



We are stronger working together

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16/97 Economic Alliance’s 2009-2011 Action Plan

Members of the 16/97 Economic Alliance met in McBride, BC October 14 & 15 for networking and planning. The intent was to develop a 5 year Strategic Plan for the organization. Due to illness and other commitments, fewer members than expected (approximately 12) were able to participate throughout the two days. Fortunately, this group included long-time members of the Alliance, more recently involved members, and some who were attending for the first time.

With substantive discussion about the rationale for the Alliance and opportunities for its future, and with the support for an external facilitator for a two-hour planning session, this shorter-term, draft Action Plan was developed in lieu of a full Strategic Plan.

The actions outlined below are drawn from the McBride conversations, particularly the facilitated desires that the 16/97 Economic Alliance can be:

- An active table of engagement for regional economic development practitioners
- An effective venue for “intelligence sharing”
- A venue for project development discussions and a catalyst for regional partnerships
- An active community of practice/opportunity for professional development for regional economic development practitioners
- Within the context of the Alliance’s broader focus on economic development, the Alliance itself can be a “cluster” of economic development practitioners

Action 1: Developing and Sharing Capacity

We will increase our collective opportunities for professional development by sharing information about learning opportunities with our member organizations, and supporting access to these.

Action 2: Networking and Relationship Building

We will support the development of collaborative & trusting relationships between organizations concerned with regional economic development, and foster relationships with organizations representing diverse groups of members.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Business for

16/97 Economic Alliance

C/o Community Futures Fraser Fort George
 1566 Seventh Avenue
 Prince George, BC V2L 3P4
 Attn: Susan Stearns, Chair
 T: 250.562.9622
 F: 250.562.9119
 Email: susans@cfdc.bc.ca

Communications for

16/97 Economic Alliance

C/o College of New Caledonia
 3330-22nd Avenue
 Prince George, BC V2N 1P8
 Attn: Sabrina Tylee (ext 5479) or
 Cathe Wishart (ext 5208)
 T: 250.561.5848
 Email: 1697EconomicAlliance@cnc.bc.ca

Next Networking Session...

Date: January 13, 2010
Time: 5:00—6:30 p.m.
Location: Civic Centre, P.G.
Address: 808 Civic Plaza

**No registration or
membership required!**

If you are attending the BC Natural Resource Forum & Economic Summit in Prince George on Wed, January 13 and Thursday, January 14, please join the Alliance for a networking session the early evening of January 13.

One of the critical outcomes of our Fall Forum was that we need to create more opportunities for cross-regional networking and idea sharing. This informal get-together is a great opportunity to catch up, trade ideas and partnership possibilities with other economic development practitioners. We will also be able to provide updates on Alliance activities.

The Alliance will be pleased to provide a travel subsidy for any out of town participants.

Please confirm your attendance with Sabrina Tylee @ 1697economicalliance@cnc.bc.ca or call her 250 562 2131, ext 5479.

Thank you,

Susan Stearns
Chair, 16/97 Economic Alliance

16/97 Economic Alliance's Action Plan Continued...

Strategies:

- Rotating responsibilities to organize networking events by having agencies volunteer to host.
- Hold at least two face-to-face meeting each year.
- Build networking opportunities for Alliance members into other events that members are attending. (for instance, drinks after a meeting or lunch together at a conference)
- Ensuring Alliance members are aware of events, consultations, fairs and conferences being sponsored by member organizations.

Action 3: Communication and Information Sharing

We will focus resources to ensure a continuous and strong flow of information between Alliance members.

Strategies:

- The College of New Caledonia (CNC) will continue to compile and distribute by email the Signposts newsletter four times per year.
- Time-sensitive information and requests can be distributed through an e-mail blast by sending information to CNC.
- CNC will continue to keep the 16/97 Economic Alliance website updated, with the active support of Alliance members
- Initiatives Prince George will continue to compile regional benchmark reports.

Action 4: Complete Cluster Identification and Development projects

While the future mandate of the Alliance is to support a Community of Practice, the Alliance has existing Cluster Identification projects for which funding has been provided, and must be completed.

Strategy:

- Complete the Western Economic Diversification contract, developing the Northern Interior Mining Group as a regional industry cluster.

Northworks! a CNC/UNBC Job Fair Partnership

March 9th (at CNC) & 10th (at UNBC), 2010

This is your opportunity to promote your company, careers and employment opportunities, to current students and graduates from the College of New Caledonia and the University of Northern British Columbia.

Please go to: http://www.cnc.bc.ca/Exploring/Services/Student_Employment/Northworks_Home_Page.htm for registration information.

If you have any questions, please contact Kris Dittman at 250 561 5806 or employment@cnc.bc.ca; or Maria Trujillo at 250 960 6426 or trujillm@unbc.ca.

Pine Pass Improvements Could Cost \$135 Million Says Report

By 250 News

Wednesday, December 02, 2009

Prince George, B.C.—Eight low clearance overhead railway crossings and two bridges are all that stand in the way of economic growth from Quesnel to Dawson Creek.

