

Annual Report 2023





▶
The Beacon Theatre in Burns Lake. The theatre received a \$47,000 Economic Infrastructure grant for a roof replacement in 2021.

Cover photo:
2023 Barkerville's Indigenous Celebration. Northern Development provided a \$2,500 Fabulous Festivals and Events grant to Barkerville Heritage Trust to help make this event a success.

Photo: Barkerville Heritage Trust

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Our Vision

Northern British Columbia is recognized as a global leader in innovative, inclusive rural development.

Our Values

We strive to be trusted for our integrity, accountability, collaboration and passion. We are responsive, yet responsible.

Our Mission

Northern Development acts as a catalyst for transformative rural development that stimulates entrepreneurial creativity and community resiliency.

Our Ethics

As stewards of a public trust incorporated under legislation by the Province of British Columbia, we promise to:

- Dedicate ourselves to building economic capacity and sustainability throughout the Trust's service area
- Responsibly steward a capital base to support Trust area communities in perpetuity
- Develop strong partnerships throughout the region and uphold the values of the communities we serve

But not to:

- Favour one region, community or business over another
- Adopt or promote a political affiliation or put our interests ahead of central and northern B.C.'s

Four Strategic Pillars

Organizational Excellence and Sustainability
 Business Development
 Community Development
 Capacity Development

Message from the Chair and CEO

In 2023, after more than two years of uncertainty following the pandemic, Russia's attack on the Ukraine and continued market volatility, Northern Development and the region it serves forged a new path forward in the collective goal of creating welcoming, thriving communities in Northern B.C.

After a challenging period in 2022, where we experienced a -9.8% return on investment (ROI), we reported an impressive 11.4% ROI in 2023. The Trust maintains its focus on staying financial sustainable which is done through following the statement of investment policy and procedures and following Mawer's guidance on investing in high quality companies. Overall our average return on investment since inception is 6.9% which illustrates the resilience of our financial strategies.

We continued our strategic partnerships with BC Hydro, the Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Citizen's Services, administering various programs that run the gamut from agriculture projects to social services, capacity building and supportive housing.

The addition of \$75 million from Citizens Services to deliver a provincial cellular program represents a milestone in the Province of British Columbia's goal to ensure connectivity and safety for everyone traveling on B.C.'s highways. Additionally, the \$10 million in new funding for our core programs from JEDI is the first endowment the Trust has received from the province since it was established.

The continuation of our Indigenous Advisory Committee and our strides towards an inclusive governance model have been instrumental in ensuring that our strategies and initiatives are grounded in the principles of respect, partnership, and mutual benefit. Our commitment to

inclusivity and collaboration has never been stronger, as we continue to learn from and with our Indigenous partners. We granted a total \$46,703,725 for 421 projects in 2023.

- Core programs: \$8,821,251
- Partner programs: \$37,882,473

We were consistently oversubscribed in our regions, demonstrating a clear alignment with community priorities. After several years of practicing social distancing and staying in our bubbles, programs such as Fabulous Festivals and Events and Community Places were very popular as local governments and organizations worked to draw in tourists and new residents.

Our resilience and responsiveness have also been evident in our approach to addressing the challenges faced by the forestry industry, and in our proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of wildfires and floods. These efforts underscore our commitment to supporting our communities through both economic and environmental challenges, reinforcing the trust and confidence that is placed in us.

As we look to the future, we are energized by the opportunities that lie ahead. With a strong financial foundation, a clear strategic direction, and the unwavering support of our partners and communities, we are poised to continue making significant strides in fostering economic development and sustainability across Northern British Columbia.



Margo Wagner
Board Chair



Joel McKay
Chief Executive Officer

How We Work

Our Team

Northern Development's staff is a focused group of high-performing individuals who work to stimulate Northern B.C.'s economy. The staff is dedicated to building relationships with organizations, governments and businesses in their service region and beyond through the Trust's partner programs.

With over 400 projects approved through Northern Development's core and partner programs in 2023, the team works diligently to oversee hundreds of active projects, administer partner program funds, complete due diligence on all applications and manage day-to-day operations.

Please visit our website or call our office to contact any one of our talented staff.

Governance

Board of Directors

Northern Development Initiative Trust is governed by a 13-member board of directors. Board members are appointed in two ways: five are regional business leaders appointed by the Province of British Columbia and eight are appointed by the four regional advisory committees. Every director must reside in the Trust's service region. The board meets quarterly and when required. They are responsible for setting and maintaining the Trust's strategic priorities, making decisions based on policy and being an effective team to stimulate economic development in Northern B.C. Each year, the composition of the board changes slightly as various terms end, elections are held in local governments and regional advisory committees change.

A list of our current Board of Directors can be found on our website.

Staff Values

The Trust team functions as a whole and strives to incorporate a specific set of values into every decision made and every interaction. Team values are important because they establish the fundamental beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that guide our actions and decisions. Northern Development's team values include integrity, trust, openness, flexibility, support, continuous improvement, balance, community, leadership and agility.



Regional Advisory Committees

Northern Development's board is advised by four regional advisory committees. These four committees are comprised of 67 locally elected leaders and each committee elects a chair, vice-chair and two members to join the board. This method ensures that local knowledge from the Trust's diverse communities is incorporated into all decisions. The regional advisory committees meet every quarter to review funding applications, policy recommendations, strategic plans and to discuss economic challenges that the region may be facing.

Who We Support

Indigenous led projects

Northern Development's service region includes 89 Indigenous governments representing many different nations, treaties and languages. The Trust acknowledges the ceded and unceded territories that it serves throughout central and northern British Columbia.

- ▶ **\$868,381 approved for 12 community development projects in 2023**
- ▶ **\$12,718,044 approved for 170 community development projects since inception**
- ▶ **\$323,000 approved for 20 capacity building projects in 2023**
- ▶ **\$2,381,108 approved for 248 capacity building projects since inception**
- ▶ **\$197,128 approved for seven business development projects in 2023**
- ▶ **\$1,470,179 approved for 67 business development projects since inception**

Photo: Barkerville Heritage Trust



Renovation project helps to support year-round visitation for Three Nations General Store and Lodging



Photos: Nazko Economic Development Corporation

The Nazko Economic Development Corporation was approved for a \$81,247 Economic Infrastructure grant for facility upgrades at the Three Nations General Store and Lodge located in Nazko.

Central to this project is the renovation of five rental cabins at the site, enabling their use across all seasons to accommodate visitors in Nazko. The main scope of work for these cabins includes the removal of old flooring, insulation placement between joists, and the installation of new tongue and groove sheathing followed by vinyl plank flooring. Additional improvements and insulation enhancements were carried out on each cabin, aimed at ensuring their suitability for winter.

The initiative aims at enhancing and adapting the current hospitality and tourism operations, with the goal of bolstering the economy through year-round visitation in the Nazko region. "Nazko's Three Nations Store and Lodge is grateful to NDIT for providing Economic Infrastructure funding for the

upgrade of five cabins to diversify our tourism economy and support a year-round destination," said Tai Krahn, manager of economic development for the Nazko Development Corporation.

"The project helped upgrade and modernize our cabins to make them available for year-round rental and attract more visitors to Nazko. This helps provide an anchor service in supporting Nazko as a tourist destination."

"The project helped upgrade and modernize our cabins to make them available for year-round rental and attract more visitors to Nazko. This helps provide an anchor service in supporting Nazko as a tourist destination."

Three Nations Lodge serves as a pivotal facility in Nazko by providing overnight accommodation solutions. The upgrade and winterization of the cabins are expected to significantly contribute to Nazko's appeal as a year-round tourist destination, thereby delivering substantial economic benefits to the

community. The Nazko Valley stands to gain from increased rental income, which will be reinvested into the further development of tourism experiences in the area.

Local governments

There are 39 municipalities, nine regional districts and one regional municipality in the Trust’s service area. Northern Development is fortunate to have many representatives from various local governments on its Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) and Board of Directors.

- ▶ **\$1,915,587 approved for 50 community development projects in 2023**
- ▶ **\$2,712,850 approved for 83 capacity building projects in 2023**
- ▶ **\$56,881,710 approved for 898 community development projects since inception**
- ▶ **\$34,754,577 approved for 1,482 capacity building projects since inception**

Ferland Park’s new play structure welcome addition to the community

During the summer of 2022, the Ferland Park playground in Vanderhoof was inspected and the equipment was found to be in a fair to poor condition. The playground equipment was not up to the standard of the newer play structures and did not hold up to weather conditions well, needing constant repairs and cosmetic touch ups.

“This revitalization aligned with commitments in our Official Community Plan to improve quality of life of our residents, support community well-being, and provide essential recreational services.”

Thanks in part to a \$25,045 Community Places grant, the park is now home to a new play structure that improves safety, modernizes the park and decreases maintenance costs.

“This revitalization aligned with commitments in our Official Community Plan to improve quality of life of our residents, support community well-being, and provide essential recreational services, said Mayor Kevin Moutray.

Ferland Park is one of the district’s most popular parks and is located adjacent to the downtown core. The park is the host location for the annual farmer’s market, has year-round washrooms and playground facilities, and houses the spray park.



Internships

Every year, Northern Development offers intern placements at several different local and Indigenous governments. These paid internships offer hands-on training and experience for recent graduates as they start their careers and provide additional capacity for local and Indigenous government offices.

