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Published by:  
**DEL Communications Inc.**  
[www.delcommunications.com](http://www.delcommunications.com)

President  
David Langstaff

Publisher  
Jason Stefanik

Editor  
Lyndon McLean  
[lyndon@delcommunications.com](mailto:lyndon@delcommunications.com)

Advertising Sales Manager  
Dayna Oulion  
TF: 1-866-424-6398

Advertising Sales  
Ross James  
Dan Roberts  
Anthony Romeo  
Michelle Raike  
Gary Seamans

Production services provided by:  
S.G. Bennett Marketing Services  
[www.sgbennett.com](http://www.sgbennett.com)

Art Director  
Kathy Cable

Layout  
Dana Jensen

Advertising Art  
Dave Bamburak

Cover photo courtesy of Matt Fraser.

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Publications mail agreement #40934510  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
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Suite 300, 6 Roslyn Road  
Winnipeg, MB R3L 0G5



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# MESSAGE FROM THE RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## A YEAR OF CHANGE

The last year has been a tumultuous one in many respects.

Massive fires throughout the summer hit the economy hard. It will take years to recover from the devastation they left behind.

We saw natural gas shortages, due to the supply issue that arose from the pipeline rupture in Prince George.

Pipelines have been rejected/purchased by government, leading to future uncertainty in this sector.

On the forestry front, fluctuations in lumber prices in B.C. saw prices hit almost records highs, only to fall to almost record lows.

Metal prices have followed suit and continue to fluctuate, although there appears to be more strength in the mining industry at the moment.

On the good news front, the \$40 billion LNG Canada project has been confirmed. This will lead to a booming construction boost for the north. BC Hydro's Site C construction project continues to fuel the economy of the Peace River area with jobs and demand for services.

Closer to home, we're happy to report that 2018 saw the launch of RCN's new website. The new site provides more opportunities to access information, connect, review upcoming activities, list corporate information, advertise – and more. Visit <https://resourceconnector.ca> to review the site first hand.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

While 2018 may have been a year of ups and downs, 2019 is shaping up to be a year of potential. There is promising growth ahead for the construction industry. There is a chance to rebuild and restructure in the lumber industry. And there is steady growth projected for the mining sector, with a couple mines looking to reopen

Other news for 2019 is RCN's continuous focus on improvement. Moving forward, RCN remains committed to improving B2B connections. Our board continues to be strong and will hopefully become stronger still, as new volunteers come forward to offer their support. As always, we welcome those who can help shape the future of RCN.

The next year promises to be an interesting one and RCN remains committed to helping you navigate your way.

Here's to success in 2019 – and beyond.



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# KEY THOUGHTS ON TRADE DISRUPTION

By the Honourable James Carr,  
Minister of International Trade Diversification



Government  
of Canada

## WHAT CAN BUSINESSES DO TODAY TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACT OF TARIFFS AND INSTABILITY WITH THE U.S.?

Expanding our market diversification and providing opportunities for local businesses and hard-working Canadians is a top priority for the Government of Canada.

Increased trade and investment—facilitated by trade agreements, such as the recently negotiated Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the recent application of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), —present enormous opportunities for Canadian businesses to diversify markets.

Thanks to trade diversification, companies operating in Canada will have preferential market access through 14 trade agreements, to 51 countries. That's nearly 1.5 billion consumers with combined GDP of US\$49.3 trillion. We encourage businesses to seize these opportunities.

## WHAT NEW MARKETS CAN/SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT PURSUE?

The Government of Canada is committed to creating the most favourable conditions for Canadian businesses to compete internationally. Free trade agreements (FTAs) and foreign investment promotion and protection agreements (FIPAs) between Canada and our trading partners are creating new opportunities for Canadian businesses.

Opening new markets around the world increases the number of opportunities for Canadian businesses to sell

their innovative, high-quality products and services while creating well-paying jobs for middle-class Canadians across the country.

As Minister Carr has said, Canada needs more of our innovative business leaders and entrepreneurs engaged in trade and pursuing new and fast-growing markets around the world. Canada is rapidly becoming the most connected country in trade. Whether it is across the Atlantic or the Pacific, we are creating the right conditions for more Canadians to compete and succeed on the world stage.

## WHAT RETALIATORY MEASURES ARE APPROPRIATE?

The countermeasures implemented by Canada on July 1st are a measured, perfectly reciprocal, dollar-for-dollar response to the illegal U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum.

## HOW LONG CAN THIS GO ON?

Canada will remove those countermeasures as soon as the U.S. removes its illegal tariffs.

## WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED BROADER IMPACT TO THE ECONOMY AND CONFIDENCE?

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# NORTHERN MINE UPDATE

By Deb Smith



## BRUCEJACK MINE DELIVERS

The underground Brucejack Mine, located north of Stewart, produces approximately 2,700 tonnes-per-day of high-grade gold. With its year-round access road, fully grid-powered operations, and camps with diesel backup, nothing is slowing it down.

In the first year of operation, the mine produced 339,000 ounces of gold, and the owner of Brucejack, Pretium Resources, expects a total 2018 gold production of between 387,000 and 407,000 ounces.

“Brucejack delivered another profitable quarter in a declining gold price environment, which speaks to the robust economics of the mine,” said President and CEO Joseph Ovsenek in Pretium’s November 8, 2018 press release. Ovsenek notes that earnings from the mine have

built a cash balance of over \$190 million, on track to refinancing construction debt facility and repurchasing the precious metals stream by year-end without issuing equity.

In the third quarter of 2018, Brucejack production totalled 92,641 ounces of gold and 95,741 ounces of silver, both up from the same quarter in the previous year. Mill feed grade averaged 12.4 grams per tonne gold, also up from 2017 at 10.5 grams per tonne gold.

Mine development remained at a rate of approximately 700 metres per month as the mine’s grade control program is underway and fully operational. It is anticipated that the sequence of the mine plan and availability of stopes for optimal blending will continue to narrow the range of grade variability as development advances.





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## IT'S BEEN A STRUGGLE, BUT MOUNT POLLEY CONTINUES TO PRODUCE

Mount Polley, an open-pit copper/gold mine with an underground component, is owned and operated by Mount Polley Mining Corporation, a subsidiary of Imperial Metals Corporation and in operation since 1997.

After a Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) breach in August 2014, all work was suspended for two years into the summer of 2016, when the mine received government authorization to resume operation; however, investigation into the breach continues with hearings scheduled for next year.

Meanwhile, on May 23, 2018, the unionized employees at the mine went on strike for 71 days, returning to mining operations in August. Work in the Cariboo pit restarted, and the mill no longer had to rely on low-grade stockpiles. Estimates put completion of the Cariboo pit toward the end of the year, at which time the mill would continue

processing the low-grade stockpiles into mid-2019.

Dredging to remove tailings from the Springer pit is expected to be completed by the end of the 2019 first quarter.

According to Imperial's *Third Quarter Production Results Report*, October 18, 2018, the mine produced 2.60 million pounds of copper and 7,748 ounces of gold during the September 2018 quarter. This represents a decrease of 32 per cent and 15 per cent respectively from the second quarter.

Mill throughput averaged 15,145 tonnes per calendar day with metal recoveries at 38.39 per cent copper and 65.06 per cent gold.

Mount Polley 2018 production targets have been revised to an estimated 15.6 million pounds of copper and 39,500 ounces of gold. This is about 87 per cent of the mid-point production target totals set in early 2018.

## RED CHRIS GOING DEEPER

In the northwest, 80 kilometres south of Dease Lake, the Red Chris copper/gold mine has been in operation since July 2015. Owned by Red Chris Development Company Ltd. (RCDC), a subsidiary of Imperial Metals Corporation, the open-pit mine currently focuses on activities in the Main zone.

Mill throughput averaged 30,544 tonnes per calendar day during the third quarter ending September 30, 2018. Metal production for the same quarter was 13.55 million pounds of copper and 8,741 ounces of gold, a decrease of 31 per cent and increase of four per cent respectively from the comparable 2017 quarter. Gold recoveries and grade continue to exceed budget, while copper recoveries continue to be lower than planned; however, as stated in the company's *Third Quarter Production Results Report*, "As mining activities progress deeper into phase 4 of the Main zone pit, the copper recovery is increasing."

As a result, Red Chris 2018 production targets were revised to an estimated 61.9 million pounds of copper and 43,200 ounces of gold – approximately 83 per cent of the copper production targets totals set in early 2018 and 135 per cent of the gold targets. ●

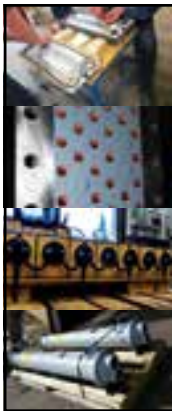


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# NEW GOLD'S BLACKWATER PROJECT MOVES AHEAD



2018 Fall Reclamation program L to R: Sean Symes, Tahtsa Timber, Joeleane Hall, Polar Medical Services, Martha Cahoose, Ulkatcho First Nation Arnold Boyd, Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation

New Gold Inc. is proposing the Blackwater Gold Project (the “Project”), an open pit gold and silver mine located approximately 160 kilometres southwest of Prince George and 110 kilometres southwest of Vanderhoof. If approved, the proposed mine has the potential to be a significant employer and economic generator to the region and the province.

Last month, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency concluded a public comment period on their draft *Environmental Assessment Report* and on potential conditions that may be applied and would be legally binding if the Project is approved. The public comment period ran from November 14 to December 14, 2018 and was the

final public comment period in the environmental assessment process.

With completion of the public comment period, the Environmental Assessment Report will be finalized in consideration of comments received and provided to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change for decision.

Provincially, New Gold voluntarily requested a temporary suspension to the BC environmental assessment process in August of 2016 to allow for additional time to address questions related to water quality, to re-route portions of its transmission line and to respond to comments regarding caribou.

New Gold is committed to developing an environmentally sound project that makes a positive contribution to

the region. In response to previous feedback from the environmental assessment working group, New Gold made several key changes to the Project, including:

- Re-routing a portion of the transmission line to follow more existing linear infrastructure, reduce impacts to animals, and address concerns raised by Indigenous groups;
- Reducing the mine footprint area to minimize impacts on the natural environment;
- Reducing mine water requirements by maximizing mine water recycling; and
- Proposing additional mine water treatment prior to release of clean water to the environment.



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2018 Winter Survey L to R: Daryl Sulin, Ulkatcho First Nation, and Clayton Jimmie, Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation

These changes are part of New Gold's ongoing efforts to be a full partner in the community and the region since it acquired the Project in 2011. New Gold has made significant efforts to work closely with communities to make a positive contribution to the region. New Gold has established and meets regularly with a Community Leaders group, which is comprised of elected officials from the regional districts and local mayors in the project region. This committee facilitates communication on the Project status and company updates. New Gold also established a Community Liaison Committee (CLC), comprised of representatives from around the region to explore ways to maximize the benefits and opportunities the Project would bring to the local region. New Gold has met regularly with the CLC, hosted several workshops with local economic development

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New Gold has established and meets regularly with a Community Leaders group, which is comprised of elected officials from the regional districts and local mayors in the project region.

officers, held citizens forums in collaboration with the College of New Caledonia, met regularly with stakeholders and held three rounds of open houses in six communities.

