



DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
Regular Meeting of Council  
Monday February 2, 2026  
Council Chambers - 4633 10th Ave - Room #2

Public Meeting - 6:45 pm  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 pm

**1. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING: 6:45PM**

To discuss the District of New Hazelton Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 388, 2025.

**2. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING: 7:00PM**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Accept Minutes of January 5, 2026 regular meeting

**4. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: NONE**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Kispiox Valley Community Centre Association Request for Letter of Support

5.2 Joint Application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Labour Market Research Plan Program with Regional District of Kitimat Stikine (RDKS) and Village of Hazelton

5.3 2025 UBCM Hazelton Letter from Minister Bowinn Ma

5.4 Request for letter of support for Gitanmaax purchase of Coast Mountain Hazelton Campus

**6. REPORTS**

6.1 Council Reports

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer

7.2 PRGT's Social and Economic Effects Management Plan & Medical Services Plan

7.3 Council New Business

7.4 Council Schedule

**8. BYLAWS**

8.1 Adoption of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025

8.2 Third Reading and Adoption of the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 388, 2025

**9. CLOSED MEETING** Exclude the public and move into a closed meeting pursuant to S. 90(1)(e) of the Community Charter regarding acquisition of land

**10. ADJOURNMENT**



DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
Regular Meeting of Council  
Monday January 5, 2026  
4633 10<sup>TH</sup> Ave – Room #2 Council Chambers  
Public Meeting - 6:45pm  
Regular Meeting – 7:00pm

### **1. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING - 6:45PM**

Present: Mayor G. Lowry  
Councillor R. Sturney  
Councillor G. Burns  
Councillor A. Berg  
Councillor B. Henwood  
Councillor J. Hobenshield  
Councillor M. Weeber

Staff: Chief Administrative Officer, W. Hunt  
Chief Financial Officer, L. Roe  
Corporate Officer, B. White

- To discuss the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025, there were no members of public in attendance.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

### **2. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING - 7:00PM**

#### **3. MINUTES**

##### **3.1 Accept Minutes of December 1, 2025 regular meeting**

- Councillor Henwood asked for a discussion from the Making Agriculture Sustainable in the Hazeltons (MASH) Delegation at the December 1, 2025 regular council meeting; specifically around their requests for support which included, promotion of their new website, letters of support for Northern Development Initiative Trust and Prince Rupert Port Authority grant applications, and the potential for a long-term lease for a facility to house a collective cold storage.

#### **RESOLUTION 8456/26**

#### **MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council authorize Staff to write a letter to Making Agriculture Sustainable in the Hazeltons (MASH) advising them what information is required before we further discuss or provide the support requests that were made at the December meeting.

#### **CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 8457/26****MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, the minutes of the December 1, 2025 regular meeting be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED****4. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: NONE****5. CORRESPONDENCE****5.1 2026 Business Facade Improvement Program Approval Letter**

- Received for information purposes only, no further action taken.

**5.2 New Hazelton Rail Travellers' Platform Area and Train Pick Up****RESOLUTION 8458/26****MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council authorize Staff to write a letter to CN and VIA Rail to enquire about installing a covered bench at the train pick up/drop off area.

**CARRIED****5.3 Canada Community-Building Fund: Second Community Works Fund Payment for 2025/2026**

- Received for information purposes only, no further action taken.

**5.4 Bill M 216 - Professional Reliance Act**

- Received for information purposes only, no further action taken.

**6. REPORTS****6.1 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2025 Financial Update**

- CFO, Roe was available for any questions that came up. Received for information purposes only, no further action taken.

**6.2 Council Reports**

- Councillor Berg attended the TV Association meeting at the beginning of December. They have a new president, Sara Pittman and will be working on a survey to see how many people use this service.
- Councillor Hobenshield advised that the Hazelton District Public Library strategic plan will be out soon.
- Mayor Lowry advised that the next joint meeting with VOH and RDKS will be happening this week.

**7. BYLAWS****7.1 Third reading of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025****RESOLUTION 8459/26****MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, the District of New Hazelton give the third reading of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025.

**CARRIED**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Amended 2026 Council Meeting Schedule**

- The scheduled meeting date in September conflicts with UBCM and it was recommended that the date be changed to Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for 2026 only.

**RESOLUTION 8460/26**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council approves the amended 2026 Council Meeting Schedule.

**CARRIED**

### **8.2 Council New Business**

- Councillor Hobenshield asked about an update on the properties near the creek. CAO, Hunt has just returned from vacation and hopes to have it ready for the next meeting.

### **8.3 Council Schedule**

- Council reviewed their schedule for the upcoming months.

**RESOLUTION 8461/26**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council authorizes Staff to write a letter to UBCM voicing concerns regarding the location of the UBCM Convention for the next four years.

**CARRIED**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**RESOLUTION 8462/26**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, the regular meeting be adjourned at 7:39PM

**CARRIED**

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Mayor

January 5, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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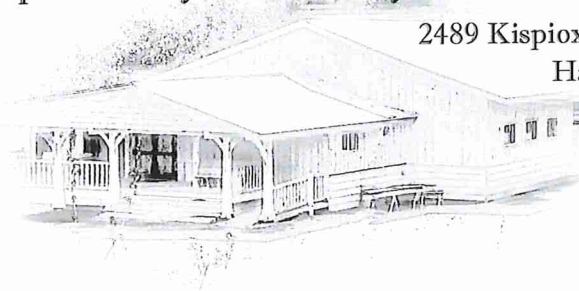
Corporate Officer

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## Kispiox Valley Community Centre Association

2489 Kispiox Valley Rd,  
Hazelton, BC  
V0J 1Y5



January 4, 2026

Gail Lowry

Mayor of New Hazelton

P.O. Box 340

Hazelton, B.C. V0J 2J0

RE: Kispiox Valley Community Lease , Crown Land File No. 0203354 / Lease No. 634592

Presently the Kispiox Valley Community Centre Association has a Crown Land lease for community and recreational purposes in the Kispiox Valley. The lease was originally granted 70 years ago

This lease area is used for an annual rodeo, music festival, gymkhanas, dances, picnics, recreation events, memorials, weddings and many other community functions. The rodeo will be celebrating it's 80th anniversary next year. This lease is due for renewal in August 2026.

The KVCCA would like a letter from you supporting the renewal application. The events we host are a boost to our local economy and we hope to continue all the traditions our community has created.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joy Allen

Vice President of the KVCCA

For Kathy Clay, President of the KVCCA



**To:** Marc Schibli, Acting CAO, for the Economic Development Commission

**From:** Meghan Vander Ploeg, Economic Development Officer

**Date:** December 12, 2025

**Re:** Northern Development Initiative Trust Labour Market Research Plan Program

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine Board support an application to Northern Development Initiative Trust for a grant up to \$50,000 towards a Labour Market Research Plan.

**Background:**

Northern Development Initiative Trust has recently launched the Rural and Remote Employment Initiatives Fund (RREI). Funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, it will fund initiatives that support people, businesses, communities and the workforce to navigate potential and realized impacts of tariffs and other economic impacts.

The two programs through this stream, the Labour Market Research Plan and the Business Advisory Support Programs, have been designed with the goal of addressing current economic gaps and potential economic impacts created by tariffs, intending to help Northern B.C. communities.

Staff have identified the Labour Market Research Plan Program as a relevant opportunity to pursue in alignment with the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Understanding labour force needs will help guide the efforts of many of the Plan's goals such as skills training and business retention and expansion initiatives.

Although a regional district-wide labour market plan would be preferred, the anticipated cost exceeds the maximum available funding. NDIT has been very encouraging of community applications and plans to compile findings from completed plans into a broader regional resource. Two RDKS member municipalities are already pursuing applications, highlighting a few gaps in the regional district, including the Hazeltons area.

To address this, staff propose a joint application submitted on behalf of the District of New Hazelton (DoNH), the Village of Hazelton (VoH), and Electoral Area B. DoNH and VoH staff have expressed interest in developing a labour market plan but lack the capacity to apply alone. A joint application would not increase the \$50,000 funding maximum but would allow a plan to be completed for the Hazeltons area.

From a regional perspective, staff believe this is the most economical way to proceed. Following completion of the program, staff recommend reviewing the regional compilation prepared by NDIT, identifying remaining knowledge gaps, and determining opportunities for further targeted research.

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**Financial Implications:**

The Labour Market Research Plan Program offers \$50,000, up to 90% of total project costs. Procurement for this project would be secured through a request for proposals. Costs exceeding what is covered by the program could be covered through the Economic Development Commission within reason or potentially through grant stacking. This project is contingent on securing a suitable consultant within budget.

**Economic Development Commission Strategic Plan Objectives:**

- Community Sustainability and Growth
- Business Retention and Expansion

**Voting Structure:**

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All Directors; Unweighted	Majority

**Prepared by:**

Meghan Vander Ploeg, Economic Development Officer

**Approved By:**

Lucy Botelho, Acting CFO

Renee Lukasser, Director of Administration/Corporate Officer/HR

Marc Schibli, Acting CAO

**Status:**

Approved - 02 Dec 2025

Approved - 03 Dec 2025

Approved - 04 Dec 2025



January 26, 2026  
Our Ref. 24176

Their Workshop, Mayor Julie Maitland  
Village of Hazelton  
4310 Field Street  
Box 40  
Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0

Email address: [info@hazelton.ca](mailto:info@hazelton.ca)

Their Worship, Mayor Gail Lowry  
District of New Hazelton  
Box 340  
New Hazelton, BC V0J 2J0

Email address: [glowry@newhazelton.ca](mailto:glowry@newhazelton.ca)

Dear Mayors Julie Maitland and Gail Lowry,

Thank you for meeting with Deputy Minister Bobbi Plecas and other members of my ministry's staff during the 2025 Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in Victoria. Bobbi has briefed me on your conversation, and I'm pleased to have an opportunity to respond.

I applaud your advocacy for greater local access to long-term care and am grateful to you for sharing your insights on the unique needs of remote communities. Ministry staff will work with the Northern Health Authority on their capital priorities in preparation for *Budget 2026*.

I appreciated learning about the priorities and challenges facing your communities, and I share your commitment to working together to improve outcomes for citizens. As Minister of Infrastructure, I am proud of the ministry's role in delivering public capital projects that support essential services for communities across British Columbia—including schools, hospitals, and post-secondary facilities.

.../2



**From:** Gregory Wass <g.wass@gitanmaax.com>

**Sent:** January 26, 2026 2:03 PM

**To:** Gail Lowry <glowry@newhazelton.ca>

**Cc:** Wendy Hunt <whunt@newhazelton.ca>; James Woodworth <j.woodworth@gitanmaax.com>

**Subject:** Request for letter of support for Gitanmaax purchase of Coast Mountain Hazelton campus

Dear Mayor Lowry--

Gitanmaax recently submitted an Expression of Interest to acquire the Coast Mountain College Hazelton Campus. Our vision is to transform this facility into a Family Services Hub for our Wila Dildilsdi'm department and other local resources to strengthen education continuity, cultural connection, and community well-being. The campus would remain open as a vital part of the community, creating a space where education and wellness meet.

The District of New Hazelton's endorsement would be invaluable in demonstrating broad community support for the acquisition. A letter of support from your Council affirming the importance of maintaining the campus for children, families, and seniors would strengthen our case as we engage with the responsible provincial Ministries.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let us know if you would like us to provide a draft letter or additional detail on our proposal.

Thanks

Greg

Greg Wass  
People & Operations Lead / Acting CEO  
Office: 250-842-5297  
Cell: 250-842-3416

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# Social and Economic Effects Management Plan

**Prepared By:**  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
Project No. 123223020

**Prepared For:**  
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd.



# Professional Review & Sign-off

This Social Economic Effects Management Plan for the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) Project documents actions to inform affected stakeholders, Nisga’a Nation, and Indigenous groups of the Proponent’s potential interactions with employment, transportation, and community infrastructure and services, and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements. It has been prepared for use in the field by the Proponent and its contractors and may also be used by the Environmental Assessment Office for compliance purposes. Any use of this document by another third party is the responsibility of that party. By using this document, such third party agrees that neither the Proponent, nor its affiliates nor any employees, consultants, or contractors shall be responsible for costs or damages of any kind incurred or suffered by it or any other third party as a result of decisions made or actions taken based on this document.

This Plan was prepared and reviewed by:

Prepared By	Reviewed By
Heather Taylor, BA, MBA Megan Macdonald, B.Sc., BIT	Vilma Gayoso-Haro, MSc, BSc

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## Revision History

Revision	Issued For	Date
A	Client review	August 8, 2025
0	Indigenous groups and regulatory agency review	January 27, 2026

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
BC	British Columbia
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CSCD	Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
EFAP	Employee Family Assistance Program
EPCM	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management
HMSP	Health and Medical Services Plan
km	Kilometre
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PRGT	Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd.
SEEMP	Social and Economic Effects Management Plan

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# 1 Introduction

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd. (PRGT, or the Proponent) is constructing the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project (the Project). The Project is an approved natural gas pipeline designed to deliver natural gas from northeast British Columbia (BC) to the northwest coast of the province. The Project consists of both land and marine based sections of pipeline and intends to provide natural gas to the Ksi Lisims LNG – Natural Gas Liquefaction and Marine Terminal Project (Ksi Lisims LNG Project) at Wil Milit, BC, on Category A Lands owned by the Nisga’a Nation under the Nisga’a Final Agreement (Nisga’a Treaty) on Pearse Island, approximately 15 kilometres (km) west of the Nisga’a Village of Gingolx and 82 km north of Prince Rupert, BC.

PRGT completed a multi-year environmental assessment process, culminating in the receipt of an environmental assessment certificate (EAC) in 2014 (EAC #E14-06). The issuance of EAC #E14-06 included 45 conditions that PRGT must implement to comply with the EAC (Schedule B, Table of Conditions). Since receiving EAC #E14-06, PRGT applied for and received approval for multiple amendments. The most up-to-date version of the EAC and its conditions are available on BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)’s Project Information Centre website.<sup>1</sup>

PRGT developed a Social and Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP or this Plan), approved on December 1, 2016, that included potential socio-economic effects related to the following valued components: employment, community infrastructure and services, transportation, and Nisga’a Nation (PRGT 2016). The Proponent has decided to update the approved SEEMP based on the current Project; hence, this document addresses Condition 34 of Schedule B of EAC #E14-06 which states the following:<sup>2</sup>

*The Holder must develop and implement a Social and Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP). The Holder must develop the SEEMP in consultation with Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (CSCD) with guidance from framework materials that will be provided by EAO within 120 days of this EAC.*

*The SEEMP must include specific actions to address the following:*

- *Implementation of mitigation set out in the Application Section 38, Table 38-3;*
- *Planning and implementation for effective engagement with affected Aboriginal Groups, Nisga’a Nation, local governments, and provincial service delivery agencies regarding effects related to community level infrastructure and services including water, waste (solid and liquid), health and social services;*
- *Approach to designing and communicating programs related to employment and contracting opportunities, skills training and education;*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/588511d9aaecd9001b826b33/certificates>

<sup>2</sup> The Condition is presented as written in the EAC (Schedule B, Table of Conditions); PRGT acknowledges that some of the terminology is now outdated. For example, ‘Indigenous’ is now preferred over ‘Aboriginal,’ and some ministry names have changed (e.g., CSCD is now the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs).



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- *Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the mitigation set out in the Application and in the SEEMP; and*
  - *If necessary, description of an adaptive management approach, including the implementation of alternative mitigation, to address unpredicted effects directly related to the Project.*
  - *The Holder must develop the SEEMP no less than six months prior to the Holder's planned date to establish main construction camps that are intended to house a workforce for the applied mechanical work on the Project. In order to allow for CSCD to review, comment and make a recommendation to EAO on whether to approve the final SEEMP, the Holder must provide a final SEEMP to CSCD no less than 90 days prior to the Holder's planned date to establish these main construction camps. The Holder must not establish these main construction camps until the SEEMP has been approved by EAO.*

*The Holder is required to implement the SEEMP in consultation with CSCD until one year after Project Operations commence or as otherwise directed by EAO.*

## 2 Scope

The SEEMP describes the strategies and measures that PRGT will implement to mitigate potential effects of the Project on employment and community infrastructure and services. The SEEMP also describes monitoring and adaptive management measures. The SEEMP has been updated to focus on potential socio-economic effects and mitigation measures related to the Project's workforce and activities.

Potential effects and mitigation associated to health services are discussed in detailed in the Health and Medical Services Plan (HMSP) and therefore are only summarized in the SEEMP as they pertain to aspects required in the SEEMP. The HMSP provides detailed protocols for managing healthcare-related risks and supporting coordination with health authorities and providers. The HMSP also describes PRGT's health promotion and mental health programs and services that will support a range of mental health and well-being issues such as substance use and addictions and healthy behaviours. This is not duplicated in the SEEMP to avoid redundancies.

Similarly, the transportation valued component has not been considered within the scope of the SEEMP as mitigation measures related to traffic are accommodated in the Traffic Management Plan section of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) Appendix F-16.

Section 2.1 describes other potential socio-economic effects, with mitigation measures that are described in other management plans and not included in the scope of the SEEMP.

### 2.1 Linkages to Other Management Plans

Although the SEEMP is focused specifically on managing the direct socio-economic effects associated with the Project's workforce and activities, some of the mitigation measures referenced in this Plan are also addressed or implemented through other complementary management plans. Those measures covered in other plans are referenced in the SEEMP as relevant and are not duplicated in this Plan. These linkages enable a coordinated and integrated approach to managing and mitigating socio-economic effects.

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In some cases, mitigation measures are operationalized through these other plans rather than the SEEMP itself. For example, coordination with health providers to deliver health promotion initiatives, including communicable disease prevention is addressed in the HMSP. The SEEMP refers to other plans as relevant and should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- **Health and Medical Services Plan (HMSP)**<sup>3</sup> – This plan describes health and medical service provisions that PRGT will implement to reduce potential demand on local health services attributable to the Project’s workforce. This plan describes work-site health services and programs, communicable disease and infection prevention protocols, health promotion initiatives, communication for patient flow and health services monitoring and reporting. The SEEMP and HMSP are complementary to each other and are intended to be implemented together to support community readiness during construction and operation.
- **Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**<sup>4</sup> – This document houses related plans, which describes waste management and traffic management protocols, including the Spill Contingency Plan (CEMP Appendix E-9), Access Management Plan (CEMP Appendix F-1), Chemical and Waste Management Plan (CEMP Appendix F-4), and Traffic Management Plan (CEMP Appendix F-16).
- **Marine Access and Traffic Management Plans** – There are two companion documents: the Marine Access and Traffic Management Plan for the Marine Ancillary Facilities and the Marine Access and Traffic Management Plan for the Pipeline. These plans document measures that PRGT will take to communicate vessel schedules and in-water activities, related to the marine ancillary facilities and pipeline, with marine users (e.g., commercial, recreational and Indigenous navigation, fishing, and other uses).

Together, these plans form an interrelated framework that supports the SEEMP's overall objectives and provides alignment with regulatory requirements (Appendix A) and community expectations.

## 3 Purpose and Objectives

The SEEMP guides the Proponent and its contractors to manage and monitor potential Project effects on employment and community infrastructure and services, while fostering collaboration with Indigenous groups<sup>5</sup>, local government, and provincial government agencies. This Plan covers socio-economic effects directly attributable to the Project’s workforce and activities on services and infrastructure. The SEEMP includes strategies to support local opportunities, such as jobs and contracts for local and Indigenous businesses, while avoiding or reducing, the Project’s effects on community services and infrastructure. The SEEMP establishes a clear, consolidated framework to:

- Fulfill regulatory requirements, including Condition 34 of Schedule B of EAC #E14-06.
- Provide timely Project information to Indigenous groups, local government, provincial government agencies, and the public.
- Implement and monitor the implementation of mitigation measures for socio-economic effects, covering employment and community infrastructure and services management strategies.

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<sup>3</sup> The HMSP is currently under development and will be shared with Indigenous groups once complete. The document is not associated with any of the conditions in Schedule B of EAC #E14-06 but PRGT committed to developing a HMSP during the process of extending the EAC.

<sup>4</sup> Refers to the terrestrial pipeline CEMP.

<sup>5</sup> Indigenous groups have been defined in Section 5.3.1.

- 
- Engage with Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies to review mitigation effectiveness and incorporate feedback.
  - Monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures using defined indicators and support adaptive management when outcomes differ from predictions, or when concerns are identified.
  - Document and report SEEMP implementation through a semi-annual (i.e., twice per year) SEEMP Status Report.

The SEEMP does not change the role that the Indigenous self-governments and modern treaty bodies and the local governments, provincial government agencies have regarding community infrastructure and service delivery but provides an opportunity to build relationships and share information in the context of the Project among responsible parties for planning and management.

## 4 Project Overview

This section describes the anticipated Project workforce and workforce accommodations, which may have potential effects on employment and community infrastructure and services and will be managed through the SEEMP. The anticipated workforce size and schedule were estimated in the EAC Application as part of the Environmental Assessment, to assess potential effects on employment and infrastructure and services such as housing, health and social services, water, waste, and transportation within the defined spatial boundaries.

### 4.1 Anticipated Project Workforce

Construction will be divided into sections<sup>6</sup> and within a section there could be multiple construction spreads<sup>7</sup>, with one prime contractor responsible for construction of one or more pipeline spreads. Based on current plans, PRGT anticipates the workforce will ramp up once prime contractors are in place. Under current planning, PRGT anticipates the following construction phases and workforce requirements:

- Phase 1 will focus on early works and site preparation, with an estimated workforce of 1,000 to 3,000.
- Phase 2 is expected to begin mainline construction, with workforce numbers increasing to 4,000 to 6,000.
- Phase 3 will continue mainline construction and reach peak activity, with an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 workers.
- Phase 4 will focus on testing, reclamation, and clean-up, with a reduced workforce of 1,500 to 3,000.

PRGT will work with the prime contractors and the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management (EPCM) contractor to determine the best work schedule considering factors such as impacts to local population centres along the Project route, traffic, safety, and construction schedule.

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<sup>6</sup> Refers to a separate unit of work that is part of the overall pipeline construction process.

<sup>7</sup> Refers to individual segments of a pipeline that are constructed and tested; there can be multiple construction spreads within a section.

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The workforce is expected to be sourced primarily from within British Columbia and across Canada. Recruitment strategies will prioritize qualified Indigenous, local, and regional workers through partnerships with Indigenous groups, local governments, industry associations, and training institutions (refer to Section 8.1). While international recruitment is not anticipated, limited hiring from outside Canada may occur for highly specialized roles where domestic expertise is not available. Monitoring and evaluation, including for employment indicators are described in Section 9.1.

## 4.2 Workforce Accommodations

Workforce accommodations will be located in proximity to the Project to support construction activities along the route. PRGT has secured the majority of required permits and approvals for 15 workforce accommodations. As outlined in the Project's Certified Project Description, PRGT's certificate includes:

- One main spread marine camp housing up to 400 workers
- Eight main spread construction camps housing up to 1,100 workers each, and 3 main spread construction camps housing up to 700 workers each
- Three compressor station camps each with up to 225 workers

Camp numbers and locations may be adjusted as construction planning evolves. PRGT will continue to update and engage communities located near camp sites as plans are refined.

The estimated duration and size of the construction workforce are based on current scheduling assumptions. Should these assumptions change due to regulatory decisions or project updates, corresponding revisions to the SEEMP may be made.

# 5 Methodology

The SEEMP addresses socio-economic effects attributable to the Project's workforce and activities. Potential Project effects were identified and assessed in Section 17.0 Employment (PRGT 2015a), Section 20.0 Community Infrastructure and Services (PRGT 2015b), and Section 34.0 Nisga'a Nation (PRGT 2015c) of the EAC Application and its subsequent amendments.

The SEEMP is designed to adaptively manage potential effects attributable to the Project on employment and community infrastructure and services delivered by Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies. These effects relate specifically to the presence and behaviour of Project Workers residing in communities in close proximity to the Project (see Section 5.3.1). Adaptive management measures will be implemented where monitoring indicates that mitigation measures are ineffective, only partially effective, or where an unpredicted effect attributable to the Project has arisen.

The SEEMP also serves as the primary mechanism to monitor and report on the effectiveness of socio-economic mitigation measures related to the Project's workforce and activities. A description of indicators and reporting commitments are provided in Section 8.1, Section 10, and Appendix B.

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## 5.1 Engagement and Consultation for SEEMP Development

PRGT underwent an engagement and consultation process on the SEEMP from 2014 to 2016. As part of that process, feedback was received from Indigenous groups, relevant regulatory authorities (i.e., Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs [formerly CSCD] and EAO), local government, and provincial government agencies.

PRGT received its EAC and related conditions on November 25, 2014. PRGT began engaging with potentially affected parties on the development of the SEEMP in 2014. These engagements included meetings to discuss the scope of the SEEMP and providing early drafts of the SEEMP and addressing and incorporating feedback received from Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies. Based on feedback received through the engagement and consultation process, PRGT aligned the 2016 SEEMP with the *Guidelines for Preparing a Socio-economic Effects Management Plan for Liquefied Natural Gas*<sup>8</sup>, added clarity regarding the adaptive management process, and aligned the indicators more closely to potential effects and measurable parameters. After receiving and using the feedback to implement changes to the Plan, the 2016 SEEMP was approved on December 1, 2016 (PRGT 2016).

Following the approval of the 2016 SEEMP, PRGT committed to regulators (i.e., Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and Northern Health) that it would revise the SEEMP.

Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies, including the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the EAO, continue to play an active advisory role in the SEEMP process. Comments and recommendations raised during the ongoing engagement and consultation process will be considered in the ongoing development of the Plan. As the Project advances, feedback received through the Project's engagement activities (see Section 7) will help confirm the Plan's continued effectiveness.

## 5.2 Document Enhancement

The SEEMP has been updated to reflect recent and relevant ongoing development and enhancement related to socio-economic effects management planning, and Project amendments, as part of ongoing efforts toward continual improvement. This process involved a comprehensive review of the previous version of the SEEMP (PRGT 2016) in addition to more recent SEEMPs developed for similar large-scale projects in BC (CGL 2016, TMX 2017).

The SEEMP will be informed by engagement with potentially affected parties through the environmental assessment process completed for the EAC Application, EAC amendments, and consultation on draft versions of this SEEMP. This engagement shapes the scope, priorities, and mitigation measures of the SEEMP. The Proponent is committed to ongoing engagement throughout the Project lifecycle, including feedback received through the Community Feedback Process and coordination with Indigenous groups (refer to Section 7 for more details on engagement during SEEMP implementation).

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unbc.ca/sites/default/files/event/cscd-seemppresentationslidedeck-circlaunch.pdf>

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## 5.3 Boundaries

### 5.3.1 Spatial

The communities included in the SEEMP are based on the Local Assessment Area communities identified in the EAC Application and the subsequent amendments. These communities have been identified as those most likely to experience direct and indirect socio-economic effects (Figure 1).

The Indigenous groups and potentially affected communities include the following:

Indigenous Groups<sup>9, 10, 11, 12</sup>

- Nisga'a Nation
- Binche Whut'en
- Blueberry River First Nations
- Doig River First Nation
- Gitanyow First Nation
- Gitga'at First Nation
- Gitxaala Nation
- Gitxsan Nation
- Halfway River First Nation
- Horse Lake First Nation
- Kitselas First Nation
- Kitsumkalum First Nation
- Lake Babine Nation
- Lax Kw'alaams Band
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Metlakatla First Nation
- Nak'azdli Whut'en
- Saulteau First Nations
- Takla First Nation
- Tl'azt'en Nation

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9

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/5886908ae036fb0105768bb4/download/Order%20issued%20under%20section%2011%20of%20the%20proposed%20Prince%20Rupert%20Gas%20Transmission%20Project%20signed%20by%20Nathan%20Braun%20%28EAO%29%20November%208%2C%202013.pdf>

10

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/588690a9e036fb0105768c84/download/Order%20issued%20under%20section%2013%20of%20the%20Environmental%20Assessment%20Act%20for%20the%20proposed%20Prince%20Rupert%20Gas%20Transmission%20Project%20-%20signed%20by%20Nathan%20Braun%20%28EAO%29%20May%2021%2C%202014.pdf>

11

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/68670acfb96cc50022f7d6db/download/PRGT%20Marine%20Amendment%20Assessment%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

12

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/68b71518bc7d290022b1c98f/download/PRGT%20Eastern%20Amendment%20Assessment%20Report.pdf>



- 
- West Moberly First Nations
  - Yekooche First Nation

#### Local Government

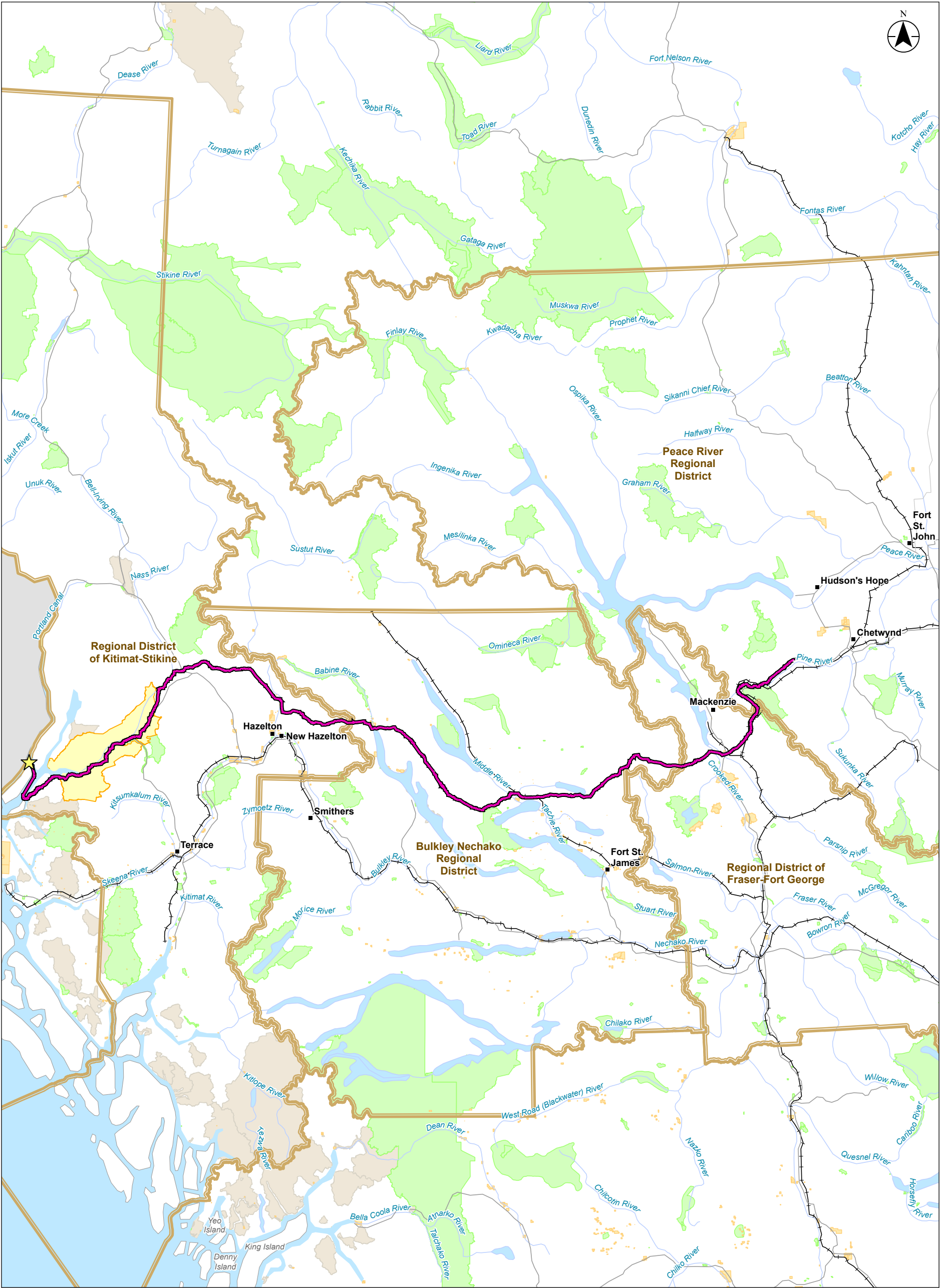
- City of Fort St. John
- City of Terrace
- District of Chetwynd
- District of Fort St. James
- District of Hudson's Hope
- District of Mackenzie
- District of New Hazelton
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
- Peace River Regional District
- Town of Smithers
- Village of Hazelton

### 5.3.2 Temporal

The Proponent will implement the SEEMP in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (formerly CSCD); the SEEMP is applicable from applied mechanical construction<sup>13</sup> start (when the main construction camps for the mechanical construction workforce will be in use and potential socio-economic effects are most likely to occur) until one year after Project operations commence, or as otherwise directed by EAO.

