

October 16, 2024

Peace River Regional District Regional Board Peace River Regional District 9505-100 Street, Fort St. John, BC. V1J 4N4

Via email: ashley.murphey@prrd.bc.ca

Re: Request for Support for the LNG Sector Business Development Liaison Program Funding

I am writing on behalf of Community Futures Development Corporation of Peace Liard (CFPL) to respectfully seek your support for our application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) Forestry Impact Transition Fund for grant funding towards the Business Development Liaison (BDL) Program. The grant submission deadline is October 31st 2024. REDIP will accept support letters after the submission deadline.

The LNG Sector Business Development Liaison Program is a key initiative designed to strengthen small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Northern British Columbia in preparation for the full-scale operation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry.

The BDL Program aims to address longstanding economic challenges and capitalize on the generational opportunity presented by the LNG sector. In the face of ongoing challenges such as fluctuating commodity prices, environmental pressures, and changing industry dynamics, our SMEs need targeted support to thrive.

This program will create three Business Development Liaison positions over a three-year period, focusing on sustainable business growth, strategic planning, recruitment, and capitalization of equipment within industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors.

The program will benefit communities across Northeast BC, the Northern Rockies, and First Nations territories by ensuring long-term economic and social sustainability. The project will provide training in project management, procurement, workforce recruitment, and business planning, ensuring that local businesses are well-equipped to meet the needs of the LNG sector and secure their role in the provincial economy for decades to come.

We believe that the successful implementation of this program will result in:

- Robust SME sector growth
- Improved community sustainability
- Reduced reliance on flv-in-flv-out labor

Long-term economic prosperity for Northern BC and the Province

The total project cost is estimated at \$1,007,348 which will be funded by grants, in kind contributions of staff and administrative support, and through access to other program offerings.

Your support of our application for grant funding will enable us to unlock the full potential of this opportunity and secure long-term benefits for our communities.

We welcome any opportunity to discuss the program further and provide additional details. Please let us know if there are any specific requirements or further documentation needed to support our application.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to regional economic development.

Best Regards



Moira Green General Manager Community Futures Peace Liard

Attachment:

Proposal for LNG Sector BDL Program V 1022024