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For Immediate Release

News Release

Award of the Northern BC Rail Analysis

The Resource Municipalities Coalition in partnership with the Northern Development Initiative Trust launches the Northern BC Rail Analysis

Today, the Resource Municipalities Coalition, along with Northern Development Initiative Trust announced the advancement of the Northern BC Rail Analysis (the Analysis).

The Northern BC Rail Analysis, which will take approximately a year to complete, will review the rail services of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Lillooet, the Northwest, Prince George, and Northeast regions of British Columbia. The Analysis will look to identify the current state of the rail system and its effectiveness to meet current demand, it will then review emerging opportunities within the region and categorize these opportunities based on sustainability, feasibility and socio-economic impacts. HDR Inc. has been awarded the Analysis contract.

Northern Development has committed \$197,006 to the project through the Trust's Pine Beetle Recovery Account.

The Resource Municipalities Coalition is working on behalf of its municipal members throughout the province to champion responsible resource development as it sustains our provincial economy and improves the quality of life for all British Columbians.

The members, the District of Mackenzie, District of Tumbler Ridge, District of Taylor, the City of Fort St John, and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality have built the Resource Municipalities Coalition to work collaboratively on relevant shared concerns that impact communities throughout the province.

The Coalition has identified that transportation of goods and materials from BC Communities to markets domestically and internationally is key to the development of economic opportunities in northern British Columbia. And the Coalition has identified rail service as a critical link to other

transportation corridors. With significant natural resource deposits within the north providing timely and reliable access to market is critical.

After completing the review of emerging opportunities, the Analysis will look at business models, supported by funding opportunities that can help to advance these opportunities into Final Investment Decisions.

HDR Inc has a history of partnering with clients to shape communities and challenge the boundaries of what is possible; as an engineering, architectural, economics and finance, environmental and construction services company, they bring an impressive breadth of knowledge to the Analysis.

“The Trust is pleased to support the Northern BC Rail Analysis as a strategic investment that will generate broad-based economic benefits for the region. There is immense value in better understanding the current state of rail service and infrastructure in Northern B.C., and the opportunity to improve upon that service to support the long-term viability of our communities and expand our core industries.” Joel McKay, CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust

“Northern BC has tremendous opportunity for the First Nation communities and resource communities and those resources must be able to get to market. I look forward to working together to determine the present base line condition, the opportunities and investment needs from source to port.” Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St John.

“The British Columbia rail network is a vital artery for Tumbler Ridge and the northeast region. This network not only delivers our largest industry product, steel making coal, to market, but many other products within our region. This analysis and study will surely emphasize this fact as well as identify possible emerging opportunities. Our District is very proud to partner with the Resources Municipalities Coalition and NDIT to bring this analysis and opportunity forward and are excited for what the future will bring!” Mayor Keith Bertrand, District of Tumbler Ridge.

“The launch of the Northern BC Rail Analysis is good news not only for the communities belonging to the Resource Municipalities Coalition but all municipalities in our province. The transportation of goods from resource municipalities to domestic and global markets is paramount to the success of our communities, our regions and our province. The support from Northern Development Initiative Trust is a key piece in moving this initiative forward and we are incredibly grateful for their ongoing support.” Mayor Joan Atkinson, District of Mackenzie

“Having Northern Development’s support to complete a Northern Rail Analysis speaks to the importance of better understanding the critical importance of rail service to northern, rural and remote economies. The analysis will lay the groundwork for the Resource Municipalities Coalition to work collaboratively with industry, communities and government for sustainable

solutions for funding and operating this valuable infrastructure.” Mayor Gary Foster, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

“Rail service is critical to Taylor, our northern neighbors and our resource economy. This study is a great opportunity to work with CN, NDIT and communities across British Columbia to understand the current rail situation, business case, delivery models and the future of rail services in the North.” Mayor Rob Fraser, District of Taylor

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