These hurdles can be overcome with upgrades to the tune of \$135 million dollars according to studies by the Northern Development Initiatives Trust and the Provincial Ministry of Transportation.

The studies examined the economic business case, engineered options and the overall price tag for making improvements.

The proposed improvements are crucial in order to provide access to resource development opportunities for northern BC companies, including goods and services now imported from Alberta that represent a market estimated at \$2 billion annually.

Better access through the Pine Pass will provide substantial opportunities for several existing industries already located in the Quesnel—Dawson Creek Corridor that can expect to compete for new clients and markets for their goods and services in industry sectors such as metal fabricating, prefabricated buildings, oil and gas field machinery, mining services, and transportation and storage.

“When it comes to highway upgrades in the north, it is difficult to build a case for improvements based on safety as we don’t have the traffic volumes” says NDI Trust CEO Janine North “That is why we looked at putting forth a business plan.”

It is estimated the Pine Pass improvements would cost approximately \$135 million, an amount that can be recovered quickly, according to North “We now have seen the technical work done by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and we understand that a \$135 million dollar investment can have a cost benefit by capturing only .7 of 1% of the business currently being done by Alberta firms in BC in the oil and gas and forest industries, that’s miniscule. We can absolutely capture that back and see those improvements pay their way in terms of investment in BC.”

In terms of employment, .7 of 1% of market penetration would create eighty-four new full-time jobs and contribute to provincial tax revenue growth of \$700,000 annually.

The proposed upgrades to the railway overhead crossings and bridges may not be as expensive or as difficult as first envisioned, says North “We understand technically there are some great fixes around lowering the highways under the raised rail crossings and we look forward to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure being able to consider those ideas with her staff in very near term.”

“I would like to acknowledge and thank Northern Development for their hard work in undertaking this economic assessment,” stated Minister Shirley Bond, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

“Ministry staff will carefully consider these recommendations as we undertake future improvements along this vital northern corridor. My staff and I look forward to working closely with the Northern Development to maximize the economic benefits along this route.”

Prince George-Peace River MP Jay Hill, has also expressed interest in this project.

Limiting Feature	Description
Entire Hwy 97 Corridor between Quesnel and Dawson Creek	Utility line clearances
	Weight (64,000 kg)
Pine Pass	Horizontal and vertical road alignment in certain portions of the Pine Pass, and tight corners caused by several geographical features make it difficult for over-dimensional vehicles to negotiate.
Below CNR Overpass	Height*
Hixon CNR Overpass	Height*
Stoner CNR Overpass	Height*
Red Rock CNR Overpass	Height*
Bijoux CNR Overpass	Road super-elevation results in a significant difference in clearance between NB and SB lanes.
West Pine CNR Overpass	Height*
East Pine CNR Overpass	Height = 5.0 m
Salmon River Bridge	Width
Parnsip River Bridge	Width, Height = 5.05 m

Limiting feature based on a minimum vertical clearance standard of 5.0 m (TAC). Source: NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Role of the Rural BC Secretariat

The Rural BC Secretariat was established in the Ministry of Community and Rural Development to respond to the challenges and opportunities experienced by rural communities in B.C. The Secretariat works to strengthen and diversify rural economies, foster sustainable economic growth and development and to enable quick recovery in times of challenge. The Secretariat plays an important role within government in implementing initiatives to provide enhanced access to government programs and services. For the Secretariat, assisting rural areas means working with and through the long-established relationships with local partners to identify where the market opportunities are and which ingredients to focus on.

The RuralBC Secretariat partners with communities and other government and non-profit groups to help build healthy resilient communities. This integrated approach to development:

- **builds upon existing social capital** by facilitating partnerships with a broad spectrum of community and regional organizations;
- **strengthens local leadership & community participation** by providing learning opportunities;
- develops **economic and business opportunities** through tailored assistance and support;
- supports the delivery of **public services and infrastructure**; and
- fosters the development of **skilled people** through flexible labour market programming that addresses the labour market needs of communities, and supports economic development goals.

Few communities, if any, have all the right ingredients. Successful development is best achieved through putting existing resources to best use and develop additional resources where there are gaps.

Communities can access the secretariats services through the eight Regional Managers, one in each of the development regions in BC. These staff are on-the-ground, experienced people able to support:

- Local-led community economic development;
- Direct investment attraction;
- Community development through a community centred approach;
- Labour force development; and
- In collaboration with Victoria based Community Adjustment Managers, quick response to communities in crisis through community transition.

The success of this work depends not only on partnership and collaboration but also on the development and retention of capacity at the local level.

For further information on the RuralBC Secretariat, please visit the website at www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca

By Leslie Lax, Regional Project Manager, Cariboo Region, Ministry of Community & Rural Development

The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition—Next Steps...

The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC), established in 2005 with funding support from the Province of BC, has developed long-term strategies that are designed to build economic and social resilience in the wake of the mountain pine beetle infestation. OBAC is led by the region’s Mayors and Regional District Chairs.

