



*Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2023-2024**

**\$12.3M** granted for economic development since 1999  
[www.nkdf.org](http://www.nkdf.org) | 250 964 4066 | [manager@nkdf.org](mailto:manager@nkdf.org)

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We don't need a Statistics Canada report to tell us how difficult the past year has been for not only the communities and residents that NKDF serves but for so many British Columbians.

The reality is the people of Northern BC are facing a rising cost of living, loss of jobs and income security with saw mill closures, housing shortages, drought, wildfires and floods.

Through the projects we have proudly funded this past year, the accomplishments of the communities and volunteers while facing these challenges is a testament to the strength everyone's commitment to the region.

The NKDF Directors reside in the communities we serve. We don't just understand the struggles, we live them alongside our friends families and neighbours.

Twenty-seven new projects were approved this past year including wildfire suppression equipment, business excellence awards, senior housing updates, hall renovations, biking trails windfall damage clean-up, community picnic tables and a new school gym score clock for a total of \$268,752.

Our board has spent 2023 working to increase the capital and investment returns for NKDF in order to increase the amount of grant dollars available for community projects.

At NKDF we take each request, each project and the stories shared by the communities to heart.

It is our hope, as we look forward, that we will be able to increase our capital in order to provide more support and funding to the communities we serve.

This remains a critical priority.

Until then, we will continue to try to do more with less, fund the projects that bring the greatest impact to the lives of those living in Northern BC and continue to be immersed in supporting and strengthening our communities.

I would like to extend a special thank to the Directors for their continued commitment and the time and effort they put into making NKDF the outstanding organization that it is. Each and every one of you is an exceptional ambassador for your community. As well, a huge thank you to the NKDF Manager, Britta Boudreau, for all her hard work towards supporting the Board and for her work with our clients.

NKDFS

Board Chair

Cindy Shelford



# HIGHLIGHTS

This past year the Board adopted the following strategies:

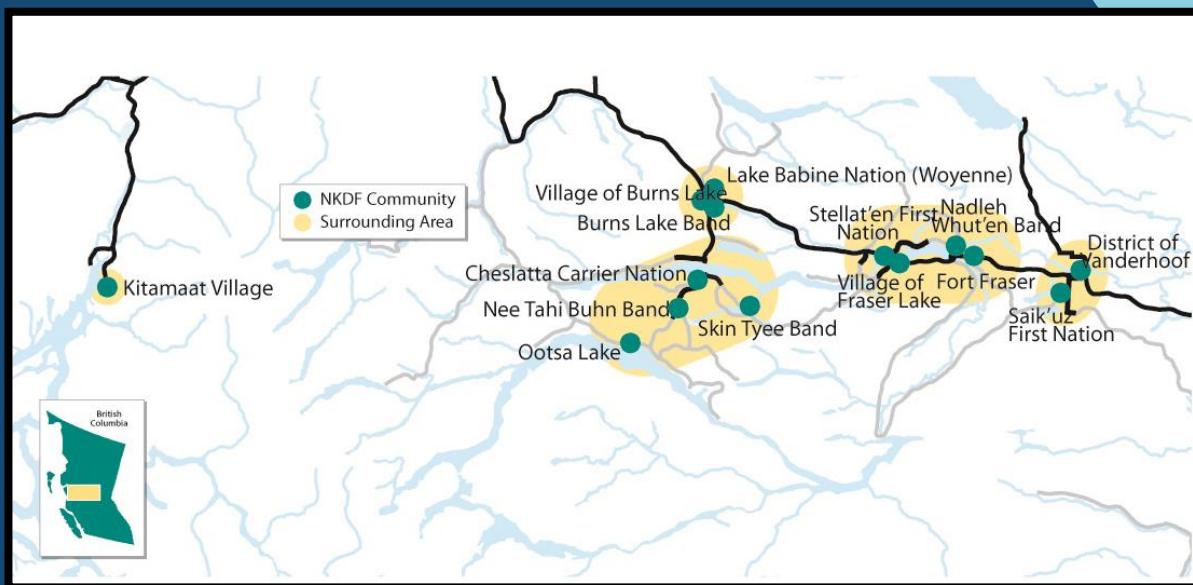
- 1) To pursue efforts to increase the capital and investment returns for NKDF programs.
- 2) To expedite funds to the communities by promoting and encouraging applications through the NKDF Under \$5,000 program.
- 3) To support social and community projects that bring people together.