▶ Total number of interns placed in 2023 - 10	▶ 140 - Interns placed since inception
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Internship program comes full circle in Kitimat

Rohit Elias was selected as one of the intern cohort for 2023 and was placed in the District of Kitimat under the mentorship of Walsham Tenshak – the current director of economic development in Kitimat, herself a former intern.

Tenshak was a member of the 2021 intern cohort and said, “I am glad I got to participate in this program and have now been fortunate enough to pass on some of my learnings to another intern.”

For his part, Elias said the internship program has given him an opportunity to see how the local government functions behind the scenes, while also being able to play a meaningful part in the functioning of the government.

“My favourite part of working in the local government has been researching and making recommendations on communication and community initiatives,” said Elias. “Such research gave me a bit of an insight into other local governments in British Columbia and helped me develop skills on how to consider a particular municipality’s characteristics before making recommendations.”

Elias added that Tenshak’s prior experience as an intern greatly helped make his internship experience a memorable one.

“Having been an intern in the past, Walsham was able to assuage some of the worries that any intern entering the workforce straight after university would have,” said Elias. “I think many interns would question themselves on whether they are doing things ‘right’ or are working at the right pace. However, Walsham helped quell these concerns and reiterated that the internship, after all, is a learning experience.”

Tenshak added that this opportunity is well worth it, not only for the intern, but also the host.

“For any local government wondering if this is worth it, I say yes,” said Tenshak. “You have a wonderful opportunity to gain fresh, new perspectives to view your community through with the extra capacity to have some much-needed projects get off the ground.”



Rohit Elias, local government intern, District of Kitimat

Not-for-profit organizations

Many of Northern Development's programs are available to registered not-for-profit associations throughout its service region. Non-profit organizations are very valuable assets in our communities and the Trust funds several significant projects and events for non-profit associations each year.

▶ **\$2,333,769 approved for 80 projects in 2023**

▶ **\$54,192,768 approved for 1,237 projects since inception**

CultureFest celebrates diversity, inclusion in Fort Nelson



Photos: Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society

Every October, the community of Fort Nelson celebrates diversity by bringing together local cultures, including Indigenous and international identities, to emphasize civic pride, community bridging and cultural learning.

This one-day event features art exhibitions, various food options, music, traditional dances and games with talented local artists.

The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society coordinates the event through partnerships with many local organizations including the Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society, Fort Nelson First Nation, Fort Nelson Public Library, Fort Nelson Historical Society, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, FN Filipino Association, the

Sikh Community, Northern Rockies Fire Rescue, School District 81, Aurora Dance Group, and others.

"The grant we receive through the Northern Development Initiative Trust's Fabulous Festivals and Events program is invaluable to our CultureFest event," said Seanah Roper, executive director, Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society. "CultureFest is a cornerstone event for our community, attracting individuals from near and far. It serves as a celebration of our community's diversity, fostering intercultural understanding and building bridges between different cultural groups. Without the support of this grant, CultureFest would not be able to achieve its mission of bringing people together to celebrate diversity and create lasting connections."

Small and medium sized businesses

Northern Development works to support small and medium-sized independent businesses throughout northern and central B.C. through funding rebates for consulting services and innovative projects.

▶ **\$731,064 approved for 47 business development projects in 2023**

▶ **\$16,146,960 approved for 736 business development projects since inception**

Small Business Recovery rebate works to expand boutique's client base through e-commerce

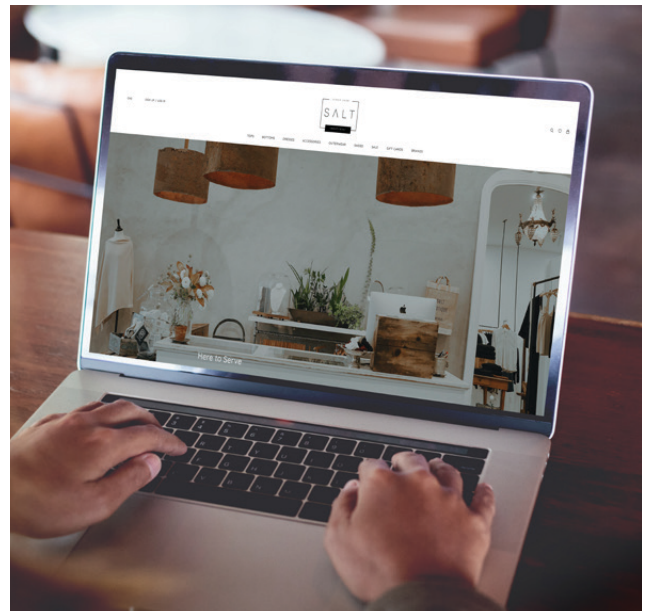
Like many locally owned businesses, Salt Boutique in the Town of Smithers faced a downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic. The high-quality clothing and jewelry store had to close its physical location for almost three months, which had a drastic impact on sales and profitability.

"In today's economic climate it (SBR) helps tiny brick and mortar shops reach a new audience," said Marko. "It also helps with creating job opportunities, or filling hours when the days are slow."

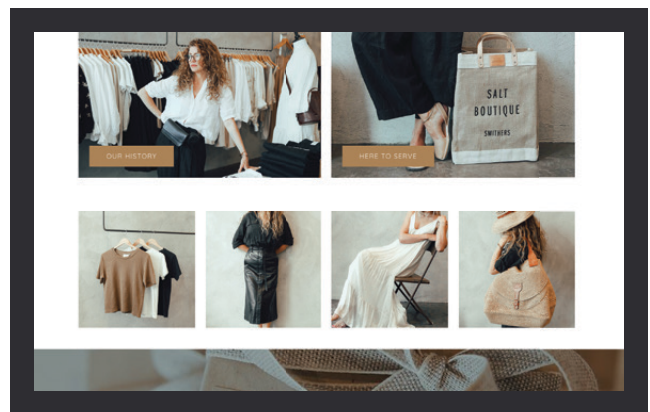
Boutique owner Caroline Marko realized that online sales would help to expand the market and sustain revenues should future health orders come into play. In 2022, Marko was approved for an \$8,075 Small Business Recovery (SBR) Consulting Rebate, which allowed her to work with a consultant on establishing an e-commerce website.

Salt Boutique worked with the consultant to develop and implement eCommerce functionality for its existing website. This process included integrating inventory systems, connecting online users to newsletter forms, and matching the look and feel of the established website.

"In today's economic climate it (SBR) helps tiny brick and mortar shops reach a new audience," said Marko. "It also helps with creating job opportunities, or filling hours when the days are slow."



The project allowed Salt Boutique to expand its client base in Canada by ensuring customers can easily access products regardless of provincial health orders and mandates.



Our Regions

Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet

\$2,189,364

approved for 69 projects in region in 2023

- ▶ \$37,835,452 in funding for 1,196 projects in region since inception
- ▶ \$1,172,192 approved for 30 projects through regional community development programs in 2023
- ▶ \$693,000 approved for 27 projects through regional capacity building programs in 2023
- ▶ \$324,172 approved for 12 projects through regional business development programs in 2023



Photo: Northern Development



The Bloomin' Paintbrush in Ashcroft. Northern Development provided funds through the Business Façade Improvement program to spruce up the facility in 2021.

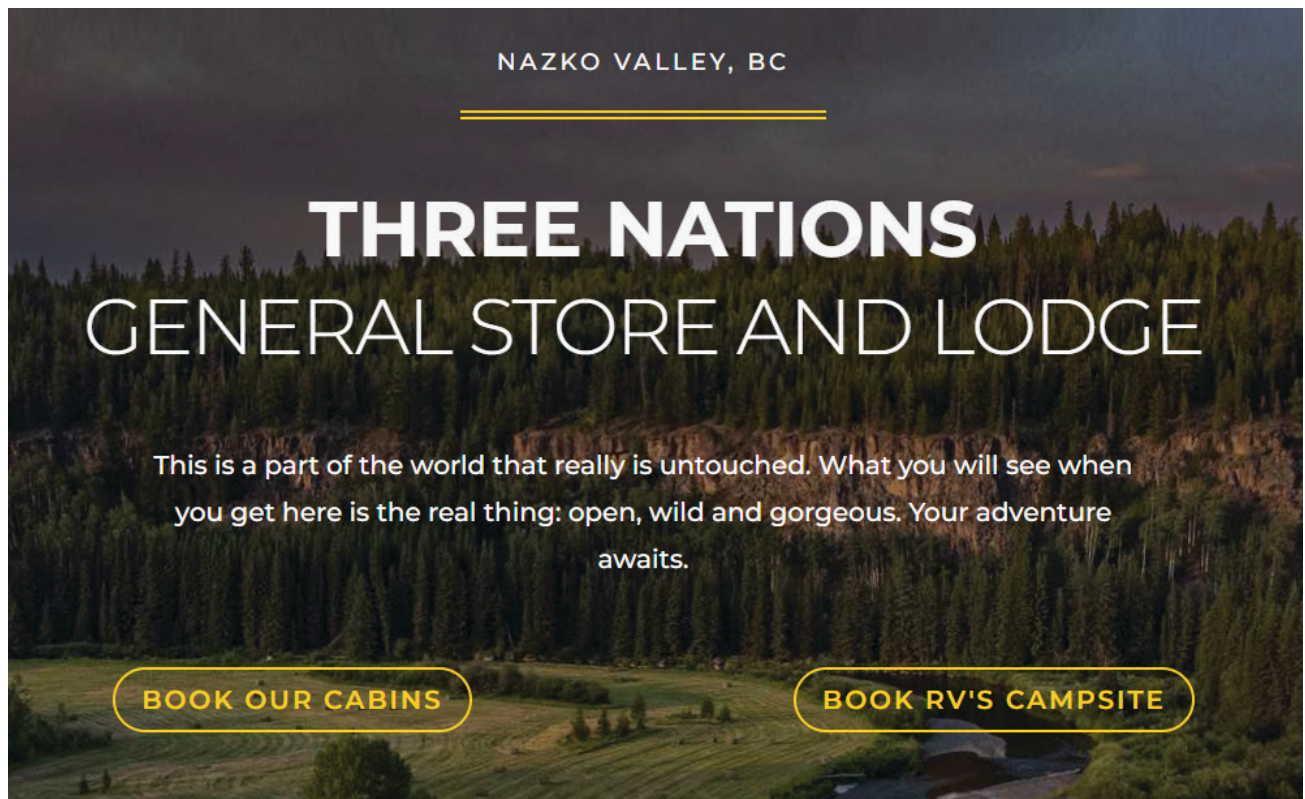
Three Nations Store and Lodge launches online booking platform

