



Job opportunities
Working in northern
British Columbia



**Corporate social
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Industry gives back

**MEDIA
PLANET**

September 2012

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

3
FACTS

LOREM IPSUM
**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
IN THE NORTH**



THE FRONTIER OF THE NEW BRITISH COLUMBIA

Discover the opportunities in prosperous northern BC



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APPROX. \$80
BILLION IS
CURRENTLY
INVESTED
IN MAJOR
PROJECTS



RIO TINTO ALCAN
The modernization of the
Kitimat smelter.
PHOTO: JOEL MCKAY

Record investment levels across an array of industries are **driving job creation, construction and new lifestyle opportunities** throughout northern B.C.

Look north to the frontier of a new British Columbia

Northern BC is quickly shedding its reputation as the province's backwater for a fresh status as a region where anyone can successfully carve out a vision for their career and lifestyle – and make it happen.

A new reputation

This is the frontier of the new British Columbia, a landscape of plenty, where the traditional resource-based economy is celebrated, embraced and fused with the technological, environmental and social values of the 21st century. Professionals and working families from across the nation are fast learning the opportunities are limitless.

Success in technology

Take Kam Ghuman, for example. Born and raised in the Lower Mainland, Ghuman packed up his family and moved to Prince George a few years ago to work for 3Phase Power Systems, a high-tech industrial supply company. Now he's the president of that company, and has opened satellite offices in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Winnipeg. Thanks to competitive operational costs and a first-class quality of life, Ghuman and 3Phase still call Prince George home.

A thirst for the outdoors

Carla Johnston's story is similar. The communications specialist had an excellent career in Vancouver, a house in North Vancouver and a vibrant social life, but Johnston, who describes herself as a "true" outdoors person, said the Lower Mainland's oft-congested road system and lack of easily accessible wilderness getaways made her feel trapped.

So she began to look for opportunities up north – and now she has an equally fantastic career at the BID Group of Companies in Prince George, a larger house and she's only a half hour from world-class hiking and skiing trails.

"I own a house that's almost three times the size of my house in North Van on an acre of land and I paid half as much for it," said Johnston. "Now there's just so much more freedom – everything you need is up here."

Economic diversification

The opportunity in northern BC isn't limited to Prince George. From Haida Gwaii to Dawson Creek, northern BC's economy is diversifying across a broad spectrum of industries, and creating a wealth of opportunities for white and blue-collar professionals alike.

In fact, the number of major projects proposed in northern BC totals \$69.8 billion, or approximately 52% of the total



Janine North
CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust

capital investment proposed in the province

Gateway to Asia

On the North Coast, BC's proximity to Asia is driving major investment in shipping, logistics and liquefied natural gas (LNG) sectors.

The Port of Prince Rupert, which only a decade ago was struggling for business, continues to set cargo movement records and look forward to expansions at its container and coal terminals.

Region-wide development

In Kitimat the streets are busier than ever amid a \$3.3 billion expansion of Rio Tinto Alcan's aluminum smelter and other projects.

Further inland, Terrace and Smithers

are benefitting from new mining exploration and development and clean energy projects along the Highway 37 corridor.

In the northeast, communities such as Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd are capitalizing on massive natural gas and coal resources.

And Prince George, BC's northern capital, is benefitting from activity across the region, and leading the way in education and healthcare advancements at the University of Northern British Columbia and the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the north.

This widespread economic activity is creating jobs, boosting construction and driving growth in retail, service and supply businesses.

It's also having the added benefit of shedding light on the north's natural recreational gifts – from world-class hunting and fishing, to hiking, mountain biking, skiing and sightseeing.

Truly, the future is looking very bright for northern BC.

JANINE NORTH

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Research leads to informed discussions about a community's infrastructure

Much of northern BC is undergoing an economic renaissance. Large industrial projects are underway or planned for the northwest, and resource extraction in the northeast continues to fuel growth. But when economic activity increases in smaller communities, the impact—both positive and negative, can be huge.

The new \$3.3 billion Rio Tinto Alcan smelter in Kitimat, along with port expansion in Prince Rupert will provide economic stimulus and renewal to the region, but these projects will also impact and change communities. That's why strategic dialogue and proper planning for the physical and social infrastructure is critical.

