



Newsletter

February 2010



www.mineralsnorth.ca

Opportunity Rocks! Minerals North 2010

Minerals North is celebrating more than two successful decades of bringing the minerals industry together with a broad spectrum of representation from the private and public sectors and all levels of government. Minerals North 2010 will be held at the Prince George Civic Centre, April 21-23, 2010.

Bioenergy progress

BC Bioenergy Strategy

The BC Bioenergy Strategy, released January 31, 2008, has created new opportunities for rural communities, spurred new investment and innovation, and encourages the emerging bioenergy industry and developing of new and innovative uses for beetle wood.

Green Energy Advisory Task Force

On November 2, 2009, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the establishment of the Green Energy Advisory Task Force and a new Cabinet Committee on Climate Action and Clean Energy. The purpose of the task forces is to: *Ensure BC remains a leader in clean and renewable energy. Four advisory task force groups have been created to help the province work with British Columbia Hydro and British Columbia Transmission Corporation in developing future long-term acquisition plans that produce more opportunities and jobs for British Columbians, especially in rural and remote communities.*

Northern Bioenergy Partnership

The Northern Bioenergy Partnership (NBP) was established in May 2009, with the assistance of the BC Bioenergy Network. The NBP seeks to support the development of a bioenergy “center of excellence” serving the whole north.

Green Heat Initiative

Community Futures of North Cariboo has put forth a new biomass heating proposal, **Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative**, whereby Green Heat (primarily wood chips and pellets) is used as an alternative to fossil fuel. The project supports capacity development, relationships and demonstration projects required for the Green Heat energy sector to initially develop and continue to grow. Please visit www.1697economicalliance.ca/downloads/Green_Heat_Flyer_No_Images.pdf for the brochure.



www.bioenergypartnership.ca

The potential for the OBAC region to lead the way in bioenergy is reflected in the healthy timber supply available, the mountain pine beetle inventory, the established pellet manufacturing and the ability of UNBC to lead the way in bioenergy research and development. The region’s vision to see

energy production from alternatives that is efficient, sustainable, uses local resources effectively and provides substantial benefits to the economy and environment, is well on its way to becoming an exciting reality.

The **Bioenergy Information Guide** is a primer designed to assist stakeholders in small communities, aboriginal groups, municipalities and industry in developing and pursuing bioenergy options in the Province of British Columbia. It will help these stakeholders to:

- identify bioenergy options and technologies that are suitable for the biomass resource and bioenergy markets available to them;
- identify potential hurdles and requirements related to each of the technologies described;
- learn about ways to finance a bioenergy project;
- understand the steps involved in the development of a project; and
- identify technology providers in Canada.

Download the Bioenergy Information Guide at www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/bioenergy/PDF/BioenergyInfoGuide.pdf

Bridges - Linking Resources for Community Forests

At its full Board of Directors' meeting on January 16, 2010, the OBAC Board approved supporting the Bridges - Linking Resources for Community Forests project. The overall goal of the project is to generate increased linkages and fibre flow between community forests and value-added wood manufacturers, and to identify and facilitate the creation of new value-added operations and related business.

Objectives:

- To create information and systems that will facilitate an increased and more efficient movement of fibre between Community Forests and BC's value-added wood manufacturing sector; and
- To identify actions and business opportunities to assist in expanding value-added wood manufacturing and enhancing the financial viability to other small tenure holders in the province.

The project is lead by Community Futures of Cariboo Chilcotin and supported by the BC Community Forest Association, UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest, Rural Community Economic Diversification of BC (Community Futures), BC Ministry of Forests and Range, BC Ministry of Community and Rural Development, Northern Development, and the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Omineca Beetle Action Coalitions.

Small Airport Improvement Project

This project will build on existing work done by the federal and provincial governments and local airport authorities. It will take into account community and regional plans and priorities for economic diversification. Existing small airports (excluding Prince George and Smithers) will be assessed for their real potential to support economic growth and diversification. Limiting conditions and upgrade opportunities for physical infrastructure and services will be analyzed and reported along with recommended priorities. The first phase of this project was approved at the full Board of Directors' meeting on January 16, 2010. A report is expected by early summer.

Bioenergy conferences in the region



Bioenergy: Solutions for Community Sustainability
 March 2 - 4, 2010 Prince George
www.resourcesnorth.org/rna/476/bioenergy



4th International BioEnergy Conference
 June 8 - 10, 2010 Prince George
www.bioenergyconference.org/

Rail Freight Service Review

Deadline approaching for submissions to the Rail Freight Services Review

The Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), announced on September 23, 2009, the appointment of a three-person Panel to conduct Phase II of the Rail Freight Service Review. The Panel will review Canada's rail-based freight logistics chain that examines the performance of the rail freight transportation supply chain and its impact on rail service to shippers in Canada.

The Coalition has submitted a letter to the Rail Freight Service Review in response to the request for interested parties to comment on issues, solutions, best practices and factors the Panel should consider in developing its recommendations. The Coalition's response is on the OBAC website. (upload letter)

Rail Freight Service Review Call for Submissions can be viewed at: www.cosbc.ca/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=103&Itemid=72



Visit www.ominecoalition.ca/OBACNews.html to read the response.

OBAC Quick News

The purpose of this weekly/bi-weekly communication is to provide Directors and other interested individuals with a quick and timely update on current events that are of interest to the Coalition. Each of the topics includes one or more hyperlinks to additional information. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Sharon.



Please contact Sharon at info@ominecoalition.ca to be added to the distribution list for Quick News.

Farewell to Doug Macfarlane



Doug Macfarlane will be retiring in early March, after serving as the OBAC's key provincial government staff contact. Many people in community development circles across the BC will have met Doug during his career with the Provincial Government and may even have participated on one of his well known "coffee meetings" often accompanied by a cinnamon bun and much conversation. "Doug has been a valuable part of our team, and has been especially helpful at connecting us with the right officials in Victoria," commented OBAC Chair Don Bassermann. Doug and his wife Lynn are busy getting ready to make sailing a full-time endeavour. We wish them well and thank Doug for his contribution to the region.

Within the next few weeks, the Ministry of Community and Rural Development is expected to appoint a new full-time staff person to work with the OBAC.

Community Profile - Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako



The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is a local government organization representing eight unique municipalities from Vanderhoof through to Smithers and the surrounding rural areas. The region has a total population of 38,243 residents (2006 StatsCan) and is strategically located between the Prince George International Airport and the Prince Rupert Port.

The Region is home to spectacular natural beauty, extensive and diverse culture, and outdoor recreation abound. There are miles of pristine lakes, rivers, and mountains uniting to create some of the most productive and exciting hunting and fishing grounds in the world!

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is pursuing its goals of a strong and diversified economy, through the implementation of our Five Year Economic Development Action Plan. An example of one of the projects currently underway is the Mining Skills Development Project. The primary goal of this project is to increase future employment opportunities for our residents, focusing on transitioning unemployed forest sector workers into the mining sector. This will be achieved by identifying specific employment opportunities in the mining sector, assessing related skills and training requirements and assisting existing education organizations to implement

the identified training programs. For further information of this and other projects we are working on, please feel free to contact the Regional District at 250-692-3195 or toll free at 1-800-320-3339.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako - A world of opportunities within our Region!



www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca



Francois Lake



Fort St. James National Historic Park



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