



JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH

- 2019 -

QUARTERLY REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

\$142.6 million in Trust funding invested into the region since 2005

\$214.2 million in funding approved and administered into **3,463** projects since 2005

\$9.4 million approved for **219** projects to date in 2019

\$14 million leveraged to date in 2019 as new project investment

\$13.2 million invested in **405** First Nations projects since 2005

\$29.9 million approved for **350** projects to help communities recover from the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic since 2005

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Affects of wildfires on industry **p. 6**

Airports help firefighting efforts take flight **p. 8**

Community Futures' wildfire response **p. 10**

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Two Trusts sign MOU **p. 16**

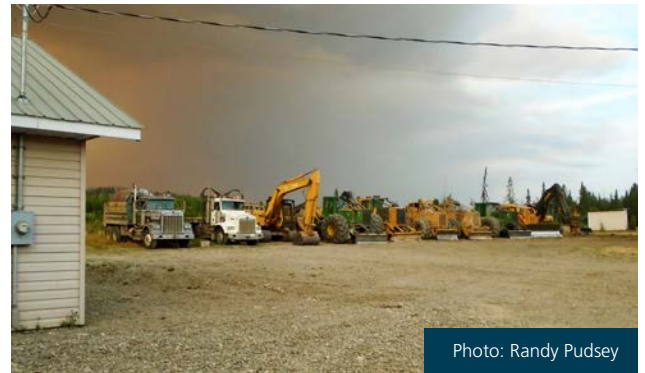
Prince George hosts 2019 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships **p. 17**

GOVERNING A SUSTAINABLE & RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

The Trust exists to stimulate economic growth through strategic and leveraged investments that build a strong and diversified economy in Northern B.C. We strive to be trusted for our integrity, accountability, collaboration and passion. Our goal is to maximize investment in Northern B.C. projects each year and to effectively manage and administer third-party funding programs.



DECADES-OLD HALL IN RURAL LAKES DISTRICT SERVES AS CRUCIAL STAGING AREA FOR WILDFIRE RESPONSE



Wistaria Hall used for three weeks by B.C. Wildfire Service in 2018

Nestled in B.C.'s Lakes District is the historic Wistaria Hall. For nearly a century the hall has been a mainstay in the lives of those enjoying rural living. Weddings, funerals, fishing derbies, educational sessions and emergency response efforts have all been hosted at the hall. In 2018, Wistaria Hall was used for an entirely new purpose.

From August 20 to September 14, 2018, the B.C. Wildfire Service used the facility daily for a range of purposes, including coordinating crews, transferring equipment and landing for helicopters while fighting the Nadina and Verdun fires. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) also used the hall as their headquarters.

"Every morning and late every afternoon, crews and community members mustered at the hall to share information on the progress of the fires and to strategize firefighting efforts," said Heather Anderson with the Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission. "Our area does not have cell service and the power lines and telephone landlines had burned down, making communication very difficult. This was the only way to get reliable information."



Having capable community infrastructure is integral to an effective response to emergencies. In this case, Wistaria Hall is the only community gathering place for 50 kilometres. Having usable structures in close proximity to the emergency, regardless of the type, is crucial for responders. While emergency response is not the main purpose of community halls, it is important.

"A community that can never gather ceases to be a community," Anderson continued. "Our annual functions include our Christmas Concert, Canada Day celebration and Mothers' Day Brunch. The hall is also used for weddings, funerals, anniversary parties and numerous special functions. After the fires this year we held a Community Gathering Luncheon to share our experiences, to thank those who worked tirelessly to save our property and homes and to make plans to avoid such a disaster in the future."

Community halls are the hub of the wheel that makes rural life go around. They draw people in and provide a sense of connection between diverse people, facilitate interaction between those living in sparsely populated areas and prevent isolation.

The Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission has been diligently working to maintain the facility to ensure that it is capable of fulfilling the diverse needs of those in the area. Since 2015, Northern Development has granted the Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission \$45,000 to assist with more than \$300,000 worth of upgrades.

Northern Development is committed to supporting communities of all population sizes. In 2018, 52 per cent of the Trust's approved projects were in communities of less than 5,000 people. This translates to \$7,423,938 in funding invested into these communities in 2018 alone.

