

## Food producers could see increased access to Asian markets



The Prince George Airport Authority, Northern Development, the City of Prince George and other public and private community partners have facilitated substantial infrastructure improvements to build the business case for Prince George Airport to be selected as a preferred stopping point for Asian cargo carriers

Initiatives Prince George is pursuing a study to find out what local industries can benefit from increased supply of perishable goods to Asia

Initiatives Prince George is spearheading a campaign to find local industry that can benefit from the opportunity to supply perishable goods to Asia. The Centre for Regional Perishables Exports Feasibility Analysis, with funding from Northern Development's Feasibility Studies program, will try to find ways local businesses can work with Asian carriers to fill cargo planes with perishable goods such as produce, fish, and other specialty goods on their way back to Asian countries. The business case to attract Asian carriers to the Prince George International Airport (YXS) would be greatly enhanced by the addition of a backhaul that provides added value for carriers when they consider stopping in Prince George versus competing alternatives such as Anchorage, Alaska. The attraction of Asian carriers would also have many spin-off benefits for businesses in Prince George. Northern Development is contributing \$15,985 to the \$55,956 project in partnership with the Prince George Airport Authority, Western Economic Diversification and the City of Prince George. Initiatives Prince George is also contributing \$7,558 to the study.

Food producers could see increased access to Asian markets - continued on page 3

## Power play: transmission line boosts northwest job creation

The first power line towers for the Northwest Transmission Line megaproject are up

The first tower is up, and already BC Hydro's \$561 million Northwest Transmission Line project is having major economic impacts in northwest B.C. "This one has been a beauty," said Terrace Mayor Dave Pernarowski. "It's created first and foremost a level of optimism in the community that things are happening ... but then it's the jobs." The city of slightly more than 11,000 fell on hard times a few years ago when its traditional industry, forestry, took a major hit amid the collapse of the U.S. housing market. But Pernarowski said new life has been breathed into the community, in part thanks to the transmission line, which has resulted in new contractors and suppliers buzzing around the downtown area. The project, which will see a 287-kilovolt transmission line suspended from Skeena substation near Terrace to Bob Quinn Lake 344 kilometres north along Highway 37, will also open up the northwest to major new clean energy and mining projects. Those major projects could result in millions of dollars of new

investment in communities such as Stewart, Terrace and Smithers, among others. "Things are definitely changing for the better," said Pernarowski, "and then from that, we're looking at all of the industry that will attach to the power line, the green energy projects." Although the power line won't be in service until the spring of 2014, industry has wasted no time getting their major projects underway.

*"Things are definitely changing for the better"*

Dave Pernarowski,  
Mayor,  
City of Terrace

AltaGas, a Calgary-based diversified energy business, has kicked in \$180 million to help pay for the project, and is already well into construction of its \$725 million Forrest Kerr run-of-river hydroelectric project along the Iskut River. The project is expected to be in service in mid-2014, and will have a capacity of 195 megawatts of clean energy that can be fed directly into the grid via the Northwest Transmission Line.

Power play: transmission line boosts northwest job creation - continued on page 2

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## Northern Development at a glance

**\$111** The millions of dollars in funding the Trust committed to 1,051 projects since its inception

**5,154** The number of jobs that have been created

**1,853** The number of funding partners the Trust has teamed up with to attract more than \$1 billion in new funding to the region

**73%** The percentage of investments in communities with less than 5,000 people

**\$200** The millions invested in new capital and training by supported companies

**3,000** The number of grant writers trained to date, including 124 First Nations

## IN THIS ISSUE

The Fort St. James Community Foundation is gaining momentum with a grant from Northern Development that will help it reach its goal to support local projects in perpetuity

It's ski season again, and the Cariboo Nordic Ski Touring Club near Quesnel is getting its trails in top-notch shape with a new groomer

The forest sector near Terrace is seeing the first activity in close to six years thanks to Chinese lumber demand

Mackenzie is back in action with revived sawmills, a pulp mill and a \$1.4 billion mining project

## Enter To Win An Apple iPad!



Do you have a photo that showcases community members enjoying an event or facility that's been supported by Northern Development, people working who are employed as a result of a project, or the construction phase of a project?

