



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

- 2017 -  
QUARTERLY REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$170.5 million** invested into **2,807** projects since 2005

**\$16.5 million** approved for **450** projects to date in 2017

**\$45.7 million** leveraged so far in 2017 as new project investment for the region

**\$11.2 million** invested into **326** First Nations projects since 2005

**\$27.3 million** approved for **314** projects to help communities recover from the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic since 2005

# CAPACITY BUILDING

## HELPING BUSINESSES AFTER THE FIRE

Businesses and non-profit organizations in wildfire affected communities in the Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet area will soon have additional support thanks to a partnership between Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC Cariboo Chilcotin, CFDC North Cariboo and CFDC Sun Country) and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition (CCBAC).

Thanks to this partnership, an Emergency Response Coordinator and Business Ambassadors will work from CFDC offices in Quesnel, Williams Lake and Ashcroft until October 31st, 2018 to help businesses access resources to help with wildfire recovery.

As a result of the worst wildfire season in provincial history, many businesses in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thomson-Nicola regions are struggling to recover, reopen and generate revenue.

“Northern Development is very pleased to be able to provide assistance to the businesses and organizations in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thomson-Nicola regions affected by the wildfires this past year,” said Evan Saugstad, Board Chair, Northern Development Initiative Trust. “The Trust’s partnership with Community Futures and the CCBAC on this project, in conjunction with the recovery efforts being made across central B.C., will help ensure that the organizations affected by the wildfires will receive sufficient support in accessing the resources available to them.”

While many programs and services already exist or have recently been established to assist with wildfire recovery efforts, accessing these resources can be a daunting and time consuming task for business owners who are busy managing their day-to-day operations.

The new positions will help businesses assess the impact of the wildfires on their operations, match their needs to available programs and services, assist with appropriate referrals and application processes and collect information that can help communities better understand the wildfire impacts in order to support new program development.

These positions will be working in collaboration with other wildfire response programs to complement and promote resources available through organizations such as Emergency Management BC, the Red Cross and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Community Futures welcomed the new staff members earlier this month:

- Emergency Response Coordinator, Sue Lachance
- Business Ambassadors - Ashcroft, Angela Bissat, Wendy Coomber, Andre Kuerbis
- Business Ambassador - Quesnel, Laurie Rice, Simon Turner
- Business Ambassadors – Williams Lake, Deanne Hoversland, Alisha Piccolo



From the back left: Simon Turner (Quesnel) and Andre Kuerbis. From left: Laurie Rice (Quesnel), Alex Minshull (Marsh consulting (red cross facilitator)), Alisha Piccolo (100 Mile House), Renata King, Karen Eden (CF Williams Lake) Wendy Coomber (Ashcroft), Sue Lachance (Williams Lake). Front right: Deanne Hoversland (Williams Lake).

The Community Futures Wildfire Recovery Business Support program will begin working with businesses starting January 2018.

“Community Futures is excited to be involved with this project,” said Karen Eden, General Manager, Community Futures Development Corporation, Cariboo-Chilcotin. “The challenge for businesses and not-for-profit organizations is understanding and accessing appropriate resources. 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 positions are funded with \$200,000 from Northern Development, \$140,000 from the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and \$56,000 from Community Futures Development Corporation.

Northern Development’s board allocated the funds for the program to support communities who were not only hit by recent wildfires, but were also among some of the hardest hit by pine beetle infestation in previous years.





## AGRICULTURE COORDINATOR ROLE FINDS THE RIGHT FIT

If you spend a few minutes speaking with Debbie Evans, you begin to understand that she is beyond just passionate about the agriculture industry — it's her life.

"I put myself through university by milking cows," said Evans. "I have a degree in agriculture because of it. I was always interested in agriculture and I wanted to learn about the dairy industry. When I was working I took advantage of my situation at the dairy farm and it paid for my university."

Charisma, understanding and compassion exude from the new Agriculture Coordinator for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN). Evans, who has spent decades in the agriculture industry, fundamentally recognizes the importance of meeting the needs of the hundreds of farmers in the region and what it will take smaller farms to be economically successful.

"I like to look at agriculture from an A to Z perspective," said Evans. "I want to see where we can fit and where we can go as an industry. Looking at how we can tackle some of the issues surrounding agriculture, what areas can make it stronger and better, and where we can grow the economics of agriculture. In many cases it will take identifying niche markets for farmers to be economically successful."

Evans boasts a wide array of experience in the agriculture industry. She has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture for 13 years and under that portfolio was involved in many programs ranging from Women in Agriculture to First Nations Agriculture. She held the executive director position at 4-H B.C. for three years and continued her journey managing a large dairy farm in Alberta. She then moved to Salmon Arm to be with her father and coordinated the Fall Fair before arriving at her new position.