Dr. Greg Halseth, a professor of human geography and a leading researcher in the relationship between people and communities works with the Community Development Institute to facilitate informed discussions about the social and economic implications

of increased development. "We can provide a tool kit for communities to help as they adapt to the changes," says Halseth. "It's important there is dialogue between the community, all levels of government and business to develop a strategic plan that will ensure the social and physical needs of the community are met."

It can be a challenge for communities and government to ensure the appropriate infrastructure—roads, transportation networks, reliable high speed communications, schools, community and senior centres, and other civic services—are built at the right time to support the increased economic activity. Communities that don't have these discussions and do the research are vulnerable to not attracting and retaining business and people.

Halseth adds that when investing in infrastructure, we need to do it smartly. "Instead of building a school with acres of land around it, and a community centre in another part of town and the civic building somewhere else, as we once did, towns are now building services closer together and sha-



ring resources. "The more a community can co-locate, the greater the synergetic benefit." That's why in some communities one large building will house the community centre, preschool, elementary school and civic services, all sharing the same heating and power plants. Seniors' centres and residential care facilities will be located near health facilities.

With large industrial projects, such as Rio Tinto's investment in Kitimat,

communities often have a reasonable amount of time to prepare for the economic and social impact. These opportunities can be a springboard for discussions with all stakeholders, so we can create well rounded communities with excellent recreation and social services.

KEN DONOHUE

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WE RECOMMEND



Preparing workers
How educational institutions are responding to the needs of industry

PAGE 06

"The resource industries have a practically insatiable demand for workers and students are often recruited before graduation from high school."

Major projects p. 07
Heavy industry investments in the north

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NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT



The Northern Development Initiative Trust board, regional advisory committee and staff have a passion for growing the economy of central and northern British Columbia. When the Premier of British Columbia announced the Northern Development Initiative Trust, it was on the premise that, "The best economic development decisions for the North should be made in the North."

Northern Development is an independent, non-profit corporation; a catalyst stimulating economic growth through investments in grassroots, community-led projects.

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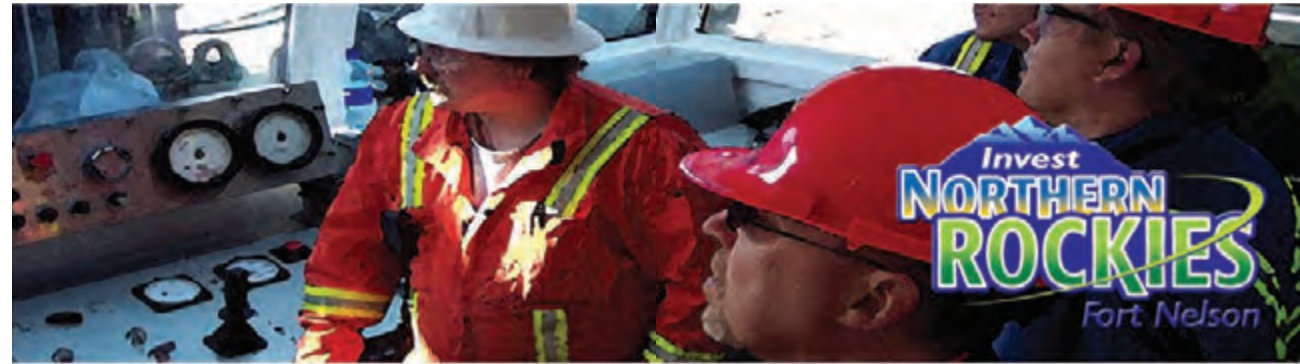
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Economic Drivers

- 2 operating mines under expansion, 2 others undergoing project development.
- Recent natural gas activity applications approved include 127 wells, 72 pipeline projects, and 5 geophysical programs.

Emerging industries

- Burgeoning wind power industry under development.
- Tourism operators wanted to provide outdoor experiences in the Shangri-La of the Northern Rockies.
- Bioenergy – utilizing timber infected by the Mountain Pine beetle.
- Community Forestry – recently approved application is providing the community with its own forest with an annual allowable cut of 20,000m³.