Enter our photo contest and you could win a new Apple iPad!  
[www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/photo-contest/](http://www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/photo-contest/)

## Showcasing a world of opportunity

Displaying the range of major resource projects that are generating jobs and opportunities for suppliers in central and northern B.C. is key to Northern Development's mission to build a stronger north.

I congratulate industry, their home communities and regions on working with us to build four fantastic investment portals, three of which are available on the web now. The fourth, Invest In Cariboo Chilcotin BC, will be launched in the coming days. Check out the action feeding our economy at:

**Invest in Northwest BC ([www.investnorthwestbc.ca](http://www.investnorthwestbc.ca))**

**Invest in Northeast BC ([www.investnortheastbc.ca](http://www.investnortheastbc.ca))**

**Invest in North Central BC ([www.investnorthcentralbc.ca](http://www.investnorthcentralbc.ca))**

If you own a manufacturing or supplier company in central or northern B.C., connect with industry contacts on the website and find out how you can increase your revenues and be a part of the supply chain.

If you are looking for a new career opportunity – check out the job postings on each company's website available through the investment portals.

I believe that communities, skilled people and industries will continue to work well together in this region to develop world-class industries and resource development projects with a strong sense of corporate and environmental responsibility.



**Janine North**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Development  
Initiative Trust

*"Take a moment to be proud of the vibrant opportunities and future that we all share"*

**Janine North,**  
CEO,

*Northern Development Initiative Trust*

To top it off, these projects are pursued in some of the world's most spectacular and diverse scenery and wildlife habitat. We all feel lucky to live and work in an area abundant with opportunity.

The new regional investment websites are about writing our own story about economic opportunities rather than letting others portray us unfairly.

Although we who call central and northern B.C. home are fewer in number compared to the rest of the province, we have the lion's share of opportunities in this province.

Only 8% of B.C. calls this region home, or some 375,000 people in the funnel shaped geography that starts at Cache Creek.

Yet rural communities have been responsible for 70% of the province's export wealth for the last decade – and the future looks even brighter.

Almost \$29 billion in resource exports are produced in rural B.C., and a further \$4 billion in manufactured exports come from rural and metropolitan B.C.

Central and northeast B.C., meantime, are the powerhouse regional players with the northwest and Cariboo coming along strongly.

Our investment climate is diversified, ranging from natural gas, mining, forestry, health care and sustainable energy to infrastructure, shipping and advanced education. B.C. is more than holding its own amid turbulence in international markets.

There is solid job growth in Canada's western-most province. Our provincial net debt as a percentage of GDP is the third lowest of the provinces at 17%, with only Saskatchewan and Alberta being lower.

While B.C. lagged Canada in the 1990's in terms of average real GDP growth, per capita GDP growth and business investment growth, we have beat the Canadian average on all three fronts during much of the last decade.

\$70 billion in capital investment is proposed in northern B.C. in the coming years, roughly equivalent to the real estate investment planned for Metro Vancouver.

The lion's share of major capital investments is happening in northern B.C. That's why the B.C. Real Estate Association forecasts a 15% increase in home sales this year in the north, while the rest of the province is expected to absorb a 4.4% decrease.

You can be the proud owner of an average house in northern B.C. for \$213,000 while the provincial average is \$517,000 – and pricing in Metro Vancouver remains off the charts.

I invite you to visit the new regional investment websites that communities from across the region have partnered to create.

Oh, and take a moment to be proud of the vibrant opportunities and future that we all share.

## Fort St. James Community Foundation gaining momentum

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The foundation endowment to support community projects will exist in perpetuity



The Fort St. James Community Foundation Society hopes to raise \$1 million within 10 years for community projects

Northern Development's Community Foundation Matching Grants program assists northern communities in establishing and growing a community foundation endowment to support community projects and will exist in perpetuity, while enabling local decision making to meet local needs.

*Fort St. James Community Foundation gaining momentum - continued on page 4*

The Fort St. James Community Foundation Society has raised \$25,000 to meet the first milestone on its journey to improve the quality of life for the 1,700 people that call the historic community home.