New Gold also established environmental assessment capacity funding agreements with Indigenous groups potentially impacted by the Blackwater Project, which provide capacity funding for Indigenous groups to hire independent technical experts to meaningfully participate in the environmental assessment process.

If approved, the Blackwater Gold Project will have an estimated capital cost of US \$1.6 billion. The two- to three-year construction period will require a workforce

of 1,200 to 1,500 people. The Project would employ 500 people to operate the mine and will directly and indirectly contribute to the creation of a total of 9,250 jobs. New Gold is committed to maximizing local community and Indigenous employment and committed to recruiting and retaining a local workforce by investing in skills development. At both our Rainy River and New Afton Mines, they have worked to prepare local communities and Indigenous groups for jobs. New Gold is proud of its success in this area, as evidenced by the Rainy River Mine in Ontario, which has 73 per cent local employment, 32 per cent of which are Indigenous peoples, and the New Afton Mine

near Kamloops, which has 78 per cent local employment, 23 per cent of which are Indigenous peoples.

New Gold is an intermediate gold mining company. The company has a portfolio of three producing assets in top-rated jurisdictions. The New Afton and Rainy River Mines in Canada, and the Cerro San Pedro Mine in Mexico (which transitioned to residual leaching in 2016), provide the company with its current production base. In addition, New Gold owns 100 per cent of the Blackwater project located in Canada. New Gold’s objective is to be the leading intermediate gold producer, focused on the environment and social responsibility. ●



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# WIND ENERGY UPDATE

By Deb Smith

## THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING

Today, across northern British Columbia, four large wind farms continue to crank out electricity, helping BC Hydro meet the needs of the province's many commercial operations and almost five million residents.

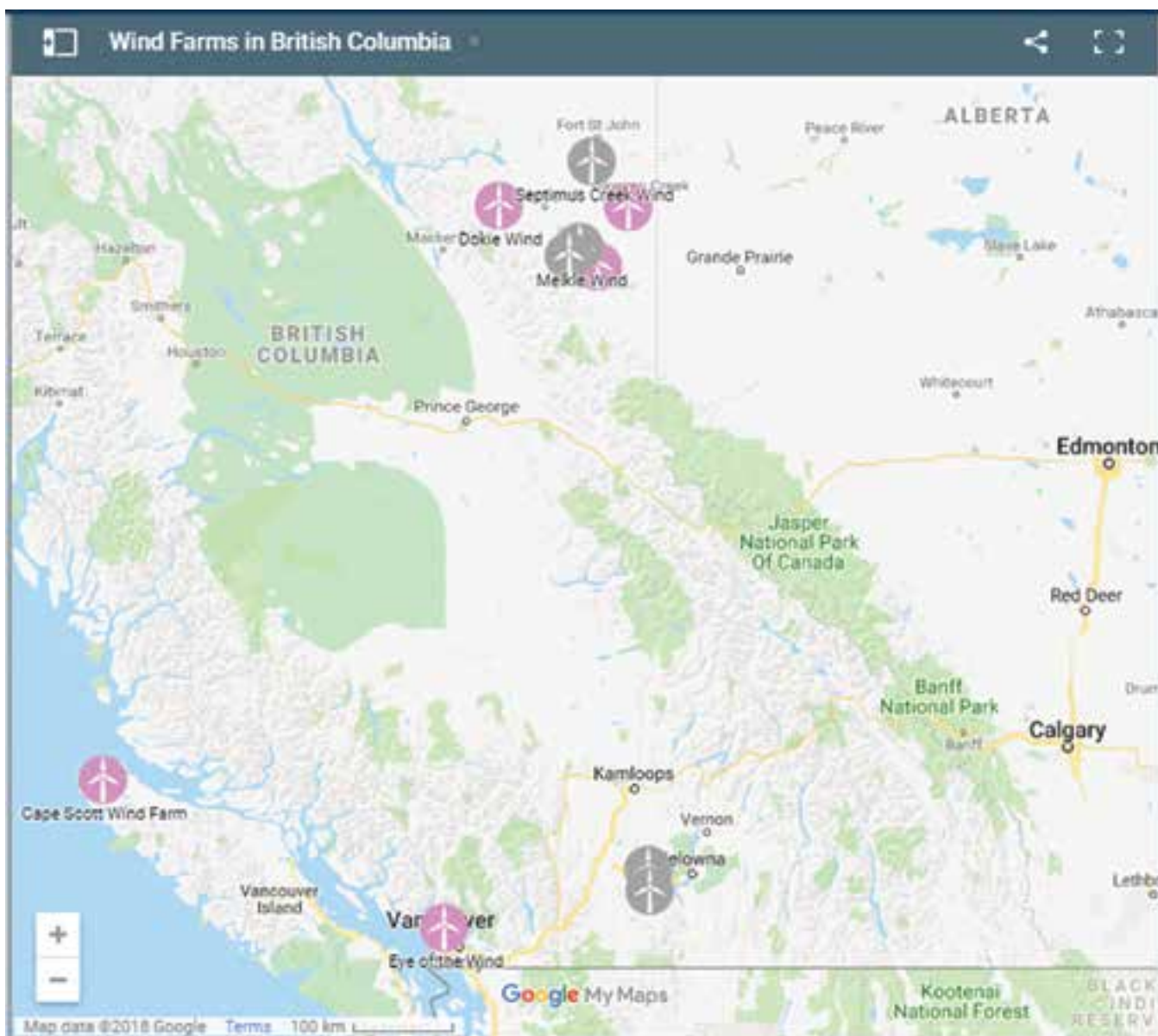
The first fully operational facility in B.C. was the Bear Mountain

Wind Park, put online in 2009 by its owner AltaGas with 102 megawatts (MW) of capacity generated from the winds near Dawson Creek – enough to power most of the South Peace region.

Two years later, the Dokie Ridge Wind Farm near Chetwynd, north of Tumbler Ridge in the Peace region, contributed its even larger capacity of 144 MW. Owned by Alterra Power, the

48 3.0MW Vestas with V90 turbines are fulfilling the 25-year power purchase agreement (PPAO) with BC Hydro that won't expire until 2036.

In the same area, Capital Power brought its 142-megawatt the Quality Wind Project into production in 2012 with its 79 1.8MW Vestas. Through BC Hydro, this project will be able to supply the annual electricity needs of 43,000 homes.



Last year, in 2017, the largest wind facility to date went into operation when Pattern Energy Group LP (Pattern Development) completed the 184.6 MW Meikle Wind Project near Tumbler Ridge. Sixty-one GE wind turbines generate enough clean energy to power up to 54,000 homes in the province. According to the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CANWEA), the addition of this fourth facility expands British Columbia's total installed wind capacity to 673.6 MW.

#### **FUTURE WIND POWER PROJECTS ANTICIPATED**

In November 2018, the Provincial Government released its Clean BC climate and clean growth plan, a strategy aiming to move B.C. 75 per cent of the way to meeting its 2030 emissions-reduction targets.

On its website, Clean Energy BC, the province's industry sustainable energy association, has applauded this plan as it will provide new opportunities for further clean energy projects in the future. "This represents an opportunity for Canada and British Columbia to contribute to the reduction of global emissions and to support Canada's commitments under the Agreement."

Jae Mather, executive director of Clean Energy BC, has calculated that the province's "electrification" plans will require about 50 per cent more electricity production than it now has in order to meet demand in 2030. Meanwhile, the huge Site C hydroelectric dam, once in operation in 2024, will handle only about 10 per cent of that need.

As a result, the many wind, solar, and run-of-river projects that were put on hold when the Site C dam was approved may soon be brought back into the future of the grid. ●

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# RESOURCE CONNECTOR NORTH CONNECTS BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND PROJECTS IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA – ONLINE!

By Taryn Rittberg

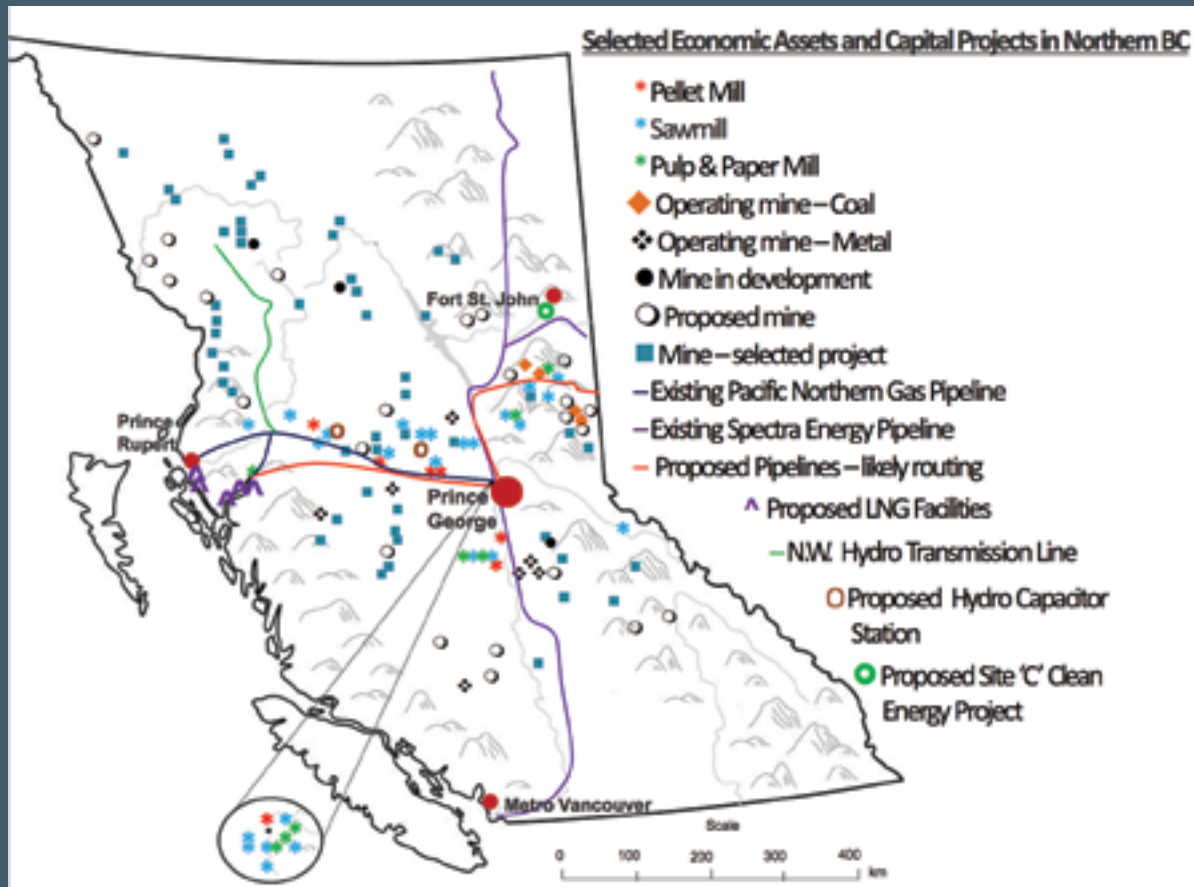
Connecting business, industry, and projects in northern British Columbia, Resource Connector North (RCN) has a new website – [resourceconnector.ca](http://resourceconnector.ca) – created by Sticky Wicket Designs. The site provides search capabilities for both industry personnel and laypersons alike, dispense industry news, and compile a composite

directory and classifieds search engines.