For a copy of our Economic Outlook Summary, Community Profile, or any other info please contact:
Community Development Office

T: 250.242.4242 | cdo@dtr.ca | www.investTumblerRidge.ca



INSPIRATION

**Michael Peeman**

Age: 26
 Hometown: Williams Lake, BC
 Currently Resides: Smithers, BC
 Years in the mining industry: 2
 Job Title: Geo Tech

Question: What kind of job opportunities and benefits are there to working and living in northern BC?

Answer: In industries like mining, there is room for advancement, high salaries, and the opportunity to enjoy the outdoor recreation that the region is famous for.

How training and hard work lead to a successful career in the mining industry for Michael Peeman

Michael Peeman never saw himself working in the mining industry. The Williams Lake native first pursued welding after high school, but the lack of work in the field quickly discouraged him. He wanted to follow a career that allowed him lots of opportunity to grow and soon discovered the mining industry would be a good place to start.

At the encouragement of a friend, Peeman connected with the British Columbia Aboriginal Mine Training Association, which put him through a screening process to assess what schooling needed to be done to help

him break into the industry.

Within three months, Peeman upgraded his skills and was qualified for a job at the Blackwater mine with New Gold, about 160km southwest of Prince George. He quickly realized that mining was the perfect industry for him: There was room for advancement, the pay was great and it gave him the opportunity to live in the North. He started out as a core cutter but within two years, he moved his way up in the company. He credits his enthusiasm for the work, along with his focus, for helping get him ahead.

"I asked a lot of questions, and I guess they were the right ones," he says. "I met with a lot of people and now I'm a geo tech."

His current job gives him the skills to pursue a career in geology. Now Peeman can't see himself doing anything else.

"I'm interested in most parts of the mining industry, that way I can be a well-rounded employee and make myself set for any job," he says.

Peeman currently lives in Smithers about nine days a month, but travels throughout BC for work.

Part of the huge appeal of the mining industry for Peeman is the opportunity to live and work in the North.

"The most beautiful part of working up north is the scenery," he says. "It's a world of its own. The cost of living is a lot cheaper up there. It's just a wonderful place to live."

An avid outdoor enthusiast, the 26-year-old is constantly exploring the terrain, regardless of the season. In the winter he skis, and in the summer, he mountain bikes.

"If you don't mind the cold weather, it's a beautiful countryside," he says. "You get to see moose, bear, lynx and sometimes cougars."

His passion for the outdoors also helped Peeman establish a solid group of friends, who share his interests.

"If you're into the outdoors stuff, it's super easy meeting other people," he says. He recalls one of the first days he went out biking, coming across a group of fellow bikers who were also on the trail. They invited him to join them for the day.

"They took me out and I formed a relationship pretty quick," he says. "Same with the winter. I met up with a group of people who were into skiing, right away."

These days, Peeman is grateful for the journey the mining industry has taken him on. He intends to grow as a person and employee within the industry, and continue to expand his roots up North.

"It's surrounded me with such good people to work with, who I've carried on into my outside life," he says. "It's a steady job that will provide for me a long time."

ELIANNA LEV

editorial@mediaplanet.com

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NEWS



\$48 BILLION IS PROJECTED TO BE INVESTED IN LIQUID NATURAL GAS BETWEEN 2013 AND 2022

Job opportunity in the northern region of BC

Far north from the push and shove of city life in BC, a booming economy is gaining inertia.

Known for its natural bounty and seemingly limitless stores of resources, the province's northern regions are, to some, considered the economic powerhouse of the province.

Alexander Pietrella, Director of Northwest BC for the BC Rural Network and the Executive Director of the Kitimat and Terrace Industrial Development Society says that role will

swell with increased development.

"Access to the water and the gateway to Asia will only propel this situation further and my prediction is that BC's North (will be) the most important piece of trade infrastructure for all of Canada in two decades," says Pietrella.

Infrastructure development, port expansion and liquid natural gas development are creating a growing job market.

