
BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2020

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

What local leaders are saying

The funding provided by the Northern Capital and Planning Grant and B.C. Northern Healthy Communities Fund will support communities in northern B.C.

Joel McKay, CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust—

“The trust is pleased to be able to work with the B.C. government to support projects that are essential for expanding communities in northern B.C. This commitment from the Province represents a dedication to not only growing the economy, but to ensuring our communities are healthy places to live and work.”

Lee Brain, mayor of Prince Rupert and co-chair of the Northwest Resource Benefit Alliance—

“Accessing a share of local revenues to help support our critical infrastructure needs is essential for our communities to keep pace with development. We are pleased to see the Province making this financial commitment, especially in a time when our communities are seeing revenue losses related to COVID-19.”

Quotes by region:

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Gerry Thiessen, mayor, District of Vanderhoof –

“The District of Vanderhoof would like to express gratitude to the Province of British Columbia, Premier Horgan and Minister Robinson for their investment into northern B.C. with the second funding phase of the Northern Capital and Planning Grant. This grant funding gives the district the ability to address priority community projects and to implement the district’s asset management plan while minimizing the impact to our reserves and the taxpayers in our community.”

Gladys Atrill, acting mayor, Town of Smithers –

“On behalf of Smithers, thank you to the Province for this funding, as it will assist the town in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our infrastructure.”

Linda McGuire, mayor, Village of Granisle –

“As with many small communities facing aging infrastructure issues, the Village of Granisle is extremely grateful to receive this additional instalment of the Northern Capital Planning Grant. It will continue to allow our municipality to move forward in long term planning and potential infrastructure replacement.”

Mark Parker, vice-chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako –

“The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is grateful for the announcement of these funds. Quality infrastructure is critical for the residents of the North, and these funds will not only help us today, but ensure we can strategically plan for future infrastructure deficits.”

Paul Stent, acting mayor, District of Fort St. James –

“As we look to move beyond the difficulties imposed by COVID-19, Fort St. James will be positioned to invest in water, sewer, and other critical infrastructure and assets which meets the needs of our community today and our vision for tomorrow thanks to the efforts and support of the Province of BC.”

Sarrah Storey, mayor, Village of Fraser Lake –

“The Village of Fraser Lake is thankful to the Province for this funding. This grant will assist us in the completion of our fourth lagoon project. Grants of this nature help municipalities with infrastructure challenges that are vital for the sustainability of our communities. The Village of Fraser Lake will now meet regulatory standards throughout the seasons, which will contribute to the overall health of our community, environment and water quality.”

Shane Brienen, mayor, District of Houston –

“We appreciate the financial support that the Province has provided to communities in the northwest. These funds will be essential to carry out necessary replacements of our aging infrastructure that we would otherwise be unable to complete with our limited funding sources. Provincial support provided through the Northern Capital Planning Grant promotes our community’s long-term sustainability and directly influences the quality of life for our residents. We look forward to continue working with the provincial government for the long-term support of northwest B.C. and its resource-based industries.”

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

Art Kaehn, chair, Fraser-Fort George Regional District –

“This funding will go a long way in helping us advance long-term planning and important capital projects. We are grateful for the support from the B.C. government in helping us make investments to improve services for residents in our region.”

Gene Runtz, mayor, Village of McBride—

“The Village of McBride is thrilled to be the recipient of a \$519,000 Northern Capital and Planning Grant. Small, northern communities such as McBride are hard pressed to maintain and upgrade critical infrastructure with the limited tax base receipts available to them. The assistance of the Province with this grant is fundamental in helping us to plan and prepare for future economic development, and to further the efforts supporting an innovative, strong and supple economy in McBride now, and in the future.”

Joan Atkinson, mayor, District of MacKenzie –

“The District of Mackenzie is very grateful to be a recipient of the second payment under the Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG). The support that we received in 2019 from the NCPG has been fully allocated to infrastructure projects in our community. This second instalment allows us to further close the gap between identified aging infrastructure upgrades and the funding required to complete the much-needed improvements.”

Lyn Hall, mayor, City of Prince George—

“City council extends its sincere thanks to the Province of B.C. for this investment in Prince George and northern municipalities. Our city, like most communities, faces the mounting challenge of financing the maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure. This is now more challenging than ever as local governments experience the financial setbacks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. About two dozen infrastructure projects have been earmarked for funding through this grant, including the upkeep of nature parks, the rehabilitation of our storm water system, and the improvement of our sidewalks, walkways, trails and more. We look forward to using the Northern Capital and Planning Grant to keep improving our city for all of our residents.”

Owen Torgerson, mayor, Village of Valemount –

“On behalf of the Village of Valemount, I would like to thank the B.C. government for the most recent Northern Capital Planning Grant. The B.C. government is showing true leadership through assisting northern B.C.’s local governments to tackle one of the most daunting tasks facing every Canadian local government, the funding of capital asset maintenance and replacement. The provided NCPG will help the village reduce this impact on our local residents.”

Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

Carol Leclerc, mayor, City of Terrace –

“The City of Terrace wishes to express its gratitude to the Province of British Columbia and the minister of municipal affairs and housing, in particular, for further investing in northern B.C. with the Northern Capital and Planning Grant and B.C. Northern Healthy Communities Fund. Like many regions of our province, we are experiencing additional pressure on our finances due to COVID-19. This funding gives us more assurance that priority community projects can be completed as planned in anticipation of economic recovery and the continued growth of Terrace as a hub for new residents, workers, and businesses.”

Dennis Sterritt, mayor, Village of Hazelton –

“The Village of Hazelton is thankful for the Northern Capital Planning Grant. This grant has helped us prepare for much-needed capital improvement projects that we can now plan for over the next couple years. Until the NCPG, the village was 100% reliant on federal and provincial one-time grants that did not guarantee funding. This made asset management and infrastructure replacement nearly impossible. Thank you to Minister Robinson, Minister James and Premier Horgan for the NCPG!”

Phil Germuth, mayor the District of Kitimat and chair of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine –

“Providing these funds to northern communities demonstrates the Province’s continued commitment to delivering benefits back to the region. Northern British Columbia communities contribute to our province through our industries, natural resources and the hard work of our residents. We are pleased that the provincial government continues to contribute to our region with supports to help build and maintain healthy vibrant communities.”

North Coast Regional District

Barry Pages, mayor of the Village of Masset and chair of North Coast Regional District –

“On behalf of the Village of Masset and North Coast Regional District, thank you for your investment into our northern communities. This support will help our region invest in much-needed infrastructure that will benefit our residents now and in the future.”

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