



Press Release

NORTHEAST BC COALITION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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For Immediate Release

The Northeast BC Resource Municipalities Coalition (Coalition) welcomes Energy Services BC, Northern BC Truckers Association, the Fort St John & District Chamber of Commerce and the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce as the newest members of the Coalition. All four business groups took part in the Coalition's first Upstream Update Forum held last November in Fort St. John. They have worked with the Coalition to establish strategic objectives to ensure resource communities and businesses have a united voice in all issues related to sustainable development in NEBC.

The Coalition, including its new members, will advocate that the Provincial government fully monitor and enforce BC's tax and labour laws and regulations in relation to out of province contractors and businesses. In addition, the Coalition will advocate that the Province and industry maximize utilization of BC's local work force and businesses.

Energy Services BC Executive Director, Art Jarvis, stated, "The Mayors of Taylor, Fort St. John and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality have continued to be a strong voice for Northeast BC, our municipalities, and the responsible development of our resources. Energy Services BC has determined that our members will benefit from joining forces with the Coalition and that its time to lend our support by becoming a member."

Northern BC Truckers Association Director, Tyler Kosick, said, "The Coalition's first Upstream Update Forum demonstrated the value of the Coalition. The Upstream Update Forum brought together representatives from industry, communities, First Nations, industry associations and the Province of BC. It allowed us all to discuss issues of mutual interest in a very respectful, inclusive environment. We're pleased to become a member of the Coalition and actively support our mutual goals."

Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce President, Tony Zabinsky, stated, "Our Chamber appreciates the work the Coalition has undertaken so far. It has become the voice of responsible resource development in Northeast BC. Our involvement in the first Upstream Update Forum also demonstrated what can happen when municipalities and business work cooperatively together and speak with one voice. We're pleased to become a member of the Coalition and actively support its goals and objectives."

Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce President, Anjula Benjamin says "We've concluded the Coalition is working on behalf of everyone in Northeast BC and is a model for regional cooperation and collaboration. The Coalition's ability to undertake research, develop solutions for the challenges and opportunities in Northeast BC and work with governments and industry to implement these solutions, in our view, is the real value of the Coalition. Our businesses in Dawson Creek face similar challenges to those in Taylor, Fort St John and Fort Nelson. Working as a member of the Coalition provides additional value to our members because the Coalition brings everyone together to find effective solutions."



District of Taylor Mayor Rob Fraser states, “The Coalition is stronger and will be more effective with the addition of these new business members. Their members are the backbone of our resource communities. They employ our residents and support our communities in so many positive ways. By working together in the Coalition we gain from their expertise while our municipalities gain by working together on issues that affect everyone.”

Fort St. John Mayor, Lori Ackerman, added, “The Coalition was always meant to be a diverse group of members from throughout Northeast BC coming together to work on issues of mutual interest. The addition of these business groups confirms our vision. We look forward to moving forward with the help of these new members and working on behalf of everyone in the region.”

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Mayor, Bill Streeper, said, “Our Coalition is open to all community groups and organizations and we look forward to broadening our membership base in the future. These business groups clearly see the benefit of joining the Coalition. We’re a vast region of British Columbia with a small population and only by working together will we achieve progress on our goals.”

Honourary Coalition member Senator Richard Neufeld states “I thank these business groups for becoming members of the Coalition and the supporting the goals which will ultimately strengthen all of Northeast BC. History clearly shows that when groups and organizations in the Northeast work collaboratively, good things happen and everyone benefits.”

North Peace MLA Pat Pimm added “I have been working on these issues since I was first elected and I have fully supported the Coalition since its inception. With the resource communities and businesses united in identifying their issues and concerns it will help me advance these interests with the Provincial government and industry and I am very pleased to be working very closely with the Coalition and its business members.”

Coalition Executive Director Colin Griffith says “There has always been a direct link between the sustainability of our businesses and the sustainability of our communities. When business does well, municipalities have an opportunity to plan, grow and better serve their citizens. When business is struggling, the impacts are felt throughout the community. Representatives of these new members will now sit with our Mayors, Councilors and CAOs and work collaboratively to resolve challenges and capitalize on new opportunities. Our Coalition looks forward to welcoming more new members as 2016 unfolds.”

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