And with \$15 billion dollars of announced projects over the next five years - skilled workers such as truck-

ers, equipment operators and trades people will be needed to fill the gaps.

"There are a growing wave of opportunities in the Northwest," says Rick Braam, Manager of the Northwest Region's Economic Operations for the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.

Braam has lived in the region for 50 years and watched the resource sector from boom to bust.

But diversification of the region's economy is also on the upswing, adds Pietrella.

"There is lots of construction al-

so in areas that people really see and feel - mall modernization in Terrace, Tim Horton's in Kitimat, a new hospital in Fort St. John, port Expansion in Prince Rupert," he says. "There is development all over the North... there is a true sense of 'tomorrow is good' in the air."

If it's not the job opportunities that are bolstering the local population, it's the pace of life says Pietrella. A laid-back mentality offers people more leisure time and making for a better work-life balance.

"Commuting to and from work

or school or any other activities is nowhere near (the grind of the) lower mainland, so the time saved by not sitting in a car, is quality time made for family life or hobbies," adds Pietrella.

Braam says urbanites often tend to overlook the north both as a tourist destination and place to call home.

"(There are) good paying jobs, relatively low housing costs, (and it's) a great place to raise a family with endless recreational opportunities," says Braam.

ANDREW SEALE
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Major projects in the northern region

Rio Tinto Alcan's Kitimat aluminum smelter upgrade

Rio Tinto Alcan's Kitimat aluminum smelter project has been upgraded with an additional investment of US \$2.7 billion to complete construction of the fully modernized aluminum smelter in Kitimat, British Columbia — a project totaling US\$3.3 billion. The Kitimat Modernization Project will increase the smelter's current production capacity by 48 per cent to approximately 420,000 tonnes per year.

Kitimat/EOG/ Apache's LNG terminal in Kitimat

The Kitimat LNG terminal will allow for natural gas liquefaction, LNG storage, and marine on-loading facilities. Natural gas will travel from the Pacific Trail pipelines connecting to the Spectra Energy Westcoast Pipeline System. Because of the close proximity to already existing pipelines, there will be easy access to the natural gas supply and the location of Kitimat allows for excellent access to the Asian markets of South Korea, China, and Japan — the largest importer of LNG in the world.