Three Nations Store and Lodge LLP was approved for a \$10,102 Competitiveness Consulting Rebate to enhance its digital presence and customer engagement capabilities. Working with a consultant, the organization developed a comprehensive website and online booking system. This initiative aims to streamline the reservation process for its lodge and RV site, incorporating modern features such as social media integration, advanced photography, and videography. The project also promises to bolster the business's visibility online through search engine optimization, ensuring that potential visitors can easily discover what Three Nations has to offer.

Situated in the scenic Nazko Valley, Three Nations General Store and Lodge seeks to tap into the increasing demand for accessible natural experiences. By launching a state-of-the-art website and booking system, the business is

poised to attract adventure enthusiasts and nature lovers year-round. This move is a critical step in the execution of its strategic plan aimed at expanding operations and enhancing the customer experience.

The development of the website and online booking system is part of a broader marketing strategy designed to promote Nazko Valley's unique attractions and accommodations provided by Three Nations. With a focus on integrating visually appealing content and providing easy access to booking options, the project is expected to play a pivotal role in attracting more visitors to the area. By highlighting the diverse range of activities and the natural beauty of the Nazko Valley, Three Nations aims to position itself as a leading destination for outdoor enthusiasts seeking unforgettable experiences.



Community park gets facelift with new playground equipment

Kersley B.C. is a small community just south of Quesnel where one of the more popular places to spend time is Kersley Community Park.

The results of a 2022 Kersley recreation survey indicated that one of the immediate interests of Kersley residents is playground improvements in the park, which at the time housed a slide from the 1990s and a modern swing set.

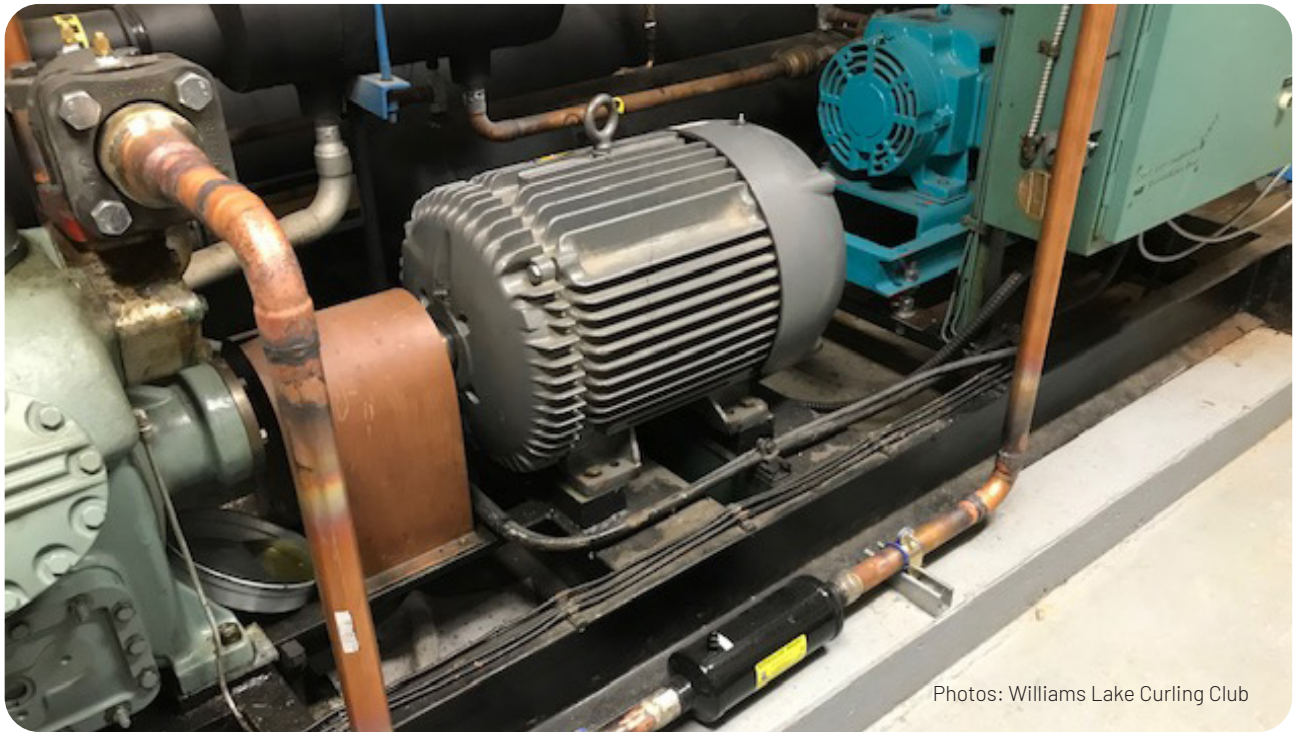
Thanks in part to a \$30,000 Community Places grant, the park is now equipped with two new pieces of playground equipment. The addition of new pieces of equipment will be

a significant increase in both the appeal and usefulness of the community park.

“This has already become a very popular piece of playground equipment enjoyed by all age groups. It fills the community with the sounds of joy,” said Mary Sjostrom, Area “A” Director. “Thank you to all the project partners for your support to Kersley.”



New condenser helps to extend life of curling club



The Williams Lake Curling Club (WLCC) was approved for a \$50,000 Recreation Infrastructure grant to assist in the replacement of the condenser unit for the refrigeration plant.

The previous condenser was at least 40 years old and only operated at three-quarters capacity. Additionally, the condenser and the piping going up to the condenser would vibrate quite vigorously, increasing the likelihood of additional damage.



Along with replacing the condenser, this project includes:

- Variable frequency drive to run the condenser fans to provide energy efficiency and extend the life of the compressor
- Replace a faulty valve on the high-pressure line
- Replace piping going up to the condenser

The project will greatly improve energy efficiency and reduce the stress on the ice plant compressor which should increase the life span of the equipment.

The WLCC was formed in 1957 to promote the sport of curling and to contribute to the overall quality of life in Williams Lake and the area. The club enjoys strong support from the community and draws upon volunteers to host curling leagues for all skill levels.

Our Regions: Northeast

\$1,981,156

approved for 57 projects in region in 2023

- ▶ \$30,428,030 in funding for 813 projects in region since inception
- ▶ \$1,338,436 approved for 28 projects through regional community development programs in 2023
- ▶ \$534,850 approved for 20 projects through regional capacity building programs in 2023
- ▶ \$107,870 approved for nine projects through regional business development programs in 2023

Photo: Northern Development



The 2023 Chetwynd International Chainsaw Carving Championship was supported with a \$2,500 grant through the Fabulous Festivals and Events program.

State-of-the-art drilling machine increases production and efficiency for Dawson Creek business

Dawson Cabinets Ltd. in Dawson Creek, B.C. manufactures and installs residential and commercial cabinetry and other custom woodworking.

In order to increase efficiency and product quality, company president Brad Johnson looked at adding a new drilling machine to his toolkit. In 2023, he was approved for a \$15,942 Northern Industries Innovation Fund rebate to help purchase a Maggi System 23 Construction Boring Machine.

This cutting-edge equipment improves accuracy, production and efficiency, particularly for entry-level employees. This machine enables those with limited hands-on experience to proficiently drill holes during the cabinet manufacturing process, addressing the industry's critical challenge of a skilled labor shortage. By facilitating a simpler training process for unskilled staff, Dawson Cabinets Ltd. aims to

enhance safety and reduce the margin of human error in its operations.

"The machine has increased our production, increased efficiency, and allowed us to build things in a manner we couldn't before," said Johnson. "It has allowed us to hire more installers and we are also now considering hiring more designers in order to keep up with the increased workflow."

The Maggi System 23 not only triples the drilling capacity in a single pass, but also simplifies the operation and training process, enabling the company to employ entry-level staff. Its capability to perform horizontal drilling and achieve precise depths streamlines manufacturing, significantly reduces errors, and is complemented by an effective dust collection system, enhancing workplace safety and cleanliness.



Photos: Dawson Cabinets Ltd.

Golf course upgrades seek to attract tourists and increase memberships

In 2023, the Dawson Creek Golf and Country Club underwent some major renovations thanks in part to a \$99,600 Recreation Infrastructure grant.

With an overall objective of increasing memberships and attracting tourists, the project involved the building of washrooms on the golf course, as well as exterior updates to the clubhouse including construction of a walkway, new entry, drainage control, practice putting green, outdoor patio and pergola.

Prior to the renovation, the only washroom facilities were located in the clubhouse – a significant distance for both employees and members.