FIGHTING FLAMES AND STOKING SPIRIT



Photo: Big Lake Community Association

Recently updated Big Lake Community Hall becomes crucial hub during 2017 wildfire season

In Big Lake, a sprawling community in the Cariboo, the Big Lake Community Hall became an essential gathering space for those fighting the surrounding wildfires in 2017.

“We went through six weeks of hell,” said Bee Hooker, president of the Big Lake Community Association. “It built a whole lot more community spirit because people realized they can rely on their neighbours. The hall was used as temporary accommodation for the fire fighters until we could find better places for them to stay. The hall’s kitchen was used every single day to prepare meals for those battling the flames. Now, people miss the comradery of meeting every morning in the hall and eating breakfast together before going out and fighting fires.”

Maintaining facilities in rural communities is critical for the well-being of residents and contributes to a higher quality of life, sense of community and provides unique opportunities. In Big Lake, the community hall is incredibly versatile, serving as the gymnasium for the local elementary school, housing the Big Lake Branch of the Cariboo Regional District’s Library Network and a post office.

In May 2015, the Big Lake Community Association completed \$45,000 in upgrades, of which Northern Development contributed \$17,000. The project replaced the hall’s roof, which was 27 years old and original to the building, expanded accessibility throughout the entire building, including in the basement and to the garden gazebo, and upgraded the washrooms.

“Now, we’re seeing a lot more use of the building because a stronger sense of community was built during the fires,” said Hooker. “It also helps the hall look a lot better and makes it a lot more useful. The new roof and insulation were professionally installed and makes the building more comfortable and will help preserve the structure. We were able to salvage the old tin from the roof for some community members to use as siding.”

As soon as the upgrades were completed, hall bookings increased. Within six months, 30 per cent more bookings had been made, including six weddings. This uptake in bookings surpassed the amount of additional bookings that were anticipated in the three years following the project’s completion. The hall’s upgrades also benefited the annual fishing derby and led to the event having the most participants to date in its 30-year history. The increased participation in the derby generated increased revenue for both the Big Lake Association and for local businesses while also contributing to a lively atmosphere.

“Now, we’re seeing a lot more use of the building because a stronger sense of community was built during the fires.”

- Bee Hooker

president, Big Lake Community Association

STORY IDEAS? LET US KNOW

Has Northern Development enabled your community to achieve something great? We'd love to hear about it!

Whether it's funding the Trust provided to repair a roof on a community hall that later proved invaluable during the wildfire season, or a grant that increased accessibility to a public space that has made a difference in someone's life, please share your experiences with us.

Our region is vast and sometimes we aren't aware of the unique stories people have. Share your good news with us!

Email: anna@northerndevlopment.bc.ca



AFFECTS OF WILDFIRES ON NORTHERN B.C.'S INDUSTRIES



State of the North Economic Report discusses the impact of wildfires on forestry and tourism

The wildfires that burned through large portions of land in B.C. during 2017 and 2018 continue to have negative impacts on central and northern B.C.'s economy. Both the forestry and tourism sectors are affected through the reduction of available timber supply and the altering of summer travel plans for both domestic and international travelers.

Both these industries, and others, are reviewed in the second annual State of the North Economic Report that was released in January 2019. The second edition follows a well-received first edition to provide an update on Northern B.C.'s economic health, including a closer look into four sub-regions.

Read the report to understand more about how Northern B.C. fared in 2018 and to gain some insight into the impact that the natural disasters of the past two years have had on the economy.

"In October 2017, the Allowable Annual Cuts (AAC) for the Prince George Timber Supply Area (TSA), was reduced by 33 per cent, bringing it below 1996 levels," states the report. "In addition, forest fires in 2017 burned approximately 1.2 million hectares of land, 83 per cent of which was in the Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet region. Timber supply in the Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet region had already been affected by the mountain pine beetle and a significant portion of the AAC was to harvest dead trees."

The report goes on to discuss how high demand for wood products and constraints placed on timber supply come together to create price increases and strong financial results for forest companies. However, in the latter half of 2018, lumber prices began decreasing and some mills announced production reductions in response to poor market conditions and increasing log costs.

Later in the report, the effects of the wildfires on the tourism industry are discussed. Based on the limited data that is available regarding visitor numbers in Northern B.C., tourism is experiencing modest growth, as is all of B.C. It is uncertain how two consecutive years of severe wildfires will impact this industry in the long-term.

"In the short-term, tourism businesses in areas directly affected by the wildfires lost most of their summer season which created financial hardship," says the tourism section of the report. "Businesses in areas where people were evacuated to, such as Prince George, would have been positively impacted."

