

January 22, 2021

Mayor and Council  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Boulevard  
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

**Subject: City of Prince George resolution in support of the Northern Development Initiative Trust funding request (The Exploration Place – Living Evolution Renovation Project)**

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Fraser Fort George Museum Society is formally requesting a resolution from Prince George City Council in support of our funding request to the NDIT for our capital renovations aimed to Covid-proof the Museum's galleries, collections and programs. This application has already been submitted with a supporting resolution from the Regional District of Fraser Fort George (attached) and the team at Northern Development Initiatives Trust have requested a similar resolution from the City.

As the world faces an uncertain future, the Exploration Place Board of Trustees has decided to embark on an ambitious, world-class re-think of our operation and of our facility itself. The NDIT has already supported us with planning funds for the development of a Business Case over the summer and this is the follow-up Capital ask.

Some key areas are listed below, although the project itself is wide-ranging across the facility:

- With an eye to ensuring public and staff health and safety we are making physical changes to the building and traffic flows (new entry/exit, bathroom and airflow changes etc).
- From the perspective of ensuring that our entrepreneurial approach to business will continue to support our work during and post-pandemic, we are also changing several of our earned revenue streams (ticketing, food service, gift shop, rental capacity) as part of this project.
- The Regional District undertook a facility assessment of our Museum in 2018 and several of the identified areas of expense are also included in this project (roof membrane, interior paint, flooring).
- As a key part of Northern BC's pride of place and quality of life, we are working to ensure that we can reopen safely, as quickly as possible, to support tourism and economic development.
- The final lens being applied to this renovation is that of public engagement during a time of existential threats to humanity. Our 20 year old galleries were due for a refresh in any case so we have taken advantage of this time to improve our curatorial content for Indigenous Communities, Post Contact Settlement History (including contributions from racialized communities) Climate Science and an Expanded Animal Ambassadors program.

I have requested \$300,000 from NDIT towards this project.

The following is the resolution that we are asking City Council to approve:

***THAT, the City of Prince George supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Fraser-Fort George Museum Society (DBA The Exploration Place) for a grant of up to \$300,000 for the support of the Living Evolution Renovation Project.***

This grant application was submitted before Christmas and while I have been assured that this resolution from the City will not hold up the adjudication of this grant, they will not release any approved funds to us without this.

I certainly welcome any questions or comments you may have. The Museum could not do all that we do without the sustained support from the City of Prince George; we appreciate the relationship we have with you. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Tracy Calogheros  
CEO



## REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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**Municipalities:**

McBride  
Mackenzie  
Prince George  
Valemount

**Electoral Areas:**

Chilako River-Nechako  
Crooked River-Parsnip  
Robson Valley-Canoe  
Salmon River-Lakes  
Tabor Lake-Stone Creek  
Willow River-Upper Fraser  
Woodpecker-Hixon

November 23, 2020

File No. BOA 1.8

Northern Development Initiative Trust  
301-1268 Fifth Avenue  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 3L2

To Whom it May Concern:

**RE: Application from The Exploration Place**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is pleased to support the application from Exploration Place to Northern Development Initiative Trust to fund the Living Evolution Renovation project.

At the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2020 the Regional Board approved the following resolution:

*THAT the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George support the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from Exploration Place for a Cultural Infrastructure Program grant of up to \$300,000 for the Living Evolution Renovation Project.*

A certified extract of the resolution is attached for your files.

The Exploration Place is one eight cultural organizations supported by the Regional District's Cultural Plan. Like many other organizations, the impacts of COVID-19 have meant a significant change to their operations. They are planning a major renovation project as they hope to adapt their programming and building for COVID considerations and future needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Art Kaehn, Chair

AK:RM:eg

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE  
CERTIFIED EXTRACT**

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**ITEM # 11.1.2  
LETTER OF SUPPORT  
FOR EXPLORATION  
PLACE**

A report was presented regarding a Letter of Support for Exploration Place.

*RES. NO. 761/20 Krause/Beckett*

*THAT the report and letter dated October 29, 2020 from Exploration Place be received.*

*CARRIED*

*RES. NO. 762/20 Hall/Krause*

*THAT the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George support the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from Exploration Place for a Cultural Infrastructure Program grant of up to \$300,000 for the Living Evolution Renovation Project.*

*CARRIED*

Certified a true and correct extract from the Minutes of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board meeting held on November 19, 2020.



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K. Jensen  
General Manager of Legislative and  
Corporate Services

Dated: November 26 , 2020