*Priority 1: To pursue efforts to increase the capital and investment returns for NKDF programs.*

Increasing the NKDF capital in order to increase the amount of grant dollars available for community projects remains a critical priority. The legacy fund is being eroded in real terms, because of inflationary pressures and lower-than-expected investment returns, threatening the long-term viability of NKDF. The annual dollars granted has dropped from \$500,000 to \$260,000. The Increasing Capital Committee met on a regular basis this past year to continue the work of exploring options to increase capital and improve investment returns to bring annual funding for NKDF programs.

NKDF engaged a consultant to develop two proposals this past year. One proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation requesting that NKDF to be considered along with the other Trusts for a one-time infusion of 10M dollars. A second proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Water Land and Resources requesting that 5% of the annual water royalties Rio Tinto pays to the Province of BC for Kemano Power Generation be provided to NKDF on an annual basis.

To date, no additional funds have been provided but the Board remains optimistic and the critical work of increasing the capital in order to restore and increase the annual grant levels.



NKDF grants are designed to support sustainable economic activity in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir.



*Priority 2:* To expedite funds to the communities by promoting and encouraging applications through the NKDF Under \$5,000 program.

*Priority 3:* To support social and community projects that bring people together.

The under \$5,000 program was incredibly successful this year with 19 projects approved for a total of \$83,187. Applications in this category are accepted on a continuous basis with funding decisions made within two weeks.



