

About

- The Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) is an association of all 21 local governments across the Northwest from Masset to Vanderhoof. Formed in 2014 by the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and its member municipalities and electoral areas, the RBA was then expanded in July 2015 to include the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, the North Coast Regional District, and all member municipalities and electoral areas.
- The RBA was created to negotiate a funding agreement with the Province to ensure that the Northwest benefits from the tremendous level of economic development activity in the region.

Building Sustainable, Livable Communities

- Following the 2017 provincial election, the RBA successfully engaged the Province to begin negotiating a new funding agreement. This process is currently underway with the full commitment of the Premier.
- The provincial government has provided \$300,000 in funding to be used, in part, to enable the RBA to work closely with stakeholders, including project proponents, labour, First Nations, local businesses and the social services sector.
- The RBA and the provincial government share a vision of economic development that creates sustainable communities and good local jobs. It is the RBA's intention that when a funding deal is reached with the Province, it will help achieve the objective of creating sustainable communities that will be able to support economic activity in the Northwest now and into the future.

Why the Northwest needs a new funding agreement to support economic development and sustain communities

- The Northwest has strong potential for economic development: we have great local businesses, affordable communities, talented and skilled people, and an exceptional lifestyle; however, the Northwest economy has traditionally been based upon natural resource extraction, which has generated tremendous amounts of wealth for the province but has a long history of boom and bust.
- Over the past five years more than \$13 billion in capital spending has occurred on major projects in the region, including mines, pipelines, transmission lines, clean energy projects, port expansions, LNG plant site preparation and an aluminum smelter replacement.
- Instead of benefiting the region, this activity has hurt it. The sustainability of our communities has been reduced rather than enhanced because:
 - much of the economic activity is located outside of municipal boundaries and regional district service areas, generating little local government revenue while imposing significant costs on nearby communities;
 - major industrial projects that are within a municipal boundary still have a pronounced effect on many other communities within the region;
 - it drains resources needed to review and plan for proposed projects (whether they proceed or not) that could be used to provide residents with services and infrastructure; and
 - the lack of community infrastructure and services makes it difficult to attract and retain workers in the resource industries and other businesses in the Northwest, including public services such as healthcare.

- There are \$65 billion in proposed non-LNG capital projects in the funnel. At least one LNG project with costs exceeding tens of billions of dollars is looking increasingly likely to proceed and our communities are vastly unprepared to support what may come about in the immediate future.
- If we can improve the physical and social infrastructure of our communities, we can support existing businesses and new resource development to build sustainable communities - not just work camps. This will allow us to attract the workers we need to grow our service and tourism sectors and to show our potential as an ideal place for professionals and families to grow.

Northwest communities need economic activity, including major projects, to be sustainable. **The RBA is committed to using new funding to encourage and support economic growth in the region.**

- We are not seeking to impose any additional costs on business in the region, whether big or small.
- The incremental revenue from new major project activity in the Northwest that goes to the provincial government is more than sufficient to allow the provincial government to support the Northwest in creating sustainable communities while still making an enormous contribution to BC government general revenue.
- The Province is focused on supporting development that creates good-paying jobs and apprenticeships. The RBA needs help from the Province to build the necessary physical infrastructure (roads, bridges, sewer and water, etc.) to support resource development and the social infrastructure to ensure Northwest communities are places where workers and their families can thrive.

How You Can Help

- Support the RBA as we work with the provincial government to reach a funding agreement that will benefit the Northwest as a whole;
- Tell us how we can best facilitate economic development in the region once we have appropriate funding, whether that is a specific service, a piece of infrastructure, or our support in dealing with an issue with senior governments; and
- Engage with us over the long run to promote economic development in the region.

Contact Us

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