The State of the North Economic Report is produced in partnership with MNP and offers valuable insight into the current fiscal state of Northern B.C. and observes economic trends. It is an impartial third-party report with data collection and interpretation provided by MNP.

Read the entire report on the Trust's website:
northerndevelopment.bc.ca/state-of-the-north

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

Northern Development is accepting submissions to the Strategic Initiatives Fund until **July 31, 2019**.

\$600,000 is available in 2019 to support a wide range of community led, strategic economic development initiatives that support economic transition and diversification and leads to long-term economic stability.

Local governments and First Nation communities are encouraged to contact Northern Development staff or visit the website for more details.

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/strategic-initiatives-fund



AIRPORTS HELP WILDFIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS TAKE FLIGHT

The Trust has invested more than \$17 million into airports in its region

Transportation infrastructure is essential when fighting fires and keeping people safe and airports are the key to safely moving crews, evacuees and refueling aircraft. Since 2006, Northern Development has invested more than \$17 million through 41 grants and three loans for airport improvement projects.

As B.C.'s wildfire season has been growing in severity over recent years, having well-maintained airports that can safely welcome firefighting aircraft is critical. The Williams Lake, Fraser Lake and Prince George Airports were among facilities that received funding for upgrades and were used in some capacity for firefighting efforts.

Williams Lake

The Williams Lake Airport received \$225,040 in 2015 to rehabilitate a runway and taxiway. In 2018, they were approved for \$115,000 for passenger terminal upgrades. In the annual reporting form that the City of Williams Lake completed while reflecting upon the positive changes that the 2015 runway rehabilitation made for the community, they noted that the project was exceptionally beneficial. The Williams Lake Airport has become an integral tactical base of firefighting operations as fire activity in the region has increased.

"As I reflect on the past two-year fire season I cannot emphasize enough the importance of our Williams Lake Airport and the Cariboo Fire Center," said Mayor Walt Cobb of Williams Lake. "I cannot imagine our area without this service whether it be for fire suppression activities or its importance in the economic viability of our community with the regular scheduled passenger service it provides."

Wildfire response is deeply woven into the fabric of the Williams Lake Airport. The Cariboo Fire Centre, responsible for coordinating wildfire response for approximately 10.3 million hectares in B.C.'s interior, opened on the airport's grounds in March 2017 and is the home base for more than 100 firefighting staff during peak season. The new centre was immediately put to the test during the 2017 wildfire season, which began just months after the fire centre opened. The Provincial Wildfire Management Branch also operates an air tanker base out of the Williams Lake Airport.

Prince George

In Prince George, the largest city in the Trust's region, the Prince George Airport Authority (PGAA) experienced record-breaking passenger numbers in 2017, due in part to the wildfires. Northern Development has supported the Prince George Airport with \$393,997 in grant funding for three projects and a \$10.8 million loan for a large airport expansion project.



Photo: Williams Lake Regional Airport staff

"We're always in a state of readiness for emergencies," said John Gibson, president and CEO of the Prince George Airport Authority. "We have long supported wildfire fighting efforts."

The Prince George Airport ensures it is always prepared to accommodate the diverse needs that may unexpectedly arise during emergencies. In 2017, the airport accommodated flights with fire crews and supplies, stored Red Cross supplies in their cargo facility and was a base for air tankers. Many evacuees travelled through the airport as they sought air transit as a way to travel during numerous highway closures. In 2018, the Prince George airport saw more tanker traffic and fewer evacuees as highway access was better than the year before. For a second consecutive year, the Red Cross placed supplies in the cargo facility.

“As I reflect on the past two-year fire season I cannot emphasize enough the importance of our Williams Lake Airport and the Cariboo Fire Center.”

- Walt Cobb

mayor, City of Williams Lake

Fraser Lake

Near the southwest corner of the expansive Prince George Fire Centre, the Fraser Lake Airport was heavily used in 2017 and 2018. In fact, in 2018, the B.C. Wildfire Service had exclusive use of the Fraser Lake Airport from June 22 through July 8 and August 13 through September 9. More than 600 landings took place at the airport by BC Wildfire Service's aircraft over this time.

"Without these upgrades, we would not have even been considered by BC Wildfire Service," said Dave Christie, economic development officer with the Village of Fraser Lake. "Our airport was used and became a hub for multiple fires in 2018, including the Nithi Mountain (Foster Lake), Island Lake, Shovel Lake, Cheslatta, Verdun and Nadina wildfires."

