



**NEWS RELEASE**

**November 1, 2010**

## **Coalition Receives Funding Commitment from Premier**

*Prince George, BC* – During his address to the Union of BC Municipalities in Whistler, BC on October 1, 2010, Premier Gordon Campbell announced that the Province of BC will be providing each of the three Beetle Action Coalitions with one million dollars a year to help the communities pursue their goals so that they can act now and build the kind of economy that each of the communities need.

“The pine beetle epidemic is one of the most serious challenges... as Parliamentary Secretary for Pine Beetle Community Recovery, the Beetle Action Coalitions have been a major priority for me.” says Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett.

This exciting announcement of continued funding for the next three years provides OBAC with the ability to commit to partnerships and achieve the long-term goals that will provide strength and resilience across all sectors and communities in the region. The Coalition looks forward to continuing to work together within the region, and in partnership with neighbouring regions, senior governments and others.

In other news, the Coalition has provided Geoscience BC with a letter of support for the Data for Discovery Initiative which will stimulate mineral and energy exploration and development investment in BC and help promote the Province as a preferred global destination for resource exploration and development capital.

Mayor Stephanie Killam notes, “As a board member of both OBAC and Geoscience BC, I see a number of future partnerships happening to help expand the economic development in northern BC and beyond, through the collaborative efforts of these two groups working together and with others.”

The Board will also continue to develop and implement projects that are essential for further development of the Coalition’s Diversification and Implementation Plan. OBAC’s role is to champion these actions, by providing oversight, leadership and, leveraging funding and support.

“One of the big projects that’s underway is the Burns Lake Community Energy Project,” Mayor Farrow, Town of Smithers, commented in an interview with the Interior News. “That’s where a number of the buildings will be tied together in one heating system with green energy. For Smithers, what we could see in the future, is the potential with the arena...swimming pool...curling rink....and the high school.”

A few OBAC projects are:

- *Bridges – Linking Resources for Community Forests*
- *Green Energy Development as a Rural Economic Development Tool*
- *Transition Toolkit Website/Database*
- *Science and Technology Awareness Project*
- *Small Airports Project Phase 2*
- *From Strategy to Action- Agriculture Planning for Northern BC After the MPB Epidemic*
- *Beyond the Market – Growing the North*

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