

Press Release

For Immediate Release

BCEDA Partners with Northern Development Initiative Trust to Launch Regional Economic Development Network

Penticton, BC – January 14, 2025 – The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is proud to announce an exciting new partnership with Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to establish a groundbreaking **Regional Economic Development Network (EDN-NDT)**. This collaboration aims to foster enhanced collaboration, professional development, and economic resilience across Northern B.C.

With its mission to empower communities through strategic leadership and innovative solutions, BCEDA has a longstanding history of supporting economic development across British Columbia. The partnership with NDIT marks a significant milestone in advancing inclusive economic opportunities tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of northern communities.

The Regional Economic Development Network will provide a platform for local, regional, and First Nation communities to collaborate, share best practices, and access vital resources. Participation in the network will be open and free for all communities within Northern Development’s service region, eliminating financial barriers to engagement.

“Our goal is to ensure every community—regardless of size or budget—has the tools and opportunities to drive economic growth and resilience,” said Dale Wheeldon, President and CEO of BCEDA. “Through this partnership, we’re not just building a network; we’re building capacity for communities to thrive.”

"This partnership with BCEDA confirms our commitment to fostering economic resilience and growth across Northern B.C. Through tailored professional development opportunities, resource sharing, and collaborative platforms, we aim to equip economic development professionals with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive. By bringing First Nation and non-First Nation communities together, this initiative not only addresses immediate challenges but also lays a strong foundation for sustainable recovery and long-term prosperity," said Felicia Magee, Director, Economic Development, NDIT

A representative Working Committee, including members from First Nation and non-First Nation communities, will guide the development of the network. This approach ensures that the unique needs and aspirations of all communities are heard and addressed.

BCEDA and NDIT are committed to providing an adaptable, member-driven network that responds to the dynamic needs of northern communities. The initiative is set to begin in January 2025 with a three-year agreement to ensure sustained impact.



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About BCEDA

Established in 1981, the British Columbia Economic Development Association is the leading organization supporting economic development professionals in BC. Through training, advocacy, and resource sharing, BCEDA helps communities build resilient and prosperous economies.

About NDIT

Northern Development Initiative Trust provides funding and support to strengthen economic growth and resilience across central and northern British Columbia.