



Engagement Plan

Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project

City of Dawson Creek

August 15, 2025

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Executive summary

The City of Dawson Creek ('the City' or 'the Proponent') currently supplies water to approximately 15,000 people (the City 2025). In recent years, the City has noted significant changes in Kiskatinaw River flow rates, impacting the City's primary water source. The ongoing impacts of drought have increased the vulnerability of the municipal water supply. The City has seen an increase in the need for emergency conservation responses, underscoring the need to urgently secure a reliable and sustainable backup water supply.

To address this, the City is proposing a new water pipeline from the Peace River to provide a reliable source of fresh water for the City's municipal water treatment and distribution system. The Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project (the Project) would also provide a reliable source of fresh water to rural residential, agricultural, and industrial water users via truck fill stations along the pipeline route and direct pipe connections where practical.

The Project includes the following core components:

- **Water Intake System.** The Intake system consists of groundwater wells and pipe river intake system to allow the withdrawal of water from the Peace River directly or via groundwater wells.
 - **Groundwater Extraction Wells.** Four to six wells located in the Peace River valley, south of the Peace River.
 - **River Intake.** A direct intake pipe from the Peace River to a pump well, intended as a backup to the groundwater wells.
- **Water Transmission Pipeline.** Approximately 52-kilometres of pipeline, with a nominal diameter of up to 36-inches, between Taylor and Dawson Creek, British Columbia (BC).
- **Pumping Stations.** Up to two pumping stations, one near the Peace River and another near the Kiskatinaw River.

The Project has been preliminarily designed to follow previously disturbed corridors where feasible, to reduce land disturbance, and avoid culturally or ecologically sensitive areas. Preliminary review of regional data and comparable projects suggests limited residual impacts after appropriate mitigation. The Project is expected to provide regional benefits, including providing improved water access for agriculture, fire protection, and industrial operations. The Project is expected to generate tax revenue and support ongoing economic activity in the region.

The Peace River has been selected as the water source, as it will provide a larger and more secure source of water compared to the Kiskatinaw River. Hydrology modelling from the Northeast Water Tool indicates that the Peace River has a mean annual discharge of 1,431 cubic metres per second (m³/s), compared to the mean annual discharge of 10.3 m³/s for the Kiskatinaw River (BC Energy Regulator [BCER] 2025a). The current average allocation for the

Peace River is 0.6% of the mean annual discharge (BCER 2025). The maximum proposed withdrawal rate for this Project would be less than 0.03% of the Peace River's annual discharge.

Since early 2024, the City has initiated engagement with Indigenous nations, local governments, provincial regulators, and key stakeholders regarding the Project. Engagement done to date is summarized in this Engagement Plan (EP). Engagement will continue as Project planning and design advances, including through secondary permitting processes and regulatory reviews that provide additional opportunities for input. The City remains committed to working respectfully with affected communities to incorporate feedback and mitigate potential impacts.

Given the time-sensitive nature of this Project and the risks associated with delaying the provision of a secure water source, the City is seeking an exemption from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment Certificate pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act (BC Reg 243/2019). Engagement activities with Indigenous nations, stakeholders, and the public have been initiated and will continue through the public engagement period and subsequent phases of Project development.

The City is committed to ensuring that all applicable environmental, archaeological, and regulatory requirements are addressed through secondary permitting processes. Based on the Project's scope, location, and proposed mitigation measures, significant adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural, or health effects, or serious effects to an Indigenous nation are not anticipated. Potential impacts will be identified and addressed through ongoing engagement and the applicable permitting and regulatory review processes to ensure full compliance and protection of environmental, archaeological and Indigenous values.

The City is submitting the EP as required under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*, to initiate the Early Engagement phase of the BC Environmental Assessment process and to seek an exemption from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment Certificate due to the Project's limited footprint and urgent public interest.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BC	British Columbia
the City	the City of Dawson Creek
DPD	Detailed Project Description
<i>DRIPA</i>	<i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>
EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
EP	Engagement Plan
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
IPD	Initial Project Description
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
PRRD	Peace River Regional District
the Project	Dawson Creek Regional Fresh Water Supply System Project
the Proponent	the City of Dawson Creek

1 General information and contacts

The City of Dawson Creek ('the City' or 'the Proponent') is proposing the Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project (the Project). General information and the Proponent contact information for the Project is provided in Table 1.

Table 1 - Project information and key contacts

Proponent information	
Project name	Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project
Project location	Taylor, British Columbia (BC) to Dawson Creek, BC
Project sector and type	Water Management Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Diversion Project • Groundwater Extraction Project
Name of the Proponent	City of Dawson Creek
Proponent address	10105 – 12A Street City of Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3V7
Proponent contact	Kevin Henderson, Chief Administrative Officer (250) 784-3622 khenderson@dawsoncreek.ca
Website	www.dawsoncreek.ca
Principal contact person for purposes of the Environmental Assessment	
Contact name	Darcy Friesen, President, DC Environmental Ltd. (250) 263-1547 Pipeline@pris.ca

2 Project overview

A high-level summary of the Project is provided in the sections below. Detailed information is available in the Initial Project Description (IPD).

2.1 Location

The Project is located within the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). The proposed water intake is located on the Peace River, south of the District of Taylor. The Project consists of 52 kilometres of water transmission pipeline terminating at an existing raw water storage reservoir (the South Dawson Reservoir) west of the City of Dawson Creek (Figure 1). Groundwater extraction wells will be located in the Peace River Valley, south of the Peace River. Up to two booster pump stations will be installed along the pipeline route; one near the south crest of the Peace River Valley, and the second one located southeast of the Kiskatinaw River. The Project

is also located in proximity to Pouce Coupe and the 12 unincorporated communities of Electoral Area D.

