Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society

Annual Report

May 2025

Message from the Chair

Cindy Shelford

This past year brought shifts in the global political and economic landscape with evolving tariff policies and uncertainty challenging all sectors. There is more uncertainty to come but we are confident will weather it together. Our communities are strong.

Amid these challenges NKDF remains resilient. Navigating this dynamic climate has reaffirmed our commitment to our communities. We will continue to be a sustainable, reliable, and adaptable source of funding for community development.

We are heart warmed by the surge in Canadian pride and renewed commitment to sourcing Canadian products and shopping local. We encourage our local governments and non-profits to buy regionally.

On a personal note, this is my final Chair's report. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the NKDF Board of Directors these past nine years. It has been my pleasure, and It is with mixed emotions that I say good-bye and make way for new Directors.

I want to thank the NKDF Board of Directors for your dedication and support over the years, our Manager Britta Boudreau, and our partners the Province of BC and Rio Tinto. I have enjoyed working with each of you.

As we look forward the Board will continue to address the needs of the communities, in particular the non-profit organizations and prioritize increasing the legacy fund and subsequently grants to our communities.

Our Vision

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund remains a sustainable, reliable, and adaptable source of funding for community development.

Our Mission

Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund (NKDF) Society grants are designed to support sustainable economic activity in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir. NKDF spends the income from its long-term investments on projects that meet each community's economic development and community building goals and contribute to overall community health, development, and stability

Our Values

Respectful
We treat everyone with respect and honour the history of those communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and the origins of the Society.

Stewardship
We strive to manage our resources responsibly and to protect the legacy fund for the benefit of future generations.

Transparent
We ensure openness to the public in how we govern and operate the Society.

Responsive
We address local needs.

Collaborative
We work collectively for the benefit of all communities

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NKDF Grants

Infrastructure – Planning and Research — Marketing

$364,597 approved for 23 new projects in 2024-2025

$327,476 in grant disbursements

Disbursements represent funds paid out at the project start (50% of the total grant) and funds paid out following project completion (remaining 50%) which differs than the amount of funding approved for projects in a given year.

- 11 under $5000 projects
- 12 grants from $10,000 to $50,000
  - 7 community Infrastructure projects
  - 14 tourism, events, and recreation projects
  - 1 marketing project
  - 1 planning and research project

$50,000 for the Village of Fraser Lake Water Reservoir Replacement

Under 5000 Program

The under 5,000 program was introduced in December 2012 with the goal of responding to clients needs as they arise and dispersing money into the communities faster.

- **$40,978 approved for 11 Under 5,000 projects in 2024-2025**
- **$321, 121 for 80 projects since inception**

Fraser Lake Curling Club - Ice Nipper and Mesh Sheets
Burns Lake Youth Soccer Association - Soccer Nets
Lakes District Fair Association -Electrical to Sheep and Swine Barn
Nechako View Senior Citizens Home Society- Greenhouses
District of Vanderhoof - CN Caboose Refresh
LDSS Parent Advisory Council Cultural Rejuvenation
Vanderhoof International Airshow - 2024 Airshow
Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce - Pumpkin Walk & Summer Street Fest Market Vanderhoof Children's Theatre Microphones

What Grant Recipients are Saying

Chinook Emergency Response Society is very grateful for the continued support of NKDF. The simplified process for grants $5000 and under is very much appreciated!

We can't thank your Directors and staff enough for the ongoing support of the Fall Fair. We could not manage improvements like this without you!!
Thank you!

We are grateful that NKDF recognizes the value of these type of large community events (Master of the Air Exhibition). It is becoming harder to stage these with changing climate and the loss of jobs and industry. Thanks again to NKDF for the support of activities and projects in the Vanderhoof area and the region. So many activities and initiatives could not take place without it.

From start to finish the staff of Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society have been wonderful to deal with. I am new to my position in applying for funding so I had a lot of questions and there was always someone available and willing to take the time to answer the questions and provide any guidance needed.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities. Their selfless dedication and generous donation of time and energy create vibrant spaces.

Joan McFee has been a volunteer with the Lake District Fair Association for the past 20 years. She first became involved when her husband Gordon asked her to help out with the Judges and Chairpersons.

Joan, what motivates you to stay involved and how volunteering has impacted you?

My motivation is probably two-fold. First , planning events and activities along side our wonderful Committee members. We have a strong supportive team who work well together to bring the Fair to fruition. The second is making sure we have the facilities to support the participants and visitors that attend the Fair. Around 2005, Gordon and I realized that our facilities at Eagle Creek Fairgrounds were not in the best condition. Our concession was a very old trailer, with limited space and poor ventilation. Gordon had a team working on funding for a new concession, where I first became aware of the support from NKDF! NKDF funded our new main Concession and it was an amazing improvement, and I could see how it was accomplished, and what a difference it made!

From there each year, we looked at how our facilities could be improved. As the Fall Fair attendance increased each year, we would need another addition or improvement!

It was a learning curve for me to research and apply for grants, but I found that it could be done. I really liked how the business community and funding agencies came together to support these improvements. I could see they believed in the Fair and wanted it to be a success. This gave me a new association with our community at a different level.