RCN produces an annual business directory and supply guide to encourage northern British Columbia businesses to connect with each other and access information about local projects. All that information is available on the website, and the classifications page makes finding

what you're looking for easy. With 255 classified categories – over 400 linked resources – RCN's site provides a powerful resource. Whatever industry you are from, whatever you are looking for, RCN is the place to start.

RCN's mission is to promote economic growth in B.C.'s natural resource sector for the benefit of all British Columbians, with a vision to



Services range throughout all of British Columbia, with major efforts to recruit members in Northern B.C.

serve business and industry related to natural resource development.

“We are a conduit of connectivity between business and natural resource sectors by delivering services and products, creating an environment of exchange of trade and supporting investment in Northern British Columbia,” reads RCN’s vision and mission statement.

Want to find out about upcoming industry events? RCN’s site has a place for that too. With information on networking events and sponsored events, it’s easy to find ways to connect. Have an event you want to submit? Find the easy-to-fill-out form under the events tab, and you’re off to a great start!

If all of this sounds enticing, visit the membership page. Submit your information online and you’ll be contacted by the association. Once you join, your information can be accessed through the website search engine and membership listings. All RCN members are listed on the website and within the directory.

Along with the business directory, RCN publishes an annual magazine featuring current projects and developments in northern British Columbia. Both publications are distributed throughout B.C., and RCN attends various key industry trade shows throughout the province and encourages participants to attend networking opportunities. The RCN board hosts networking events to encourage communication and partnerships in the North.

The RCN brings together businesses small and large, and the resource sector, to promote diversity and opportunities throughout Northern B.C.

For more information about the association, as well as advertising opportunities, please visit [resourceconnector.ca](http://resourceconnector.ca). ●



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# PRINCE RUPERT FAIRVIEW CONTAINER TERMINAL CONTINUES TO EXPAND

By Mark Halsall

**T**hanks to major infrastructure investments in recent years, the Port of Prince Rupert is one of North America's busiest container cargo facilities. A new project gets underway next year that will make the northern B.C. port even busier.

The annual throughput capacity at Prince Rupert's Fairview Container Terminal, which was converted from a break-bulk facility in 2007, sits at 1.35 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) following the completion of a two-year expansion project called Phase 2 North (also known as Phase 2A) in 2017.

Earlier this year, Fairview's owner, Dubai-based DP World, and the Port of Prince Rupert announced plans to proceed with a second expansion project called Phase 2B that will boost the terminal's capacity to 1.8 million TEUs by 2022.

"Since 2006, DP World has led the sector in its investment in Canada, in both infrastructure and technology — and will continue to do so," says Maksim Mihic, general manager of DP World (Canada) Inc. "The Fairview Container Terminal has experienced stronger growth than expected, and the expansion projects represent our commitment to service our customers and to meet market demand."

In a media release in June, the chairman and CEO of DP World Group, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, stated the latest Fairview Container Terminal expansion project underlines the company's commitment to Prince Rupert.

"It...demonstrates the excellent relationships built with the [Prince Rupert] Port Authority and the confidence we both share in the future and the creation of jobs in the community, stimulating the local and regional economy," he said.

Prince Rupert port officials expect up to 300 jobs will be created with



The DP World Fairview Container Terminal in Prince Rupert, B.C. PHOTO: DP WORLD.

the next phase of expansion of the Fairview Container Terminal.

“DP World has made and continues to make significant investments in terminal infrastructure in Prince Rupert, providing ... economic vitality to the community and region,” says Brian Friesen, director of trade development and communications for the Port of Prince Rupert. “The last expansion provided hundreds of new jobs in the community and Phase 2B will do the same.”

Friesen maintains the expansion at Canada’s second-largest container terminal also addresses forecasted growth in trans-Pacific trade.

“Terminal capacity is tight on the west coast, so by adding new capacity, the Port of Prince Rupert can accommodate growth in Canadian trade,” he says. “As one of the fastest growing gateways in North America, the next phase of expansion allows the Port of Prince Rupert to continue to grow to meet the needs of Canadian supply chains.”

The Phase 2B project – which is slated to begin in mid-2019 – will expand the Fairview container yard from its current 32 hectares to almost 42 hectares. The existing maintenance and administration buildings at the terminal will also be relocated to create additional container storage capacity.



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The project will add two new rubber-tired gantry cranes as well as an eighth dock gantry crane to the Fairview terminal, and it will further expand its on dock rail capacity. About 2,000 metres of working track will also be added, bringing the terminal's on dock rail total to just over 7,500 metres by 2022.

The truck gate at Fairview is also being expanded and relocated to the south end of the terminal, where it will join a new five-kilometre-long connector road planned by port authorities that will link the facility with the nearby Ridley Island industrial area, where new import and export logistics services are also being developed by the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

"The Fairview-Ridley Connector will link the terminal with the logistics park, providing a short transit integration with the terminal," Friesen says, adding that the new port



About 2,000 metres of working track will also be added, bringing the terminal's on dock rail total to just over 7,500 metres by 2022.



expansion and related infrastructure projects will serve to enhance Prince Rupert's reputation as one of the fastest and most reliable trans-Pacific trade gateways.

As the closest container port in North America to Asia, he says, Prince Rupert can reduce shipping times by one to three days. Other advantages listed by Friesen are low dwell times at the Fairview terminal and efficient connections on CN Rail to major inland markets in Canada and the U.S.

Prince Rupert is also much smaller than other major Pacific port cities, and there are advantages to that as well.

"Given that Prince Rupert is a small community, we don't have the same challenges with congestion that you would see at other West Coast ports in large urban centres," Friesen says.

"We expect to handle in excess of

one million TEUs in 2018 and [we now] have all major marine carriers and shipping alliances with services into Prince Rupert, one of the only terminals in North America to be able to make that claim," he adds.

"The speed and reliability of service driven by our strategic location... and efficient terminal operations makes the Port of Prince Rupert an attractive location for investment in terminal infrastructure." ●



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# STURGEON CONSERVATION PROGRAM GOING JUST SWIMMINGLY

By Jim Timlick

A project designed to help preserve one of the largest freshwater fish in British Columbia's has spawned some promising preliminary results.

Launched in 2001, the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative is a collaborative effort involving the B.C. government, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, local First Nations groups, and several private partners, including Canadian-based aluminum giant Rio Tinto.

The initiative was developed in response to a comprehensive five-year study of the Fraser River watershed. The study showed the white sturgeon population in the Nechako River had experienced a severe decline (from 5,000 fish to fewer than 600) and these fish could be destroyed soon if steps aren't taken to address juvenile mortality.

While the adult white sturgeon population is fertile and continues to produce eggs, the study showed the mortality rate for their offspring was dangerously high and some

kind of intervention had to be taken before the species completely disappeared from the Nechako.

"Without intervention once those adults die that's kind of it," says Steven McAdam, a Hydro impact and sturgeon specialist for the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. "If we didn't do something, we would lose those populations in the Nechako."

Members of a working group determined a two-pronged approach was required to address

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the problem. The first step was to build a state-of-the-art hatchery in Vanderhoof to help repopulate the juvenile sturgeon population in the region. The second was to analyze the Nechako's substrate, or riverbed, to see if anything could be done to rehabilitate it and make it more suitable for freshly born sturgeon or fish that had just emerged from their eggs.

The hatchery opened in 2014 and is operated by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C., a private, non-profit organization with a mandate to enhance and conserve the province's freshwater fisheries. The facility cost about \$10 million to build, is capable of holding 12 distinct families of sturgeon at any given time, and can produce up to 12,000 offspring in a year.

McAdam says the hatchery is different from other similar facilities in that it operates on recirculated river water rather than well water. Not only does that save money by not having to heat the water, but it's also more environmentally friendly, something all members of the working group behind the project were adamant about, he says.

Another unique aspect of the facility is that it's located adjacent to a wild spawning site. Its proximity to the Nechako and use of river water increases the chance that

those fish will return to spawn in that location in the future.

McAdam says one of the project's challenges is determining when fish raised at the hatchery should be released into the wild and how many should be released at a time. Initial attempts to release them right away or as small juveniles were not overly successful, but subsequent attempts to release them as one- or two-year-olds appear to have been more fruitful. Even though some 12,000 juvenile sturgeon were released from the hatchery in 2017, that number will be lower this year

to ensure the river isn't overseeded and the fish don't begin competing with one another, McAdam says.

"We're not focused on production and just putting fish out there to support a fishery; this is about putting fish out there to support and develop a founder population or a population for the future. It's not based on biomass and hitting some sort of number of pounds of fish," he notes.

Sturgeon can live to be as old as 100 years, and it can take as long as 40 years to cycle through a



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single generation. That means it could be some time before there are quantifiable numbers available to measure the success of the Nechako River project.

Still, McAdam and his colleagues have been encouraged by the preliminary results the project has produced. All of the fish are tagged prior to release so officials can track their location and behavioural habits in the wild. Several of those fish have already been found in the Nechako, and McAdam expects to have more precise data on their number later this year or in 2019.

"I think it's been quite successful so far," he says. "But we still have a few uncertainties to address through ongoing monitoring"

As part of the second phase of the project, researchers studied the riverbed of the Nechako to identify likely causes of the decline in juvenile recruitment and recommend ways to reverse the trend.

One of the group's early findings

was that there appeared to be a correlation between recruitment failure and the presence of large dams that disturb a river's substrate and fill in many of the cracks and crevices where newly emerged sturgeon like to hide.

In 2011, the group restored some of the natural spawning habitat of the sturgeon in the Nechako. Two years later they were delighted to discover new juveniles in the area. Another similar restoration project is scheduled to take place in the near future and researchers are hoping it shows similar results.

McAdam stresses researchers still have a lot to learn about what's causing recruitment failure.

"It's not as simple as you put a dam in and you get recruitment failure," he says.

One of the keys to the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative has been the collaborative approach of its partner groups. Each has been willing to share whatever information

and resources they have available in order to find solutions that will benefit everyone involved in the process.

"All the parties...have worked together to understand the data that's available and sort through what needs to be done, to collect information to understand the mechanism causing the sturgeon population to decline, and also look for options to reverse that trend," says Justus Benckhuysen, Nechako operations coordinator for Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto owns the Kenney Dam that was built on the Nechako River in the early 1950s and has committed more than \$5.5 million in funding toward the sturgeon conservation project to date.

McAdam says the short-term goal of the project is for the partner groups to help replenish the white sturgeon stock in the river and eventually let nature take over again.