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<sup>13</sup> Mechanical construction commences when trenching and pipelaying begins.



Notes:  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N  
2. Data Sources: DataBC, Government of British Columbia;

- Populated Place
- International Border
- Road
- Local Road
- Railway
- Watercourse

- Conservancy Area
- First Nations Reserve
- Nisga'a Lands Boundary
- Provincial Park, Ecological Reserve, or Protected Area
- Regional District Boundary
- Waterbody

- Ksi Lisims Project Location
- Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Pipeline Alignment

0 50 100 km  
1:2,500,000 (at original document size of 11x17)



Project Location: British Columbia  
Project Number: 123223020  
Requested by MM 20250821  
Prepared by TQ 20250821  
Checked by LL 20250822

Client/Project/Report: Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd.  
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project  
Social and Economic Effects Management Plan

Figure No. 1  
Page No. 1 of 1

Title: Social and Economic Effects Management Plan Spatial Boundaries

## 6 Roles and Responsibilities

The Proponent is responsible for compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements, commitments, and conditions for the Project. Table 1 summarizes the primary roles and responsibilities of each party involved in the development, implementation, and reporting of the SEEMP.

Table 1 Overview of Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
The Proponent (or designate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop the SEEMP to satisfy Condition 34 of EAC #14-06</li><li>• Engage with Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies regarding effects related to community level infrastructure and services (including water, waste [solid and liquid], and health and social services), providing opportunities for their input</li><li>• Allow a minimum 30-day review period for regulators and Indigenous groups to comment on the draft SEEMP</li><li>• Document all engagement outcomes, including concerns raised and responses provided</li><li>• Implement the SEEMP in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs until one year after Project operations commence, or as otherwise directed by EAO</li><li>• Establish and maintain policies, procedures, and processes to facilitate SEEMP compliance</li><li>• Verify contractors adhere to SEEMP requirements and oversee their mitigation activities</li><li>• Collect and analyze data to support the monitoring and evaluation and reporting frameworks, as outlined in Section 9</li><li>• Prepare and submit SEEMP Status Reports to Indigenous groups, EAO, and Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs</li><li>• Apply the adaptive management process outlined in Section 11.2</li><li>• Participate in and contribute to a regional social and economic management and monitoring committee, if such a committee (or its equivalent) is created by the provincial or local government, to address regional socio-economic and environmental issues in which industry is invited to participate, per Condition 6.1 of Amendment 7.</li></ul>
Contractor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adhere to mitigation measures listed in the SEEMP</li><li>• Adhere to and implement all relevant SEEMP policies and programs</li><li>• Develop and follow site-specific procedures to address Project-related socio-economic effects within their work areas</li><li>• Report regularly to the Proponent on compliance with mitigation measures and SEEMP-related policies</li><li>• Communicate any concerns raised by workers or communities to the Proponent</li><li>• Supervise sub-contractors' implementation of required mitigation measures</li></ul>

Role	Responsibilities
Sub-Contractor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adhere to mitigation measures listed in the SEEMP</li> <li>Adhere to all relevant SEEMP policies and programs</li> <li>Implement appropriate internal processes that enable data collection to provide accurate data to contractor(s)</li> <li>Report regularly to the contractor(s) on compliance with mitigation measures and SEEMP-related policies</li> <li>Communicate any concerns raised by workers or communities to the contractor(s)</li> </ul>
Nisga'a Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide primary contact to receive routine and ad-hoc updates from the Proponent</li> <li>Co-develop elements of cultural awareness training</li> <li>Review the SEEMP and provide feedback</li> </ul>
Indigenous groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide primary contact to receive routine and ad-hoc updates from the Proponent</li> <li>Co-develop elements of cultural awareness training (with participation at the discretion of Indigenous groups)</li> <li>Review the SEEMP and provide feedback</li> </ul>
EAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the SEEMP and provide feedback</li> <li>Confirm compliance of the SEEMP</li> </ul>
Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the SEEMP and provide feedback</li> </ul>

Indigenous groups will be invited to review and comment on the draft SEEMP, offering cultural perspectives that enhance the relevance and sensitivity of monitoring and mitigation measures. These Nations will provide input for the selection of SEEMP indicators (refer to Section 8.1 and Appendix B) and co-develop elements of the cultural awareness training. Throughout the Plan's implementation, they will be engaged in relevant discussions and feedback processes.

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# 7 SEEMP Communications and Ongoing Engagement

## 7.1 Engagement Approach

Engagement with Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies was initiated during the development of the 2016 SEEMP and of the updated SEEMP. Each of these entities were invited to review the draft updated SEEMP and provide feedback. Comments will be considered by the Proponent, and revisions made throughout the Plan, where relevant. The Proponent will provide responses demonstrating how feedback has influenced the development of the updated SEEMP.

Engagement is a foundational element of the SEEMP. This section describes engagement methods and records applicable to SEEMP implementation.

The Proponent will engage with Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies by undertaking a series of structured and ongoing engagement activities. These activities will include:

- Meetings to review the effectiveness of mitigation measures and to identify emerging social and economic issues.
- Timely and accessible information about the Project (e.g., sharing information on construction activities, potential impacts in local communities, and workforce, training, or procurement opportunities), which will be shared through multiple communication channels to reach wider audiences on a monthly basis, based on the nature of the activity being undertaken. Communication methods may include, a mix of social media, newsletters, printed materials, local advertising, and the Project website.<sup>14</sup>
- Engagement with regulators, including Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, Northern Health, will form part of the SEEMP's ongoing engagement and monitoring activities.
- All engagement activities will be documented, and the outcomes will be communicated to the engaged parties (listed below).
- Following implementation of the SEEMP, where concerns are raised, the Proponent will address these issues in at least the same manner they are received (e.g., verbally during meetings; via email). If necessary, concerns will be escalated to trigger adaptive management processes (see Section 11.2).

Engaged parties will include, at least:

- Indigenous Groups<sup>15</sup>
- Local Government<sup>16</sup>
- Provincial Government Agencies (including Health Authorities)
  - EAO
  - Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

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<sup>14</sup> [www.princerupertgas.com](http://www.princerupertgas.com)

<sup>15</sup> Indigenous groups have been defined in Section 5.3.1.

<sup>16</sup> Local Government has been defined in Section 5.3.1.

- 
- Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth
  - Northern Health Authority
  - Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
  - Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
  - Ministry of Transportation and Transit

Throughout the implementation of the SEEMP, the Proponent will continue to engage Indigenous groups, local governments, and provincial government agencies. Feedback will be documented and incorporated through adaptive management and the update process (refer to Section 11.2). While the SEEMP does not create formal decision-making authority for external partners, the Proponent is committed to integrating input through a responsive and inclusive process. Opportunities for Indigenous participation in SEEMP implementation, including follow-up program review, will be considered as implementation progresses.

The Proponent will review the effectiveness of SEEMP-related engagement activities monthly; results of the review will be reported semi-annually in the SEEMP Status Reports (Section 10). This may include collecting qualitative feedback, tracking satisfaction or concerns regarding the process, and adjusting engagement approaches to identify the need for action and response.

## 7.2 Communication Methods

The Proponent will use a variety of communication methods to provide updates to the engaged parties identified in Section 7 regarding Project activities and actions related to SEEMP mitigation implementation and effective monitoring. These methods include the following:

### 1. Project Information

- Project information updates (e.g., construction progress, workforce planning) will be provided monthly during peak construction or when key milestones are reached. These updates will be distributed through a combination of:
  - Community-specific newsletters
  - Social media
  - In-person or virtual engagements
  - Updates posted to the Project website

### 2. Toll-Free Phone Line

- A dedicated toll-free number will be available for urgent inquiries and responses to Project-related questions.

### 3. Community Feedback Process

- A communication framework for Indigenous groups and the public to inquire for information and share feedback regarding the Project.
- Describes the procedures for the Proponent to consider community questions, comments and concerns, respond to, and adjust mitigation measures or develop new measures.



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#### 4. Public Events

- The Proponent and/or its contractors will provide opportunities for public information sharing. This may include in-person or virtual information sessions held at appropriate times to support local awareness of career, training, and procurement opportunities. Public meetings or sessions will be organized at the discretion of the Proponent, based on the needs of the Project and the interests of communities.
- Events will be planned in collaboration with local community-based organizations, including those supporting underrepresented populations such as women and gender-diverse individuals, Indigenous youth, elders, people with caregiving responsibilities.

#### 5. SEEMP Status Reports

- A summary of engagement and communications will be included in SEEMP Status Reports, which will be made available semi-annually.

The Proponent will track metrics related to engagement activities, including:

- Event attendance numbers
- Demographic data (when voluntarily disclosed)
- Distribution reach (e.g., number of newsletters distributed, website views)
- Feedback received

### 7.3 Engagement Record

Engagement activities for the SEEMP will be logged and documented including information about topics discussed, issues raised, actions taken, and any unresolved concerns.

Feedback received through engagement will be tracked and considered for SEEMP updates. A summary of input received, responses provided, and any resulting updates will be documented in SEEMP Status Reports (refer to Section 10). Where input identifies conflicts or differing views, the Proponent will seek to resolve them collaboratively and transparently through ongoing dialogue and the Community Feedback Process.

### 7.4 Management of Community Interests

While the SEEMP specifically addresses socio-economic effects associated with the Project, the Proponent recognize that additional community interests or issues may emerge that fall outside the immediate scope of the SEEMP. To manage, the Proponent will adopt a systematic approach comprising the following steps:

#### 1. Identification

Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies may raise issues through engagement sessions, the Community Feedback Process, or the social and economic management and monitoring committee (if and when established). These may include concerns not directly tied to Project activities or outside the Proponent's direct authority.

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## 2. Documentation

Issues that fall outside the direct scope of the SEEMP will be logged so that issues are tracked and that any referrals or follow-up actions are clearly recorded.

## 3. Collaboration and Referral

The Proponent commits to collaborating with the appropriate Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies to address issues beyond the immediate scope of the SEEMP. The Proponent will:

- Facilitate introductions or arrange meetings between engaged parties and the relevant authorities.
- Provide referrals to agencies or organizations that have the expertise and mandate to resolve the issue.
- Encourage dialogue among engaged parties to collaboratively identify potential solutions.

Concerns determined to lie outside the SEEMP's regulatory scope will not be included in SEEMP Status Reports, but they will continue to be managed through an appropriate process. This approach provides clarity in regulatory reporting while also demonstrating the Proponent's commitment to addressing broader community concerns in a structured and transparent manner.

# 8 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

This section outlines mitigation measures designed to proactively address and manage potential socio-economic effects of the Project, related to the employment and community infrastructure and services valued components. A comprehensive list of mitigation measures is provided in Table 38-3 in Section 38.0 in the EAC Application (PRGT 2015d).

## 8.1 Employment, Procurement, and Training Strategy

The Employment, Procurement, and Training Strategy will describe measures to enhance employment, procurement, and training opportunities for local and regional residents and businesses, emphasizing the recruitment and training of Indigenous peoples and women. This strategy will involve communicating Project expectations (e.g., potential job opportunities, procurement opportunities, hiring schedules, skills and certification required) to Indigenous groups, local government, industry associations, and training institutions (Mitigation 38-7).

The Project will develop a training initiative, which will involve partnering with Indigenous groups, local government, industry associations, and training institutions, to invest in education and support training strategies that balance workforce needs (Mitigation 12-1, Mitigation 12-6). Its training initiative will aim to improve general work-readiness of the regional labour force and enhance local and Indigenous participation in the Project (Mitigation 12-11). The Proponent will also work with contractors to identify and address employment participation barriers for local and regional residents to increase opportunities to participate in the Project (Mitigation 12-2) (PRGT 2015d).

Implementation of the Employment, Procurement and Training Strategy will be the responsibility of the Proponent with support from the contractors. Participating Indigenous groups may also have specific commitments with respect to employment, procurement and training provided through confidential Project Agreements.

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## **8.2 Code of Business Ethics**

The Proponent and its contractors will be required to manage their staff and comply with the Proponent's Code of Business Ethics, which prohibits contractors and workers from participating in illegal and/or inappropriate activities that could be detrimental to the company. The Code of Business Ethics includes requirements for workers to maintain respectful behaviours while on and off-site (Mitigation 39-45).

## **8.3 Accommodation Strategy**

The Accommodation Strategy outlines measures to reduce the use of rental housing and short-term accommodations and reduce pressure on the regional housing market. The Project will provide housing in workforce accommodations within the bounds of its permits for all non-local workers during construction (Mitigation 39-6). The workforce accommodations will be located outside of the Nisga'a Villages and local communities (Mitigation 39-1, Mitigation 13-3) and designed to be self-contained (Mitigation 13-4) (PRGT 2015d). Exceptions may include individuals with medical, or accessibility needs that make worker accommodations unsuitable. Any exceptions will be documented by the contractor(s), with records submitted to PRGT. This will include the rationale for the exception, expected duration of the residence, and any mitigation or support measures put in place to offset impacts on accommodation availability.

## **8.4 Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training**

The Proponent will provide Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training to all Project workers pursuant to Condition 39 of the EAC Schedule B conditions. The training will be mandatory for all Project personnel and will result in a Certificate of Completion. The Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training is currently being co-developed with Indigenous groups and will reflect cultural knowledge, values, and best practices in cross-cultural communication. The training will be delivered via an online platform with video modules and self-assessments by the potential affected Indigenous groups.

## **8.5 Regional Social and Economic Management and Monitoring Committee**

The Project is one of several factors influencing the broader socio-economic conditions in the region. It may interact cumulatively with other projects and activities. The Proponent is committed to participating in and contributing to a regional social and economic management and monitoring committee, should one be established by the provincial or local government, to address regional socio-economic and environmental issues in which industry is invited to participate.

## **8.6 Health and Social Services**

The Proponent and contractor(s) will provide health and social services on site for their workers and contractors. A brief description of these services is provided in the following sections. Further details on health initiatives and protocols are described in the Health and Medical Services Plan.

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### 8.6.1 Medical Services and Equipment

The Proponent will provide emergency personnel, medical equipment and access to virtual primary care (Mitigations 13-17, 13-23 and 39-12). Emergency medical personnel will be available 24/7 to respond to emergencies. At a minimum, the Proponent will adhere to the minimum levels of first aid requirements outlined in Schedule 3-A of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation Part 3 which includes<sup>17</sup>:

- Two intermediate first aid attendants with transport certification
- Two advanced first aid attendants

For primary care needs, first aid attendants will be virtually supported by either a nurse practitioner or physician available 24/7.

At a minimum, the Proponent will equip each main spread camp with:

- An advanced first aid kit
- A medical centre that includes a first aid room, private consultation spaces and a private space for workers to access virtual medical appointments equipped with computers with camera access and headphones/microphones
- Sharps disposal containers located in the medical centre and other strategically located areas
- Automated external defibrillators located in the medical centre and other strategically located areas
- A fully equipped ambulance<sup>18</sup> (Mitigation 13-17)

### 8.6.2 Drug and Alcohol Policy and Procedures

The Contractor will implement a series of drug and alcohol policies and procedures including:

- Prescreen workers for drug and alcohol use at the time of hire (Mitigation 13-13 and Mitigation 13-24)
- A Drug and Alcohol Policy (Mitigations 13-19, 13-25 and 39-39) that outlines procedures for enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for the use, possession, distribution, sale of illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia and alcohol use while on-shift. The Drug and Alcohol Policy will describe the roles and responsibilities of employees/contractors, outline supports and rehabilitation options for workers suffering from addiction and describe the progressive consequences.
- Harm reduction measures such as having naloxone available within the medical centre, first aid kits and allowing workers to have naloxone kits in their accommodations.
- Providing confidential and non-judgmental treatment and access to naloxone or referrals to company resources, virtual primary staff or other services.

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<sup>17</sup> Applicable for a Class 4 workplace which means that it is both a remote and less-accessible workplace, with a high hazard rating for 500 or more workers (WorkSafeBC 2025)

<sup>18</sup> An ambulance will not be available at the marine camp main spread

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### 8.6.3 Worker On-boarding

The Contractor will provide workers with health and safety information upon on-boarding including:

- Awareness of the Drug and Alcohol Policy
- The location of the medical centre and medical equipment including naloxone kits
- A description of medical services available including access to virtual primary care and programs such as Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)
- The expectation that workers are required to bring all prescribed medications for the duration of their shift and are expected to arrange primary care consultations within their home location, where possible<sup>19</sup>
- Delivery of health and safety orientation and training to all workers before and during construction employment to help prevent and control incidents leading to primary and acute-care needs (Mitigation 13-14)

### 8.6.4 Health Promotion Initiatives

Health promotion initiatives are measures intended to enhance worker's health and well-being. The Proponent will collaborate with Indigenous groups, local governments, and provincial government agencies to develop culturally appropriate health promotion measures. The Contractor will provide a variety of health promotion initiatives including providing access to (Mitigation 13-21):

- Develop and implement a Project-specific mental health program
- Financial management training (Mitigation 39-41)
- Recreational options such as gym and fitness amenities on-site and culturally appropriate recreational programming
- Telecommunication services for workers to maintain communication to their families (Mitigation 39-44)
- Healthy food options available on-site for every meal and snacks
- Delivery of promotional material (e.g., posters, pamphlets, email communications) and information sessions on a variety of health topics such as mental health, communicable diseases, healthy eating, harm reduction, substance use, and chronic disease prevention

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<sup>19</sup> The Proponents understand that not all health issues can be predicted or foreseen and that in some instances where the virtual nurse practitioner/physician requires the worker to seek in-person medical care, workers may need to use local services. It is expected that workers arrange regular check-ups, screening, follow-up appointments with their primary care provider in their home location.

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## 9 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Proponent conducted baseline studies to establish the current social and economic environment, which serve as the foundation for assessing potential Project effects. These baseline assessments are necessary in determining whether mitigation measures are effective in reducing or avoiding adverse effects associated with the Project. The approach to monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation is structured as follows:

The Proponent will implement all mitigation measures as specified in the SEEMP, in accordance with federal and provincial regulatory requirements.

1. The Proponent will track implementation progress, verifying that activities comply with established regulatory requirements and that mitigation measures are delivered as planned.
2. Key indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures (Appendix B).
3. Adaptive management will be applied should a mitigation measure be deemed ineffective or there is an unpredicted effect that is attributable that arises (Section 11.2).
4. Monitoring results, including any adjustments made, will be communicated in SEEMP Status Reports (Section 10). This supports ongoing engagement and provides assurance that mitigation efforts are being evaluated and refined.

### 9.1 Indicators

Key monitoring indicators are used to track the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures; if mitigation measures are deemed ineffective, an adaptive management process will be applied (Section 11.2). These indicators are defined as *Project-specific indicators*, which reflect the Project's contribution to socio-economic outcomes, and *context indicators*, which describe the broader socio-economic conditions in which the Project will occur. The Project-specific and context indicators are drawn from internal and external sources (e.g., contractor data, feedback processes) and are detailed in Appendix B.

### 9.2 Evaluation

Monitoring data will be reviewed to determine whether further mitigation is necessary. If a mitigation measure is deemed ineffective, the adaptive management process could be triggered (refer to Section 11.2).

In instances where residual or unforeseen social and/or economic effects directly attributable to the Project are identified, the Proponent will take the following actions:

- Develop and implement revised mitigation measures aimed at addressing the observed deficiencies. The Proponent will engage with Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies to assess impacts and collaboratively identify enhanced mitigation responses.
- Revised mitigation measures will be implemented and their effectiveness monitored over time. All changes will be documented through the SEEMP review and update process (see Section 11) and reflected in SEEMP Status Reports (see Section 10).

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### **9.3 Frequency**

The Proponent will track and review internal monitoring metrics on a monthly basis or at the frequency specified in Appendix B. Project information updates will be provided monthly and posted to the Project website (see Section 7.2). Results and monitoring outcomes will be reported semi-annually (refer to Section 10, SEEMP Status Reports).

## **10 Reporting and Compliance**

The Proponent will produce a consolidated SEEMP Status Report during construction and for the first year of operation. The SEEMP Status Reports will be produced semi-annually to align with the summer and winter construction seasons. Reporting has been designed to fulfil all requirements of Condition 34 of Schedule B of EAC #E14-06. The reports will summarize implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management across the following key topics:

- Workforce and Employment
- Procurement and Economic Participation
- Worker Accommodation and Housing Pressures
- Adaptive Management Actions
- Engagement and Community Feedback

The SEEMP Status Reports will include reporting on indicators that may trigger further mitigation. They will also provide a summary of any adaptive management actions taken in response to these indicators. For a complete list of reporting indicators. Mitigation measures are described at a high-level in Section 8. A comprehensive list of mitigation measures is provided in Table 38-3 in Section 38.0 in the EAC Application (PRGT 2015d).

The SEEMP Status Reports will be shared with those listed in Section 7, and be publicly available on the Project website.

## **11 Social and Economic Effects Management Plan Review and Update Process**

### **11.1 Update Process**

The SEEMP may require updates throughout the Project due to changes which may include, permit or regulatory updates, unanticipated conditions encountered during construction, input from Indigenous groups, local government or provincial government agencies, and changes in best practices.

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The mitigation measures summarized in the SEEMP apply to multiple Project phases. If specific protection measures need to be revised as a result of ongoing consultation or to address unforeseen site-specific conditions, the SEEMP will be updated to reflect the revised measures. Edits to the SEEMP will typically align with one of three categories:

Administrative:

- Including spelling and grammatical corrections and incorporation of current information on EAC or provincial conditions.

Minor Update:

- Including, clarifications of text to reduce ambiguity. These clarifications do not result in a material change in practices, mitigation, or commitments made by the Proponent. Minor Updates may also include clarification of requirements, clarification of responsible party, and updated guidance and permit wording that does not result in a change in practice.

Revision:

- Including, changes in best practices, material changes to mitigation, or material changes to commitments made by the Proponent. Any edits to commitments that have been subject to a non-compliance issued by EAO would also be considered Revisions.

If changes to the SEEMP are administrative or minor, the Proponent will notify the 2016 SEEMP reviewers (see Section 7) that the SEEMP has been updated. If a revision is needed, the Proponent will provide the SEEMP reviewers with the opportunity to comment on those revisions. The revised SEEMP will be shared with the EAO, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and Indigenous groups. If the revision falls under the jurisdiction of other regulators that reviewed the 2016 SEEMP, the revised SEEMP will also be shared with them.

The implementation of this SEEMP will use an adaptive management approach in response to new information as it becomes available. This approach will occur on an ongoing basis to address feedback from Indigenous groups, changing Project conditions or requirements, results of monitoring programs or feedback from the Community Feedback Process. As part of this adaptive approach, the Proponent will regularly evaluate mitigation measures proposed in this SEEMP for effectiveness. Monitoring and follow-up programs outlined in this SEEMP will inform the necessity of altering/updating implemented mitigation measures if it is determined effects are not being mitigated, or effects are occurring counter to what was characterized in the EAC Application.

The SEEMP Status Reports (refer to Section 10) will include a summary of any substantive updates made during the reporting year, including the rationale for the changes.



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## 11.2 Adaptive Management

If mitigation measures are deemed ineffective or if unpredicted effects arise that are attributable to the Project, an adaptive management process will be applied (see bullets below). The Proponent will engage Indigenous groups and stakeholders to help evaluate whether mitigation measures are achieving the intended socio-economic outcomes. If issues are identified, the Proponent will work collaboratively to develop and implement adjustments. Timelines for implementation will be defined proportionally to the urgency of the issue. When significant adjustments are made, outcomes may be communicated to Indigenous groups and community stakeholders outside of the semi-annual reporting cycle. The adaptive management process involves the following steps:

- Plan: Indicators that trigger adaptive management actions will be identified based on the results of monitoring; engagement with Indigenous groups, local government, and provincial government agencies; and feedback received through the Community Feedback Process.
- Act: The Proponent will monitor and report on adherence to the SEEMP, effectiveness of mitigation measures and unforeseen social or economic effects directly related to the Project through the processes described in Section 9.
- Assess: The Proponent will determine whether objectives and/or targets are being met. If they are, they will continue to maintain the mitigation measures. If they are not, they will adjust the mitigation measures.
- Adjust: If mitigation measures are not effective, or the objectives and/or targets identified in the planning step are not met, or if unpredicted effects arise that are attributable to the Project, adjustments will be required. Once adjustments or new mitigation measures are implemented, continue to assess and adjust.

Monitoring, noncompliance, and incident reports, specific to employment and community infrastructure and services, will be reviewed by the Proponent on a monthly basis to determine whether mitigation measures are effective and if the effects are the same as described in the EAC Application. Where effects are greater than or different from those predicted in the EAC Application, this SEEMP will be updated to provide additional or revised mitigation measures in accordance with the process set out in Section 11.1 and included in SEEMP Status Reports.

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## 12 References

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## Appendix A Table of Concordance

## Appendix A Table of Concordance

Table A.1 Table of Concordance

Condition Number	Condition <sup>20</sup>	Relevant Section or Corresponding Management Plan
<b>Environmental Assessment Certificate</b>		
34	The Holder must develop and implement a Social and Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP).	This Plan
	The Holder must develop the SEEMP in consultation with CSCD with guidance from framework materials that will be provided by EAO within 120 days of this EAC.	Section 1 Introduction
	The SEEMP must include specific actions to address the following:	-
	Implementation of mitigation set out in the Application Section 38, Table 38-3;	Section 8 Mitigation Measures and Enhancement Measures
	Planning and implementation for effective engagement with affected Aboriginal Groups, Nisga'a Nation, local governments, and provincial service delivery agencies regarding effects related to community level infrastructure and services including water, waste (solid and liquid), health and social services;	Section 7 Engagement Strategy
	Approach to designing and communicating programs related to employment and contracting opportunities, skills training and education;	Section 7 Engagement Strategy
	Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the mitigation set out in the Application and in the SEEMP; and	Section 9 Monitoring and Evaluation; Section 10 Reporting and Compliance
	If necessary, description of an adaptive management approach, including the implementation of alternative mitigation, to address unpredicted effects directly related to the Project.	Section 11.2 Adaptive Management

<sup>20</sup> The Condition is presented as written in the EAC (Schedule B, Table of Conditions); PRGT acknowledges that some of the terminology is now outdated. For example, 'Indigenous' is now preferred over 'Aboriginal,' and some ministry names have changed (e.g., CSCD is now the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs).

Condition Number	Condition <sup>20</sup>	Relevant Section or Corresponding Management Plan
	<p>The Holder must develop the SEEMP no less than six months prior to the Holder's planned date to establish main construction camps that are intended to house a workforce for the applied mechanical work on the Project.</p> <p>In order to allow for CSCD to review, comment and make a recommendation to EAO on whether to approve the final SEEMP, the Holder must provide a final SEEMP to CSCD no less than 90 days prior to the Holder's planned date to establish these main construction camps. The Holder must not establish these main construction camps until the SEEMP has been approved by EAO.</p>	Section 1 Introduction; PRGT Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (PRGT 2016)
	The Holder is required to implement the SEEMP in consultation with CSCD until one year after Project Operations commence or as otherwise directed by EAO.	Section 5.3.2 Implementation Timeline

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## Appendix B Indicators

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# Appendix B Indicators

Table B.1 provides a list of *Project-specific* and *context indicators*. *Project-specific indicators* comprise data that is provided by PRGT and its Contractor(s), that is specific and attributable to the Project. *Context indicators* provide information about socio-economic conditions, where the Project may be one of many contributing influences but where change in the indicator cannot be solely or accurately attributed to the Project. *Context indicators* are included as they may help explain (or provide context for) why observed socio-economic change is occurring and provide overall context regarding socio-economic conditions in the area, which identifies the extent to which a given community or region may be resilient and able to more easily absorb or adapt to Project-related influences; or whether the community or region is likely to be more vulnerable to adverse effects.