The Village of Fraser Lake is familiar with hosting wildfire-fighting aircraft at the Fraser Lake Airport. In their 2015 application for \$102,168 in funding for safety and security upgrades to the airport, they stated that during the summer of 2014, five water bombers were stationed on site. However, the facility did not meet security requirements so the Provincial Airtanker Centre had to organize security for their aircrafts around the clock. Now, with the 2015 upgrades, the airport is safer and secure.

Williams Lake, Prince George and Fraser Lake Airports are mere glimpses into the integral role that maintained infrastructure facilities fulfills in emergency response. During the non-wildfire season, these airports support local economic development and human connection. Airports provide residents with the ability to access resources in other places as they seek self-improvement, services and experiences not available in their home community in a timely manner.

Photos: Village of Fraser Lake



“ Without these upgrades, we would not have even been considered by BC Wildfire Service. ”

- Dave Christie

EDO, Village of Fraser Lake

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH DISASTER RECOVERY

Community Futures continues initiative started with funds from the Trust to support people and businesses after the 2017 and 2018 wildfires



Photo: Community Futures

For the second consecutive year, B.C. experienced catastrophic wildfires that launched the province into a state of emergency. More than 1.3 million hectares of land were burned in 2018 and approximately 2,000 people were forced to evacuate.

During this uncertain time, the Wildfire Emergency Response and Recovery Program was already in action, having been initiated on November 1, 2017, to aid businesses as they strived to recover from the 2017 wildfire season. Northern Development committed \$200,000 to this program which is a partnership spearheaded by Community Futures in Cariboo Chilcotin, North Cariboo and Sun Country. The Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition provided \$140,000 towards this program.

“The challenge for businesses and not-for-profit organizations is understanding and accessing appropriate resources,” said Karen Eden, general manager of Community Futures Development Corporation in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. “The one-on-one assistance provided by the business ambassadors will help to ensure that businesses are able to effectively and efficiently access programs and services that will assist with staying open and having ongoing sustainability.”

The program deployed eight business ambassadors into regions impacted by wildfires to be a resource for businesses that were feeling overwhelmed and facing an uncertain future.

In an interim report from May 2018, it is evident that the business ambassadors were hard at work and physically connecting with hundreds of people affected by the fires. The financial losses reported to date in the report are a staggering \$24,295,745. The top three industries that reported the highest losses were construction, agriculture/farming/ranching and timber/lumber. Early numbers from the ambassadors show that the top three industries that received assistance are retail trade, accommodation & food services/restaurant and agriculture/farming/ranching.

The Trust’s initial commitment of \$200,000 was instrumental in allowing Community Futures to leverage an additional \$1.3 million from Western Economic Diversification to expand the scope of work being done by the business ambassadors. Thanks to contributions from the Canadian Red Cross, who gave \$980,000 and an additional \$540,000 from Western Economic Diversification, the program has been extended to December 31, 2019.

From November 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

2,654 one-on-one business visitations

workshop participants **1,384**

464 self-directed training applications

business ambassadors **8**

COMMUNITY HALLS AND RECREATION FACILITIES JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2019

Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region

Quesnel and District Heritage Association	Quesnel Antique Machinery Park Roof Replacement	\$7,688
Forest Grove & District Recreation Society	Forest Grove Community Hall Improvements	\$30,000
100 Mile House Snowmobile Club	100 Mile House Snowmobile Club Groomer Acquisition	\$3,679
Williams Lake Cycling Club	Foxfire Mountain Bike Trail Upgrade	\$26,750
Wells Snowmobile Club	Wells Snowmobile Club Tiller Acquisition	\$15,000
City of Quesnel	South Hills Trail Development	\$30,000
City of Quesnel	West Fraser Centre Air Conditioning	\$30,000
Esdilagh First Nation	Esdilagh Destination Trails Initiative	\$30,000

