

NEWS RELEASE

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RESOURCES NORTH ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES NEW FUNDING

Resources North Association (RNA) today celebrated receiving a 5-year, \$1.475 million contribution agreement from Natural Resources Canada through the Canadian Forest Service – Forest Communities Program (FCP).

“Our Government is committed to assisting forest-based communities who are facing unprecedented challenges,” said Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George-Peace River, on behalf of Minister Lunn. “Through the Forest Communities Program, the Government of Canada and the Resources North Association are working together to pursue new opportunities for forest based communities.”

This funding will help RNA bring together resource dependent communities, First Nations communities, resource industries and federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments to work toward sustainability in the North-Central and Northeast regions of BC. RNA will achieve its objectives through development of partner-based projects.

Planned projects include: working with First Nations to develop biomass energy systems, piloting integrated resource management projects, better defining socio-economic and cultural indicators, further development of agroforestry, caribou habitat research, and research on the effects of the mountain pine beetle impacts on hydrology, soils, fish habitat and riparian areas. One of the main project partnerships for RNA is in the area of climate change. RNA will continue to support the Northern Climate Change Network (NCCN) in its pursuit to promote proactive community-level adaptation responses to climate change.

RNA Chair, Don Cadden states “RNA is delighted to celebrate receiving this vote of confidence from the Government of Canada through the 5-year, \$1.475 million contribution agreement. RNA has been developed on the foundation of the former McGregor Model Forest, which was well known for its involvement with integrated resource management and development of resource planning tools. RNA plans to pick up where McGregor left off and continue the tradition of bringing together communities, industries and governments to develop partner-based projects that help communities meet the challenges of resource sector transition. The communities of north-central and northeastern BC are experiencing rapid growth in some resource sectors and significant declines in others; RNA hopes to facilitate processes that work towards common goals and bring a balance to all facets of land management.”

RNA plans to begin by conducting stakeholder and proposed project partnership discussions in communities throughout its operating area. Information about RNA activities can be found on the RNA website at www.resourcesnorth.org

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