The modifications to the entrance and new patio will provide accessible food service and enhance the appearance for tourists using the Alaska highway, drawing them to the facility for golf, leisure and to visit the restaurant. Increased use will enable year-round function of the restaurant as a venue for parties, meetings and other events.

“The Dawson Creek Athletics Association is very appreciative of the grant to support improvements to the Dawson Creek Golf and Country Club,” said Paul Gevatkoff, director, Dawson Creek Athletic Association. “The upgrades and improvements to the clubhouse and grounds have been very well received by the golfing



community. Memberships increased in 2023 and are expected to increase again in 2024. The changes modernize and welcome people to the facility.”

“The upgrades and improvements to the clubhouse and grounds have been very well received by the golfing community. Memberships increased in 2023 and are expected to increase again in 2024. The changes modernize and welcome people to the facility.”



Photos: Dawson Creek Athletic Association

Kitchen renovation provides functional and welcoming space in Chetwynd



Photo: Pine Valley Seniors Association

The Pine Valley Seniors Association underwent a transformative project in 2023 that promises to greatly enhance its hall's kitchen facilities.

Thanks in part to a \$30,000 Community Places grant, the renovation involved the demolition of the existing structure to make way for a new, expanded kitchen area designed to accommodate wheelchair access. This also included the installation of modern cabinetry, state-of-the-art energy-efficient appliances, and necessary modifications to the kitchen's mechanical and electrical infrastructure. These improvements aim to create a more functional and welcoming space that meets the needs of the association and the various community user groups that utilize the hall for a wide range of events.

The Pine Valley Seniors Association plays a pivotal role in the community by providing a venue for gatherings and social functions that bring people together. The hall, featuring a kitchen, is not just a space for the association's activities,

such as the monthly community supper for seniors, but also serves as a critical revenue source.

"The kitchen renovation that we were able to do has provided us with opportunities that we would never have without this grant," said Loretta Westover, vice-president, Pine Valley Seniors Association. "We are now able to do potlucks for the community and members of the association and rent it out for private functions."

By renting out the facility to community groups, the association generates funds essential for supporting seniors through various programs, equipment, and activities. The hall is among the few venues in Chetwynd that offer a kitchen for event hosting, catering to family gatherings, private events, and meetings. The upgrades to the kitchen are expected not only to enhance its usability and appeal, but also to significantly increase the hall's rental revenue, thereby further supporting the association's community-centric missions.

Our Regions: Northwest

\$2,515,847

approved for 79 projects in region in 2023

- ▶ \$46,433,705 in funding for 1,329 projects in region since inception
- ▶ \$1,213,537 approved for 30 projects through regional community development programs in 2023
- ▶ \$1,224,000 approved for 46 projects through regional capacity building programs in 2023
- ▶ \$78,310 approved for three projects through regional business development programs in 2023



Photo: Northern Development



Boer Mountain Recreation Site. Northern Development provided \$15,000 in funding for the construction of two new trail segments.

Competitiveness Consulting Rebate provides strategic planning for heli ski company

In the picturesque landscapes of Terrace, B.C., Northern Escape Heli-Skiing has carved a niche for itself as the premier provider of helicopter skiing adventures since its establishment in 2004. Offering more than just exhilarating ski experiences, the company prides itself on its luxury lodges and gourmet dining options. Over the past two decades, Northern Escape has not only expanded its horizons but also its clientele, appealing to a global audience seeking the thrill of heli skiing.

The journey of growth and success is a continuous process that requires strategic foresight and planning. Recognizing this, John Forrest, the President and CEO of True North Heli-Skiing Ltd., the parent company of Northern Escape, embarked on a strategic planning initiative in 2023 to cement the organization's position in the market and ensure its sustainable growth. The last two years have seen significant growth for the company, underlining the need for a structured approach to navigate future challenges and opportunities.

To facilitate this endeavor, True North Heli-Skiing Ltd. was granted a \$7,875 Competitiveness Consulting Rebate to engage with an advisory service for a Strategic Planning Essentials project. The project's goal was multifaceted, designed to shepherd the business and its management team through a strategic planning process. This included assessing the current state of the business, understanding both its internal operations and the external market environment, and articulating a clear vision and set of goals for the next two to three years.

The Strategic Planning Essentials project aimed to bridge the gap between the company's current standing and its future state. It involved validating these ambitions as a team, identifying strategic priorities, and aligning them on an actionable 12-month plan. This roadmap was intended to lay the groundwork for a sustainable and strategic path forward, ensuring that Northern Escape Heli-Skiing continues to offer unforgettable experiences to skiing enthusiasts around the world.



Photo: True North Heli-Skiing Ltd.

Weight room upgrades provide affordable, inclusive fitness space

In the Village of Daajing Giids, the community weight room and fitness area are located within GidGalang Kuuyas Naay Secondary School. Thanks to a strong relationship between the Haida Gwaii Regional Recreation Commission (HGRRC) and the school district, the weight room/fitness area is open to all members of the community when school is not in session.

In order to modernize the facility and increase annual fitness memberships, the HGRRC successfully applied for a \$45,849 Recreation Infrastructure grant for facility upgrades.

This project includes the purchase of a variety of new stationary fitness equipment pieces and specialized flooring. These enhancements will not only improve safety and increase education and fitness programming, but it

will also support personal trainers with more stable work opportunities, adding incentive to renew their certifications, while offering target members (seniors, novices) opportunities to expand their education and comfort in weight rooms.

“The GidGalang Kuuyas Naay weight room revitalization project has brought new life to the school and community weight room in Daajing Giids,” said Alissa MacMullin, recreation coordinator with HGRRC. “With over 250 active memberships only six months after the re-opening, we are pleased to see students and the broader community supported by a fitness space that is high quality and affordable. Best of all, the equipment was intentionally purchased to foster inclusivity. It’s shown us already through membership that it’s in fact a facility that can serve all ages and abilities.”

Photo: Haida Gwaii Regional Recreation Commission



Spirit Square upgrades are music to the ears

Spirit Square in the Village of Burns Lake is a common location for annual summertime events, such as National Indigenous People's Day, Canada Day, high school graduation ceremonies and more. However, the open-sided design and the angles of the ceiling in the structure proved to be a challenge for musicians and performers using the space due to poor acoustics and wind interference.

In 2023, the Village of Burns Lake successfully applied for a \$27,289 Community Places grant for upgrades to Spirit Square and the bandstand.

This includes the permanent installation of acoustic panels on the ceiling and the supply and installation of fabric side

and back panels that can be set up as needed to reduce wind interference on the bandstand.

"The NDIIT Community Places funding allowed us to upgrade our community bandstand," said Lewis Jones, director of recreation services for the Village of Burns Lake. "We installed acoustic panels and removable fabric panels for the side of the space that help with reducing wind noise for performers."

Musicians have commented on how the project has improved the sound quality and makes the space easier to work with for community events. Additionally, the facility looks better and will have improved functionality for years to come."



Photos: Village of Burns Lake

Our Regions: Prince George

\$1,816,211

approved for 71 projects in region in 2023

- ▶ \$63,519,487 in funding for 1,221 projects in region since inception
- ▶ \$1,001,499 approved for 33 projects through regional community development programs in 2023
- ▶ \$594,000 approved for 15 projects through regional capacity building programs in 2023
- ▶ \$220,712 approved for 23 projects through regional business development programs in 2023



Photo: Northern Development



2023 Caledonia Sled Dog Races in Fort. St. James. Northern Development provided a \$2,500 Fabulous Festivals and Events grant for this annual winter event.

Online services, education meets client needs for BiTS

Bedford Integrative Therapeutic Services Ltd. (BiTS) in Prince George B.C. offers an integrated approach to achieving optimal emotional and physical health with a team of counsellors, massage therapists, nutritionists and more.

The pandemic lockdown and recovery resulted in a significant drop in profit for BiTS. After COVID-19 restrictions lifted, a slight increase in profitability was realized; however, that was short lived with the threat of an economic downturn in 2022/23, resulting in a sharp decline in revenues.

"It was an excellent choice to apply for a grant with NDI for the expansion of our digital services. The application process and supportive accountability provided by NDI were motivating and insightful, reducing some of the risks to the project."

Tanya Bedford, clinical counsellor and supervisor with BiTS, was approved for a \$17,276.25 Small Business Recovery (SBR) Consulting Rebate in 2023 to work with a consultant to develop and implement online education services, digital therapeutic services and digital products for its current and future clients.

The project is focused on flexible options for clients to access clinicians, resulting in new revenue streams. The project includes a broad range of workshops, webinars, support groups and online courses designed to meet the needs of diverse people, focusing on mental and physical wellness.

The result is a suite of digital products and services that expand the current market as well as creating passive revenue streams that will enable the business to improve profit margins.



BiTS Learning Circle

Wellness workshops, groups, webinars, and more...

Healthier nutrition, relationships & your brain.

- Your Subconscious Mind
- Empowered Parents
- Couples Communication
- Position of Ease

Bedford Integrative Therapeutic Services Ltd.

"It was an excellent choice to apply for a grant with NDI for the expansion of our digital services. The application process and supportive accountability provided by NDI were motivating and insightful, reducing some of the risks to the project," said Bedford. "Also, our business services have become noticeably more accessible to our community. We are grateful we received the support."

Upgrades not lost on visitors to Little Lost Lake

The Little Lost Lake hiking trail and recreation site is a family-friendly facility that offers fishing, swimming, hiking and picnicking. It is located near the junction of Highway 5 and Highway 16, close to Mount Robson and Valemount with a parking lot that can be accessed directly off the highway near the trailhead.

