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# News Release

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FOR RELEASE  
October 16, 2003

## FEDERAL SOFTWOOD INITIATIVE INVESTS IN B.C. FOREST COMMUNITIES

**NANAIMO, B.C.** – Allan Rock, Minister of Industry, and Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, together with the Honourable Stephen Owen, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Indian Affairs and Northern Development), announced funding today under the Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative for \$4.8 million in eleven new projects that leverage nearly \$13 million in new investments for B.C. communities impacted by softwood tariffs.

“This funding supports the development of jobs and new wealth creation in communities throughout British Columbia,” said Allan Rock, Minister of Industry. “These eleven projects demonstrate an outstanding ability to show ingenuity in creating economic sustainability in B.C. communities.”

"Supporting British Columbia's forestry sector is a top priority for this Government," said Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. "Our announcement today shows again our commitment to providing economic opportunities for our communities as we continue to work for a long-term solution to the softwood lumber dispute."

“Many of these communities have come together to develop projects that benefit the region based on local ideas and knowledge,” said Stephen Owen, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Indian Affairs and Northern Development). "This program puts communities first. The Government of Canada's investment in local ideas demonstrates our confidence in the resourcefulness and long-term sustainability of B.C. communities."

“I am pleased that federal funding is being provided to such deserving projects,” said Prince George Mayor Colin Kinsley, Chairman of Ministers’ Advisory Group. “It is exciting to see another group of approved projects soon after the initial round of approvals. Canada’s future depends on the economic revitalization of rural communities that we know will come as a result of these important investments.”

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“British Columbia’s rural communities are deeply connected to their forests and the forestry industry. The Government is responding to the impact of U.S. softwood tariffs which has affected us all,” said Simon Cumming, Community Futures Development Association of B.C., Managing Director. “This funding is a concrete example of the Government of Canada’s commitment to local solutions and priorities of rural B.C. communities.”

Today’s announcement brings the total number of projects to 19, with a total funding of \$8.3 million leveraging \$28 million for B.C. communities impacted by the softwood tariffs. Western Economic Diversification Canada will announce projects as they complete the review process.

Western Economic Diversification Canada is the federal department mandated to support economic diversification in communities across Western Canada through activities that promote and assist Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Communities. Federal funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 2003 budget.

Please note that funding for all projects is conditional on confirmation of partnership funding and the positive outcome of a federal environmental assessment.

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**Note to news directors and assignment editors – the news release and backgrounder are also available at our Media Centre on our Website: [www.wd.gc.ca](http://www.wd.gc.ca)**

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**"A Stronger West. A Stronger Canada"**

## **BACKGROUND**

On October 16, 2003 the Government of Canada is investing \$4.8 million in eleven new projects that leverage nearly \$13 million in B.C. communities impacted by U.S. softwood tariffs. These projects are located throughout British Columbia.

### **Lower Mainland and Coastal B.C.**

#### **Central Island**

- The City of **Nanaimo** will receive \$1,000,000 to assist in the construction of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, including meeting rooms, ballrooms, and a commercial kitchen facility totaling \$2 million.
- The Vancouver Island Conference Centre will bring a new level of conference business to the city including national and international events. This will stimulate investment in communities through central Vancouver Island. This project will create many short and long-term jobs and bolster tourism in the entire central Vancouver Island region.

**Contact:** Bob van Schubert (250) 753-6414  
Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Island

### **The North**

#### **North Cariboo**

- The Cariboo Ski Touring Club will receive \$20,550 to enhance the Hallis Lake cross-country ski facilities in the Quesnel area. The improvements will include a new trail, the upgrade and expansion of a current trail, a new Biathlon Hut for volunteers and officials, additional signage, and new heating systems. The total project cost is \$41,100.
- This project demonstrates significant partnerships between the community and the private sector. The initiative will serve a niche market targeting international tourists and will establish critical linkages to the 2010 Winter Olympics.

**Contact:** Greg Lawrence (250) 747-1212  
Community Futures Development Corporation of North Cariboo

### **Pacific Northwest**

- The North Coast Water Quality & Biotoxin Program Society in **Prince Rupert** will receive \$31,805 towards a total project cost of \$63,610. This project will enable the monitoring, collection and assessment of levels of biotoxins – a fundamental pre-requisite to establishing commercial aquaculture production.
- The North Coast Water Quality & Biotoxin Program is pivotal to the development of the existing and future shell fishing industry along the North Coast. This project is key to the development of a First Nations aquaculture industry in the area.