Grassy Plains School  
Ski Equipment Upgrade  
Photo Credit Chris Paulson



Fraser Lake Curling Club Ice Upgrades



## No Project Too Small!



Submit your application now for grant requests from \$100-\$5,000



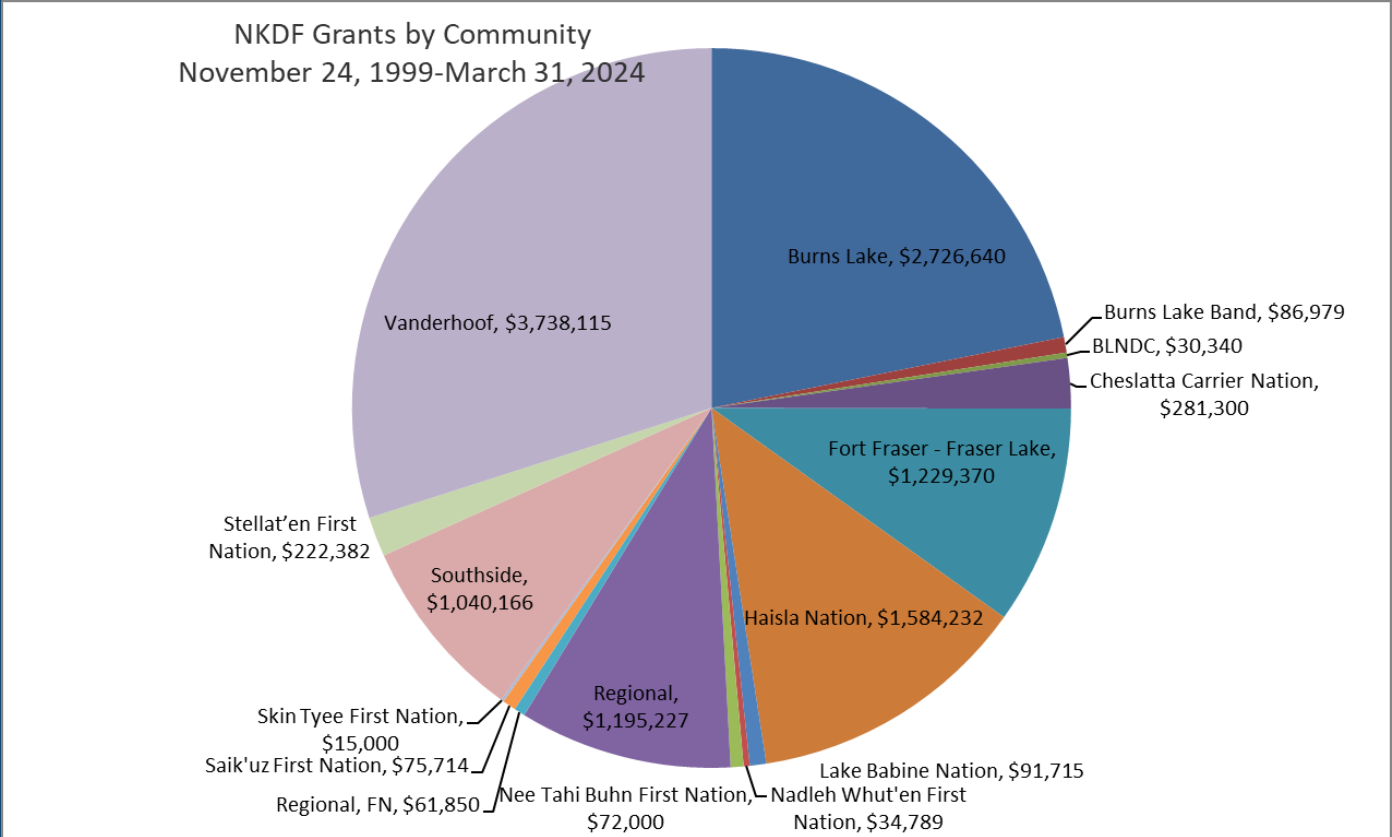
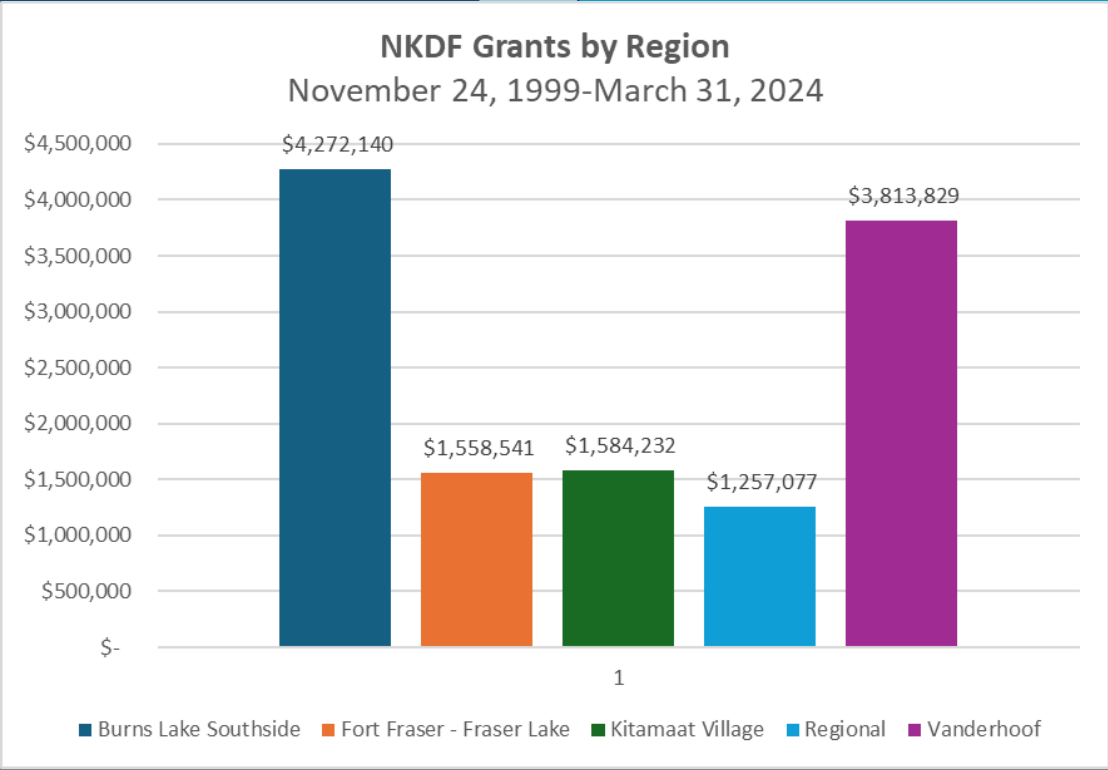
For full grant criteria and information on applying visit  
<https://www.nkdf.org/how-to-apply/requests-under-5-000>



