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**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Thursday, June 5, 2014

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	Receive
	<u>AGENDA</u> – June 5, 2014	Approve
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-5	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2014	Receive
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
	<u>TOURISM SMITHERS</u> Gladys Atrill	Receive
	RE: Tourism and the Role of Visit Bulkley Nechako	
	<u>MILLIER DICKINSON BLAIS (1 Hour)</u> Brock Dickinson, Principal	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 10 years what do you hope is different about the region? What do you hope stays the same?• What are the challenges/barriers to growth?• Where do you envision the future growth of the region to come from?• What physical/human/natural assets does the region have that are unique?• What opportunities exist for RDBN to differentiate itself?• Where should RDBN focus business development/ attraction efforts over the next 3 years?	
	<u>ADMINISTRATION REPORTS</u>	
6-9	Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer - Industrial Legacy Workplan Proposal	Recommendation (Page 6)
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
10-17	Friends of the Smithers Public Library – Request for Letter of Support – Digitization of the <i>Interior News</i>	Direction
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING****Thursday, May 1, 2014**

PRESENT: Chair Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Stephen Freeman
Carman Graf
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Ralph Roy
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Bill Holmberg, District of Houston
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle
Luke Strimbold, Village of Burns Lake
Stoney Stoltenberg, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)

Alternate Directors Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
John Illes, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Miller called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m.

**SUPPLEMENTARY
AGENDA & AGENDA**Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Roy**C.W.2014-5-1**

"That the Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting; and further, that the agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of May 1, 2014 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES****Committee of the Whole
Minutes –April 3, 2014**Moved by Director Graf
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire**C.W.2014-5-2**

"That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 3, 2014 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

2014 UBCM Resolution Deadline

Moved by Director Freeman
 Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2014-5-3

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services' April 23, 2014 memo titled "2014 UBCM Resolution Deadline."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

North Central Local Government Association -Elect Laurey-Anne Roodenburg – 2nd Vice President

Moved by Director Graf
 Seconded by Director Roy

C.W.2014-5-4

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from the North Central Local Government Association titled "Elect Laurey-Anne Roodenburg 2nd Vice President."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding representation from the RDBN and municipalities within the RDBN on the North Central Local Government Association Board of Directors.

INVITATION

UNBC Convocation 2014 -May 30, 2014 – Prince George, B.C.

Moved by Alternate Director Illes
 Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2014-5-5

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Invitation titled "UNBC Convocation 2014 – May 30, 2014 – Prince George, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Director MacDougall
 Seconded by Director Roy

C.W.2014-5-6

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Director Thiessen's attendance at the 2014 UNBC Convocation in Prince George, B.C. on May 30, 2014."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

2014 NCLGA CONVENTION & AGM CORRESPONDENCE

2014 NCLGA Convention & AGM Correspondence

Moved by Director MacDougall
 Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2014-5-7

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence:

-Jerrilyn Schembri, NCLGA's 2014 AGM Committee Chair – Support of the "NCLGA's Literacy Legacy" – Bring a Book;
 -Northern Gateway Pipelines Invites You to Attend a Northern Gateway Reception May 7, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Chance's Bingo Room at the Pomeroy Hotel, Fort St. John."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting with Jim Snetsinger Consultant for the Province of B.C. RE: Area Based Tenure

Chair Miller mentioned that Directors Bachrach, Lindstrom and Thiessen, and Gail Chapman, CAO attended a meeting with Jim Snetsinger to provide comment regarding the Provincial Government's request for input concerning area based tenures. Chair Miller spoke of drafting a position paper regarding area based tenures for submission to Mr. Snetsinger prior to the May 30, 2014 deadline.

RDBN Position Paper RE: Area Based Tenure

Moved by Director Bachrach
 Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2014-5-8

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to draft a position paper including information received from Triangle Resources Inc. regarding area based tenures to be provided to the Regional Board at its May 15, 2014 Regional Board Meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Health – Opening New Section of St. John Hospital, Vanderhoof, B.C.

Director Thiessen noted that the date for the opening of the new section of St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof has changed from May 9th to May 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

CN to Celebrate Last Spike In Fort Fraser May 21, 2014

Director Roy mentioned that CN is organizing a celebration in Fort Fraser on May 21, 2014 to recognize the 100th anniversary of the last spike in the rail line.

