



NORTHWEST BRITISH COLUMBIA
RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE

Northwest British Columbia Resource Benefits Alliance

The Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) is a group of local governments committed to achieving fair revenue sharing for the region through negotiations with the provincial government.

The RBA was formed in 2014 by the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, the City of Terrace, the Districts of Kitimat, Stewart and New Hazelton, the Village of Hazelton, and all RDKS Electoral Area Directors.

In July 2015, the RBA was expanded with the addition of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the North Coast Regional District, as well as all of their member municipalities and Electoral Areas. That brought the RBA membership to all 21 local governments across the Northwest from Masset to Vanderhoof.



From 2014 to present, the provincial government enters into numerous revenue sharing and benefits agreements with communities across the Province, but continues to reject negotiations with the RBA

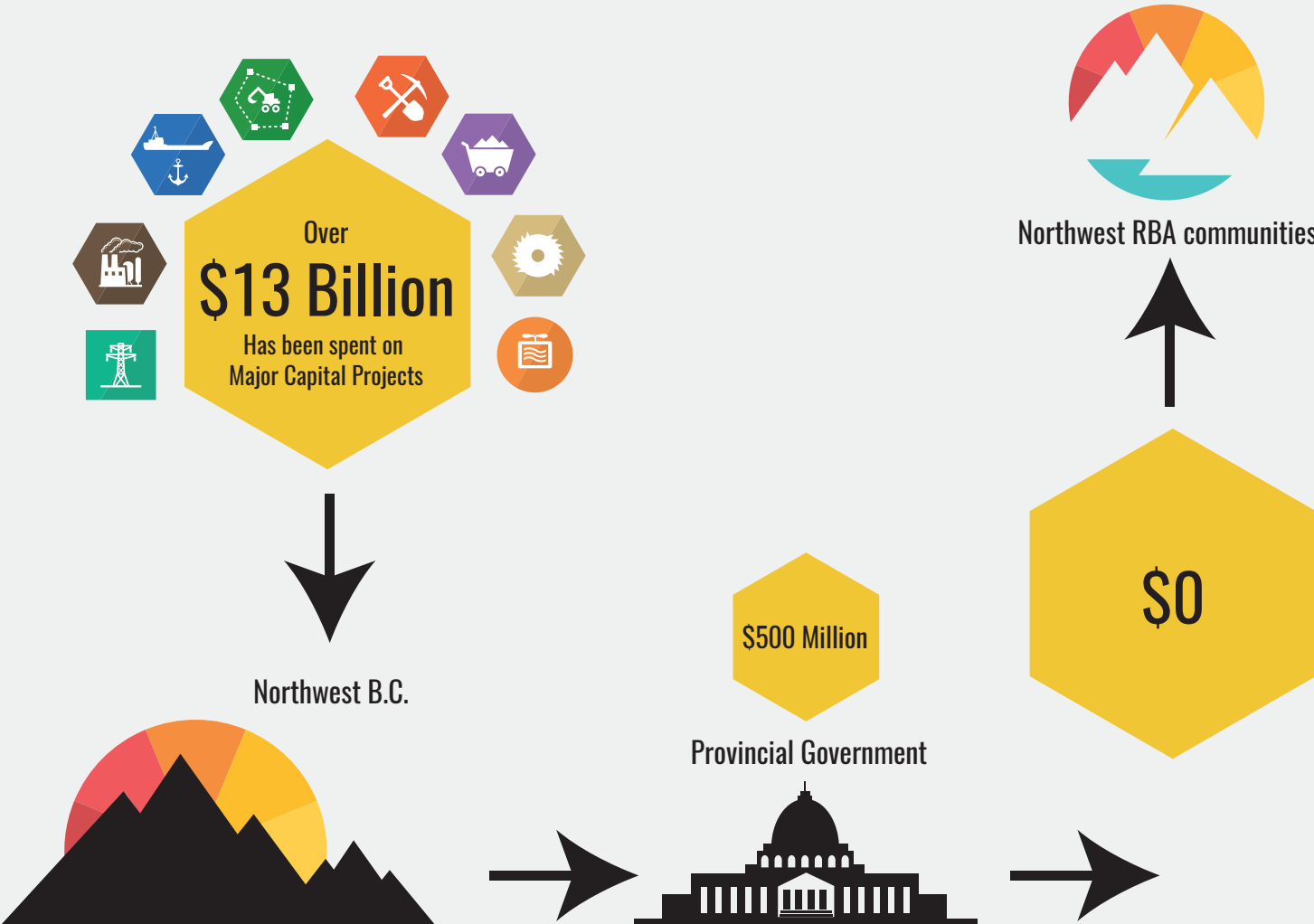
The Northwest shouldn't be a 'Have-Not' Region