"The first step is figuring out the mechanism. Once you know what the mechanism is, you can turn that back and fix it." ●



# CN ON TRACK WITH SIGNIFICANT B.C. INVESTMENT AS THE COMPANY ENTERS ITS 100TH YEAR

**A**s it enters its 100th anniversary year in 2019, CN is progressing on its plans to invest \$340 million to “expand and strengthen B.C.’s rail network.” Announced in June 2018, these improvements are part of a significant undertaking by CN to boost its capacity to serve their growing customer base, including forest products, intermodal, grain, and industrial customers.

A significant portion of CN’s \$340 million investment in B.C. is being put toward projects in northern regions of the province. A number of projects in the region are currently in development including the construction of four new train passing sidings, and the expansion of three existing sidings, between Prince Rupert and Jasper, Alberta. The company is also moving forward with construction of a siding extension north of Kamloops on the Vancouver-Edmonton corridor; as

well as several maintenance projects throughout the province, which include replacing approximately 115 miles of rail, installing 335,000 new railroad ties, and rebuilding approximately 50 road-crossing surfaces.

CN is investing across Western Canada to improve fluidity through the rail network – making critical investments in infrastructure, equipment, and people to help improve operations and





capacity. In 2017 and early 2018, CN faced challenges that led to backlogs on parts of its network, affecting some commodities including grain and forest products. CN President and CEO JJ Ruest, who was appointed in July 2018 after having served as Interim President and CEO since March 2018, led the company through this challenging period by addressing capacity shortages and service problems head on, and building a plan with significant investments across CN's network.

Reflecting on the company's performance in Q3 of 2018, Ruest credits CN's dedicated engineering team for "putting more than 80 per cent of [CN's] infrastructure expansion projects fully in service at a time when the network was under heavy traffic." Ruest adds that CN's 2018 investments are "substantially advanced," providing railroaders with the tools they need to serve customers now and into the future.

"We continue to see strong opportunities ahead, across multiple existing rail commodities and new supply chain services," Ruest adds. "The balance of our expansion projects remain on track for completion before winter and our one team is energized to execute our proven operating model as we meet the growing economic needs of our customers."

Without efficient transportation networks throughout B.C., linking all corners of this province to Canada's gateway ports and international border,



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resources and other products would be severely restricted in their ability to reach critical markets in Asia and the United States. CN's investments across B.C. are important not just to northern localities – through the jobs and opportunities they provide – but are a necessary link in the province's trade-enabling infrastructure.

"Strong transportation networks are so important to our trade- and resource-based economy in B.C.," says Val Litwin, president and chief executive officer of the B.C. Chamber of Commerce. "We are pleased to see CN making capital investments in B.C. that will expand our rail network, improve rail service to our businesses providing and supporting thousands of jobs across our provincial economy."

B.C.'s rail network serves the Pacific gateway ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert, and major inland terminals in Surrey, Prince George, Kamloops, and Fort Nelson. In June 2018, the Government of Canada announced funding for a number of trade-enabling infrastructure projects on Canada's west coast through the National Trade Corridors Fund. These investments will further boost capacity along important rail corridors in the Lower Mainland, providing vital transportation links for B.C.'s rail network to export terminals on Vancouver's north shore, servicing commodities including grain, potash, coal and forest products.

With CN's latest investments in B.C.'s rail network, along with significant investments in people, communities, equipment, and projects across the country, the railroad is on track to see positive performance results into 2019. CN Railway has been part of the economic backbone of Canada for 100 years; these latest investments will provide a boost for the company – and for local, provincial and national economies – so the country can continue to build toward its full potential. ●



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# THE COMING CANNABIS REVOLUTION

## *How (legal) cannabis agriculture will stoke B.C.'s economy*

By Ian Dawkins, Cannabis Commerce Association of Canada

**F**rom Abbotsford to Sooke, Prince George to Grand Forks, and everything in between, the impact of cannabis legalization is beginning to be felt among the contractor and builder communities.

Dozens of massive capital projects and hundreds of smaller growing facilities have broken ground across the province, marking the start to one of the biggest capital project roll-outs B.C. has seen since the days of WAC Bennett. With black market cannabis agriculture estimated to be a multi-billion-dollar chunk of B.C.'s economy, the need to build new, government-approved facilities is enormous – and not expected to slow down any time soon.

Cannabis facilities – which typically require pouring large concrete slabs, building advanced HVAC and lighting systems, and fitting out secured buildings – have already become a significant chunk of work for contractors and trades across the province, and that demand will only grow as national cannabis shortages continue to dominate headlines heading into 2019.

For those looking to make an investment in the cannabis space, there remains enormous opportunities and an underserved market whose demand for legal cannabis will only continue to grow.

Real estate continues to be one of the trickiest elements to launching a successful cannabis production facility. With limited zoning options on the table and continued reluctance from many municipalities to host these facilities no matter how many jobs they bring, many cannabis production start-ups find themselves occupying marginal land in remote locations. These decisions add cost to the bottom line and can derail these companies entirely.

The ideal cannabis production sites share three key characteristics:

- Either zoned for cannabis production or able to be rezoned for that purpose;
- Close to three-phase power, a hard internet connection, and municipal water;
- Close to a population centre that can support a full-time work force, including skilled technical roles.

While many companies have been forced to compromise on these elements, those decisions add cost to the bottom line and can derail these companies entirely.

Once an appropriate site has been located, the next phase is site plans, design, and regulatory approval. This is the stage where securing the services of a consultant can be very valuable, as there are no guarantees that your up-front costs will be rewarded with regulatory approval. Knowing exactly what type of project and scenario to present to Health Canada is key to reducing project risk and accelerating timelines, and that requires experience dealing with a regulatory framework that is ever-evolving highly non-prescriptive.

That experience also plays a vital role in the next stage of the project: building out the facility and dialling in the micro-climate. Good design choices based on real-world experience and a comprehensive knowledge of the various technologies available are key to making sound business decisions as this phase. This includes finding the right Head Grower to ensure your yields are competitive and your product can stand up to market scrutiny, as well as selecting products and cultivars that are in demand.

The result – once final approval is granted by Health Canada – should be a well-designed, well-sited facility that produces a product that is able to stand up to competition in an intense and booming market. Like all



## Cannabis Commerce Association of Canada

agricultural commodities, cannabis is graded – and only the best of the best can command top prices.

All other cannabis, even "pretty good" quality, becomes commodity grade and is broken down into the common commodified components, and producers are paid what is effectively the monthly spot price for those commodities.

Among the most common commodities in the cannabis sector are the ones known to the public: THC, CBD, and a host of other rarer and more valuable cannabinoid compounds. All cannabis, no matter how badly or cheaply grown, can be turned into THC and CBD distillates, which is why bulk THC and CBD become the cheapest cannabis commodities in a mature market.

Essentially, any cannabis grown that isn't in the top tier of quality will be fed into this distillate marketplace, where it will form the basis for other products like vapour pens, cannabis edibles, and hash oils.

Beyond the cannabinoids like THC and CBD, however, are the other chemical compounds cannabis is known to produce: terpenes. The unique and complex blend of

terpenes produced by each strain of cannabis are what give the plant its distinctive aroma and are highly prized by cannabis connoisseurs.

While cannabis plants typically yield anywhere from 10 to 30 per cent cannaboid content, a master grower is lucky to yield three per cent terpene content at best, making cannabis-derived terpenes a far more difficult, and therefore more expensive, commodity.

As a result, high terpene content is typically the key factor differentiating "good" cannabis from "bad" cannabis and knowing how to increase terpene yields is one key to maximizing agricultural yield and profits in a cannabis production facility.

With a well-designed facility in the right location, cannabis agriculture can be a highly profitable activity, and with market conditions as they currently are, there remain enormous opportunities for new entrants.

*Ian Dawkins is the co-founder of Vancouver-based Althing Consulting and the Acting President of the Cannabis Commerce Association of Canada. ●*



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# GLOBAL CHANGE DRIVING NEW MINERAL DEMAND IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Rob Stevens, Ph.D., P.Geo., VP Regulatory and Technical Policy at AME



A new industrial revolution is underway driven by technology and the need to power modern society with clean, low-carbon energy sources. Like the first industrial revolution – where metals such as iron provided the material for new technologies – minerals and metals are critical to the changing technologies of today, including those that support clean and renewable energy. While most of us working in the mineral exploration and mining sector have long been aware of the importance of minerals and metals to society, the significance of metals to a low-carbon future has only recently been highlighted to the public and governments. This has been achieved, in part, by the 2017 release of the World Bank report *The Growing Role of Minerals and Metals for a Low Carbon Future* and the Clean Energy Canada report *Mining for Clean Energy*. These reports emphasize that technologies such as electric vehicles, solar and wind, and related battery storage all require significant minerals and metals, in some cases substantially more than is used in traditional energy and transportation systems. Iron remains important, but minerals and metals such as copper, nickel, zinc, and molybdenum, along with lithium,

cobalt, graphite, and lesser-known metals like neodymium and indium, are also needed.

In British Columbia, the government recently announced that they will introduce legislation that will require all new light-duty cars and trucks to be zero-emission vehicles by the year 2040, along with an expanded network of charging stations. This is a good example of policy changes that will drive future metal demand. Current electric vehicle technology can require more than 80 kilograms of copper per vehicle compared with 20 kilograms or less in a conventional internal combustion engine vehicle. Not to mention the nickel, lithium, cadmium, and other metals required for the batteries and the metals that will be needed for the network of charging stations.

It's a good thing that British Columbia is a significant producer of copper today because we need that metal. But what about the future? The sustainable development of our mineral resources, such as copper, will only become more important in the future. The industry will need to continue exploring for new mineral resources and to shift strategies,

leveraging new technologies that will help to find and extract the minerals and metals of tomorrow. Governments will need to look at how policy shifts (i.e. requiring zero-emission vehicles) will impact metal demand and the source of those metals. We don't want a solution in one jurisdiction to become a problem in another. Ultimately, industry, governments, and communities across B.C. and Canada will need to work together to ensure we can produce the materials that support the current and future needs of society.

These are the discussions that will take place at the Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver from January 28 to 31, 2019. The annual conference will examine the future of copper exploration and mining in B.C., explore new, innovative technologies, engage with governments, Indigenous leaders, and communities, and reinforce the role of minerals and metals in the low-carbon economy. These topics are all important to ensure the mineral exploration and mining industry is a driver of this new industrial revolution.

More information on Roundup 2019 is available at [roundup.amebc.ca](http://roundup.amebc.ca). ●

Soil Sampling. PHOTO BY MATT FRASER

# LNG PROMISES A NEW FUTURE FOR B.C. ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

By Geoff Morrison, manager of British Columbia, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

**T**his is an exciting time for British Columbia, and the beginning of what promises to be a new chapter for the province's natural gas industry.

Natural gas development is not new to British Columbians; however, the sector is constantly evolving, particularly with the rise in unconventional natural gas exploration and development. Wells are even more productive today than before, and although the province is drilling fewer wells, it is increasing production while also reducing its footprint.

This is good news for a province on the verge of having a thriving liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry. With an estimated 576.2 trillion cubic feet of marketable natural gas, according to the National Energy Board, B.C.'s resources are significant. But if we want to provide energy for the world, we need to find new markets to benefit from this clean-burning resource.