The most amazing thing to me is how the Fall Fair brings the whole community together, both urban and rural, for friendly competition and socializing.

My husband Gordon and I many times remarked how lucky we were to be part of the Fall Fair! It gave us real purpose and the opportunity to connect with the wider community, besides the physical exercise at the work bees, preparing the fairgrounds for the next Fall Fair. I still feel that today!

What message would you give to someone considering volunteering?

Anyone that is interested in volunteering for the Fall Fair will realize that it is not a small thing, but that they are part of something much bigger which gives you a wonderful sense of being part of our community.

Volunteer Spotlight

Joan McFee Memorable Moments

One of my most memorable moments is when the RCMP Musical Ride, parade of trailers and personnel were rolling in to the fairgrounds in July of 2018! This was their first visit to Burns Lake!! This was an event that was not part of our Fair, but our committee decided we were up to planning this event. It was a resounding success, and it was wonderful to see so many enjoying this world-renowned event in Burns Lake! Following the RCMP Musical Ride, on July 27, our fairgrounds were transformed from a place of celebration to a place of refuge for over 400 evacuated animals, and many evacuated families. This went on for over 6 weeks and we ended up having to cancel our Fall Fair that year, due to the fairgrounds being used and not ready to hold a Fall Fair. It took us till near the end of October to clean up and damage repair from the evacuation!

NKDF Director Mike Robertson and NKDF Manager Britta Boudreau enjoying the 2024 Fall Fair.

Wildfire Suppression Efforts

We all hope the equipment won't be needed, but the reality is wildfires have played a big role in Northern BC summers since the 2018 Shovel Lake fire.

$209,945 since 2017 for wildfire suppression projects

Chinook Emergency Response Society

➡ $40,000 for Chinook Emergency Response Society since 2018

In the aftermath of the 2018 fire, community members realized that the communities were not sufficiently organized or prepared to respond to such an event. The Chinook Emergency Response Society was formed to help organize, communicate and acquire resources to prepare and respond to emergencies. NKDF provided a $30,000 grant four months after the Society was formed to assist with creating a community action plan.

Chinook Emergency Response Society and Cheslatta Carrier Nation work together to maintain 9 trailers funded by Cheslatta Carrier Nation and Rio Tinto (Alcan). Filled with basic firefighting equipment, these trailers are distributed around Southside and North of Francois Lake for use by volunteer community members to respond to fires in the region.

NKDF has provide $5,000 in each of the past 2 years to assist with replenishing the equipment in the trailers.

Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Training Society

A Structure Protection Units (SPU) contains equipment such as pumps, hoses, sprinklers and water delivery attachments to protect properties and infrastructure from a wildfire.

$18, 347 approved in 2024-2025 for a Structure Protection Unit

"The Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Training Society is thrilled to partner with NKDF on a new SPU. NKDF's values and our values align: protecting structures and people's livelihood from wildfires is critical to enhancing the region's economic development goals. We are thrilled to have NKDF's Board and staff standing with us." – Dave Christie, Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Training Society President.

"The partnership between the Society and NKDF is exciting, they are an amazing community supporter." - Joe Pacheco, Director and Village of Fraser Lake Fire Chief.

