

**For immediate release
December 8, 2014**

**SLRD RELEASES COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS REPORT:
*Forming an inclusive multi-stakeholder committee noted as key to success***

Pemberton, BC – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board accepted the Fraser Basin Council’s [Community Economic Development Projects](#) report at its meeting on November 24, 2014. The report, commissioned late in 2013 by the Northern Economic Development and Initiatives (NEDI) Committee of the SLRD Board, encompassed four community economic development projects: (1) conducting a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate governance model for delivering community economic development in the northern SLRD, (2) carrying out a community visioning process, (3) producing a community asset inventory for the District of Lillooet and SLRD Area B, and (4) generating an economic leakage analysis to determine where money is leaking out of the local economy and to identify strategies for plugging the leaks.

After receiving the report, the SLRD Board supported the NEDI Committee’s resolution to proceed with implementing the recommendations from the Governance and Feasibility Study, which will include forming an inclusive multi-stakeholder committee to guide sub-regional economic development efforts. The NEDI Committee will meet early in 2015 to finalize an implementation strategy which will include identifying the appropriate staff lead, budget and funding for the new committee.

“We all share a desire to create a vibrant economy capable of supporting the long-term health and wellbeing of our communities, says Debbie Demare, SLRD Director of Area A and Chair of the NEDI Committee. “But before we can achieve regional economic prosperity, we must find ways to come together, improve communication, and strengthen our relationships. We’re excited to be moving forward on this collaborative initiative; our greatest opportunity lies in working together.”

Matching funding for Fraser Basin Council’s work was provided by the SLRD and the District of Lillooet through grants received from Northern Development Initiative (NDI) Trust’s Economic Development Capacity Building funding program. The Economic Development Capacity Building program provides local governments within the NDI Trust service area with up to a \$50,000 grant annually to support growth and diversification of local economies and increased collaboration between communities.

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a non-profit society that advances sustainability in the Fraser River Basin and across BC. Established in 1997, the Council is a collaboration of four orders of government (Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations) together with representatives from the private sector and civil society. FBC helps bring people together to find solutions to balance economic, environmental and social issues — with a focus on healthy watersheds and water resources, climate change action and air quality, and sustainable, resilient communities. Their

vision is social well-being, supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

The Northern Economic Development and Initiatives (NEDI) Committee is a Standing Committee of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board. Composed of elected officials from both the SLRD and the District of Lillooet, its purpose is to develop and recommend strategies and implement plans that support and enhance sub-regional economic development opportunities and initiatives in the northern areas of the SLRD.

To download the Fraser Basin Council Community Economic Development Projects report or to learn more about the work of the NEDI Committee, visit www.slrd.bc.ca.

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