# www.nkdf.org

NKDF supports economic and community development projects in the following categories:  
Infrastructure \* Planning and Research \* Human Development \* Marketing

# COMMUNITY IMPACTS



\$12.3m granted for 452 projects since 1999

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

**\$268,752 Granted for 27 New Projects in 2023-2024**

## **Emergency Response Trailers 2023 and 2024**

### **Chinook Emergency Response Society**

**\$10,000**

Chinook Emergency Response Society (CERS) and Cheslatta Carrier Nation work together to maintain the 9 Emergency Response Trailers owned by Cheslatta. These trailers benefit the three First Nations in the region as well as residents on the South and North side of Francois Lake. The equipment located in the trailers help volunteer community members respond to fires in the region. With the NKDF grant of \$10,000, CERS purchased safety, communication and fire fighting equipment to improve the initial attack capabilities of community members. It is the goal of CERS to help prepare communities in RDBN Electoral Area E to be prepared and responsive to all emergencies.

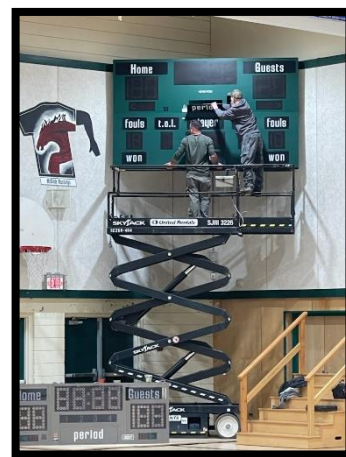




Photo credit Elaine Storey

## Gym Score Clock FLESS Parent Advisory Council

The Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School Parent Advisory Council was approved \$5,000 to replace the thirty-year-old score clock in the school gym. The new score clock will enable the school to reliably host league games, basketball tournaments, indoor soccer and floor hockey.



## Ice Upgrades Fraser Lake Curling Club

Fraser Lake Curling Club was granted \$4,041 to assist with the installation of a Reverse Osmosis System in the newly renovated Fraser Lake Curling Rink. The new system will improve ice quality and allow the Club to provide optimal conditions throughout the season and during bonspiels.



Photo credit Elaine Storey



**Francois Lake Hall Renovation**  
**Francois Tchesinkut Recreation Commission**  
**\$25,000**

Francois Tchesinkut Recreation Commission was granted \$25,000 toward renovations of the Francois Lake Hall. A heavily utilized community hall that has been in operation for almost a century, the hall is used year-round for live music events, charity events such as the Terry Fox Run, weddings, reunions and banquets. The project included re-roofing the hall and adding canopy covering to the wheelchair access ramps.



**Grassy Plains Hall Foundation**  
**Grassy Plains Community Hall Association**  
**\$50,000**

\$50,000 was granted to assist with repairing the foundation of the Grassy Plains Hall and restoring the venue for community use. The Grassy Plains Community Hall is a well-utilized community asset used to host holiday events, community barbeques, emergency support training and workshops, family dances, softball tournaments and summer festivals. The facility has also been used during wildfire events as a staging area for support services.



