the local that picks up litter while walking his dog.

Every community has champions that contribute to making their area better. The Communities in Bloom program provides a place to recognize these efforts.

THERE ARE THREE PARTICIPATION LEVELS TO THE CiB PROGRAM: Provincial, National and International. At the provincial level: municipal participants are assessed against themselves to improve their bloom score through the annual evaluation. It may take 3 to 5 years to achieve 5-Blooms. Once a community has achieved this level, they may choose to enter the National CiB program to compete against other 5-Bloom communities of similar population size from across Canada. Some have gone onto International competition.

Each province has their own Provincial Edition and in 2005, BC Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) was formed as a not-for-profit society to support our volunteers who give their time as specialists in horticulture, parks and recreation, municipal management and community engagement.



At the heart of our organization is our team of dedicated volunteers who bring a wealth of experience to our society as judges, board and committee members in addition to representing their geographical region.

Our provincial program (BC CiB) focuses on three main events:

A spring training workshop to prepare new and returning judge/facilitators and board members.

Summer evaluations (typically the third week in July), coordinating the travel of multiple pairs of facilitators to various regions of the province to evaluate registered participants over a 24 to 48-hour period.

Annual Provincial Awards and Conference weekend. Hosted in the early fall by a CiB community. This is an educational opportunity for all participants to network and culminates in the awards evening where the BC CiB society present bloom certificates and reports.

The CiB program works at its absolute best when it is a collaborative effort made up of a variety of key stakeholders.

Budgeting: Some communities have had luck with planning a multi-year municipal budget while others create a CiB or beautification society to spearhead their CiB fundraising efforts. The biggest challenge for any group is when there is only one sector driving the effort.

With over 25 years of Communities in Bloom in Canada, we are encouraged to see former 5-Bloom national participants registering back in the provincial program to engage a new group of volunteers in People, Plants & Pride... Growing Together!

NOVICE Deadline: April 30 [Registration Form](#)



NOVICE WORKSHOP

How to participate:

The purpose of this program is to supply information on how to become an 'in Bloom' community. It is an audit process designed to help new participants at an early stage when they are forming committees and to provide an overview to help maximize efforts and resources. Communities in Bloom is a proven and cost-efficient community enhancement program. Please see the registration form for additional information on costs.

NOVICE WORKSHOP with COMMUNITY CHECK-UP is for municipalities of any size, NFP groups or Neighbourhood Associations who want to engage residents and aspire to improve their community through future CiB evaluations.

Workshop with a pair of BC Communities in Bloom facilitators to:

- Meet online with you and your team to supply a direct face to face explanation of the program.
- Present a short PowerPoint and talk about what the program can do for your community.
- Explain how the CiB evaluation process helps a community inventory the positive and areas for improvement.
- Explain how the **Evaluation Form**, **Evaluation Tour** and **Community Profile Book** all work together to maximize getting the most out of the CiB program for subsequent years.
- Help the Novice Participant identify potential partnerships and work with existing groups to profile all aspects of the community.
- Plan to give feedback on three of 6 criteria with an online meeting follow-up.

Communities should be prepared to:

- Meet online with potential advisors, committee members and BC CiB regional mentors via video call.
- Meet for 2-hours with up to 10 people who represent some criteria: heritage, horticulture, business etc.
- Receive feedback on 3 of 6 criteria with an online meeting follow-up. Supply photos or video with write-ups.

Additional Considerations for Community:

- Pay a modest registration fee based on population size (please see the 2021 Registration form for details).
- No Community Profile Binder to create or Evaluation Tour to plan (or judges to host) which means a Bloom Rating will not be awarded, but your committee will have a clear idea of how to proceed with an evaluation for the following year.
- Community will be profiled as a participant in the CiB program: map, website, social media and fall awards.

Scheduling Timeline:

- **Mid Spring** Register and lay the groundwork for your CiB committee. Arrange additional meeting if necessary.
- **Late Summer** Present your best criteria as photos and write-ups, then plan to review with CiB Facilitators.

Communities of all sizes are welcome to participate
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