

Thursday, May 06, 2009

The New North Foundation (NNF) -- in its conception stage only

A presentation by Dr. Charles Jago, president of UNBC, and Ms. Janine North, of the Northern Development Initiatives Trust (NDI)

This “portal for accessing research at UNBC and beyond” is the direct result of the northern economic summit that was held in Prince George in January of 2009. From that summit, it was clear that northern BC has two great assets: its people and its environment.

It was also clear that there is a large data gap for many initiatives. This is where the NNF would come into play. It would be able to provide “world-class research to regional development”. It would be the “knowledge mobilizer” for data related to the economic, environmental and social dimensions pertaining to such sustainable projects concerning resource extraction, environmental stewardship, climate change, energy, transportation, housing, and health care.

The data would have a distinct northern perspective. The data would need to be provided without proprietary or copy-right encumbrances. The research would be regionally directed in collaboration between municipalities, industry and academia. **“The primary objective of the NNF is to mobilize research in the direct service of northern communities.”**

The handout, attached, provides a graphic to demonstrate the concept as seen by UNBC and its partners.

Action: Send a letter of support to UNBC for this initiative. See www.unbc.ca/newnorth

Written by Councillor Gladys Noddin