As part of her new role, Evans will be meeting with different organizations involved with the agriculture industry as well as with farmers across the region to better understand and meet individual needs.

"I look at myself as an enabler out there," said Evans. "Meeting with organizations like Northern Development and the B.C. Agriculture

Ministry, meeting farmers to connect all these entities in order to help strengthen each other. My aim is to go out and meet producers to build a rapport, I want to hear their individual issues, creating a database of my connections and hopefully linking them with each other to provide adequate information and support they need."

The need for an agriculture coordinator position was initially identified during an agriculture forum hosted by the RDBN in 2016. The two-year pilot project was brought to fruition through a partnership between Northern Development and the RDBN. Northern Development approved \$131,666 in funding to support the agriculture coordinator project, with additional funding from the RDBN exceeding \$65,000. The funds will help support the coordinator's position and agriculture related project costs over a two-year term.

Evans hopes that during her position she will be able to show the value of having an agriculture coordinator not only in B.C. but also across Canada.

"I say to people that I am giving 110 per cent," said Evans. "I would like to see this role become a full-time position. If I can show that this role is successful in this region and shows potential to be duplicated nationally, I would regard that as a huge success on my part. I want to see success for the RDBN but I also want to see it in other regions, which will help the agriculture industry across the country."

The RDBN currently has 840 farms operating within its boundaries, many of which are small-scale farms. The task of providing these farms with information on funding opportunities, identifying challenges, and advocating on behalf of the agriculture community falls on the regional coordinator. Evans is embracing these challenges and is looking forward to utilizing her experience to support the needs of the region.

"My mandate is to unite the smaller farms and farmers together," said Evans. "If I can get a whole bunch of smaller farms to come together, and if we can form co-operatives, we can become a larger enterprise and access resources that might not have been available to smaller groups. My hope is to continue to advocate food and agriculture security in the region, as I have done it my whole career and I will continue to do so in this role."

# FIRST NATIONS GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP



“When I saw the posting for this internship I thought it was a perfect fit,” said Harry. “There is a lot going on here. The Tsilhqot’in Government is ahead of the curve on many unique projects and the treaty system, and I wanted to be a part of the organization.”

The First Nations Internship program, which is funded through a partnership between Northern Development and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, provides funding for central and northern First Nations governments or tribal councils to host and mentor an intern for a 12-month period. The program provides participants insight into the wide range of rewarding careers available within First Nations governments. The Tsilhqot’in National Government has many opportunities for Harry to gain the experience she needs, while giving her a chance to contribute to her community in more ways than one.

Choosing this internship meant more than just the work experience for Harry, she saw an opportunity to raise her family in their home community of Soda Creek, B.C. The chance to learn her cultural language, heritage, community values, and being able to pass them along to her children was an opportunity she could not pass up.

“I always wanted to come home to experience my culture and learn the language,” said Harry. “You can’t do that when you are living away from the community. This is very important to me because my children have not been exposed to language learning. I would like to be able to teach them some of that as well as our culture and heritage because it is a lifelong skill to have.”

## THE FUTURE IS NEVER CRYSTAL CLEAR

When Crystal Rain Harry graduated from the University of British Columbia, she never envisioned the search for a job would be quite as difficult as it turned out to be.

Harry, a mother of four, was living in Kelowna, B.C. with her family after receiving her Bachelors of Arts in History with a minor in Indigenous Studies. Having worked contract jobs before, she thought the process of starting her career would be smoother than it turned out to be. Her lack of work experience began to hinder her ability to land the jobs she really wanted. The process began to weigh on her.

“I was so excited to look for a job after graduating,” said Harry. “But when I started to miss out on opportunities because of my lack of work experience, I began to feel pretty discouraged. It affected my morale and my confidence. It was a very tough position to be in and I felt my options were starting to become limited.”

Although the job search became tough at times for Harry, she did not give up on trying to find her way to a career path that would lead her to success. As she began to expand her search for employment opportunities, Harry landed on the Nenqay Deni Internship position available with the Tsilhqot’in National Government in Williams Lake, B.C.

While she learns the language, Harry is also involved in an important project as part of her internship. The First Nation government is working towards bringing a Tsilhqot’in language radio station to the community. The station aims to bring history, heritage and language to the community and the younger generations.

“It is very exciting that we will have our own radio station that is community based,” said Harry. “Language is the backbone of any culture. The youth and the children are the ones who are going to bring the language back to our communities. Some of them can understand it but they can’t speak it as well. The radio station and the language project here at TNG would bridge that gap and help make the language strong.”