**Picnic Table Structure and Picnic Table Concrete Pads**  
**Village of Fraser Lake**  
**\$10,000**

The Village of Fraser Lake's outdoor picnic table areas at Kin Park and White Swan are heavily used by tourists and residents during the spring, summer and early fall months. NKDF provided \$10,000 to assist with the pouring of five concrete pads throughout the community to place picnic tables on for public use by residents and tourists. Additionally, four open air structures were built over the tables to provide shade and protection from the rain.



**Refurbishing of the Fraser Lake Men's Shed**  
**Fraser Lake and Area Men's Shed Society**  
**\$5000**

The Fraser Lake Men's Shed plans to purchase a building that will allow the Men's Shed to expand the storefront and workshop which will allow the group to take on larger projects and put on courses in woodworking and mechanics. Once the building is purchased, the grant from NKDF will be used to upgrade the building in order to expand the shop into the currently unfinished back area.



**Reshingle Tri-Plex units and Sidewalk**  
**Nechako View Senior Citizens Home Society**  
**\$10,120**

The Nechako View Senior Citizens Home Society, formed in 1959, started out with six self-care units. Since then, the complex has been expanded to 36 units and a central activity area. The goal of the Society is to provide affordable housing and quality of life for Seniors. With these two grants from NKDF, Nechako View Senior Citizens Home

Society replaced the shingles on one of the triplex units and installed a sidewalk in front of one of the triplexes to make the area more accessible.



**Silver Birch Lodge Sidewalk and Parking**  
**Fraser Lake & District Senior Citizens Home Society**  
**\$38,375**

The Silver Birch Lodge, operated by the Fraser Lake and District Senior Citizens Home Society, is a 23-unit apartment and the only independent senior housing complex in Fraser Lake. Originally built in the 80s, Silver Birch Lodge was one of BC's first rural seniors housing projects. The NKDF grant funding will be used to replace the current sidewalk and pave five parking stalls in order to enhance safety.





## **Windfall Clean-up**

### **Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association**

**\$5000**

In November 2022 a huge wind event created a mess of trees (3000-5000) across the 100km network of trails at Boer Mountain. NKDF provided a \$5,000 grant to open the trails by clearing the fallen trees and removing any dangerous trees still standing.



## **Rip'n Refresh**

### **Rip N The North**

**\$4500**

Rip'n the North Bike Club operates and maintains a bike park and network of 34kms of trails in Vanderhoof. With this grant of \$4,500 the Club purchased tools and completed maintenance and repairs to the trails and the wooden features located throughout the trail network. The trails are open year-round and available for use by bikers, hikers, dog walkers and tobogganers.





**Business Excellence Awards  
Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce  
\$1500**

The Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce hosted the Business Excellence Awards on January 20, 2024. The event, a dinner with entertainment and awards presentation, celebrated the businesses, employers, employees, community members and service groups within Vanderhoof. NKDF presented the Not-for Profit of the Year award to the Vanderhoof Men's Shed.



**Live Local Campaign  
Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce  
\$5000**



Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce was granted \$5,000 to run a Live Local Campaign. This campaign ran throughout the summer of 2023 to bring Chamber businesses together with local community members through trivia contests, giveaways and videos showcasing local businesses.

**Grassy Plains School Ski Equipment Upgrade**  
**Grassy Plains School Parent Advisory Committee**  
**\$5000**

Grassy Plains Elementary School runs a winter program of skiing and snowshoeing for the students. The goal for the winter season is to provide a fun and safe sport opportunity that is inclusive to all youth enrolled in Grassy Plains Elementary Secondary School. The program is facilitated by certified Spirit of the North coaches.