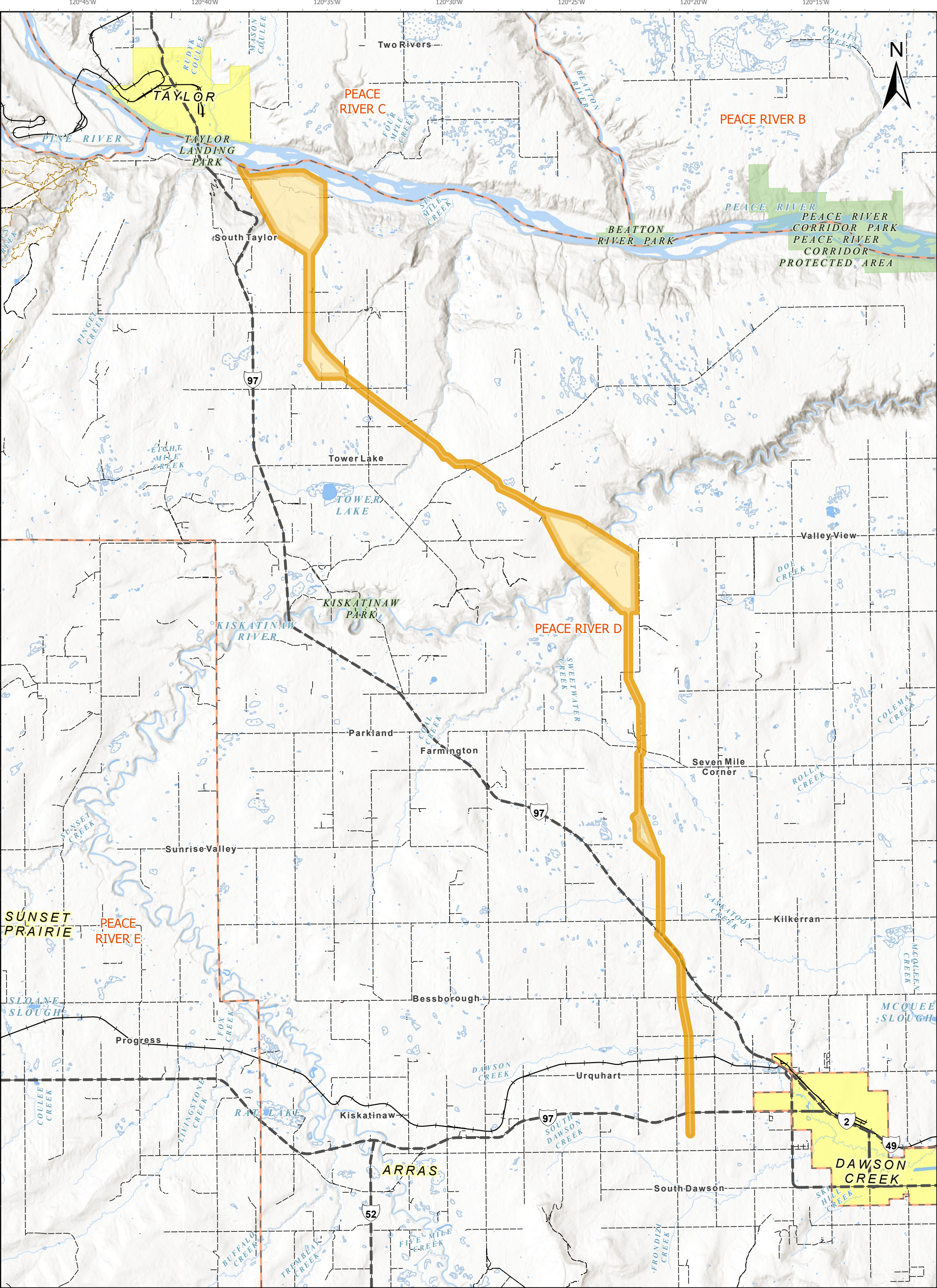
The Project is located within the traditional territories of several Treaty 8 Nations, including McLeod Lake Indian Band, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Saulteau First Nations, Horse Lake First Nation, Doig River First Nation, and Blueberry River First Nations. It is also near communities affiliated with the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), including Fort St. John Métis Society, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement, Moccasin Flats Métis Society, North East Métis Association, and River of the Peace Métis Society (MNBC 2025).

The Project components will be sited within the Project Study Corridor (Figure 1). The Project Study Corridor is generally 200 metres wide. At certain locations (e.g., the Peace River Valley and Kiskatinaw River) larger areas have been included as part of the Project Study Corridor to allow for additional area to be assessed as Project planning and design advances.

The Project is situated in a region with a mix of forested land, agricultural use, rural residential areas, and Crown land. It crosses territories used historically and currently by Indigenous Nations and passes near or through areas that may hold heritage value. A recent archaeological overview identified previously recorded archaeological sites within or near the preliminary Project Study Corridor, including areas in agricultural fields where ground disturbance has already occurred. Locations that show high potential for cultural materials, particularly in areas with mature forests, near watercourses such as the Peace and Kiskatinaw Rivers, and in transition zones where forest cover changes will be identified and considered as Project planning and design advances to allow for micro-routing to occur at these locations.

The Project will also intersect landforms and hydrological features known to have supported long-standing use. These include Eight Mile Creek, Coal Creek, Saskatoon Creek, and Dawson Creek, among others. Public and Indigenous use of the land in this region is well documented through past projects such as the NEBC Connector and Taylor to Gordondale Pipeline Project, which identified interests related to traditional use areas, heritage protection, cumulative effects, and the need for field-based validation of project design.

The City is incorporating those findings into its planning approach and will continue to engage directly with communities to understand areas of interest. Further assessment may be completed through the archaeological permitting process, in consultation with the regulators and Indigenous nations. The City remains committed to tracking and addressing community input throughout permitting phases.



Legend

Project Study Corridor

Highway

Road

Recreation Trail

Lines

Railways

Hydrology

Wetlands

PRRD Electoral Area Boundaries

City / Town

Parks / Protected Areas

The project is fully within Treaty 8 Territory

Northwest Territories

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Project Area

DC ENVIRONMENTAL LTD.

Project Overview Map Showing
Proposed Dawson Creek Water
Supply System Project

Peace River District

02468

km

Scale: 1:150,000 (at original document size of 11x17)

NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 10N

Aug 13, 2025

Rev 1

Document Control: N/A

File Reference: Route Option A

Figure 1

MIDWEST

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3 Engagement Plan development

Between early 2024 and mid-2025, the City undertook early engagement with Indigenous Nations, regulatory agencies, municipalities, and the public to inform the development of this Engagement Plan (EP). Meetings were requested with Chief and Council from several Nation identified as potentially impacted by the Project. In July 2025, the City delivered a project presentation at the Treaty 8 Tribal Association table. Project-specific information packages—including a draft IPD, draft EP, maps, and a questionnaire—were distributed via email and at the meeting with individual Nations. A sample of these materials is included in Appendix A.

Engagement with local governments and regulatory bodies has been ongoing since early 2024, with discussions focused on Project alignment with existing land use plans, infrastructure needs, and anticipated permitting considerations. These discussions informed the structure and focus of this EP, as well as refinements to the study corridor.

To raise public awareness, the City issued a project-specific news release in July 2025, generating regional media coverage and public interest. Project information has been shared through the City's website and social media channels, alongside updates on water restrictions.

At the time of submission, no formal feedback has been received on the draft EP. The EP will continue to be updated as engagement progresses and as input is received. Where appropriate, feedback will inform route development, engagement methods, and Project materials.