Harry hopes that with this internship under her belt, she will be able to continue her studies in a Masters program and find a job that will be both fulfilling and fruitful as a career. She may not know quite yet what that path may be ahead of her, but she is optimistic about her future.

“I have many opportunities here with the Tsilhqot’in government,” said Harry. “From economic development to governance, there are a lot of different things I hope to learn and refine my skills. Hopefully I’ll be able to contribute in a meaningful way and learn the skills I need to be successful in the future.”

# 2017 PROJECT APPROVALS TO DATE

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Northern B.C. is home to many well-used and well-loved community facilities, important capital assets, and signature festivals and events. Improving, expanding and developing these regional assets can help to attract business and major industry, as well as increase the ability to host events and attract tourists to the region.

### BUSINESS FACADE IMPROVEMENT

Northern Development provides annual grant funding for municipalities and regional districts throughout central and northern B.C. to encourage private sector investment in local business improvement. Visual improvements such as facades, signage, murals, architectural features, siding, lighting and awnings can enhance economic viability and the vibrancy of northern communities. The improvements can support the recruitment of new businesses and/or residents, and even increase the tax base as a result of increased assessed values of improved properties.

<i>2017 as of December 15</i>	<b># Communities</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	9	\$207,757
Northwest Region	10	\$180,000
Northeast Region	2	\$40,000
Prince George Region	6	\$115,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$542,757</b>

### ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

This program provides up to \$250,000 in funding for municipalities, regional districts, First Nations and non-profit organizations in the region for projects that significantly strengthen the local economy via a major capital investment. The program specifically targets funding for public multi-use facilities or capital investments that drive revenue and job creation and provide a long-term asset for the community.

<i>2017 as of December 15</i>	<b># Projects</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	7	\$938,782
Northwest Region	7	\$979,780
Northeast Region	6	\$1,187,789
Prince George Region	2	\$195,705
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$3,302,056</b>

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MATCHING GRANT

This program provides communities with up to \$50,000 to assist with the establishment of a dedicated endowment within a registered community foundation. The funds can then be used to provide grants for community and social enhancement in the community area.

<i>2017 as of December 15</i>	<b># Communities</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	1	\$50,000
Northwest Region	-	-
Northeast Region	-	-
Prince George Region	2	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

# MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE

## COMMUNITY GROWTH



### SAM KETCHAM POOL

On December 14, the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) and the City of Williams Lake, along with representatives from West Fraser, Northern Development Initiative Trust and the provincial government, celebrated the official grand opening of the Sam Ketcham Pool (SKP) Upgrade Project at the West Fraser Aquatic Centre in the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex.

The completed project includes a new fitness centre, lap tank, swirl pool, steam room and leisure pool. The leisure area features a waterslide, lazy river, tots area, kiddie carwash, teacup fountain, bubble pit, vortex and massage chairs. Phase Two of the West Fraser Aquatic Centre had a soft opening earlier this week; Phase One opened in August.

“The West Fraser Aquatic Centre has been worth the wait,” said Joan Sorley, Electoral Area F Director & SKP Working Group Co-Chair, CRD. “It is a beautiful new recreation space that will serve our communities well for years to come. Thanks to the support of our funding partners, this investment will help retain our residents and draw new families to the area.”

The pool upgrade project was delivered with a tax increase of about \$40 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of land and improvements on properties within the sub-regional recreation service area. The referendum that passed in 2014 gave the Cariboo Regional District authority to borrow up to \$10 million for the project; however, the CRD only ended up borrowing \$6.5 million thanks to the generous support from funding partners.

The final project cost was \$14.1 million. Additional costs were covered through capital reserves. About 55 per cent of the construction cost was spent on local trades and suppliers amounting to more than \$6.6 million.

External funding for the project included \$250,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust; \$500,000 from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program; and a total of \$4,427,500 through the federal Gas Tax Fund, including \$427,500 from the Regional District allocation of Community Works Funds for specific energy efficiency upgrades and \$4 million from the Strategic Priorities Fund. This support is in addition to the \$500,000 donated by West Fraser to support the project in recognition of the long-standing connection between the facility, the company and the Ketcham family.

“Recreation facilities such as the Sam Ketcham Pool play a vital role in the economic growth of our communities across northern B.C.,” said Evan Saugstad, Board Chair, Northern Development Initiative Trust. “These upgrades will allow the entire community to enjoy the amenities

offered by the centre and enable the facility to attract a greater number of visitors, gain additional revenues, and provide a better quality of life for the community and the surrounding region. The Trust is proud to have supported this project in partnership with the Cariboo Regional District, the City of Williams Lake and multiple other project funders.”