Table B.1 Indicators

Potential Effect(s)	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Responsible Party	Frequency of Data Collection
<b>Project-Specific Indicators</b>				
Employment and Labour Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of project workers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct hires</li> <li>Contractors</li> <li>Location of each worker (regional vs. non-local)</li> <li>Voluntary identity factors (e.g., gender, Indigenous affiliation, ethnicity)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number of workers from Nisga'a Nation, local Indigenous groups (broken down by nation) and women               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of workforce that is BC or Canadian residents</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number of grievances or disputes related to employment</li> </ul>	To monitor workforce size and diversity; identify areas where employment strategies may need adjustments.	PRGT Contractor(s) Indigenous Nations	Monthly
Business and Procurement Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value of contracts awarded to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nisga'a businesses</li> <li>Indigenous businesses</li> <li>Local businesses</li> <li>Regional businesses</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number of businesses participating in the procurement process (bid submission)</li> </ul>	To monitor inclusion of Indigenous and local businesses.	PRGT Contractor(s) Indigenous Nations	Monthly



Potential Effect(s)	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Responsible Party	Frequency of Data Collection
Workforce Development and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of training opportunities provided</li> <li>• Number of apprenticeships provided</li> <li>• Number individuals participating in training or apprenticeships, including voluntary identity factors (e.g., gender, Indigenous affiliation, ethnicity)</li> <li>• Completion rate of training and certification programs</li> <li>• % of workers who completed cultural awareness training</li> </ul>	To assess support for workforce readiness and inclusive participation in skilled roles.	PRGT Contractor(s) Indigenous Nations Training Institutions	Monthly (cultural awareness training), Quarterly
Community Infrastructure and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of workers in workforce accommodations</li> <li>• Camp occupancy data</li> <li>• Use of any off-site or rented housing (including rationale and duration)</li> <li>• Number of calls for service to ambulance, fire, and police</li> <li>• Volume or weight of wastes produced</li> <li>• Volume or weight of organic waste (compostable materials)</li> </ul>	To understand workforce distribution and related impacts to community infrastructure and services.	PRGT Contractor(s) Camp Contractor(s)	Monthly

Potential Effect(s)	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Responsible Party	Frequency of Data Collection
Healthcare Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses referred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-site</li> <li>Off-site medical facilities (i.e., ER, walk-in clinics)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number of mental health and wellness initiatives offered to workers</li> </ul>	To monitor demand for healthcare services and effectiveness of health and safety measures.	PRGT Contractor(s)	Monthly
Community Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and type of community complaints or concerns related to Project-related effects to employment, community infrastructure and services, and transportation logged</li> <li>Summary of feedback on Project-related effects to employment, community infrastructure and services, and transportation</li> </ul>	To track emerging issues and responsiveness to community concerns and to understand Project-related effects experienced by local communities to assess whether mitigation is effective.	PRGT Contractor(s)	Monthly
Internal Employee Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employee turnover</li> <li>Code of Conduct violations</li> <li>Policy breaches, workplace conflict</li> </ul>	To track emerging issues and responsiveness to internal employee concerns to assess whether mitigation is effective.	PRGT Contractor(s)	Monthly

Potential Effect(s)	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Responsible Party	Frequency of Data Collection
<b>Context Indicators</b>				
Employment and Labour Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment rate</li> <li>Labour force participation rate</li> </ul>	To provide context regarding broader labour market trends.	N/A	Annually
Social Cohesion and Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCMP crime rates</li> </ul>	To provide context regarding broader crime trends.	Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Semi-annually

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# Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Health and Medical Services Plan

Prepared By:  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
Project No. 123223020

Prepared For:  
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd.

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# Revision History

Revision	Issued For	Date
A	Client review	January 6, 2026
0	Indigenous groups and regulatory agency review	January 27, 2026

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
BC	British Columbia
BCEHS	British Columbia Emergency Health Services
CTAS	Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale
CDCL	Communicable Disease Control Lead
EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
EFAP	Employee Family Assistance Program
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
FNHA	First Nation Health Authority
HEMBC	Health Emergency Medical BC
HMSP	Health and Medical Services Plan
km	Kilometre
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MHO	Medical Health Officer
NLG	Nisga'a Lisims Government
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRGT	Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd.
SEEMP	Social and Economic Effects Management Plan
SSERP	Site-Specific Emergency Response Plan



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# 1 Introduction

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd. (PRGT, or the Proponent) is constructing the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project (the Project). The Project is an approved natural gas pipeline designed to deliver natural gas from northeast British Columbia (BC) to the northwest coast of BC. The Project consists of both land and marine based sections of pipeline and intends to provide natural gas to the Ksi Lisims Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) – Natural Gas Liquefaction and Marine Terminal Project (Ksi Lisims LNG Project) at Wil Milit, BC, on Category A Lands owned by the Nisga'a Nation under the Nisga'a Final Agreement (Nisga'a Treaty) on Pearse Island, approximately 15 kilometres (km) west of the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx and 82 km north of Prince Rupert, BC.

PRGT completed a multi-year environmental assessment process, culminating in the receipt of an environmental assessment certificate (EAC) in 2014 (EAC #E14-06). The issuance of EAC #E14-06 included 45 conditions that PRGT must implement to comply with the EAC (Schedule B, Table of Conditions of EAC #E14-06). Since receiving EAC #E14-06, PRGT applied for and received approval for multiple amendments. The most up-to-date version of the EAC and amendments and its conditions are available on BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)'s Project Information Centre website<sup>1</sup>.

As per the EAO's report on the Review of an Application for Extension of an EAC (EAO 2019), Northern Health indicated that there has been new guidance developed for assessing and addressing social and health impacts since issuance of the EAC. Northern Health recommended that PRGT consider this guidance. PRGT committed to developing a Health and Medical Services Plan (HMSP). The HMSP will incorporate guidance from Northern Health to reduce potential Project-related strain on local health services and to provide a healthy and safe environment for PRGT's employees and contractors. PRGT committed to continued engagement with Northern Health to identify new issues and mitigation relevant to PRGT should the Project re-establish commercial support.

## 1.1 Project Overview

Construction of the Project will be divided into sections<sup>2</sup> and within a section there could be multiple construction spreads<sup>3</sup>, with one prime contractor responsible for construction of one or more pipeline sections. Based on current plans, PRGT anticipates the workforce will ramp up once prime contractors are in place. Under current planning, PRGT anticipates the following four construction phases and total workforce requirements:

- Phase 1 will focus on early works and site preparation, with an estimated workforce of 1,000 to 3,000
- Phase 2 is expected to begin mainline construction, with workforce numbers increasing to 4,000 to 6,000 workers
- Phase 3 will continue mainline construction and reach peak activity, with an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 workers
- Phase 4 will focus on testing, reclamation, and clean-up, with a reduced workforce of 1,500 to 3,000 workers

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<sup>1</sup> <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/588511d9aaecd9001b826b33/certificates>

<sup>2</sup> Refers to a separate unit of work that is part of the overall pipeline construction process.

<sup>3</sup> Refers to individual segments of a pipeline that are constructed and tested; there can be multiple construction spreads within a section.

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PRGT will work with the prime contractors and the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management (EPCM) to determine the best work schedule considering factors such as impacts to local population centres along the Project route, traffic, safety, and construction schedule. The workforce is expected to be sourced primarily from within British Columbia and across Canada. Recruitment strategies are described in the Social and Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP).

## 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the HMSP is to describe the on-site medical services and programs to be delivered for the Project workforce to reduce impacts to local health services and to provide a healthy and safe environment for Project employees and contractors. The HMSP also describes the measures and protocols to coordinate health service delivery with Northern Health. Each Prime Contractor is required to adhere to provisions outlined in the HMSP, at a minimum, and develop a site-specific HMSP for each terrestrial and main spread marine camp described in Section 1.3.1.

The objectives of the HMSP are to:

- Meet the commitment made during the review of the Application for Extension of the EAC (EAO 2019) of developing an HMSP that follows latest guidelines from Northern Health
- Complement the SEEMP by providing further details on the implementation of health mitigation measures
- Outline the provisions of on-site emergency medical staff, primary medical staff and medical facilities
- Describe emergency response protocols
- Describe health promotion and mental health programs
- Develop measures for addressing communicable disease, disease and infection prevention and outbreak protocols

The HMSP is informed by guiding documents such as:

- Health and Medical Services Plan Best Management Guide for Industrial Camps (Northern Health 2015)
- Best Practices for Industrial Work Settings No. 2: Communicable Disease Management Guide (Northern Health 2023)
- Health and Safety During the Opioid Overdose Emergency: Northern Health's Recommendations for Industrial Camps (Northern Health 2018)
- Expectations of Industrial Medical Service Providers (Northern Health Office of Health and Resource Development 2023)
- Public Health Act Industrial Camps Regulation (British Columbia 2012)
- WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (WorkSafeBC 2025a)
- Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) Emergency Management Plan (NLG 2011)
- Nisga'a Lisims Government Adaptive Management Plan and Protocols Framework (NLG 2025a)
- Nisga'a Lisims Government Social, Economic, and Cultural Monitoring Plan (NLG 2025b)

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## 1.3 Boundaries

### 1.3.1 Spatial

The spatial boundaries for the HMSP include all areas within which workers will be accommodated and working along the Project route and associated facilities, including ancillary facilities, meter stations and compressor stations (Figure 1). Workforce accommodations will be located throughout the Project corridor to support construction activities along the route. PRGT has secured most required permits and approvals for up to 15 workforce accommodations. As outlined in the Project's Certified Project Description, PRGT's certificate includes the following workforce accommodations:

- One main spread marine camp housing up to 400 workers
- Eight main spread construction camps housing up to 1,100 workers each, and three main spread construction camps housing up to 700 workers each
- Three compressor station camps, each with up to 225 workers

For the purposes of the HMSP, terrestrial camps refer to the main spread construction camps and compressor station camps. Camp numbers and locations may be adjusted as construction planning evolves. PRGT will continue to update and engage communities located near camp sites as plans are refined.

### 1.3.2 Temporal

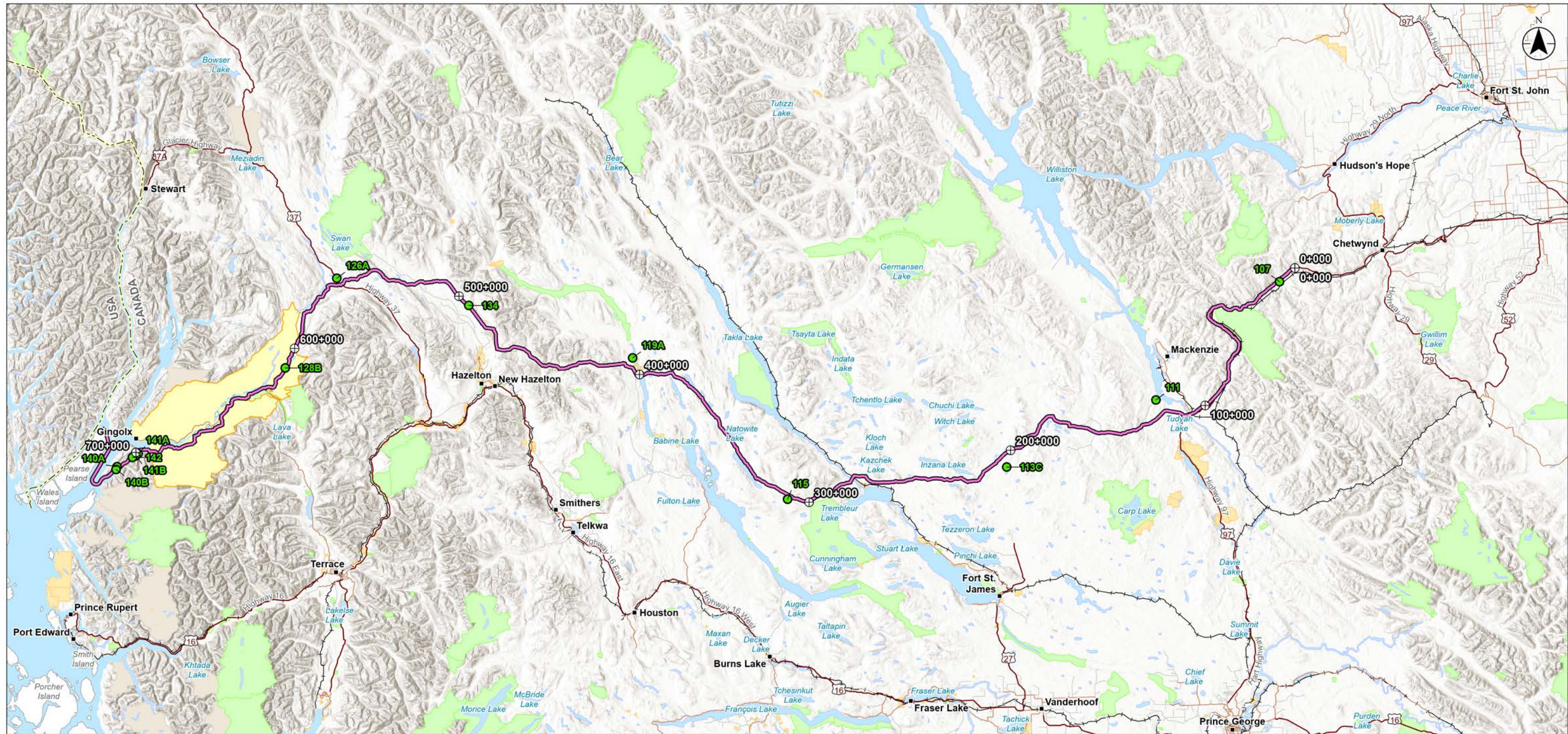
The HMSP is applicable from the initiation of applied mechanical construction<sup>4</sup> (when the main construction camps for the workforce will be in use and potential socio-economic effects are most likely to occur) until one year after Project operations commence, or otherwise directed by EAO.

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<sup>4</sup> Mechanical construction commences when trenching and pipelaying begins.



\\CAN115-PRB4\GFI\Workgroup\123223020\_0162\_0162\_health\_med\_services\2025fig\_123223020\_0162\_0162\_health\_med\_services.aprx Layout fig\_123223020\_0162\_0162\_health\_med\_services.aprx Map Main Revised: 2025-01-27 By:uz



Notes:  
1. Coordinate System: 19AD 1983 UTM Zone 10N  
2. Data Sources: DataBC, Government of British Columbia; Natural Resources Canada  
World Hillshade: Esri, CGIAR, USGS

- City, Town, Village or District Municipality
- International Border
- Provincial Boundary
- Highway
- Road
- Local Street
- Railway

- Conservancy Area
- First Nations Reserve
- Nisga'a Lands Boundary
- Provincial Park, Ecological Reserve, or Protected Area
- Waterbody

- Camp Location
- Kilometre Post
- Pipeline Alignment

0 25 50 km  
1:1,650,000 (at original document size of 11x17)



Project Location: British Columbia  
Project Number: 123223020  
Requested by LS 20251108  
Prepared by TQ 20251110  
Checked by XX 20251110

Client/Project/Report: Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd.  
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project  
Health + Medical Services Management Plan

Figure No: 1  
Page No: 1 of 1

Title: Project Camp Locations



## 2 Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities of different entities are described in Table 1.

Table 1 Overview of Roles and Responsibilities for the HMSP

Role	Responsibilities
PRGT or designate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead the development and implementation of the HMSP</li><li>• Engage with the EAO, Northern Health and Indigenous nations on the HMSP and provide opportunities for review and input</li><li>• Require Contractors to adhere to policies, procedures, and protocols outlined in the HMSP</li><li>• Liaise with Northern Health and Indigenous nations identified in Section 2 throughout the duration of the Project to keep up-to-date information on health services in the region</li><li>• Designate a Communicable Disease Control Lead (CDCL) and Medical Director(s) for the Project</li><li>• Track communication and decisions with Northern Health, Indigenous nations, and other stakeholders</li><li>• Participate in and contribute to a regional social and economic management and monitoring committee, if such a committee (or its equivalent) is created by the provincial or local government, to address regional socioeconomic and environmental issues in which industry is invited to participate, and is related to the Amendment #7 Certified Pipeline Corridor, unless otherwise authorized by EAO.</li></ul>
Project Communicable Disease Control Lead (CDCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead implementation of communicable disease procedures and protocols outlined in Section 5</li><li>• Collaborate with and support Contractors in communicable disease preparedness</li><li>• Thoroughly document response efforts for all notifiable disease alerts and outbreaks</li><li>• Collaborate with health providers to deliver health promotion initiatives, including communicable disease prevention outlined in Section 3.6</li><li>• Lead notifiable disease monitoring and adaptive management efforts outlined in Section 5</li><li>• The CDCL will inform affected Indigenous nations' health centre representatives on outbreaks or other health emergencies under the discretion of Northern Health's Medical Health Officer (MHO)</li><li>• In the event of a potential outbreak, or outbreak, the CDCL will consult with the MHO at Northern Health</li><li>• The CDCL will inform the First Nation Health Authority (FNHA) on outbreaks or other</li></ul>

Role	Responsibilities
Project Medical Director(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update, manage and communicate the policies and procedures outlines in the PRGT HMSP</li> <li>• Adhere to acts and regulations outlined in Section 1.2</li> <li>• Manage the procurement of medical supplies and equipment, including developing security measures for medications and hazardous materials, coordinating resupply of supplies and medications, and coordinating the disposal of medical waste</li> <li>• Work with medical staff to determine the medical supplies, including pharmaceuticals, and equipment required on-Site</li> <li>• Work with medical staff to implement security measures for medications and hazardous materials</li> <li>• Oversee compliance with the <i>Personal Information Protection Act</i> including secure storage, patient consent protocols and staff training on privacy</li> </ul>
Contractor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a site-specific HMSP</li> <li>• Provide health and medical services and medical personnel and staff on-Site, in accordance with the HMSP</li> <li>• Provide workers with complete on-boarding and training as required in the HMSP</li> <li>• Require workers to comply with policies and procedures described in the HMSP</li> <li>• Report and document all workplace accidents, illnesses, and injuries to the on-site manager</li> <li>• Report on all reportable disease cases (numbers) and symptoms as well as all unknown or emerging illnesses to the CDCL</li> </ul>
Incident Commander or designate	As per the PRGT's Core Emergency Response Plan (ERP), each contractor must develop a Site-Specific Emergency Response Plan (SSERP). Each SSERP must include Incident Command System (ICS) organizational charts, identify ICS roles and responsibilities and establish procedures for activating and operating the Incident Command Post and Emergency Operations Centre.
Emergency Medical Personnel (e.g., paramedics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to, assess, and treat on-Site medical emergencies as per protocols outlined in Section 4</li> <li>• Manage patient information/health records including documenting all responses-to medical emergencies</li> <li>• Adhere to the safety and privacy of the patient's personal and medical information</li> <li>• Be trained in medical emergency response protocols including the delivery of naloxone</li> <li>• Refer non-emergent cases to medical staff</li> <li>• Support medical staff in health promotion initiatives outlined in Section 3.6</li> <li>• Accompany workers to medical appointments if determined to be necessary by the medical staff based on the worker's medical condition as per procedures identified in Section 4</li> </ul>

Role	Responsibilities
Medical Staff (e.g., nurse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and treat injured or ill workers to recognized scope of practice</li> <li>Assess workers' mental health conditions to recognized scope of practice and where appropriate, refer workers to mental health services programs that their company is implementing (e.g. EFAP)</li> <li>Develop and provide training to workers via information sessions, presentations, posters, or digital communications on relevant health topics</li> <li>Manage patient information/health records including documenting all worker visits and asking patient consent to share records with home care providers</li> <li>Follow communication, emergency and transportation procedures and protocols outlined in Section 4</li> <li>Upon each worker's medical visit, ask the worker consent to transfer medical records to primary care physician or location of medical care follow-up</li> <li>Adhere to the safety and privacy of the patient's personal and medical information</li> <li>Communicate in a timely manner with the CDCL any signs and/or symptoms of potential notifiable diseases and support the CDCL manage outbreak responses as directed</li> <li>Support the CDCL in communicable disease prevention and outbreak response, including providing sexual health training, assessment, treatments, or referrals</li> </ul>
Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adhere to policies, procedures, and protocols outlined in the HMSP Guidance and site-specific HMSPs</li> <li>Report notifiable disease symptoms and seek appropriate care from the on-site medical staff</li> <li>Wear appropriate and prescribed personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work being performed</li> <li>Where feasible, use medical services in their home location (which may include telemedicine) for non-urgent, non-occupational injuries and general healthcare needs</li> <li>Bring enough prescribed medications for the duration of their shift</li> </ul>
Northern Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise PRGT on emerging best practices</li> <li>Provide observational feedback on the effectiveness of health measures, or emerging health pressures associated with the Project</li> </ul>
British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide emergency response to PRGT</li> <li>Provide observational feedback on the effectiveness of health measures, or emerging health pressures associated with the Project</li> <li>Advise PRGT on emergency response protocols</li> </ul>
Health Emergency Medical BC (HEMBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise PRGT on emergency response protocols</li> <li>Point of contact for emergency response protocols as described in Section 4</li> </ul>

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## 3 Health and Medical Services

This section summarizes provisions of health and medical services to be provided on-site at *each* camp accommodation (Described in Section 1.3.1). Roles and responsibilities of the Medical Director, Emergency Medical Personnel, and Medical Staff are summarized in Table 1.

All emergency medical personnel and medical staff are expected to maintain a high standard of professionalism and adhere to the *Personal Information Protection Act*. Emergency medical personnel and medical staff are required to:

- seek patient consent for all medical consultations and procedures
- thoroughly document medical visits
- maintain confidentiality and privacy of workers health information
- manage and securely store medical records
- transfer medical records to workers home care provider(s)

### 3.1 Medical Director

PRGT will designate a Medical Director for the Project to oversee medical operations. Roles and responsibilities of the Medical Director are summarized in Table 1.

### 3.2 Emergency Medical Personnel

At a minimum, Contractors will adhere to the minimum levels of first aid requirements outlined in Schedule 3-A of WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation Part 3.<sup>5</sup>

On the marine spread camp, medical personnel will comply with the necessary WorkSafeBC and Transport Canada qualifications.

### 3.3 Medical Personnel

For each terrestrial camp, at a minimum, Contractors will provide access to a registered nurse stationed at on-site accommodations. Registered nurses will be required to work within their scope of practice outlined by the BC College of Nurses and Midwives.

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<sup>5</sup> Applicable for 500 or more workers (WorkSafeBC 2025b)



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## 3.4 Virtual Services

Internet and other forms of telecommunication will be available on-site. Contractors will provide access to virtual medical services to support on-site medical personnel and workers including:

- Access to a virtual nurse practitioner and/or physician available 24/7 to support primary care needs. Virtual medical providers must adhere to their regulated scope of practice<sup>6</sup>. Virtual nurse practitioners and physicians can assist on-site medical staff by:
  - Providing patient consultation and referral
  - Ordering diagnostic services and managing results
  - Conducting mental health and capacity assessments
  - Prescribing drugs (including prescribing for opioid use disorder)
- Access to a virtual clinical psychologist/certified social worker available 24/7

## 3.5 Medical Facilities and Equipment

For each terrestrial camp, at a minimum, Contractors will adhere to the minimum levels of first aid room requirements and first aid supplies outlined in Schedule 3-A of OHS Regulation Part 3:

Each terrestrial camp will contain:

- A medical centre that includes a first aid room, private consultation spaces and a private space for workers to access virtual medical appointments
- Sharps disposal containers located in the medical centre and other strategically located areas
- Automated external defibrillators located in the medical centre and other strategically located areas
- Designated secure and temperature-controlled space for worker prescriptions
- A helicopter landing pad

The main spread marine camp will contain all of the medical facilities and equipment described above and is also required to include the following:

- An emergency watercraft designed and equipped to secure and protect injured workers from excessive movement, ability for injured worker to maintain normal body temperature, and adequate space for the emergency medical personnel (WorkSafeBC 2025b). This emergency watercraft will be used to transport workers from the main spread marine camp to the designated on-shore muster location.
- Per Transport Canada's (2014) the required safety equipment (TP 14070 E (2010)) for a vessel length more than 12 metres (e.g., the main spread marine camp) must include:
  - Transport Canada approved lifejacket, sized for each person on board
  - Marine emergency first aid kit
  - Reboarding device

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<sup>6</sup> Detailed scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners, including limitations, is further described under the British Columbia College of Nurses & Midwives (2025) Nurse Practitioners Scope of Practice: Standards, Limits, Conditions

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- Buoyant heaving line at least 15 m long
  - Lifebuoy attached to buoyant line at least 15 m long
  - Life raft
  - Required fire equipment such as marine type fire extinguishers, fixed fire extinguishing system, fire axe, fire buckets, fire pump, hose and nozzle, smoke detectors and temperature and rate of heat rise detector

PRGT will work with the medical staff to determine appropriate pharmaceuticals and additional equipment to be provided on-Site. Any pharmaceuticals will be securely stored.

## **3.6 Health Promotion and Mental Health Programs and Services**

This section describes health promotion and mental health programs and services through worker on-boarding, health promotion initiatives and substance use policies.

### **3.6.1 Worker On-boarding**

At a minimum, Contractors will provide workers with health and safety information upon on-boarding including:

- Awareness of the Drug and Alcohol Policy
- The location of the medical centres and medical equipment including naloxone kits
- A description of medical services available on-site including access to virtual primary care and programs such as EFAP
- The expectation that workers are required to bring all prescribed medications for the duration of their shift and are expected to arrange primary care consultations within their home location, where possible<sup>7</sup>
- Delivery of health and safety orientation and training to all workers before and during construction employment to help prevent and control incidents leading to primary and acute-care needs

### **3.6.2 Health Promotion**

Health promotion initiatives are measures intended to enhance worker's health and well-being. Contractors will provide a variety of health promotion initiatives including providing access to:

- An EFAP which provides access to 24/7 virtual counselling for workers and their families
- Financial management training
- Recreational options such as gym and fitness amenities on-site and culturally appropriate recreational programming
- Telecommunication services for workers to maintain communication with their families

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<sup>7</sup> The Proponent understands that not all health issues can be predicted or foreseen and that in some instances where the virtual nurse practitioner/physician requires the worker to seek in-person medical care, workers may need to use local services. It is expected that workers arrange regular check-ups, screening, follow-up appointments with their primary care provider in their home location.

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- Healthy food options available on-site for meals and snacks
  - Delivery of promotional material (e.g., posters, pamphlets, email communications) and information sessions on a variety of health topics that may include, but is not limited to the following examples such as mental health, communicable diseases, healthy eating, harm reduction, substance use, and chronic disease prevention

### 3.6.3 Substance Use Policies

Contractors will implement a series of drug and alcohol policies and procedures including:

- Adhering to PRGT’s Drug and Alcohol Policy aligned with the Canadian Model for a Providing a Safe Workplace that outlines procedures for enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for the use, possession, distribution, sale of illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia and alcohol use. The Drug and Alcohol Policy will describe the roles and responsibilities of employees/contractors, outline support and rehabilitation options for workers suffering from addiction and describe the progressive consequences
- Prescreening workers for drug and alcohol use prior to beginning work at site
- Providing harm reduction measures such as having naloxone available within each medical centre, first aid kits and allowing workers to have naloxone kits in their accommodations
- Providing confidential and non-judgmental treatment and access to naloxone or referrals to company resources, virtual primary staff or other services

## 4 Health Incident and Emergency Response

This section describes the policies and procedures including the notification and communication protocols for various types of health incidences such as emergency response, non-emergency medical transfer, WorkSafeBC notifications and return to work protocols. As per PRGT’s Core ERP, Section 1.2 states that the “CORE ERP applies to all PRGT construction activities under British Columbia Energy Regulators (BCER) jurisdiction along the approved route. Construction contractors will develop Site-Specific Emergency Response Plans (SSERPs) that implement Core ERP requirements while addressing site-specific hazards, local emergency resources, and construction-phase activities”.

The Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) is a clinical tool used by emergency departments, emergency department nurses, physicians, and healthcare management to triage patients according to acuity risk and care base on signs and symptoms, (CTAS National Advisory Committee n.d.). The CTAS tool will be adopted for the Project to inform emergency response protocols including notification and transportation. A description of the CTAS levels and corresponding Project response protocols are described in Table 2.