B.C. envisions a future that combines economic prosperity and environmental stewardship with reconciliation of Indigenous peoples. The Government of B.C.

has recognized the potential of LNG with the introduction of a natural gas development framework aimed at encouraging investment in the province, and addressing the cost-competitive challenges to bolster positive LNG investment decisions in B.C.

In October, the largest project in B.C. history got the green light with a final investment decision from Royal Dutch Shell and its joint venture partners. The LNG Canada project will be the largest private-sector investment project in Canadian history, which includes building a \$40-billion LNG export terminal built in Kitimat. The project plan should achieve the lowest carbon intensity of any large-scale LNG plant in the world, according to LNG Canada.

Additionally, the \$1.8-billion Woodfibre LNG project was sanctioned in 2016, and construction plans are underway for an LNG processing and export facility at the former Woodfibre pulp mill near Squamish. The project will be powered with electricity from BC Hydro, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80 per cent.

If we want B.C.'s LNG industry to be successful, grow the economy, and

address global climate change, it is imperative we meet growing Asian demand for energy. In 2017, China increased its LNG imports by 30 per cent and was the main reason global imports set a new record for LNG trade. As global demand grows, there is a window of opportunity for western Canadian LNG exports to reach Asian markets around 2024. According to the International Energy Agency, by 2040 global demand for natural gas is expected to increase by 43 per cent and account for one-quarter of total energy consumed.

However, the competition to fill the increasing demand in China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific is fierce. If Canada wants to be the world's supplier of choice, we need to have a stable and competitive fiscal environment in place, and an efficient regulatory process that ensures projects get built in a timely fashion.

At present, the U.S. is already exporting LNG and has set its sights on several LNG export projects – each in various stages of development and some with the necessary federal approvals already in place to begin exporting.

Canada's natural gas industry has proven that economic and energy prosperity go hand-in-hand with environmental stewardship. B.C. is creating an LNG industry that will not only change the face of our province and country but make the world a better place for everyone. ●

Canada's natural gas industry has proven that economic and energy prosperity go hand-in-hand with environmental stewardship.



# PROPOSED PACKING PLANT PACKS PLENTY OF PUNCH

By Jim Timlick

Tom & Audrey Williams, High Bar  
B.C., calves at dinnertime.



Beef producers in British Columbia have come up with a homegrown solution they say will address many of the supply chain challenges they face in getting their products to market and give consumers more dining options.

The British Columbia Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) is facilitating the development of a co-operative that will undertake the development and management of a new federally-inspected beef packing plant to be built in Prince George. Construction could begin as early as 2019 and wrap up by late 2020. The project will mean B.C. cattle can be bred, raised, and finished without ever having to leave the province.

The facility will be unlike most meat packing plants. The co-op's membership will operate it with producer members, who will be required to deliver animals for processing each year, maintaining a controlling interest and at least 51 per cent of voting shares. Once membership is determined, likely by the spring of 2019, the BCCA will step back and provide support and guidance, but will not have an ownership stake in the plant.

The history of the project dates to 2012, when the BCCA conducted a study on consumer eating trends in the province that showed 88 per cent of respondents would prefer to buy locally-produced beef. The problem was there wasn't a processing plant in the province capable of accommodating the amount of product that would be needed to meet that demand.

A few years ago, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture struck an advisory committee to look at ways of increasing agricultural input to the provincial economy. That led to a viability study that determined there was sufficient cattle and feed to support establishing a beef packing plant in the province.

Following months of study and consultation, the BCCA came up with the idea of a producer-controlled co-op. The provincial government provided \$450,000 in funding to help develop the plan. It's modelled after the Conestoga Meat Packers plant in Breslau, Ont., that is 100 per cent producer-owned by members of the local hog industry.

"They started in around 2004 with 12,000 head a week and I think now their latest expansion has put them up around 52,000 head a week. It shows (this model) works," says BCCA general manager Kevin Boon.

Boon says it's too soon to say what the final cost of the project will be or exactly how big the facility will be. Original plans called for it to have a capacity of 1,000 head per week or 50,000 a year, but those plans were scaled back to a more manageable 500 a week or 25,000 a year.

"We did that for the simple reason that we wanted to start small with what we know we can do and build from there. It's based on what Progressive Pork (which owns Conestoga Co-op) did and that's start small and build up as your demand builds," Boon says.

The project will provide a significant economic boost to the local economy. It's expected to create 50 new full-time jobs at the plant itself and an additional 600 spinoff jobs.

While producers will maintain controlling interest of the plant, the BCCA expects to hire a



Kevin Boon.

management team to run the day-to-day operations of the facility.

Boons says the greatest challenge in making sure the plant is successful will be ensuring that feeding capacity in the province is increased to meet demand.

"We don't have a very well developed feed lot system in British Columbia. Most of our feeding is geared to backgrounding (intermediate cattle production). This will mean building that

portion of the supply chain to be more robust and to finish the cattle," he says.

Although there was some initial skepticism by producers about the co-op model, most are now coming onboard following a series of information sessions during which details of the project were shared with B.C. producers.

One of the biggest benefits of the co-op model for producers, Boon says, is the fact that it essentially cuts out the middlemen in the production chain and allows them to reduce their costs. Essentially, producers will receive the value of the meat after processing minus the processing fees.

Perhaps even more important is the fact the plant will help create more market certainty and allow producers, especially younger ones just entering the business, to better plan for the future.

"The big thing is it makes it so the young guy coming in sees a future in it and where they have some control over their destiny, more so than just raising the cattle and shipping them to market." ●

An advertisement for Silver King Helicopters. The background is a photograph of a helicopter flying over a rugged mountain range with some snow patches. In the center, there is a logo consisting of a shield with 'SK' inside, and the words 'SILVER KING' and 'HELICOPTERS' below it. Below the logo, the text 'Smithers | Terrace | Dease Lake' is displayed. Further down, the text 'Specializing in Mineral Exploration &amp; Drill Support' is shown in a larger, bold font. Below that, the address '6343 Ventura Blvd., Smithers Airport | PO Box 4626, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0' is listed. At the bottom, a yellow bar contains the contact information: 'T: 250.877.1989 | info@silverkingheli.com | silverkingheli.com'.





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# NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT OFFERS THREE PROGRAMS BUILT FOR NORTHERN B.C. BUSINESSES

*Up to \$50,000 is available to eligible businesses to support innovation from Northern Development Initiative Trust*

**N**orthern Development Initiative Trust has the practical and tangible tools to help businesses in Northern B.C. develop, grow, and flourish. Three programs are specifically suited for resource-based businesses throughout the region: Supply Chain Connector, Competitiveness Consulting Rebate, and Northern Industries Innovation Fund. Since 2005, the Trust has provided \$4,736,342.63 in funding for 455 projects in the latter two programs, with project budgets totaling nearly \$12 million.

## **SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTOR**

The Supply Chain Connector is a free industrial supply and service

database for relevant businesses with locations in central and northern B.C. The database offers easy access to a completely searchable database of businesses in 73 per cent of the province. Businesses are given the ability to manage their online profile while providing procurement managers and economic development professionals with critical contact information. Explore the database and register your business at [supplychainconnector.ca](http://supplychainconnector.ca).

## **COMPETITIVENESS CONSULTING REBATE**

The Competitiveness Consulting Rebate aims to directly support manufacturers, innovators, processors and their suppliers to grow their

business, implement world-class business practices and become more competitive in the global market. It offers a rebate of up to 50 per cent to a yearly maximum of \$30,000 for external business consulting projects that focus on increased productivity, new or incremental revenues, profitability, or job creation.

This rebate encourages businesses to access customized consulting services that understand the unique situations and challenges that businesses in Northern B.C. encounter. If your company does not have a preferred consultant, the Trust can aid in identifying qualified consultants with experience in competitiveness consulting.

## NORTHERN INDUSTRIES INNOVATION FUND

The Northern Industries Innovation Fund provides up to \$50,000 for companies engaged in forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, mining, energy, oil and gas, manufacturing and the supply chain activities related to these sectors. Eligible expenses include consulting, consultant travel, third-party research and capital costs for new technology or equipment for prototype testing for the project.

The fund supports applied research and development, new or improved products and services and testing of innovative technologies to support capital investment decisions. This program strives to support the expansion and diversification of northern B.C.'s economy.

All these programs have continuous intakes, meaning you can apply at anytime and your application will be reviewed shortly after being received – no waiting for deadlines to pass before decisions are made!

Northern Development has a passion for growing the economy of central and northern British Columbia. Businesses of the North are leaders in creating jobs, new revenues and improving the quality of life in the region, and the Trust is dedicated to supporting their growth. The Trust combines funding with smart thinking and since 2005 has found more than 3,166 ways to say “yes” to projects that help the region thrive.

Learn more about all the business development programs offered by Northern Development at [northerndevelopment.bc.ca/business-development](http://northerndevelopment.bc.ca/business-development). ●



B.C. BioCarbon.

“The financial contribution from Northern Development through the Competitiveness Consulting program has been the value-add for Geotech. Northern Development is an organization whose legitimate purpose is to help well-managed companies do better. That is rare. The 50 per cent rebate was the tipping point for Geotech to make the investment. Many funding programs create such an administrative challenge that they are not worth the effort. We recommend Northern Development programs to other northern businesses that are trying to do better.” – Jason Oliver, vice president of Geotech Drilling.



Precision Machinery – shop.





## BC FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY COUNCIL CONNECTING FIRST NATIONS TALENT TO FOREST SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES AND GROWTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Between 2011 and 2015, BC First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC), industry and the Province of BC were simultaneously completing labour market information research revealing that there would be an imminent shortage of labour in the forest sector within 10 years. The current BC Labour Market Outlook forecasts as many as 10,901 new job openings by 2027 in the provincial forest sector, mainly due to an aging workforce.

This high turnover presents an opportunity for First Nations to increase Indigenous participation and employment in the provincial forest sector and double the First Nations participation in forestry.

These findings have resulted in the development of the BC First Nations Forestry Workforce Strategy: Connecting First Nations Talent to Forest Sector opportunities and Growth in British Columbia. The

Strategy was developed in partnership with forest industry companies, First Nations and Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) agreement holder organizations in B.C. It provides an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, barriers, and challenges for First Nations people to participating in forest sector-related education, training, employment and business development, and these largely set the Strategic Direction and Strategic

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Priorities for action. Completed in August 2018, the Strategy is now moving into the implementation phase.

The mission of the BC First Nations Forestry Workforce Strategy is to achieve meaningful career, employment and business outcomes for First Nation's people in the B.C. forest sector. Achieving these outcomes through collaborative partnerships between the many stakeholders in B.C. (FNFC, industry, ASETS, First Nations, education institutions) and ensuring that these partnerships are reflecting community cultural values, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls-to-Action.

The Strategy is led by core values and principles that emerged from the engagement process. These indicate participants' desire for partnership and collaboration that is balanced with wellness and respect for First Nations traditions, languages, and stewardship of the forests.

This long-term initiative aims to increase the participation and success of B.C. First Nations in forest sector training, careers, employment, and self-employment as forestry employees, managers, executive staff, as well as forestry contractors and self-employed entrepreneurs. It also looks to develop and support First Nations for the economic development of their own forest companies.

