

# North Cariboo Multi-Centre

## News Release

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## Referendum target date moved

### Support from community needed before Multi-Centre vote takes place

*Quesnel* – The North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee has determined the North Cariboo Multi-Centre will not go to referendum before this November’s local government elections. There are a number of reasons for the delay, including allowing time to secure funds from external sources before going to the public, not rushing the project’s development and the overall acceptance for the project in the community.

The Multi-Centre will only proceed to referendum once a commitment of at least \$8 million has been secured from outside sources, such as senior levels of government, the corporate community and grassroots community fundraising initiatives. The second caveat involves demonstration of reasonable public support for the project. Once these two conditions have been met, the project will proceed to referendum, but not before November 15, 2008, the date of the next general elections for local government. The referendum will also be for an amount not to exceed \$14 million.

“The North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee has always heeded the advice of the Multi-Centre Task Force that this needs to be a cost-efficient and cost-responsible project,” stated Multi-Centre Task Force Co-Chair Mary Glassford. “Given the costs we’re looking at, we need to see that there is sufficient support out there, not only from the taxpayer, but from senior levels of government in terms of funding before we can hope for the project to be successful at referendum. We will do all we can to exceed that \$8 million figure and make this an affordable project for our community.”

“We can’t go ahead with a referendum this spring hoping that there will be support for the project,” said Multi-Centre Task Force Co-Chair Ron Craigmyle. “We need to ensure there’s support, both from senior levels of government and from the taxpayer at large. This is going to be the largest investment in recreation facilities in our area for the next 20 years at least. We need to make sure it’s the best project it can be.”

The North Cariboo Multi-Centre is a proposed facility that could host a new 2,000-seat, NHL-sized arena, 450-seat multi-use theatre and accompanying event and assembly spaces.

For more information, the public is encouraged to contact either Shelly Burich at the Cariboo Regional District (1-800-665-1636) or Matt Wood at the City of Quesnel (992-2111).

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For further information, please contact the North Cariboo Multi-Centre Communications Working Group Co-Chairs:

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