Northeast Region

Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Association	Bear Mountain Cross Country Ski Terrain Park	\$47,568
Whiskey Jack Nordic Ski Club Society	Whiskey Jack Nordic Ski Club Day Lodge	\$50,000
Dawson Creek Ski and Recreation Association	Bear Mountain Ski Chalet Improvements	\$48,800
Fort St. John Curling Club	Fort St. John Curling Club Equipment Replacement	\$19,180
Village of Pouce Coupe	Pouce Coupe Skatepark	\$50,000
Northland Trailblazers Snowmobile Club	Redfern Lake Trail Warming Shelter Construction	\$20,781
School District No. 59 (Peace River South)	Unchagah Hall Upgrade	\$50,000
City of Dawson Creek	Encana Events Centre Jumbotron Replacement	\$50,000
City of Fort St. John	Festival Plaza Building Construction	\$50,000
District of Chetwynd	Rotary Park Enhancement	\$21,098
Tumbler Ridge Mountain Bike Association	Tumbler Ridge Pump Track Construction	\$50,000
Fort Nelson Motocross Club	Fort Nelson Motocross Track Upgrades	\$49,846

Northwest Region

Terrace Little Theatre Society	Terrace Little Theatre Technical Booth Upgrades	\$20,618
Smithers Mountain Bike Association	Bluff Trail Network Expansion - Phase One	\$30,000
R.E.M. Lee Theatre Alive (1988) Society	R.E.M. Lee Theatre Light and Sound Upgrade - Phase Two	\$15,000

Northwest Region - cont.

Bulkley Valley Bowmen Association	Bulkley Valley Bowmen Clubhouse Utility Improvements	\$12,675
Lake Babine Nation	Tachet Lakeshore Trail Construction	\$30,000
Kitimat Chamber of Commerce	Heritage Park Amphitheatre Construction	\$30,000

Prince George Region

Prince George Tennis Club	Tennis Court Reconfiguration	\$15,000
Northern Adapted Sports Association	Wheelchair Basketball Adapted Equipment Purchase	\$30,000
Tabor Mountain Recreation Society	Tabor Mountain Trail Rehabilitation	\$15,000
Hart Highlands Winter Club	Hart Highlands Winter Club Snow Making - Phase Two	\$15,000
Prince George Golf and Curling Club Ltd.	Prince George Golf and Curling Club Accessibility Upgrades	\$15,000
Tl'azt'en Nation	Tl'azt'en Gathering Place Upgrades	\$20,438
Mackenzie Community Arts Council	Mackenzie Community Theatre Stage Acquisition	\$30,000
Prince George Agricultural and Historical Association	Portable Bleachers Acquisition	\$30,000
Youth for Christ Prince George	92 Youth Centre - Phase One	\$30,000
Mackenzie Golf & Country Club	Mackenzie Golf & Country Club Rental Equipment	\$14,350
District of Mackenzie	Mackenzie Outdoor Event Space Development - Phase Two	\$15,000
Blackburn Community Association	Blackburn Bicycle Park	\$30,000
Village of McBride	Bill Clark Memorial Park and Ball Diamond Restoration	\$30,000
Village of McBride	Phil and Jennie Gaglardi Park Trail System Upgrade - Phase One	\$30,000
Bear Lake Recreation Association	Bear Lake Community Hall Upgrades	\$5,813
Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association	Valemount Bike Park - Phase Five	\$15,000
Canadian Mental Health Association - Prince George Branch	Clubhouse Kitchen Upgrades	\$30,000
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	Sinclair Mills Community Hall Upgrades	\$27,846
District of Vanderhoof	OK Cafe Upgrade - Phase Two	\$15,000
Young Men's Christian Association of Northern BC	Prince George Family YMCA Revitalization	\$15,000

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2019

BUSINESS FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/business-facade-improvement

2019 as of March 31	# Communities	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	7	135,000
Northeast Region	1	20,000
Northwest Region	8	160,000
Prince George Region	5	95,000

FABULOUS FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/fabulous-festivals-and-events

2019 as of March 31	# Events	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	3	7,500
Northeast Region	2	7,500
Northwest Region	5	20,000
Prince George Region	5	20,000

MARKETING INITIATIVES

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/marketing-initiatives

2019 as of March 31	# Projects	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	7	100,940
Northeast Region	3	41,251
Northwest Region	2	32,037
Prince George Region	6	97,104

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/economic-diversification-infrastructure

2019 as of March 31	# Projects	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	0	0
Northeast Region	1	250,000
Northwest Region	3	140,369
Prince George Region	1	250,000

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2019

COMPETITIVENESS CONSULTING REBATE

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/competitiveness-consulting-rebate

	# Projects	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	4	36,694
Northeast Region	0	0
Northwest Region	0	0
Prince George Region	5	53,700

NORTHERN INDUSTRIES INNOVATION FUND

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/northern-industries-innovation-fund

	# Projects	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	0	0
Northeast Region	1	50,000
Northwest Region	0	0
Prince George Region	3	150,000

INTERN PLACEMENTS FOR 2019-2020

Once again, Northern Development has matched local governments with recent post-secondary graduates through the Local Government Internship program. This program provides interns with a 12-month paid placement with local governments throughout the Trust's region. The internship program benefits local governments by increasing their capacity and provides new graduates with valuable on-the-job learning experience with quality mentors.