The increase in Indigenous participation is especially relevant in light of our representation in forest sector – while 5.9 per cent of our population was of Indigenous identity in 2016, only 4.8 per cent of the sectors' employment was Indigenous in that year. Considering that forest industry serves as a major job creation engine in B.C. and an economic

cornerstone for the province, we have an opportunity to increase First Nations employment in the industry by over 200 jobs per year by 2027.

Of the 10,901 forecast job openings in the forest industry by 2027, almost 30 per cent (precisely 29.2 per cent) are projected to be in the Main-land Southwest region, one-fifth in the Cariboo (20.2 per cent) and Vancouver Island/Coast (19.0 per cent) regions. The smallest proportion of openings will be in the Northeast (5.5 per cent) and North Coast Nechako (one per cent) regions. The rest of the

forecasted job openings will be in the Thompson Okanagan (15.5 per cent) and Kootenays (9.7 per cent) regions.

Many of our First Nations youth need our support to gain a foothold in industries that will support their communities and ensure their individual wellness. Those promising careers can be found in the forest sector, and BC First Nations Forestry Council is leading the way. For more information on BC First Nations Forestry Workforce Strategy and our other programs, please visit [forestrycouncil.ca](http://forestrycouncil.ca). ●

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# EARLY MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IS A REQUIREMENT FOR ENSURING PROJECT SUCCESS

By Chad Day, President, Tahltan Central Government



**A**s the President of the Tahltan Central Government (TCG), I am responsible for issues relating to the title and rights of the Tahltan Nation. The TCG, on behalf of all Tahltans, expects our territorial title and rights be respected, which includes early, meaningful engagement.

This requirement is fully in sync with the Government of Canada's mandate vis-à-vis Indigenous peoples, which includes, among other things: to ensure that environmental assessment legislation is amended to enhance the consultation, engagement, and participatory capacity of Indigenous groups in reviewing and monitoring major resource development projects.

Meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples is no longer an option; today, it is a requirement. As Canadian courts have recognized and enforced this obligation, as a result of the continued existence of Aboriginal title and rights, the Tahltan Nation has played an increasingly prominent role in resource development in our territory, a land mass equivalent to 10 per cent of British Columbia, including 70 per cent of B.C.'s Golden Triangle.

Today, the Tahltan Nation participates in every step of project development within our territory and strives to ensure that development only occurs in a manner that is sustainable, minimizes environmental impacts, provides opportunity to Tahltans, contributes to building a strong future

for the Tahltan Nation, and advances the interests of future generations. We believe that meaningful engagement should lead to mutual benefits and project success.

Tahltans have been prospectors from time immemorial. For generations, our peoples have worked in the mineral exploration and mining industry, putting food on our tables, training our people and allowing our kids to thrive. Our intimate knowledge of our land base and of the environment in the area, the capacity that our Tahltan Nation Development Corporation can provide, and our highly trained and experienced workforce are all key to the success of any project in our territory.



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# AME ROUNDUP.

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The Tahltan Nation is serious about mutually beneficial engagement, cooperation, and partnership. As of 2018, the Tahltan Nation, through the TCG, has concluded a number of impact benefit agreements for operating projects within Tahltan territory. Recently the TCG also split the TahltanWorks department into an Employment and Contracts Department, and an Education and Training Department. Both departments ensure more resources and internal capacity for the proper training of our people who are key to the success of any project in our territory.

In 2018, we increased efforts to involve, inspire, and recruit more young people into the industry by bringing many Tahltan Youth to the Association for Mineral Exploration's (AME) Mineral Exploration Roundup conference in

Vancouver. Many of the youth had never been to Vancouver and were given the opportunity to learn about the exploration industry firsthand. From the importance of the industry to our Nation and early, meaningful engagement, to networking with industry representatives and job creation, Tahltan youth learned what the future has in store for them and their territory.

The TCG continues to push the envelope and look at new ways of mutually beneficial engagement. This includes a recent partnership with our Kaska and Tlingit neighbours to form a unique collaborative government we call the 3Nations. This innovative approach to engagement between our Three Nations and the Province has resulted in a BC Premier's Award for Innovation, recognizing organizations that have transformed new ideas into tangible initiatives.



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At the 2019 AME Roundup, TCG will be organizing the largest delegation of Tahltan governors, youth, and members ever, as well as bringing along many Kaska and Tlingit youth. All three nations understand the potential that minerals and mining provide our people. It is critical that we expose all our northern indigenous youth to the industry that will shape their lives, and the lives of others, for generations to come.

The Tahltan Central Government is determined to attract investment into our region and combat negative indigenous stereotypes. That is why the Tahltan Nation, Nisga'a Nation, the Province of British Columbia, AME, and select exploration companies have formed the BC Regional Mining Alliance. Together we are working hard to speak to the investment community about the

vast resource potential in northern British Columbia. We even sent a recent delegation to London, England to emphasize that B.C. is open for business and showcase the collaboration between indigenous groups, the province, and the industry to ensure project success.

Recently I met with the Premier, who told me, "I am wholly supportive of the industry, I understand the potential, and want to see it unleashed as much as you do." Only by working together can we unlock the vast resource potential of Northwestern B.C., and the Tahltan Nation is committed to doing this through meaningful engagement, collaboration, and partnership with neighboring Nations, the Province, and our industry partners. ●



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Smithers Exploration Group's booth at the Bulkley Valley Fall Fair attracts hundreds of visitors for information and fun like "Guess the Gold" contest.

# SMITHERS EXPLORATION GROUP SUPPORTS BC'S NORTHWEST EXPLORATION PROJECTS

By Christine Ogryzlo, President, Smithers Exploration Group

**M**ore mineral exploration dollars are spent in the region served by Smithers Exploration Group (SEG) than any other area of B.C. The northwest attracted 40 per cent of the province's exploration expenditures in 2017 – \$99.1 million spent on more than 60 projects in the Golden Triangle and beyond.

SEG's support includes its annual Rock Talk conference; the Rock Room of Cordilleran rock suites; a directory of professional and supplier services; and an outreach program, taking the industry's positive message to the general public.

Smithers Exploration Group is a not-for-profit organization that has supported the minerals industry

in northwest BC since 1971. Over 350 active members include a wide range of professionals and suppliers – every service needed to ensure the success of exploration work in the most prospective region of British Columbia.

Rock Talk 2019 will feature some of the projects in that region on February 20 and 21 in Smithers. The two-day

conference will combine an in-depth exploration case study with an afternoon of updates on many projects in the northwest. The conference will start with a broad overview of the regional setting by Tom Richards, Don MacIntyre, and JoAnne Nelson – some of the people whose early geological studies launched the northwest success. Then Charlie Greig, VP Exploration with GT Gold, will drill down on the Tatogga hole TTD093. Expect rocks, core, and maps.

Rock Talk will also put SEG's collection of Cordilleran rock suites front and centre. The exploration case study will include rock suites representative of the Golden Triangle with opportunities to handle the rocks from the mines that are building the region's reputation.

Howard Davies is the regional manager for the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for the northwest, and he knows the historical importance of the Cordilleran collection. "Former regional geologists and BC Geological Survey geologists were part of the original team that established the collection and contributed to it for decades," he says.

"The SEG Cordilleran rock suites are an important tool for training and developing expertise for geologists and prospectors working in the region," he adds. With that in mind, SEG will host a Wednesday evening reception in the Rock Room with the opportunity to book the room and its more than 2000 hand samples for field crews before the 2019 field season. Check out the collection at <http://smithersexplorationgroup.com/rock-room/>

SEG's annual directory is another resource valued by the industry. It lists professionals and suppliers for the mineral exploration and mining industries across northern BC.



Northwest geologists examine some of the 2000 rock samples in SEG's Cordilleran rock suites collection.



Junior geologist checks out rocks at the IndGenius Family Science event at the Gitanmaax Hall in New Hazelton.

The 2019 edition of the directory will be available at Exploration Roundup in Vancouver January 28-31 or check it out online at <http://smithersexplorationgroup.com/directory/>

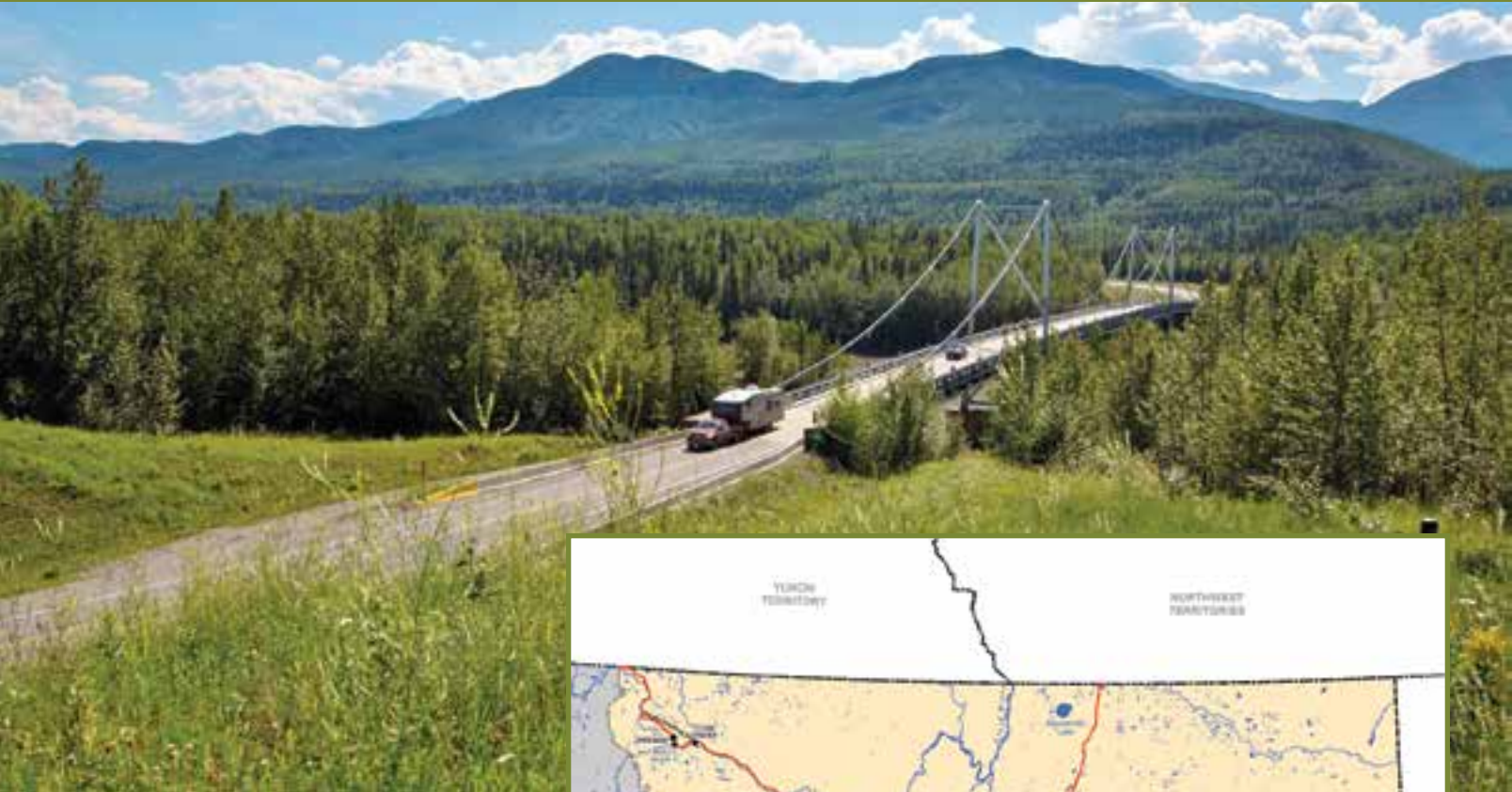
Smithers Exploration Group also supports the minerals industry across the northwest through its Outreach program, funded by the Association for Mineral Exploration. "Over the past seven years, through its Outreach program, SEG has talked to thousands of students and community members about the importance of minerals to our lives," Outreach Administrator

Lorie Farrell explains. "The SEG crew and I have been in hundreds of classrooms, job fairs, trade shows, farmers markets and fairs." She adds, "People are always eager to look at the core from the Brucejack Mine and learn how much northern BC copper it's going to take to build an electric vehicle."