4 Engagement approach

The approach outlined in this EP reflects the core principles and ethics of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). These principles guide the belief that those affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the process and that their input should influence outcomes. Specifically, the strategy incorporates the following:

- Engagement will be inclusive, seeking to involve all those potentially affected or interested.
- Participants will be informed and supported with clear, accessible information to enable meaningful input.
- Engagement methods will be adapted based on participant needs and feedback, including input on how they wish to be engaged.
- Transparency and accountability will be maintained by reporting how input was considered and influenced decisions.

In addition to IAP2's principles, the engagement process is designed to be:

- **Timely:** Focused on providing information and opportunities for input in a respectful, proactive manner.
- **Accessible:** Using multiple channels such as in-person and virtual meetings, phone, and email.
- **Responsive:** shaped by the interests and concerns of participants, with materials and messaging adjusted as needed.

This engagement approach also reflects BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)* and the associated calls to action for local governments. In alignment with *DRIPA*, the City acknowledges the right of Indigenous nations to participate in decision-making processes that affect their rights and interests and is committed to early, transparent, and respectful engagement. Engagement with Indigenous nations will be conducted in a manner that recognizes nation specific governance and protocols and provides the information needed for informed input.

4.1 Objectives

The objectives of this engagement process are to support transparent, inclusive, and culturally respectful dialogue with all parties who may be affected by or interested in the Project. Specifically, the City aims to:

- Provide accurate and timely project information to Indigenous nations, landowners, municipalities, regulatory agencies, and members of the public.
- Identify and understand the interests, knowledge, and concerns of all parties — including those related to land use, water access, community infrastructure, environmental protection, and economic development.
- Incorporate input received through engagement into project planning, routing, and mitigation measures, and clearly demonstrate how feedback influenced the Detailed Project Description (DPD).
- Offer accessible and inclusive engagement opportunities that reflect the needs of rural residents, agricultural users, and underrepresented or vulnerable populations.
- Engage with municipalities, regional districts, and agencies to align the Project with local and regional land use plans, emergency services, and infrastructure considerations.
- Establish and maintain respectful and responsive relationships with Indigenous nations, including support for culturally appropriate participation and the use of Indigenous knowledge where offered.

5 Engagement methods

Since early 2024, the City has undertaken early engagement activities aligned with the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) *Early Engagement Policy Guide* (BC EAO 2025) and the *Human and Community Wellbeing Guidelines* (BC EAO 2020). These activities have been designed to provide timely, accessible, and culturally appropriate opportunities for input during a period of exceptional water supply urgency in the Dawson Creek region. The engagement approach reflects the City's intent to request an exemption from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC).

In recognition of the Project's time-sensitive nature and essential public service function, engagement methods have been selected to be proportionate, responsive, time-sensitive and cost-effective while still aligning with best practices in public participation. These include:

- **Direct outreach** to Indigenous Nations and government bodies, including early sharing of Project materials such as draft versions of the IPD and EP.
- **One-on-one meetings** with First Nations and regional governments to support relationship-based dialogue and identify information needs.
- **Information packages** including Project overviews and questionnaires to facilitate informed, early feedback.
- **Public communications** such as a media release, project webpage, and targeted social media updates, including information on both the Project and ongoing water restrictions in the City.
- **Presentations** to local councils and participation in council meetings where the Project has been discussed in a public forum.
- **Ongoing coordination** with provincial and federal agencies, including early engagement with the EAO, BC Hydro, and relevant ministries.

These methods were selected to enable targeted engagement during conceptual design, with broader outreach expanding as routing and design are refined.

The City is committed to continuing engagement through the preparation of the DPD, including targeted follow-ups and engagement opportunities informed by the level of public interest and feedback received to date

5.1 Participants

Engagement activities are focused on Indigenous nations, local governments, provincial and federal agencies, and the interested public.

5.1.1 Indigenous nations

The First Nations identified for engagement include:

Treaty 8

- Blueberry River First Nations
- Doig River First Nation
- Halfway River First Nation
- Horse Lake First Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band (Tse'Khene Nation)
- Saulteau First Nations
- West Moberly First Nations

Non-Treaty

- Kelly Lake First Nation

These nations were identified based on their asserted traditional territories overlapping or adjacent to the proposed Project Study Corridor.

Additionally, the City has identified Métis Chartered Communities in proximity to the Project.

- North East Métis Association
- Fort St. John Métis Society
- Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society
- Moccasin Flats Métis Society
- River of the Peace Métis Society

The communities closest to the Project are the community of Kelly Lake First Nation and communities that are members of the Métis nation of British Columbia (MNBC) including North East Métis Association, based out of Dawson Creek, and the Fort St. John Métis Society, based out of Fort St. John.

5.1.1.1 Relevant agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, & protocols considered

The Project is located in Treaty 8, within the territories of McLeod Lake Indian Band, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Saulteau First Nations, Horse Lake First Nation, Doig River First Nation, and Blueberry River First Nations. The Project is also in proximity to Métis Settlements and areas where members exercise harvesting and traditional use activities.

Further descriptions of land, water and resource use management plans and agreements are included in the IPD. Table 2 summarizes agreements and protocols most relevant to this EP.

Table 2 - Summary of relevant agreements and protocols considered in the Engagement Plan

Entity	Relevant agreements, Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), protocols considered
Blueberry River First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 BC Supreme Court ruling (Supreme Court of BC 2021) • Implementation Agreement with BC (Blueberry River First Nations & Government of BC 2023) • Pre-application engagement guidance (Blueberry River First Nations 2023)
Doig River First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds additional fee simple lands near First Nation Reserve #206 • Developing urban reserve in Dawson Creek, as part of this initiative they are required to negotiate a Municipal Services Agreement with the City • Doig River Letter of Agreement (Doig River First Nation and the Government of BC 2023). • Heritage Conservation MOU (Doig River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, and West Moberly First Nation and the Government of BC 2010)
Halfway River First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halfway River First Nation Settlement Agreement (2024) (Halfway River First Nation and the Government of BC 2024). • Oil & Gas Consultation Agreement (2013) • Government to Government Agreement (2017)
Horse Lake First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established consultation protocols and agreements with the Province of Alberta
McLeod Lake Indian Band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Government-to-Government Agreement with BC for shared decision-making on land/resource approvals (McLeod Lake Indian Band & Government of BC 2024) • Land Use Plan (McLeod Lake Indian Band 2021)
Salteau First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saulteau Letter of Agreement (Saulteau First Nations and the Government of BC 2023) • MOU with PRRD (PRRD 2021) • Letter of Agreement – environmental stewardship (PRRD 2024) • Active in co-management efforts (Saulteau First Nations n.d.)
West Moberly First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing governance discussions outside the BC Treaty Process (West Moberly First Nations 2022) • At the time of writing, West Moberly First Nations and the Province are in discussions on land and resource issues. • Heritage conservation MOU with the Province of BC (Doig River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, and West Moberly First Nation and the Government of BC 2010)

Entity	Relevant agreements, Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), protocols considered
Kelly Lake First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Guideline (KLFN 2025)
Métis Nation British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation guidelines (MNBC 2020)
Chartered communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort St. John Métis Society • Kelly Lake Métis Settlement • Moccasin Flats Métis Society • North East Métis Association • River of the Peace Métis Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement follows MNBC's consultation guidelines.

