

## SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

# REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

BC Hydro is working with communities to reach agreements that will provide lasting benefits for residents of the Peace Region. To date, BC Hydro has reached agreements with **the Peace River Regional District (PRRD)**, the **District of Chetwynd**, **District of Taylor**, **City of Fort St. John** and the **District of Hudson's Hope**.

Among the benefits to local communities from the Site C project are a regional legacy benefits agreement, infrastructure improvements, recreation and tourism opportunities, and affordable housing.

### Regional legacy benefits

A **regional legacy benefits agreement** between BC Hydro and the PRRD will provide \$2.4 million annually to the PRRD and its member communities for a period of 70 years, starting when Site C is operational. The funding will be indexed to inflation.

### Improved transportation infrastructure

BC Hydro is proposing a number of measures to improve transportation infrastructure in the Peace Region during construction, such as upgrades to roads and highways and pavement condition monitoring on project-related roads.

The following measures are now complete:

- Installed a paved brake check on Canyon Drive for use by all heavy vehicles approaching Hudson's Hope to enhance road safety.
- **Provided funding** to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to install additional street lighting along Highway 97 through Taylor, dynamic message board signs and a highway webcam to provide advance notification of weather and road conditions.
- Public road improvements to Old Fort, 240, 269 and 271 roads.

The following measures are ongoing throughout the project:

- Ensure the public is advised about any work that will have a significant impact on local and regional traffic.
- Provide funding to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to undertake additional pavement condition monitoring on project-related roads. Fund repairs if project use results in road deterioration.
- Implement a traffic monitoring and mitigation plan that includes traffic counts and intersection and performance analysis.

Upcoming measures include:

- Realign sections of Highway 29 that will be flooded and incorporate safety improvements.
- Reconstruct DA Thomas Road prior to the construction of a berm in Hudson's Hope; rehabilitate Clarke Avenue upon completion of the berm, as required.



### Expanded recreation and tourism opportunities

The construction and operation of Site C will provide new and expanded recreation and tourism opportunities for residents of the Peace region, such as new boat launches and day use areas, a public viewpoint of the dam site and funding for community recreation sites.

The following measures are now complete:

- Provided \$200,000 to the District of Chetwynd to support recreation projects on the south bank.
- Constructed a **public viewpoint** of the dam site on the north bank.
- Provided \$150,000 to the District of Hudson's Hope for the enhancement of Alwin Holland Park or other community shoreline recreation areas.

Upcoming measures include:

- Build and operate three permanent Site C reservoir boat launches and day use areas at Cache Creek/Bear Flats, Lynx Creek and at the base of DA Thomas Road in Hudson's Hope.
- Reconnect the walking trail at DA Thomas to Dudley Drive, once the Hudson's Hope berm is complete.
- Provide \$200,000 for a community recreation site fund to support community groups in developing new shoreline recreation areas.
- Invite local museums to participate in mitigation by funding the development or enhancement of heritage programming.
- Provide \$200,000 to fund the development of a BC Peace River / Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan.

### Support workers living locally

To support housing options for workers, BC Hydro is working with BC Housing to build new housing units in Fort St. John, provide new daycare spaces in Fort St. John, and add new long-stay RV spaces at Peace Island Park.

The following measure is now complete:

- Added 20 new long-stay RV spaces at Peace Island Park in partnership with the District of Taylor.

The measures listed below are currently under construction:

- Build a total of **50 new rental housing units** in Fort St. John. Forty units will be used by construction workers and their families during project construction. Ten units would be built for immediate use by the community. At the completion of construction, all 50 units would be provided as affordable rental housing for community use.
- Provide **new daycare spaces** in the Fort St. John area to support families in the labour force.



### Support for community services and infrastructure

BC Hydro is proposing a variety of measures to support non-profit organizations in the Peace Region during construction, along with other measures to reduce the impact of the project on community services and infrastructure.

The following measures are now complete:

- Provided \$250,000 to local non-profits that provide emergency and transitional housing services, such as the **Salvation Army Northern Centre of Hope**.
- Provided **\$75,000** to one or more non-profit organizations identified by the City of Fort St. John.
- Provide funding to local and regional governments to support emergency rescue services during project construction.

The following measures are ongoing:

- \$800,000 **Generate Opportunities (GO) Fund** to support non-profit organizations in the North and South Peace.
- Provide an **on-site project health clinic**, water and sewer systems, and recreational facilities at the worker lodge to reduce demand on community infrastructure and services.
- Assist workers and their families relocating to the area by providing local information packages about health, education and social services.
- Provide direct funding to the City to fund one additional RCMP officer to be based out of the Fort St. John detachment.
- Support local governments, Northern Health, emergency service providers and School Districts 60 and 59 by providing information to help them plan for changes in resident population.
- Implement community water supply monitoring programs with the District of Taylor and the City of Fort St. John; implement appropriate mitigation measures if required.

Upcoming measures include:

- Replace Hudson's Hope water supply infrastructure affected by the Site C reservoir.

### Increased access to skills and trades training

BC Hydro recognizes the importance of hiring locally. To help increase the availability of local labour, BC Hydro has invested approximately \$1.5 million in a number of skills and trades training programs.



The following measures are now complete:

- **\$184,000 to Northern Opportunities** for the creation of a school district career counsellor position that helped students transition into trades and career training.
- \$100,000 to the North East Native Advancing Society in support of trades training under its North East Aboriginal Trades Training program.
- \$175,000 over five years to Northern Opportunities for its pre-apprenticeship program.

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The following measures are ongoing:

- **\$1 million to Northern Lights College Foundation** to support trades and skills training through the creation of student bursaries.
- Work with contractors to identify and increase apprenticeship opportunities and participate in regional workforce training initiatives.

### Increased regional government revenues and economic activity

In addition to provincial benefits, Site C will result in increased revenues and economic development in the region during construction and operations, including:

- Estimated \$130 million increase in regional gross domestic product (GDP), during construction.
- Estimated \$2 million per year for local governments during operations from grants-in-lieu and school taxes.

### Thousands of jobs

Construction of Site C is creating jobs for British Columbians. In 2017, there was a monthly average of 2,200 workers on the project with a peak of about 2,500 workers in the summer and a low of about 1,500 workers in the winter. As with any construction project, the number of workers will vary month-to-month and also reflects the seasonal nature of construction work.

Site C will provide 25 direct jobs and 160 total jobs on average per year during operations.

Additional employment will result from sustaining investments in the project such as refurbishment and/or replacement of project components over the life of the project.

### Opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses

One of BC Hydro's project objectives for Site C is to provide lasting economic and social benefits for northern communities and Indigenous groups. The procurement approach for Site C is expected to provide opportunities for small, medium and large businesses to participate in project construction.

BC Hydro's initiatives to increase awareness of business opportunities include:



- The **Site C Business Directory** ensures that interested businesses are provided with information about project opportunities. The business directory will be shared with contractors involved in project-related activities.
- BC Hydro and its contractors may hold **business-to-business networking sessions** where contractors can meet local suppliers. At these sessions, local, regional and Indigenous businesses have the opportunity to meet proponents, with the objective of building partnerships and creating opportunities for regional contractors.