Table 2      Communication and Response Protocols for CTAS Levels and Other Medical Conditions

CTAS Levels/Type of medical condition	Description	Response Personnel	Minimally required communication and response protocols
Level 1 – Resuscitation	<p>Level 1 applies when there are “conditions that are threats to life or limb (or imminent risk of deterioration) requiring aggressive interventions”.</p> <p>Level 1 patients present with very obvious signs of distress and unstable vital signs. They are at immediate risk of deterioration requiring immediate aggressive interventions. They do not need further assessment. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardiac arrest</li><li>• Respiratory arrest</li><li>• Major trauma (in shock)</li><li>• Shortness of breath (severe respiratory distress)</li><li>• Altered level of consciousness (unconscious)</li></ul>	Emergency Medical Personnel	<p>Terrestrial Camps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The emergency situation is immediately brought to the on-Site Manager’s attention</li><li>2. On-Site Manager immediately contacts on-Site emergency medical personnel to respond</li><li>3. Emergency medical personnel respond to the incident and determine if the worker(s) need to be evacuated to a medical facility</li><li>4. If evacuation is required, the communication response protocol outlined in each SSERP will be activated. The Incident Commander will contact HEMBC to receive further instructions and HEMBC will contact the local health service providers in the event that emergency personnel are transporting workers to a hospital</li><li>5. All communications will be thoroughly documented</li></ol> <p><i>Mass Casualty</i></p> <p>In a mass causality scenario (e.g., two or more workers requiring evacuation), the communication response protocol outlined in the SSERP will be activated. The Incident Commander will inform BCEHS and HEMBC that there are multiple workers that need to be evacuated and receive further instructions regarding triaging and evacuation procedures.</p> <p>Main spread marine camp</p> <p>If evacuation is required at the main spread marine camp, the communication response protocol outlined above for the terrestrial camps will apply. Additionally, the Incident Commander will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call BCEHS (911) and request air transport service to respond to emergency</li><li>• If air transport is unable to respond (e.g., due to inclement weather), the Incident Commander will direct the emergency medical personnel to transport the worker via watercraft to nearest on-shore muster station and will communicate further transport instructions as directed by BCEHS</li><li>• Contact the Canadian Coast Guard as standby if the worker is not able to be evacuated from site to shore</li></ul>
Level 2 – Emergent	<p>Level 2 applies when there are “conditions that are a potential threat to life, limb or function, requiring rapid medical intervention” by physician or medical directive. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shortness of breath (moderate respiratory distress)</li><li>• Vomiting blood (dizzy on sitting up)</li><li>• Hypertension (Systolic Blood Pressure &gt;220 or Diastolic Blood Pressure &gt;130 with symptoms)</li><li>• Altered level of consciousness</li><li>• Fever (temperature &gt;38C, looks septic)</li><li>• Chest pain, cardiac features</li><li>• Chest pain, non-cardiac features (other significant chest pain ripping or tearing)</li><li>• Abdominal pain (severe pain 8/10)</li><li>• Headache (sudden, severe, worst ever)</li><li>• Major trauma – blunt, no obvious injury (e.g., pedestrian struck by car travelling at speed)</li></ul>	Emergency Medical Personnel	Same as process for Level 1

CTAS Levels/Type of medical condition	Description	Response Personnel	Minimally required communication and response protocols
Level 3 – Urgent	<p>Level 3 applies when there are “conditions that could potentially progress to a serious problem requiring emergency intervention. May be associated with significant discomfort or affect ability to function at work or in activities of daily living”. Vital signs are usually normal or at the upper and lower ends of the normal range. These patients have a clear potential for deterioration but are often assigned to the emergency department waiting room if overcrowding problems. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath (mild respiratory distress)</li> <li>• Hypertension (Systolic Blood Pressure &gt;220 or Diastolic Blood Pressure &gt;130 with no symptoms)</li> <li>• Vomiting &amp;/or nausea (mild dehydration)</li> <li>• Abdominal pain (moderate pain 4-7/10)</li> <li>• Headache (moderate pain 4-7/10)</li> <li>• Diarrhea (uncontrolled bloody diarrhea)</li> </ul>	Emergency Medical Personnel & Medical Staff	Same as process for Level 1
Level 4 – Less Urgent	<p>Level 4 applies when there are “conditions that relate to patient age, distress, or potential for deterioration that would benefit from intervention or reassurance within one or two hours”. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion (chronic, no change from usual state)</li> <li>• Urinary tract infection complaints/symptoms (mild dysuria)</li> <li>• Constipation (mild pain)</li> </ul>	Medical Staff	<p>Terrestrial camps and main spread marine camp Workers needing attention seek care from the Medical Staff (e.g., nurse) at the on-site clinic</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the Medical Staff requires additional support to diagnose or treat the worker, the Medical Staff will call the on-call virtual nurse practitioner/doctor or on-call virtual psychologist/mental health worker</li> <li>2. If the Medical Staff requires the worker to seek care that is not provided on-Site (e.g., lab requisitions, medical imaging), and care cannot wait until the worker returns to their home location, the Medical Staff will arrange for the worker to receive local medical services (Appendix A)</li> <li>3. If the worker presents signs and symptoms of communicable disease, the Medical Staff will refer to protocols outlined in Section 5.</li> </ol>
Level 5 – Non-urgent	<p>Level 5 applies when there are “conditions that may be acute but non-urgent as well as conditions which may be part of a chronic problem with or without evidence of deterioration. The investigation or interventions for some of these illnesses or injuries could be delayed or even referred to other areas of the hospital or health care system”. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhea (mild, no dehydration)</li> <li>• Minor bites (+/- mild acute peripheral pain)</li> <li>• Dressing change (uncomplicated)</li> <li>• Medication request</li> </ul>	Medical Staff	Same as process for Level 4

CTAS Levels/Type of medical condition	Description	Response Personnel	Minimally required communication and response protocols
Mental Health Crisis	A mental health crisis can be characterized by a person experiencing difficulty achieving everyday functions/tasks, confusion and/or difficulty concentrating, changes in normal habits, sudden and intense mood swings (e.g., irritable, agitated, or angry) isolated and withdrawal, and experiencing fear and worry (St. John Ambulance 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Emergency medical personnel</li><li>Medical staff</li><li>Security services</li></ul>	<p>Terrestrial camps and main spread marine camp</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Emergency situation is immediately brought to the worker’s Manager or designate attention.</li><li>Manager or designate immediately contacts on-Site emergency medical personnel and/or on-Site security to respond.</li><li>Emergency medical personnel respond to the incident and determine if workers need to be evacuated to a medical facility. If immediate medical attention is required, the response protocol described for levels 1-3 will come into effect.</li><li>If the emergency medical personnel determine that the worker does not require evacuation, the emergency medical personnel will contact the on-Site medical staff (e.g., nurse).</li><li>The medical staff will assess the situation and call the on-call virtual physician and psychologist for additional support as required.</li><li>If the medical staff requires the worker to seek care that is not provided on-Site and care cannot wait until the worker returns to their home location, the Medical Staff will arrange for the worker to receive local medical services (Appendix A and Appendix B)</li></ol>

<sup>a</sup> Source: Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians 2013

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## 4.1 WorkSafeBC Notification

In all work-related illnesses or injuries, the Prime Contractor or designate must immediately notify the Project Medical Director and the Project Medical Director must notify WorkSafeBC within 72 hours. WorkSafeBC must be notified if the worker (WorkSafeBC 2025c):

- Sustains physical injury (even if no work is missed)
- Received a diagnosis of a work-related disease
- Has a mental health injury related to work or the work environment
- Has hearing loss due to prolonged exposure or a specific incident
- Suffers broken eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, or artificial limb due to a work-related incident

## 4.2 Return to Work Protocol

If workers are transferred off-site for medical treatment, the medical staff will prepare appropriate documentation to be completed by the workers and off-Site medical staff for returning to work. In emergency situations, the medical staff will follow up with off-Site medical treatment location staff to support completing required documentation.

Injury management and return to work is the sole responsibility of the employer. Workers will be required to have written return to work authorization by a medical professional after the following events:

- In an emergency situation that requires emergency medical personnel to respond to incident (on and off-site)
- In a non-emergency situation that required a worker to be transferred off-site for further treatment
- In non-emergency situations where the medical personnel have deemed the worker to be unfit for work
- In instances where workers are seeking treatment/support related to substance abuse issues

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## 5 Communicable Disease Management

Contractors will be responsible for developing a communicable disease control plan that adheres to Section 21 of the *Workers Compensation Act*<sup>8</sup>. This section outlines PRGT's approach to communicable disease risk assessment, prevention, preparedness, and outbreak response. The approach incorporates guidance from:

- Northern Health's Best Practices for Industrial Work Setting No. 2: Communicable Disease Management Guide (2023)
- Industrial Camps and Communicable Diseases Guidelines: Guidance for Workers, Contractors, and Employers in the Agricultural, Forestry, and Natural Resource Sectors on Implementing the Provincial Health Officer Industrial Camps Order (Government of British Columbia 2022)

CDCL's roles and responsibilities are described Table 1 and further described within the protocols below.

Prior to the start of mechanical construction, the CDCL will:

- 1) Conduct a communicable disease risk assessment for the Project. The risk assessment will:
  - a) identify and describe factors that contribute to communicable disease transmission (e.g., workforce demographics, living conditions)
  - b) assess the severity, likelihood and risk of communicable diseases including influenza-like illnesses, gastrointestinal illness, sexually transmitted illnesses, blood-borne infections and vector borne infections. Northern Health (2023) definitions for each type of communicable disease are described below:
    - i) Influenza-like illnesses: Respiratory illness with fever >38°C, cough, and one or more of the following: sore throat, joint pain, muscle pain, or fatigue. Respiratory illnesses are transmitted through infectious respiratory particles through person-to-person spread (e.g., coughing, sneezing or talking) or through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects (Government of Canada 2025).
    - ii) Gastrointestinal (GI) illnesses: An illness that may be caused by a variety of agents including bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Diarrhea with or without nausea and/or vomiting.
    - iii) Sexually-transmitted illnesses: An infectious disease caused by an organism (bacteria, virus, or parasite) infection that is predominantly passed from one person to another during sex or intimate contact, although some sexually transmitted infections may pass through blood or blood products, or through contact with infected clothing, bed linens, or towels.
    - iv) Blood-borne infections: An infectious disease that can be spread through contact with infected blood and other potentially infectious body fluids.
    - v) Vector-borne infections: An infectious disease that is transmitted by insects and/or animals.
- 2) Identify communicable disease transmission measures across a hierarchy of controls including through elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative and personal protective equipment
- 3) Establish a communicable disease equipment and supply inventory
- 4) Develop a list of contacts to notify in the event of an outbreak

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-guidelines/guidelines-for-workers-compensation-act#SectionNumber:G-P2-21>



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- 5) Prepare roles and responsibilities for contractors and staff in the event of an outbreak
  - 6) Prepare communicable disease education and training materials for contractors and staff
  - 7) Review the alert phase and outbreak phase response protocols in Table 3 and prepare training materials to camp operators and medical staff

During mechanical construction, the CDCL will implement response protocols for the two different scenarios outlined in Table 3.

Table 3     *Outbreak Response Protocols*

Alert Phase Response		Outbreak Response
When the response phase will be activated	When three or more cases of influenza-like illness or GI illness occur within a three-day period at the Site	If the MHO declares an outbreak
<b>Contact</b>	Northern Health Regional Communicable Disease Hub <b>Email: <a href="mailto:RegionalCD.HubTeam@northernhealth.ca">RegionalCD.HubTeam@northernhealth.ca</a></b> <b>Phone: 1-855-565-2990 [Outside business hours, MHO On-call (1-250-565-2000, press 7 for switchboard)]</b>	
CDCL's responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Northern Health Regional Communicable Disease Hub</li> <li>• Communicate that an Alert Outbreak Response Protocol has been activated with contractors and medical staff</li> <li>• Coordinate enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures</li> <li>• Encourage employee hygiene and use of appropriate PPE</li> <li>• Instruct symptomatic workers to not come into work duties until 48 hours after symptoms have ended (or as further directed by the MHO)</li> <li>• Discuss with the MHO the option to isolate/cohort workers experiencing symptoms and coordinate with camp operator for isolation instructions</li> <li>• Consult with the MHO to determine if on-site medical staff will complete testing to confirm the infectious agent and diagnosis such as using BC Centre for Disease Control GI Disease Outbreak Kits or testing for other infectious diseases</li> <li>• Consult with the MHO and camp operators to determine if shared facilities (e.g., gym) are required to be temporarily closed</li> <li>• Monitor and document all activities, communications and timeline of events throughout the Alert Phase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Northern Health Regional Communicable Disease Hub</li> <li>• Consult with Northern Health about the appropriate action required including the extent to which notifications about the outbreak to Indigenous nations and the public is required</li> <li>• Coordinate roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Contact contractors, such as the camp operators, to inform of the scenario and to activate outbreak procedures</li> <li>• Notify staff that an outbreak has occurred and emphasize hand hygiene, PPE requirements, and any isolation requirements</li> <li>• Coordinate outbreak signage throughout the worker accommodations</li> <li>• Coordinate increased cleaning and disinfection procedures for common areas and frequently touched surfaces</li> </ul>

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## 6 Health Services Monitoring and Quality Improvement

The SEEMP provides a list of Project-specific and context indicators, including health indicators to monitor healthcare demand including the number of occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses referred onsite and to off-site medical facilities and the number of mental health and wellness initiatives offered to workers. Contractors are responsible for providing PRGT with health indicators to support SEEMP reporting. If implementation of the HMSP is deemed ineffective via the monitoring and reporting process outlined in the SEEMP, or if unpredicted effects arise that are attributable to the Project, the following adaptive management process, described in the SEEMP in more detail, will be applied:

- Plan: Indicators that trigger adaptive management actions will be identified based on the results of monitoring; engagement with Indigenous nations, local government, and provincial government agencies; and feedback received through the various communication methods listed in Section 7.2 of the SEEMP.
- Act: The Proponent will monitor and report on adherence to the SEEMP, effectiveness of mitigation measures and unforeseen social or economic effects directly related to the Project through the processes described in Section 9 of the SEEMP.
- Assess: The Proponent will determine whether objectives and/or targets are being met. If they are, they will continue to maintain the mitigation measures. If they are not, they will adjust the mitigation measures.
- Adjust: If mitigation measures are not effective, or the objectives and/or targets identified in the planning step are not met, or if unpredicted effects arise that are attributable to the Project, adjustments will be required. Once adjustments or new mitigation measures are implemented, continue to assess and adjust.

As described in the SEEMP, PRGT will engage Indigenous nations and stakeholders to help determine the effect the Project has on local health services. If issues are identified, the Proponent will work collaboratively with Indigenous nations and stakeholders to revise, develop or implement new measures.

### 6.1 HMSP Update Process

The HMSP may require updates throughout the Project due to changes which may include, permit or regulatory updates, unanticipated conditions encountered during construction, input from Indigenous nations, local government or provincial government agencies, and changes in best practices. If specific protection measures outlined in the HMSP need to be revised as a result of ongoing consultation or to address unforeseen site-specific conditions, the HMSP will be updated to reflect the revised measures. Indigenous nations and other parties identified in Table 1 will be informed of changes made to the HMSP.

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## **Appendix A Description of Local Health Services**



## Appendix A Description of Local Health Services

Table A.1 Local Health and Medical Services Relevant to the Project

Community	Facility	Services	Pharmacy in community? Yes (Y)/No (N)
Fort St. John <sup>1</sup>	Fort St. John Hospital	3 intensive care units, 44 acute care beds, 124 long-term care beds, 7 maternity rooms, Cardiac diagnostics, respiratory services, minor surgeries, medical imaging, laboratory testing.	Y
	Fort St. John Health Unit	Dental, environmental health, hearing and audiology services, licensing, public health	
	Fort St. John Medical Clinic	Community rehabilitation, mental health, nutrition and social workers, public health services (immunizations and sexually transmitted infections)	
Terrace <sup>2</sup>	Ksyen Regional Hospital	4 operating rooms, 1 trauma bay, 8 critical care beds, 2 high-acuity beds, 20-beds psychiatric unit, cardiac diagnostics, birthing unit, community cancer clinic, dialysis clinic, emergency services, lab, medical imaging, respiratory services	Y
	McConnell Estate	Two-storey, 22 units of subsidized assisted living units, laundry facilities on each floor, common area includes a dining and recreation area	
	Terraceview Lodge	99 bed long-term care facility, including 90 long-term care beds, three hospice care beds and six short-term beds, dental room, rehabilitation services, food and nutrition services, recreational therapy	
	Seven Sisters Facility <sup>11</sup>	Mental health facility next to the Ksyen Regional Hospital, 25 beds, five apartment style spaces, multi-sensory room, recreation spaces, long-term rehabilitation and recovery programming	
	Terrace Health Unit <sup>12</sup>	Prenatal and early year education and support, sexual health programming, nutritional support and programming, immunizations, speech and language, dental health, harm reduction	

Community	Facility	Services	Pharmacy in community? Yes (Y)/No (N)
Chetwynd <sup>3</sup>	Chetwynd Hospital and Health Centre	7 long term-care beds, 5 acute beds, emergency services, medical inpatient care, respiratory therapy, primary care nursing and home support, palliative care, medical imaging, laboratory testing.	Y
	Primary Care Clinic	1 procedure/CPR room with AED, 12 exam rooms, Northern Health office space, Aboriginal liaison, mental health and substance use, public health nursing, respiratory care therapy, occupational therapy	
Fort St. James <sup>4</sup>	Nats'oojeh Hospital and Health Centre	27 beds, 9 acute care beds, 18 long-term care beds, emergency care, acute care, cardiac diagnostics, long-term care, lab, medical imaging, primary and community care	Y
Hudson's Hope <sup>5</sup>	Hudson's Hope Health Centre	Cardiac diagnostics, dental clinic, home and community care, laboratory, medical imaging, pharmacy, palliative care, primary care	Y
District of Mackenzie <sup>6</sup>	Mackenzie and District Hospital and Health Centre	5 acute beds, 4 long-term care beds, cardiac diagnostics, emergency services, home and community care, laboratory, medical clinic, medical imaging, mental health and substance use services	N
District of New Hazelton <sup>7</sup>	Wrinch Memorial Hospital	1 respite bed, 1 secure psychiatric observation room, 9 long-term care beds, 13 acute care beds, cardiac diagnostics, dental clinic, lab, medical imaging and ultrasound, respiratory services, retail pharmacy on-site, medical clinic, mental health, rotating specialists, public health, chronic disease	Y
Smithers <sup>8</sup>	Bulkley Valley District Hospital	24 acute care beds, cardiac diagnostics, community cancer clinic, emergency/outpatient, lab, medical, medical imaging, palliative care, pediatric services, psychiatric observation unit, respiratory services, surgical services	Y
	Healthy Living Centre	Chronic disease, dietitian support, primary and community care	
	Smithers Community Health	Mental health, substance use services, public health	

Community	Facility	Services	Pharmacy in community? Yes (Y)/No (N)
Prince Rupert <sup>9</sup>	Prince Rupert Regional Hospital	30 beds, including 26 inpatient beds, two maternity beds and two high acuity beds, acute and emergency care, cardiac diagnostics, general and orthopedic surgery, internal medicine, lab and medical imaging services, maternity care unit, respiratory services	Y
	Acropolis Manor	Long-term care with three units, including 56 long-term care beds, three respite beds, two palliative beds, with single and double occupancy rooms, recreation rooms, outdoor courtyards	
	Prince Rupert Community Health <sup>14</sup>	Prenatal and early year education and support, sexual health programming, nutritional support and programming, immunizations, speech and language, dental health, harm reduction	
	Summit Residence	15 subsidized living units for single or double occupancy, communal dining room, two laundry rooms, lounge area	
Stewart <sup>10</sup>	Stewart Health Centre	Physician's Office, emergency care, primary care, prenatal and postnatal care, radiology, laboratory and medical imaging services, mental health and substance use services, specialists upon referral	N
Vanderhoof <sup>11</sup>	St. John Hospital	24 beds acute care, surgeries, cardiac diagnostics, dietician, occupation therapy, physiotherapy, lab and medical imaging, maternity unit, oncology clinic, palliative care, respiratory services	Y
	Stuart Nechako	53 beds, including 12 beds for dementia residents, two temporary beds for respite and palliative care, single and double occupancy, recreation room, outdoor courtyard, hair salon	
Prince George <sup>12</sup>	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia	Ambulatory care, laboratory and medical imaging, outpatient services, surgery, visiting clinics, Indigenous Health services	Y
	Health facilities	A main medical hub in northern British Columbia offering health services such as subsidized assisted living units, medical clinics, hospice facility, several long-term care facilities, a senior home, specialized services for Multiple Sclerosis patients	

Community	Facility	Services	Pharmacy in community? Yes (Y)/No (N)
Burns Lake <sup>13</sup>	Lake District Hospital and Health Centre	Acute care, cardiac diagnostics, emergency services, lab and medical imaging, mental health and substance use services, rehabilitation services	Y
	Medical Clinics	A main medical hub in northern British Columbia offering three health clinics, a long-term care facility and an assisted living facility	
Fraser Lake <sup>14</sup>	Fraser Lake Community Health Center	Diagnostic and treatment centre, ambulance and emergency transfer services, cardiac diagnostics, palliative care, dietician, home care, lab and medical imaging, mental health and substance use services, occupational therapy, respiratory services	Y

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Northern Health. n.d.a

<sup>2</sup> Northern Health. n.d.b

<sup>3</sup> Northern Health. n.d.c

<sup>4</sup> Northern Health. n.d.d

<sup>5</sup> Northern Health. n.d.e

<sup>6</sup> Northern Health. n.d.f

<sup>7</sup> Northern Health. n.d.g

<sup>8</sup> Northern Health. n.d.h

<sup>9</sup> Northern Health. n.d.i

<sup>10</sup> Northern Health n.d.j

<sup>11</sup> Northern Health n.d.k

<sup>12</sup> Northern Health n.d.l

<sup>13</sup> Northern Health n.d.m

<sup>14</sup> Northern Health n.d.n

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## Appendix B Health and Medical Contact List

## Appendix B Health and Medical Contact List

Local service provider and agency contact numbers are described in Table B.1

Table B.1 List of Service Providers and Contact Details

Service Provider/Agency	Description of services	Contact
PRGT 24-Hour Emergency Contact	PRGT 24-Hour Emergency Contact	1-866-421-5808
BCER 24-Hour Incident Reporting <sup>1</sup>	BCER 24-Hour Incident Reporting	Industry Line: 1-800-663-3456 Public Line: 1-800-500-2237
HealthLinkBC 811 <sup>2</sup>	All general health inquiries, service provider information, immunization information Including dietitian support Physical activity support	Phone #: 8-1-1 Open 24/7
WorkSafeBC <sup>3</sup>	In all work-related illnesses or injuries, WorkSafeBC must be notified by the Incident Commander or designate within 72 hours (Process described in Section 4.1)	Claims: 1-888-967-5377 Health and Safety Assistance: 1-888-621-7233 Worksite Emergency: 1-888-621-7233 Crisis Support: 1-800-624-2928
Northern Health Northern Health Regional Communicable Disease Hub <sup>4</sup>	When three or more cases of influenza-like illness or GI illness occur within a three-day period at the Site (Process described in Section 5)	Email: RegionalCD.HubTeam@northernhealth.ca Phone: 1855-565-2990 [Outside business hours, Medical Health Officer (MHO) On-call (1-250-565-2000, press 7 for switchboard)]
First Nation Health Authority Virtual Doctor of the Day <sup>5</sup>	Access to virtual primary health care to Indigenous peoples and their family members in BC.	Phone number: 1-855-344-3800 Hours of operation: seven days a week 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
STARS <sup>6</sup>	With a base in Grand Prairie, Alberta, STARS offers critical care through air, ground or virtually.	Phone number: 1-780-830-7000
BC Emergency Health Services <sup>7</sup>	BCEHS offer out-of-hospital and inter-hospital health services throughout BC.	9-11 Toll Free: 1-800-461-9911 Cellphone/SAT Phone/ Outside BC: 250-374-5937

Service Provider/Agency	Description of services	Contact
Northern Health: Mental Health and Substance Abuse <sup>8</sup>	Northern Health provides a mental health hotline for emotional support. The KUU-US Crisis Response Service provides culturally aware crisis support for Indigenous people. The substance abuse hotline can help individuals find resources and support.	Mental Health: 310-6789 KUU-US Crisis Response: 1-800-588-8717 Substance Abuse: 1-800-663-1441
First Nation Health Centres or Contacts	Nisga'a Valley Health Authority <sup>9</sup>	Phone: 1-888-233-2212 24- Hour Crisis Line: 1-250-975-0991
	Binche Whut'en Health Services <sup>10</sup>	Phone: 1-250-648-3673
	Blueberry River First Nation Health Services <sup>11</sup>	Phone: 1-250-785-3411
	Doig River First Nation Health Services <sup>12</sup>	Phone: 1-250-827-3776 ext. 1271
	Gitanyow First Nation <sup>13</sup>	Phone: 1-250-849-5572
	Gitga'at First Nation <sup>14</sup>	Phone: 1-250-841-2525
	Gitxaala Nation <sup>15</sup>	Email: <a href="mailto:healthreception@gitxaalanation.com">healthreception@gitxaalanation.com</a>
	Gitxsan Nation Health and Wellness Centre <sup>16</sup>	Phone: 1-250-842-6320
	Halfway River First Nation <sup>17</sup>	Phone (reception): 1-250-772-5058
	Kitselas First Nation <sup>19</sup>	Phone: 1-250-635-5084 (ext 4086)
	Kitsumkalum First Nation <sup>20</sup>	Phone: 1-250-635-6172
	Lake Babine Nation <sup>21</sup>	Phone: 1-250-692-4700
	Lax Kw'alaams Band <sup>22</sup>	Phone: 1-250-625-3331
	McLeod Lake Indian Band <sup>23</sup>	Phone: 1-250-750-4415
	Metlakatla First Nation <sup>24</sup>	Phone: 1-778-629-1080
	Nak'azdli Whut'en <sup>25</sup>	Phone: 1-250-996-7400
	Saulteau First Nations <sup>26</sup>	Phone: 1-250-788-7266
	Takla First Nation <sup>27</sup>	Phone: 1-250-996-7780
	Tl'azt'en Nation <sup>28</sup>	Phone: 1-250-648-3350
	West Moberly First Nation <sup>29</sup>	Phone: 1-250-788-3622
	Yekooche First Nation <sup>30</sup>	Phone: 1-250-612-4388

Service Provider/Agency	Description of services	Contact
BC Health Link 24-7 Distress Phone Services <sup>31</sup>	Confidential, 24-hour toll-free crisis line for emotional and mental health support. Crisis line workers provide intervention through emergency mental health teams, emergency services and may refer calls to local crisis centres for additional support.	BC Wide Toll Free: 1-800-784-2433
Coast Guard <sup>32</sup>	Coastal search and rescue services.	Toll Free: 1-800-277-7270 Telephone: 613-965-3870

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> BCER n.d.

<sup>2</sup> HealthLinkBC 2024

<sup>3</sup> WorkSafeBC n.d.

<sup>4</sup> Northern Health 2023

<sup>5</sup> First Nations Health Authority n.d.

<sup>6</sup> STARS n.d.

<sup>7</sup> BC Emergency Health Services n.d.

<sup>8</sup> Northern Health n.d.o

<sup>9</sup> Nisga'a Valley Health Authority n.d.

<sup>10</sup> Binche n.d.

<sup>11</sup> Blueberry River First Nation n.d.

<sup>12</sup> Doig River First Nation n.d.

<sup>13</sup> Gitanyow Human Services Authority n.d.

<sup>14</sup> Gitga'at First Nation n.d.

<sup>15</sup> Gitxaala Nation n.d.

<sup>16</sup> Office of Gitanmaax n.d.

<sup>17</sup> Halfway River First Nation n.d.

<sup>18</sup> Alberta Health Services n.d.

<sup>19</sup> Kitselas First Nation n.d.

<sup>20</sup> Kitsumkalum First Nation n.d.

<sup>21</sup> Lake Babine Nation n.d.

<sup>22</sup> Lax Kw'alaams Band n.d.

<sup>23</sup> McLeod Lake Indian Band n.d.

<sup>24</sup> Metlakatla First Nation n.d.

<sup>25</sup> Nak'azdli Whut'en n.d.

<sup>26</sup> Saulteau First Nation n.d.

<sup>27</sup> Takla First Nation n.d.

<sup>28</sup> Tl'azt'en Nation n.d.



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Service Provider/Agency	Description of services	Contact
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<sup>29</sup> West Moberly First Nation. n.d.

<sup>30</sup> Yekooche First Nation n.d.

<sup>31</sup> HealthLinkBC n.d.

<sup>32</sup> Government of Canada n.d.



**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
BYLAW NO. 390, 2025**

A bylaw to adopt the 2026-2030 Financial Plan

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WHEREAS pursuant to Section 165 of the Community Charter, being Chapter 26 of the Statutes of British Columbia, 2003, a Municipality must have a Financial Plan that is adopted annually, by Bylaw, before the Annual Property Tax Bylaw is adopted;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the District of New Hazelton in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Financial Plan for the 5 years ending December 31, 2030;
2. Schedule "B", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Statement of Objectives and Policies; and
3. This Bylaw may be cited as "**District of New Hazelton 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025.**"

Read a first time this      1ST    DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

Read a second time this    1ST    DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

Public Hearing held this    5TH    DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Read a third time this      5TH    DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Adopted this                2ND    DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

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MAYOR

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CORPORATE OFFICER

**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
FINANCIAL PLAN (CONSOLIDATED)  
FOR THE FIVE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2030  
SCHEDULE "A"**

	BUDGET 2026	BUDGET 2027	BUDGET 2028	BUDGET 2029	BUDGET 2030
<b>REVENUE:</b>					
Residential, Class1	\$ 351,702	\$ 358,735	\$ 365,910	\$ 373,228	\$ 380,694
Utilities, Class 2	\$ 101,388	\$ 103,416	\$ 105,484	\$ 107,594	\$ 109,746
Major Industry, Class 4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Light Industry, Class 5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Business, Class 6	\$ 120,219	\$ 122,624	\$ 125,076	\$ 127,578	\$ 130,129
Rec/Non-Profit, Class 8	\$ 517	\$ 527	\$ 538	\$ 548	\$ 559
Farm, Class 9	\$ 287	\$ 293	\$ 299	\$ 305	\$ 311
Grants in Lieu	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000
<b>TAXATION REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 623,113</b>	<b>\$ 634,595</b>	<b>\$ 646,307</b>	<b>\$ 658,253</b>	<b>\$ 670,439</b>
Frontage Taxes	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500
Services Provided for Other Agencies	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000
Utility Rates and Fees	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000
Other Revenue	\$ 254,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100
Non capital grants	\$ 108,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 1,801,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 625,000
Capital grants	\$ 3,477,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Conditional Transfers	\$ 126,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Collections for Other Governments	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,934,713</b>	<b>\$ 2,749,195</b>	<b>\$ 3,936,907</b>	<b>\$ 2,772,853</b>	<b>\$ 2,785,039</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
General Municipal	\$ 2,752,800	\$ 2,480,800	\$ 2,540,865	\$ 2,602,598	\$ 2,753,103
Water	\$ 193,982	\$ 391,981	\$ 209,705	\$ 205,665	\$ 210,874
Sewer	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000
Collections for other governments	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000
Amortization of Assets	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 3,881,782</b>	<b>\$ 3,807,781</b>	<b>\$ 3,685,570</b>	<b>\$ 3,743,264</b>	<b>\$ 3,898,977</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,931</b>	<b>\$ (1,058,586)</b>	<b>\$ 251,337</b>	<b>\$ (970,411)</b>	<b>\$ (1,113,938)</b>
<b>Adjust for non-cash items</b>					
Amortization	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)
<b>Adjust for cash items non-PSAB</b>					
TCA expenditures	\$ 4,735,000	\$ 454,500	\$ 355,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 430,000
Transfer to (from) reserve	\$ (576,000)	\$ 74,000	\$ 805,000	\$ 74,000	\$ 74,000
Transfer to (from) Operating surplus	\$ (1,756,069)	\$ (1,237,086)	\$ (558,663)	\$ (1,029,410)	\$ (1,267,938)
	<b>\$ 2,052,931</b>	<b>\$ (1,058,586)</b>	<b>\$ 251,337</b>	<b>\$ (970,410)</b>	<b>\$ (1,113,938)</b>
<b>Financial Plan Balance</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Cumulative Operating Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 243,931</b>	<b>\$ (993,155)</b>	<b>\$ (1,551,817)</b>	<b>\$ (2,581,228)</b>	<b>\$ (3,849,166)</b>

## **SCHEDULE 'B'**

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the Community Charter, the District of New Hazelton is required to include in the Five Year Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the Community Charter;
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes; and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2022. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult or undesirable to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, and street lighting.

Many services can be measured and charged on a user-pay basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

**Table 1**

<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>% of Total Revenue</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Taxation	10.499%	\$ 623,113
User Fees & Charges	10.003%	\$ 593,600
Other Sources	8.139%	\$ 483,000
Grants	62.530%	\$ 3,711,000
Borrowing	0%	-
Reserves & Surplus	8.829%	\$ 524,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 5,934,713</b>

### **OBJECTIVE**

The District will annually review the portion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges.

## POLICY

The District will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.

## DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential and business property classes provide the largest portions of property tax revenue. This is primarily due to no industrial classes within the District.

**Table 2**

PROPERTY CLASS	% of Property Taxation	Dollar Value
Residential	56.44%	\$ 351,702
Utilities	16.28%	\$ 101,388
Major Industrial	0.00%	-
Light Industrial	0.00%	-
Business & Other	19.29%	\$ 120,219
Recreation/Non-Profit	0.08%	\$ 517
Farmland	0.05%	\$ 287
Grants In Lieu	7.86%	\$ 49,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 623,113</b>

## OBJECTIVES

The District wishes to maintain the property tax levy percentages for 2026 at the prior levels plus 2%, adjusted for the impact of non-market changes to assessments. Utility class will be less than the maximum allowable by Provincial statute (BC Reg. 329/96).

## POLICIES

The District will continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail, commercial and industrial businesses to invest in the community.

The District will regularly review and compare the District's distributions of property tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

The District will review annually, with a view of lowering both the residential and business property tax rates using new, non-market industrial assessment.



## PERMISSION TAX EXEMPTIONS

The District has an existing permissive tax exemption policy which guides the administration and approval of permissive tax exemptions.