These funds were used to access the first half of their \$50,000 matching grant from Northern Development's Community Foundations Matching Grants program, which was made on October 10th. The Society will have more than \$100,000 invested by early 2013.

Once the next \$25,000 has been raised, Northern Development will match it with the remaining \$25,000 grant.

The first \$25,000 was raised through a substantial donation from the District of Fort St. James, a deposit from Thompson Creek Metals and through garage sales and craft fairs hosted by the society's members. The rest of the society's funds will also be raised through private donations and further community events organized by its members.

The society is also hoping there will be uptake in the community from citizens and businesses for "deductions at source" payroll contributions to the foundation.

Northern Development's funding is allocated out of the Village of Fort St. James' nominal allocation within the Prince George Regional Development Account.

## Power play: transmission line boosts northwest job creation

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*...continued from front page*

AltaGas also has plans for another two projects in the area, McLymont Creek and Volcano Creek, which will add another 82 megawatts of energy capacity in one of the province's most remote regions.

One of the major wins for the region, as far as industry is concerned, is that the transmission line will open up an entire region of the province to mine development thanks to the availability of cheap hydroelectric power.

In the past, mining projects in the far northwest have had to rely on costly diesel that's been trucked in from afar.

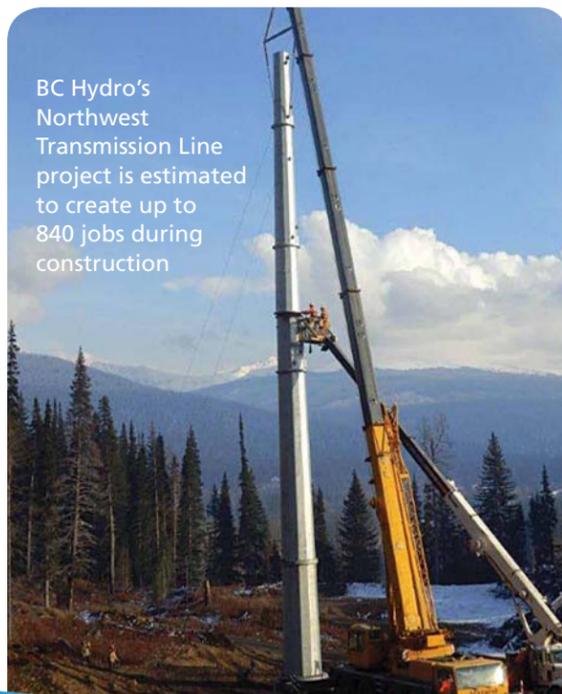
Vancouver-based Imperial Metals, which already operates two mines in northern B.C., is nearly halfway into the construction schedule of its Red Chris copper-gold project near Dease Lake.

Byng Giraud, Imperial's vice-president of corporate affairs, said the project has already created 120 construction jobs, a figure that will increase significantly in the spring.

"Come spring we'll be going hot and heavy and there'll be 400-plus guys up there," said Giraud.

Imperial plans to be the first major mine to tie into the Northwest Transmission Line once the project is complete, though it remains in negotiations with BC

BC Hydro's Northwest Transmission Line project is estimated to create up to 840 jobs during construction



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Hydro regarding the development of a separate power line that would stretch from Bob Quinn Lake to the mine site.

The transmission line has also been a major boon for some First Nations in the area.

Members of the Nisga'a First Nation have found employment with subcontractors helping to build the line.

"By the employment creation, it improves the quality of life for our Nisga'a people," said Bert Mercer, economic development manager with the Nisga'a Lisims Government.

BC Hydro has also signed impact benefit agreements that provide training, jobs and other economic opportunities with the Kitsumkalum First Nation, the Lax Kw'alaams Indian Band, Gitksan Houses, the Gitanyow First Nation, the Tahltan Nation, Skii km Lax Ha First Nation and the Metlakatla and Kitselas First Nations.

BC Hydro said the project would create up to 840 jobs during construction, and enable between \$8 billion and \$25 billion in new industrial development in northwest B.C.

To learn more about this story search this keyword on our website.