Through its Outreach, directory, rock suites and Rock Talk, Smithers Exploration Group continues the work it almost 50 years ago, building a strong northwest minerals industry for the benefit of all British Columbians. ●



# A COMMUNITY FULL OF HEART



**I**n difficult economic times, the best of a community is bound to surface. For the communities of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, the recent economic stress test has meant that our strengths have come to the fore as individuals, businesses, and organizations have stepped up to make the best of an unfavourable situation.

The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality is situated in the northeast corner of B.C. and has as its largest community Fort Nelson, located at historic Mile 300 on the Alaska Highway. It sits 454 kilometres north of Dawson Creek. Throughout its history, Fort Nelson has depended heavily on natural resource-based industries to fuel its economy. Within the last decade, however – prompted by shifts in the global economy – the community has experienced a sharp downturn in activity in two key



sectors: oil & gas, and forestry. It has also seen a reduction in the number of direct and indirect jobs that these industries supported.

In 2008, when the major forest manufacturer shuttered its operations, the impact was buffered by an upswing in exploration and construction in expectation of developments in LNG. Many within the eager, skilled workforce, wanting to stay in Fort Nelson and the

Northern Rockies, made the transition to the natural gas industry. The timing for the community couldn't have been better. The years leading up to 2013 saw levels of activity in the gas patch that maintained the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality at a population of approximately 5,190. Exploration identified three major natural gas basins with enormous gas reserves within the regional municipality – more than ample to

supply a long-term overseas LNG market demand. The economics of LNG changed quickly, however, as competing sources came onto the scene and natural gas prices fell, and industry activity was curtailed in response.

The realities of being a natural resource-based community – brought home during the current economic cycle – are not new to those who live in the Northern Rockies. Neither is what is required to overcome it. Our residents are passionate about and proud of where they live. When faced with adversity, our communities have a history of drawing on their resourcefulness, tenacity, and self-sufficiency to move on to better times, and to make those better times happen. The Northern Rockies remains a vibrant place where working together to support one another and to reach individual and collective goals is the order of the day. Not-for-profits, businesses, and individuals alike are doing everything they can to maintain the sense of place that makes the Northern Rockies home. Cultural events, recreation opportunities and first-class facilities, and community events involving world-class presenters and participants are well subscribed and more than plenty to keep us engaged. And the natural resources, skilled workers, and essential infrastructure are still here, and we're working hard to put them to work building a successful future for those already here and those with the vision to come and join us.

All this in a community full of amazing people amid a pristine natural setting. We invite you to come visit, raise a family, or retire...the welcome mat is always out.

For more information on the Northern Rockies, visit <https://www.northernrockies.ca> or contact [ecdev@northernrockies.ca](mailto:ecdev@northernrockies.ca). ●





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# TERRACE EMBRACES DIVERSITY IN THE RESOURCE SECTOR

By Danielle Myles, Manager of Economic Development, City of Terrace

LNG Canada's \$40 billion facility is proposed for a site 60 kilometres south of Terrace.

Residents of Northwest B.C. are still reeling from the momentous announcement in early October that LNG Canada is proceeding with construction of their \$40 billion-dollar project. In the months leading up to the decision, uttering the words “FID” in this region would get you a variety of reactions from excitement to eye rolls. Cautious optimism is only natural in a climate requiring resilience and adaptation to ever-changing commodity markets—but rest assured, *we are ready*.

Positioned centrally in Northwest B.C., Terrace has weathered many economic cycles due to the growing diversity of services within the community that cater to larger projects in the transportation, mining, forestry, and energy sectors. LNG Canada's facility is proposed

for a site only 60 kilometres south in our neighboring community of Kitimat. Our business community has been perched in a heightened state of readiness for some time now to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity, Canada's *single largest private sector investment*.

The gas industry is welcome in Northwest B.C. And with project postponements, communities have had time to breathe, to reflect, and to plan so that we can leverage the LNG Canada and Coastal Gas Link projects but also use the limelight to send a signal to the broader gas industry that we are *open for business*.

The history of Terrace and its people highlights a strong theme of confluence—situated at the intersection of the majestic Kitsumkalum and Skeena rivers and occupying a wide valley of stepped

terraces and foothills, confluence is a core part of our identity and what makes us unique. From river to rail to highway, our location and the environment around us have shaped the identity of the settlers, as well as the Tsimshian First Nations peoples who lived on this land for millennia before us.

We are a traditionally a logging town with pioneering history stemming back to the Gold Rush and building of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The mining and transportation sectors have resulted in a number of major projects in recent years that have spurred significant growth and development. None of these projects have happened within Terrace but all are within close reach with spin-off dollars flowing into town, materializing into enhanced amenities, residential and commercial developments,



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there's room to grow here

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From river to rail to highway, Terrace's location and environment has shaped the identity of the settlers, as well as the Tsimshian First Nations peoples who lived on this land for millennia before us.

increasing levels of services and contracting opportunities. By any mode of transportation, industry flows in and through Terrace, and for some, choosing to locate here is preferred for regional accessibility.

The City's vision is for Terrace to transition from its historically cyclical nature to an increasingly robust and diversified economy—natural gas has an important role to play in that. The building of the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline project to its terminus at the LNG Canada facility offers huge advantages for a city built in the heart of transportation corridors. We are already seeing the signs that *change is afoot*.

As of September 2018, real estate sales are up nearly 50 per cent over the same period last year, and several large infrastructure projects are currently under way, including the servicing of the 2,400-acre Skeena Industrial Development Park, a revitalized aquatic center, an expanded airport, trades training center, and a neighborhood revitalization in the downtown core. High-pressure natural gas infrastructure runs through our industrial lands, as well as high-

voltage transmission lines—there is ample infrastructure for any type of service or manufacturing venture, as well as smaller scale LNG and value-added gas projects.

Our community is also undergoing a demographic shift backed up by census data. Younger people aged

20 to 34 are flocking to Terrace, correlating with a rise in those reporting employment in the professional and technical fields. This shift is occurring at a time when jobs in construction and trades are also on the rise regionally. You need only visit some of our local establishments to hear countless stories of those new transplants, migrating from larger urban centres for the professional growth opportunities and quality of life that Terrace has to offer. They are drawn here in part because of the buzz that the LNG industry has created and the community vibrancy that this scale of development can promise.

It is often the spectacular mountains and rivers that entice one's first visit to Terrace—but it is the fulfilling livelihood promised by a diverse economy that includes natural gas and LNG that will encourage more families to set down roots in our community. There is room to grow here, and these are exciting times. ●



Terrace's vision is to transition from its historically cyclical nature to an increasingly robust and diversified economy. Natural gas has an important role to play in that.



# RIDLEY ISLAND PROPANE EXPORT TERMINAL ON TRACK FOR COMPLETION IN 2019

**L**ocated on Ridley Island, near Prince Rupert, the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal (RIPET) is expected to be Canada's first propane export facility off the west coast of Canada. Once completed, the facility will have an export capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of propane per year or 40,000 barrels a day.

AltaGas chose the brownfield industrial site to develop this project for many reasons. First, its location with deep-water access to the Pacific Ocean provides AltaGas with easy access to markets in Asia and a shorter shipping time – notably a 10-day sail compared to 25 days from the U.S. Gulf Coast. Additionally, the site is well connected to existing rail lines

and an existing world class marine jetty. The construction cost of RIPET is estimated to be approximately \$450 to \$500 million.

## **CONSTRUCTION IS ON TRACK TO BEGIN EXPORTING PROPANE IN 2019**

Construction of the facility began in the spring of 2017 and is on track for completion in early 2019. AltaGas is





using its self-perform model, which has been successfully used to build other major energy infrastructure projects on time and on budget. Under this model, AltaGas assumes the role of the general contractor and aligns with engineering, fabrication and construction partners to deliver the project under AltaGas' direction.

There are four major scopes of work involved in the construction of the terminal: the tank, balance of plant, jetty, and rail. The largest component was the propane tank. This massive undertaking involved first pouring the foundation, followed by seven individual

concrete pours. Following the seventh pour, the tank's roof – which was assembled inside the tank – was raised to the top using air pressure from inside the sealed building. Once the roof was in place, the eighth and final concrete pour was completed. Construction continued throughout 2018 with the installation of the internal steel tank, the propane bullets, and the rail and marine loading infrastructure.

After comprehensive commissioning activities, the facility will begin its operational phase in early 2019 with the introduction of feedstock propane

and the filling of the refrigerated storage tank with the liquefied product. First cargo shipment to Asia is expected in the spring of 2019.

#### **NORTHEAST BRITISH COLUMBIA STRATEGY**

AltaGas has established a significant presence in British Columbia through its continued investment in infrastructure and the development of a western energy hub in northeast B.C. AltaGas' integrated gas-processing facilities in the region include the Townsend Complex and North Pine Liquids Separation Facility. The completion of the RIPET facility



will provide Montney producers with new opportunities to move natural gas and natural gas liquids from wellhead to export markets in Asia, a premium market for propane.

#### **OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

Early in the development of the project, AltaGas made a commitment to the community to hire locally for positions at the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal.

“We recognized that an entry-level training program like this was not available locally and made a commitment to develop one that would equip members of the communities and First Nations with the necessary technical skills to get involved with our operations,” says Dan Woznow, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Energy Exports with AltaGas. “The leadership and support of our community partners, paired with the dedication and hard work of the students, have combined to make the AltaGas Operator Training Program a great success.”

Early in the development of the project, AltaGas made a commitment to the community to hire locally for positions at the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal.

At the beginning of 2018, AltaGas held recruitment sessions in the region and attracted significant interest in the program from local community members. Successful applicants began the six-month training program in June, and on December 20, 2018, the class graduated, receiving their Statement of Completion, Junior Gas Process Operator Certificate.