For 2019-2020, seven interns were placed with local governments in:

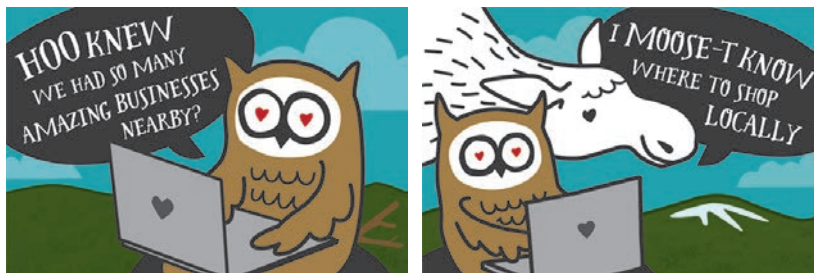
- Houston
- Mackenzie
- Northern Rockies Regional Municipality
- Peace River Regional District
- Port Clements
- Quesnel
- Williams Lake



NEW AND IMPROVED LOVE NORTHERN BC WEBSITE CHAMPIONS

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Below are the social media graphics that were released on the Love Northern BC social media channels. One image was posted per day leading up to the website launch.



Upgraded web platform connects shoppers with independent, locally-owned businesses in Northern B.C.

February 6, 2019 - Northern Development has successfully launched a brand-new, mobile-friendly Love Northern BC website to better connect 1,600 businesses with customers.

"Local businesses are the backbone of the economy in the North," said Joel McKay, CEO of Northern Development Initiative Trust. "Through the Love Northern BC platform, we are able to showcase the unique businesses that call our communities home."

The original website was designed to be viewed on a desktop to support one community and 50 businesses. However, a 2017 site analysis revealed that nearly 50 per cent of web traffic came from mobile or tablet devices.

"It's amazing to see how much the program has changed over the years!" said Beth Veenkamp, Economic Development Officer at the City of Williams Lake. "As a community champion for Love Williams Lake, I truly appreciate all that Northern Development has done to support businesses throughout Northern B.C. with the Love Northern BC program."

The site is now optimized for mobile users and the upgraded platform offers other perks.

Visitors to the site are invited to make an account and can receive email updates about the program, including "new business" notifications. Users can also create "favourite" lists to keep track of places they want to visit. This tool is perfect for someone visiting the area for business or planning a road trip through the region.

Love Northern BC began in 2011 as Small Town Love, a Quesnel-based grassroots initiative. Its purpose was to create an online platform to showcase and support local businesses competing against chain stores and online retail. In 2016, Northern Development expanded Small Town Love into a movement including 74 communities and spanning vast distances through ongoing committed funding and support. Through partnerships between the Trust and local community champions, the program has become Love Northern BC – the largest shop local program in Canada.

Explore the newly developed Love Northern BC at lovenorthernbc.com

COASTAL SHELLFISH MAKES FIRST COMMERCIAL SCALLOP SALE

Photo: Chelsey Ellis Photography



Northern Industries Innovation Fund and Competitiveness Consulting Rebate support coastal business

In February, Coastal Shellfish, a First Nations-owned company in Prince Rupert, made their first commercial scallop sale to a local sushi restaurant.

Coastal Shellfish has successfully applied for two business development grants through the Trust, totaling \$80,000. Their first project received \$30,000 through the Competitiveness Consulting Rebate program to improve bookkeeping, administrative, operational and reporting practices. In spring 2018, the company was approved for \$50,000 for aquaculture research through the

Northern Industries Innovation Fund. The research was a pilot study to assess the potential for increasing scallop production in a cost-effective manner. This was a necessary step in determining the viability of market expansion for cultured scallop products in Northern B.C.

Supporting Coastal Shellfish through the Northern Industries Innovation Fund was a natural fit as Coastal Shellfish's motivation to diversify and grow the local economy aligned well with the goals of the Northern Industries Innovation Fund.