## OBJECTIVES

The District will continue to provide permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies and churches pursuant to District policy.

## POLICY

The District will accept Permissive Tax Exemption applications from non-profits, charitable organizations, and churches. Permissive tax exemptions will run on a three-year cycle. Applications for exemption must be resubmitted at the end of each cycle.

### Permissive Tax Exemption

Value of Permissive Exemptions granted by the District under Section 220, 224, or 225 of the Community Charter

	2026 (est)	2027 (est)	2028 (est)	2029 (est)	2030 (est)
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	\$3,229.18	\$3,293.76	\$3,359.64	\$3,426.83	\$3,495.37
BC Conf Mennonite Brethren Churches	\$1,972.00	\$2,011.44	\$2,051.67	\$2,092.70	\$2,134.55
New Hazelton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	\$629.02	\$641.60	\$654.44	\$667.53	\$680.88

Note: Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw expires in 2027. Applicants will need to reapply for further years. Numbers are based on the assumption that an application will occur.



# **District of New Hazelton: Official Community Plan**

**Bylaw No. 388, 2025**



**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON**

**OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

---

A bylaw to guide long-term vision and strategic land use decisions within the District of New Hazelton  
pursuant to Part 26 of the *Local Government Act*

---

**WHEREAS** the Council of the District of New Hazelton wishes to adopt a new Official Community Plan pursuant to section 876 of Part 26 of the *Local Government Act*.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the District of New Hazelton in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the District of New Hazelton Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 388, 2025.
2. The District of New Hazelton Official Community Plan Schedule “B” attached to and hereby forms part of this bylaw.
3. District of New Hazelton Bylaw No. 322, 2016 cited as District of New Hazelton Official Community Plan Bylaw and any amendments are hereby repealed.

READ A FIRST TIME this 8th day of September, 2025

READ A SECOND TIME this 8th day of September, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING HELD pursuant to section 890 of the Local Government Act this 2nd day of February, 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME this 2nd day of February, 2026

ADOPTED THIS 2nd day of February, 2026

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Gail Lowry

Mayor

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Brooke White

Corporate Officer



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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND LOCAL CONTEXT

## 1.1 What is the Official Community Plan?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is the highest-order document for a local government and helps to guide future planning and decision-making within the community. The development of an OCP is governed by the *Local Government Act*, which describes an OCP as “a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land-use management, within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government.” (*Local Government Act* S.471.1).

Section 473 of the *Local Government Act* outlines specific requirements for OCPs, including:

- Statements and map designations for the area covered by the plan respecting the following:
  - the approximate location, amount, type and density of residential development required to meet anticipated housing needs over a period of at least 20 years;
  - the approximate location, amount and type of present and proposed commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, recreational and public utility land uses;
  - the approximate location and area of sand and gravel deposits that are suitable for future sand and gravel extraction;
  - restrictions on the use of land that is subject to hazardous conditions or that is environmentally sensitive to development;
  - the approximate location and phasing of any major road, sewer and water systems;
  - the approximate location and type of present and proposed public facilities, including schools, parks and waste treatment and disposal sites;
  - other matters that may, in respect of any plan, be required or authorized by the minister.
- Housing policies of the local government respecting affordable housing, rental housing and special needs housing.
- Targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets.
- The consideration of policy guidelines regarding the process of developing and adopting official community plans.
- The consideration of provincial policy guidelines related to transit-oriented areas.

An OCP provides a framework to guide the future vision for the community and can address:

- Character of existing and proposed land use and development;
- Infrastructure servicing requirements;
- Economic, environmental, physical design and development and social considerations;
- Quality of life, health and well-being considerations;
- Future growth and housing needs;
- Community energy auditing and management;
- Transportation networks and strategies;
- Community development; and
- Provisions of amenities and services.

An effective OCP results in:

- A level of certainty to residents and landowners regarding the location and nature of land use and development in the community;
- A framework to guide District Council, staff, businesses and citizens in strategic decision-making and implementation of long-term goals;
- A mechanism to advance collaboration and reconciliation with local First Nations and surrounding local governments;
- A tool to advocate senior levels of government for improved services and amenities; and
- A roadmap to guide zoning and subsequent implementation measures.

An OCP is a living document and should be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with new trends within society and changing circumstances within the planning area boundaries. As such, following careful consideration by Council, policies and land use designations in an OCP may be revised through adoption of an amending bylaw following the provisions outlined within the *Local Government Act*. While OCPs were typically reviewed every 5-10 years, recent legislative requirements outlined by the Province now require that OCPs are reviewed every 5 years to ensure alignment with the most recent housing needs reporting.

Once an OCP is adopted as a bylaw, the Community Plan becomes “official”, and all future land use decisions made by Council must be consistent with the objectives and policies outlined in the Plan.

## 1.2 The Planning Process

The planning process for updating the OCP involved several key milestones that ensured thorough community involvement and strategic decision-making. These milestones included:



**Initial Staff Review:** The process began with a detailed review by the District staff to identify the primary goals and objectives that needed addressing in the updated OCP.

**Housing Needs Report:** To meet both legislative requirements and gain a comprehensive understanding of current trends, demographic changes, and housing needs in a 5- and 20-year period, the District finalized an interim Housing Needs Report (HNR) at the end of 2024.

**Community Engagement:** To gain community feedback and introduce the planning process, the District conducted community engagement in May 2025. This included a survey for New Hazelton residents, a business survey, stakeholder meetings (including neighboring municipalities, businesses, and community organizations and service providers), and an open house.

**Drafting the OCP:** Based on the feedback from stakeholders and the data collected, a preliminary draft of the OCP was created, outlining proposed policies and land use designations.

**Revisions and Refinement:** The draft OCP was revised and refined based on the input from District Staff and Council, ensuring that all concerns and suggestions were adequately addressed.

**Final Council Review:** The revised OCP was presented to the District Council for final review and approval.

**Adoption and Implementation:** Upon Council's approval, the OCP was adopted as a bylaw, becoming the official guiding document for all future land use decisions.



## 1.2.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The District of New Hazelton initiated the OCP process in the summer 2024. Public insight into the Plan was sought through a variety of engagement methods, including:

### *Community Survey*

A survey was made available from the end of November 2024 through January 24, 2025. The survey, promoted via social media, the project webpage, print media, and email, received 44 responses.

### *Farmer's Market Booth*

A booth was set-up at the Hazelton Farmer's Market on Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Residents were informed on the OCP planning process and invited to share their concerns, comments, and suggestions through one-on-one conversations.



### *Community Open House*

A series of panels seeking input on a variety of topics was set up in the Erwin Stege Community Centre from 5:00 – 8:00 pm on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Project Team members were available to help guide residents through the panels and provide background context when needed. Residents were provided pens and Post-it notes and encouraged to provide comments directly on the panels.

### *School Engagement Sessions*

Engaging the community's youth was a priority for the District, especially since only a single resident under the age of 30 responded to the community survey. To seek input from this age cohort, three in-person engagement sessions were conducted at local schools:

- New Hazelton Elementary School
  - Grades 5-6 class
  - Grades 6-7 class
- Hazelton Secondary School
  - Grade 9 class



Youth were asked to identify what they liked about the community and what they would improve.

## ***Business Survey***

Businesses operating in New Hazelton were provided with an online survey via email. The survey was designed to obtain insight into the opportunities and challenges facing business owners in the District. The survey remained open from May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, through June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and 8 responses were received.

## ***Local First Nations***

An informational poster and background information on the OCP process was sent to local First Nations. The intent of this correspondence was to inform the communities on the OCP project and seek input on how each Nation would like to be involved in the process. No responses were received.

## ***Stakeholder interviews***

Interviews with various stakeholders were conducted in-person and virtually throughout the planning process. These stakeholders included various community groups, health care providers, District staff, recreation groups, surrounding local government, seniors housing facilities, among others.

Key themes from this community engagement are summarized in Section 1.2.2.



## 1.2.2 KEY THEMES

The following priorities emerged as common themes among residents and stakeholders throughout the engagement activities.

### *Housing*

The need for new and affordable housing emerged as a top priority for several community members. Housing issues were expressed as a variety of needs, including:

- **Supportive Senior's Housing** – The Roche View Lodge is currently full and has a wait list of 9 individuals. While the community currently has 6 assisted living units, long-term care typically includes a stay at the Wrinch Memorial Hospital or a move to Smithers or Terrace. There is a desire to provide better local options to allow residents to age in place;
- **Local Workforce** – Several business owners and community service providers indicated that a lack of rental housing is a barrier to attracting and retaining workers;
- **Emergency Shelter** – While there is a women's shelter locally, there is no emergency shelter available to the community at large;
- **Derelict Buildings** – There are a number of abandoned/derelict buildings in the community which could help to address identified housing needs. Stakeholders and residents suggested the District explore opportunities to incentivize developers and property owners to undertake renovations to these buildings;
- **Diversity in Housing Typology** – Although single-family housing is typically the most desired housing form in the area, several residents and stakeholders mentioned the need for more diverse housing forms. While this includes duplexes, and other multi-unit housing, many residents also mentioned tiny homes and mobile homes as potential options.

### *Increased Services and Amenities*

Residents and business owners emphasized the need for more retail services and recreational amenities in the District. They highlighted the importance of increasing business opportunities and enhancing community vibrancy. Additional services could attract new businesses, create jobs, and improve the overall quality of life. Enhancing local services would also contribute to a more dynamic community atmosphere, making the District a more desirable place to live and work.

## *A Collaborative Approach*

A common theme expressed by stakeholders and residents was the need to take a collaborative approach among surrounding local governments and First Nations in addressing shared priorities. Topic areas such as housing, recreational facilities, social supports, emergency services, environmental protection, food security, among others, are priorities with the residents of the District of New Hazelton, Village of Hazelton, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine and neighbouring First Nations. Rather than each community tackling these issues in isolation, there is a sentiment among locals that more could be achieved locally through pooling resources. The development of the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre was identified as an example of what could be accomplished through local communities working together towards a shared vision.

While the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre was recognized by, it is to note that New Hazelton has other partnerships with the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, the Village of Hazelton, and other neighbouring communities for shared services. These include transit, library, economic development, tourism, water systems, road rescue, fire department and mutual aid, essential, and hospital services.

## *Highway 16 Impacts*

While Highway 16 provides opportunities through increased traffic and efficient access to markets, residents and stakeholders indicated that having a highway as the main thoroughfare also comes with some negative impacts, including:

- **Safety** – residents and stakeholders indicated that vehicles often travel through town at high speeds, resulting in safety concerns for pedestrians; and
- **Reduced access to commercial businesses** – there is no on-street parking along Highway 16. Residents indicated that this impacts access to commercial businesses around the commercial core of the District.

## *Youth Activities*

Students expressed they often have a hard time finding areas or places to hang out safely to have a fun time with friends. They identified a need for youth-friendly businesses and local organizations that can accommodate youth in the community. Common amenities identified by the youth include indoor recreation facilities (mini golf, bowling, weightlifting facilities, indoor pool), bike pump track, and expanded skatepark. It is noted that a bike track and skatepark expansion have recently been undertaken on the Gitanmaax reserve lands and it may not make sense to duplicate these efforts. As well, the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre has a wide variety of programming for youth, including a fitness centre with weight lifting. This highlights the benefits in undertaking a collaborative, regional approach to recreational services and amenities.



## ***Food Security***

Many residents and community groups identified a need for access to locally grown, nutritional food and ongoing support of food security programming. Recommendations provided for the District outlined include:

- Continue to support the Hazelton Farmers' Market (including exploring a larger venue and providing power);
- Establish an indoor space for the Farmers' Market so it could be held year-round;
- Establish a community garden;
- Explore composting systems in collaboration with local farms;
- Support food sustainability initiatives throughout the Hazeltons; and
- Support the development of the Hazelton's livestock operations.

## ***Active Transportation***

While residents indicated that the local trail systems were one of New Hazelton's strengths, many also mentioned how they would like to see improvements to the trail networks and bike paths around the community. Comments included increasing the number of local trails, increasing accessibility, and improving their safety.

## ***Emergency Preparedness***

Health providers and community members mentioned the importance of emergency preparedness in the community with the increased wildfire occurrence and drought conditions. Northern Health mentioned the importance of a partnership to undertake an emergency plan that involves the Wrinch Memorial Hospital.

## ***Tourism***

Residents and business owners often discussed the need for more tourism opportunities. They noted that greater awareness of existing attractions within the District and surrounding areas is important. Suggestions included enhancing signage before entering the District and improving the curb appeal of the main street through public art initiatives.

## ***Mental Health and Substance Use Services***

Both residents and community services have highlighted the need for enhanced community health resources to support youth and community members. Beyond the emergency shelters referenced earlier, insufficient mental health services were perceived as a strain on the capacity and resources of Wrinch Memorial Hospital. There is an on-going initiative to establish a mental health facility in Terrace, which the District supports and will advocate for.

These insights were reviewed and incorporated into the OCP where appropriate.

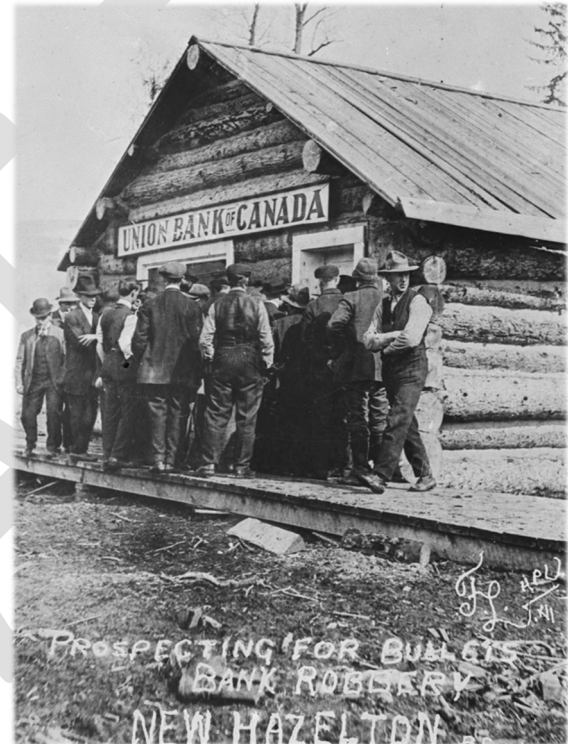
## 1.3 History of the District New Hazelton

New Hazelton's story begins with the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, which played a pivotal role in shaping the community's identity and future. The railroad was built on the south side of the Bulkley River, prompting the establishment of both South Hazelton and New Hazelton. During construction, the location of the area's railway terminal was fiercely debated. Railway agents advocated for South Hazelton, anticipating profit from land sales, while merchants and miners from New Hazelton lobbied for their already established townsite. Ultimately, New Hazelton was selected as the terminal location, offering superior grades for transporting goods and a strategic site for loading ore. The New Hazelton section of the line was constructed between 1911 and 1912, turning the town into a major supply center and setting the stage for decades of growth. The inaugural passenger service arrived on September 6, 1914, affirming New Hazelton's role as a thriving hub in Northwest BC.

Amidst this rapid development, New Hazelton gained notoriety for two dramatic events: the Union Bank of Canada robberies in 1913 and 1914. The first occurred in November 1913, with masked thieves escaping with \$19,400. The second, on April 7, 1914, was similarly bold. Both robberies, followed by dramatic pursuits and eventual justice, left lasting marks on the community, reflecting the shifting social landscape of a town propelled by railway prosperity.

In response to growing needs for accessibility, Robert Kelly commissioned the Craddock Bridge over the Bulkley River in 1913. Rebuilt in 1932 and renamed the Hagwilget Bridge, it spans 262 feet above the river, ranking among North America's highest suspension bridges at the time. This bridge was vital to New Hazelton, providing a direct connection to Hazelton and essential hospital services. By 1953, it replaced the ferry service, further solidifying New Hazelton's importance as a regional link.

Incorporated in December 1980 after several years as an Improvement District, New Hazelton underwent significant transformations, including the establishment of a water treatment plant, wastewater lagoon, new storefronts, financial institutions, parks, outdoor fitness equipment, a playground, seniors housing, a community center, hiking trails, a vibrant art gallery, and a Visitor Center and gift shop. The Mayor and Council, seven members strong, oversee governance and policy, drawing on their extensive experience and long-standing service. Council and staff collaborate with the Village of Hazelton and the Regional District of Kitimat Stikine on regional initiatives—



"Prospecting for bullets, Bank Robbery", Apr. 7, 1914.  
Credit: Jack R. Wrathall, Library and Archives Canada, PA-095740. Copyright: Expired.

transportation, recreation, library, fire protection, road rescue, visitor services, economic development, and more.

The District of New Hazelton and its surroundings have been home to the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en since time immemorial. The trade of salmon and other natural resources formed the backbone of these Nations' economies, with goods traded through "grease trails" named for the oil from oolichan fish found in local rivers. Gitksan cultural heritage is celebrated in the reconstructed Ksan village north of New Hazelton. The Hagwilget community, of Wet'suwet'en descent, sits directly north, partnering with New Hazelton for water services and exploring mutual aid agreements in fire protection and training. An exhibit highlighting and celebrating both the Pioneer and First Nations history and culture can be found at the Visitors Center. Additional details on surrounding First Nations can be found in Section 1.5.1.

The neighboring village of Hazelton was founded in 1866 by European settlers, with the Hudson Bay Company running the Ackwilgate fur trading post for two years. Hazelton hosted miners during the Omineca Gold Rush (1870-71), and by 1880, the Hudson Bay Company expanded with warehouses in town. By 1888, Hazelton boasted a postmaster, police officer, and jail. Between 1890 and 1915, Hazelton was the largest community in Northwest BC, and the early 1900s brought prosperity. However, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's arrival on the opposite side of the river challenged Hazelton's prominence.

Today, New Hazelton offers residents and visitors breathtaking views of the Roche de Boule Mountain range and the commanding peak of Stekyoden. Surrounded by lakes, rivers, and endless opportunities for adventure, New Hazelton and the greater Hazeltons remain a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking the peace and beauty of life beyond larger urban centres.



"Hazelton to Telkwa", 1911.

Credit: Jack R. Wrathall, Library and Archives Canada, PA-096129. Copyright: Expired.





### 1.3.1 COMMUNITY CONTEXT

#### *The Hazeltons – Upper Skeena*

The Hazeltons officially consist of ten communities in Northwest BC, on or near Highway 16. The communities, a mixture of municipalities, unincorporated settlements and First Nation villages, are flanked by Terrace in the southwest and Smithers in the southeast.

The communities include New Hazelton (population: 602), Hazelton (population: 270), South Hazelton (population: 300), Kispiox Village (population: 536), Kispiox Valley, Sik-E-Dakh (population: 222), Gitanmaax (population: 627), Hagwilget (population: 238) and Two Mile (population: 650). Several communities further west along Highway 16 are also often grouped with the Hazeltons. These include Gitsegukla (population: 448), Gitwangak (population: 500), Kitwanga (population: 200) and Gitanyow (population: 383). To the southeast, the Suskwa Valley and Witset (population: 646) are also commonly grouped with the Hazeltons.

Most of the communities have a few small stores and businesses, but New Hazelton is the service hub, with greater accommodation, retail and dining options.

## 1.4 Background Information

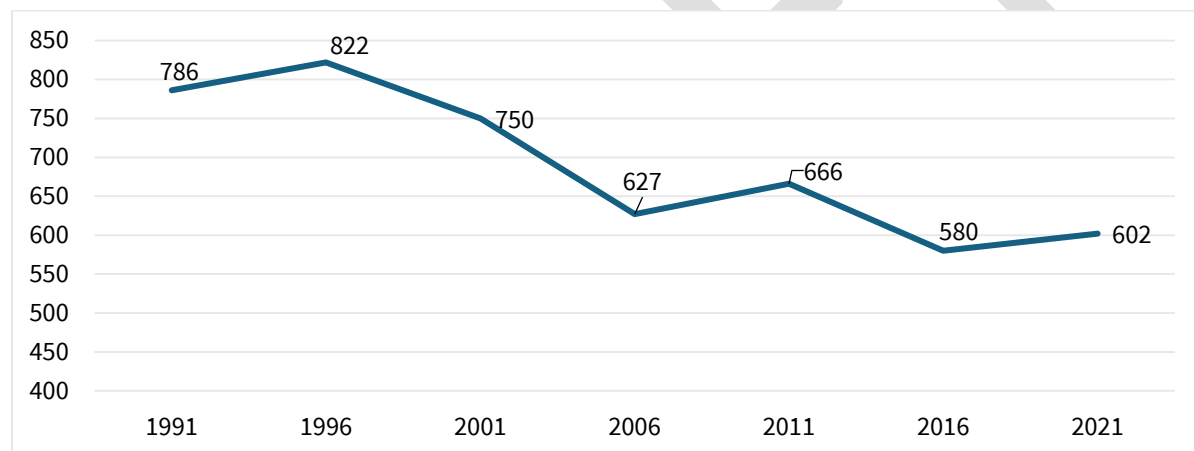
This section highlights key background information from the District of New Hazelton. This includes historic and current population and demographic trends, 5- and 20-year housing needs as identified from the interim Housing Needs Report (2024), and existing community infrastructure.

### 1.4.1 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

#### *Historic Population*

The District of New Hazelton's population as per the 2021 Census data is 602. In the last 30 years, from the date of the most recent Census, the District's population has declined by 23% (184). Between 1996 and 2006, the District experienced a significant decline of 25%. Between 2006 and 2021 the rate of population declined by 4% (25 people).

*Figure 1: Historic Population*



Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profiles 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021

#### *Population Projections*

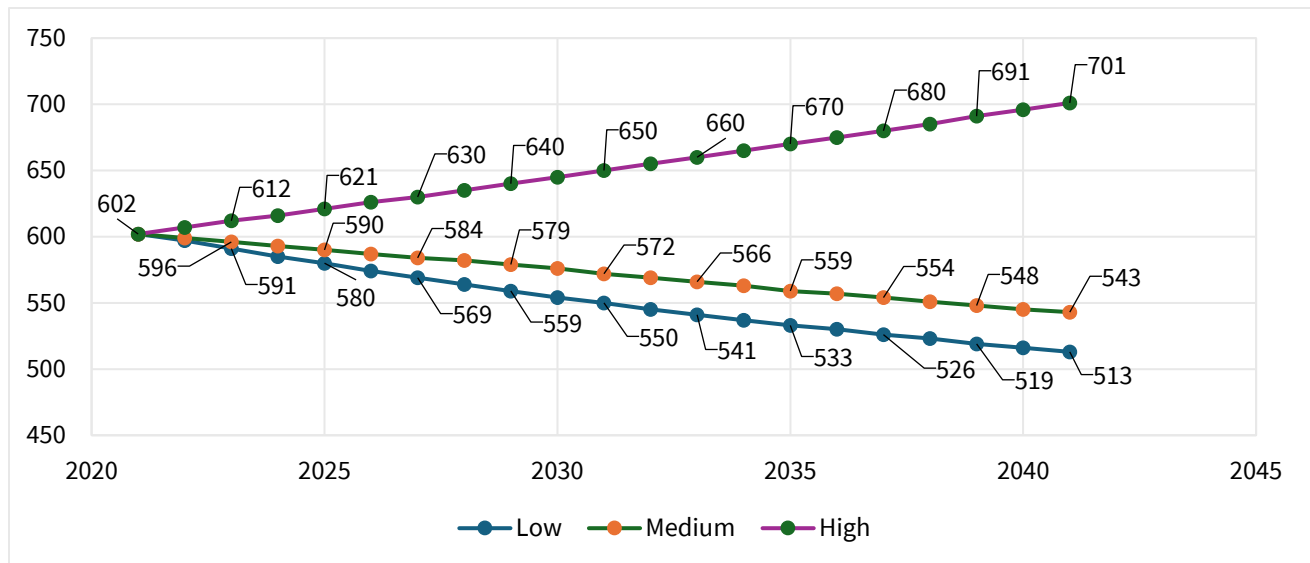
Future population growth in the District of New Hazelton will be influenced by the availability of government services, particularly healthcare and education, and the success of economic development initiatives. Population projections for the District of New Hazelton have been made based on three scenarios:

**Low:** The low growth rate was calculated by using the historic census data of the District of New Hazelton from 2001-2021 which is -0.98% per year on average.

**Medium:** The medium population growth scenario is based on the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine's growth rate from 2001-2021 which is -0.37% per year on average.

**High:** BC Stats projects an annual population growth rate of 0.84% from 2021 to 2041, representing the most optimistic scenario. Assuming the average household size identified in the 2021 Census remains consistent at 2.3 persons per household, this projection aligns closely with the anticipated 20-year housing requirement of an additional 202 units.

*Source: 1: Population Projections*



Source: BC Statistics Population Projections and Statistics Canada Census 2021

## Age Profile

The age profile of the District of New Hazelton is generally comparable to that of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) and British Columbia (BC) more broadly. The District has the youngest median age of the three jurisdictions at 41.2 years. Notably, New Hazelton has a 0-14 year-old population of 19.8%, the highest among the three. Additionally, 19.8% of the District's population is also 65 years or older, 2.6% higher than RDKS. Table 1 outlines the age profiles for New Hazelton, the RDKS, and BC.

*Table 1: Age Profile*

Age Group	DNH	RDKS	BC
0-14 years old	20%	18%	14%
15-24 years old	11%	11%	11%
25-44 years old	23%	26%	27%
45-64 years old	27%	28%	27%
65+ years old	20%	17%	20%
Total population	602	37,790	5,000,880
Median age	41.2	44.8	42.8

Source: Statistics Canada Census Program, Census Profile, 2021



## Changing Demographics

While the overall population of New Hazelton has been in decline over the past few decades, the age profile reveals a community experiencing both youthful potential and aging trends. This may indicate a need for continued investment in schools, childcare, and youth programs, while also highlighting growing demand for health care services and senior housing to support the aging population. These demographic shifts highlight the importance of strategic planning to meet the needs of both younger and older residents, while also creating opportunities to retain and attract working-age individuals essential to the community's long-term sustainability.

### 1.4.2 HOUSING NEEDS

Recent amendments to the *Local Government Act* now require municipalities to incorporate the most recent Housing Needs Reports (HNRs) when preparing or amending OCPs. Sections 585.1 to 585.41 of the *Act* set out detailed requirements regarding the content, publication, update frequency, and regulatory framework of HNRs. These amendments require that HNRs identify the total number of housing units required to meet projected housing needs over a 20-year period. Municipalities must ensure that their OCPs and Zoning Bylaws can accommodate the identified housing need. OCPs must also include housing policies that address each class of housing need identified in the most recent HNR. For the District of New Hazelton, these housing classes include extreme core housing need; homelessness; suppressed households; anticipated household growth; minimum 3% rental vacancy rate; and local demand.

It should be noted that the Province requires that local governments utilize a standard methodology in determining the 5-year and 20-year housing needs. Local governments were provided with the Housing Assessment Resource Tool (HART) to assist them in calculating housing needs. Table 2 includes a summary of the housing need for 2041 as outlined in the 2024 interim Housing Needs Report and as required by the Province.



*Table 2 – Summary of Housing Need (2021 – 2041)*

Component	Number of New Units Needed	
	5-Year Need	20-Year Need
<b>A: Extreme Core Housing Need</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Owned Units</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Rented Units</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>B: Persons Experiencing Homelessness</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>C: Suppressed Household Formation</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>Owned Units</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Rented Units</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>D: Anticipated Growth</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>
<i>Owned Units</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Rented Units</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>E: Rental Vacancy Rate Adjustment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>F: Additional Local Demand</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Total Units Needed</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>202</b>
<i>Owned Units</i>	<i>50</i>	
<i>Rented Units</i>	<i>15</i>	

Source: Housing Assessment Resource Tool (HART), 2024

According to the Province's HART, the District must plan for 65 new housing units over the next 5-years and 202 new housing units over the next 20-years. Of the 65 housing units required over the next 5-years, 15 should be rental units.

District Council and staff feel the province's projections do not accurately reflect the local context of New Hazelton, especially considering the sustained population decline being experienced in the community. While the District's OCP and Zoning Bylaw have been updated to accommodate the projected 202 dwelling units over the next 20-years as outlined by the Province, the District does have concerns in meeting this projected demand as it relates to:

- **Land Availability** - The majority of lands surrounding the community's existing infrastructure servicing area are currently under Provincial Crown ownership. While there are private and municipal owned lands beyond these Crown lands, it is not efficient from a planning, cost, sustainability or infrastructure servicing perspective to 'leapfrog' readily developable lands to develop lands beyond. The District aims to work with the Province of BC and relevant First Nations regarding the acquisition of Crown lands within the District to help ensure an efficient and phased approach to future developments.
- **Infrastructure servicing** - While a high-level review indicates that the water and sanitary systems appear to have residual capacity in their original design to meet the housing and population demands outlined in the interim HNR, future assessments are needed to more clearly outline this capacity. Specifically, further investigations are needed to assess the



residual capacity of the sanitary conveyance system, as well as determine the residual capacity of surface water license and fire flow capacity, depending on development areas.

The District intends to work with the Province in addressing the concerns it has in accommodating the required housing needs projections.

### 1.4.3 EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

#### *Water*

The District operates a community water system which services New Hazelton and the community of Hagwilget IR1. The distribution system consists of approximately 15km of watermain, with service boundaries along Young Street to the west, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the north, Oliver Street to the east, and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the south. There is a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) station at Pugsley Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue which controls the pressure zone in the northwest area of the District.

Surface water from Station Creek flows by gravity into the water treatment facility; in larger storm events where turbidity is anticipated to exceed acceptable treatment parameters, the surface water flows into an impoundment pond for the sediment to settle before flowing into the treatment plant. The treatment process in the facility consists of slow sand filters and a chlorine contact tank. The treated water then travels to the 1600m<sup>3</sup> steel reservoir for storage prior to flowing by gravity into the distribution system.

A water system assessment of the existing and residual capacity in the distribution system was recently completed. Other features of the water system, such as the overall watershed management, source water quality and quantity, treatment capacity, and storage capacity were not reviewed as part of the assessment. With development anticipated, an overall review of the distribution and treatment capacity of the water system is recommended, along with a review of the current water license.

Parcels outside of the community water system network are serviced through individual on-site water systems with groundwater sources. Should future development be concentrated in these areas, a review to potentially connect these “outlying” areas to the community water system is recommended, depending on findings from the assessment of the existing water system.

#### *Sanitary*

The District operates a wastewater treatment facility consisting of an aerated lagoon with a discharge pipe to an overland treatment area. One of two lift stations in the community is located at Bowser Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which collects flow from the northeast portions of community and pumps the flow into a manhole at Bowser Street, just south of Highway 16. The other lift station at Pugsley Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues collects flow from the northeast portions of the community, including the sanitary dump at the Hazeltons’ Visitor Centre, and pumps flow into a manhole at Pugsley Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues. These two manholes, along with the other service connections in the rest of the community flow by gravity into the aerated lagoon. The service area for the community wastewater system is bounded by the same area as the community water system described above.