In addition to the pool upgrade project, the parking lot at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex was redesigned and upgraded. Completed in the fall of 2016, the parking lot cost \$1.3 million.

The Sam Ketcham Pool upgrade project is a joint initiative of the Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake.



# AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

## TERMINAL UPGRADES REALLY TAKING OFF



\$1.3 million in funding to date to improve airport terminals for your comfort, security, accessibility and increased capacity. This means potential for more flights, more tourists and, overall, more opportunity.



### Northwest Regional Airport

\$250,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

- Construction and renovations to more than 2,200 square meters of the terminal
- New checked bag drop off screening area
- Relocation of airline offices to allow better circulation of passengers
- Holding room upgrades to accommodate up to 230 passengers

### Anahim Lake Airport

\$66,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

- Construction of a new terminal building
- Provides air access to a community otherwise only accessible by land (Highway 20)
- Provides space for the RCMP and the BC Forest Service to fight interface wildfires
- Accommodates approximately 2,000 flights per year

Upgrades to the Northwest Regional Airport have resulted in a 38% growth in airport passenger traffic

## AIRPORT UPGRADES ARE A 'RUNWAY' HIT



Upgrading runways has been a key priority for airports around northern B.C. Not only will these upgrades ensure that current standards are met to keep airports operational, help with visibility and provide safety for flights in and out of the airport, they also can provide new and expanded business opportunities.

Upgrading runways can provide expanded landing capacity to attract more and larger aircraft and provide additional capacity to attract different types of aircraft (cargo, military, etc.).

Northern Development has invested \$13.5 million into runway upgrades throughout the region to date

### Smithers Airport

\$1 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING

- Expansion of the runway to 7,500 feet
- Increased flight capacity for tourism growth opportunities

### Dease Lake Airport

\$200,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

- Runway re-surfacing project
- Improves safety and facilitates services such as Medevac and fire suppression for the remote community

## AIRPORT PARKING

Northern Development has contributed more than \$750,000 in airport parking upgrades to date. Not only do these funds support the creation of additional parking spaces, energy efficient lighting upgrades, safety measures and improved parking services, they also have supported the creation of revenue generation systems that provide ongoing funding for the maintenance of other airport infrastructure.

### Northern Rockies Regional Airport

\$250,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

- Expansion of existing infrastructure to allow for better access by buses
- Development of revenue parking infrastructure including rental car parking
- Revenue generation through parking lot usage
- Upgrade chip and pin function pay systems

### North Peace Airport

\$200,681 IN GRANT FUNDING

- Additional parking lot stalls
- Renovation upgrades to an older parking lot
- Creation of three bus lanes to accommodate crew buses
- Implementation of usage fees for revenue



## PROPELLING OUR AIRPORTS FORWARD

\$13.5 million in funding for runway upgrades

\$1.3 million in funding for terminal upgrades

\$758,349 for parking expansions

\$337,735 for energy efficient lighting

\$43,020 for new business opportunities

\$20,000 for aviation training simulators

\$879,755 in miscellaneous airport projects

\$16.9 million in funding for airports in 20 communities

Anahim Lake, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Chetwynd, Dease Lake, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Fraser Lake, Lillooet, Masset, Xeni Gwet'in, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Smithers, Stewart, Terrace, Vanderhoof, Williams Lake



## STRONGER AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDS A STRONGER NORTH, PLANE AND SIMPLE

Airports play an essential role in the economic growth of our communities by transporting goods (for both communities and industry), creating jobs and expanding tourism possibilities in the region.

Northern Development is proud to support many airport projects that provide northern B.C. communities with economic potential for years to come.

Airports connect us. They provide us with opportunity to visit family and friends locally, nationally and globally.

And we wish you safe travels as you visit northern B.C. airports this holiday season!

## COMMUNITY HALLS & RECREATION FACILITIES

This program provides local governments, First Nations and registered non-profits with a maximum of \$30,000 in funding to improve, expand or develop facilities throughout the region.

**UPDATE** for Community halls & Recreation Facilities program:

The reporting period has now been shortened from three years to one year after project completion.

