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MEDIA RELEASE

The Northern Rockies Regional Economic Strategy Rolls Out at an Open House



FORT NELSON, BC - The development of the Northern Rockies' Regional Economic Strategy ("the Strategy") reached another milestone with the presentation of the draft Strategy to Regional Council at a special meeting on April 3rd, and a public presentation attended by more than 55 residents on the evening of April 4th.

The Strategy is made possible by 100% grant funding from the federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund, and the goal is to provide the Northern Rockies with guidance on how best to rekindle, diversify and stabilize a sustainable regional economy.

The Strategy utilizes information gathered from in-depth statistical research, and community engagement that provided over 450 individual points of input in addition to the statistical data considered. These contributions were gathered from:

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

Regional Economic Strategy implementation will be 80% funded by a grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund, continuing to draw on the knowledge and experience of local residents and businesses. Next steps will include:

- receipt of the of the final Regional Economic Strategy
- publication of the Regional Economic Strategy

- enlisting the assistance of professional expertise with experience in the implementation of economic development strategies
- prioritizing and taking action on recommendations in keeping with Regional Council's strategic priorities
- creating opportunities for ongoing information updates and public input
- establishing measurement indicators to monitor progress, and
- adjusting the action plan to adapt to changing conditions.

Interested in more information?

- Video Recording of April 4, 2019 Open House: <https://tinyurl.com/NRRM-Strategy>
- Open House Presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/RES-Presentation>
- Summary – Regional Economic Strategy: <https://tinyurl.com/Summary-RES>

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Questions or comments:

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