Minerals North in Vanderhoof May 21-23, 2014

Director Thiessen noted that Minerals North in Vanderhoof on May 21-23, 2014 is coming soon and there are currently 300 delegates registered and 200 tradeshow participants/displays.

Northern Medical Program Trust

Director Thiessen spoke of being Vice-Chair of the Northern Medical Program Trust (NMPT) and that the current president is stepping down. Director Thiessen indicated that he would like to be nominated for president. If anyone is interested in being an executive member please provide that information to the Northern Medical Program Trust Executive.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Medical Staffing Levels

Director Thiessen mentioned that St. John Hospital has six doctors that provide surgery in Vanderhoof but recently the nursing staff has had staffing shortages which in turn affects the ability to conduct surgeries at St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof. There are often cumulative effects that impact doctors leaving communities. It is not always simply a matter of a doctor shortage.

Success for Fort St. James Residents

Director MacDougall acknowledged that Fort St. James resident Keith Playfair was acclaimed as the College of New Caledonia's (CNC) new Board Chair; Celia Evanson, Nurse Practitioner, Nak'azdli Health Centre was the winner of Northern Health's Excellence in Nursing; and Louise Burgart was appointed to the Northern Health Board of Directors.

Interim Doctor for Granisle

Alternate Director McGuire mentioned that Dr. Annandale from Burns Lake has agreed to travel to Granisle one day a month to provide physician services to the community.

Road to the Granisle Transfer Station

Alternate Director McGuire reported that the road to the Granisle Transfer station has sloughed. The Village of Granisle has a geotechnical engineer attending the site to provide an assessment and a stakeholders meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2014 in Granisle.

BC Ambulance

Director Freeman mentioned that BC Ambulance has initiated a hiring freeze due to the possibility of strike action. Concerns were also expressed regarding the lack of training being provided due to the shortage of personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director MacDougall

C.W.2014-5-8

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:06 p.m."

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
Committee of the Whole
Memorandum

TO: Chair Miller and Regional Committee of the Whole Members
FROM: Gail Chapman, CAO
SUBJECT: Industrial Legacy Workplan Proposal
DATE: May 27, 2014

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has identified legacy/resource development revenue as one of its priorities and included monies in its 2014 for this initiative (\$20,000).

In consultation with the region's municipal CAOs and subsequent meeting while at NCLGA in Fort St. John with Mr. Fred Banham, Mr. Banham has put forward a work plan proposal, together with costs for this initiative for review by the Regional Board. It is expected that the project costs over the course of the remainder of 2014 and first half of 2015 will be \$40,000. As the RDBN presently has a budget of \$20,000, consideration in the 2015 budget for the second half of the project can be addressed at that time.

It is expected that the RDBN will be working closely with municipal staff and Councils to move this important initiative forward.

Attached is the legacy work plan proposal together with a timeline and costs for your consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

(All/Directors/Majority)

"That the RDBN Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the "Industrial Legacy Work Plan Proposal" together with costs and proceed to contract with Mr. Fred Banham as presented."

FRED BANHAM & ASSOCIATES

Local government consulting - services – programs – facilitation – governance – evaluation

May 21, 2014

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
PO Box 820
37 3rd Avenue
Burns Lake, British Columbia V0J 1E0

Attention Gail Chapman, CAO

RE: Industrial Legacy Work Plan Proposal

Dear Ms. Chapman:

As follow-up to our meeting and discussion in Fort St. John about Bulkley Nechako access to new sources of local government revenue to assist with economic diversification and community infrastructure upgrades, I have prepared an 'Industrial Legacy Work Plan Proposal' for your review and consideration. I submit this plan as a draft subject to review by the CAOs and the Regional District.

This project is difficult to specifically price out because of the variety of meetings and expenses incurred by not just the consultant but local government in conducting research, hosting meetings, elected official expenses, travel expenses and presentation materials. Another factor is how quickly, does the Regional District want to move ahead with the entire initiative. As a budget estimate, we are likely looking at a project investment of \$40,000 over the next 12 months by the time we get to a point on making presentation 'Asks' to industry.