**NEW** = Newly funded projects this quarter

### Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region

70 Mile Community Hall	70 Mile House	\$18,938
Drylands Arena Energy Upgrades	Ashcroft	\$30,000
Ball Fields	Barlow Creek	\$60,000
Recreation Complex	Bouchie Lake	\$29,500
Pioneer Museum	Bralorne	\$30,000
Gun Lake Boat Launch	Bridge River Valley	\$13,107
Low Mobility Wilderness Trail Network	Cariboo RD	\$30,000
Fitness Room	Clinton	\$12,000
Curling Rink Roof	Forest Grove	\$30,000
Emergency Operations Centre and Public Meeting Hall	Logan Lake	\$30,000
Seniors' Centre Kitchen	Quesnel	\$11,650
Child Development Centre Accessibility	Quesnel	\$26,200
Tillicum Society Friendship Centre	Quesnel	\$30,000
Soccer Complex Circulating Fans	Quesnel	\$15,163
Arena Two	Quesnel	\$30,000
Lewis Drive Rink	Quesnel	\$30,000
Halls Lake Snowmaking System Installation	Quesnel	\$54,635
Xat'sull Heritage Village Trails	Soda Creek	\$30,000
Snowmobile Club Trail	Wells	\$30,000
Wells/Barkerville ATV Trail Connector	Wells	\$30,000
Golf and Tennis Club Driving Range	Williams Lake	\$30,000
4H Washhouse	Williams Lake	\$29,295
	<b>22 projects</b>	<b>\$630,488</b>

### Northwest Region

Dock Replacement	Alice Arm	\$30,000
Child Development Centre Public Space	Bulkley Valley	\$27,000
Community Hall	Dease Lake	\$15,000
Sacred Headwaters Elders and Youth Centre	Iskut	\$15,000
Waterfront Shelter/Gazebo	Granisle	\$30,000

Houston Legion Electrical	Houston	\$29,682
Fair Grounds	Lakes District	\$45,000
Community Hall Roof	Lobelco	\$30,000
Baseball Bleacher	Port Clements	\$14,000
Recreation Complex Accessibility	Prince Rupert	\$15,000
Community Hall	Telkwa	\$10,264
Rugby Facility	Terrace	\$30,000
Terrace Peaks Gymnastics Facility	Terrace	\$30,000
	<b>13 projects</b>	<b>\$319,446</b>

### Northeast Region

North Wind Wellness Centre	Dawson Creek	\$30,000
Ski Chalet Facility	Dawson Creek	\$30,000
Walter Wright Pioneer Village	Dawson Creek	\$9,126
South Peace Motorsports Tower and Security Fence	Dawson Creek	\$47,839
Doe River Community Hall Roof	Dawson Creek	\$26,188
Ice Resurfer Replacement	Dawson Creek	\$30,000
Bear Mountain Trail Upgrades	Dawson Creek	\$50,000
Snowmobile Club Safety Cabin	Fort Nelson	\$14,733
Northern Lamplighters Exterior	Fort Nelson	\$30,000
Poplar Hills Golf Cart Shed and Patio Furniture	Fort Nelson	\$30,000
Elks Lodge Hall	Fort Nelson	\$49,331
Fort St John Curling Club Upgrades	Fort St John	\$30,000
North Peace Arena Upgrades	Fort St John	\$30,000
North Peace Cultural Centre	Fort St John	\$30,000
Kids Arena Field House Upgrades	Fort St John	\$30,000
Foam Pit	Fort St John	\$46,200
Charlie Lake Boat Launch Ramp	Fort St John	\$30,000
Lake Point Pump House	Fort St John	\$50,000
Arena Flooring	Hudson's Hope	\$30,000
Double H Saddle Club	Hudson's Hope	\$24,008
Pool Disinfection System	Tumbler Ridge	\$30,000
Community Hall Roof	Wonowon	\$13,000
	<b>22 projects</b>	<b>\$689,243</b>