BC Hydro's Site C dam

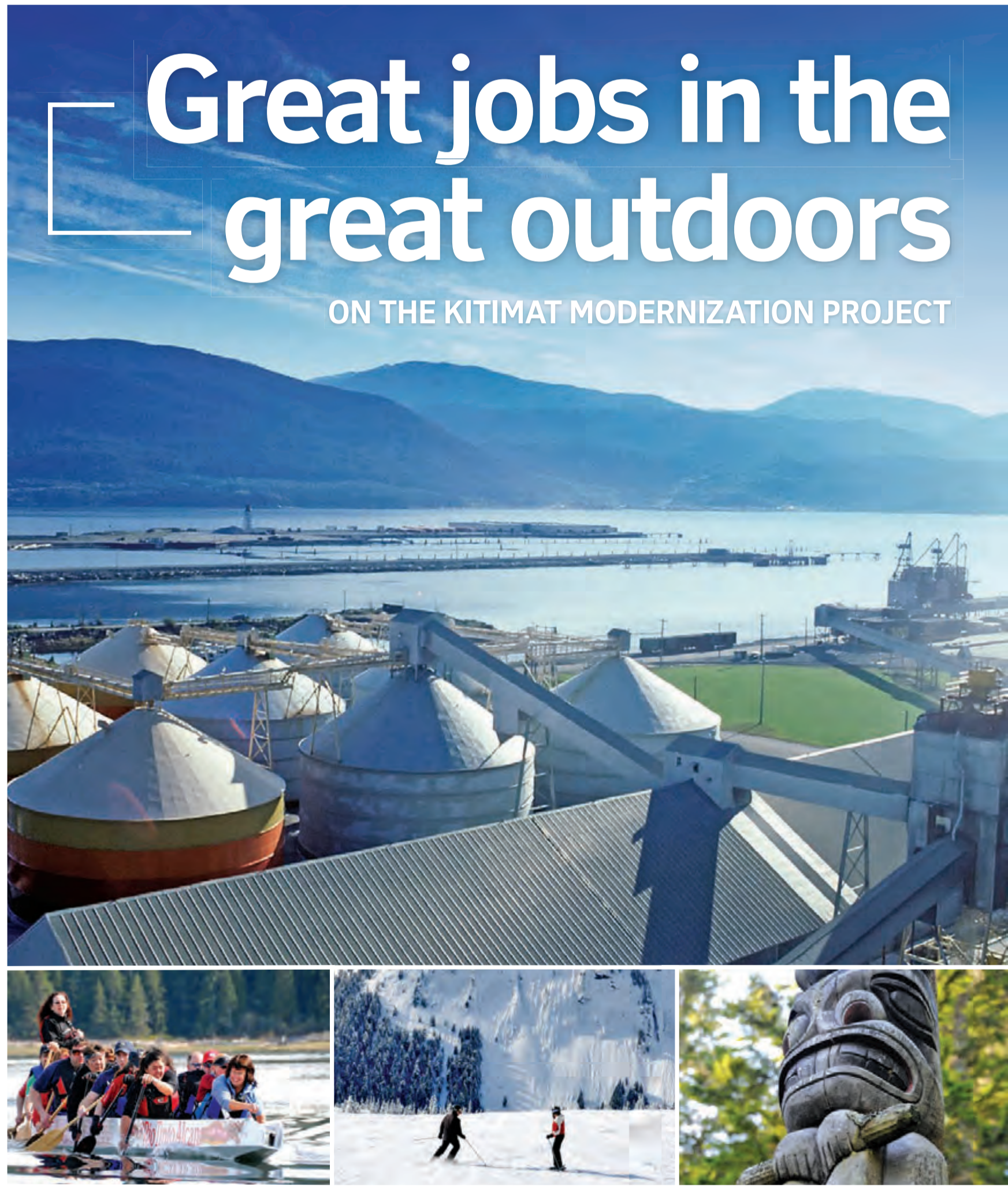
Site C is a proposed third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in Northeast BC.

Site C would be a source of clean, reliable and cost-effective electricity for more than 100 years. It would provide enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in BC.

Imperial Metals' Red Chris copper/gold mine

Imperial is working towards development of a 30,000 tonne per day open pit mine to commence operations upon completion of the Northwest Transmission Line. Red Chris anticipates being able to connect to the Northwest Transmission Line at the Bob Quinn hydro station approximately 120 km from the proposed mill site by early 2014.

HEATHER RITCHIE
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Mike Hansen
General Manager,
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Peter Nunoda
Vice President,
Academic and Research,
Northern Lights College



Brian Badge
Trades Coordinator,
Northwest Community College



Question 1:

How are educational institutions responding to the needs of the industries in the North?

For the most part, educational institutions are offering courses that respond to the needs of industry. One area that IHE School has heard loud and clear from industry is the need for hands on, practical training courses. Many institutions are continuing to create “theory” based programs which give students a basic understanding, however, there is still room for improvement.

Northern Lights College has a very close working relationship with our industry partners in oil and gas, hydro and mining. This is reflected in our Trades and Apprenticeship Programs and Workforce Training particularly. We have Centres of Excellence in Oil and Gas, Clean Energy Technology and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering that provide specialized training for these industries. In addition, we realize the demand for health and services is great in an expanding economy, so we provide programs in Practical Nursing, Health Care Assistant, Early Childhood Education and Social Work.

Educational institutions in the north are encountering a boom as economic opportunities increase at a rapid rate in the region. Northwest Community College is uniquely positioned to help provide the skilled workers for the extraction sector and our programs are directed that way. We work with industry to tailor our programs, be they basic trades and apprenticeships, heavy equipment operators, welders, camp support or any of the skills needed to help support the economic vitality of the region. This is our mission at NWCC.

Question 2:

What would you tell the young people of BC about the opportunities in the North?

The opportunities over the next 10 years are going to be vast, especially in the north. Employers are recognizing more and more that the youth of today as well as local aboriginal communities of the north are a source of skilled labour once trained. Due to the remote locations of some of these large projects, many of them will require temporary camps. These camps can be very costly, and employers prefer to hire local. Trades are back in demand and the future looks bright.