**Northwest Transmission Line**

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## Food producers could see increased access to Asian markets ...continued from front page

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Transportation network development and infrastructure improvements completed to date create the potential to fill this backhaul demand with the export of perishable goods from northern B.C., the Okanagan and northern Alberta to Asian markets.

"The Centre for Regional Perishables Exports Feasibility Analysis is intended to further the growth and diversification of the agricultural sector in Prince George and the surrounding region," said Initiatives Prince George CEO Heather Oland. "The export of perishable goods through the Prince George Airport strengthens the business case to attract Asian carriers to utilize YXS as a preferred technical stop." The analysis will be carried out by Intervistas Consulting Group, a leading consulting group with extensive experience in the aviation industry. The group will identify target markets and market demand for locally sourced perishable goods, challenges to market entry and strategies to



A consulting group has been hired to source locally produced perishable goods that might benefit from increased air traffic to Asia through Prince George Airport

*"The export of perishable goods through the Prince George Airport strengthens the business case to attract Asian carriers to utilize YXS"*

**Heather Oland,**  
CEO,  
Initiatives Prince George

attract freight forwarders. It will also formulate an approach to develop export market opportunities. Prince George is striving to be the transpacific logistics alternative in North America linking Asia-Pacific and U.S. heartland markets.

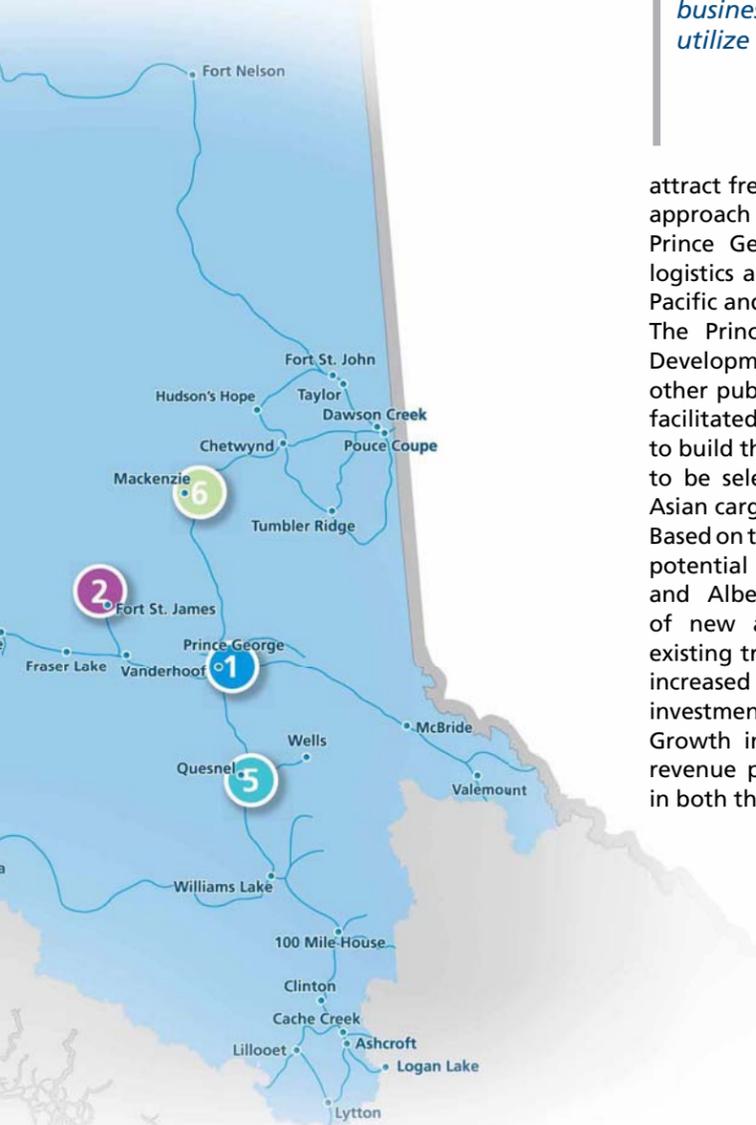
The Prince George Airport Authority, Northern Development, the City of Prince George and other public and private community partners have facilitated substantial infrastructure improvements to build the business case for Prince George Airport to be selected as a preferred stopping point for Asian cargo carriers.