**Contact:** Maynard Angus (250) 622-2332  
Community Futures Development Corporation of the Pacific Northwest

### **Pacific Northwest**

- The **Prince Rupert** Port Authority will receive \$800,000 towards a \$1.6 million upgrade of the existing terminal, the next step in establishing container-handling facilities. This project is identified as a key economic driver for future economic growth across northern B.C.
- This initiative responds to transportation issues, tourism development and increased cargo demand. It will create significant jobs and generate considerable economic benefits. This project has broad support of communities and the transportation industry throughout northern BC and Alberta, and will position Prince Rupert as a key transportation hub in the Pacific Northwest.

**Contact:** Maynard Angus (250) 622-2332  
Community Futures Development Corporation of the Pacific Northwest

### **Peace Liard**

- The West Moberly First Nation will receive \$41,000 towards the creation of a Heritage Village in **Moberly Lake**. The village will showcase art, culture, history, and traditions of the First Nations people and pioneers of the area. The total project cost is \$203,760.
- The Heritage Village will include a cultural and historical centre, a teepee village and cabins by the lake. It will be located just off Highway 29, and will offer visitors a unique opportunity to understand the history of the indigenous people. This project will create eight new jobs and offer Chetwynd, and the surrounding region sustainable economic benefits attracting significant tourists upon its completion.

**Contact:** Michael Cheeks (250) 785-6794  
Community Futures Development Corporation of Peace Liard

### **Fraser Fort George**

- The **Prince George** Airport Authority will receive \$1.85 million as a part of a \$5.56 million strategy to develop international cargo and tourist business across northern B.C. Funding of this project will establish an on-site customs facility at the airport – a critical component of the airport's business development plan.
- The airport expansion is a key economic driver for the future of northern communities. The customs facilities will position Prince George, and Northern B.C. to tap into and open new international markets for cargo and tourism. The Prince George Airport Authority has secured support from international tour operators, international cargo shippers, local businesses, and the federal government.

**Contact:** Don Zurowski (250) 562-9622  
Community Futures Development Corporation of Fraser Fort George

### **16/37**

- The City of **Terrace** will receive \$306,909 to assist in creating a tourism gateway in the downtown core. The total project cost is \$878,025.
- A focal point of this project is the refurbishing the former residence of Terrace's town founding father, George Little. The home will be relocated close to the core business area for easy accessibility by tourists. This project will be a catalyst for tourism development and downtown revitalization which has been identified as the community's top priority for economic diversification.

**Contact:** Roger Leclerc (250) 635-5449  
Community Futures Development Corporation of 16/37

## The Okanagan & Kootenays

### Shuswap

- The Columbia Shuswap Regional District will receive \$128,769 to upgrade and develop their snowmobiling trails and facilities in the **Salmon Arm** area. This project will support the establishment of a destination lodge and upgrade trails, parking areas, build and upgrade warming huts, and install signage. The total project cost is \$257,539.
- This initiative is a priority for the communities of Sicamous, Revelstoke, Golden, and Salmon Arm, and has significant local financial support. Improvements to the current snowmobile trails will expand the draw of visitors from B.C., Alberta, and the United States to the area, and will benefit the surrounding accommodation industry.

**Contact:** Dave Andrews (250) 832-2118  
Community Futures Development Corporation of Shuswap

### North Okanagan

- The Airport Training Council in **Vernon** will receive \$213,250 to purchase equipment required to establish an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer program. The total project cost is \$1,276,500.
- The initiative, strongly endorsed by other academic institutions across B.C, has significant support from the community, the local aerospace industry and government. The establishment of this facility is seen as integral to the development of the aerospace sector in the Okanagan region and will address the dire shortage of qualified aviation maintenance engineers in Western Canada. This project demonstrates long-term sustainable economic benefits for the Okanagan region.

**Contact:** Jane Lister (250) 545-2215  
Community Futures Development Corporation of North Okanagan

### **Sun Country**

- The Jade Monument Committee will receive \$20,650 towards a total project cost of \$74,010 to construct contemporary jade monuments in downtown **Lillooet**.
- The Jade Monument Project incorporates local history, culture and geography to promote the Lillooet region and attract greater tourism in the area. This community has been dependent on the forestry industry and has identified this project as a top priority towards the creation of Lillooet as a themed tourism destination.

**Contact:** Debbie Arnott (250) 453-9165  
Community Futures Development Corporation of Sun Country

### **Shuswap**

- The District of **Salmon Arm** will receive \$437,500 to develop a waterfront walkway along Shuswap Lake – local infrastructure that will leverage significant private investment in developing a downtown tourism centre. These walkways will connect existing and proposed areas of high-density residential developments at either end of the walkway. The total project cost is \$1,043,170.
- The elevated walkways will anchor residential and commercial development. This initiative shows a strong collaboration between the private and public sectors and builds on the existing successful bird watching tourism industry along the shores of Shuswap Lake.

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Community Futures Development Corporation of Shuswap