The program curriculum – the first of its kind for Coast Mountain College – consisted of Gas Processing Operations levels A and B, an online program provided by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, safety certificate courses provided by Metlakatla Coastal Training Centre, essential skills training, and a visit to an AltaGas facility to see first-hand the work done in an operations

facility. Coast Mountain Colleges’ mobile training aids, funded by Western Economic Diversification, provided an additional measure of hands-on technical training to students in the classroom.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year for AltaGas. The opening of the Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal – the cornerstone of AltaGas’ strategy in northeastern B.C. – will not only diversify the market in the region, it will put Prince Rupert on the map as a global energy hub.

“It will show the world that we can get things done in Canada when it comes to energy export, and that’s a good thing,” concludes Dan Woznow. ●





# FUTURE OF FORESTRY THINK TANK

*Let's reinvent our backbone industry*

By Jennifer Reed, Marketing Coordinator, City of Quesnel

After years of natural devastation to our forests, the economic future of Quesnel has become an unsettling concern. Without a doubt, climate change has been the catalyst to both the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic in the early 2000s and wildfires that have swept through the Cariboo Region the past two summers. While the future of our forests is uncertain, we know that

forest ecosystems remain highly vulnerable to more catastrophic pest and wildfire disturbances in the future.

Quesnel is one of B.C.'s most forest dependent communities, home to a diverse range of wood products manufacturing facilities from solid wood to panels, to pulp. We have experienced two mill closures over the past decade due to declining timber supply and we're currently in the midst

of more rationalization. Quesnel's economic backbone is at risk.

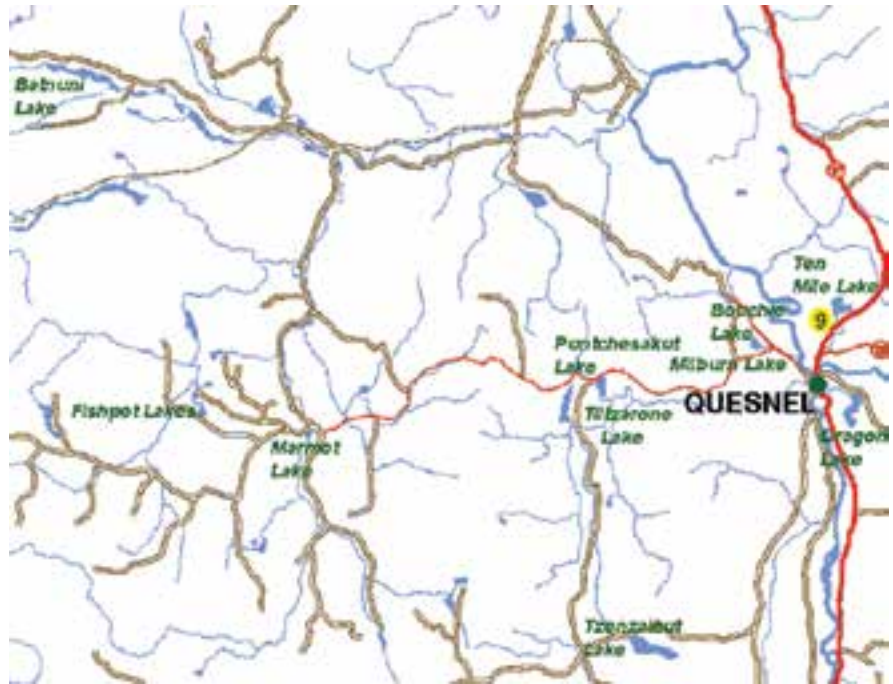
What do we do when our traditional resource industry is in decline? "Let's reinvent our backbone," says Quesnel Mayor Bob Simpson. "Our highest vulnerability is also our greatest strength."

We recognize this challenge as a pivotal time to create diversity within the existing forestry sector by taking

a proactive step to be leaders in forest management and drivers of innovative manufacturing processes. We can adapt and evolve our backbone industry to the available fibre from our forests.

In May of 2018, the City of Quesnel partnered with University of Northern British Columbia and the College of New Caledonia to co-host a two-day collaborative workshop dubbed “the Future of Forestry Think Tank”. Representatives from the provincial government, key industry stakeholders, researchers, and local First Nations gathered to initiate a conversation around two main topics: the current and possible future states of our forest land base and our manufacturing sector.

The land-base discussion identified that our current forest management practices are not sustainable and that we need to start managing our forests as a complex ecosystem rather than timber farms.



Quesnel is one of B.C.'s most forest dependent communities, home to a diverse range of wood products manufacturing facilities from solid wood to panels, to pulp.



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The manufacturing discussion identified potential markets for alternative products from our forests and manufacturing byproducts, including engineered wood products and petrochemical substitutes from digested wood fibre.

In addition, it was agreed that Quesnel is the ideal “learning lab” or “incubator” to explore these areas further due to the concentration and diversity of current wood product manufacturing and the expertise that exists within the community.



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Emergency response plan
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H&S program creation application
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- **PRODUCTION**  
Training program development & audit
- **CLOSURE & RECLAMATION**  
Case management, root cause incident analysis

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Dr. Paul Hessburg, Research Landscape Ecologist from Wenatchee, Washington, recently visited our region and made a very interesting observation about our land base.

In looking at historical photos of our forests, we can see that there has been a vast change in the landscape from then to the present as a result of our forest management practices. More dense forests exist today across the landscape rather than the “patchwork” of ecosystems that existed in the past. Dr. Hessburg points out that it is our current “epidemic of trees” that supports the unprecedented pest and fire disturbances we are now experiencing as a result of a changing climate. We also no longer practice prescribed burning like we did in the past, literally adding more fuel to the fire. These forest management practices must be adapted moving into the future to regain balance in the ecosystem.

The Think Tank was only the first step; the City of Quesnel has been awarded provincial grant funding to continue to work with its partners to develop a new vision for both forest management and manufacturing.

We are ready to face this challenge optimistically – to reinvent our backbone industry in a way that respects the complexity of the ecosystems that provide the raw resources for our base economy. ●

# CHETWYND SET TO HOST MINERALS NORTH 2019

The 31st annual Minerals North Conference and Trade Show will be held in Chetwynd from May 22 to 24, 2019. Minerals North is the annual gathering of northern B.C. communities and its minerals sector. It is a venue for establishing business contacts, learning about current activity in mining and exploration in northern British Columbia, and for healthy dialogue leading to responsible resource development.

The Minerals North Conference Association (MNCA) endeavours to have the annual event hosted across the Highway 16 region and in communities large and small. This will be a first opportunity for Chetwynd to host Minerals North. The combination of conference delegates and trade show participants can easily exceed 300 people.

Along with the conference and trade show, there will be pre-conference tours & workshops, as well as education programs in local schools and colleges. Local suppliers and non-profit groups will be engaged to provide services to the conference, making it truly a community wide event. Chetwynd's proximity to the northeast coalfields will be a special attraction for Minerals North delegates.

As MNCA President Andrew Webber notes, "the association was impressed with Chetwynd's event facilities, its hotel and motel capacity and its track record in delivering similar-sized events."

"This is a great opportunity to work with the Minerals North Association, which has a proven record of success with this conference," says District of Chetwynd Economic Development Officer Ellen McAvany. "We are pleased to host and bring opportunities to our area with this event, and we look forward to the challenge and partnerships this will bring for our region."

"Chetwynd is pleased to participate with the Minerals North Conference Association to host the 2019 Minerals North Conference. We look forward to working closely with the Minerals North Board and our neighbouring communities to make this a memorable event," says Chetwynd Mayor Merlin Nichols.

## CONTACTS

### MNCA:

Andrew Webber, President  
250 615-2397 (cell) | [info@mineralsnorth.ca](mailto:info@mineralsnorth.ca)

### DISTRICT OF CHETWYND:

Ellen McAvany, Economic Development Officer  
250 401-4113 (office) | 250-788-5823 (cell)  
[EMcAvany@gochetwynd.com](mailto:EMcAvany@gochetwynd.com)

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

*Information will be updated at <http://mineralsnorth.ca/> as plans are confirmed.*

### WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2019

*Preconference sessions are planned throughout the day. You will be able to choose from the following:*

- A tour of Tumbler Ridge Geo Park
- Mine Tour with Conuma Coal at Willow Creek Mine
- Golf at Moberly Lake Golf Course
- Central Mountain Caribou Engagement Session
- A guided tour of Carvers Row

Please go to the "pre-conference session" page of the website for more information on each of these options.

The opening reception will be hosted at Spirit Park from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY MAY 23, 2019

Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. in the tradeshow area. Programming will begin at 8:30 and run through until 5:00 p.m., with breaks for refreshments, luncheon, and networking. Hear the latest news from the exploration and mining sectors, visit the tradeshow, and network with your colleagues and friends. The banquet and entertainment will be held from 6:30 p.m. until midnight, and safe rides home will be provided.

### FRIDAY MAY 24, 2019

Join us from breakfast at the tradeshow from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Programming continues from 8:30 until noon, followed by a closing lunch. The conference is scheduled to end at 2:00 p.m., giving you plenty of time to connect with your transportation home.





# DIVERSIFYING DAWSON CREEK

**D**awson Creek, in northeastern British Columbia, is home to approximately 13,000 people. It's a community rich in natural resources, but it is also more than that. Dawson Creek is Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway, attracting tourists from all over the world as they seek adventure, spectacular scenery, and the unparalleled northern hospitality.

Dawson Creek is more than the Alaska Highway, and recently, the City of Dawson Creek adopted a

Sports and Event Tourism Plan to further diversify the tourism approach. With world-class infrastructure, and combining the platform of the Alaska Highway and Sport & Event hosting, the city is positioning itself to further diversify and build on what we already have, to continue to attract people to Dawson Creek.

"Tourism is often overlooked when it comes to a resources sector, but in Dawson Creek, the tourism industry is a significant economic driver providing over \$54 million

dollars in economic activity," says Ryan MacIvor, General Manager for Spectra Venue Management, operators of Tourism Dawson Creek and the Encana Events Centre. "If we can strengthen and grow the tourism sector, thus diversifying the local economy through sport and event tourism as well as the traditional 'rubber tire' tourists, the entire community wins."

Dawson Creek has been successfully hosting events for a long time and is lucky to have great service groups within our community that have and

"Diversifying our community through our new event tourism platform is just another way that we can build on the quality of life within Dawson Creek, in turn attracting people and businesses to our community."

– Mayor Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek.

are continuing to host successful events. Some of the events that Dawson Creek has hosted are:

- Mile 0 Cruisers Summer Cruise (annual);
- Dawson Creek Exhibition and Stampede (annual);
- 2012 Hockey Canada Women's Under 18 National Championship;
- 2015 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge;
- 2016 NCLGA AGM;
- 2017 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge;
- 2018 National Women's Training Camp.

These are just some of the events within our community, and the new event tourism platform will provide support, guidance, and tools for organizations looking to host or



already hosting events. In building on the event tourism platform in June of 2018, Dawson Creek signed a five-year hosting agreement with Hockey Canada, where the historic partnership will identify diversity in events with approximately one event

being hosted at the Encana Events Centre every 18 to 24 months. This is just the beginning of a dynamic platform that will continue to grow the City of Dawson Creek and diversify the amenities and resources we have to offer. ●

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