The 'Industrial Legacy Work Plan Proposal' is laid out in a manner that identifies the target goal, with a list of objectives required to achieve the primary goal. Each objective has a primary lead that will provide the bulk of the information for that objective and assistants who will help or coordinate achieving the objective. I have estimated a relatively tight time frame required to meet the each objective and estimated the amount of consultant time required for each.

I would be available to assist the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako with this initiative as a consultant. My working time is billed at a rate \$100 per hour, travel time when required is \$50 per hour and expenses are additional based upon receipts.

I look forward to your response to the work plan. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this timely and important initiative.

Yours truly,



Fred Banham

FRED BANHAM & ASSOCIATES Ltd
13104 McKinnon Way, Peace River Regional District, BC, V1G 0C2
fbanham@xplornet.ca (250) 719-1956

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY NECHAKO
INDUSTRIAL LEGACY WORK PLAN PROPOSAL**

GOAL:	TO REALIZE NEW SOURCE FUNDING TO ASSIST THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY NECHAKO AND IT'S MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES WITH COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE AND REPLACEMENT COSTS AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION INITIATIVES.
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WORK PLAN PROPOSAL		TASK RESONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME	CONSULTANT TIME	ADDITIONAL COST CONSIDERATIONS
OBJECTIVE 1:	Research/identify the local government infrastructure needs and potential costs.	Lead = CAOs Assist = Consultant	2 wks.	8 hrs.	None
OBJECTIVE 2:	Identify potential local government funding sources, both traditional and non-traditional.	Lead = CAOs Assist = Consultant	2 wks.	8 hrs.	None
OBJECTIVE 3:	Draft a 'Position Paper' identifying the community needs, priorities, funding options and ASK. Determine a compelling reason why funding contributions are needed.	Lead = Consultant Assist = CAOs Audience = Elected Officials	4 wks.	32 hrs.	1 face to face meeting with CAOs.
OBJECTIVE 4:	Consideration and development of a priority setting and funding distribution model unique needs of the greater Bulkley Nechako region.	Lead = CAOs Assist = Consultant Audience = Elected Officials	8 wks.	8 hrs.	1 face to face meeting with CAOs.
OBJECTIVE 5:	Present 'Draft Position Paper' to all elected officials of Bulkley Nechako Regional District, member municipalities as well as both provincial and federal elected representatives. (includes PPT presentation)	Lead = CAOs Assist = Consultant Audience = All region's Elected Officials	Early September	24 hrs.	Plenary Mtg. costs plus printed materials.
OBJECTIVE 6:	Prepare presentation packages for target audience - visual, informative and simple with a direct ASK. Speaker notes for elected official presentation.	Lead = Consultant Assist = CAOs Audience = Elected Officials/Industry - Investors - Developers	4 wks.	32 hrs.	Printed materials.
OBJECTIVE 7:	Present 'Position Paper' to non traditional funding sources to make the economic case for funding contributions toward community infrastructure upgrades and economic diversification initiatives, make the ASK!	Lead = Elected Officials Assist = CAOs & Consultant Audience = Industry - Investors - Developers	Who knows but as long as it takes!	To be determined	Hosting meeting. with target audiences.

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FRED BANHAM & ASSOCIATES

Local government consulting - services – programs – facilitation – governance – evaluation
 fbanham@xplornet.ca (250) 719-1956

Fred Banham, the sole proprietor of *Fred Banham and Associates*, is available to assist local government in delivering public service to local citizens. Specializing in local government services, programs, planning and governance. Fred draws upon 35 years of local government experience in both BC and Alberta with working experience in city, municipal districts, and regional district local government.