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/northern-industries-innovation-fund

northerndevelopment.bc.ca/competitiveness-consulting-rebate

TWO TRUSTS COMMIT TO STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS



From left: Joel McKay (CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust), Tom Hoffman (acting chair, Northern Development Initiative Trust), Bruce Ralston (Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology), Hugh Braker (chair, New Relationship Trust) and Cliff Fregin (CEO, New Relationship Trust)

Northern Development and the New Relationship Trust sign a MOU

On January 23, 2019, Northern Development Initiative Trust and New Relationship Trust signed a memorandum of understanding during the 2019 BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George.

The document is a communications protocol that is the first step in strengthening the connection between the two Trusts. This important and intentional relationship will benefit First Nations and everyone living in Northern B.C. as together Northern Development and New Relationship Trust support First Nations to grow their capacity and improve economic development.

The New Relationship Trust is dedicated to strengthening First Nations in B.C. through capacity building. They invest in B.C. First Nations by supporting them in five key capacity development areas: governance capacity, education, language, economic development and youth and elders.



Tom Hoffman (left) and Hugh Braker sign the MOU



Joel McKay (left) and Cliff Fregin sign the MOU

“ Both Northern Development and New Relationship Trust are dedicated to supporting First Nations across Northern B.C. This protocol serves as another tool for both parties to continue that support. ”

- Joel McKay
CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust

“ We have always had a mutually respectful relationship with Northern Development. This communication protocol only serves to further strengthen that relationship and we look forward to working with Northern Development for years to come. ”

- Cliff Fregin
CEO, New Relationship Trust

PRINCE GEORGE'S CALEDONIA NORDIC SKI CLUB WELCOMES THE WORLD'S BEST PARA NORDIC ATHLETES



Photo: BergMedia Photography

2019 World Para Nordic Championships expected to generate \$5.34M in local economic benefit

February 2019 – One of Canada's largest Nordic clubs and B.C.'s only Nordic club with snowmaking abilities welcomed the world for the 2019 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships. From February 15 to 24, the world's best para Nordic athletes competed in biathlon and skiing events. Approximately 140 athletes from 21 countries came to Prince George to demonstrate their athletic ability and to inspire spectators from around the globe.

"We're really happy with how it all came together," said Kevin Pettersen, chair of the 2019 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships' Local Organizing Committee and past president of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club. "We're delighted that Northern Development could be a part of it as they've also been a part of our past successes."

Caledonia Nordic Ski Club has been operating since 1957 and has been in the same location for more than 30 years. Preparing



Photo: Mike Palangio

for the World Para Nordic Skiing Championships has provided the club with ample opportunity to utilize existing infrastructure and reason to add new amenities. Since 2013, the Trust has provided \$400,000 for five unique projects at the facility.

In their application for a quarter million-dollar grant to the Trust to install a snowmaking system, the ski club stated that "the largest risk for growing our membership, delivering Nordic skiing programs, introducing thousands of school children to Nordic Skiing and hosting world level events is unpredictable snow." The state-of-the-art snowmaking system produces quality snow and broad benefits for the community of Prince George.

The 2019 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships in Prince George was expected to generate \$5.34 million in local economic benefit, as predicted by the Sport Tourism Economic Assessment Model analysis. A total of \$6.36 million in economic benefit is expected to be felt in B.C.

The snowmaking system has positive impacts on the community as well. It is anticipated that with snowmaking abilities the club will be able to sustain a longer operating season by adding as much as one month of skiing on both ends of the ski season. Club statistics show that an early opening dramatically increases club membership, by as much as 500 members, more day users, more user groups (such as schools) and more equipment rentals. This translates into more revenue generation for the club and more residents investing in their health during the winter months. It is estimated that the longer ski season due to snowmaking abilities will provide \$317,000 in operational revenue. Estimated annual expenses to make snow are just \$8,500.

NEXT FUNDING INTAKE CLOSES

- AUGUST 9 -
2019

UPCOMING DATES

JUNE 10, 2019

Prince George Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

JUNE 18, 2019

Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

JUNE 21, 2019

Northeast Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

JUNE 28, 2019

Northwest Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

JULY 24, 2019

Northern Development Board Meeting

JULY 31, 2019

Strategic Initiatives Fund applications due



301-1268 Fifth Avenue
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