

From: Northern Development Initiative Trust <info@northernddevelopment.bc.ca>

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To: Emily Epp <eepp@cariboord.ca>

Subject: Planned network of 47 Level 2 charging stations receives \$192,000 boost from Northern Development

Press release: Northern Development announces \$192,000 grant
towards the creation of an electric vehicle charging station network

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Planned network of 47 Level 2 charging stations receives \$192,000 boost from Northern Development



From left: Derek Baker, Director of Economic Development, Northern Development; Art Kaehn, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George; Lara Beckett, Vice-Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George; Joel McKay, CEO, Northern Development; Janice Keyes, Senior Manager, Community Energy Engagement, Community Energy Association.

Photo: Northern Development

JANUARY 8, 2020

PRINCE GEORGE – Northern Development Initiative Trust today announced its commitment of \$192,000 towards the creation of an electric vehicle (EV) charging station network across central and northern B.C.

Branded “Charge North”, this partnership involves 23 regional districts,

municipalities and First Nations and demonstrates collaboration on addressing the issue of clean energy, while supporting economic development and enhancing tourism.

Once fully developed, this network will further open up central and northern B.C. to EV drivers and improve accessibility for existing drivers, bringing more people to communities throughout the region and increasing the profile of local attractions.

The Strategic Initiatives Fund (SIF) grant from Northern Development will assist with the purchase of 47 Level 2 stations to be located in 26 local government and First Nation communities ([see attached](#)).

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) submitted the application and are working with other local governments and First Nations. The Community Energy Association – an independent organization that supports local governments in developing and implementing community energy and emissions plans – is managing the overall project.

Once purchased, Charge North will work towards the installation of all 47 stations.

SIF is a proposal-based program that provides grant funding for strategic projects that are large in scale, regional in impact, enhance a community or multiple communities' ability to overcome economic challenges and will result in incremental capacity or strategic economic infrastructure within a local government or First Nation. The goal of the program is to support community-based projects that focus on long-term economic transformation and sustainability.

[View the press release on our website](#)

[List of communities receiving a charging station](#)

QUOTES:

Lara Beckett, Vice Chair, Regional District Fraser-Fort George

“The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has identified climate action as a core strategic priority. Advancing the development of an electric vehicle charging network in Northern B.C. will go a long way in reducing CO2 emissions. We thank Northern Development Initiative Trust for supporting this project.”

Joel McKay, CEO, Northern Development Initiative Trust

“This isn’t a ‘one and done’ project. As the number of EVs increase, so does the need for charging stations and I look forward to committing more grant dollars in the future. Thank you to our partners and everyone who made this a reality – the north isn’t going to wait to go green.”

**Janice Keyes, Senior Manager, Community Energy Engagement,
Community Energy Association**

"The number of British Columbians switching to electric vehicles is growing exponentially. There are over 20,000 new EVs on BC's roads, with more diverse models coming to the market. This project recognizes that growth and the potential it provides. There has been great enthusiasm from everyone involved and we really appreciate the support NDIT has provided."

[View the press release on our website](#)

Media Contact

Holly Plato

Director, Communications and Marketing

Northern Development Initiative Trust

hollyp@northerndevlopment.bc.ca

250-561-2525



Electric vehicle drivers joined the announcement at an existing charging station on the University of Northern British Columbia campus in Prince George.

Photo: Northern Development

Northern Development is an independent regional economic development corporation focused on stimulating economic growth and job creation in central and northern British Columbia. To date, the Trust

has approved more than \$235 million in funding to more than 3,700 projects in communities throughout central and northern British Columbia.

We have helped create more than 6,200 jobs in the region and forged over 3,600 partnerships with over 1,000 organizations that have attracted more than \$1.3 billion in new investment to the region.

Approximately 71% of our investments are in small communities with populations of less than 5,000.

www.northernddevelopment.bc.ca | 250-561-2525

info@northernddevelopment.bc.ca



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Our mailing address is:

301-1268 Fifth Avenue

Prince George, B.C.

V2L 3L2

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