Local Government Service Expertise:

- Local Government - Governance Structure
- Program/Service Research and Development
- Strategic Planning
- Facilitation/Consultation
- Local Governance Education/Training
- Corporate Evaluation
- Program Evaluation
- Team Building
- Project Management
- Event Planning
- Community Consultation

Special Achievements/Initiatives:

The construction and commissioning of a \$20 million aquatic centre; Acting as elections officer in establishing the newly incorporated Alberta municipality, District Municipality of Big Lakes; Paying off the \$38.6 million municipal infrastructure debt for the District of Tumbler Ridge; Facilitating the establishment of Lake View Credit Union in Tumbler Ridge after the Royal Bank left town; Facilitating a marketing and sales event that sold 1,180 residential homes in 25 months bring private ownership to a community in crisis (Tumbler Ridge); Supporting the creation of the Peace region Fair Share, industrial tax share, MOU with the Province of BC; Establishment of local service areas for projects like the Dawson Creek Multiplex, Freezen, Harper-Imperial sewer services, Buick arena, Clearview gym, to name a few; and the negotiation of a 70 year Peace Region Legacy Fund program with BC Hydro valued at an estimated \$385M.

Work Experience:

- 2003 – 2014 Chief Administrative Officer with the Peace River Regional District (BC)
- 1996 – 2002 Chief Administrative Officer with the District of Tumbler Ridge (BC)
- 1991 – 1996 Director of Community Services with Municipal District of Big Lakes (AB)
- 1989 -1991 Regional Recreation Director, Smoky River Area Recreation (AB)
- 1987 -1989 Aquatic Program Director, Lakeland College (AB)
- 1980 – 1987 Aquatic Facilities Manager, City of Edmonton (AB)

Education:

- ◆ University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Bachelor of Physical Education – Sport Administration.
- ◆ University of Alberta, Local Government Certificate, Municipal Administration.
- ◆ Local Government Management Association - Municipal Administration Training Institute:
 - MATI 1 (Foundations), MATI 2 (Leadership), and MATI 3 (Managing People).
- ◆ Banff Centre for Management, Local Government Leadership Training.
- ◆ Royal Roads University, Leadership Challenge.
- ◆ Certified Coaches Federation – Certified Executive Coach Practitioner.
- ◆ Franklin Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.
- ◆ Franklin Covey, The 4 Roles of Leadership.

Cheryl Anderson

From: wendy wainwright
Sent: May-15-14 4:22 PM
To: Cheryl Anderson
Subject: FW: Attention: Wendy Wainwright
Attachments: digitization project.doc; Project.doc; digitizing newspaper Media Release.doc

* Request for
letter of support

Wendy Wainwright

Executive Assistant

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

P: 250-692-3195

F: 250-692-3305

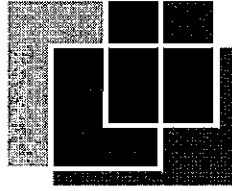
wendy.wainwright@rdbn.bc.ca

From: Geraldine Craven
Sent: May-15-14 1:28 PM
To: wendy wainwright
Subject: FW: Attention: Wendy Wainwright

From: Lorraine [<mailto:gradoir@telus.net>]
Sent: May-15-14 12:03 PM
To: inquiries
Subject: Attention: Wendy Wainwright

I am sending you information on a project that the Friends of the Smithers Public Library is working on: Digitization of the Interior News. We have found that in order to apply for grants it is vital that we have letters of support for the communities around us? We have been asking to make a personal presentation but have been assured by Rob Newell, Area G Director that the informative presentation sent to him and Stoney Stoltenberg and now to yourself will be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Regional District, which in turn will then be available to all the members. I feel it is important for all the communities, Houston, Granisle, Burns Lake, Topley and all in between hear about this project as it will be a powerful tool, available on line through the Smithers Public Library for any researchers, lawyers, people searching for family, the use is unending. I am hoping this will be enough information but if there are any questions I can be reached at 250-847-4797 and e-mail: gradoir@telus.net.

friends of the smithers library



PO Box 55
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

DIGITIZING PROJECT

FILM

1. Best quality film: The Legislative Library would be the source of the microfilm as it would be the best quality. The microfilm is held by BC Archives who will sell a duplicate master of the film for digitization.
2. **Cost to purchase duplicate master reels: approximately \$110.00 per reel.**
3. How many reels are there? Right now the Legislative Library has microfilm of the Interior News from 1910 – 1993. A guess would have it at 56 to 58 reels.