A condition assessment of the facility was completed in 2018, with no significant issues noted. There were several recommended next steps, with the District choosing to desludge the lagoon to maintain operation. The lagoon desludging has not been completed to date due to lack of funding. A recent line assessment of the sewer collection system, including the lift station capacities, has recently been reviewed, with work continuing over 2025-2026. With development anticipated, an overall review of the conveyance and treatment capacity of the wastewater system is recommended.

Parcels outside of the community wastewater system network are on individual on-site wastewater systems and septic systems. Should development be concentrated in these areas, a review to potentially connect these “outlying” areas to the community wastewater system is recommended, depending on findings from the assessment of the existing wastewater system.

## ***Storm***

The District has storm pipes, culverts, and ditches throughout the community to manage runoff from impervious areas (roads, structures, etc.) and creek flows from Station and Waterfall Creeks. The creek flows are sourced from the Station Creek watershed, while being primarily sourced from Stegyoden Peak to the south of New Hazelton. A majority of these ditches are within boulevards in the road rights-of-way, with curb and gutter only along the Highway 16 roadway.

No localized flooding issues have been noted, and no community-wide stormwater management plan has been assembled. With densification often increasing impervious surfaces, resulting in increased runoff, the District is encouraged to review on-site stormwater management requirements while considering environmental impacts, should there be discharges to Station and Waterfall Creeks.

## ***Transportation***

### **Roads**

Most District roads are paved, with sidewalks, curbs and gutters along both sides of the road along Highway 16. There is a short section of sidewalk with curb and gutter along Laurier Street to support the pedestrian access to the Lookout/Waterfall Trail, beginning at Laurier Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are a few gravel roads which the District maintains, including Vancouver, College, and Templeman Streets, as well as portions of May Street, Pugsley Street N, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue E.

### **Public Transit**

New Hazelton is serviced by several BC Transit bus routes connecting them to portions of the surrounding area. These include:

**Route 31 – Gitsegukla:** Route services Kispiox to Gitsegukla. Stops between the two terminus stops include Glen Vowell, the Village of Hazelton, the Wrinch Memorial Hospital, Hagwilget, New Hazelton, and South Hazelton.

**Route 32 – West Connector:** Route services Hazelton to Gitwangak. Stops between the two terminus stops include New Hazelton, South Hazelton, and Gitsegukla.

**Route 163 – Hazeltons/Smithers:** Route services between Kispiox and Smithers. Stops between the two terminus stops include Hazelton, the Wrinch Memorial Hospital, Two Mile, Hagwilget, New Hazelton, and Witset First Nation.

**Route 164 – Hazeltons/Terrace:** Route services between Kispiox and Terrace. Stop between the two terminus stations include Hazelton, the Wrinch Memorial Hospital, Two Mile, Hagwilget, New Hazelton, South Hazelton, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak, Gitaus Firehall, Gossen subdivision, Thornhill, and the Mills Memorial Hospital.

### **Railway**

New Hazelton has a train stop on the Canadian National Railway, which provides passenger services through Via Rail Canada. Trains operate several times a week, traveling east to Prince Rupert and west to Jasper, Alberta.

### **Airports**

New Hazelton does not have an airport; the nearest airports are located in Smithers and Terrace.

**Smithers Regional Airport (YYD):** 65km southeast of New Hazelton. This airport charts Air Canada and Central Mountain Air flights directly to and from Vancouver.

**Northwest Regional Airport (YXT):** 140km west of New Hazelton. The airport charts flights from Air Canada, Westjet, and Central Mountain Air directly to and from Vancouver, Prince George and Calgary.

### ***Solid Waste***

The District of New Hazelton completes garbage and recycling pickup every week, with alternating weeks for garbage and recycling. The waste is then transported and disposed of at the RDKS Hazelton Waste Management Facility. There is a bottle return and household recycling depot in New Hazelton at Fielding Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### ***Power & Telecommunications***

BC Hydro supplies electricity across the District and offers the Power Smart program. Currently, there are no natural gas providers operating in New Hazelton. TELUS, Rogers, and Citywest deliver telecommunications services within the community.

## **1.5 Community Partnerships**

Community engagement undertaken as part of the development of this OCP revealed a strong desire among local residents to take a collaborative approach among local governments and First Nations in addressing shared priorities and initiatives. Through the lens of 'we are stronger together', several locals indicated that more could be accomplished through pooling resources as opposed to working in isolation. Areas identified for potential collaboration include housing, recreational facilities, social supports, emergency services, environmental protection, alternative energy sources, and food

security. The District will continue to engage the Village of Hazelton, RDKS and neighbouring First Nations in these endeavours.

### 1.5.1 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The District of New Hazelton is near the boundary of both the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en Nations.

The Gitxsan are comprised of six communities: Gitanmaax, Anspayaxw (Kispiox), Sik-e-Dakh (Glen Vowell), Gitanyow, Gitsegukla, and Gitwangak. New Hazelton is situated in the southern portions of the Gitxsan territory, which encompasses an area of approximately 30,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Wet'suwet'en traditional territory encompasses an area approximately 21,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size and is comprised of six contemporary First Nations communities: Wet'suwet'en (Broman Lake) Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake), Hagwilget, Nee-Tahi-Buhn, Skin Tyee, and Witset (Moricetown). The District shares its border with the Hagwilget Village Council to the north.

In addition to the *Indian Act* elected Bands and Councils, both the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en follow a traditional governance structure based on clans, which are further subdivided into house groups. Each house group is led by a Chief and several Wing Chiefs. Each house has authority over their respective territories. Membership in the hereditary governance model is based on genealogy, which can differ from memberships as identified by the elected *Indian Act* Nations.

The 2021 census reports that 52% (325) of New Hazelton's population identifies as Indigenous, indicating that many members of the surrounding First Nations have come to live in the District. It is also important to note that while the scope of the District's OCP and Zoning Bylaw do not apply to nearby reserve lands, the District does supply water to Hagwilget under a water servicing agreement. Many residents of neighbouring reserve lands also utilize various services provided within the District. For these reasons, it is important to provide opportunities to seek input from neighbouring First Nations.

### 1.5.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The District of New Hazelton has a strong and long-standing relationship with both the Village of Hazelton and the RDKS. Fostered through a shared commitment to mutual support and collaboration, these three communities, though distinct in governance, work closely together on various initiatives that benefit their residents.

New Hazelton, the Village of Hazelton and the RDKS recognize the importance of pooling resources and efforts to address common challenges and opportunities. Their cooperative approach extends to areas such as infrastructure development, emergency services and preparedness, environmental conservation, tourism, economic development, library services, transit, workforce retention, and cultural preservation. This partnership is grounded in the belief that by supporting each other's governance, they can achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in serving their populations.

The three governments collaborate through joint planning sessions, community forums, and intergovernmental meetings to ensure that their policies and projects are aligned. This level of coordination helps to avoid duplication of services and promotes a unified vision for the region's future. Together, they strive to create thriving, resilient communities that honour their rich heritage while embracing sustainable growth.

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## 2.0 VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Community Vision

*The people of New Hazelton are proud of their community and its natural setting. New Hazelton's friendly people, diversity of culture, history, character, working class roots and small town atmosphere make it very attractive for people to visit and call home. New Hazelton is a great place for families, children, seniors and others who appreciate a quiet, less complicated lifestyle with the amenities of a complete, yet sustainable community.*

*New Hazelton is a small rural town surrounded by natural forests and water. The community is a safe, inviting place to live, linked to surrounding communities by highways and rail.*

*The community creates shared sustainable economic development through a resilient economy. The existence of a variety of housing types in conjunction with affordable housing has attracted a wide variety of people. New Hazelton has a friendly development environment, which respects the character and sense of place of the community.*

*New Hazelton has strong relationships, and works in collaboration with local First Nations, the Village of Hazelton and the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine on shared priorities and goals.*



## 2.2 Guiding Principles

The OCP process identified important community values and guiding principles. Throughout the engagement process residents, landowners and stakeholders consistently expressed these foundational values. These values provide insight into those aspects of the community that should be maintained and enhanced as growth and development occurs. The District of New Hazelton guiding principles include:

### ***New Hazelton's "Thriveability"***

Ensure a thriving community through supporting the provision of a range of health care, social, educational, recreational, and cultural services and amenities that meet the current and future needs of the community.

### ***Collaboration with Surrounding Communities***

Collaboration with surrounding communities, including local First Nations, the Village of Hazelton, and the RDKS, is essential for fostering a cohesive and thriving region. By leveraging diverse perspectives and resources, New Hazelton can address shared challenges and opportunities more effectively. These partnerships can enhance infrastructure, social services, and joint marketing efforts, leading to sustainable growth and a stronger collective voice in advocating for provincial and federal support.

### ***Sustainability***

New Hazelton aims to meet current needs while ensuring future generations can do the same. Sustainability in New Hazelton relies on community involvement and balancing economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being now and in the future.

### ***Environment Stewardship***

The surrounding natural resources and beauty are a main reason people choose to live in New Hazelton. The District will take steps to ensure the protection and enhancement of these natural resources through active environmental stewardship.



### ***Economic Diversification***

The District will support the development of a healthy, diversified, sustainable economy that attracts businesses and acts as a regional economic hub.

### ***Improved Aesthetic***

The District will encourage the revitalization and redevelopment of the downtown core and support continuous improvement of the community's overall visual appearance.

### ***Arts and Culture***

New Hazelton will strive to preserve and enhance the community's cultural identity. The District acknowledges and actively supports local societies and volunteer organizations that aim to keep residents engaged in community arts and culture. The District also recognizes the breadth of talented, local artists. The OCP supports New Hazelton's cultural heritage and encourages opportunities to strengthen the presence of arts in the community.

### ***Reconciliation***

New Hazelton will continue to advance on-going reconciliation efforts with neighbouring First Nations communities.

### ***Recreation and Leisure***

Through engagement, residents highlighted the important role sports and recreation play in bringing local communities together. The District recognizes the importance of such facilities and will continue to support recreational opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of residents across all life stages and abilities.

### ***Preserving New Hazelton's Character***

New Hazelton is defined by its stunning, natural surroundings and is shaped by its small-town charm and rich cultural heritage. New Hazelton will continue to preserve and enhance its character by encouraging development and design that reflects and strengthens the community's small town character and by supporting new development in alignment with the vision and direction of the OCP.

### ***Sense of Community***

The District is committed to supporting initiatives that bring people together, enhance quality of life, and strengthen social, cultural, and economic connections throughout the community. By fostering community participation and shared experiences, the District aims to build a resilient, welcoming, and connected community. This is accomplished through community events, encouraging volunteerism, and creating inclusive spaces where residents can gather, celebrate, and engage with one another.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

New Hazelton will support local farmers, residents and community organizations in expanding access to locally grown, nutritious foods and strengthening long-term food security programs where possible.



## *Advocacy*

New Hazelton will leverage this OCP to advocate to senior levels of government for improved services, programs and amenities.



## 3.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development section of the OCP details objectives and policies for various community development issues, including economic development, food security, energy, environmental protection, and housing. These topics were identified by New Hazelton residents during the community engagement process. Although these objectives and policies may go beyond traditional land-use policies outlined in an OCP, they are also essential to New Hazelton's future growth, health, and evolution.

It is also noted that some of the policy statements and overall direction outlined in this section extend beyond the purview of the District. Due to staffing and funding constraints, the District is also limited in the scope of services it can provide. In this regard, the District will advocate and support others in undertaking several of the initiatives outlined in this section, but will not take a leading role.

### 3.1 Economy and Economic Development

A healthy local economy is essential for a sustainable and livable community. A strong and diverse economy provides resources that allow residents and a community to prosper, as well as brings employment and a solid tax base to support services, leading to healthier lifestyles and greater opportunities for personal fulfilment. With a strong economy a community can achieve a higher standard of development, provide more services and enjoy an overall higher quality of life.

Economic development has been identified by New Hazelton Council as a priority in the District's 2022-2026 Council-driven Strategic Plan. This Council plan outlines an overall economic development goal to promote a diverse local economy with a stable workforce, within strategic objectives including addressing workforce shortages; small business support; diversifying the tax base; and addressing the housing shortage.

Starting in 2022, the RDKS prepared a 2024-2026 Economic Development Strategic Plan for the District of New Hazelton and Village of Hazelton. The Plan includes an economic overview, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, and strategic areas of focus. The Strategic Plan also includes the following Vision statement:

*"Transform Hazelton and New Hazelton into dynamic, prosperous communities where the local economy thrives on innovation and diversity, residents enjoy high standards of living, and visitors are drawn to our unique cultural and natural treasures, setting a benchmark for rural economic development."*

Four strategic areas for economic development were identified in the Plan, which include:

- Supporting local businesses and community organizations to thrive;
- Promoting local tourism;
- Supporting and advocating to build a skilled and diverse workforce; and

- Diversifying the economy and tax base.

Through a business survey undertaken as part of the OCP process, the business community highlighted challenges in hiring and retaining skilled, reliable workers, as well as a lack of available commercial spaces.

The District will work to fulfill the goals and objectives outlined in Council's 2022-2026 Strategic Priorities document; implement the action items outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan; and strive to address the concerns raised by the business community.

### 3.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Create a more diversified local economy built on private business, social enterprise, and New Hazelton's strength as a place of collaboration and creativity;
- .2 Create a vibrant local economy that provides sustainable, meaningful year-round employment;
- .3 Encourage economic activities that leverage and complement the region's environmental characteristics, natural qualities, and geographic setting;
- .4 Encourage the development of the urban landscape in a way that is aesthetically pleasing and responsive to the local character of New Hazelton to encourage both tourism and new residents; and
- .5 Promote the development of a vibrant commercial core that leverages the District's position along the Highway and railway corridors.

### 3.1.2 POLICIES

- .1 Encourage initiatives that increase available commercial rental space to support business growth and entrepreneurship;
- .2 Take steps to implement the action items outlined in the 2024-2026 Economic Development Strategic Plan;
- .3 Consider, and take steps to address, the economic development goals and objectives as outlined in the 2022-2026 Strategic Priorities document;
- .4 Explore partnerships with local private and public sectors, and other organizations to support community improvements, local business growth, external investment and joint marketing initiatives;
- .5 Encourage and support entrepreneurship and business development that creates employment opportunities across a range of income levels;
- .6 Support local trade and skill development to build capacity and meet employer needs;
- .7 Support small scale, mixed use commercial development, where appropriate;
- .8 Continue to support businesses by utilizing Northern Development's Business Façade Improvement Program to improve economic viability and community vibrancy;
- .9 Explore options for increasing the walkability of the District's commercial area;

- .10 Support an integrated transportation network for the mobility of people, goods and services;
- .11 Facilitate efforts to enhance and maintain telecommunication services across the community;
- .12 Support the development of renewable energy resources and resource management technologies and related supportive industries;
- .13 Continue to support strategies and actions that will assist in developing year-round tourism opportunities;
- .14 Market the community on its environmental features, natural beauty, and recreational amenities to attract visitors, residents, and investment;
- .15 Promote the advancement of the industrial sector, with an emphasis on clean, green, technological, and sustainable industries, as well as renewable energy opportunities;
- .16 Encourage infrastructure improvements that support long-term economic development in a fiscally responsible manner;
- .17 Continue to provide the timely and efficient approval of permits; and
- .18 Support opportunities that link food security with local economic development initiatives.

## 3.2 Climate Resilience and Emissions Reduction

Through Bill 27, local governments in BC are required to make efforts towards reducing the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of their communities. Data from the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy shows that from 2007 to 2022, emissions in the District increased by 0.3% from 3,470 Total Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e to 3,81 Total Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. The main GHG source in New Hazelton was on-road transportation. The data also revealed that residential homes primarily emit GHGs through wood-burning stoves.

New Hazelton conducted a community energy and emissions plan (CEEP) in 2015, which evaluated existing energy use and GHG emissions with the aim of improving efficiency, cutting emissions, enhancing community resilience, managing future risks, and driving economic development. The District of New Hazelton aims to build off of these efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a renewable energy supply.

CleanBC commits to reducing emissions by 80% from 2007 levels by 2050. While the District will strive to align with this Clean BC target, New Hazelton may revisit this target as part of a review and update of the community's CEEP.

### 3.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Promote efforts to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in alignment with provincial targets while supporting local energy efficiency and sustainability goals;
- .2 Strengthen the community's ability to plan for, respond to and recover from, climate impacts; and
- .3 Implement climate change actions that ensure a sustainable and resilient future by protecting the health of New Hazelton's social, economic, and natural environments.

### 3.2.2 POLICIES

- .1 Leverage Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funding to undertake initiatives aimed at strengthening the District's resilience;
- .2 Continue to meet the requirements of the Local Government Climate Action Program;
- .3 Consider implementing strategies to meet the District's emissions reduction target, such as:
  - i. Updating the community's energy and emissions profile to identify sources of emissions and establish an updated emissions target;
  - ii. Reviewing and updating the District's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) to identify opportunities to integrate goals and strategies into land use, transportation, and infrastructure planning to reduce community-wide energy consumption and GHG emissions;



- iii. Continuing to maintain the car charging station located next to the New Hazelton administrative office;
  - iv. Encouraging partnerships with utilities, non-profits, and developers to explore local energy solutions;
  - v. Exploring the possibility of creating and diversifying community energy/renewable energy systems, such as bioenergy and biomass, geothermal, solar, wind and micro-hydro, and collaborating with surrounding government organizations in this endeavor;
  - vi. Inviting local experts or relevant businesses/organizations to set up booths at events to share the services or products they offer that will support GHG emission reductions and energy efficiency;
  - vii. Taking steps to educate the public and development community on green technologies and energy savings; and
  - viii. Inviting BC Hydro to share information about incentives or other programs that are available to encourage efficiency;
  - ix. Considering undertaking an Active Transportation Plan as a means of promoting improved community health and reducing vehicle emissions; and
  - x. Considering establishing an efficient woodstove program.
- .4 Consider implementing strategies to strengthen the community's ability to plan for, respond to and recover from, climate impacts, such as:
- i. Considering undertaking a Climate Adaptation Strategy to align District initiatives with climate resilience needs; and
  - ii. Encouraging the restoration and stewardship projects that protect local ecosystems, biodiversity, and water quality.
- .5 Continue collaborative efforts with neighboring local and regional governments to pursue climate resiliency grants, such as the Climate Action Plan grant.

## 3.3 Agriculture and Food Security

New Hazelton aims to cultivate a thriving and sustainable food culture grounded in robust local food production, traditional knowledge, and environmental stewardship. The District benefits from a strong agricultural and food security network supported by local initiatives. Residents and community organizations are committed to expanding access to locally grown, nutritious foods and strengthen long-term food security programs.

Approximately 50% of the OCP plan area is designated as within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), under the Provincial *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Agricultural Land Reserve Regulation*. The District recognizes the Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) as the primary agency responsible for the protection and regulation of ALR lands and supports its mandate to preserve agricultural land for current and future generations. While the community supports the ALR and mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission, District staff and Council have indicated that the current ALR boundary may not reflect the actual agricultural capability of the land base. New Hazelton may seek to collaborate with the ALC to re-examine the ALR boundaries to meet long-term growth and housing demands.

### 3.3.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Protect the availability and long-term viability of agricultural land to support the community's ability to produce local, sustainable foods, foster self-sufficiency, promote food security, and improve economic diversity;
- .2 Continue to support existing food security initiatives;
- .3 Encourage small-scale food production on residential properties of all sizes; and
- .4 Support residents of New Hazelton in having the opportunity, knowledge and resources to grow, access, and enjoy affordable, nutritious, and locally produced food.

### 3.3.2 POLICIES

- .1 Support the ALC's mandate to preserve farmland and encourage the preservation of lands with agricultural value and farming potential;
- .2 Collaborate with the ALC to encourage to undertake a review of the current ALR in consideration of actual agricultural considerations;
- .3 Ensure use of land within the ALR is in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Agricultural Land Reserve Regulation;
- .4 Support the establishment of backyard gardens and small-scale food production within all residential areas;
- .5 Encourage sufficient buffers where a property is adjacent to ALR lands consistent with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's 'Guide to Edge Planning';

- .6 Support and promote educational workshops that raise awareness about food production, preservation techniques, and sustainable agriculture practices;
- .7 Encourage and support local farming initiatives, and explore economic incentives and diversified uses of ALR lands, while maintaining and protecting the intent of ALR lands;
- .8 Continue to support the Hazelton Farmers' Market as a hub for local food access and economic activity;
- .9 Explore opportunities to enhance the Hazelton Farmers' Market, including expanded space, electrical access, and the potential for an indoor venue to support year-round operation;
- .10 Explore opportunities for more community gardens to increase access to fresh produce and strengthen community connections; and
- .11 Explore a local composting system to reduce food waste in collaboration with local farmers, organizations, and the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine.



## 3.4 Health and Quality of Life

Ensuring resources and services are in place to support the physical, mental and social well-being of residents of all ages is of critical importance in ensuring a high quality of life in New Hazelton.

Through engagement as part of this project, both residents and community service providers highlighted the need for enhanced community health resources to support youth and community members. Insufficient mental health services and the lack of an emergency shelter were specifically identified as gaps in existing services.

Health providers and community members also mentioned the importance of emergency preparedness in the community, especially given the increased wildfire occurrence and drought conditions. In 2020, the District of New Hazelton partnered with the Village of Hazelton to hire a Fire Smart Educator. While wildfire hazard data is available through the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis, this data is general in nature and the District would benefit from undertaking a specific Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

### 3.4.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Maintain and enhance the quality of life in New Hazelton;
- .2 Maintain and enhance community safety;
- .3 Support reliable and equitable access to emergency services for all residents; and
- .4 Ensure the community is prepared for natural disaster events.

### 3.4.2 POLICIES

- .1 Maintain and Enhance the quality of life in New Hazelton by:
  - i. Supporting the provision of accessible primary healthcare services for the elderly, promoting a positive and "barrier-free" environment to encourage healthy, active aging;
  - ii. Supporting strong community support systems for children and youth and encourage early childhood education services within the community;
  - iii. Advocating senior levels of government for improved mental health and substance abuse services and supports;
  - iv. Collaborating with other levels of government, non-governmental agencies and health care providers to ensure the best use of resources in support of a wide range of services;
  - v. Encouraging that recreational, leisure, cultural programs, activities, and facilities are affordable, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of the community;
  - vi. Supporting the establishment of additional emergency shelters in the region;
  - vii. Promoting educational programs that support healthy lifestyle choices;

- viii. Continuing to support, and participate in, the Hazeltons Community Accessibility Committee;
  - ix. Continuing to take steps to ensure adherence to the Accessible British Columbia Act, including finalizing and implementing the community's Accessibility Plan;
  - x. Supporting services and programs that provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and
  - xi. Supporting the establishment of collaborative networks of community service providers to share information and improve access to services such as childcare, healthcare, education, public safety, social services, culture, and heritage.
- .2 Maintain and enhance community safety by:
- i. Continuing to support the New Hazelton Volunteer Fire Department; and
  - ii. Communicating regularly with the local RCMP detachment on public safety matters within the District.
- .3 Ensure the community is prepared for natural disaster events by:
- i. Encouraging resident involvement in community-based safety and prevention programs related to fire, crime, traffic, emergency preparedness, and community design;
  - ii. Continue working in collaboration with local First Nations and surrounding local governments to encourage a coordinated approach in the delivery of emergency services;
  - iii. Considering undertaking an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, which includes the involvement of the Wrinch Memorial Hospital;
  - iv. Continuing to seek funding for, and support, FireSmart initiatives; and
  - v. Considering undertaking a Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

## 3.5 Housing

Housing is an integral part of a socially sustainable community and plays a large role in well-being of community members. Throughout the OCP engagement process, housing was consistently identified as a primary concern by community members, business owners, and service providers. Similarly, the 2024 interim Housing Needs Report for New Hazelton highlighted comparable perspectives shared by residents, including:

- Housing affordability;
- Rental availability (market and non-market);
- Supportive housing for seniors or those with special needs;
- Family-sized housing options;
- Diversity in housing typology; and
- Emergency and shelter housing.

As noted in Section 1.4.2, recent Province of BC legislation requires that the District plan for 65 new housing units over the next 5-years and 202 new housing units over the next 20-years. Given the population decline experienced in the community over the last 30 years, the District disputes these housing projections. The District also feels that the standardized approach implemented by the province does not adequately address the unique local context faced by rural northern communities. While the District is in compliance with the legislation and has amended its OCP and Zoning Bylaws to accommodate the housing needs outlined in the 2024 Interim Housing Needs Report, the District is in disagreement with the legislative requirements and encourages the province to exempt small, rural communities such as the District of New Hazelton from future requirements related to Housing Needs Reporting.

The following objectives and policies seek to address housing challenges and respond to community needs by ensuring a sufficient supply of appropriately zoned land, improving regulations, and supporting necessary services through effective land use planning.

### 3.5.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Encourage a diversity of housing types and densities that meet the current and projected housing needs of the community;
- .2 Encourage the development of an affordable housing stock;
- .3 Promote and preserve the development of rental accommodations in appropriate areas;
- .4 Promote housing options for individuals with special needs, including senior's housing and independent living facilities; and
- .5 Continue to promote the development of emergency and shelter housing in the region.

### 3.5.2 POLICIES

- .1 Advocate senior levels of government for greater supports to address housing needs related to seniors housing, affordable housing and for individuals experiencing homelessness;
- .2 Undertake regular updates to the District's Housing Needs Reports in adherence to provincial legislation, while continuing to advocate to the Province of BC that small, rural communities, such as the District of New Hazelton, be exempt from such future requirements;
- .3 Encourage a mix of housing types by supporting increased densities through multi-family developments in appropriate locations;
- .4 Support age-friendly housing and services to attract retirees and allow residents to 'age in place';
- .5 Support mixed-use buildings with commercial use on the ground floor and residential use above the commercial use in the District's commercial zones;
- .6 Support the inclusion of a diverse range of dwelling unit sizes in multi-family and affordable housing developments, including family-oriented units, bachelor suites, and accessible units for people with disabilities;
- .7 Collaborate with the Province of BC and relevant First Nations to acquire Crown lands within the District to meet the projected housing needs of the community;
- .8 Explore options to incentivize the redevelopment of properties containing derelict or abandoned structures;
- .9 Encourage infill developments on properties serviced by the community water and sewer systems;
- .10 Continue to support accessory dwelling units, including garden suites and secondary suites, in compliance with provincial legislation;
- .11 Consider the development of an Accessory Dwelling Unit Guide; and
- .12 Support community groups and housing providers in the development of affordable housing and housing for those experiencing homelessness in New Hazelton.

## 3.6 Arts and Culture

Arts and culture are central to New Hazelton's identity, contributing to livability, diversity, education, entertainment, economic growth, and quality of life. Supporting heritage, arts, recreation, and community events fosters cohesion and involvement. The community aims to sustain its unique culture by respecting its history, embracing diversity, and promoting a vibrant arts scene.

### 3.6.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Encourage and support the arts and culture community, including the performing, visual, literary, historic and multimedia arts;
- .2 Encourage the continual development of a physical inventory of arts projects displayed in public spaces, both indoor and outdoor;
- .3 Continue to address the social and cultural needs of the community; and
- .4 Highlight and honour the rich and diverse histories, cultures and members of both the local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

### 3.6.2 POLICIES

- .1 Encourage community programming for a variety of artistic disciplines;
- .2 Collaborate with other municipalities, school districts and other agencies to plan and coordinate arts initiatives;
- .3 Encourage the use of theatres, spaces and venues for public participation, education and enjoyment of culture through the planning and design of buildings, open spaces and public areas, including the street environment;
- .4 Support local artists;
- .5 Continue to encourage the incorporation of local Indigenous art in District facilities and public spaces;
- .6 Recognize and promote cultural excellence and diversity within the community, including the professional and amateur, the traditional and innovative, the aspiring and the established;
- .7 Encourage opportunities and resources for education, participation and enjoyment of arts, culture and heritage for all residents; and
- .8 Continue to promote the use of parks, civic buildings and public spaces for public art, performances, festivals and exhibitions.

## 3.7 Infrastructure and Utilities

This section establishes objectives and policies for water, sanitary, storm, solid waste, power and gas, and transportation infrastructure and utilities. A more comprehensive summary of existing infrastructure can be found in *Section 1.4.3*. The District's infrastructure and transportation networks are illustrated on Schedules C and D respectively.

The District has been proactive in the management of its infrastructure, undertaking regular updates to the community's Asset Management Planning program, which was originally developed in 2016. Asset Management has also been identified by New Hazelton Council as one of four strategic priorities in the District's 2022-2026 Strategic Priorities document.

In 2025, New Hazelton also completed a high-level Water System Assessment. This assessment did identify areas where minimum fire flow requirements were not being met, as well as potential vulnerabilities in instances where water supply is reliant on a single water main. Potential improvements to address the noted issues are also provided in the assessment.

The District's community water system services New Hazelton and the Hagwilget IR1 reserve lands. For this reason, it is important the District continues to work with Hagwilget to stay appraised of any future on-reserve growth and development.

Additional infrastructure improvements identified by the District include:

- A watermain looping project on Churchill Street and Young Street; and
- Desludging of the wastewater treatment lagoons.

It should also be noted that, as per recent legislative requirements, the Province of BC is requiring the District to plan for the addition of 202 dwelling units over a 20-year timeframe. In order to accommodate such growth, the District would likely need to pursue the development of lands outside the current community water and sanitary sewer service areas. A long-term infrastructure management plan is needed to help guide the District in planning for the future needs of the community.

### 3.7.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Ensure a reliable water supply, sanitary, solid waste, and storm water infrastructure that meets the present and future needs of the community;
- .2 Provide access to high quality infrastructure services to all community residents in a fiscally responsible manner;
- .3 Continue to ensure sustainable water management by developing and implementing strategies to manage and conserve water resources;
- .4 Support the reduction of waste entering the landfill;
- .5 Support the Ministry of Transportation and BC Transit's development of a safe and efficient road network; and

- .6 Continue to collaborate with RDKS, the Village of Hazelton, and neighbouring First Nations to ensure the provision of timely and sufficient transportation infrastructure and services, fostering connectivity and encouraging pedestrian movement as well as alternative modes of transportation.