After falling into disrepair, the facility was brought back to a state where it can be safely enjoyed thanks in part to a \$20,827 Recreation Infrastructure grant, applied for by the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA).

The project improved the existing trail, replaced bridges and boardwalks and brought the outhouse back to a usable state.

“The Little Lost Lake improvements have had an immense impact on the enjoyment people of all ages can derive from a visit to this recreational site,” said Patricia Thoni, president of YORA. “Starting with the trailhead entrance, which previously went through a steep ditch making it difficult for people with mobility issues to get through, now has a gentle incline to the trailhead allowing for all abilities and ages to easily access the trail.”



The trail keeps users on a designated path, which decreases the likelihood of altering water flow and will preserve the natural forest. Other improvements, notably the new bridges and boardwalks, have made for a more enjoyable and safe hiking experience.

Photos: Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association

New splash park offers cool fun in the summer heat



Goodwin Park in the District of Fort St. James is now a splashing good time thanks in part to a \$30,000 Community Places grant.

In the summer of 2023, a fully accessible splash park was installed in Goodwin Park, located in the heart of the residential area of Fort St. James. The project included sitework as well as the supply and installation of spray park equipment.



Photos: District of Fort St James

“NDIT’s consistent support for Fort St. James has been invaluable, and their contribution to the Fort St. James community splash park once again proved their dedication to the well-being of our community,” said Mayor Martin Elphee. “This park will be a cherished asset for generations to come, offering joy and recreation to all. The park will allow those young and those young at heart many days of leisure in the hot sun.”

The park was already stocked with washroom facilities, tennis courts, swings, and a toddler climbing gym, making it an ideal location for this amenity. The water park allows young children and those with disabilities to have access to safe water play on hot summer days. This project will increase the number of amenities in the community that will serve to attract and retain young families to live and work in the District of Fort St. James. Water parks provide barrier free, outdoor recreation for youth and families during summer months, at no cost to users, and support healthy, active and social lifestyles for residents.

The new addition will draw children and families to the park during the summer months, adding vibrancy to the residential neighbourhood.

Our Partners

Northern Development partners with the Province of BC and BC Hydro to deliver funding for programs that focus on connectivity, agriculture, health and wellness, and transportation.

Province of British Columbia



Connecting British Columbia

▶ **\$23,509,599 approved for nine projects in 2023**

▶ **\$237,131,723 in funding for 238 projects since inception**

The Connecting BC program's intent is to help internet service providers and regional and local governments connect people in rural and Indigenous communities with high-speed internet.

The Village of Granisle is a small, former mining community of approximately 340 people. The village became an Internet Service Provider (ISP) through provincial funding from Connecting Citizens. The service commenced with 25 customers and has grown today to 207 customers. Since its inception, the Granisle internet service has increased its bandwidth capacity and expanded its service capabilities through various grant funding opportunities.

The Fiberizing Granisle project was approved for \$600,297 to improve the internet service to the Village of Granisle. Speeds will increase from 25 Mbps down and 5 MBPs up, to 50 MBPs down and 10 Mbps up by fiberizing the community.

Once complete, the multi-fibre cable will run past every home and business in Granisle with enough available strands to supply every resident with true high-speed internet access. Initially, all current clients will be connected to the new system and the village will promote the new service to the community and secure additional clients.

Northern Passenger Transportation Service Fund

▶ **\$2.49 million for one project in 2023**

▶ **\$7,001,465 in funding for 19 projects since inception**

In 2021, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) provided funding to Northern Development to establish the Northern Community Shuttle Program and the InterCity Passenger Transportation Services for Northern BC program. These programs provide safe, reliable and affordable passenger transportation for rural communities in Northern British Columbia.

In 2023, Diversified Transportation Ltd. signed a \$2.49 million agreement to build upon BC Bus North Services by bringing a cost efficient, partner-based approach with the goal of long-term sustainability. The funding was approved in 2022.

Diversified will partner with two outside carriers to provide service for the Valemount to Prince George route, as well as Fort Nelson to Fort St. John routes. Additionally, Ebus, which is a sister company to Diversified, will provide the service between Prince George and Kamloops. Diversified

will continue to operate the Prince George to Prince Rupert, and Prince George to Fort S. John routes. By partnering with service providers, efficiencies can be found by rightsizing the fleet to meet the citizen demand.

Diversified also updated schedules and route services based on nearly 2,000 surveys they received, ensuring schedules operate on the most appropriate days to meet the travel needs of the public. The provider has also aligned schedules and connections, which reduces the requirement of lengthy hotel stays, while creating a network that will enable citizens of Northern B.C. to travel and connect throughout the north, interior and lower mainland areas.

In 2023, Northern Development received \$833,334 from MOTI. Funds were put towards the Northern Inter-Community Transportation Study and initiatives that further passenger transportation in the North.

Northern Healthy Communities Fund

▶ **\$11,857,005 in funding for 50 projects in region in 2023**

▶ **\$19,098,667 in funding for 101 projects since inception**

In February of 2021, the Province of B.C. partnered with Northern Development in the creation of the Northern Healthy Communities Fund – a \$25 million investment that supports initiatives that assist healthy, sustainable and resilient communities facing rapid and large-scale economic development and associated need for enhanced social service readiness.

The Coast Mountain Children's Society (CMCS) was approved for two connected projects through the Northern Healthy Communities Fund in 2023.

Under Capacity Building, CMCS was approved for \$300,000 to increase their childcare offering by providing 12 additional

spaces in their 0–36-month program and 40 additional spaces in their 30 months to school age program. Care is provided through the hiring of two trained and qualified Early Childhood Educator Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, Infant Toddler Educators, and Special Needs Educators.

Under Capital funding, CMCS was approved for \$500,000 to secure furnishings and other items to run three new classrooms in the centre - one infant/toddler classroom and two pre-school age classrooms. The includes items required for play, sleep, outdoor play, sensory learning and items to make daily routines in the classroom go smoothly.

GO Fund

▶ **\$188,511 in funding for 21 projects in region in 2023**

▶ **\$827,513 in funding for 95 projects since inception**

The BC Hydro Generating Opportunities (GO) Fund was established in 2016 with funds to be distributed to organizations that provide services to vulnerable populations in B.C.'s northeast including children, families and seniors.

The Friends of Hudson's Hope Society was approved for a \$9,535 grant to upgrade an existing space for the creation

of a foodbank. The newly finished and improved space will house freezers and provide a new home for extra storage, as well as provide a secure space for the donations that flow in year-round for the Christmas Hamper program.

It also allows for an office and a private area for clients to be welcomed in to the foodbank when applying for services.

BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund

▶ **\$576,808 in funding for 21 projects in region in 2023**

▶ **\$3,552,125 in funding for 103 projects since inception**

In August 2018, Northern Development was appointed as the financial administrator of the BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund. The Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund (PACF) is a \$20 million fund that supports agricultural priorities in the Peace region.

Flat Cat Ranch in Charlie Lake B.C. was approved for a \$26,525 grant for the installation of a fixed drip line irrigation system. The ranch houses a cold hardy apple and pear orchard located on a three-acre west facing slope. The orchard relied on natural irrigation from spring thaw and rain showers, however during times of draught, a manual haul and pump irrigation system was used.

The project will mitigate the risk of stunting and mortality of young trees and increase the crop yield of mature trees by allowing for regular and systematic irrigation during drought conditions. Additional benefits of the irrigation system include reducing labour efforts associated with the current manual haul and pump system, reducing costs associated with fossil fuel driven equipment, increasing tree growth and yield, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by using ground water and surface run off that is already present on the property.



Photo: Northern Development

Annual Client Survey

With one of its strategic pillars being organizational excellence and sustainability, Northern Development annually conducts a client survey to learn how people perceive the organization and its processes.

For the second consecutive year, 97 per cent of respondents said their overall experience with Northern Development has been positive.

In 2023, 96 per cent of respondents agreed that Northern Development is respected as a highly effective regional economic development organization.

“Both the access to the funding and the professional and welcoming way in which it is given has been very essential in growing and maintaining our companies over the past two years. Thank you!!!” - 2023 annual survey respondent

“Excellent staff and excellent tools to provide easy access to grant opportunities. The best experiences related to grants has been with NDIT. The simplicity, clarity and consistency of on-line tools has reduced interactions with NDIT staff but all ad hoc communications with staff have been very helpful and positive. Thank you!”

- 2023 annual survey respondent

Indigenous Engagement Plan

Northern Development Initiative Trust is developing an Indigenous Engagement Plan designed to strengthen the Trust's commitment to the 89 Indigenous governments across its service region.

The Indigenous Engagement Plan will focus on five key themes:

- **Communication**
- **Governance**
- **Education**
- **Programming**
- **Relationships**

To further the development of the Indigenous Engagement Plan, NDIT has established an Indigenous Advisory Committee, comprised of eight Indigenous leaders from across its service region. This committee plays a pivotal role in shaping the plan, ensuring it reflects the unique perspectives, needs, and aspirations of Indigenous communities.