DIGITIZATION OF REELS

1. UBC would be able to participate. It has the capability to digitize reels of microfilm. It is possible they could digitize the film in-house for a fee. This would save the huge expense of buying equipment and paying a wage for someone to do the entire process.
2. **Cost is \$250.00 per reel, approximately based on previous projects.** The cost of doing it in-house (UBC) is unknown at this time.

HOSTING

1. A program UBC called CONTENTdm is the database that powers the BC Historical Newspapers website. It will take the digitized information/newspapers and upload it all to a server with all that this involves. **Cost \$105.00 per roll plus \$20.00 for collection set up.**
2. If the project is hosted at UBC a link can be provided to connect to the landing page of the Interior News.
3. If hosted by UBC they will do any required maintenance or error correction as part of the commitment to host the material.
4. Additional years would continue to be added at the same per-reel rate of the first batch.

PROJECT

1. **Total cost per reel: \$485.00 (rough estimate). 59 reels x \$485 = \$28,130.00**

TIME

1. If we did 10 reels at a time it is suggested that we allow up to a year to complete a 10 reel project.

Project to Digitize 100 Years of Smithers Interior News

History – During a North Coast Library Federation meeting in November 2011 a guest speaker from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre spoke on a project that was ongoing, digitizing all the newspapers in British Columbia. Grants can be applied for through the Learning Centre by any organization wishing to undertake digitization of their newspaper. The grant application is quite specific: any group applying for a grant would have to raise 50% of their proposed costs before applying with the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre grant providing matching funds up to \$15,000.00.

In 2012 many local citizens in Smithers were preparing projects to celebrate the Town's Centennial and were looking for historical information. The Bulkley Valley Genealogical Society, who were producing the Chronicles of Smithers for the Centennial Celebration were looking at a mountain of work to collect our community's history. When asked if it would have been helpful to their research if the Newspaper was digitized and linked to the Smithers Library web site, there was a very quick, positive response. It would be a powerful tool for researchers and bibliophiles that utilize the library. It was pointed out that digitization of local newspapers and delivery of the information via a website is already being done by the Prince George, Terrace and Kitimat Libraries.

Feasibility of the proposal - The Prince George Library had their own equipment, staff and server to digitize their newspaper. They have been receiving yearly grants for 6 years from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre to help with the process. Terrace and Kitimat Libraries received grants and use their own programs. We have also explored the digitization process employed to digitize the Merritt Herald by the Nicola Thompson Museum.

Beneficiaries of digitized information - We know that many will benefit from easy access to the historical issues of the past 100 years of the Interior News: teachers and students, lawyers, historians, museum curators and administrators, researchers, authors, mining engineers, prospectors, insurance companies. Access will be available to anyone, anywhere in the world, from their home, at no cost.

Organizing the project - Other organizations might be willing to support this proposal and with that thought in mind, we proposed to form the Interior News Digitization Group with the Smithers Library Board and the Friends of the Smithers Library undertaking the lead.

- Black Press through the local publisher Grant Harris was asked for their permission, endorsement and assistance with this project. They have given us permission to digitize their newspaper and have agreed to supply us with vital information to assist in the accumulation of old copies of the Interior News and a letter of permission to use their copyrighted publication.
- The Bulkley Valley Genealogical Society indicated in writing that they would join the group and appointed Laurie McArthur to represent their Society at future meetings. They have donated \$1,000.00.
- The Bulkley Valley Historical and Museum Association have joined the group with a promise of a \$1,000 donation.
- Smithers Public Library Board has endorsed the project and appointed Vicki Alton to represent them in the Digitization Project Group.

Source of microfilm records – Currently microfilms of the Interior News are held by B.C. Archives in the Legislative Library in Victoria. As well, the Terrace Branch of Northwest Community College and the Bulkley Valley Museum each have a collection of

microfilms. The best, most pristine microfilm would be with the BC Archives and they have agreed to let us purchase copies for our use in the digitizing process. Their index specifically lists The Interior News in negative form from 1910 to 1990 and commercially filmed issues from Jan. 1994 to Dec. 1998, a total of 56 reels. There are gaps in accessible sources for digitization between 1990 and 1994 and moving forward from 1998 to 2005. This will take a bit of work with having to use all available sources to complete this project.