5.1.1.2 Engagement with First Nations

Engagement with First Nations has focused on early outreach to share the Project overview and begin discussions regarding Project routing, water sourcing, and anticipated areas of interest or concern. Following initial engagement, letters of support for the conditional water licence application were received from Doig River First Nation, Saulteau First Nations, and West Moberly First Nations (Appendix B). In August 2025, Kelly Lake First Nation (KLFN), whose members live, work, and exercise cultural practices in the Project area, provided a letter of support for the Project (Appendix B). The City is committed to ongoing engagement and information sharing with the Nation given their asserted traditional territory and expressed interest in the Project. KLFN emphasized the sacred and cultural importance of water, the urgency of addressing water scarcity, and their intent to participate in discussions as the Project advances.

In July 2025, a project-specific information package, including the draft Initial Project Description, draft Engagement Plan, maps, and questionnaires, was distributed by email to Treaty 8 Tribal Association affiliated First Nations in advance of, and at, a presentation delivered at the July Treaty 8 Tribal Association meeting (materials provided in Appendix A). Prophet River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, West Moberly First nations, and Saulteau First Nation had representatives from Council at the meeting.

The presentation and discussion addressed the urgency of securing a reliable, long-term water supply for the region, the limitations of existing infrastructure, and the proposed pipeline route. Discussion topics included:

- the feasibility of using the Peace River as an alternative water source for Dawson Creek and surrounding areas,

- the water treatment requirements and potential environmental impacts of that approach,
- how the Project would be funded, including industry participation, government support and potential funding models,
- the timeline for construction and permitting, and opportunities to expediate authorizations, including the Environmental Assessment exemption,
- community water security and potential economic benefits for agriculture and industry,
- opportunities for Indigenous involvement in planning, decision-making, and long-term operations, and
- the compatibility of the proposed route with existing land use, rights, and environmental values.

Overall, feedback from attendees was positive, with consensus on the urgency of securing a new water source in light of ongoing drought conditions. The City acknowledged the need for continued engagement as the Project advances and additional details become available.

The City continues to work to align engagement activities with nation-specific protocols and decision-making timelines. To inform the EP, an initial draft EP was shared with each identified First Nation for review and input prior to submission to the EAO.

Table 3 summarizes engagement with First Nations. Further details regarding the engagement are included in the Indigenous Engagement Log (Appendix C).

Table 3 - Summary of engagement with First Nations

First Nation	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
Treaty 8			
Blueberry River First Nations	Preliminary engagement initiated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Phone • Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP • Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up prior to finalizing DPD requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical meeting with Lands Department ○ Request further input on Project footprint ○ Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design

First Nation	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
Doig River First Nation	Preliminary engagement initiated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Letter Meeting Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of support for the water licence application received Support based on the proposed Project description, point of diversion, proposed withdrawals, and anticipated Project benefits to industry, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design
Halfway River First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design
Horse Lake First Nation	Preliminary engagement initiated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone Email Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design

First Nation	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
McLeod Lake Indian Band	<p>Preliminary engagement initiated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Phone Meeting Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed conditional water licence, on-going water security concerns, initial Project description, project urgency, and potential regional benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design
Saulteau First Nations	<p>Preliminary engagement initiated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Letter Meeting Provided Project-specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of support for the water licence application received. Support based on the proposed Project description, point of diversion, proposed withdrawals, and anticipated Project benefits to industry, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design

First Nation	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
West Moberly First Nations	Preliminary engagement initiated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Phone Meeting Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Included meeting request, information on upcoming project presentation, and specific request for input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of support for the water licence application received. Support based on the proposed Project description, point of diversion, proposed withdrawals, and anticipated Project benefits to industry, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design
Non-Treaty			
Kelly Lake First Nation	Preliminary engagement initiated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Letter of Support for the project Letter of Support expressed cultural and spiritual importance of water; noted water scarcity impacts on health, livelihoods, and cultural practices; urged urgent action; confirmed support for the project and intent to participate in further discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up prior to finalizing DPD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request further input on Project footprint to inform further routing design Confirm land use concerns or coordination/engagement needs Desired level of involvement in field-validation of Project design

5.1.1.3 Engagement with Métis communities

Engagement with Métis communities will follow the expectations outlined in the MNBC Consultation Guidelines (2020), with a focus on early notification, transparency, and responsiveness. The City has provided each Chartered Community with Project materials and an opportunity to share perspectives or concerns related to land use, cultural values, or local knowledge. Follow-up engagement will be offered prior to finalizing the DPD.

Table 4 - Summary of engagement with Métis Chartered communities

Chartered Community	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
Fort St. John Métis Society	Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email (follow up) 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up contact prior to finalizing DPD
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society	Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email (follow up) 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up contact prior to finalizing DPD
Moccasin Flats Métis Society	Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email (follow up) 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up contact prior to finalizing DPD
North East Métis Association	Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email (follow up) 	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up contact prior to finalizing DPD

Chartered Community	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
River of the Peace Métis Society	Provided project specific information package including cover letter, map, questionnaire, and early draft IPD and EP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Email (follow up)	None received to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow up contact prior to finalizing DPD

5.1.1.4 Planned engagement

During the Early Engagement phase, the City will continue to engage with First Nations and Métis communities through the following planned activities:

- Collect information through questionnaires or preferred engagement means
- Coordinate to leverage opportunities to discuss the Project during existing meetings (e.g., through Treaty 8 Tribal Association or other standing meetings, where appropriate)
- Offer additional virtual or in-person meetings with each nation's leadership and designated representatives to:
 - Review project details, gather input on the proposed footprint, and identify culturally sensitive areas or land use concerns.
 - Support specific engagement preferences, including oral feedback, culturally appropriate processes, and timelines that reflect community decision-making protocols.
 - Review and consider relevant land use plans, governance protocols, and consultation guidance from each nation or regulator.
 - Document all input received and work with nations to collaboratively avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential infringement on Indigenous rights.

Timing and frequency

Initial contact was made in early 2024 through formal letters and emails, with follow-up phone calls and meetings occurring throughout 2025.

The City acknowledges the importance of respecting each First Nation's or community's governance structures, decision making timelines, and engagement protocols while acknowledging the City's long-term water security needs. Engagement timelines have been designed to balance these considerations. Flexibility will be maintained where additional time or engagement is requested by a First Nation or Métis community, and further meetings or correspondence will be scheduled as needed, based on interest, capacity, or specific issues raised. The City will continue to engage with First Nations as Project planning and design advances, including during the regulatory processes for other anticipated permits and approvals.