Photo: Northern Development

Indigenous Advisory Committee Members:

Dr. Jessie King, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Indigenous Studies, UNBC

Mindy Henry, Sustainability and Strategic Partnerships Director, Surepoint Group

Glen Williams, Leads Hereditary Chiefs office, Gitanyow

Laurie Mercer, CAO, Haisla Nation

Garry Oker, Councillor and Elder, Doig River First Nation

Willie Sellars, Chief, Williams Lake First Nation

Gil Malfair, Principal, Malfair Law

Helen Knott, Member of Prophet River First Nation

Doug Donaldson, Northern Development Board Director (ex-officio)

Fred Sam, Northern Development Board Director (ex-officio)

Margo Wagner, Northern Development Board Chair (ex-officio)

Craig Windrim, A/Executive Director of Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Davin Greenwell, Director, Regional Economic Initiatives Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation

Public Interest Disclosure Act

The Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA), B.C.'s new whistleblower protection law, came into force on December 1, 2019.

One of the requirements is that *“Each year, a chief executive, or a delegate of the chief executive, must prepare a report on all disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made in that year in respect of the ministry, government body or office for which the chief executive is responsible, including disclosures made to the Ombudsperson, if a designated officer of the relevant ministry, government body or office has been notified about the disclosures or investigations.”*

In accordance with the following sections of PIDA, for the reporting period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, the following information is reported:

Section 38 (1)

Disclosures of wrongdoing in respect of Northern Development Initiative Trust 0

Section 38 (2)

- (a) the number of disclosures received, including referrals of disclosures and the number acted on 0
and not acted on 0
- (b) the number of investigations commenced as a result of a disclosure 0
- (c) in the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing 0
 - (i) a description of the wrongdoing
 - (ii) any recommendations, including those made by the Ombudsperson
 - (iii) any corrective action taken in relation to the wrongdoing or the reasons why no corrective action was taken
- (d) any other information prescribed by regulation 0

Joel McKay, CEO
Northern Development Initiative Trust

Best Practices in Fund Management

Managing the Trust's funds in a sustainable manner for perpetuity is vital to the economic well-being of Northern B.C. By preserving the original \$185 million capital infusion into the Trust, the capital investment will continue to benefit the region into the future.

Return on investment

Northern Development has a Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures to guide investing decisions, asset management and set goals for the performance of assets. The Trust's accounts are invested with Mawer Investments Inc. into a balanced portfolio and fixed income instruments. These investments generate an annual return on the capital base which is then re-invested into the region.

2023: 11.4% ROI

2023: \$29.6 million

Average ROI since 2005: 6.9%

Valley Museum and Archives in McBride. Northern Development has funded \$255,139 for various projects since 2016.

Granting allocation

The amount of funds made available through grants is decided by Northern Development's staff annually. Each year, the team reviews the balance in each funding account and existing commitments before deciding how much money will be available to grant applicants. This process ensures accurate and sustainable disbursements while protecting the capital base to guarantee longevity.

2023 total grant allocation: \$10.9 million

*not including Partner Programs

2023 granting disbursed* by account:

- Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet regional account: \$1.8 million
- Northeast regional account: \$1.2 million
- Northwest regional account: \$0.7 million
- Prince George regional account: \$2.3 million
- Pine Beetle recovery account: \$1.7 million
- Cross regional account: \$2.6 million

* Disbursements represent the amount of funds paid out following project completions, which is different than the amount of funding approved for projects in a given year.

Photo: Northern Development



Photo: Tlell Fall Fair Committee

Financial Statements of

Northern Development Initiative Trust

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended December 31, 2023



KPMG LLP
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Northern Development Initiative Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Development Initiative Trust (the Trust), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023
- the statement of operations and fund balances for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at December 31, 2023 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises:

- the information, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, included in the Schedule of Externally Restricted – Committed Funds.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

KPMG LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership and member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.



In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit and remain alert for indications that the other information appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the information, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, included in the Schedule of Externally Restricted – Committed Funds as at the date of this auditor's report.

If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in the auditor's report.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged With Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Prince George, Canada

March 1, 2024

Northern Development Initiative Trust
Statement of Financial Position
 As at December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	Unrestricted and Endowment		Restricted						Total			
	Operating	Invested in Capital Assets	Cross Regional	Pine Beelle	Cariboo-Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Development	Northwest Regional Development	Northeast Regional Development	Prince George Regional Development	Other Trust Funds	Province of British Columbia	2023	2022
ASSETS												
Current Assets												
Cash	7,510,410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 459,113	\$ 287,200,332	\$ 295,169,855	\$ 197,972,436
Short term investments (Note 2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,594,442
Accounts receivable and accrued interest	46,846	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119,533	1,285,941	1,462,320	1,317,146
Prepaid expenses	165,915	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165,915	182,150
Due from other funds	22,571	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,571	175,159
Current portion of loans receivable (Note 3)	-	1,281,209	1,281,209	-	5,684	-	-	368,889	-	-	1,625,682	1,657,305
Total Current Assets	7,745,742	-	1,281,209	-	5,684	-	-	368,889	578,646	288,486,273	298,446,363	203,838,638
Other Non-Current Assets												
Loans receivable (Note 3)	-	-	2,704,693	-	5,684	-	-	1,451,115	-	-	4,161,492	5,786,691
Investments (Note 4)	33,008,910	-	76,460,426	28,775,916	30,374,849	32,365,150	41,543,744	38,136,713	26,749,634	-	305,415,342	282,976,844
Tangible capital assets (Note 5)	-	122,258	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122,258	188,590
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 40,754,652	\$ 122,258	\$ 80,426,328	\$ 28,775,916	\$ 30,386,117	\$ 32,365,150	\$ 41,543,744	\$ 37,946,727	\$ 27,328,280	\$ 288,486,273	\$ 608,145,445	\$ 492,751,053
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY												
Current Liabilities												
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	125,443	-	54,284	20,130	21,245	22,598	29,070	25,080	343	10,574	308,767	322,084
Due to other funds	-	-	22,548	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	22,571	175,159
Funds administered for others (Note 7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,715,985	-	26,715,985	24,889,260
Unearned revenue (Note 6)	5,746,834	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,746,834	3,532,520
Current portion of obligation under capital lease (Note 9)	-	6,388	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,388	6,234
Total Current Liabilities	5,872,277	6,388	76,832	20,130	21,245	22,598	29,070	25,080	26,716,328	10,597	32,800,545	28,925,257
Other Non-current Liabilities												
Obligation under capital lease (Note 9)	-	13,254	76,832	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,254	19,642
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,872,277	19,642	76,832	20,130	21,245	22,598	29,070	25,080	26,716,328	10,597	32,813,799	28,944,899
Equity												
Endowment fund (Note 10)	25,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000,000	25,000,000
Externally restricted - uncommitted	-	-	76,268,075	26,067,656	27,894,618	28,823,887	38,419,873	35,718,927	611,952	96,403,236	332,208,224	235,359,053
Externally restricted - committed	-	-	2,081,421	2,688,130	2,470,254	3,518,665	3,094,801	2,202,720	-	192,082,440	208,138,431	186,151,127
Invested in tangible capital assets (Note 11)	-	102,616	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102,616	142,714
Unrestricted	9,882,375	102,616	80,349,496	28,755,786	30,364,872	32,342,552	41,514,074	37,921,847	611,952	288,485,676	575,331,646	463,806,164
TOTAL EQUITY	34,882,375	102,616	80,349,496	28,755,786	30,364,872	32,342,552	41,514,074	37,921,847	611,952	288,485,676	575,331,646	463,806,164
Contingencies (Note 12)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commitments (Note 13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 40,754,652	\$ 122,258	\$ 80,426,328	\$ 28,775,916	\$ 30,386,117	\$ 32,365,150	\$ 41,543,744	\$ 37,946,727	\$ 27,328,280	\$ 288,486,273	\$ 608,145,445	\$ 492,751,053

Vice Chair

Board Chair

Northern Development Initiative Trust Approval:

