



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 29, 2014

Northwest BC Local Governments Form Alliance to Negotiate Revenue Share Worth Billions

TERRACE, BRITISH COLUMBIA – Today, Dr. Bruce Bidgood, Chair of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, announced the formation of the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA). Members of the RBA include the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS), the City of Terrace, the Districts of Kitimat, Stewart and New Hazelton, the Village of Hazelton, and all RDKS Electoral Area Directors. Chair Bidgood also called for an immediate start to revenue-sharing discussions and negotiations promised by Premier Christy Clark during the 2013 provincial election and re-affirmed in June 2014.

“The newly formed Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance is ready, willing and able to engage in revenue-sharing discussions and negotiations promised by Premier Christy Clark,” said Chair Bidgood. “There is not a moment to lose. We need to start revenue-sharing discussions immediately; Northwest BC is already booming. I understand that the province is finalizing its fiscal framework for the LNG industry, and major companies will be making final investment decisions this fall or in early 2015.”

There are precedents for significant revenue sharing including the Columbia Basin Trust.

“The RBA seeks early access to an equitable share of revenues from the massive economic expansion now underway in Northwest BC,” said Chair Bidgood, “We have all experienced the boom and bust economy. The Northwest is about more than fly-in fly-out camps. This time, Northwest BC communities must be provided access to significant revenue sharing so we can make the necessary investments to build long-term sustainable communities for the future.”



NORTHWEST BRITISH COLUMBIA
RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE

The province is projecting revenues of \$100 billion from LNG alone, without allowing for other new major resource development in sectors such as mining. A revenue share of only 3% would generate \$3 billion to invest in Northwest BC communities of the future.

“Northwest BC communities do not have the resources to go it alone,” said Chair Bidgood. “The good news is that the scale of projected provincial revenues means that the needs and priorities of the province, as well as Northwest BC communities, can be met without adversely impacting the current and future property tax bases of the region, reducing the level of funding for other provincial programs, or risking the competitiveness of current and future companies operating in Northwest BC.”

For more information, please contact RBA Chair Bruce Bidgood at 1-250-641-0732 or 1-250-615-6100.

Backgrounder on Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance:

http://stream1.newswire.ca/media/2014/07/29/20140729_C8893_DOC_EN_42280.pdf



Regional District of
Kitimat-Stikine

