



**NEWS RELEASE**

**APRIL 18, 2011**

## **OMINECA BEETLE ACTION COALITION RECIEVES \$3M**

*Prince George, BC* – On Friday, April 15, 2011, the Province announced \$3M in funding to the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC).

“This funding means the coalition can continue to implement the strategies and projects that have been so important to this region, helping us achieve the long-term goals that will provide strength and resilience across all sectors and communities in the region.” stated OBAC Chair, Don Bassermann.

OBAC’s role is to champion these strategies and projects, by providing oversight and leadership and by leveraging funding and support. The Coalition looks forward to continuing to work together within the region, and in partnership with neighbouring regions, senior governments and others.

The OBAC strategies and current projects can be found on their website: [ominecacoalition.ca](http://ominecacoalition.ca). Project application forms and guidelines will be available on the website in the near future. Eligible applicants are municipalities, regional districts, First Nations bands, and registered non-profit societies.

Quotes:

Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation –

“We’ve come a long way in fighting this infestation, but there’s still a long way to go. Industries and communities all over B.C. continue to suffer from the effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic, and this funding will help that battle continue.”

Donna Barnett, Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA, and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Economic Development –

“The mountain pine beetle problem continues to be one of the biggest issues B.C.’s communities face, and when I fly over the Cariboo-Chilcotin, it’s not hard to spot the vast areas of dead forest. Our beetle action coalitions have done amazing work, and this funding will help ensure they can continue to reduce the impacts of the mountain pine beetle and help communities succeed.”

The Southern Interior and Cariboo-Chilcotin beetle action coalitions also received \$3 million over three years to continue their regional efforts.

(end)

**For more information contact:**

Don Bassermann, OBAC Chair

P: 250-960-6712

E: [stower@ominecacoalition.ca](mailto:stower@ominecacoalition.ca)