Based on the findings of the study, there is significant potential for growth and diversification of B.C. and Alberta agriculture suppliers, development of new agriculture markets, full utilization of existing transportation infrastructure and capacity, increased private and public infrastructure and investments in agriculture and transportation. Growth in these areas will significantly enhance revenue potential and employment opportunities in both the agriculture and transportation sectors.

To learn more about this story search this keyword on our website.

**Airport**

[www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca](http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca)



## Asian demand breathes new life into Terrace sawmill

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The dormant Skeena sawmill is back up and running, creating close to 90 forestry jobs in the northwest

Chinese demand for B.C. products has helped revive a Terrace sawmill that's sat idle for the better part of six years.

Skeena Sawmills, which West Fraser Timber shuttered in 2007 and sold to Roc Holdings in 2011, is back up and running and churning out metric-sized lumber for the Asian building market.

Gian Sandhu, a management consultant for Roc Holdings, said the new owner has invested close to \$7 million in the once-dormant mill to upgrade equipment and software to make it competitive in a timber market focused more on Chinese customers these days than those in the U.S., B.C.'s traditional lumber market.

Sandhu explained the company has tuned its equipment to cut lumber to metric sizes, which are favoured in Asia compared with the imperial sizing that's used in the U.S.

"We're trying to cater to exactly what they need so that way there's less waste for them and a better return for us," said Sandhu.

Last month, the mill began operations with a single shift, employing some 54 people in the mill and another few dozen in the bush where Roc also has timber licenses to harvest logs.

*"We're trying to cater to exactly what they need so that way there's less waste for them and a better return for us"*

**Gian Sandhu,**  
management consultant,  
Roc Holdings

Sandhu said approximately 60% of the lumber generated at the mill will be shipped to Asia. The company is also exporting a small amount of raw logs.

The mill's proximity to the Port of Prince Rupert gives the company a competitive advantage in accessing the Asian market, said Sandhu.

The mill's new owner, Teddy Cui, is also the son of a Chinese real estate magnate who owns the Shandong Riguan Group, a major real estate and construction conglomerate in China.

To learn more about this story search this keyword on our website.

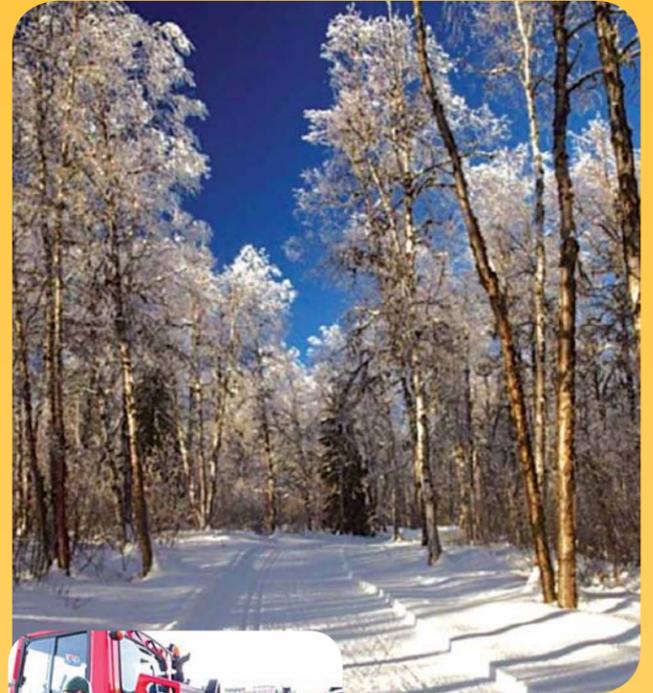
**Sawmill**

[www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca](http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca)

## New groomer boosts Cariboo ski slopes

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Northern Development has loaned the Cariboo Ski Touring Club \$70,000 to buy a new snow groomer



Skiers will enjoy fine-tuned trails at the Nordic Ski Touring Club near Quesnel this winter thanks to a new snow groomer

The Cariboo Nordic Ski Touring Club will be able to maintain its world-class Nordic ski trails at its Hallis Lake ski facility southeast of Quesnel a little longer thanks to the help of a new trail groomer.

