

## News Release

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### COALITION RECOMMENDS BC IMPLEMENT THE SASKATCHEWAN SOLUTION

September 20, 2016

#### For Immediate Release

COALITION MEETINGS PROVE EFFECTIVE - Members of the NEBC Resource Municipalities Coalition met last week in Vancouver with several partner organizations and the BC Commission on Taxation Competitiveness. Meetings were held with Resource Works, Independent Contractors and Business Association (ICBA) and the BC LNG Alliance. The delegation also made a one hour presentation to the BC Commission on Tax Competitiveness.

The Northeast BC Resource Municipalities Coalition has recommended the Province of British Columbia adopt a system of dealing with out-of-province contractors similar to the system used in Saskatchewan. Coalition Mayors Lori Ackerman (Fort St John), Rob Fraser (Taylor) and Bill Streeper (Northern Rockies Regional Municipality) and Coalition Executive Director Colin Griffith made the suggestion in a meeting with the BC Commission on Taxation Competitiveness.



Left to Right: Mayor Bill Streeper (NRRM), Colin Griffith (Executive Director Coalition), Stewart Muir (Resource Works), and Mayor Fraser (District of Taylor)

The Coalition said the Saskatchewan model would help level the playing field for BC contractors in Northeast BC who compete for contracts in the oil and gas sector. Currently BC contractors suffer a 15% cost disadvantage compared to contractors from Alberta who don't pay any provincial sales tax and who also enjoy savings on fuel and other taxes.

The Coalition made four recommendations to the BC Commission on Taxation Competitiveness.

1. Increase level of monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws.
2. Develop and implement a Public Awareness Campaign about BC's tax rules.
3. Establish a process to enable the public to access non-confidential information.
4. Review and amend existing legislation and regulations to enhance the ability of the Ministry of Finance to monitor and enforce the payment of provincial sales tax by non-resident companies.



Left to Right: Colin Griffith (Executive Director Coalition), Mayor Fraser (District of Taylor), Gord Stewart (Sr Vice President, ICBA), Catherine Loiacono (Director of Communications, ICBA), Mayor Bill Streeper (NRRM) & Mike Davis (Vice President Regional Initiatives, ICBA)

These recommendations form part of the model used in Saskatchewan. Non-resident contractors working in that province are required to register and post a bond to cover taxes and fees required by the Province of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan model is seen by many contractors who work in various provinces as efficient, fair and effective. The Coalition sees the Saskatchewan Solution as the way to correct a long-standing imbalance with their Alberta counterparts.

The BC Commission on Taxation Competitiveness is expected to make recommendations to government this fall to ensure that BC's tax legislation and policies allow BC companies to compete on a level-playing field with non-resident companies.

*The Northeast BC Resource Municipalities Coalition mission is to protect and enhance existing resource municipalities and rural communities of Northeastern BC. The Coalition supports the important role that the resource municipalities and rural communities play in supporting existing and future resource development.*

*Members of the Northeast BC Resource Municipalities Coalition include the City of Fort St. John, District of Taylor, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Chambers of Commerce in Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Chetwynd, the Northern BC Truckers Association and Energy Services BC. Senator Richard Neufeld is also an honorary member.*

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**Contact:**

Mayor Bill Streeper – 250.774.2541

Mayor Lori Ackerman – 250.787.8150

Mayor Rob Fraser – 250.789.3392

Colin Griffith, Coalition ED – 780.933.9054