Our Communities

Haisla Nation

$97,274 approved for 2 new projects 2024-2025

- $1,681,506 for projects since inception

Our Communities

Southside - Cheslatta Carrier Nation - Nee Tahi Buhn - Skin Tyee

$10,000 approved for 1 new project 2024-2025

- $1,418,466 for projects since inception

Our Communities

Burns Lake- Ts'il Kaz Koh - Woyenne

$141,916 approved for 9 new projects 2024-2025

- $3,032,250 for projects since inception

Our Communities

Fraser Lake – Stellat’en First Nation - Nadleh Whut’en Band – Fort Fraser

$74,307 approved for 4 new projects 2024-2025

- $1,560,548 for projects since inception

Our Communities

Vanderhoof - Saik'uz First Nation

$51,100 approved for 8 new projects 2024-2025

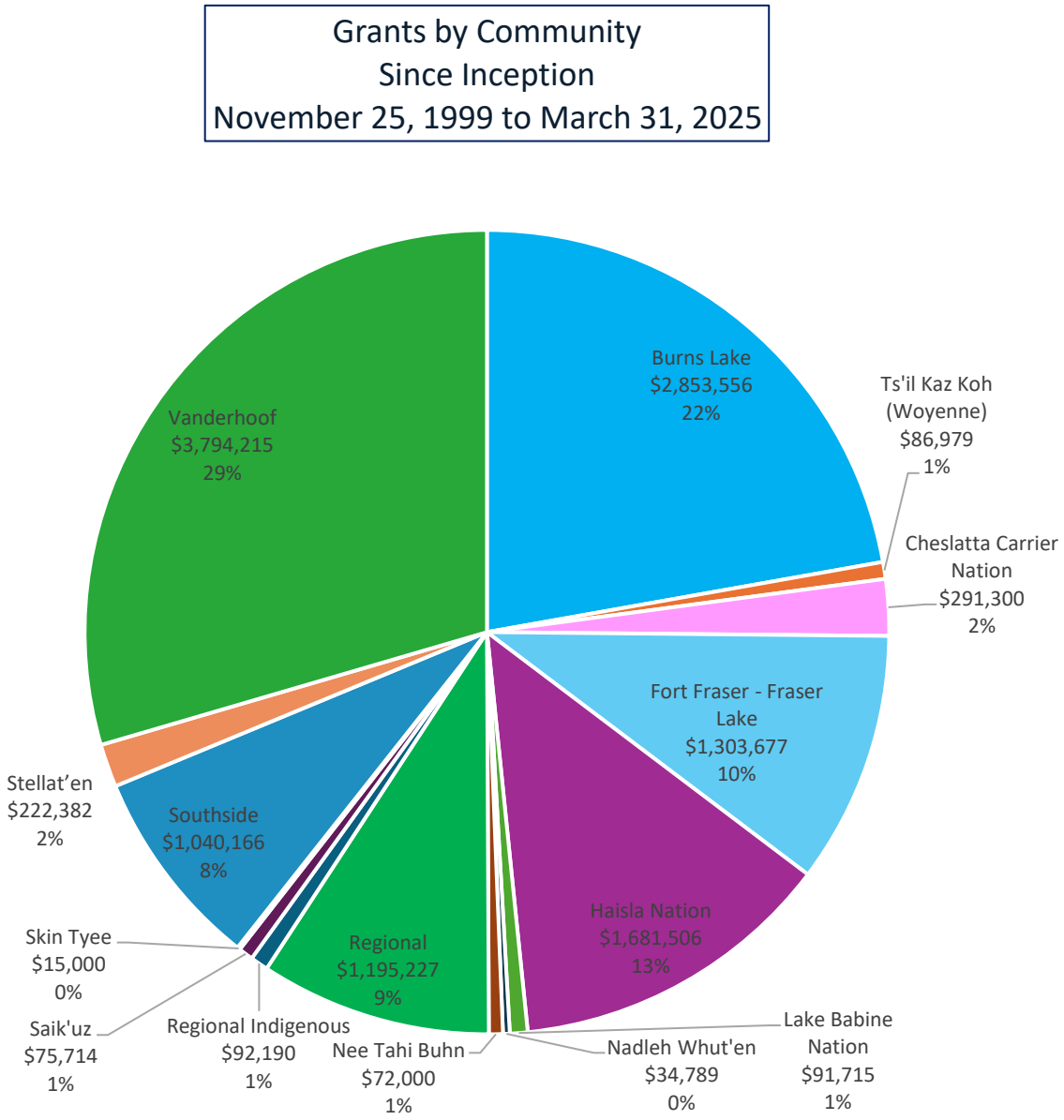
- $3,869,929 for projects since inception

Our Communities

Regional Projects

- $1,287,417 for projects since inception

Grants by Community Since Inception



*See table on the next page for details

Grants by Community Since Inception

Grants by Community Since Inception	
Burns Lake	$2,853,556
Ts'il Kaz Koh (Woyenne)	$86,979
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	$291,300
Fort Fraser - Fraser Lake	$1,303,677
Haisla Nation	$1,681,506
Lake Babine Nation	$91,715
Nadleh Whut'en	$34,789
Nee Tahi Buhn	$72,000
Regional	$1,195,227
Regional Indigenous	$92,190
Saik'uz	$75,714
Skin Tyee	$15,000
Southside	$1,040,166
Stellat'en	$222,382
Vanderhoof	$3,794,215
	$12,850,416

Financial Highlights

Revenue	2024-2025
Contribution Agreement Funding - Province of BC	$385,000
Investment Income	$170,541
Total	**555,541**

Expenses	2024-2025
Administration	$106,414
Grant Payments	$327,477
Total	**$433,891**

Note to grants: The Society approved a total of $364,597 in new grants for the year.

Note to investment income: NKDF investments are held at Integris Credit Union and with Phillips Hager and North (PHN).

Financial Assets	
Cash – Administration Fund	$31,982
Cash – Grant Fund	$408,266
Short Term Investments	$2,366,508
GST Receivable	$2,749
Accounts Payable	(18,821)
Net Financial Assets	**$2,790,684**

Combined assets: The balance of the original $15 million dollar contributions from Al Can (Rio Tinto) and the BC Government (managed by BCI) had a fair market value in the amount of $13.8M at March 31, 2025.

Annual audit: The annual audit of the NKDF was completed in May 2025 by Edmison-Mehr Chartered Accountants (Smithers). The audited statements are available with the Business Plan at www.nkdf.org and upon request.

Directors and Staff

Back Row L-R: Rod Holland, Quinten Beach, Doris Fraser, Mike Robertson, Cindy Shelford, Tom Clement
Front Row L -R: Matthew Kinch, Craig Smith, Ken Guenter, Britta Boudreau (manager).

Contact Us

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Application Deadlines

July 31
October 31
January 31
March 31