## Prince George Region

Murray Ridge Trail	Fort St James	\$60,000
Recreation Complex and Visitor Centre Parking Lot	Fraser Lake	\$30,000
Arena Dressing Room	Fraser Lake	\$30,000
Little Mac Multipurpose Trail Route	Mackenzie	\$26,680
Cardio Room Equipment	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Weight Room	Mackenzie	\$19,316
Cicada Ball Diamonds	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Arena Ice Plant	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Recreation Centre Pool	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Outdoor Event Space	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Pool Boiler	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Curling Equipment	Mackenzie	\$13,934
Fish and Game Association Range	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Golf and Country Club Equipment	Mackenzie	\$18,800
Nordiques Cross Country Snow Groomer	Mackenzie	\$23,417
Trail Equipment Shed and Workshop	Mackenzie	\$18,000
Morfee Mountain Cabin	Mackenzie	\$29,900
Legion Exterior and Insulation	Mackenzie	\$30,000
Blackwater Motocross Trail	Prince George	\$60,000
AiMHi Gym and Conference Centre	Prince George	\$30,000
Wheelchair Rugby Equipment	Prince George	\$30,000
BMX Track Improvements	Prince George	\$30,000
Blackwater Range Power and Security Upgrades	Prince George	\$25,800
Hart Highlands Ski Hill Infrastructure Upgrades	Prince George	\$30,000
Playhouse Modernization	Prince George	\$30,000
CN Centre Carpet and Chairs	Prince George	\$30,000
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park Pavillion	Prince George	\$30,000
Rolling Mix Concrete Arena Compressor	Prince George	\$30,000
Elkscentre Arena Accessibility	Prince George	\$30,000
Kin 3 Arena Seating	Prince George	\$30,000
Civic Centre Sound System	Prince George	\$19,329
Elder Citizens Recreation Centre Kitchen	Prince George	\$30,000
Kinsmen Hall Roof	Prince George	\$30,000
Pineview Hall Addition	Prince George	\$30,000
Honey Shuttle Bike Trail	Prince George	\$30,000
Bike Park Expansion	Prince George	\$30,000
Fish Hatchery Building	Prince George	\$30,000
Cariboo Lakes Backcountry Cabin	Robson Valley	\$30,000
Community Centre Tables and Chairs	Robson Valley	\$14,366
Peak and Teare Mountain Bike Trail Network Connection	Robson Valley	\$30,000
Bike Park Phase 3	Valemount	\$30,000
Curling Club	Valemount	\$29,650

**NEW** = Newly funded projects this quarter

<b>NEW</b> Canoe Valley Recreation Centre	Valemount	\$11,115
Exhibition Fairground Water Management	Vanderhoof	\$29,756
OK Cafe	Vanderhoof	\$30,000
	<b>45 projects</b>	<b>\$1,287,197</b>

## LUNCH TIME

The Elder Citizens' Recreation Association (ECRA) has been a volunteer-driven organization operating in Prince George for 25 years and has a membership of 1,000 seniors. The association offers a wide range of recreational activities for seniors and includes a kitchen and coffee/dining area available to the public for venue rentals or for weekday lunch specials.

With memberships rapidly growing for the ECRA, the centre needed new upgrades to the kitchen area in order to provide better service to members and non-members during lunch hours and special events. A bigger space and new equipment were needed to maintain regular services.

The new kitchen expansion project was supported in part by Northern Development's Community Halls and Recreation Facilities program, providing \$30,000 in approved funding towards the project.

The kitchen renovation expands the space by 345 sq ft and allows staff members to work safely and efficiently to service and accommodate new and existing members and non-members. Membership currently stands at 1,000 but is anticipated to grow due to the aging population in the area. ECRA provides affordable and nutritious weekday meals to members and the public. You can stop by for a bite to eat for just \$6 to \$8 for members or \$8 to \$10 for non-members.



# FROM TRAILS TO ARENAS

## HEART OF THE HAZELTONS

Home is where the heart is, which in this case happens to be in the Hazelton. Construction for the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre in Hazelton, B.C. were underway on November 10th with a groundbreaking ceremony.

The facility is envisioned as having the potential to be the primary venue to pursue sports tourism opportunities and act as a new economic driver for the region.

The Upper Skeena region consists of two separate municipalities of Hazelton and New Hazelton, seven Gitksan communities, two non-incorporated settlements and three valleys with a population of approximately 7,600 people.

The new arena is poised to be a great asset to the community and should contribute to the economic development of the entire region.

The project is being supported in-part through Northern Development's Economic Diversification Infrastructure program with \$250,000 in approved funding for the new facility. The new arena will provide year round recreation, including an ice surface, a full size gymnasium and space for other recreational programs.

The recreation centre programming will focus on programs to promote the health and wellness of all residents and visitors to the Upper Skeena region. The facility should contribute to revenue generation for the region. The project is expected to be complete by November 2018.



## BUILDING BRIDGES

The trails at Tabor Mountain are some of the longest and most beautiful trails in B.C., boasting over 400 kilometres of trail system available to the public and members of the nine recreational clubs who share the trails.

The Tabor Mountain Recreation Society (TMRS) in partnership with the Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) manage the trails and staging areas on the mountain.

The extensive trail system is in constant need of rehabilitation and upgrades to ensure the safety of all users, due to weather and usage of the trails. These can include various repairs and improvements to the trails, to installation of new structures that allow safe passable sections of the trails and provide protection to the ecosystems around the trails.

Recent improvements, such as the new replacement bridges built at Marvin's Crossing and George's Dip, ensure safe crossing of the creeks below. The steel structured bridges also allow for the snowmobile groomer to cross the creek without traveling through it, while ensuring improved safety and offers better protection of the stream's ecosystem.

