



June 6, 2019

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MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Releases Regional Economic Strategy

FORT NELSON, BC - The Northern Rockies' Regional Economic Strategy (RES) initiative, undertaken in October 2018, has reached yet another milestone with the finalization and release of the [Strategy](#) (Phase 1) and the transition to Implementation (Phase 2).

The cost of Phase 1 was fully covered by a grant from the federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund, with the goal of providing a path forward in the NRRM's effort to rekindle, diversify and stabilize a sustainable regional economy.

The Strategy draws heavily on information gathered from community engagement yielding over 450 individual points of input, combining it with in-depth background statistical data from a variety of sources. The exercise was guided by the notion that "none of us is as smart as all of us," with contributions gathered from:

- a series of focus groups;
- meetings with NRRM Regional Council and Fort Nelson First Nation Chief and Council;
- two days of workshops involving more than 40 community, Fort Nelson First Nation, business, not-for-profits, public service providers and industry representatives;
- engagement in Muncho Lake, Toad River and Fort Nelson;
- business and community surveys; and
- one-on-one interviews with key economic players, both local and from outside the NRRM.

The RES captures a vision and proposes a number of specific actions for consideration, within a larger framework addressing opportunities in Forestry, Oil and Gas, Tourism and Agriculture. Among other things it also recommends further development of the unique governance structure afforded by the NRRM's status as BC's only regional municipality, as a route to success.

Phase 2 of the Regional Economic Strategy, putting the RES into action, will be supported at an 80% grant funding level by the BC Rural Dividend Fund, and will continue to rely on the energy, knowledge and experience of local residents and businesses.

Implementation of the RES will proceed with the prioritization of recommendations, securing of expert assistance in key areas and establishment of measurement indicators to monitor progress and identify the need for adjustments. Regular information updates will be forthcoming to ensure the community is aware of where we are, where we are headed, and what's being done to get there.

Interested in more information?

- The Regional Economic Strategy: <https://nr.civicweb.net/document/151041>
- Video Recording of April 4, 2019 Open House: <https://tinyurl.com/NRRM-Strategy>
- Open House Presentation: <https://nr.civicweb.net/document/151166>

Questions or comments:

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