**Fuel Tank Upgrade**  
**Omineca Ski Club**  
**\$6346**

Founded in 1927, The Omineca Ski Club lays claim to being the oldest cross-country ski club in British Columbia and possibly the oldest club in Canada. These grant funds will be used to upgrade the onsite fuel storage system in order to facilitate more efficient grooming of the network of ski trails.

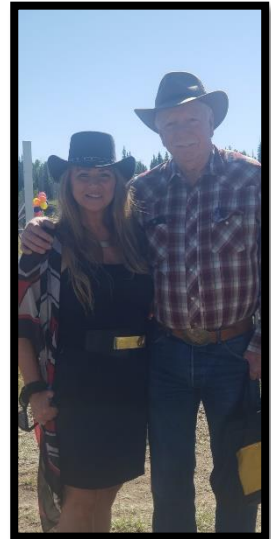
**Nechako Nordics Grooming Maintenance and Storage Shop**  
**Nechako Valley Sporting Association**  
**\$11,000**

The Nechako Nordics maintain 11.4 km of ski trails in Vanderhoof and membership has steadily increased since the pandemic. Through this project, The Nechako Nordics will purchase and modify a 40-foot C-can to create a shop for equipment repair and summer storage of grooming equipment.

**Fairground Improvements (2024)**  
**Lakes District Fair Association**  
**\$40,000**

The Lakes District Fair Association received \$40,000 from NKDF to complete upgrades at the Eagle Creek Fairgrounds ahead of the upcoming 78<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Fair that will be held September 6-8.

An additional hydro pole will be installed to accommodate food vendors and the expanding fair which set a record in 2023 with over 3000 people in attendance. As well, a variety of upgrades to the fair grounds including putting in an access road and replacing/repairing picnic tables and grandstands will be completed.





## KayakOMat Village of Burns Lake \$8000

Through this project, a KAYAKOMAT, an automated self-service kayak rental kiosk, will be set up at Radley Beach in Burns Lake. Users who wish to rent a kayak can do so on-line and will receive a code for a smart-lock on the KAYAKOMAT station. The station will also include access to safety equipment and PFDs. The KAYAKOMAT will be available for the public to rent kayaks 7 days a week.

## Mud Bogs Grassy Plains Community Hall Association \$5000

This \$5,000 grant assisted Grassy Plains Community Hall Association with hosting a Mud Bog event on May 27, 2023. The event was attended with over 200 Spectators and 15 Driver Participants

A10 Wednesday, June 7, 2023 Burns Lake Lakes District News www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com



**GRASSY PLAINS HALL ANNUAL MUD BOG RESULTS**

The Timed Races had a \$200 jackpot and the fastest time went to:  
**Cory Gammond from Vanderhoof** in his **'79 Ford named Billy Bob**.

The people's choice awards made and donated by Industrial Transformers went to:  
**#1: Billy Bob the '79 Ford** owned by **Cory Gammond** from Vanderhoof  
**#2: Dirty Habits a '96 Ford Flareside** owned by **Lorne Wilson** and sponsored by **Randy Wilson Trucking**  
**#3: The Hybrid a 1982 Toyota Pickup** owned by **Braden Ukientz** of Vanderhoof

We would like to acknowledge a \$5000 support from



*Nechako-Klappan Development Fund Society*

to purchase lumber and supplies to repair bleachers and outhouses and to purchase event insurance for the mud bogs.

**A HUGE, THANK YOU TO:**

- AMC
- Anthony Sensesnik
- April and Tyler Flemming
- Babine Forest Products
- Burns Lake Auto
- Bulkley Valley Credit Union
- Burns Lake Community Forest
- Burns Lake Home Hardware
- Burns Lake Plaza
- Cable Mackay
- Canadian Tire
- Chisnook Community Forest
- Comfort 16 Printing and Signs
- Doug Phair
- Emily Albertson
- Four Rivers Coop
- Freegrowing Forestry
- Grumpy Gals Grah
- Home Depot
- Industrial Transformers
- Jesse Quaw
- Kai Tire
- Ken and Vickery Hill
- Kent Lambert
- Ky Bigler
- Lakes District News
- LDSS Student Volunteers
- Lino's
- Matt Nealis
- MOJO
- NAPA
- Nechako Klappan Development Fund
- Rio Tinto
- Sarah MacKay
- Southside 44 Club
- Southside Ambulance Service
- Southside LDM
- Southside Volunteer Fire Department
- Sullivan Motors
- Tahltan Timber
- Takula Lake Resort
- Taylor MacDonald
- The Coast Inn of the North
- The Dollar Store
- Urna Minor Breeding