Next Steps: From Plans to Action

Up until now the Coalition has focused on its primary task – to complete a well researched and credible diversification plan and strategies for the region. While a number of small implementation projects have been undertaken in conjunction with the planning phase, only now is the Coalition positioned to move into full implementation mode. Armed with action plans which have been developed for each strategy, the Coalition will spend the next several months actively working with the other levels of government, regionally based groups and industries to see implementation of as many of the 42 recommendations and 246 actions as is feasible. The Coalition has already started to meet with senior officials in the Provincial Ministries and with local organizations to identify partnership opportunities and common priorities and, individual communities and organizations in the region are beginning to use the strategies and recommended actions as a starting point for the development of their own specific plans and priorities.

Province Announces New Funding for Beetle Action Coalitions

The Province is providing the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition with an additional \$100,000 to continue work on a strategy to meet the challenges posed by the mountain pine beetle epidemic, announced Donna Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary for Pine Beetle Community Recovery to the Minister of Community and Rural Development on December 4th.

“We have worked hard over the last three years to come up with a blueprint for economic and community prosperity in the region”, says Gerry Thiessen, Mayor of Vanderhoof and a member of the OBAC Board, “this top-up funding will allow us to actively work on implementation.” He went on to note that reversing recent trends of population decline and economic shrinkage in many parts of the region will be a long-term task, requiring cooperation and perseverance at all levels.

According to Don Bassermann, Councilor for the City of Prince George and OBAC Chair, the funding will go to three key activities: A significant effort will go into the building of partnerships and integrating the regional strategies into decision making and priorities at all levels; the largest portion of the funds will be used on a cost-shared basis with like-minded organizations that wish to work with the Coalition on specific projects; and the Coalition will continue to devote some of its effort to advising senior governments on matters important to the region.

Who's Who in Community Economic Development:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Phone</u>
District of Mackenzie	Smith	Diane	Economic Development Officer	Mackenzie	(250) 997-3221
District of Wells	Champagne	Gary	Administrator	Wells	(877) 451-9355
Valemount	Gislimberti	Silvio	Economic Development Officer	Valemount	(250) 566-4435
McBride	Graine	Margaret	Economic Development Officer	McBride	(877) 569-7556
Community Futures North Cariboo	Lawrence	Greg	General Manager	Quesnel	(877) 747-2332
RuralBC Secretariat, Ministry of Community & Rural Development	Lax	Leslie	Regional Project Manager, Cariboo Region	Prince George	(250) 565-6685
Quesnel Community & Ec Dev Corp	Cheng	April	Acting Executive Director	Quesnel	(250) 992-3522
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	McCloskey	Renee	Manager of External Relations	Prince George	(250) 960-4400
Initiatives PG	Scouten	Kathie	VP, Economic Development	Prince George	(250) 649-3201
UNBC	van Adrichem	Robert	VP - External Relations	Prince George	(250) 960-5622
Cariboo Regional District	Campbell	Darron	Community Services Manager	Williams Lake	(250) 392-3351
Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council	Groenenberg	Bert	Ec Dev & Community Planning	Williams Lake	(250) 398-7033, ext 4
City of Williams Lake	Madrigga	Alan	Manager, Economic Development	Williams Lake	(250) 392-1764
District of Vanderhoof	Laforge	Kathie	Economic Development Officer	Vanderhoof	(250) 567-4711
Fort St James District	Hadwen	Deb	Economic Development Officer	Fort St. James	(250) 996-8233
Lakes District	Shelford	Cindy	Economic Development Officer	Burns Lake	(250) 692-3700
Lheidli T'enneh	Frederick	Dominic	Chief	Prince George	(250) 963-8451
Nechako-Kitamaat DevFund Society	Boudreau	Dan	Manager	Prince George	(250) 964-4066
Omenica Beetle Action Coalition	Andersen	Elizabeth	General Manager	Prince George	(250) 563-7005
Regional District Bulkley Valley Nechako	Fitt	Lana	Regional Strategic Development Analyst	Burns Lake	(800) 320-3339
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	Martin	Jim	Administrator	Prince George	(250) 960-4410
Performance Improvement Consulting	Deacon	Fraser	NIMG Cluster Facilitator	Prince George	(250) 640-4742
PGNAETA	Hunt	Karin	Executive Director	Prince George	(250) 561-1199
Saik'uz First Nation	Dudoward	Maureen	Band Manager	Vanderhoof	(250) 567-9293
Stellat'en First Nation	Patton	Jay	Band Manager	Fraser Lake	(250) 699-8747
Tl'azt'en Nation	Stark	Amelia	Economic Development Officer	Fort St. James	(250) 648-3212
University of Northern BC	Halseth	Greg	Professor - GEOG	Prince George	(250) 960-5826
Village of Fraser Lake	Legary	Sylvia	Economic Development Officer	Fraser Lake	(250) 699-6257
Western Economic Diversification Canada	Rogers	Wendy	WED - Senior Business Officer	Vancouver	(604) 666-3009
Williams Lake Band	Shelley	Marg	Band Administrator	Williams Lake	(250) 296-3507