Northeastern BC is the one region in the province where if someone wants to work they can find employment. The resource industries have a practically insatiable demand for workers and students are often recruited before graduation from high school. Having said this, the highest paid occupations are in skilled trades and vocational programs. Northern Lights College provides an entire range of high school dual credit, pre-employment upgrading, short courses and full programs for students to become work ready and able to realize their full earning potential.

The northern region is exploding with opportunities and you don't get a better lifestyle away from the intensity and expense of urban living. With several flights a day to Vancouver, accessing city life is easy and cost effective. If you want a place that will allow you to buy your first home and get your life going, then there are fewer opportunities than living in Terrace, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Hazelton, Smithers or Houston...this is where life in the north is really taking off, for those who are looking for a fresh start and new opportunities.

Question 3:

What types of jobs are available – and how are schools adapting to prepare students for these jobs?

The jobs available for these projects vary from labourers to positions requiring engineering degrees. A large majority of the projects will be heavily focused on skilled workers. This projected shortfall of skilled workers gives the youth of today an opportunity to train in their field of interest and gain a career. As many mining projects come on stream, the need for heavy equipment operators will continue to grow.

Through program advisory committees and the North East Regional Workforce Table, we have an inventory of the highest demand occupations. Many of these are in skilled trades like instrumentation, power engineering, millwright, heavy duty mechanic and welding that are directly related to the oil and gas production. There is also a high demand for operators and drivers both in petroleum and mining. Obviously, with the expanding economy and some large development projects in hydro, mining and liquid natural gas projected over the next ten years, there will be increased demand for construction trades like carpentry, plumbing and electrical. NLC provides programs in all of these fields.

Mining is really where the jobs are happening up here and with major projects like Seabridge's KSM project coming on-stream, a 54-year project that will be only a few hours drive from several of our campuses, the opportunities to get trade skills, and quickly climb the career ladder have never been better up here. Our School of Exploration and Mining in Smithers provides a great starting point. Our mission has always been to serve the economic and community needs of the region. It's really our mantra here.

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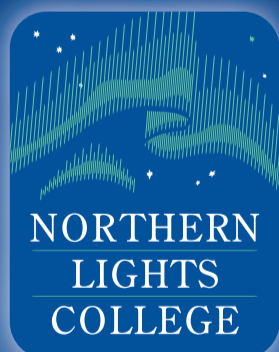
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NEWS

3
 VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN 2012 GREW BY 71% COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2011



PRINCE RUPERT PORT
 One of many increasingly busy container terminals.
 PHOTO: JOEL MCKAY

Giving back to the communities

Heavy industry has played an important role in the development of communities in the northern region. When drawing people to a region, there is a need for commitment to infrastructure and social development to accommodate people's needs. Careful management of the environment and the development of strong relationships with aboriginal communities remain imperative to the continual development of the region, and the future of our province.

Giving back pays dividends
 Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a form of corporate self-regulation integrated into a business model and CSR policies actually dictate a company's right to operate. "Good CSR lends itself to a strong reputation - it is the company's track-record that will facilitate opening doors to expansion in other regions with the assurance of a responsible approach

and respect for the local communities," says Federico Velásquez, Director of Corporate Affairs for Anglo American Metallurgical Coal Canada. The bottom line is, those investments make good business sense as well.

Community building
 Allan Stroet, Economic Development Officer for Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association, points to The Northwest Transmission Line as an example of the role industry can play in community building.

"Not only is it bringing electrical power to these remote projects and making them feasible, but also to the very remote communities that can connect to the line," says Stroet.

The School of Exploration and Mining in Smithers (a partnership of the North West Community College and the Smithers Exploration Group) and the Mining Fundamentals & Truck Driver Training Course at Northern Lights Community College in Tumbler Ridge (a joint endeavour between the

West Moberly First Nations, Northeast Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program and Anglo American Metallurgical Coal Canada) are also mutually beneficial to companies and locals.

