



CITY OF QUESNEL NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Council approves City Manager's Renewable Energy Task Force initiative

QUESNEL, B.C. – Quesnel City Council approved a new task force at its regular meeting last night aimed at investigating new initiatives and opportunities behind the potential for independent power production in Quesnel.

“As a Council we’ve identified diversifying our economy as one of our strategic goals, especially as we continue to face the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation,” said Mayor Nate Bello. “We need to be creative, to develop innovative ideas that will help us make the best use of available fibre. This is a new reality for the forestry industry and forest-dependent communities. We’ve embraced this reality and look forward to meeting the challenge head on.”

The City Manager’s Task Force on Renewable Energy will be comprised of key industry representatives, as well as members from the Quesnel and Community Economic Development Corporation.

“Given the economic uncertainties we’re facing, the City needs to identify development opportunities relating to energy production and unutilized wood waste,” said City Manager Charles Hamilton. “We are well-positioned to consider a number of different initiatives, provided the appropriate support at senior levels of government and within industry exists.”

The Task Force will:

- Investigate and identify forest biomass supply issues in the North Cariboo to support power generation.
- Review and clarify access/tenure issues relative to biomass resources.
- Review and monitor developments relative to BC Hydro and the provincial government’s policy regarding IPP agreements in general and, in particular, a special beetle kill proposal call.
- Identify potential partners through a call for expressions of interest from established IPPs.
- Report to Council within six months on progress to date.

Preliminary discussions with several industry and government officials, including the Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and the Hon. Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, indicate broad and enthusiastic support for the City to pursue this process further.

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This release is available at www.city.quesnel.bc.ca.

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