



Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society

2021-2022 Annual Report

www.nkdf.org

Message from the Chair

The past year marks year two of the pandemic. In a year of uncertainty characterized by continued provincial health orders, necessary event restrictions and limitations on travel, our communities drew on their strength: the people. Volunteers persisted and put out extraordinary effort as they grappled with the challenges of supply chain issues, and increasing prices, and inflation. I commend all the volunteers who took the time and initiative to advocate for their communities and bring projects forward and those who worked to help complete projects. It is these grassroots efforts that bring strength and stability to our communities. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of our Northern rural communities. I would also like to recognize the Municipal and Aboriginal community leaders. The support they showed in guiding our communities was admirable.

The Board of Directors approved 16 new infrastructure and marketing projects for a total of \$238,427 in grants. Over the past 23 years, 401 projects have been approved for a total of \$11.7M. We want to do more. We get asked for more. Especially as we emerge from these unprecedented times of a pandemic followed by a downturn in the economy, organizations are seeking more money for projects and recovery, and we want to help. We are working to secure more funding for the communities.

The Board continues to seek ways and means to raise capital in order to increase NKDF's economic impact in the investment area and increase the amount of grants to communities while maintaining the legacy fund. I want to extend a thank you to Rio Tinto and the Province of BC for the healthy conversations and discussions over the past year. On behalf of the Board, we appreciate the dialogue as we continue to work together to find a way to infuse more capital into NKDF so that we can disperse more grants dollars back into the communities.

In moving forward with optimism and enthusiasm we are pleased to announce that we have a full Board of ten Directors. I would like to welcome new Directors, Craig Smith, Lisa Grant, Devrie Sanghera and TJ Parhar. I would like to thank our Manager and the Board of Directors for their dedication and support to NKDF over the past year. Their generosity of their skills and ability and their willingness to put in the time, gives NKDF the ability to do what we do for our communities. We are looking forward to touring projects, visiting with everyone, and collaborating on new Projects to strengthen our Communities. Together we are stronger.