Clay Dwyer (Signature)
 Board Chair

[Signature] (Signature)
 Vice Chair

Northern Development Initiative Trust
Statement of Operations and Fund Balances
As at December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	Restricted										Total		
	Unrestricted and Endowment	Operating	Invested in Capital Assets	Cross Regional	Pine Beetle	Cariboo-Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Development	Northwest Regional Development	Northwest Regional Development	Prince George Regional Development	Other Trust Funds	Province of British Columbia	2023	2022
REVENUE													
Investment income, net of fees (Note 4)		1,007,426	-	2,335,795	878,870	928,509	987,966	1,267,447	1,101,976	15,145	13,370,638	8,523,134	8,977,073
Interest income		355,279	-	322,097	-	576	-	-	-	(27,022)	14,045,888	14,045,888	3,968,544
Contributions		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	222,258	99,191,135	99,413,393	9,500,000
Net unrealized gains (losses)		2,518,619	-	5,678,736	2,214,012	2,340,441	2,429,896	3,150,062	2,729,634	32,713	21,094,113	21,094,113	(38,858,430)
Financial services revenue		15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	2,000
Third party revenue		1,224,853	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,224,853	1,014,664
TOTAL REVENUE		5,121,177		8,336,628	3,092,882	3,269,526	3,417,862	4,417,509	3,831,610	267,414	112,561,773	144,316,381	(15,796,149)
EXPENSES													
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES													
Amortization		-	57,088	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,088	59,304
General administration		141,165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141,165	127,909
S/C fees, dues, licenses		7,440	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,931	10,371	9,161
Office expenses		267,298	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	267,298	209,354
Professional services		164,104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164,104	198,383
Rentals and maintenance		64,477	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,477	46,953
Office supplies		21,207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,207	25,656
Salaries and benefits		1,575,874	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,575,874	1,650,573
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		2,241,565									2,931	2,301,584	2,327,283
BOARD & RAC EXPENSES													
Board costs		42,577	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,577	19,587
RAC - Prince George		5,459	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,459	2,765
RAC - Northeast		5,797	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,797	2,976
RAC - Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet		7,213	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,213	2,950
RAC - Northwest		4,933	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,933	7,144
TOTAL BOARD & RAC EXPENSES		65,979										65,979	35,422
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS		2,307,544									2,931	2,367,563	2,362,715
INCREMENTAL PROJECT EXPENSES													
Software upgrades		7,482	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,482	17,406
Sage implementation		60,056	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,056	22,444
Website upgrades & integration		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,142
TOTAL INCREMENTAL PROJECT EXPENSES		67,538										67,538	74,982
Grants and loans		-	-	2,609,847	1,730,503	1,771,386	696,697	1,236,241	2,289,086	-	20,138,519	30,477,289	41,870,943
Write down of loan receivable		-	-	-	2,269	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,269	-
Fair value adjustment for interest free loans receivable (Note 3)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(123,760)	-	-	-	206,067
NET GRANTS				2,609,847	1,730,503	1,773,665	699,697	1,236,241	2,165,326		20,138,519	30,355,798	42,077,010
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,375,082		2,609,847	1,730,503	1,773,665	699,697	1,236,241	2,165,326		20,141,450	32,790,899	44,514,717
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		\$ 2,746,095		\$ 5,726,781	\$ 1,362,379	\$ 1,495,861	\$ 2,718,165	\$ 3,179,268	\$ 1,666,284	\$ 267,414	\$ 92,420,323	\$ 111,525,482	\$ (60,310,866)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year		32,153,270	142,714	74,622,715	27,393,407	28,869,011	29,624,387	38,335,406	36,255,363	344,538	196,065,353	463,806,164	524,117,030
Investment in Capital Assets		(16,990)	16,990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR		\$ 34,882,375	\$ 102,616	\$ 80,349,496	\$ 28,755,766	\$ 30,364,872	\$ 32,342,552	\$ 41,514,674	\$ 37,921,647	\$ 611,952	\$ 288,485,676	\$ 575,331,646	\$ 463,806,164

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Statements of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 111,525,482	\$ (60,310,866)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization	57,088	59,304
Net unrealized (gains) losses	(21,094,113)	38,858,430
Accrued interest on loans receivable	(322,601)	(246,093)
Accrued interest on short-term investments	-	(34,442)
Fair value adjustment for interest free loans receivable	(123,760)	206,067
Write down of loans receivable	2,269	-
	90,044,365	(21,467,600)
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(145,174)	(1,317,146)
Prepaid expenses	16,235	(116,172)
Funds administered for others	1,826,725	(4,022,943)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(13,317)	(1,113,327)
Unearned revenue	2,214,314	(339,664)
	93,943,148	(28,376,852)
Financing:		
Repayment of obligations under capital lease	(6,234)	(6,084)
Investing		
Investments	(1,344,385)	11,302,208
Repayment of loans receivable	2,081,204	2,051,074
Disposition (acquisition) of short-term investments	2,534,442	(2,500,000)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(10,756)	(8,890)
	3,260,505	10,844,392
Increase (decrease) in cash	97,197,419	(17,538,544)
Cash, beginning of year	197,972,436	215,510,980
Cash, end of year	\$ 295,169,855	\$ 197,972,436

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2023

Nature of Operations

Northern Development Initiative Trust (the "Trust"), a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the Northern Development Initiative Trust Act, operates primarily to be a catalyst for Northern B.C. and grow a strong diversified economy by stimulating sustainable economic growth through strategic and leveraged investments.

1. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Trust's significant accounting policies are as follows:

(a) Restricted fund method of accounting:

The Trust follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The Operating Fund accounts for the Trust's general activities.

The Restricted Funds are comprised of Invested in Capital Assets, Cross Regional Account, Pine Beetle Recovery Account, Cariboo-Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Development Account, Northwest Regional Development Account, Northeast Regional Development Account, Prince George Regional Development Account, Other Trust Funds and Province of British Columbia Account and report contributions restricted to activities outlined in their respective strategic plans. The Invested in Capital Asset fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the tangible capital assets of the Trust. The Other Trust Funds are comprised of the Prince George Agricultural Fund, Canada Winter Games Fund, Department of Indigenous Service Canada Fund, Nechako Valley Regional Cattleman's Association Fund, British Columbia Innovation Council Fund, North Central Local Government Association Fund, BC Hydro AG Fund, and BC Hydro GO Fund and report contributions restricted to activities outlined in their respective strategic plans.

The Operating Endowment Account reports restricted resources contributed for endowment. Investment income earned on endowment resources is used for purposes prescribed in the Northern Development Initiative Trust Act (Note 10).

(b) Short-term investments:

Short-term investments are recorded at fair value and include term deposits, which are highly liquid, with terms to maturity up to one year at the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

(c) Investments:

Investments are recorded at fair value. The difference between historical cost and fair value is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss and recorded in the excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures in the period in which the difference occurred. Gains and losses realized during the year are computed using the average cost method and recognized directly in the excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures.

(d) Tangible capital assets:

Purchased tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Assets acquired under capital lease are amortized over the estimated life of the assets or over the lease term, as appropriate. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense. Betterments which extend the estimated life of an asset are capitalized. When a tangible capital asset no longer contributes to the Trust's ability to provide services, its carrying amount is written down to its residual value.

Tangible capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis using the following annual rates:

Asset	Rate
Computer hardware	33%
Computer software	100%
Furniture and fixtures	20%
Leasehold improvements	16%
Vehicles	33%
Assets under capital lease	20%

(e) Externally restricted - uncommitted funds:

Uncommitted externally restricted funds represents funds not committed at year end to specific project proposals.

(f) Externally restricted - committed funds:

Committed externally restricted funds represent funds at year end for specific project proposals that have been approved by the Board of Directors and cash disbursement will not occur until a future date after year end once the conditions of the signed funding agreement are met.

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

1. Significant accounting policy (continued):

(f) Externally restricted - committed funds (continued):

Funds committed are recorded as a payable when the final review of the project claim is completed and approved by management.

(g) Revenue recognition:

Externally restricted contributions received for the Cross Regional Account, Pine Beetle Recovery Account, Cariboo-Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Development Account, Northwest Regional Development Account, Northeast Regional Development Account, Prince George Regional Development Account, Other Trust Funds and Province of British Columbia are recognized as revenue in the year received. All other externally restricted contributions received are recognized in the Operating Fund as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the Operating Fund in the year received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Unrestricted contributions with related expenses are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Investment income is recognized to the extent received or receivable.

(h) Grants and repayable grants:

Grants and repayable grants awarded by the Trust are recognized when the conditions of the signed funding agreement are met.

Grants are advanced to proponents from time-to-time based on the conditions of the funding agreement. Funds advanced are expensed on advancement as it is considered that project requirements will be met and the funds are unlikely to be returned.

(i) Income taxes:

No provision has been made for income taxes in these financial statements as the Trust is exempt under Paragraph 149(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act.

(j) Foreign currency translation:

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, and that have not been hedged, are translated into Canadian dollars at the rates of exchange in effect at the statement of financial position date. Other assets, liabilities and items affecting earnings are translated into Canadian dollars at rates of exchange in effect at the date of the transaction. Gains or losses arising from these foreign currency transactions are included in the determination of excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures.

(k) Use of estimates:

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. An item subject to such estimates and assumptions include the carrying amount and collection of loans receivable. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(l) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. Management has elected to carry loans receivable at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the effective interest rate method.

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

1. Significant accounting policy (continued):

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment the Trust determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Trust expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future year, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

2. Short-term investments

	2023	2022
Non-redeemable GIC held with RBC, matured September 11, 2023, 4.45% per annum	\$ -	\$ 1,682,869
Non-redeemable GIC held with RBC, matured September 11, 2023, 4.45% per annum	-	699,506
Non-redeemable GIC held with RBC, matured September 11, 2023, 4.45% per annum	-	152,067
	\$ -	\$ 2,534,442

3. Loans receivable:

	2023	2022
Cross Regional Development Account - Prince George Repayable in monthly installments with annual totals over the next five years of \$1,505,698 in 2024, \$1,414,130 in 2025, \$1,323,323 in 2026, and \$183,817 in 2027, including interest at bank prime rate (December 31, 2023 - 7.20%). Due February 2027.	\$ 3,965,902	\$ 5,229,376
Cariboo-Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Development Repayable in annual installments in the next two years of \$5,894 in 2024 and 2025 including interest at 3.7% Due September 2025.	11,268	18,856
Prince George Regional Development Account Repayable in annual installments over the next five years of \$452,873 in 2024, \$452,873 in 2025, \$452,873 in 2026, \$339,362 in 2027, and \$314,838 in 2028, non-interest bearing. Due July 2029	2,219,245	2,803,028
	6,196,415	8,051,260
Current portion of loans receivable	(1,719,666)	(1,758,710)
Current portion of fair value adjustment	93,974	101,405
	(1,625,692)	(1,657,305)
Fair value adjustment for interest free loans receivable	(409,231)	(626,964)
	\$ 4,161,492	\$ 5,766,991

During the year, the Trust recorded a recovery (expense) of \$123,760 (2022 - (\$206,067)) for the change in fair value adjustment for interest free loans receivable. The expense was a result of fluctuations in the discount rate used to determine the adjustment.