Reproduction Needs –To purchase the microfilm reels from BC Archives the cost will be approximately \$110.00 per reel, 56 reels to date. Digitization includes the scanning of the film, cropping the images, colour correction, folderization and applying filenames. CONTENTdm is a database used for the BC Historical newspapers website. By the time a microfilm reel is digitized, ingested into this website, making the full text of the newspaper searchable we are looking at approximately \$600.00 per reel.

Financing the project –Black Press has been very co-operative in providing us with copy right permission and access to their files. In addition, they have agreed to advertise this project with a plea for donations from the general public. The Friends of the Smithers Library is a registered charity with Revenue Canada and may issue tax-exempt receipts for donors. In addition the Digitization Group intends to apply to local foundations, various government departments, businesses and service clubs.

In closing, we hope to submit a grant application to the Irving K. Barber Foundation this year when they open for applications in November, 2014. The plan is to start small, digitizing the first 10 reels to work out any bugs. Letters of support are imperative to assist in our being successful with any grant application we make. This presentation is to update all of you on this project. All we ask is, if you can see the worth of a project like this, to provide us with

a letter of support to accompany our grant application. Your letter would be a vital addition to our information. Thank you for listening to us and we look forward to being able to share with our communities the time when we can say that with a click of a mouse history is at your fingertips!

Media Release | May. 2, 2012

UBC digitization program brings B.C. history to the world

An innovative UBC program has provided more than \$1 million in funding to help B.C. communities promote their unique histories to audiences around the world, thanks to digitization.

The support will allow users to view photos related to the Japanese-Canadian internment on the West Coast in the 1940s, peruse the pages of historical B.C. newspapers and much more.

Launched by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre in 2006, the B.C. History Digitization Program (BCHDP) provides matching grants to support projects that make B.C. heritage freely accessible to the public via the Internet.

This year, nearly \$188,000 in matching funds was allocated for 23 projects throughout the province. In total, the BCHDP has awarded more than \$1.02 million for 120 grants over the past six years. To view digitized images from past projects, please visit <http://ow.ly/az99R> and click on the links under “Successful Projects.”

“The BCHDP not only provides funding to make B.C.’s history available to the world – it also represents an investment in our communities,” says Simon Neame, director of the Learning Centre. “Since its inception, the BCHDP has been dedicated to helping libraries, archives, museums and post-secondary institutions share their unique resources with a broader audience.”

“We are again pleased with the breadth and scope of historical material that will be digitized by B.C. institutions as part of this unique financial partnership,” adds Chris Hives, BCHDP coordinator and university archivist.

Sixty-six of the 120 grants given out over the years have supported projects based outside of the Lower Mainland; nearly one-third of the projects have focused on the digitization of photographs. One of this year’s recipients is the West Vancouver Memorial Library, which will use the funds to add 1,500 digitized images to its online repository.

“The B.C. History Digitization Program, together with the support of the Friends of the West Vancouver Library, has made it possible for us to draw attention to a hidden treasure in our keeping,” says Deb Hutchison Koep, deputy director at West Vancouver Memorial Library. “Local collections reflect the community and promote an important sense of ownership over cultural institutions like our Library.”

Many B.C. newspapers have also been digitized since the BCHDP began – including local papers in Prince George. That project’s next stage is focusing on digitizing titles from 1977 to 1985.

“We are extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish with funding from the B.C. History Digitization Program,” says Marc Saunders, public service manager at the Prince George Public Library. “The high-quality images we are acquiring now will be used in some form for many years to come, perhaps even for generations.”

Other items to be digitized in this latest program round include: 1,500 photos and artifacts from Burnaby’s Nikkei National Museum related to the Japanese-Canadian internment on the West Coast between 1941 and 1947; a portion of the extensive Karl Spreitz film archive at the University of Victoria; and photos from The Reach Gallery and Museum Abbotsford for the Abbotsford Living History Project.

A complete list of 2012 funding recipients is available at <http://ow.ly/axmEv>.

Related topics: B.C. History Digitization Program, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Japanese-Canadian internment, learning, Nikkei National Museum, Prince George Library, UBC Library, West Vancouver Memorial Library