Contact information for parties who have been engaged on the Project to date is included in Appendix D.

5.1.2 Municipalities and local government

Engagement with local governments began in early 2024 and has informed both the Project design and the development of this EP. To date, the City has held one-on-one meetings with representatives from the District of Taylor, City of Fort St. John, Saddle Hills County, and the Peace River Regional District (PRRD), including elected officials and administrative staff.

Presentations and information packages were provided to each, and letters of support have been received.

Engagement has focused on confirming alignment with land use planning documents, municipal infrastructure priorities, and interjurisdictional interests related to water sourcing and regional servicing. Ongoing contact will continue throughout the Early Engagement phase via written updates, briefings, and additional meetings where warranted. Engagement with additional local and regional government entities may be initiated as the Project footprint is further refined.

Table 5 - Summary of engagement with municipalities and local government

Entity	Engagement to date	Feedback	Future engagement
Unincorporated communities of PRRD (Arras, Bessborough, Cutbank, Doe River, Farmington, Kelly Lake, Kilkerran, One Island Lake, Rolla, Tomslake, Tower Lake, Tupper)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email, Meetings Project information shared Letter of support for the water licence application received 	Regional benefit, water sourcing	Written updates and meetings as required
City of Fort St. John, Mayor, and Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email, Meetings Presentation to Mayor and Council; project info shared Letter of support for the water licence application received 	Regional benefit, infrastructure planning, support for water security	Written updates and meetings as requested
Saddle Hills County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email, Meetings Presentation to Reeve and Council; project info shared Letter of support for the water licence application received. 	Water sourcing, regional service planning	Written updates and meetings as requested
District of Taylor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email, Meetings Presentation to Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer Letter of support for the water licence application received 	Water source, routing, intermunicipal impacts	Written updates and meetings as requested
Village of Pouce Coupe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary engagement initiated (part of PRRD Electoral Area D engagement) City shared Project description 	Local benefit, land use	Written updates and meetings as required

5.1.2.1 Government plans relevant to the Environmental Assessment

Several municipal and regional planning documents contain policies relevant to the Project, particularly with respect to land use, infrastructure development, and water management:

- **South Peace Fringe Area Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 2048, 2012):** The Project overlaps with portions of the South Peace Fringe Area, which includes rural lands surrounding Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe. This plan identifies agriculture and the protection of clean, potable water as regional priorities, both of which are relevant considerations for Project engagement and design (PRRD 2012).
- **City of Dawson Creek Official Community Plan (The City 2018):** Although the Project is outside the Official Community Plan boundary, the Plan includes applicable objectives such as expanding municipal water infrastructure and improving raw water supply capacity. These priorities directly align with the intent of the Project and support ongoing engagement.
- **BC Hydro Peace Water Use Plan (BC Hydro 2007, updated 2023):** The Peace Water Use Plan outlines BC Hydro's operational commitments for hydroelectric facilities on the Peace River. It includes consideration of water flows, riparian rights, aquatic habitat, First Nation interests, and industrial water use. While the Project is not directly connected to BC Hydro infrastructure, engagement with BC Hydro and awareness of these plan objectives is important due to proximity to the Peace River and potential hydrological interactions.
- **Doig River Letter of Agreement (Doig River First Nation and the Government of BC 2023):** Portions of the Project Study Corridor are located within Enhanced Management Zones identified by Doig River First Nation in the Consensus Document (i.e., associated with the Peace and Kiskatinaw rivers) however, no Project-related disturbance is anticipated within Enhanced Management Zones.

These plans help inform engagement with local governments, landowners, and the public by identifying shared interests and planning priorities that may intersect with the Project.

5.1.2.2 Provincial and federal government and agencies

The City has initiated discussions with relevant provincial ministries and agencies such as the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and BC Environment and Climate Change Strategy to share early project details and identify regulatory coordination needs. While initial engagement was primarily regarding water security concerns, future engagement will be more specifically focused on matters such as water licensing, land use, environmental considerations, and Project funding. Additional follow-up is planned during the Early Engagement phase to support timely coordination and input into the DPD.

Table 6 - Summary of engagement with government and agencies

Entity	Engagement to date	Theme/Topic	Future engagement
BC EAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone • Email • Meetings 	Project description, environmental assessment process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going through the Early Engagement phase
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Not yet initiated	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description, agricultural land for utility use
BC Ministry of Forests, Archeology Branch	Not yet initiated	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description, <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> permits
BC Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone • Email • Meetings 	Project description, water licensing, water diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up during Early Engagement
BC Environment and Climate Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone • Email • Meetings 	Project description, application process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up during Early Engagement
BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone • Email • Meetings 	Project description, Project funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up during Early Engagement
BC Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation Major Projects Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone • Email • Meetings 	Project description, economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up during Early Engagement
BC Health	Not yet initiated	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description, construction and operation of water system
Northern Health	Not yet initiated	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description, construction and operation of water system
BC Hydro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Meetings 	Project description, construction methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact BC Hydro early in the design process to ensure options under consideration are feasible and that any potential limitations are identified and understood

Future engagement

The City will continue engagement with relevant provincial and federal agencies, local governments, and First Nations governments throughout the Early Engagement phase and into the development of the DPD. Engagement objectives include identifying regulatory requirements, ensuring alignment with applicable policy frameworks, and integrating technical and jurisdictional input into Project planning.

Agencies with mandates potentially intersecting with the Project include but are not limited to:

The City has initiated contact with several of these agencies through early meetings, correspondence, and preliminary technical inquiries. Key topics of discussion have included potential land use conflicts, permitting requirements, hydrological and heritage considerations, and cross-jurisdictional coordination. The City will continue to:

- Provide early and clear notification of Project scope and location
- Share draft regulatory materials (e.g., EP, IPD, DPD) for review and input
- Offer meetings to discuss Project design, timelines, and permitting interactions
- Respond promptly to requests for clarification or additional information
- Track and incorporate agency input where relevant to Project planning and the DPD

Timing and frequency

Initial outreach to agencies and local governments began in early 2024. Formal engagement will occur at key Project milestones, including during the Early Engagement phase and again if material changes to the Project occur. The City will maintain regular contact via email and phone, with meetings convened based on agency preference, topic complexity, or where collaborative planning is required. All engagement activities will be documented, including dates of contact, summary of input received, and follow-up actions.

5.1.3 Public & interested parties

Members of the public who may potentially be affected by the Project include rural residents, landowners, agricultural producers, water users, and community members residing near or along the proposed pipeline route.

