



Newsletter

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OBAC Completes the Regional Agriculture Strategy

The Regional Agriculture Strategy, the eighth in the series of strategies developed by OBAC was released at a public event in Prince George on July 28.

This strategy builds on the region's proud agriculture heritage and a strong agriculture community, and identifies significant opportunities to increase the contribution that agriculture makes to our region's well being and economy.

The four objectives of the Regional Agriculture Strategy are to:

- Diversify and strengthen the agriculture sector.
- Form stronger partnerships across the agriculture sector.
- Increase the capacity to train and recruit the required work force.
- Increase public support for the sector and interest in locally produced high quality food.

The Regional Agriculture Strategy presents five recommendations:

- Develop infrastructure which supports the agriculture sector and remove barriers to its further development and diversification.
- Attract new entrants to the industry and provide training and education for existing and new members of the sector.
- Strengthen the industry by increasing collaboration across the sector and by forging partnerships and communication links with First Nations, local communities, governments, health and education agencies.
- Support value-added and specialized product development and the development of provincial, national and international markets for these products.
- Increase the demand for locally produced foods.

The Regional Agriculture Strategy includes 29 specific action items to support implementation of the recommendations.

OBAC strategies clearly articulate our region's vision and objectives for diversification on priority topics, describe current opportunities and challenges and, recommend what needs to be done to achieve the vision. The strategies identify the actions for local and senior governments, First Nations and industry leaders to take to achieve sustainable development.

Regional Emergency Preparedness and Management Project Aims For Efficiencies Through Collaboration

The Regional Emergency Preparedness and Management Project was also released at the public event on July 28.

The goal of this project is to strengthen emergency management and personal preparedness across the region by employing a collaborative approach which addresses both local and regional level emergencies and takes full advantage of available synergies and economies of scale.

The project report includes recommendations and actions that identify where collaboration at a regional scale across levels of government, practitioner organizations and professionals can enhance our emergency preparedness and response across the OBAC region.



View the complete strategy document on our web site at www.ominercoalition.ca





The Regional Emergency Management Report presents five recommendations to support the goal:

- Facilitate inter-community and regional planning and response where it will provide efficiencies and increase overall emergency preparedness.
- Provide additional resources and information to local governments in order to improve their capacity and preparedness.
- Improve training, recruitment and retention of emergency staff and volunteers by creating synergies at the inter-community and regional levels.
- Take steps to mitigate the impacts of future threats.
- Develop local emergency preparedness awareness and education programs to ensure that the individuals and families within the Planning Area are prepared for potential emergency events.

Ideas emerging on the Regional Diversification and Implementation Plan

The OBAC Regional Diversification and Implementation Plan under development this summer, presents an overarching framework and a structure to move forward and begin the task of implementing the good ideas presented in the OBAC Strategies and Projects through a regional collaborative approach.

The Regional Diversification and Implementation Plan draws upon the things that OBAC has learned across all of the strategy work. For each sector and for overall development, there were strategic objectives and key priorities that appear to be important ingredients across all sectors. So, the Diversification and Implementation Plan will present the themes and ideas that kept coming up at every turn along the way. These overarching objectives and priorities include things like:

- Ensuring our current and prospective workforce in the region has the training and education needed to drive the diverse range of existing and new economic opportunities in our region;
- Working to ensure that investors know about the great assets and opportunities here in our region and that we work together to clear away barriers;
- Continuing to have the infrastructure needed to enable us to be opportunistic and remain connected across our region and connected with the world beyond; and
- Ensuring our communities have the amenities and services needed to attract people to stay or to move here to live, work, and play and retire.



The OBAC Regional Diversification and Implementation Plan recognizes that it will be essential for our communities in the OBAC region to work together with the support of senior governments and working with the private sector and other important implementation partners to leverage the opportunities and make best use of finite resources as we face the challenges of the future. The plan anticipates fostering a culture of innovation and exploring new ideas and new paths to finding and implementing solutions.

Community Profile - Village of Granisle

Surrounded by pristine beauty, the Village of Granisle, on the western shores of Babine Lake is a community of 364 people which grows to approximately 400 people in the summer time. With a history in mining, the future holds more diversity for this community which is so well endowed with natural resources.

Granisle is currently a year-round vacation destination for water recreation and wilderness adventure. Babine Lake, B.C.'s longest lake, provides world class fishing opportunities for rainbow trout, char, kokanee, burbot, salmon and steelhead. The Village operates a marina on the lake and is currently upgrading this facility with new docks, pylons and booms to better serve residents and visitors alike.

Granisle has a modern ice rink which has recently been upgraded. Combined with a large school facility which is currently under-utilized, and a full service hotel and several commercial lodges, Granisle is well positioned to attract business retreats and sports development camps.

Built on a history of mining, Granisle has considerable potential for this industry in future as well. Recent interest in minerals was stimulated by the QUEST-West initiative of Geoscience BC which involved airborne geophysics and ground geochemical sampling of an area over 40,000 square kilometres in north western BC. This resulted in hundreds of new claims being staked and follow up exploration work being undertaken.

The village faces challenges due its relative isolation, with a single highway access and single power supply line. However potential exists for development of an additional road link to Smithers and for power generation from the dam supporting the DFO Fulton River Salmon Hatchery approximately 10 km south of the community.



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