Northern Development has partnered with TMRS on a few projects over the years ranging from the Mobility Trail Expansion project to these two new replacement bridges at Tabor Mountain. These projects not only provide safety for current users, but also promote tourism to the region. The new improvements made to the trails will allow the clubs in the area to attract memberships and provide greater diversity for trail usage.

Northern Development approved \$60,000 in funding support for the two bridge projects at Tabor Mountain through the Community Halls and Recreation program.



## FABULOUS FESTIVALS & EVENTS

This program provides non-profit organizations with up to \$2,500 in grant funding to support unique events and festivals throughout the region that generate destination tourism-based service sector revenues for the local economy.

**NEW** = Newly funded projects this quarter

### 2017 Funded Fabulous Festivals and Events

Gold Rush Mail Run	Wells	Jan 27-29
Coldsnap Winter Music Festival	Prince George	Feb 3-11
Polar Carnival	Logan Lake	Feb 11
Winterfest	Bridge River Valley	Feb 11
Northern BC Wine Festival	Prince George	Feb 18
Kitimaat Open Basketball Tournament	Kitimat	Mar 31-Apr 2
Lytton Block Party	Lytton	May 19
150th Clinton Annual Ball	Clinton	May 20
Bright Nights in June	Fort Nelson	Jun 7-10
International Chainsaw Carving Championships	Chetywnd	Jun 8-11
Seafest	Prince Rupert	Jun 9 - 11
Sweetwater 905 Festival	Rolla	Jun 16-18
Mile Zero Summer Cruise	Dawson Creek	Jul 7
BMO KidzArt Dayz	Prince George	Jul 7-8
Billy Barker Days Festival	Quesnel	Jul 13-16
White Swan Music Festival	Fraser Lake	Jul 15-16
Downtown Summerfest	Prince George	Jul 16
Loggers Sports Day	Sandspit	Jul 21
Apricot Tsaq'wem Festival	Lillooet	Jul 21-23
International Airshow	Fort St John	Jul 22-23
Discovery Coast Music Festival	Bella Coola	Jul 22-23
Kispix Valley Music Festival		Jul 28-30
Cutting Horse Show	Quesnel	Jul 29-30
Skyfest	Quesnel	Aug 4-6
Kiskatinaw Fall Fair		Aug 4-6

2017 as of December 15	# Events	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	13	\$32,147
Northwest Region	9	\$22,500
Northeast Region	11	\$27,500
Prince George Region	6	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$97,147</b>

Grizfest Music Festival	Tumbler Ridge	Aug 4-6
ArtsWells Festival of All Things Art	Wells	Aug 4-7
Riverboat Days	Terrace	Aug 4-13
Fall Fair	Tlell	Aug 6
Big Pig Mountain Biking Festival	Burns Lake	Aug 11-13
Robson Valley Music Festival	Robson Valley	Aug 11-13
Edge of the World Music Festival	Haida Gwaii	Aug 11-13
Desert Daze Festival	Spences Bridge	Aug 11-12
Skeena Valley Country Music Festival	Terrace	Aug 11-13
5th Annual Metis Jamboree	Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet	Aug 11-13
Emperor's Challenge	Tumbler Ridge	Aug 12
Music on the Meadow Festival	Fort St. James	Aug 18-20
Nechako Valley Exhibition	Vanderhoof	Aug 18 - 20
Bulkley Valley Exhibition	Smithers	Aug 24-27
Lytton River Festival	Lytton	Sep 1-3
Gold Country Geocache Event	Cache Creek/Ashcroft/Logan Lake	Sep 1-4
Huble Homestead Potato Festival	Prince George	Sept 3
Wild Harvest Festival	Sandspit	Sept 8-9
Lakes District Fall Fair and Music Festival	Burns Lake	Sept 8
Harvest Festival	Chetwynd	Sept 9
Harvest Festival	Lillooet	Sept 9
Fraser Heritage Festival	Robson Valley	Sept 29-Oct 1
44th Annual Memorial Pow Wow	Quesnel	Oct 7
Culturefest	Fort Nelson	Oct 21
<b>NEW</b> Sip Wine Fest	Prince George	Nov 10-18

## MARKETING INITIATIVES

The Marketing Initiatives program provides up to \$20,000 in grant funding to support new campaigns or projects that promote and/or position a community or region to take advantage of opportunities that support economic vitality and diversification.

**UPDATE** for Marketing Initiatives Program:

Eligible projects can now receive up to \$20,000 in grant funding to a maximum of 50% of the eligible project budget.