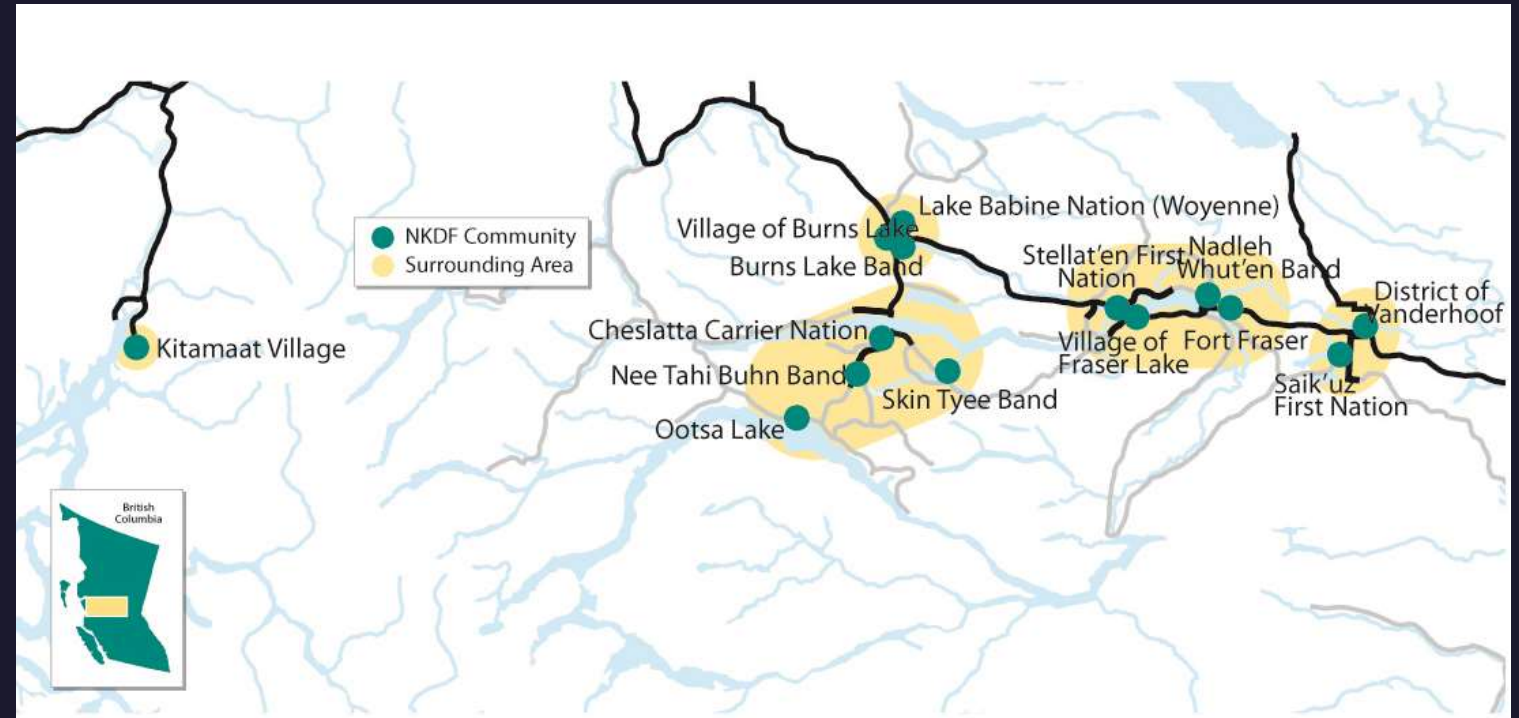


Cindy Shelford
Chair, Burns Lake

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NKDF encourages applications from local governments, First Nations and legally incorporated non-profit organizations serving the following communities and nearby rural areas:



At a Glance

\$238,427

Approved for new projects in 2021-2022

16

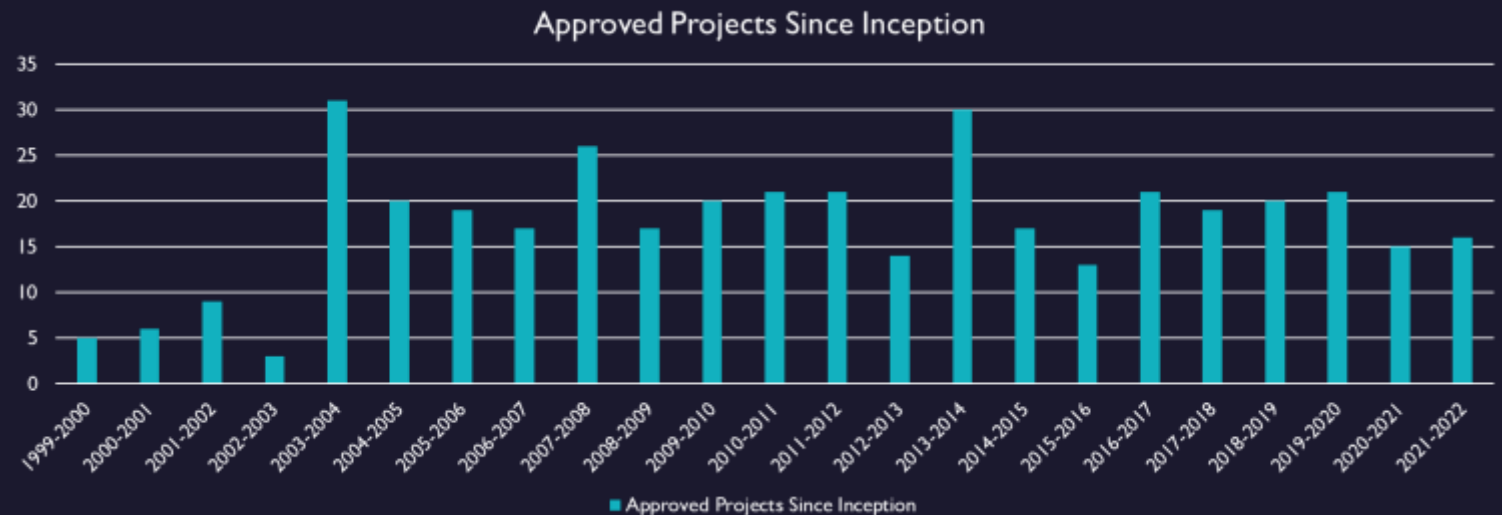
Projects approved in 2021-2022

\$11.9M

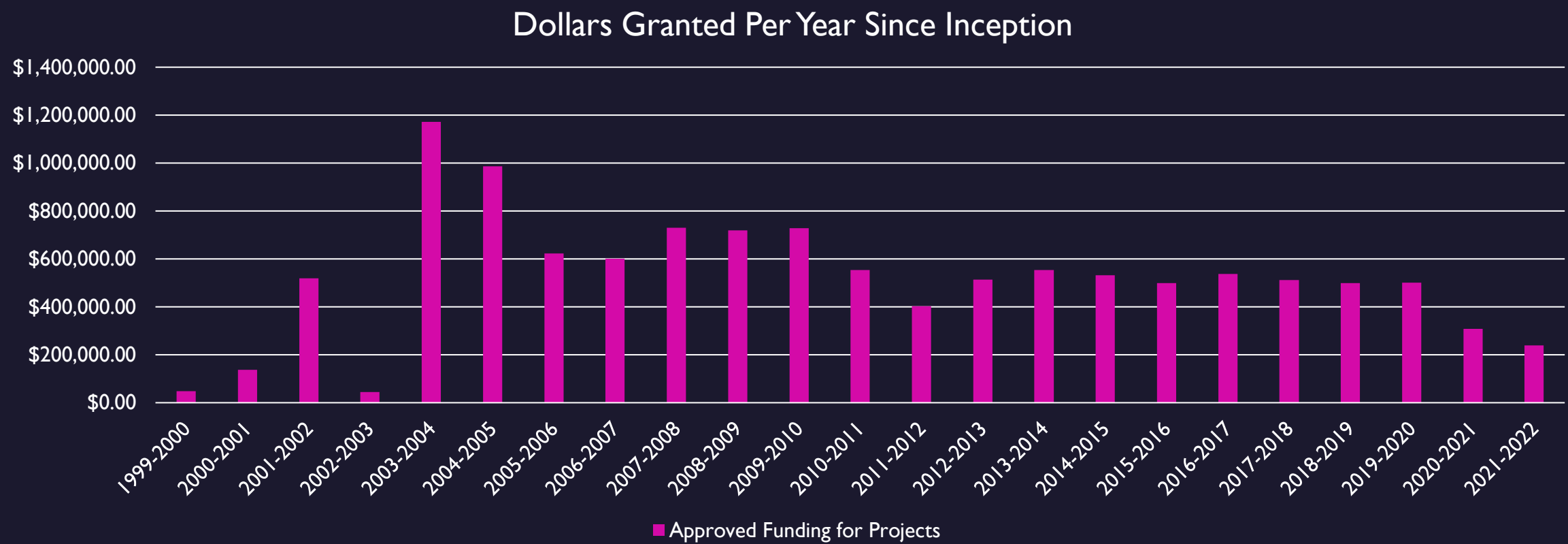
Approved for projects since inception

401

Projects approved since inception



11.9M Since Inception



Project Spotlight

16 new projects approved

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society's funding programs are designed to support sustainable economic activity in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir. The NKDF Society spends the income from The Legacy Fund on programs and projects that meet each community's goals for economic development and community stability.



Nechako Community Arts Council

Arts in Vanderhoof Mural

\$600

In June, The Nechako Community Arts Council held a design contest. Contestants were invited to submit mural ideas built around the theme “Keeping our Arts and Hearts Alive.” The winning design was painted on the outside of the building where the Art Wing is located creating a fun and vibrant atmosphere. The Nechako Community Arts Council run Art Wing is an inclusive space that provides local artists and artisans with low-cost venues to exhibit their work and to run classes. Since moving into the Art Wing in 2017, pottery classes and painting classes for all ages and skills have been ongoing as well as a variety of workshops such as weaving, spinning, pinata making, felting and basket weaving.



Village of Burns Lake

St. John's Heritage Church Redevelopment

\$30,000

The former St John's Anglican Church, constructed in 1918, is the oldest building in Burns Lake. Its distinctive bell tower contains a train bell that was given by the then president of the CNR, Sir Henry Thornton, for the church dedication. The stained-glass windows have a unique history, having been donated by St. Aidan's Church in Toronto at the time of construction.

Through this project, the building will be renovated while preserving its heritage qualities.

Once completed, the revitalized space will be ideal for community gatherings, musical and theatre events, weddings, club meetings, children's programs, and artisan hosted classes and workshops..



Nechako Valley Sporting Association Ski Rental Program \$4,950

The Nechako Valley Sporting Association started a Ski Rental Program during the first year of the pandemic to offer a healthy, outdoor recreational opportunity to local residents. An overwhelming success, with over 440 participants, it quickly became evident that while there was enough ski equipment for the younger children, more equipment was needed for the older youth and adults.

NKDF provided funding for the purchase of additional youth and adult sized ski equipment (including skis, poles, and boots). This equipment is also be used by youth groups in the community including Cadets, Girl Guides, Scouts, First Nations and church youth groups as well as The Nechako Nordics Ski S'Kool and Jackrabbit Programs.



