

## SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

# INFORMATION SHEET REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

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.

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 and the City of Fort St. John.

### 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.

- Realign sections of Highway 29 that will be flooded and incorporate safety improvements.
- Implement safety improvements to North Bank roads including Old Fort, 240, 269 and 271 roads.
- Provide 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.
- 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.
- Install a paved brake check on Canyon Drive for use by all heavy vehicles approaching Hudson's Hope, which will enhance road safety.
- 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.
- Develop traffic management plans to provide public advisories which will increase safety for the public and workers on the project during construction.



### 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, viewpoints of the dam site and funding for community recreation sites.

- Build and operate three permanent Site C reservoir boat launches, which would include docks and day use areas, at Cache Creek/Bear Flats, Lynx Creek and at the base of DA Thomas Road in Hudson's Hope.
- Provide \$150,000 to the District of Hudson's Hope for the enhancement of Alwin Holland Park or other community shoreline recreation areas.
- Build a shoreline walking trail along the Hudson's Hope berm.
- Provide \$200,000 for a community recreation site fund to support community groups in developing new shoreline recreation areas
- Provide \$200,000 to the District of Chetwynd to support recreation projects on the south bank.
- Build a public viewpoint of the dam site on the north bank.
- 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.

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



### 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.

- Provide more than \$1 million to support regional non-profit organizations during construction, including:
  - \$800,000 to support non-profit organizations in the North and South Peace.
  - \$250,000 to local non-profits that provide emergency and transitional housing services, including the recent donation to the Salvation Army Northern Centre of Hope.
  - \$75,000 to one or more non-profit organizations identified by the City of Fort St. John.
- 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.
- Provide funding to local and regional governments to support emergency rescue services during project construction.
- 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.
- Replace Hudson's Hope water supply infrastructure affected by the Site C reservoir.
- Implement community water supply monitoring programs with the District of Taylor and the City of Fort St. John; implement appropriate mitigation measures if required.

### 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.



- \$1 million to Northern Lights College Foundation to support trades and skills training through the creation of student bursaries.
- \$184,000 to Northern Opportunities for the creation of a school district career counsellor position to help students transition into trades and career training.
- \$100,000 to the North East Native Advancing Society to support trades training under its North East Aboriginal Trades Training program.
- \$175,000 over five years to Northern Opportunities for its pre-apprenticeship program.
- 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;
- A regional legacy benefits agreement that will provide \$2.4 million annually to the PRRD and its member communities for a period of 70 years; and
- Estimated \$2 million per year for local governments during operations from grants-in-lieu and school taxes.

### Thousands of Jobs

Construction of Site C will create approximately 10,000 person-years of direct employment during construction, and approximately 33,000 total person-years of employment through all stages of development and construction. It will provide 25 permanent direct jobs 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 Aboriginal Businesses

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

Local business opportunities was a key theme raised during two rounds of Site C Business Information Sessions in the region. Based on this feedback, BC Hydro developed a regional contractor engagement approach to assess the capacity of regional contractors, identify potential matches between regional contractors and project work, and build relationships and communicate with businesses about opportunities.

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. Interested businesses are encouraged to visit [www.sitecproject.com](http://www.sitecproject.com) to register. The business directory will be shared with contractors involved in project-related activities.
- BC Hydro holds **business-to-business networking sessions** where potential contractors can meet local suppliers and potentially form partnerships. At these sessions, local, regional and Aboriginal businesses have the opportunity to meet proponents, with the objective of building partnerships and creating opportunities for regional contractors.