



For Immediate Release
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NEWS RELEASE

Northern Bioenergy Partnership Executive Director Appointed

Prince George, BC – January 11, 2011 - The Northern Bioenergy Partnership is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Elissa Meiklem as Executive Director.

Ms. Meiklem will be charged with executing the three year strategic plan of the Northern Bioenergy Partnership to build Prince George and the North as a forest-based bioenergy cluster.

“We are delighted to have a person with the depth and experience that Elissa has to lead the Northern Bioenergy Partnership”, says Dr. Charles Jago, Interim Chair of the Northern Bioenergy Partnership. “The Board looks forward to working with Elissa to build Prince George as the centre of a world-class forest-based bioenergy cluster”.

Ms. Meiklem has 10 years of experience in the forest products industry as a process engineer, management consultant, and product director in both manufacturing and corporate environments, including, among others, Tembec Forest Products in Ontario and Poyry Forest Industry Consulting in New York. She has relationships with industry both locally and internationally. Born and raised Prince George, she holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours), from the University of British Columbia majoring in wood products processing with a specialization in product development.

“I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work in my own community on such a dynamic project. I look forward to working with local industries and communities to make our region a global leader in bioenergy production and technology”, says Elissa Meiklem, Executive Director, Northern Bioenergy Partnership.

“Initiatives Prince George is delighted to see a person of Elissa’s calibre lead this important economic development and diversification initiative”, says Tim McEwan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Initiatives Prince George Development Corporation. “We look forward to working with Elissa to advance this value stream in our forest and energy sectors”, McEwan continued.

“I am very pleased with Elissa’s appointment”, says Brian Fehr, President of the BID Group of Companies. “Elissa gets things done, and is ideally suited to the role of driving the northern bioenergy industry forward”, Fehr continued

Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) Chair, Don Bassermann states, “OBAC is pleased with Ms. Meiklem’s appointment which supports our organization’s recommendation for an Alternative Energy Office to provide communities with much needed information and assistance on the complex options, feasibility, technologies and programs impacting the development of the industry.”

About the Northern Bioenergy Partnership

The Northern Bioenergy Partnership is an industry-led coalition of organizations involved in the bioenergy industry in Northern British Columbia. Its vision is to see Northern British Columbia become the national leader in a technologically advanced, forest-based bioenergy industry. Its mission is to be a catalyst for the development of a vibrant and sustainable forest-based bioenergy industry in Northern British Columbia.

About Initiatives Prince George Development Corporation

Initiatives Prince George is the economic development authority for the City of Prince George. Working in synergy with Prince George's vast resource-based service region, Initiatives Prince George's strategic goal is to be the catalyst that enhances Prince George as a sustainable, knowledge-based resource economy, connected to the world.

About the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition

The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition includes the region between Prince George and Smithers, led by a Board of the region's Mayors and Regional District Chairs. In 2005, Federal Mountain Pine Beetle Recovery dollars were conveyed to the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition for the member local governments to begin building a diversification plan for the region's communities – a response plan that would enable the forest dependent communities of the OBAC region to work together and to work with senior governments and others to build resilience and diversify the region's economy for the future.

About the BC Bioenergy Network

The BC Bioenergy Network is a funding partner of the Northern Bioenergy Partnership. Established in April 2008 with a \$25 million grant from the BC government, the BC Bioenergy Network is an industry-led association that acts as a catalyst for deploying near-term bioenergy technologies and organizing mission-driven research for the development and demonstration of sustainable to build a world class bioenergy capability in BC. For more information about the BCBN, visit www.bcbioenergy.ca.

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