To help inform early engagement, the City reviewed findings from the 2013 “Sure Water” engagement, which captured community perspectives during previous water supply planning efforts. While the campaign’s data is now dated, the core themes, such as water security, regional cooperation, and environmental protection, remain relevant and have informed anticipated engagement topics. A complete copy of the Sure Water Information & Consultation Outcomes is publicly available on the City’s website (The City 2013) and an executive summary is included as Appendix E. The City will continue to validate and expand on those insights during the Early Engagement period.

To date, early awareness-building efforts have included a City-issued news releases ongoing project updates and public interaction through the City's social media channels, and inclusion of water supply issues and this Project in recent council meetings. These public materials have emphasized both the urgency of the water supply situation and the City's intent to pursue regulatory approvals, including an exemption under Section 10 of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Public engagement methods will be selected to provide clear, accessible opportunities for input while also supporting the City's ability to advance the Project. These methods may include:

- Direct mailouts to landowners and occupants within and adjacent to the proposed corridor
- A Project webpage on the City website providing project updates, frequently asked questions, and contact information
- A dedicated Project-specific phone line and email inbox to track and respond to public questions or concerns
- Optional in-person engagement (e.g., information centre, open house) hosted in Dawson Creek or other nearby locations depending on the level of interest
- Public notices
- Other methods identified through on-going engagement or requested by participants

To support meaningful and efficient engagement, the City will prioritize outreach to:

- Adjacent and nearby landowners and occupants
- Water licence holders, Water Users' Groups, and agricultural operators who may rely on the Peace River or related water infrastructure
- Industry and commercial users in the South Peace region
- Community members and interest groups who have participated in prior infrastructure planning or water security consultations.

Table 7 summarizes public engagement activities.

Table 7 - Summary of public engagement activities

Entity	Engagement to date	Themes/topics (anticipated)	Future engagement
Landowners in proximity to Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific properties and ownership details to be confirmed as the Project footprint is refinedLandowners along the proposed route (C & M Kosick)	Limited engagement to date; direct engagement will begin once preliminary corridor is confirmed and Project footprint is further refined <ul style="list-style-type: none">Letter of Support for the project received August 2025 (Appendix B)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support for the withdrawal from the Peace River on or near their property (PID 014-439-221, Sec. 20 Twp 82 Rge 17 W6M)	<i>Routing, access, land use, construction impacts, compensation or acquisition processes, safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Direct mail and/or in-person contact with property owners and occupants adjacent to the final routeProvision of project-specific land rights information packagesProject information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect input
Residents of Dawson Creek	Updates provided through the City website and social media channels, including information on current water restrictions, the need for a long-term supply solution, and intention to pursue exemption <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project discussed at open council meetingsPublic awareness raised through City-issued news release	<i>Public safety, economic benefit and employment opportunities, water security, environmental considerations, construction impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public noticeProject information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect inputIf warranted, a drop-in community information centre will be offered
Residents of communities near but outside Dawson Creek that may be indirectly affected by the Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific communities and outreach efforts will be confirmed as the Project footprint and infrastructure locations are further refined	Engagement via council meetings and presentations	<i>Public safety, economic benefit and employment opportunities, water security, environmental considerations, construction impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public noticeProject information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect inputIf warranted, a drop-in community information centre will be offered
Water Users' communities including licensed water users, water licence holders, and water users' associations or groups drawing from the Peace River or connected water systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific entities to be confirmed and engaged once the Project footprint and design are further refined	Project discussed at February 21, 2024 MNTN Water Group meeting	Overall project concept, routing, water sourcing, water security, urgency of the Project, opportunities for industry support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect inputMeetings as requested
Commercial operators <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific entities will be identified as the Project footprint is further refined	Engagement to be initiated during Early Engagement	<i>Water sourcing, service continuity, road use, Project timelines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As routing is refined and the Project Study Corridor is narrowed, the City will identify and contact individuals and organizations whose lands, tenures, or infrastructure may be affectedProject information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect input

Entity	Engagement to date	Themes/topics (anticipated)	Future engagement
Industrial operators with infrastructure within or adjacent to the Project Study Corridor, including owners and operators of utility corridors, energy transmission infrastructure, and major industrial sites such as gravel pits or oil and gas facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific entities will be identified as the Project footprint is further refined	Engagement to be initiated during Early Engagement	<i>Service continuity, coordination with other infrastructure plans, Project timelines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As routing is refined and the Project Study Corridor is narrowed, the City will identify and contact individuals and organizations whose lands, tenures, or infrastructure may be affectedProject information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect input
Agricultural operators within the Peace River Valley and adjacent agricultural lands intersecting the Project Study Corridor, including landowners with irrigation licences or crop production activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific entities will be identified as the Project footprint is further refined	Engagement to be initiated during Early Engagement	<i>Access to irrigation, construction impacts, timing compensation or acquisition processes,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As routing is refined and the Project Study Corridor is narrowed, the City will identify and contact individuals and organizations whose lands, tenures, or infrastructure may be affectedProject information via website and public Project materialsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect inputEngagement will leverage relevant organizations and community partners
Recreational users of Crown land, water bodies, and trail networks intersecting or adjacent to the Project Study Corridor, including informal and organized users of areas near the Peach and Kiskatinaw Rivers. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specific entities will be identified as the Project footprint is further refined	Engagement to be initiated following confirmation of project footprint	<i>Landscape disruption, access concerns</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project information via project webpage and public Project materialsInclusion of relevant content in public notices or communicationsAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect inputEngagement will leverage relevant organizations and community partners
Public	Project awareness initiated through City news release and related media coverage, highlighting the urgency of securing an alternative water supply. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing updates provided via the City’s website and social media channels, including context on current water restrictions and the need for long-term infrastructure.Information shared at open council meetings (publicly accessible) with opportunity for community members to listen to updates and raise questions	<i>Water security, environmental considerations, agriculture, historical resources, timing, contingency plans, public safety, local economic benefit, and employment opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional Project information via project webpage and publicly available Project materialsProject specific communication mechanism (e.g. project specific phone line or email address), or designated contactAccess to Project representative to respond to questions and collect inputOptional in-person events including information centre or other formats as requestedInput collected through existing public communication channels (councillors, public inquiries, social media for timely updates)

The themes and topics listed in this table represent anticipated areas of interest based on early engagement, past project experience, and the general nature of the Project. Due to the preliminary stage of design and routing, limited engagement has occurred to date. These themes will require further validation through ongoing dialogue with potentially affected parties as the Project advances and more detailed information becomes available

Future engagement

Public engagement methods will be selected to provide clear, accessible opportunities for input while also supporting the City's ability to advance the Project. These methods may include:

- Direct mailouts to landowners and occupants within and adjacent to the proposed corridor
- A Project webpage on the City website providing project updates, frequently asked questions, and contact information
- A dedicated Project-specific phone line and email inbox to track and respond to public questions or concerns
- Optional in-person engagement (e.g., information centre, open house) hosted in Dawson Creek or other nearby locations depending on the level of interest
- Public notices
- Other methods identified through on-going engagement or requested by participants

To support meaningful and efficient engagement, the City will prioritize outreach to:

- Adjacent and nearby landowners and occupants
- Water licence holders, Water Users' Groups, and agricultural operators who may rely on the Peace River or related water infrastructure
- Industry and commercial users in the South Peace region
- Community members and interest groups who have participated in prior infrastructure planning or water security consultations.