2017 as of December 15	# Communities	\$ Approved
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Region	4	\$36,862
Northwest Region	4	\$54,025
Northeast Region	1	\$14,217
Prince George Region	7	\$81,468
Cross Regional	5	\$115,803
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$302,375</b>

# BUSINESS SUPPORT

## SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTOR

### NEW PLATFORM FOR BETTER CONNECTION

The Supply Chain Connector platform has received some new upgrades to help make navigation and searches easier on the platform to better connect businesses to businesses.

The new platform aims to be more user-friendly, contains new features and easier access to information.

These upgrades include a revamp to the search function for major projects lists around the region as well as a new regional map created to help find locations of businesses located within the Trust's service region.

Check out the new platform for yourself at <https://www.supplychainconnector.ca/>



## INNOVATING THE INDUSTRY



### MANUAL TO AUTOMATIC

Innovation is the name of the game and at Environmental Mats, they are doing just that. Making access mats, portable platforms used as structural roadways to provide safe passage over unstable ground, is a labour-intensive and time-consuming process. The process is generally done manually by workers. Environmental Mats has taken the first step towards streamlining production of their mats through automation of the process.

Using an automated drill press, which can produce the same product done manually at a fraction of the time, increases productivity, reduces worker injuries and reduces overall cycle time. This innovative idea is supported through Northern Development's Competitiveness Consulting Rebate program and the Pine Beetle Recovery Account providing the project with \$64,000 in approved funding. The program provides a rebate to small and medium sized companies engaged in manufacturing, innovative technologies, resource processing, transportation, distribution and their first line suppliers for outsourced consulting services.

# LOVE NORTHERN BC

## AREN'T YOU PLAID IT'S FRIDAY?

Communities and shoppers celebrated this year's Plaid Friday with glee by shopping local for great deals on November 24th.

The day was used to highlight both local and independently owned businesses during the kick off to the holidays and showcase many unique business across northern B.C.

Participants donned their finest plaid outfits to help celebrate the day. Shoppers were encouraged to join in on events held across the communities, including dances, Christmas tree light-ups and contests to win prizes from local retailers.



## COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas, Love Northern BC gave to me: 12 helpful posts.

As Christmas draws nearer, people are flocking to the stores to get their shopping done. Love Northern BC has some great ideas for folks to get their hands on the goods from local businesses across northern B.C.

The 12 Posts of Christmas was created to not only help shoppers with gift ideas but to also highlight and promote some of the unique and wonderful Love Northern BC businesses from across the region.

The posts heightened awareness of regional businesses and nearly doubled social following.



## LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



### FREE WEBINAR PROGRAM

Businesses in northern B.C. received an opportunity to access premier practical business webinars for free this past quarter from September 1st to December 15th, thanks to a partnership between Northern Development and Small Business BC.

## STATS

Registration from Love Northern BC, Supply Chain Connector, and Community Futures members saw good participation numbers throughout the promotional period.

There were a total of 286 seminars booked by Love northern BC members, with a total value of \$12,796 for the seminars. Supply Chain Connector members accessed 115 seminars for a total value of \$4,943, while Community Futures members participated in 80 seminars valuing at \$3,539.

The grand total value of the Small Business BC seminar promotion was \$21,278 with 481 seminars booked during that period.

# FESTIVAL SEASON

## FALL FUN FOR ALL



When the leaves are turning and the cold weather sets in, people often start to head indoors and enjoy the warmth. Though it may have been a little chilly outside, the fall festival season was busy heating things up.



Festivals across northern B.C. were entertaining locals and tourists alike. From the Hubble Homestead Potato Festival to the Fusion Festival, there was no shortage of fun in autumn. Northern Development's Fabulous Festivals and Events program was proud to support the many events that highlighted the unique communities around our region.

The program aims to promote destination tourism and the service sector across central and northern B.C. These events help generate increased revenue for the communities and the region.

Photos (clockwise) Mid Autumn Moon Fest - Barkerville, Lake District Fall Fair and Music Fest - Francois Lake, Fusion Festiva - Dawson Creek, Hubble Homestead Potato Festival - Fraser-Fort George, Seafest - Prince Rupert.

NEXT FUNDING INTAKE CLOSES

- FEBRUARY 9 -

2018

## UPCOMING DATES

**JANUARY 9, 2018**

Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

**JANUARY 15, 2018**

Prince George Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

**JANUARY 26, 2018**

Northwest Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

**JANUARY 30, 2017**

Northeast Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

**JANUARY 31, 2018**

Grant Writing Support/Economic Development Capacity Building  
Intake Deadline

**FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

Intern Candidate Application Package Intake Deadline

**FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

Northern Development Board Meeting



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