8 thanks to all the participants, spectators and volunteers who have helped



Michael Fries-Christianson and Destiny Michel photos/Lakes District News

## **Western Days**

### **Eagle Creek Recreation Commission**

**\$5000**

Eagle Creek Recreation Commission will host "Western Days" July 20 and 21 2024. The weekend will feature events such as a horseshoe tournament, gymkhana, and a chili cook off. This community event will bring people together the Indigenous communities, Southside, Burns Lake and outlying communities for a weekend of fun.

## **Infant Development Program First Aid Training**

### **Burns Lake Christian Support Society**

**\$4,270**

The Burns Lake Infant Development Program is delivered through the Burns Lake Christian Support Society. Through this project Childcare First Aid was offered to families in the Burns Lake community. As well, a Trauma and Resilience workshop was held in Burns Lake to help professional childcare workers better assist children affected by the impacts of the pandemic.



## **Infant Development Program Music and Movement**

### **Burns Lake Christian Support Society**

**\$600**

The Burns Lake Christian Support Society, through its Infant Development Program, operates a free Music and Movement Class for Parents and Children. This funding will be used to purchase new musical instruments for the class.

**Our Lady of the Plains Church Renovation**  
**Cheslatta Carrier Nation**  
**\$5000**

The "Our Lady of the Plains" Church was built by volunteers 1966 and was central meeting place for many, many years. It is still used for masses and potluck dinners and is a venue for many funerals and wakes each year. The Church is well utilized by Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Skin Tyee and Nee Tahi Buhn Band. This project is to complete upgrades/renovations to the Church basement.

**LDSS Kitchen Upgrade**  
**LDSS Parent Advisory Council**  
**\$5000**

The Lakes District Secondary School runs several programs to provide meals to children from lower income families. With the NKDF grant of \$5,000 an additional cooler and two new stoves were purchased for the school kitchen.

## Upcoming Application Deadlines

July 31, 2024   October 31, 2024   January 31, 2025   March 31, 2025

<https://www.nkdf.org/how-to-apply/application-forms>

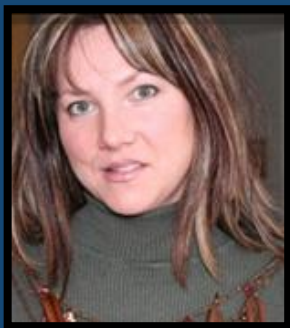


# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cindy Shelford, Burns Lake (Chair)  
Doris Fraser, Kitamaat Village (Secretary/Treasurer)  
Tom Clement, Vanderhoof (Privacy Officer)  
Quinten Beach, Rio Tinto  
Lisa Grant, Kitamaat Village  
Ken Guenter, Burns Lake  
Matthew Kinch, Province of BC  
Jamie Neilson, Fraser Lake  
Mike Robertson, Southside  
Craig Smith, Vanderhoof

Cindy Shelford



Doris Fraser



Tom Clement



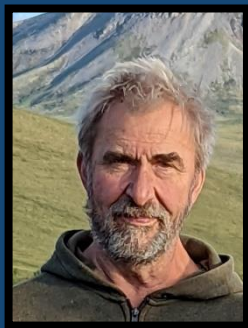
Quinten Beach



Lisa Grant



Ken Guenter



Matthew Kinch



Jamie Neilson



Mike Robertson



Craig Smith



Since 1999, 64 different individuals have served on the NKDF Board