Tamitik Status of Women Association
24-Hour Daycare
\$30,000

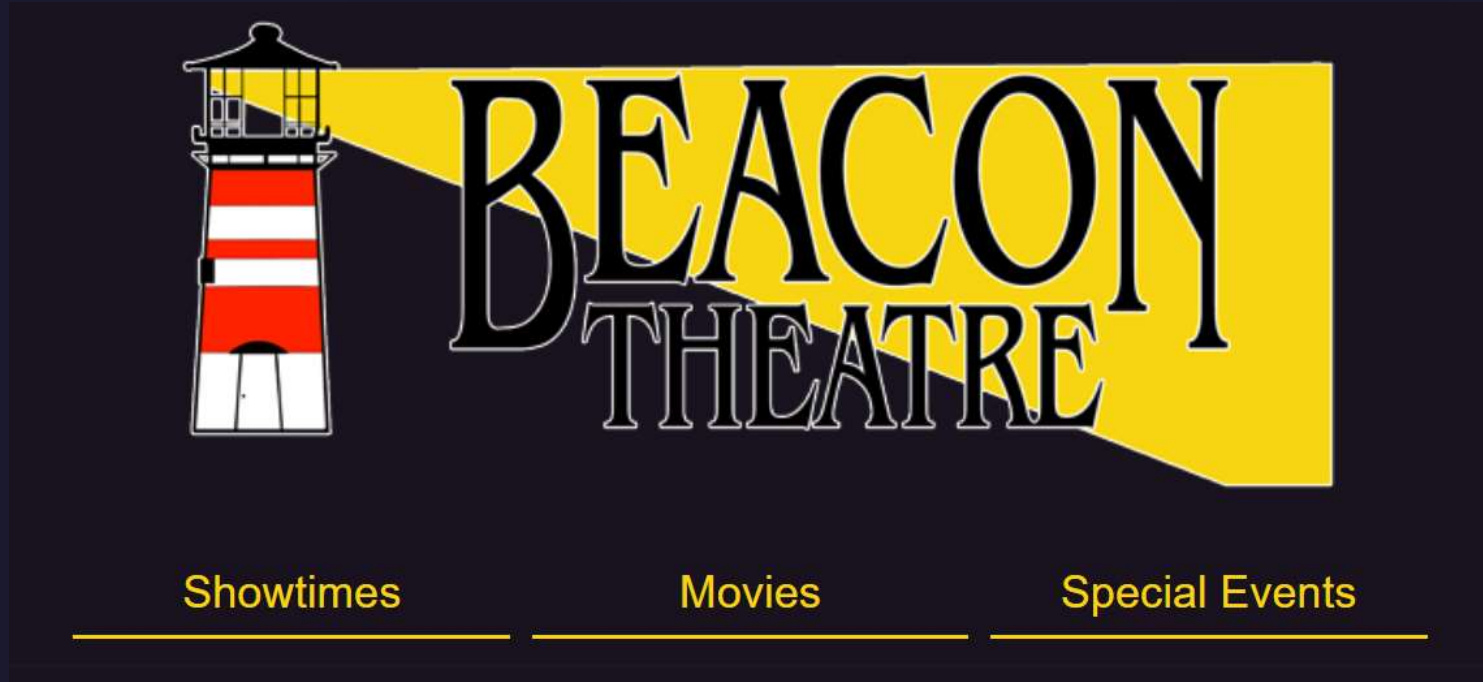
The Tamitik Status of Women Association was granted \$30,000 to assist with construction of the 24-Hour Daycare with Immersive Indigenous Cultural Programming. This pilot project is the first 24-hour childcare in the province and will allow parents, in particular single, female-led households, to access work that requires unconventional hours. The childcare facility will be immersed in Indigenous culture and this initiative will be guided by Haisla Nation.



Lakes District Film Appreciation Society

Beacon Façade

\$20,000



The Beacon Theatre has the distinction of being one of only a handful of community-owned theatres in BC. This community landmark is an integral part of the social fabric of Burns Lake and the surrounding region. The Theatre plays a critical role in the vibrancy and strength of the community by providing many local youth their first job.

The Lakes District Film Appreciation Society recently completed a massive renovation of the Theatre. This grant will assist with completing the final phase of the renovations, the front façade. Once completed, the updated façade will bring a new look and vibrancy to downtown Burns Lakes.

Francois Tchesinkut Lake Recreation Commission Community Hall Improvements and Programs \$7,811

Close to 100 years old, the Francois Tchesinkut hall was originally built by the Francois Lake Farmer's institute members.