### 3.7.2 POLICIES

- .1 Take steps to assess future water and sanitary sewer infrastructure needs, including expanding distribution networks to underdeveloped areas such as the bench west of downtown, industrial lands north of the railway, and District Lot 319;
- .2 Continue to undertake regular updates to the District's Asset Management Planning Program;
- .3 Take steps to ensure the location and construction of infrastructure and utilities are sensitive to environmental concerns;
- .4 Leverage existing and future funding agreements and programs in the management of the District's infrastructure services;
- .5 Consider reviewing and updating the District's infrastructure utility rates;
- .6 Consider the development of a district-wide stormwater management plan for future developments to help protect existing creeks and natural assets;
- .7 Consider undertaking a strategic management program aimed at reducing sewer and storm water infiltration;
- .8 Maintain and enhance the community's water infrastructure services by:
  - i. Taking steps to advance the Churchill Street and Young Street watermain looping project;
  - ii. Considering the findings and recommendations as outlined in the 2025 Water System Assessment;
  - iii. Considering looping all water lines where appropriate within the District;
  - iv. Engaging with Hagwilget to stay apprised of future on-reserve growth and development as it relates to community water system servicing;
  - v. Ensuring public notification and reporting of water quality problems; and
  - vi. Reviewing the enhancement of water treatment and storage capacity and fire flow capacity to accommodate projected population growth and ensure community safety and resilience.
- .9 Support water conservation in the District by:
  - i. Supporting public educational programs that encourage responsible water use and conservation technologies; and
  - ii. Encouraging the use of low flow water fixtures.
- .10 Maintain and enhance the community's sanitary sewer infrastructure servicing by:
  - i. Considering the modifications to the sewage treatment process as outlined in the 2020 effluent quality assessment. This includes identifying potential funding sources to facilitate lagoon remediation, with the aim of prolonging its operational lifespan and improving the overall effectiveness of the sewage treatment system;



- ii. Pursuing funding to undertake a desludging of the wastewater treatment lagoons; and
  - iii. Conducting a thorough review of the Bowser Street and Pugsley Avenue lift stations, along with the residual pipe capacities, to ensure they can handle increased flows from future development.
- .11 Promote the efficient management of the District's solid waste by:
- i. Continuing to partner with the RDKS to ensure effective solid waste management services for New Hazelton;
  - ii. Working with the RDKS to encourage more inclusive recycling options and green technologies; and
  - iii. Supporting the reduction of landfill waste through recycling and composting through community-led initiatives.
- .12 Maintain and enhance transportation networks in the District by:
- i. Considering undertaking an Active Transportation Plan;
  - ii. Promoting safe pedestrian and bicycle travel as alternatives to automobile travel; and
  - iii. Considering the exploration of traffic calming methods along Highway 16 to increase safety.



## 3.8 Environment

New Hazelton's natural environment is a central asset that underpins its economy, tourism, and industry. Residents most often cite the area's natural beauty—like the Bulkley River and Stegyoden Mountain—as what they value most about living here.

Protecting the natural environment within and surrounding the District is vital for maintaining water quality, ecosystem health, and community livability. The OCP recognizes that people are part of the ecosystem, and that both the economic and social wellbeing of the community are deeply interdependent with the natural environment. The District accepts its responsibility as a steward of the natural environment and will take steps to integrate sustainability into all planning and decision-making activities.

### 3.8.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Identify, protect, enhance and restore environmental resources for the long-term benefit of wildlife, natural ecosystems and the enjoyment of current and future residents and visitors;
- .2 Promote land use and development practices that respect the natural environment while allowing for responsible growth; and
- .3 Protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas including natural watercourses, riparian areas and steep or unstable slopes.

### 3.8.2 POLICIES

- .1 Collaborate with surrounding government organizations and communities to support and advance alternative and renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy projects;
- .2 Support leadership and education in promoting water conservation and sustainability;
- .3 Support sustainable development by:
  - i. Encouraging future developments in existing developed areas;
  - ii. Supporting the development of compact, walkable neighbourhoods; and
  - iii. Taking steps to ensure new development and redevelopment of property adheres to the 'Environmental Best Management Practices for Urban and Rural Land Development' (Ministry of Environment) and 'Develop with Care: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia' guidelines where applicable.
- .4 Encourage the protection of wildfire and wildlife habitats by:
  - i. Encouraging the enhancement of wildlife and wilderness connectivity opportunities through natural corridors and surrounding watersheds;
  - ii. Striving towards achieving Bear Smart Designation through the District of New Hazelton support of a Bear Aware program, and increasing efforts to implement Bear Aware recommendations to reduce bear-human conflict;
  - iii. Encouraging efforts by communities, businesses and individuals to reduce bear-human conflicts;
  - iv. Working with senior levels of government to ensure the protection of important salmon habitats within the District; and
  - v. Taking steps to ensure the protection and enhancement of riparian areas.

## 3.9 Leisure, Recreation & Educational Facilities

### *Leisure and Recreation*

Sports and recreation initiatives have been shown as a way of bringing the local and regional communities together, with examples including:

- Upper Skeena Recreation Centre – cited as an example of what can be accomplished when local communities work together towards a common goal;
- Upper Skeena Recreation Centre slo-pitch league – the District of New Hazelton makes its ball field available to the local slo-pitch league, which includes 8 teams from throughout the Hazeltons; and
- Allen Park – local seniors gather weekly in the park to utilize the outdoor fitness equipment.

It is important to ensure recreational opportunities are available for residents of all ages and abilities. An overview of the existing recreational facilities and resources is provided below.

### *Outdoor Recreation*

The general region of the Hazeltons (The District of New Hazelton, the Village of Hazelton, Electoral Area B, Kispiox, Hagwilget, Gitanmaax, and Sik-E-Dakh) is known for its winter and summer outdoor recreation opportunities including fishing, biking, hiking, boating, skiing, snowmobiling, and more.

### *Allen Park*

Allen Park is located along Highway 16 and includes a playground, gazebo covered cooking area and picnicking area, paved walking path and outdoor exercise equipment for public use.

### *Ball Field*

The District maintains a ball field on May Street. Some residents did indicate a desire for improvements to the field including covered bleachers, improved parking areas, and levelling of the outfield.

### *Skate Park*

A skate park is located among commercial businesses along Highway 16.

### *Tennis and Pickleball*

Tennis and pickleball courts are located at the corner of McLeod Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### *Trail Network*

The District offers several hiking trails within its boundary including the Breakover Trail, the Lookout/Waterfall Trail, the Station Creek/Hagwilget Peak Trail, and the Eagle Down Trail which connects to many Hazelton Trail Society trails.

## ***Upper Skeena Recreation Centre***

While located outside of the District's boundary, the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre serves the residents of New Hazelton. The Centre is operated under the Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation on behalf of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine. The Centre has an ice-skating arena with spectating area, gymnasium with basketball, volleyball, and other courts, weight and cardio room, a dance program, and board room.

During engagement, several ideas were brought forward by residents for potential new recreational amenities or improvements to existing facilities, including a swimming pool, expanded skate park, a bike pump track, new hiking trails and the addition of a water park and/or concrete ping-pong tables at Allen Park. It should be noted however that the undertaking of any future recreational improvements would have to be considered through the lens of the staffing and funding constraints of the District.

## ***Educational Facilities***

New Hazelton is located in School District #82 which services elementary and high schools from Terrace to New Hazelton. Typically, youth in New Hazelton would be enrolled at New Hazelton Elementary School or Hazelton Secondary School. Cross boundary (of typical school catchment) students who live in New Hazelton may also attend Majagaleehl Gali Aks (John Field) Elementary School in the Village of Hazelton.

New Hazelton Elementary is the only school within the New Hazelton municipal boundary. The school services Kindergarten through Grade 7, and 2024/2025 enrollment includes 90 total students. Enrollment for the school has generally been trending downward since 2010/2011, when 207 students were enrolled. New Hazelton Elementary is the only standard elementary school in the region, and it does host youth from the surrounding areas. No additional future school sites have been identified for New Hazelton.

Hazelton Secondary School is outside of the District of New Hazelton's boundary in the Village of Hazelton, but services the Grade 8 to 12 population of the District and greater area. Being the only high school in the area, it also services the Village of Hazelton and surrounding communities including Gitanyow, Hagwilget, Gitanmaax, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak, Sik-E-Dakh, Anspayaxw, and Tse-Kya. The school has an enrollment of about 375 students.

Coast Mountain College is the only post-secondary institution in the area, serving twelve communities in the region including the District of New Hazelton. The campus offers university courses, social and health sciences, trades, continuing education, workforce training certifications, and an Elders' College to support local seniors with mobility, health, and fraud awareness.



### 3.9.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Ensure a variety of recreational opportunities are available for residents of all ages, backgrounds and abilities;
- .2 Protect strategic parks, open space and other natural areas;
- .3 Foster a healthy, active and involved community environment, which sustains community well-being through leisure and recreation services and facilities;
- .4 Maintain and enhance the community's parks and trails system to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors; and
- .5 Work in collaboration with School District #82 to ensure the current and future educational needs of the community are met.

### 3.9.2 POLICIES

- .1 Maintain and enhance recreational facilities, programming and amenities by:
  - i. Working in collaboration with local First Nations and surrounding local governments in the delivery of regional recreational facilities, programming and amenities;
  - ii. Supporting the provision of regional recreational activities for all ages, backgrounds and abilities;
  - iii. Taking steps to improve and expand District-owned park facilities, including playground equipment to CSA standards and continue to maintain the cleanliness of parks;
  - iv. Encouraging and exploring safe youth activities and facilities both locally and regionally such as soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, skateboarding, etc.;
  - v. Continuing participation in, and support of, the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Advisory Committee;
  - vi. Continuing to support the Upper Skeena Recreation Centre slo-pitch league by providing access to the New Hazelton ball field; and
  - vii. Promoting and supporting accessibility and accessible amenities in recreational facilities and amenities.
- .2 Maintain and enhance local parks and trails by:
  - i. Exploring opportunities to partner with community stakeholders and other government agencies to facilitate parks and trails improvements in New Hazelton;
  - ii. Considering the undertaking of a Parks and Recreation Plan;
  - iii. Considering the undertaking of a Trail Network Plan and/or Active Transportation Plan;
  - iv. Ensuring new developments consider the need for parks and greenspace;
  - v. Exploring opportunities to undertake upgrades to the ball field, including covered bleachers, improved parking areas and a levelling of the outfield;

- vi. Promoting and encouraging neighbourhood open spaces that are conducive to impromptu sports activities and play, specifically encouraging larger neighbourhood parks rather than pockets of smaller parks; and
  - vii. Supporting the establishment of future community facilities on lands adjacent to the downtown.
- .3 Work in collaboration with School District #82 on matters related to future student enrollment and land needs, as well as the provision of recreational facilities and programming.





## 3.10 Sense of Community

Through engagement activities, residents highlighted the strong, tight-knit nature of New Hazelton. Many residents spoke of the supportive and friendly people, as well as the opportunity to form meaningful connections through local events and services, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. There is a desire among residents to continue to foster this strong sense of community. Key considerations in the endeavor include:

### *Collaboration*

Collaborating with surrounding communities was a recurring theme in the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the development of this OCP. All surrounding communities face similar capacity and funding constraints. Housing, recreational facilities, social support, emergency services, environmental protection, and food security are among the areas where residents see the potential for significant improvements through pooled resources.

New Hazelton remains committed to pursuing opportunities for collaboration with neighbouring communities and governments to achieve common objectives. The District actively engages in ongoing partnerships with neighbouring communities, which have facilitated local initiatives and enhanced regional connectivity. Moving forward, the District will look for opportunities to inform residents about these cooperative efforts through public awareness campaigns and project reports that highlight the outcomes of collaborative work.

### *Reconciliation*

The District of New Hazelton recognizes the significance of reconciliation as a fundamental aspect of community development. Reconciliation involves acknowledging the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples and working collaboratively to build respectful, inclusive relationships. By prioritizing reconciliation, New Hazelton aims to foster a community characterized by mutual respect and shared prosperity. This includes engaging with Indigenous communities, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring that development initiatives benefit all residents, thereby promoting social cohesion and sustainable growth, advancing truth and reconciliation efforts.

### *Community Groups and Non-Profit Organizations*

Local community and non-profit groups provide and maintain a variety of services and facilities which help to meet the social, recreational and cultural needs of the community. The District wishes to recognize the important role these groups play in the community and support them in their endeavors.

### *Volunteerism*

Volunteerism plays a vital role in the social fabric of New Hazelton. This strong spirit of volunteerism not only strengthens community resilience and civic pride but also fills critical service gaps in a small, rural setting. Recognizing and supporting volunteer efforts is essential to maintaining the vibrancy, connectedness, and well-being of the community. As many volunteers are aging, encouraging young

volunteers is vital to ensuring New Hazelton's tradition of community involvement continues for future generations.

### ***Community Events***

Community events in New Hazelton are an important expression of local identity, culture, and connection. Community events bring residents and neighbouring communities together, strengthening social bonds and fostering a strong sense of belonging. These events often rely on the dedication of volunteers and local organizations, and play a key role in community well-being, economic activity, and intergenerational connection. Supporting and expanding these events contributes to a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming community.

### ***Community Communications***

Effective communication is essential to building trust, transparency, and engagement between the District of New Hazelton and its residents. Timely, accessible, and inclusive communication ensures that community members are informed about local initiatives, services, events, and decision-making processes. By using a range of communication methods including website, social media, newsletters, and community meetings, the District can better reach its diversity of residents. Strengthening communication also encourages greater civic participation, supports emergency preparedness, and fosters a more connected and resilient community.

#### **3.10.1 OBJECTIVES**

- .1 Collaborate with neighbouring First Nations, the Village of Hazelton and RDKS on shared priorities and regional initiatives;
- .2 Encourage continued partnerships with local First Nations communities to support and advance meaningful reconciliation efforts;
- .3 Support a strong, resilient network of local non-profits and volunteer organizations that contribute to community well-being;
- .4 Foster a culture of volunteerism by recognizing, promoting, and facilitating opportunities for community members to contribute;
- .5 Support community events that reflect local heritage, celebrate cultural diversity, and strengthen the community's well-being; and
- .6 Promote open, transparent, and accessible communication between the District and its residents.

### 3.10.2 POLICIES

- .1 Work in collaboration with neighbouring communities and the RDKS to identify shared priorities and coordinate resources and efforts;
- .2 Advance reconciliation efforts by:
  - i. Exploring strategies and opportunities to work collaboratively with neighbouring First Nations and to celebrate and honor Indigenous heritage and culture throughout the community; and
  - ii. Engaging with local First Nations and Indigenous peoples to better understand how New Hazelton can support and advance reconciliation in meaningful and respectful ways.
- .3 Foster a strong sense of community by:
  - i. Supporting local non-profits, cultural organizations, and volunteer organizations in the delivery of social, recreational, cultural and education programs;
  - ii. Recognizing and celebrating the contributions of volunteers through public acknowledgement and community recognition initiatives;
  - iii. Working in collaboration with community groups in the development of community events to promote community connections and attract tourists;
  - iv. Supporting initiatives that connect residents, organizations, and local leaders; and
  - v. Maintaining and improving communications with residents through a variety of means including the District's website, social media, newsletters, and community meetings, to ensure timely and equitable access to information.
- .4 Continue to maintain the Visitor Centre to provide tourists and potential residents with current information regarding local businesses, services and amenities.

## 4.0 LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

This section outlines objectives and policies related to specific land uses within the District. These land uses are illustrated in Schedule B and include General Residential, Rural Residential, Commercial, Community Services, Industrial and Rural Resource uses.

### 4.1 General Policies

The following policies apply to all land use designations within the District of New Hazelton.

#### 4.1.1 POLICIES

- .1 Consider utilizing Smart Growth planning principles to promote developments that integrate transportation and land use decisions, including the exploration and adoption of alternative road standards, bicycle lanes, pedestrian movement and mixed uses;
- .2 Encourage Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in all developments;
- .3 Reference the strategic priorities and associated goals and objectives, as outlined in the 2022-2026 Strategic Priorities document, in future decision-making in the District;
- .4 Advocate to senior levels of government on priorities, concerns and issues outside the direct purview of the District;
- .5 Encourage development applications to consider risks associated with natural hazards, including wildfire, flooding, steep slopes, rock fall, and unstable soils, including requiring reports from qualified professionals to assist the District in deciding what conditions or requirements it will impose;
- .6 Encourage the protection of environmentally sensitive areas;
- .7 Encourage the protection of archaeological sites under the provincial *Heritage Conservation Act*;
- .8 Utilize the BC Provincial government's Remote Access Archaeological Database to learn about known archaeological sites and areas likely to contain as-yet unrecorded archaeological sites to support informed decision-making and ensure the suitability of development activities across the District;
- .9 Consider the 'Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations' in the District's development approvals processes;
- .10 Ensure the District's development approvals processes are efficient, consistently applied and align with the direction outlined in this OCP; and
- .11 Encourage future growth and development that is efficient from a planning, cost, sustainability and infrastructure servicing perspective.

## 4.2 General Residential

As per the recent interim Housing Needs Report, the housing composition within the District as of 2021 included 77% single-detached dwellings, 4% mobile (manufactured) homes, 7.5% semi-detached homes, 7.5% row homes, and 4% apartments with less than 5-storeys. Recent housing construction has been limited, with 6 new single-family dwellings, 4 modular homes, and 1 mobile home being constructed between 2013 and 2024. In 2021, 7 short-term housing units for women fleeing domestic violence were also constructed.

As per recent legislative requirements, and in alignment with the 2024 interim Housing Needs Report, the District must ensure the OCP and Zoning Bylaws can accommodate 65 dwelling units over a 5-year timeframe and 202 units over a 20-year timeframe. A spatial analysis of residential vacant lands was undertaken to assess how well positioned the District is to accommodate these needs. While this analysis did confirm there are sufficient vacant lands zoned for residential uses to accommodate the 20-Year housing needs as outlined in the District's 2024 interim Housing Needs Report, it should be noted that the analysis did not take site specific development constraints, such as steep slopes, soils conditions and drainage issues, into consideration. There is also a need to further assess the District's water and sewer infrastructure to identify any improvements required to accommodate the identified housing needs and associated population growth.

Given the availability of land in the community core, along with the infrastructure constraints in developing lands outside this area, the District will encourage infill development within the existing infrastructure servicing area as the priority for meeting the identified housing needs. The District does own District Lot 319, located in the northern portion of the community. This 63 hectare lot is zoned for residential use and has been identified for long-term community growth. However, the parcel is located well outside the District's existing infrastructure servicing area and would require significant infrastructure improvements to service development here.

It should also be noted that the majority of the lands surrounding the community's existing infrastructure servicing area is currently under Provincial Crown ownership. While there are private and municipal owned lands beyond these crown lands, it is not efficient from a planning, cost, sustainability or infrastructure servicing perspective to 'leapfrog' readily developable lands to develop lands beyond. The District will seek to work with the Province of BC and relevant First Nations regarding the acquisition of crown lands within the District to help ensure an efficient and phased approach to future developments

### 4.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Encourage a range of high-quality housing types, tenures and densities, which can meet the diverse needs of, and attract, individuals and families of varying income levels and demographics;
- .2 Ensure sufficient land is available to meet the existing and projected housing needs of the District; and
- .3 Support home based business ventures.

### 4.2.2 POLICIES

- .1 Direct residential uses to the areas designated as Residential on Schedule B;
- .2 Encourage infill development within the District's existing infrastructure service area;
- .3 Permit the development of single-family, duplex, multi-unit and affordable housing developments within the Residential land use;
- .4 Encourage affordable, rental and special needs housing, including seniors housing, with a preference for locations in close proximity to existing amenities and services;
- .5 Continue to permit garden suites and secondary suites in compliance with provincial legislation;
- .6 Encourage new residential development to take advantage of natural amenities including tree stands, view potential, natural features and view corridors;
- .7 Restrict mobile homes to mobile home zoned areas;
- .8 Work with local First Nations and the Province of BC to acquire Provincial Crown lands to meet the District's identified housing needs, as well as ensure future growth is efficient from a planning, cost, sustainability and infrastructure servicing perspective;
- .9 Consider undertaking a development and infrastructure servicing plan for D.L. 319;
- .10 Continue to permit home-based businesses to operate from residential homes; and
- .11 Consider reviewing District bylaws and policies to ensure there are no undue burdens or strains on home based businesses.

## 4.3 Rural Residential

The Rural Residential land use generally includes larger, rural lots that embraced the rural lifestyle and culture of the area. All of these parcels are farmlands and are within the Agricultural Land Reserve. This designation is meant to preserve the rural and agricultural character of lands outside of the community core by limiting subdivision and development of properties in such areas.

Rural residential lands are found in the western portions of the District of New Hazelton and are typically serviced by an on-site water supply through wells and individual septic systems.

It is noted that, while the overall intent of this land use is to encourage larger lot developments that align with the mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission, the District does recognize that there are existing small lots within this land use designation that do not align with this mandate. The *ALC Act* does permit low-density residential uses within the ALR. The District is also aware of potential exemptions from the restrictions on the use of agricultural land set out in the *ALC Act* for parcels less than 2 acres, however a local government cannot make this determination. As a result, the District will direct affected landowners to the ALC to discuss their specific circumstances.

### 4.3.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Maintain the existence of larger lot sizes and rural living opportunities in New Hazelton;
- .2 Encourage sustainable rural development without rural sprawl;
- .3 Ensure development in Rural Residential areas consider impacts on the natural environment as well as environmentally sensitive areas;
- .4 Preserve the character of existing rural residential areas; and
- .5 Support and encourage home based businesses on parcels within the Rural Residential designation.

### 4.3.2 POLICIES

- .1 Direct rural residential uses to the areas designated as Rural Residential on Schedule B;
- .2 Encourage uses and development in compliance with the *ALC Act and ALR Regulations* for portions of the land use designation within the ALR;
- .3 Direct affected landowners to the ALC to explore potential exemptions from the restrictions on the use of agricultural land set out in the *ALC Act* for parcels less than 2 acres;
- .4 Encourage newly created lots within this designation to have a minimum parcel size of 4,000 square meters (one acre);
- .5 Support agricultural uses in Rural Residential areas;
- .6 Encourage buffers between agricultural and residential uses as per the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's 'Guide to Edge Planning';
- .7 Encourage the protection of riparian areas and natural corridors; and



- .8 Permit home based businesses and cottage industries to operate from rural residential homes.

## 4.4 Commercial

The District of New Hazelton's commercial lands are oriented along the Highway 16 corridor and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with the majority of existing businesses located within a downtown core concentrated between Laurier Street and Pugsley Street. Highway commercial uses extend on both sides of the highway corridor through the centre of the community.

Most vacant lands designated for commercial uses are located in the eastern portions of the District, as well as along Highway 16 between College Street and Brewster Street. Both of these areas however are not currently serviced with community water and sewer infrastructure and significant infrastructure improvements may be required to support commercial developments in these areas.

There is also a vacant parcel of land designated for commercial uses along Highway 62, between 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. While some recent activity has taken place on these lands, including the demolition of previous existing buildings and a rezoning from R-2 to C1, no other development applications have been received by the District at this time.

In total, there are approximately 8 hectares of developed commercial lands within the District of New Hazelton. In addition, there are approximately 40 parcels, (about 12 hectares) of vacant commercial land, providing ample room for commercial infill over the next 10 years. However less than 10 of these vacant lots have Highway 16 frontage and all are under 0.60 of a hectare in size, making them unsuitable for any large-scale highway commercial development unless adjacent lots are amalgamated.

The downtown core contains a variety of retail shops, restaurants and financial institutions, as well as smaller lot residential developments. During the OCP community engagements, residents voiced their strong desire for more commercial options within New Hazelton. Many highlighted the need for greater variety in retail and service offerings to better meet the needs of the community.

### 4.4.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Support new and existing businesses and enterprises in New Hazelton;
- .2 Ensure adequate lands designated for commercial uses to accommodate a variety of commercial uses; and
- .3 Promote a strong civic presence and a high level of public amenity.

#### 4.4.2 POLICIES

- .1 Direct commercial uses to the areas designated as Commercial on Schedule B;
- .2 Consider evaluating zoning, taxation and restrictions placed on businesses and work to accommodate business and commercial interests when practical;
- .3 Consider working with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to evaluate the impacts of Highway 16 on local business;
- .4 Support the infill of existing vacant business properties before designating new commercially zoned areas;
- .5 Encourage the use of vacant storefronts within the downtown core;
- .6 Consider options for improving pedestrian movement within, and through, the District's downtown core;
- .7 Support mixed commercial and residential uses in lands designated for commercial;
- .8 Promote active storefronts at the ground level and restrict the proportion of non-retail uses on the ground floor;
- .9 Support advertising and marketing of the District's available commercial lands;
- .10 Review opportunities to leverage the District's position as a regional hub;
- .11 Consider policies and initiatives to encourage businesses to relocate to New Hazelton;
- .12 Consider a revitalization of the downtown core;
- .13 Encourage public art in the downtown core; and
- .14 Continue to encourage and support businesses to maintain appearances of store fronts and landscaping through the Façade Improvement Program.

### 4.5 Community Use

Community services include parks and recreational facilities; District administrative offices; places of worship; cemeteries; health care facilities; emergency services; educational facilities; public works and infrastructure; and other community facilities. Such uses are located throughout the District, with notable facilities and amenities including:

- New Hazelton Elementary School;
- District of New Hazelton Administrative office;
- Erwin Stege Community Centre;
- Misty Rivers Art Gallery;

- New Hazelton Fire Hall;
- Local RCMP Detachment;
- Various churches;
- Tennis courts;
- Allen Park;
- Ball field; and
- New Hazelton Municipal Cemetery.

The District also has large tracts of land designated for existing nature parks and potential future parks and recreation areas, including the lands encompassing the Waterfall and Lookout Trailhead, lands along the Bulkley River, and the area encompassing the Breakover Trailhead parking area.

It should be noted that additional direction regarding leisure, recreational and education facilities is outlined in Section 3.9.

#### **4.5.1 OBJECTIVES**

- .1 Encourage adequate civic and institutional facilities and amenities to meet the needs of the community;
- .2 Maintain and enhance existing municipal-owned facilities; and
- .3 Ensure community services are considered in future developments.

#### **4.5.2 POLICIES**

- .1 Direct community services to the areas designated Community Services on Schedule B;
- .2 Explore options for the future development of the remainder of the District-owned parcel in which the District's administrative office and Erwin Stege Community Centre are located;
- .3 Permit infrastructure servicing improvements and facilities in all areas of the District;
- .4 Maintain and enhance District parks and recreational facilities;
- .5 Require parkland dedication at the time of subdivision as per the Local Government Act. Council may require payment in lieu of parkland dedication at the time of subdivision;
- .6 Continue to maintain the New Hazelton Municipal Cemetery;
- .7 Continue to maintain parking and access to the District's trail network; and
- .8 Work in collaboration with School District #82 on matters related to future student enrollment and land needs, as well as the provision of recreational facilities and programming.

## **4.6 Industrial**

Industrial lands in the District run predominantly along the CN Rail right of way corridor. New Hazelton also encompasses the former Carnaby Sawmill site within its boundaries, serving as a satellite piece of

industrial lands. Although the sawmill is currently out of operation, it represents potential for future industrial use and development within the area.

In total, there are approximately 211.5 hectares of lands designated for industrial uses within the District, with the Carnaby sawmill site representing approximately 134.8 hectares. Within the community core, there are approximately 78 hectares of land designated for industrial, with the vast majority being vacant. It should be noted however that a significant portion of these lands are within swampy lowlands on the north side of the CN railway tracks and may face constraints to future development.

New Hazelton currently has two Licences of Occupation for sand and gravel purposes. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit also holds two reserves for such purposes. These sand and gravel tenures are situated in the north east corner of the District and are currently accessed via the Ross Lake Road. Together, these four tenures encompass an area of 166.8 hectares.

#### 4.6.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Support a variety of light, general and heavy industrial uses in existing industrial areas;
- .2 Encourage the development of industrial sites throughout the plan area where it can be clearly demonstrated that operational impacts (e.g. noise, smell, traffic) can be adequately mitigated to the benefit of neighbouring non-industrial properties;
- .3 Support a diversified local economic base;
- .4 Minimize detrimental effects of industrial development on the natural environment and surrounding areas; and
- .5 Support and encourage diverse sustainable industrial activities.

#### 4.6.2 POLICIES

- .1 Direct industrial uses to the areas designated as Industrial on Schedule B;
- .2 Consider evaluating zoning, taxation and restrictions placed on industry and work to accommodate industrial development opportunities when practical;
- .3 Market the District as “Open For Business” and highlight opportunities for industrial development;
- .4 Support future industrial development of the Carnaby Sawmill site;
- .5 Encourage and promote:
  - i. The development of high paying and labour intensive industries;
  - ii. Environmentally friendly industries; and

- iii. The development of an eco-industrial park and/or business park.
- .6 Encourage high quality site design, including extensive landscaping and visual buffers from industrial uses, in particular where industrial uses abut residential uses;
- .7 Work in collaboration with CN Railway regarding future industrial developments along the railway corridor;
- .8 Encourage and support industrial developments that strive to balance the environmental, economical and social values of the District;
- .9 Continue to maintain the District's Licences of Occupation for sand and gravel purposes to ensure the long-term needs of the District can be met; and
- .10 Work in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit in the management of sand and gravel resources within the District.

## 4.7 Rural Resource

Rural Resource uses primarily encompass the undeveloped forested lands located along the periphery of the District boundary. These lands have the potential for various resource extraction activities such as forestry, energy development and potentially mining. These lands are also utilized by community members for various forms of outdoor recreational activities, including biking, snowmobiling, hiking and off-road vehicle use. In managing these lands, the District will strive to balance economic development opportunities with the environmental and recreational values these lands provide.

It is noted that a portion of the lands designated as Rural Resource overlap with the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). As noted in Section 3.3, the District is committed to supporting the ALR and mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission. This commitment ensures that agricultural lands are preserved for future generations and contribute to the sustainability and food security of the community.

### 4.7.1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Minimize the conflicts between extraction activities and adjacent land uses;
- .2 Preserve and utilize viable agricultural lands to foster self-sufficiency, promote food security and improve economic diversity;
- .3 Support resource extraction activities and other economic development initiatives in rural areas of the District;
- .4 Support various forms of outdoor recreation activities in rural areas; and
- .5 Strive to balance the economic, environmental, cultural and social values of residents in future development and use of the District's rural areas.

## 4.7.2 POLICIES

- .1 Direct rural uses to areas designated as Rural Resource on Schedule B;
- .2 Encourage the implementation of the “Agriculture and Food Security” policies as outlined in Section 3.3 on Agriculture designated properties;
- .3 Encourage year-round outdoor recreational uses on lands designated as Rural Resource;
- .4 Work with provincial agencies and private companies in the planning and management of resource extraction activities on lands designated Rural Resource and ensure such activities exercise sound environmental stewardship;
- .5 Encourage agricultural uses and resource extraction activities to be buffered from adjacent properties which do not share the same land uses;
- .6 Take steps to ensure key community hiking, biking and off-road vehicle trails are considered in future development and land use activities;
- .7 Support the protection of local watersheds;
- .8 Encourage minimal stream crossings;
- .9 Recognize the aesthetic, environmental and social values that forests provide and ensure adequate forest lands within the District are maintained;
- .10 Encourage a connected network of greenways and open space within the District through the establishment of community parks and trail systems;
- .11 Encourage aggregate extraction activities to consider, and mitigate against, potential impacts to adjacent lands; and
- .12 Support low-density residential uses on private lands designated Rural Resource.