The club has been operating for almost 40 years, and ensures that quality skiing opportunities exist for residents of Quesnel and surrounding areas.

Northern Development has loaned \$70,000 to the Cariboo Ski Touring Club for the purchase of a new snow groomer. The new groomer will allow the club to more efficiently and cost-effectively groom its expanding network of trails. The loan is repayable over five years.



The club supports and actively engages children and youth through its programs, as well as offering backcountry, competitive racing and biathlon events for all ages. All amenities for cross country skiing are available at the Hallis Lake facility, including a day lodge with indoor plumbing, 33 kilometres of ski trails for all skill levels, nine kilometres of snowshoe trails, 3.5 kilometres of lighted trails for night skiing and a biathlon range. When there is no snow, the facility is used for many other non-motorized activities including hiking, running, archery, horse back riding and mountain biking.

The purchase of a new snow groomer follows on the heels of previous Northern Development investment in upgrades to the club's Hallis Lake facility in 2009. That \$37,000 grant contributed to the expansion of the operation including trail lighting, indoor plumbing and washroom facilities, improvements to the biathlon course, staging area for spectators, timing hut, waxing area, sprint loop and concrete floor for the equipment storage building.

Together, these investments ensure that Quesnel and the surrounding area has a first class recreation facility that will attract out of town visitors, encourage new residents to settle in the community and help retain retirees in the region. The project has increased tourism year-round due to out of town participation in the many uses of the venue besides cross-country skiing. The Hallis Lake facility hosts some 16,000 visitors every year.

To learn more about this story search this keyword on our website.

**Hallis**

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## Mackenzie rejuvenated: major projects help forestry town bloom 6

**M**ackenzie is back. Only a few years ago, the forestry-dependent town was down on its luck with mill shutdowns and an exodus of residents to greener pastures.

But thanks to partnerships, strong leadership in the community and new markets in Asia the northern B.C. town, which is home to the world's largest tree crusher, is alive with new activity.

Not only are the sawmills and a pulp mill back up and running, but also Mackenzie is enjoying the spinoffs of a major new copper-gold mine nearby – Thompson Creek's \$1.4 billion Mt. Milligan project.

This new economic activity is driving job creation, local business growth, housing development and renewed pride.

To learn more about this hidden B.C. gem, check out Northern Development's website.

To learn more about this story search this keyword on our website.

**Mackenzie**

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Watch this video story online now



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Mackenzie is home to more than forestry and mining companies, it also has world-class fishing, skiing, and snowmobiling attractions

## Fort St. James Community Foundation gaining momentum

...continued from page 2

"The board of directors for the Fort St. James Community Foundation are ecstatic at the community's response," said Society Chairwoman Joyce Helweg. "Fort St. James has always been a giving, caring community. The people are always ready to open their hearts to special projects and people in need. "Our initial goal was to have raised \$1 million in 10

*"Fort St. James has always been a giving, caring community"*

**Joyce Helweg,**  
chairwoman,

Fort St. James Community Foundation Society

years. With our present balance sitting at slightly over \$73,000.00, this 10-year goal is very realistic."

The Fort St. James Community Foundation Society has said it will use the income earned from their endowment to fund community initiatives such as education, amateur sport and recreation, arts and cultural activities, preservation of lands or buildings of historical or environmental value and projects of a charitable nature, which generally contribute to the well-being of the residents of the area.

To learn more about this story search this keyword on our website.

**Society**

[www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca](http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca)

## Apply For Funding

If you are interested in learning more about any of Northern Development's funding programs, please don't hesitate to call the office at 250-561-2525 to speak to a member of our team.

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Northern Industry Expansion  
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Economic Diversification Infrastructure  
Community Halls and Recreation Facilities  
Feasibility Studies

### Capacity Building

Economic Development Capacity Building  
Grant Writing Support  
Marketing Initiatives  
Industry Attraction  
Community Foundation Matching Grants  
Governance Essentials Scholarship

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