

BACKGROUND

Resources North Association Launched

October 2, 2007

Resources North Association is a new society constituted by bringing together the Integrated Resource Management Partnership of Northern British Columbia (the “IRM Partnership”) and the former McGregor Model Forest Association (MMFA). The combining of these two organizations strengthens the previous relationship between the groups and capitalizes on their synergies.

- The IRM Partnership was established in 2002 as a forum for business-oriented dialogue on resource development. Its membership included representatives of all major natural resource industries, the Province, the University of Northern British Columbia, and a resource community representative. Since its establishment, the IRM Partnership has added to the knowledge of resource managers and others through its networking activities and by undertaking a major conference on integrated management in 2003, publishing an information document called *Creating a Balance*, and regular exchanges of sector information.
- The MMFA was established in 1992 under the Canadian Forest Service’s Model Forest Program and has operated successfully for over 15 years to support research, development of integrated forest management models, forest education and facilitation of collaborative decision-making. The Association’s approximately 50 members included communities, First Nations, industry, government and non-government representatives, as well as individual scientists and practitioners. The Model Forest has been an active participant in the Canadian and International Model Forest Networks, and also carries out projects in Russia on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Resources North will undertake an innovative and ambitious five-year program working with communities to integrate their needs into land and resource management plans. The association was successful in their funding application to Natural Resources Canada’s Forest Communities Program (FCP), totaling almost \$1.5M over five years. The FCP replaces the Canadian Model Forest Program, which concluded at the end of September 2007, after 15 years in operation.

The work proposed by Resources North will be complementary to the work of its members, including the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC). While OBAC develops strategies for diversifying the economies of its communities in order to offset the impacts from the Mountain Pine Beetle, Resources North will help to ensure that growing industries, whether forestry, tourism, mining or energy, can operate well together and minimize conflicts on the land surrounding communities.

Resources North has initial project areas of interest in South Peace, Mackenzie, and Vanderhoof-Fort St James, where local partnerships will begin to address critical Integrated Resource Management issues. There are growing interests from communities and sectors for this proposed work. The interest has never been higher in the north to work at solutions that derive additional long-term benefits, reduce the environmental footprint, and facilitate analysis and decision-making that take a more integrative approach across the active sectors and communities.

Resources North will be directed by the following Board Members:

DIRECTORS:

Doug Routledge - Council of Forest Industries, Prince George, BC
Brad Herald - Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Calgary, AB
Dan Jepsen - Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
Dr. Lyn Anglin - GeoScience BC, Vancouver, BC
Peter Larose - Council of Tourism Associations, Vancouver, BC
Tom Kearns - Integrated Land Management Bureau, Prince George, BC
Don Cadden - BC Ministry of Environment, Prince George, BC
Lynda Currie - Ministry of Forests and Range, Fort St. James, BC
Councilor Debora Munoz - City of Prince George Council, Prince George, BC
Mayor Len Fox - Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, Vanderhoof, BC
Mayor Stephanie Killam - District of Mackenzie, Mackenzie, BC
Dr. Lorna Medd - Public and Population Health Consultant, Cobble Hill, BC
Dr. Bill McGill - University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC
Bill Farr - College of New Caledonia, Prince George, BC
Ross Peck - Wildlife, Resources, & Land Use Consultant, Hudson Hope, BC
Jo Graber - Huble Homestead/Giscome Portage Heritage Society, Prince George, BC

Dr. Dan Lousier will continue to act as interim President until the Board has completed its full review of the governance and operational model for the newly formed Resources North Association.

The association is currently in the process of finalizing the funding arrangements with NRCan, building a workplan for the next six month ramp-up period, and initiating program activities. A key priority over the next six months will be community, First Nations, industry and stakeholder discussions to scope the project work to be carried out over the next five years.

Resources North will be moving on November 1st into a new office space within the Scotia Bank building, at Suite 305, 1488, 4th Avenue, Prince George, BC.

For more information visit www.resourcesnorth.org, or contact:

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