Over the past five years more than **\$13 billion** has been spent on major capital projects in the region, including pipelines, transmission lines, mines, clean energy projects, port expansions, LNG plant site preparation and an aluminum smelter replacement just to name a few. At the same time, the provincial government has earned at least \$500 million in incremental revenue associated with these projects.

None of this revenue generated from our regions has flowed back to our communities.

There are currently Northwest projects with capital costs of \$213 billion that are at various stages in the approval process. The RBA conservatively estimates that there will be at least **\$30 billion** spent on non-LNG capital projects over the next ten years. If the LNG industry does proceed, that activity would more than double to over **\$60 billion**.

Our Northwest communities need and deserve a share of the revenue generated from our own region.



Why is Revenue **Sharing** Important?

Usually, local governments access cost-shared provincial and federal grant programs to help meet their infrastructure needs. Infrastructure spending by both levels of government has been significant since the 2009 recession, but the Northwest infrastructure deficit has not been reduced.

Local governments estimate that current infrastructure needs total \$600 million.

Local governments are responsible for providing services that are crucial for the sustainability and livability of their communities, including:

- *Land use planning, parks and recreation programming, police and first responders, social welfare programs, and many other important services;*
- *Development and maintenance of local infrastructure like roads, airports, public buildings, recreational and other facilities as well as sewer and water systems;*
- *Environmental protection; and*
- *Fostering the economic, social and environmental well-being of their communities.*





Without Revenue Sharing, Our **Future** is Uncertain

Development imposes significant costs on local governments but usually does not increase revenues or distribute them proportionately. As a result, local taxpayers face higher property taxes or levels of service and quality of infrastructure deteriorate.

At the same time, resource development contributes enormous amounts to the wealth of the province and generates provincial government revenue in many ways.

Revenue sharing would provide local government with the resources we need to properly address the infrastructure and service gaps in our communities and create a legacy for our children.

A revenue sharing agreement would make the Northwest more livable and sustainable, creating a vibrant local economy to complement and diversify the region's resource base.



A situation that was urgent in 2014 has only become increasingly difficult for Northwest BC communities as development has proceeded but the region has been left worse off.

We Deserve Our Share

Revenue sharing is not a new concept.

The Columbia Basin and Northeast regions of BC have had regional resource revenue sharing arrangements with the provincial government for decades. That additional revenue has enabled them to successfully access cost-shared federal infrastructure funding that is ***twice what the Northwest has received on a per capita basis.***

The provincial government has negotiated many community-specific benefits agreements related to all sorts of developments throughout the province. The RBA believes that a regional approach is needed in the Northwest because of our region's unique situation:

- ***The nature of past and future development is incredibly industrially diverse,***
- ***Most of the development projects affect several communities at once, but fiscally benefit none, and***
- ***The whole region deserves a share of the wealth generated in the region.***

We are committed to a regional revenue sharing arrangement that would:

- ***Ensure that negotiations begin no later than September 9, 2017;***
- ***Provide a share of the provincial revenue generated over the past five years to give local governments the capacity to prepare for future development and deal with the most urgent infrastructure needs;***
- ***Provide a proportionate share of ongoing revenues to offset ongoing service and infrastructure costs associated with future projects;***
- ***Leave the region better off through significant legacy resources; and***
- ***Enable local governments to determine how contributions under the agreement will be distributed.***



Show your support :

- Post this '**Shared Resources. Stronger Communities**' poster to your business or home windows.
- Make sure friends and family understand how important this issue is to our future.
- Ask your local electoral candidates if they support the **RBA** and on **May 9**, only vote for those who do.

Vote for candidates that support proportionate revenue sharing for the Northwest.

www.nwresourcebenefits.ca

 @nwbc_rba

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