5.1.3.1 Landowners, rightsholders, and residents living within and adjacent to the Project corridor

The City will engage landowners and rightsholders through a land rights and third-party acquisition process which will include proactive outreach to energy infrastructure owners, utilities, BC Hydro, CN Rail, Communication Utility Companies, and public land managers to identify early any land access constraints, coordinate construction timelines, and assess co-location opportunities.

For private landowners, the City will begin engagement once a project footprint has been determined but preliminary discussions will be initiated during the Early Engagement phase through the provision of information packages and by offering follow-up discussions to answer questions and document concerns. These conversations will be tracked and summarized in the DPD.

The City also plans to engage with any known trapline holders, grazing tenure holders, or recreational leaseholders once a project footprint has been determined and will request data from provincial agencies to support this effort.

Engagement with these groups may include:

- Direct contact with affected landowners and tenure holders by mail, phone, or in person
- Project updates and contact information provided on the City website
- Meetings with right-of-way owners and utility/infrastructure operators
- Provision of plain-language materials and maps to support understanding of the Project footprint
- Follow-up communications based on landowner feedback.

A log of all public, landowner, and rights holder engagement activities will be maintained and summarized in the DPD. Future engagement activities and their outcomes will be tailored to the level of interest and the nature of potential impacts identified by participants.

Timing and frequency

The City will prioritize public communications regarding the project using low barrier methods (e.g., direct mail, public notice, up-to-date Project information on the City website) throughout the Early Engagement phase and during the development of the DPD. Additional public engagement opportunities, including a community survey, or in-person events, such as a drop information centers, may be offered if public interest or concerns warrant further engagement.

5.2 Possible constraints to engagement

In addition to logistical and scheduling barriers, there are possible constraints that may limit meaningful participation. For example, land users with traditional or seasonal land-based practices may be unavailable during critical engagement windows due to trapping, harvesting, or ceremonial activities. Individuals with low literacy or language barriers may be unable to fully understand or respond to written materials. Some individuals may also hesitate to participate in engagement that is perceived as formal or jurisdictionally unclear.

To mitigate these challenges, the City will offer multiple formats for engagement, including plain-language materials, oral briefings, and the use of trusted community liaisons where appropriate. Where possible, timelines for input will align with seasonal availability and accommodate non-digital methods of communication such as phone calls, door drops, or in-person meetings.

5.3 Equity and inclusion

The engagement process considers the potential for certain groups to be underrepresented due to geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, or logistical barriers. The following table identifies these populations and outlines strategies to support inclusive and equitable participation.

Table 8 - Strategies to support inclusive participation

Potentially underrepresented group	Rationale	Mitigation strategy
Rural and remote residents	Limited internet access; may not attend in-person events	Local postings, phone-in options, direct outreach
Agricultural landowners and operators	Time constraints during key agricultural seasons	Flexible meeting times, phone-in options, leveraging existing community groups
Low-income or digitally limited individuals	Limited access to digital tools or availability during work hours	Print materials, in-person engagement options, simplified information and visual supports, phone line with access to engagement specialists knowledgeable about the project
Indigenous community members not directly involved in engagement or consultation	May not be engaged through leadership-level processes alone	Use of community-preferred methods, oral input
Industrial users	Unavailable during standard engagement times; Appropriate decision makers not aware of the project	Asynchronous tools (e.g., voicemail, print/web materials)

5.4 Feedback gathering and documentation

To effectively manage engagement records, the City will use a dedicated database for this Project. The database will serve as a centralized location for storing, organizing, and tracking all engagement-related information.

The database will include the following components:

- Central record of engagement / participant list
 - Contact information, engagement status, key issues, or concerns
- Email record form
 - Incoming emails logged with the ability to filter by topic or concern
- Phone call log
 - Summary of incoming calls, searchable by issue type
- Meeting summary form
 - Documentation of meetings with individuals and groups, including date, attendees, and discussion points
- Public facing Project materials
 - Copies of information packages, notices, and handouts
- Commitments and Follow-Up Tracker

- Ongoing commitments and action items made during engagement

Summaries of engagement will be developed and shared with the EAO as part of the DPD. Themes and interests identified throughout engagement will inform project routing, access planning, and mitigation measures.

5.4.1 Sensitive or confidential information

The City recognizes that some information shared during engagement, including oral histories, cultural knowledge, or land use information, may be sensitive or confidential. Indigenous knowledge provided in confidence will not be disclosed without written consent from the Indigenous nation that provided it.

Information identified as confidential by any participant will be handled with care and discretion. It will not be included in regulatory filings or public engagement summaries unless consent has been granted. Where applicable, engagement summaries will focus on key themes while respecting community-specific protocols and expectations around knowledge sharing and confidentiality.

5.4.1.1 Indigenous knowledge

In line with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession, any information shared through this questionnaire that relates to Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, or community interests will be treated with respect and sensitivity. We recognize that such information is owned and controlled by the communities who share it. The information will only be used for the purpose of informing this Project's planning and engagement approach and will not be disclosed or shared without permission.

5.4.2 Categorization of feedback

Incoming feedback, whether through calls, emails, meetings, or forms, will be categorized to support efficient review. Categorization enhances transparency, helps identify emerging themes, and supports timely, informed decision-making.

5.4.2.1 Anticipated categorization of feedback and issues:

- Water sourcing and sustainability
- Pipeline routing or access concerns
- Land use and property access
- Agricultural operations
- Cultural and heritage considerations
- Indigenous rights and interests
- Environmental protection (wildlife, habitat, surface and groundwater)
- Traffic and construction impacts
- Public health and safety
- Recreational land use
- Cumulative effects
- Project support or general inquiries
- Request for follow-up
- Other

These categories may be refined throughout the engagement process based on the nature and volume of feedback received.

5.5 Incorporation of feedback

All input received through engagement activities will be documented, analyzed, and considered in the refinement of the Project and the preparation of the DPD. Feedback from Indigenous nations, local governments, agencies, and members of the public will be reviewed to identify key themes, recurring concerns, suggestions, and site-specific knowledge that may inform project routing, design, mitigation measures, or future engagement approaches.