In May funding was approved for improvements and programming at the hall.

A new yoga class was offered at the hall to provide an opportunity for exercising and socializing, especially through the winter. The class was well received, and the Recreation Commission is looking at hosting yoga classes on a regular basis. A cell booster was installed at the hall to provide accessible and reliable communication options during events and to increase safety with cell service access to emergency services. Additionally, a new outhouse was constructed to better serve large events such as the Annual Terry Fox Run.



Lakes District Senior Citizens Housing Association Carroll Cottage Rejuvenation \$5,000

Approved through the NKDF Under \$5,000 Program

In December, The Lakes District Senior Citizens Housing Association was approved for a grant of \$5,000 to make upgrades at Carroll Cottage. The 14-unit facility provides affordable housing for seniors.

The upgraded laundry facility provides seniors the ability to maneuver comfortably with walkers or wheelchairs. The newly updated open concept common area provides recreational, gathering and socializing opportunities for all tenants.



District of Vanderhoof Riverside Interpretive Signage \$5,000

District of Vanderhoof was granted \$5,000 to install interpretive signage at Riverside Park. In partnership with Saik'uz First Nation, dual-language signs with information on the park plant and animal species, including illustrations and names in both English and Dakelh, will be installed. The signage will create an engaging experience for park users and remind both Indigenous and non-Indigenous users of the cultural practices that occurred in the area long before Vanderhoof was a settlement.



District of Vanderhoof Airport Washroom \$5,000

In March, \$5,000 was granted to the District of Vanderhoof to go towards the construction of a public washroom at the Airport. The Vanderhoof Airport has previously won the Airport of the Year award from the BC Aviation Council. The airport supports emergency services, recreational opportunities, is home to two flight schools, and will be the site of the 2022 Vanderhoof International Air Show, which is returning after a two-year hiatus.



Photo credit Airrays Drone Services

Village of Fraser Lake

White Swan Dock

\$50,000

In March, \$50,000 was approved for the Village of Fraser Lake to upgrade the docks at the White Swan public boat launch on the shores of Fraser Lake. The White Swan Park Boat Launch and Docks are a gateway to summer and winter recreation activities.

The upgrade includes replacing the current wood piling and top rail system with a new steel piling system. The new system will allow the docks to be installed up to twelve weeks earlier in the season. Additionally, lighting will be installed on top of the pilings to enhance enjoyment and safety.



Dock upgrade in-progress

Nechako Valley Sporting Association Machine Shed \$4,000

The Nechako Valley Sporting Association maintains 12k of trails that are groomed daily throughout the ski season. The organization saw a 30% growth in cross country and biathlon membership this past year.

Approved in September for a Community Infrastructure project, these funds will go towards constructing a shed. Once completed, the grooming equipment will be stored there to increase safety, enhance efficiency, and better support a growing membership and tourism.



Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Fort Fraser Fire Engine \$40,000

In March, \$40,000 was approved for the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako to go toward the purchase of a new fire engine for the Fort Fraser Volunteer Fire Department. Replacing the current engine, which is 25 years old, will contribute to sustaining community quality of life and increasing the ability of the Fort Fraser Fire Department to respond to emergency calls.



Nechako Valley Exhibition Society

Equipment Repair – Bobcat

\$3,566

Approved through the Under \$5,000 Program

The Nechako Valley Exhibition Society offers a year-round community event centre and recreation hub, in addition to hosting an annual Exhibition event. The Society maintains indoor and outdoor arenas for daily-use membership as well as the provision of an affordable multi-purpose community centre where all-season usage includes natural disaster evacuation facilities, reforestation camps, youth group field days, livestock boarding, equestrian clinics, major sanctioned rodeo events, archery tournaments, company picnics, family reunions, weddings and celebrations, and public recreational vehicle storage.

These core operations enhance recreational opportunities and boost the attractiveness of the community for residents and tourists alike. With this funding, the Society made repairs to equipment that supports these activities.



Photo credit Nechako Valley Exhibition Society

Lakes District Fair Association Moving Forward During COVID \$20,000

The annual Fall Fair, normally held the second weekend in September, has had a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Using the event restrictions as an opportunity to complete work while the grounds were not in use, the Fair Association received a grant to make improvements at the Eagle Creek Fairgrounds including replacing the roofs of the Horse and Cattle barn and Children's Festival booths, installing bleachers, extending the Main Stage, and constructing a pre-performance staging area. The Association has received several nominations from the Burns Lake Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards and has been the recipient of the Paul Sandercott Business of the Year Award.