## 5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

An OCP is a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land-use management. The OCP provides a long-term vision for the community, as well as guidance on how to achieve this vision. An OCP is a living document and should be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with new trends within society and changing circumstances within the plan area boundaries. Recent changes to the *Local Government Act* do require an OCP be reviewed every 5 years when an updated housing needs report is received

In order to fulfill the vision expressed in this OCP, the policies contained in the previous sections must be implemented. The process of implementation includes many different elements, which reflect legislative authority, municipal procedures and Council policies. The following is a brief summary of common strategies and tools available to the District for OCP implementation.

### Map Schedules

This OCP is comprised of the following map schedules to help guide future growth and development within the District and implement the vision outlined in this plan:

- Schedule “B” Land Use illustrates the community’s vision for the location of future land uses within the District;
- Schedule “C” Infrastructure provides an overview of the District’s existing water, storm and Sanitary infrastructure servicing, as well as identifies areas of future improvements and expansion;
- Schedule “D” Environmentally Sensitive Areas illustrates mapped wetlands, steep slopes (greater than 20%), and riparian areas within the District;
- Schedule “E” Major Road Network and Trail Network outlines the existing road and travel network with the District, as well as identifies potential future roads; and
- Schedule “F” provides an overview of the Sand and Gravel Deposits within the District, including both the District’s Sand and Gravel Tenures and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit’s mapped sand and gravel reserves.

### Zoning Bylaw

The Zoning Bylaw is the primary tool that a municipality can use to implement the policies and plans in an OCP. Amendments to the District’s Zoning Bylaw may be necessary to ensure that it remains consistent with the policy direction set in the OCP. Uses that are not explicitly permitted in the District’s Zoning Bylaw may be permitted on a temporary basis through issuing of a Temporary Use Permit, as per the *Local Government Act*.



## ***Development Permit Areas***

Section 488 (1) of the *Local Government Act* states that an OCP may designate Development Permit Areas for the following purposes:

- a) Protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity;
- b) Protection of development from hazardous conditions;
- c) Protection of farming;
- d) Revitalization of an area in which a commercial use is permitted;
- e) Establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development;
- f) Establishment of objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial or multi-family residential development;
- g) In relation to an area in a resort region, establishment of objectives for the form and character of development in the resort region;
- h) Establishment of objectives to promote energy conservation;
- i) Establishment of objectives to promote water conservation;
- j) Establishment of objectives to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and
- k) Mitigation of the effects of displacement on tenants who will be or have been displaced from their rental units in relation to a redevelopment or proposed redevelopment, as those terms are defined under section 63.1 of the *Community Charter*.

While this OCP does not designate any such Development Permit Areas, consideration should be given to designating such areas in the future to address specific hazards, offer environmental protection or to implement form and character guidelines for areas such as the downtown core.

## **Development Approval Information**

Sections 484 – 487 of the *Local Government Act* allows a local government to specify and establish development approval information requests through an OCP. However, if an OCP includes such a provision, the local government must, by bylaw, establish procedures and policies on the process for requiring development approval information and the substance of the information required.

The District has not implemented any bylaws related to development approval considerations, nor is there an intention to do so at this time. However, the possibility of introducing such bylaws may be considered in the future.

## **Council Policies**

District Council may, by resolution, adopt policies in various subject areas affecting the implementation of the Official Community Plan.

All municipal plans, strategies, policies, bylaws and reports to Council prepared after the adoption of the OCP must include a “Context Statement” that:

- reference the objectives and policies of the OCP, and
- describes how the document contributes to the achievement of the OCP.

All municipal plans, strategies, policies, bylaws and staff recommendations to Council must be consistent with the Official Community Plan.

### ***Fiscal Program***

Implementation of many policies contained in this OCP depends on the expenditure of District funds. The Five-Year Financial Plan and annual reporting must reflect the policies of the OCP with regard to the physical infrastructure and action items.

### ***Organizational Capacity***

The effective implementation of this OCP will require the District to have stable staffing, governance and decision-making processes in place. New Hazelton recognizes this and has included organizational capacity as a strategic priority in the Council-driven 2022-2026 Strategic Priorities document. Specific objectives identified by the District in this regard include staff recruitment, staff training, staff retention and succession planning.

### ***Community Involvement***

Building public awareness and understanding of the objectives of the OCP and its policies are integral to achieving effective implementation. Community involvement in New Hazelton is essential to maximize community benefits and minimize negative impacts. The District will continue to work towards improving its communications and engagement practices in the implementation of this OCP.



## **Agenda Meeting Schedule**

DATE	TIME	WHERE	DETAILS OF EVENT
<b>February 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	12:00PM	VOH Council Chambers	Meeting with VOH, RDKS Area B Rep & new BCEHS Unit Chief & Director of Clinical Operations – North & Area.
<b>February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	12:00PM	DONH Council Chambers	Meeting with VOH, RDKS Area B Rep & Western LNG
<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	7:00PM	Council Chambers	Regular Council Meeting
<b>April 8-10<sup>th</sup></b>	All Day	Vancouver @ JW Marriot Parq	2026 COFI Convention – Councillor Burns going.
<b>May 6-8<sup>th</sup></b>	All Day	Smithers Civic Centre and New Arena – 4204 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	Minerals North Conference & Trade Show – Mayor Lowry, Councillor Sturney & CAO, Hunt going.
<b>May 20-22<sup>nd</sup></b>	All Day	Prince George	2026 NCLGA AGM & Convention – Mayor Lowry and Councillor Hobenshield going.

**February 2026**  
**Information Package**



January 5, 2026

Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills  
c/o Legislative Assembly of British Columbia  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Email: PMBCommittee@leg.bc.ca

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

**Re: Concerns Regarding Bill M216 – Professional Reliance Act**

On behalf of local government elected officials, I am writing to express serious concerns regarding Private Member's Bill M216, the proposed *Professional Reliance Act*. While we support efforts to streamline development approvals and increase housing supply, the Bill raises significant governance, public safety, liability, and operational concerns for local governments.

Under the existing framework of the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act*, local governments may require professional certifications and, where appropriate, peer review to support development approvals. This discretion is essential in areas subject to flooding, steep slopes, wildfire interface conditions, and other hazards. The current professional reliance model allows local governments to exercise due diligence while balancing efficiency with public safety and environmental protection.

Bill M216 would prohibit local governments from requiring peer review of professional submissions, except with authorization from the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG). This restriction applies broadly to rezonings, OCP amendments, development permits, variances, heritage permits, and building permit-related assessments. The result is a one-size-fits-all approach that removes a critical oversight tool and undermines local government autonomy.

Eliminating independent review increases risks to public safety and the environment. Local government staff routinely identify deficiencies in applications already certified by registered professionals. Without the ability to require peer review, the likelihood of failures increase.

Although the Bill suggests that liability rests with certifying professionals, local governments will continue to face legal exposure, public scrutiny, and emergency response costs when failures occur—particularly where professionals are underinsured or unavailable.



The Bill may also delay, rather than accelerate, development. Disputes would be referred to the OSPG, which is not currently mandated or resourced to adjudicate technical disagreements within development approval timelines.

Finally, Bill M216 was introduced without meaningful consultation with local governments or UBCM and departs from the findings of the 2018 Professional Reliance Review, which recommended strengthening oversight and accountability—not eliminating peer review. Concerns also remain regarding enabling provisions for mandatory processing timelines, which may lead to unsafe or sub-optimal outcomes.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the province to suspend further consideration of Bill M216 and to engage in comprehensive consultation with local governments and relevant stakeholders to develop balanced, evidence-based reforms.

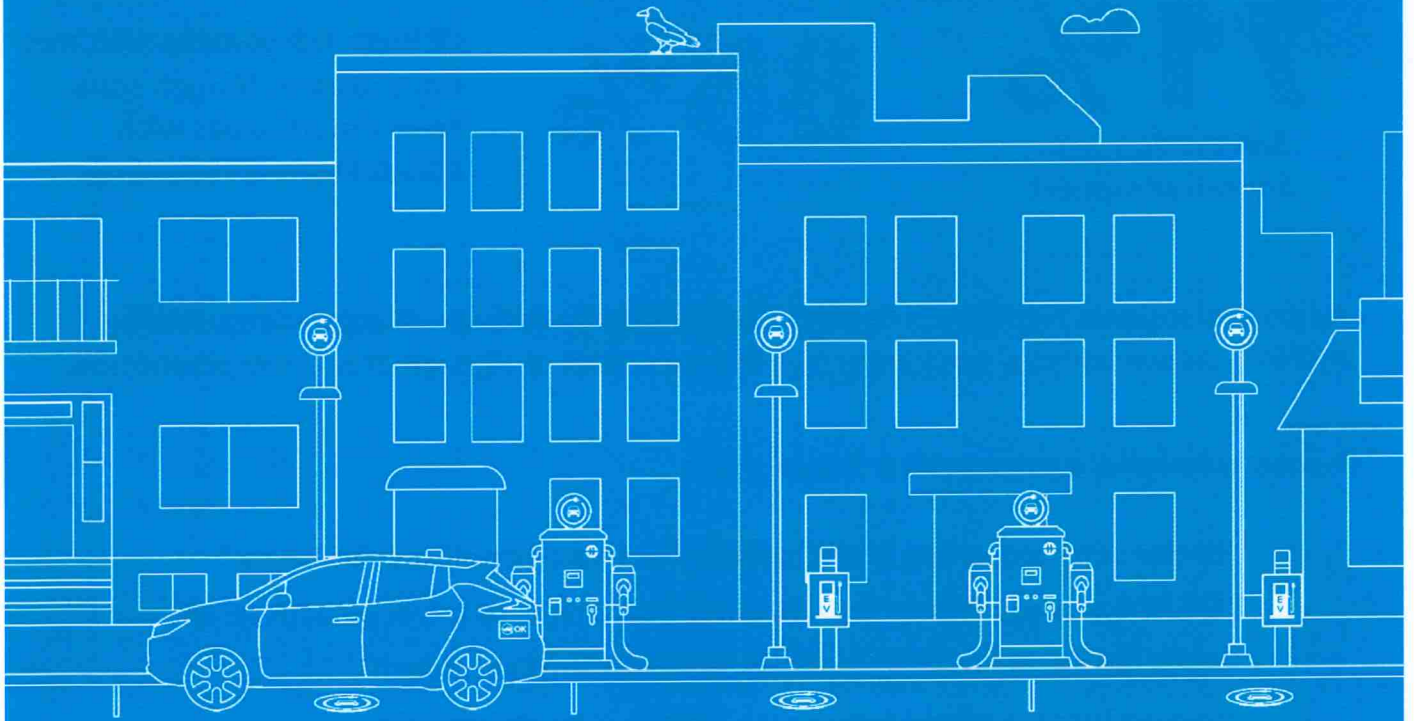
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Torgerson", is written over a horizontal line.

Owen Torgerson  
Mayor  
Village of Valemount

Cc: The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Premier David Eby  
Cori Ramsay, President, UBCM  
BC Municipalities & Regional Districts

# EV Site Host Update



**Fall 2025**



# EV Site Host Update: Fall Edition

Welcome to the Fall 2025 edition of the BC Hydro EV Site Host Update. As we begin to wrap up the year, we're sharing key network updates, engagement opportunities, and how your partnership is helping power B.C.'s clean transportation future.

## Site Host Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the June Site Host Survey. Your feedback is important to us and helps us improve our EV Site Host program. Here are some key takeaways:

**100%**

Satisfaction with BC Hydro  
As an EV charging provider

Hosts satisfied or  
very satisfied overall

**93%**

**86%**

Satisfaction with site host  
support and communication

**71%**

Satisfaction with  
technical support

**85%**

Of hosts felt construction met  
expectations, though some  
hosts noted issues with  
scheduling and reseeding.

Additional insights highlighted barriers like **parking limitations**, **charger compatibility**, more proactive updates on charger maintenance, **lack of signage or tourism promotion**.

## Some sample comments from you:

- "Better communication ahead of time for tree removal requirements."
- "Tourism ads could help show how affordable it is to travel BC with an EV."
- "We'd like more proactive updates when stations are down."
- "Parking lot operations sometimes conflict with charger access."
- "Dual-port chargers would help reduce wait times."



## To better support our site hosts, BC Hydro is committing to the following:



### Improve communication during construction and outages

We will work to develop a more proactive notification process with construction and operations teams. *I've contacted some of you already to discuss charger issues.*



### Promote EV charging benefits

Initiate discussions with our corporate communications team to highlight EV travel affordability and accessibility, while also potentially exploring partnerships with BC-based tourism companies.



### Clarify pricing and enhance signage

Ensure pricing and parking details are clear during planning and construction.



### Improve app notifications and physical signage

We'll work with both our customer experience and app teams to improve digital and physical notifications for better user awareness.

If you'd like to discuss these topics or have other ideas to drive traffic to your sites, please let me know: [scott.petrie@bchydro.com](mailto:scott.petrie@bchydro.com).

## BC Hydro EV updates

Below are the upcoming new, expanded, and current sites under construction.

### New:

- Langley events Centre (expanded site) – **18 ports**.
- Port Alberni Save-on Foods – **8 ports**.

### Coming soon:

- Vernon Performing Arts Centre – **10 ports**
- BCIT Campus – **8 ports**
- Pitt Meadows Athletic Park – **12 ports**



### Technology Upgrades

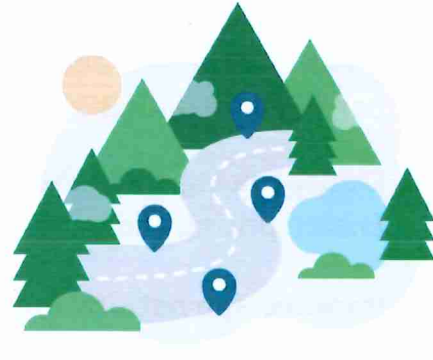
- 350 kW chargers now available at select sites (add up to 100 km of range in 5 mins)
- 400 kW chargers launching this fall (100 km of range in 3 minutes)
- NACS (Tesla) connector support added to new sites.



## BC Hydro EV updates

We are also excited to announce our recent acquisition of 88 charging ports at 28 EV charging sites that were previously operated by the Ministry of Transportation. Many of these sites include a mix of fast chargers and Level 2 chargers and are located along major corridors and highways. These sites will now benefit from BC Hydro's regular maintenance, customer support, and reliability standards. **To date, we've successfully acquired and re-opened the following sites:**

- Mount Terry Fox rest area – **3 ports**
- Slim Creek Rest area – **3 ports**
- Cluculz rest area – **3 ports**
- Savory Rest area – **3 ports**
- Boulder Creek Rest area – **3 ports**
- Mount Robson Visitors Centre – **6 ports**
- Redhill Rest Area – **3 ports**



The remainder of the sites will be opened in the coming months.

## Fall Readiness for your site

- Ensure charger areas are clear of leaves and debris/garbage
- Check lighting and visibility as daylight hours shorten
- Confirm signage is visible and up-to-date

## BC Hydro network reliability

Our fast-charging network continues to deliver approximately 99% uptime, thanks to proactive maintenance and 24/7 technical support. If you or your customers encounter any issues, our EV support team is always available at:

[evsupport@bchydro.com](mailto:evsupport@bchydro.com)

**1-866-338-3369**





## Feature your EV site – photo submissions wanted



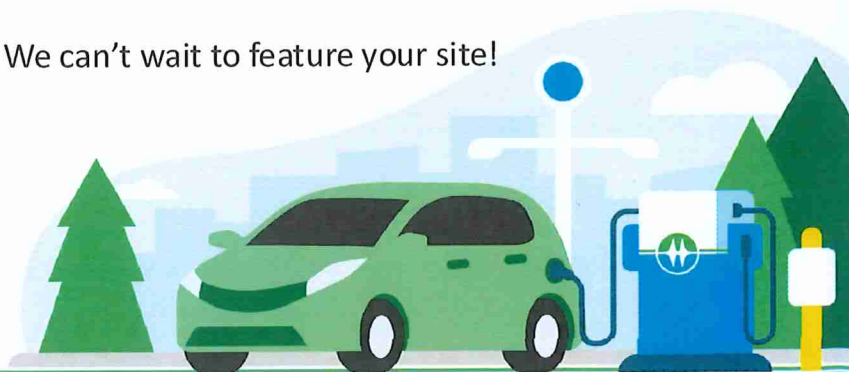
We're launching a new feature in our monthly EV network member newsletter, and your site could be in the spotlight! All you need to do is share a photo of your EV charger(s) in action and a short testimonial about your experience as a BC Hydro site host.

### Why participate?

- **Showcase your site** to over **60,000+ opted-in BC Hydro EV network members**
- **Drive more traffic** to your location and highlight your support for clean transportation
- **Potential to be featured** on our social media channels and help promote EV adoption across BC.
- **We've made it super easy:** Just email me to let me know you're interested, and I'll share some tips and tricks for capturing the best photos:  
[scott.petrie@bchydro.com](mailto:scott.petrie@bchydro.com).

If you're selected, I'll reach out for a short testimonial about your experience as a BC Hydro site host. This is a great way to share your story, celebrate your community, and inspire others to join the movement.

Thanks again for being a valued partner. We can't wait to feature your site!



# Site Host Utilization Monthly Dashboard

Chargers In Service

2

Active Port Count

2

Overall Utilization %

1.8%

DCFC Utilization %

1.8%

L2 Utilization %

--

Unique Users Roaming

16

Date

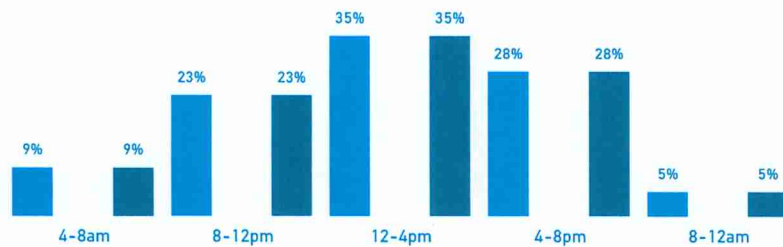
2025-November

Site Name

New Hazelton

% of Charging Sessions by Time

● Overall ● L2 ● DCFC



# of Charging Sessions

● Dynamic Count of Session ID ● Dynamic Count of Session ID - Prior Year



Repeat Users 7 (44%)  
Single-session Users 9 (56%)  
New Users (0)

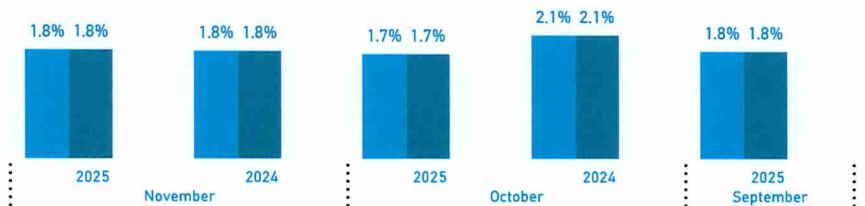
Monthly User Stats

○ New Users ● Repeat Users ● Single-session Users



Monthly Utilization %

● Overall Utilization % ● DCFC Utilization % ● L2 Utilization %



# Site Host Utilization Monthly Dashboard

Chargers In Service

2

Active Port Count

2

Overall Utilization %

1.5%

DCFC Utilization %

1.5%

L2 Utilization %

--

Unique Users Roaming

11

Date

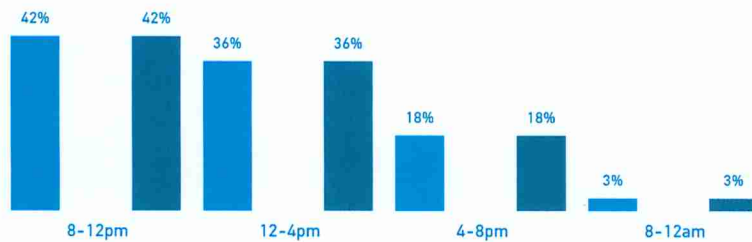
2025-December

Site Name

New Hazelton

% of Charging Sessions by Time

● Overall ● L2 ● DCFC



# of Charging Sessions

● Dynamic Count of Session ID ● Dynamic Count of Session ID – Prior Year



Repeat Users 6 (60%)  
Single-session Users 5 (50%)  
New Users 1 (10%)

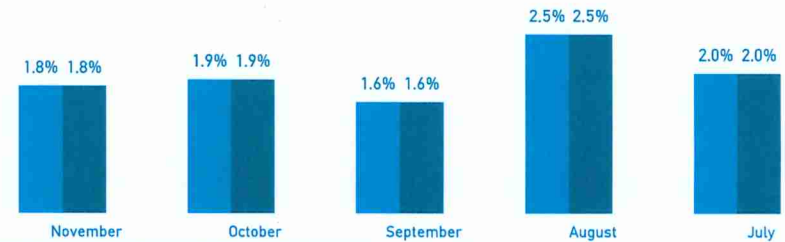
Monthly User Stats

● New Users ● Repeat Users ● Single-session Users



Monthly Utilization %

● Overall Utilization % ● DCFC Utilization % ● L2 Utilization %







File: 0400

January 13, 2026

The Honourable David Eby, Premier  
The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Via email:

[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

[FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

[hma.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hma.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Bill M216 – Professional Reliance Act**

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On behalf of the Council of the District of Highlands, I am writing to express our strong concerns and opposition to Bill M216, the Professional Reliance Act.

While we understand and respect the Province's intention to improve efficiency in housing delivery and streamline development approvals, we are deeply concerned that Bill M216 significantly erodes municipal authority, compromises public accountability, and creates new risks and liabilities for local governments.

As written, the legislation would require local governments to accept submissions certified by registered professionals as meeting permit or bylaw requirements. This shifts decision-making power away from democratically accountable local governments and places it in the hands of private professionals whose primary obligations are to their clients rather than to the broader community. This change would diminish essential oversight by municipal planners, engineers, and building officials, whose deep knowledge of local context is vital to responsible land use and environmental stewardship.

Further, Bill M216 appears to bypass established municipal processes and may create regulatory deadlock, over-reliance on provincial dispute-resolution mechanisms, and heightened liability exposure for municipalities. These risks run counter to the principles of good governance and community-centered decision-making.





We also share the serious concerns raised by many local governments regarding the lack of meaningful consultation. Bill M216 was introduced without substantive dialogue with municipalities or the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Systemic legislative changes of this scale should be developed collaboratively to ensure feasibility, avoid unintended consequences, and respect the roles and responsibilities outlined in the *Local Government Act*, *Community Charter*, and *Land Title Act*.

Municipal capacity is already strained as local governments work to implement significant recent provincial initiatives, including the *Housing Supply Act*, Bills 44 and 47 relating to small-scale multi-unit housing and transit-oriented development, and the *Infrastructure Projects Act*. Adding a transformative shift to professional-reliance approval processes—without consultation, technical engagement, or clear implementation pathways—will further challenge municipal operations and potentially delay critical housing and infrastructure projects.

The District of Highlands supports UBCM's call for the Province to pause consideration of Bill M216 and engage in thorough, good-faith consultation with local governments to explore more balanced and practical approaches. Any future changes to local approval processes must be transparent, evidence-based, and developed in collaboration with those who will be responsible for implementing them.

We respectfully urge the Province to listen to the collective voices of local governments across British Columbia and work together to strengthen—not diminish—the democratic, accountable, community-driven nature of local governance.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continued partnership with the Province on legislation and initiatives that support both housing goals and effective local governance.

Sincerely,



Ken Williams  
Mayor, District of Highlands

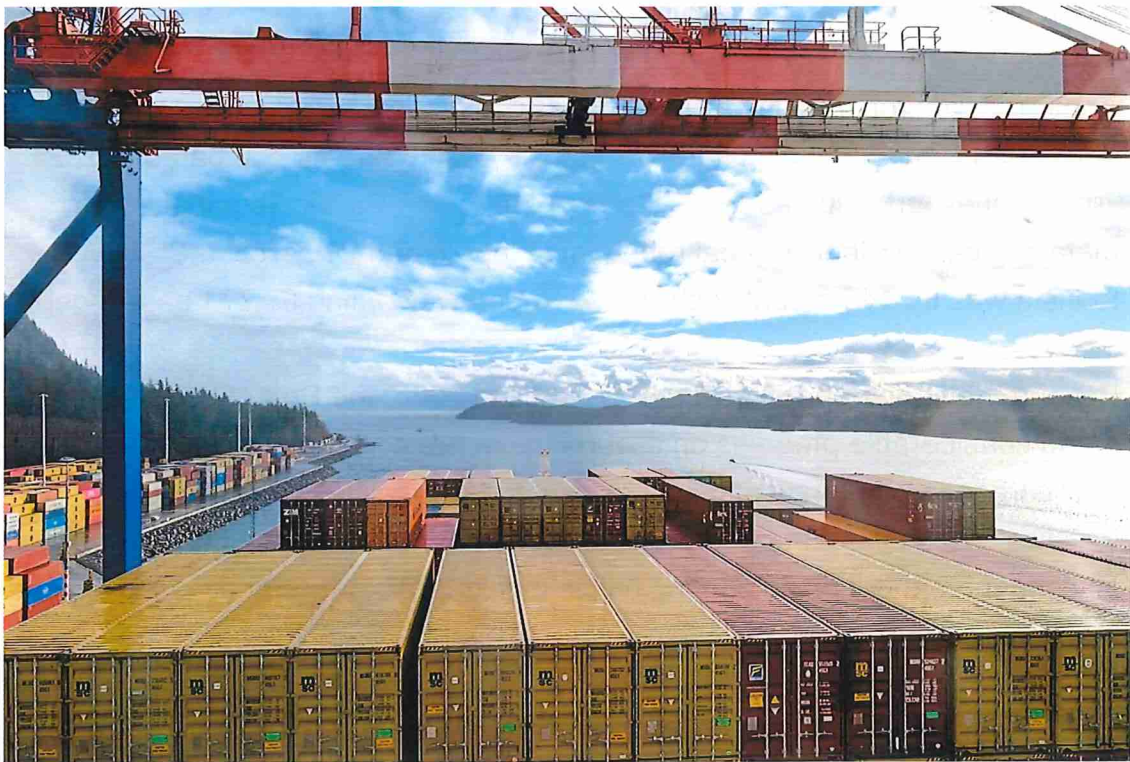
cc:

- Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills  
[P.MBCcommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:P.MBCcommittee@leg.bc.ca)

[View this email in your browser](#)



## PORT OF PRINCE RUPERT CARGO VOLUMES GREW TO 26.3 MILLION TONNES IN 2025 ALONGSIDE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT



EFFECTIVE JANUARY 14, 2026

PRINCE RUPERT, BRITISH COLUMBIA – The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) announced today that the Port of Prince Rupert handled 26.3 million tonnes of cargo in 2025, a 14 percent increase over 2024, during a historic period of infrastructure investment and development.

“Our 2025 performance reflects the consistent commitment of the Prince Rupert

speed to market, and actively diversify the \$60 billion in trade that flows through our Port annually is second to none,” said Kurt Slocombe, Interim President, Prince Rupert Port Authority.

Intermodal traffic through DP World Prince Rupert’s Fairview Container Terminal rose 20 percent year-over-year to 885,797 TEUs, bolstered by robust volumes in the second half of 2025.

Demand for Canadian energy products remained steady, with AltaGas’ Ridley Island Propane Export Terminal shipping nearly 2.4 million tonnes of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) to markets in Asia, representing a six percent increase year-over-year. Pembina’s Watson Island LPG Bulk Terminal handled 506,159 tonnes, marking a one percent increase. Volumes through Drax’s Westview Wood Pellet Terminal went up three percent, with close to 1.3 million tonnes of biofuel flowing through the facility.

Another solid crop year led Prince Rupert Grain Terminal to increase its exports of western Canadian agricultural products by eight percent compared to 2024. Total coal export volumes rose 18 percent at Trigon Pacific Terminals, with metallurgical and thermal coal rebounding, up 26 and 21 percent. Cruise tourism was up 14 percent, with Prince Rupert welcoming 67,771 passengers.

Beyond the strong operational performance in 2025, the Port of Prince Rupert made considerable progress on several major projects that enable valuable new cargoes and enhance the capacities and capabilities of intermodal logistics. These infrastructure projects account for more than \$3 billion in capital investment and will begin coming online in mid-2026 to further diversify exports, maximize supply chain efficiency, and grow overall cargo volumes:

- Construction continues to advance on the Ridley Island Energy Export Facility (REEF), a large-scale, open-access LPG and bulk liquids export terminal. The \$1.46 billion AltaGas and Vopak joint venture will significantly strengthen Canadian energy exports to the Asia Pacific, with an initial development phase that includes approximately 55,000 barrels per day of LPG export capacity and 600,000 barrels of LPG storage. In Q4 2025, a Final Investment Decision was reached to add upwards of 25,000 barrels per day of throughput capacity to REEF in the second half of 2027.



- PRPA completed leveling the 108-acre site for CANXPORT, a rail-fed logistics and transloading facility that will offer 400,000 TEUs of annual export capacity for forestry, agricultural, and resin products. CANXPORT will be operated by Ray-Mont Logistics, which will relocate its existing Prince Rupert facility and significantly expand its operations at CANXPORT in mid-2026. This project will offer greater efficiency and competitiveness for Canadian exporters and support the balance of intermodal trade through Fairview Container Terminal.
- In Q1 2025, the Canada Infrastructure Bank reached financial close on a \$60.7 million loan to Metlakatla Development Corporation to develop the South Kaien Logistics Park. This joint venture project with PRPA is creating a new logistics and warehousing complex a short distance from Fairview Container Terminal, CANXPORT, and CN's mainline. Intermodex will be the first tenant, operating its new logistics hub with more than 100,000 TEUs of annual capacity and creating 200 new jobs.
- CN launched construction on its Zanardi Rapids Bridge Expansion project in Q3 2025. Building the new rail infrastructure is key to supporting the Port's expansion and is designed to add essential rail corridor capacity along a critical transportation link. The project will extend several kilometres of track in both directions and add a new 1,600-foot two-track bridge to meet growing demand. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.
- Trigon Pacific Terminals has furthered construction of its second marine berth. The Berth Two Beyond Carbon project will add significant vessel berth capacity to the terminal. The marine infrastructure is expected to be completed in 2026.

[Click here to see the full 2025 cargo volumes summary.](#)

The Prince Rupert Port Authority manages the Port of Prince Rupert, Canada's northernmost trade gateway on the west coast. The Port of Prince Rupert anchors one of the fastest and most reliable supply chains between North America and Asia, providing vital infrastructure to support shippers and industries as they move their goods and resources to market. The port handles approximately \$60 billion in trade value per year and supports an estimated 3,300 direct supply-chain jobs in northern BC, \$340 million in annual wages, and generates \$1.4 billion for the northern B.C. economy.

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