"Industry has played a major role in this development," says Stroet adding that Kitimat modernization is employing over a thousand and leading to serious economic development in the region. "All of the major projects try to buy goods and services from nearby in order to be viewed as good corporate citizens as well as it usually being less expensive (to ship)," he says. "Having a location in the north opens up many more doors for businesses and we have seen more service companies locating (here)."

Growth and prosperity
 The provincial government has also stepped in via its' Northern Development Initiative Trust, the organization that has provided over \$100 million in funding towards hundreds of projects in central and northern BC

communities driving more than \$1 billion of investment by communities, business, and government into the region's economy.

"They work with many businesses to take on the challenges of working with enormous global players who are now operating here," adds Stroet.

Local development in the region won't end anytime soon with plans to ship through Prince Rupert and produce liquid natural gas at Kitimat and Prince Rupert.

Couple that with wood-based and run of river energy creation and it looks like the industry has a lot more local investment to make. "By 2020, I would expect the population of northern BC to grow by over 50,000 people," he says.

ANDREW SEALE
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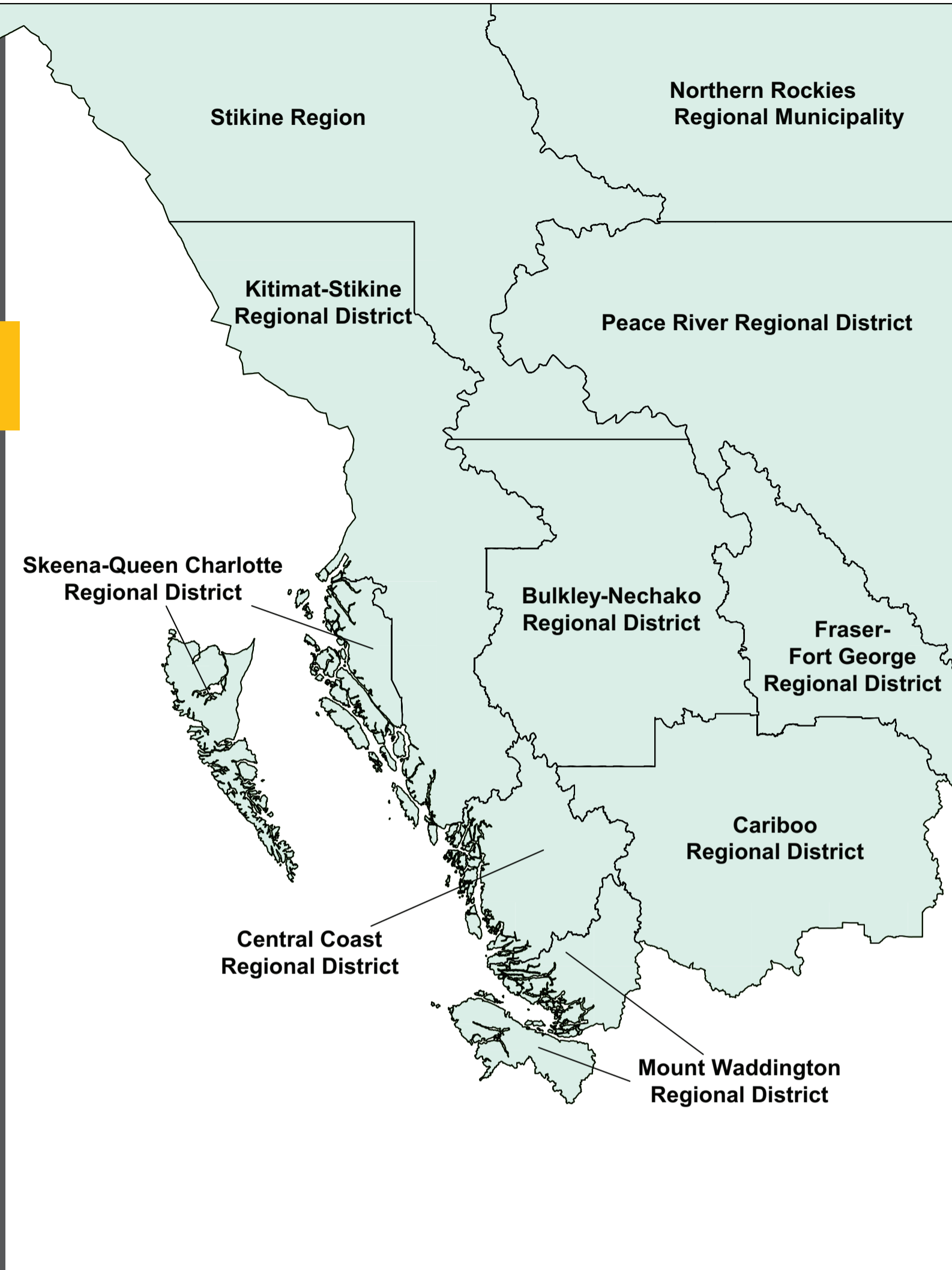
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Map locations: Smithers, Telkwa, Houston, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Granisle.