Nechako Valley Rodeo Association Bring Back Rodeo \$10,000

\$10,000 was approved for the Nechako Valley Rodeo Association to assist with hosting the 2022 Rodeo. This marks the return of this vibrant community event after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. The rodeo will take place in Vanderhoof June 17-19.



Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce We Are Open Shop Local Campaign \$2,500

Approved through the Under \$5,000 Program

The Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce is planning a “We Are Open” campaign that will promote a Shop Local initiative. This campaign will encourage community members to shop local and support businesses. The Chamber of Commerce will hand out gift certificates to residents to be redeemed at local businesses in the community.



Strategic Highlights

The past year represented year two of the pandemic, which has been tough on everyone from non-profit organizations, to businesses, and the communities overall. Projects that support and enhance the quality of life and provide social opportunities were critical for the region this year. NKDF provided grants for a variety of projects to support people, businesses, and the communities. Grants were provided for projects from Exhibition Grounds infrastructure to a Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Campaign to recreational programs. These community building and quality of life projects are critical as we recover from the pandemic and work together to strengthen our communities.

The past year the Board continued efforts to seek additional funding from Rio Tinto and the Province of BC to increase the capital base of the Legacy Fund and/or to supplement the grants distributed each year to ensure NKDF can continue to provide critical support to local communities in perpetuity.

Directors met with local Mayors and Chiefs to provide an update on the long-term sustainability of the NKDF Fund. The strong support from local leaders continues to be vital to the success of NKDF.

Previously, business cases supporting a request for funds were submitted to both the Province and Rio Tinto.

In June, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development responded to NKDF's request that \$750,000 of the annual water rental fees collected from the Nechako River be redirected to NKDF. The Province has stated that it will not pursue the redirection of water rental fees at this time.

In November 2021, Directors met with provincial representatives to discuss the request for a one-time payment of 2.3M to the legacy fund. While the request was declined, the Province indicated a willingness to continue to search for solutions and work with us on this.

In July, members of the NKDF Increasing Capital Committee met with Rio Tinto representatives to discuss the request for additional funding. A second meeting took place in March 2022.

While the Province and Rio Tinto have not contributed additional funds to-date, the Board remains optimistic and will draw on the strong partnerships in place within the communities in the upcoming year to advance the goal of increasing the capital.

Financial Highlights

Revenue	2021-2022
Contribution Agreement Funding - Province of BC	\$300,000
Investment Income	\$104,007
Total	\$404,007

Expenses	2021-2022
Administration	\$83,444
Grant Payments	\$122,905
Total	\$206,349

Note to grants: The Society approved a total of \$238,427 in new grants for the year.

Note to investment income: NKDF investments are held at Integrus Credit Union in Vanderhoof and with Phillips Hager and North (PHN).

Financial Assets	
Cash – Administration Fund	\$30,027
Cash – Grant Fund	\$336,393
Short Term Investments	\$2,198,717
GST Receivable	\$2,282
Accounts Payable	(4,901)
Net Financial Assets	\$2,562,518

Combined assets: The balance of the original \$15 million dollar contributions from Rio Tinto and the BC Government (managed by BCI) had a fair market value in the amount of \$13.3M at March 31, 2022.

Annual audit: The annual audit of the NKDF was completed in May 2022 by Edmison-Mehr Chartered Accountants (Smithers). The audited statements are available with the Business Plan at www.nkdf.org and upon request.

Board of Directors



Cindy Shelford
Chair, Burns Lake



Doris Fraser
Secretary/Treasurer
Kitamaat Village



Tom Clement
Privacy Officer
Vanderhoof



Mike Robertson
Southside



Jamie Neilson
Fraser Lake



Carolyn Leigh
Vanderhoof



Lisa Grant
Kitamaat Village



Craig Smith
Vanderhoof



Devrie Sanghera
Rio Tinto, Kitimat

TJ Parhar
Province of BC,
Victoria

Looking Forward

Strategic Priorities for the Upcoming Year

- 1) To pursue efforts to increase the capital and investment returns for NKDF programs.
- 2) To serve as a leader and provide the catalyst to re-invigorate and galvanize communities as we emerge from COVID.
- 3) To support social and community projects that bring people back together after COVID.
- 4) To expedite funds to the communities by promoting and encouraging applications through the NKDF Under \$5,000 program.
- 5) To ensure that the Province of BC is aware NKDF is a resource to implement the StrongerBC Economic Plan.

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www.nkdf.org