4. Investments:

	2023	2022
Cash equivalents:		
Cash	\$ 129,995	\$ -
Mawer Canadian Money Market	21,549,081	24,946,910
	21,679,076	24,946,910

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

4. Investments (continued):

Fixed income balances:		
Mawer Canadian Bond Pooled Fund	98,996,419	86,628,354
Equity Balances:		
Mawer Canadian Equity Pooled Fund	57,515,883	53,792,972
Mawer Global Small Cap Fund	21,154,732	17,978,924
Mawer Global Equity Series	106,069,232	99,629,684
	184,739,847	171,401,580
	\$ 305,415,342	\$ 282,976,844

Investment income is presented net of management fees charged for the year ended December 31, 2023, of \$765,899 (2022 - \$767,883)

5. Tangible capital assets:

	2023		2022	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Assets under capital lease	\$ 34,947	\$ 18,638	\$ 16,309	\$ 23,298
Computer hardware	409,174	394,613	14,561	20,412
Computer software	169,234	169,234	-	-
Furniture and fixtures	177,859	167,176	10,683	16,646
Leasehold improvements	217,283	136,578	80,705	108,234
Vehicles	77,473	77,473	-	-
	\$ 1,085,970	\$ 963,712	\$ 122,258	\$ 168,590

6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

	2023	2022
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 262,540	\$ 271,526
Payroll and withholding taxes	46,227	50,558
	\$ 308,767	\$ 322,084

7. Funds administered for others:

These funds are controlled by other organizations and are pooled for investment purposes with the Trust's cash and investments. Accordingly, these financial statements include assets administered for other organizations with a corresponding liability comprised of the following:

	2023	2022
Opening balance	\$ 24,889,260	\$ 28,912,203
Contributions	100,000	98,000
Investment income, net of fees	2,814,976	(2,755,232)
Administrative fees	(75,000)	(175,000)
Grants	(983,456)	(1,179,133)
Bank charges	(137)	(233)
Board travel	(14,355)	(11,082)
Website consulting	(15,303)	(263)
	\$ 26,715,985	\$ 24,889,260

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

8. Unearned revenue:

	2023	2022
Connecting British Columbia	\$ 4,412,626	\$ 2,467,658
Northern Healthy Communities	641,682	761,813
Ministry of Transportation	579,494	302,992
Nechako Valley Rancher Cattlemen's Association	57	57
Rural Business & Community Recovery	112,975	-
	\$ 5,746,834	\$ 3,532,520

9. Obligation under capital lease:

	2023	2022
Wells Fargo lease with an implied interest rate of 2.45%, repayable in quarterly instalments of \$1,703. Due October 2026 and secured by equipment held by the Trust with a net book value of \$16,308.	\$ 19,642	\$ 25,876
	19,642	25,876
Repayment schedule		
2023	-	6,811
2024	6,811	6,811
2025	6,811	6,811
2026	6,811	6,811
Total minimum lease payments	20,433	27,244
Less amount representing interest at a rate of 2.45%	(791)	(1,368)
Present value of capital lease payments	19,642	25,876
Less current portion	6,388	6,234
	\$ 13,254	\$ 19,642

During the year the Trust recognized \$577 (2022 - \$727) of interest on the capital lease.

10. Endowment fund:

The Endowment Fund was established to receive proceeds of \$25,000,000 from the Government of British Columbia pursuant to terms of the Northern Development Initiative Trust Act ("NDIT Act"). Interest or other income earned from the money invested may be used to cover operating expenditures incurred by the directors and officers of the Trust to perform their obligations under the NDIT Act. Income earned on the endowment is recorded fully in the Operating Fund. Included in operations is investment income of \$1,007,426 (2022 - \$1,058,700) and net unrealized gains of \$2,518,619 (2022 - loss of \$5,188,266) for the year ended December 31, 2023.

11. Invested in tangible capital assets:

Invested in tangible capital assets is calculated as follows:

	2023	2022
Opening balance	\$ 142,714	\$ 187,044
Amortization	(57,088)	(59,304)
Acquisition of capital assets	10,756	8,890
Repayment of obligation under capital lease	6,234	6,084
	\$ 102,616	\$ 142,714

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

12. Contingencies:

The Trust has a revolving demand facility agreement with RBC with a maximum limit of \$10,000,000 by way of RBP based loans, letters of credit, and letters of guarantee. These facilities are secured by a general security agreement placing a first priority interest in present and future property of the Trust. The balance of these facilities at December 31, 2023 are \$nil (2022 - \$nil).

The Trust has provided certain partner program contracts to the Canada Revenue Agency in regards to Government Sales Tax requirements. The potential exposure is unknown at this time and the outcome of the ruling is not determinable.

13. Commitments:

Trust leases premises under lease which expires May 2027. The minimum lease payments in the next five year are as follows:

2024	139,734
2025	139,734
2026	139,734
2027	58,223
	<hr/>
	\$ 477,425

The Trust has entered into an agreement with Belmar Consulting Ltd to implement a new software. The total amount payable over the next year is \$388,407.

14. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk:

(a) Currency risk:

The Trust is exposed to financial risks as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and the volatility of these rates. In the normal course of business, the Trust purchases investments denominated in a foreign currency. The Trust does not currently enter into forward contracts to mitigate this risk. In order to minimize currency risk, the Trust has a policy to invest no greater than 60% of its portfolio in global equities. As at December 31, 2023, global equities represents approximately 42% (2022 - 42%) of the holdings.

(b) Market risk:

The Trust derives revenue from its cash equivalents, equity and fixed income investments which are subject to market fluctuations. Market risk is managed and mitigated through diversification between asset classes in which the Trust has set asset allocation guidelines in their investment policy. As at December 31, 2023, the Trust's investment holdings were aligned with their target asset allocations. Equity investments represent approximately 60% (2022 - 61%) of the holdings. It is estimated that a 10% change in returns would change the fair value of the equities portfolio by \$18,473,985 (2022 - \$17,140,158).

As at December 31, 2023, the Trust's annual return on investments was approximately a gain of 11.45% (2022 - a loss of 9.8%).

(c) Credit risk:

The Trust is exposed to credit risk from the possibility that borrowers may default on their obligations. Management attempts to mitigate this risk by ensuring that proper due diligence is performed before loans are extended. As of December 31, 2023, all loan recipients are in full compliance of their agreement. The Trust does not believe that their credit risk exposure has been changed from 2022.

(d) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Trust manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. The Trust prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2022.

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

14. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk (continued):

(e) Interest rate risk:

The Trust's fixed income securities and certain loans receivable are subject to interest rate risk. Rising interest rates would impact the value of these investments and loans. The Trust is exposed to prime lending rate fluctuations on loans receivable in the amount of \$3,965,902 (2022 - \$5,229,376). As at December 31, 2023, fixed income securities represents approximately 39% (2022 - 39%) of the Trust's investment holdings. It is estimated that 1.75% change in interest rates would change the fair value of the portfolio by \$2,109,546 (2022 - \$1,952,567). The Trust employs investment diversification to manage this risk.

15. Employee future benefits:

The Trust, and its employees, contribute to the BC Public Service Pension Plan (the "Plan"), a jointly trustee pension plan. The Board of Trustees, representing Plan members and employers, is responsible for overseeing the management of the Plan, including investment of the assets and administration of the benefits. The Plan is a multi-employer contributory pension plan. Basic pension benefits provided are defined. The Plan has 70,780 active members and 55,267 retired members. Active members include approximately 100 contributors from the provincial government, crown corporations, government agencies and not-for-profit organizations.

Every three years an actuarial valuation is performed to assess the financial position of the Plan and the adequacy of Plan funding. The most recent valuation was performed as at March 31, 2023. The valuation shows an improvement in the actuarial position for the Basic Account, from a surplus of \$2,667 million as at March 31, 2020, to a surplus of \$4,491 million as at March 31, 2023. The actuary does not attribute portions of the surplus to individual employers. Consequently, the Trust's share of this surplus cannot be determined. The main reasons for the improvement in the actuarial position are that the investment returns were higher than were assumed and actual salary increases were lower than the long-term assumption offset by an excess investment return transfer to the Inflation Adjustment Account and changes in the economic assumptions. The Trust paid \$123,968 (2022 - \$133,654) for employer contributions to the Plan during the year.

Northern Development Initiative Trust
Schedule of Externally Restricted - Committed Funds
Year ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

SCHEDULE 1

Account	Total Funding Approved	Grants and loans			
		2023 Disbursements	2022 Disbursements	2023 Outstanding Commitments	2022 Outstanding Commitments
Cross Regional Account	\$ 55,288,165	2,609,847	\$ 3,060,347	2,081,421	\$ 2,790,361
Pine Beetle Recovery Account	36,315,982	1,730,503	1,359,267	2,688,130	3,260,195
Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Regional Development Account	22,639,529	1,771,396	2,440,090	2,470,254	3,265,800
Northwest Regional Development Account	26,295,940	699,697	1,686,309	3,518,665	3,060,842
Northeast Regional Development Account	20,016,903	1,238,241	1,772,821	3,094,801	3,066,098
Prince George Regional Development Account	29,404,950	2,289,086	1,518,711	2,202,720	4,703,723
Other Trust Funds	30,632,727	-	20,000	-	-
Province of British Columbia	266,573,059	20,138,519	30,013,398	192,082,440	176,004,108
TOTAL	\$ 487,167,255	\$ 30,477,289	\$ 41,870,943	\$ 208,138,431	\$ 196,151,127



NORTHERN
DEVELOPMENT

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