NEWS

Economic regions of Northern British Columbia



1. Stikine

The Stikine Region is an unincorporated area in northwesternmost British Columbia, Canada and is the only area in BC not in a regional district. The Stikine Region contains no municipal governments and contains only one local planning area, the Atlin Community Planning Area.

2. Northern Rockies

The strongest pillars of the region's economy are forestry, oil & gas, and tourism. This region is the home of the Horn River basin, a geological formation in the North East corner of British Columbia, rich in unconventional shale-gas reserves.

3. Kitimat-Stikine

The main economic activities within the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine include mining, forestry, energy, fishing, and transportation. The area is home to a number of mills, and there has recently been construction on several hydro projects within the region.

4. Peace River

New economic developments in the Peace River area include an increase in tourism, vast coal resources in the Rocky Mountain foothills, increased utilization of aspen in pulp and wood products, diversification in the agricultural sector and an increase in natural gas and petroleum exploration, development and processing as well as the mining sector.

5. Skeena-Queen Charlotte

This region is heavily focused on tourism and the forest industry. Aboriginal communities and the government are coming together to promote economic development & diversification in the region.

6. Bulkley-Nechako

The main sectors of the economy are forestry, mining, agriculture and tourism. Timber harvesting and lumber production are the dominant components of the local economy, however, the region's mining sector is expanding with 2 operating mines currently in the region and infrastructure and transportation well in place to support the industry.

7. Fraser-Fort George

The region's economy was based on the sectors of trade, transportation and forestry. Today, there are also opportunities in sectors such as education, tourism, mining and manufacturing.

8. Central Coast

The central coast's economy is based mostly on logging, agriculture, and education. Prospective opportunities exist in the resource processing, energy and tourism.

9. Mount Waddington

The most productive industries in the region are aquaculture, tourism and alternative energy.


10. Cariboo

This region in the central interior has had strong roots in the forest industry, with new developments and exploration in mining, and a strong focus on tourism.



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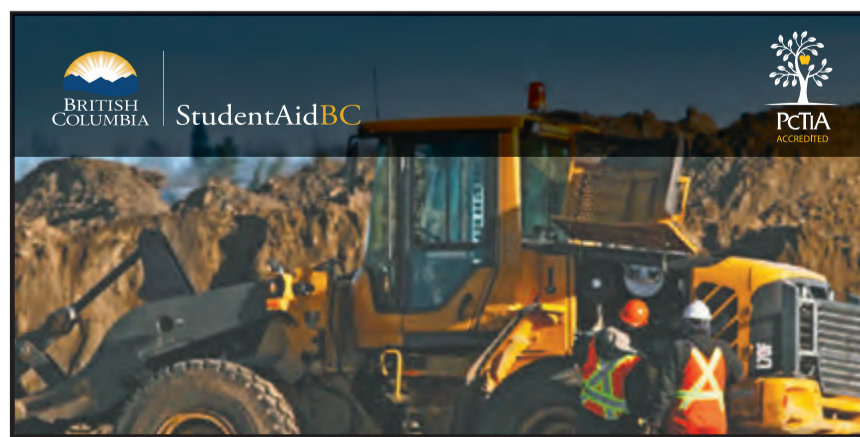
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