To support transparency and accountability, the City will rely on a centralized engagement database to track all correspondence, meeting summaries, and submissions. Where feedback leads to a change in project design or planning, that change will be noted in a summary of engagement outcomes submitted as part of the DPD.

5.5.1 Escalation of concerns

Issues or concerns raised during engagement will be logged and reviewed by the City. Where appropriate, they will be addressed through follow-up engagement or mitigation. If not resolved through direct communication, the City will offer to meet with the community or involve the relevant decision-making authority. Unresolved issues and actions taken will be summarized in the DPD.

Examples of how feedback may influence decisions include:

- Identifying route refinements based on agricultural or cultural land use concerns;
- Modifying construction timing to reduce disruption during harvest, calving, or ceremonial seasons;
- Incorporating additional mitigation measures or monitoring activities in response to local environmental or cultural knowledge; and
- Adjusting future engagement methods based on community preferences or accessibility needs.

Where feasible, participants will be informed how their input was used or, where it could not be incorporated, why that was the case. This approach is intended to support the principles of procedural fairness, relationship-building, and trust.

The City also acknowledges that some information, particularly Indigenous knowledge or culturally sensitive material, may be shared in confidence. In such cases, information will not be disclosed without explicit consent.

5.6 Updates to the Engagement Plan

This EP is a living document and may be updated during the Early Engagement phase to reflect new information, feedback, or changes in Project scope or schedule. At minimum, the EP will be reviewed internally at the midpoint of Early Engagement and revised if needed.

Updates may be triggered by:

- Input from Indigenous nations, local governments, regulatory agencies, or the public
- Adjustments to the Project's design, timeline, or engagement approach
- Direction or feedback from the EAO

The City will review the EP as required and revised versions will be submitted to the EAO and shared with participating Indigenous nations in line with their preferred engagement method. If updates affect upcoming engagement activities, relevant information will also be communicated to interested parties using the most appropriate channels, including updates to the public information included on the Project website.

5.7 Notification regarding intent to seek exemption

The City's intent to pursue an exemption has been communicated to Indigenous nations and relevant agencies throughout preliminary outreach, including emails, phone calls, and early meetings where Project scope and regulatory pathways were discussed. The submission of this EP and the IPD formally communicates this intent and provides an opportunity for interested parties to offer feedback.

At the time of writing, no feedback regarding the intent to seek exemption had been received. The City will continue to make clear its intent to seek an exemption throughout Project engagement.

5.7.1 Feedback received regarding the intent to seek exemption

To date, no formal objections to the intent to seek an exemption request have been raised. The letters of support for the Project have indicated interest in the Project's potential benefits and in maintaining open communication as the design advances. Ongoing engagement will continue to solicit feedback related to the exemption and broader Project implications.

All feedback related to the exemption request will be documented, summarized, and considered in the development of the DPD.

6 Ongoing and future engagement

The City will review the EP at key project milestones and at least once prior to submitting the DPD. Minor administrative updates (e.g., updated contact lists, event dates) will be tracked and documented internally. Substantive changes that affect planned engagement activities, commitments, or participants will be documented in an amended version of the EP.

When the EP is updated, the revised version will be shared with the EAO and with all parties who have requested ongoing updates. A summary of changes will be included in the updated document or as an attachment. Where applicable, participants will be informed of the changes by email, phone, or other preferred communication method.

7 Closing

The City will continue to carry out engagement in a clear, timely, and respectful manner as the Project progresses. This plan outlines the City's intended approach during preliminary and Early Engagement and may be updated based on feedback or changing conditions. Input received through this process will directly inform the DPD and related planning, including the City's request for an exemption from the requirement for an EAC. Engagement will also support communication and coordination with regulators through other applicable review and permitting processes.

8 References

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Appendix A

Sample Project specific information package



July 8, 2025

City of Dawson Creek
PO BOX 150
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4G4

Subject: Invitation for Input: Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project

The City of Dawson Creek, with support from DC Environmental Ltd (the Proponent) is providing early information and inviting your Nation's input on the Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project (the Project). This proposed water infrastructure initiative is intended to improve long-term water security for the South Peace region, addressing both immediate drought resilience and future growth in population and industrial water use. The City of Dawson Creek and surrounding water users face increasing water security challenges due to ongoing drought conditions. A reliable, long-term water supply is crucial for the health, safety, and economic well-being of the region. Water restrictions resulting from inadequate supply could have significant negative economic repercussions, including impacts to cost or curtailment of water supply for domestic use, agriculture, industry, mineral resource exploration, and production, and tourism.

Project description

The proposed Project includes the construction of a new raw water intake structure on the Peace River, a pump station, and approximately 52 kilometres of buried pipeline to transport water to the City of Dawson Creek's existing raw water storage reservoir (the South Dawson Reservoir) west of the City of Dawson Creek. The proposed pipeline route crosses Crown, municipal, and private lands and may overlap with areas of cultural, ecological, or economic importance to your Nation.

The proposed Project will be located within the Project Study Corridor. The proposed Project Study Corridor follows established linear infrastructure corridors and previously disturbed areas, with approximately 60% of the Project Study Corridor overlapping agricultural lands, and approximately 13% of the Project Study Corridor overlapping lands used for oil and gas. Approximately 90% of the Project overlaps with private land tenures. Further, approximately 85% of the Project is being planned adjacent to existing proposed project corridors.

Regulatory context and intent

The Project triggers the BC Environmental Assessment Act, under Part 5 Water Management Projects of the Reviewable Projects Regulation; however, the Proponent intends to seek an exemption from the requirement to obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate due to the urgent need to address the current and growing



water supply concerns driven by the ongoing drought conditions. We believe the project is a strong candidate for an exemption, and that there are significant potential benefits of proceeding with the project to address the water security concerns the City of Dawson Creek and surrounding areas are facing. Once potential concerns are identified and addressed, and appropriate mitigation is applied, we do not anticipate that the project will have a significant adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or health effect. The Proponent is engaging early to support the expedited request for an Environmental Assessment exemption due to the urgent nature of the water supply restrictions and to identify and address any potential concerns.

What we are asking

This preliminary engagement is intended to gather your input *before* the BC Environmental Assessment process officially begins.

Feedback will help shape the Project's planning, routing, and mitigation approaches and will be documented in the IPD and Engagement Plan.

We are providing the following materials for your review:

- Preliminary Project Overview Map and Map Book
- IPD (*working draft*)
- Engagement Plan (*working draft*)
- Preliminary Engagement Questionnaire

We respectfully request your consideration of the following:

- A review of the draft IPD and Engagement Plan
- Identification of areas of cultural, environmental, or economic importance that may be affected by the proposed Project
- Guidance on your Nation's preferred engagement protocols and decision-making processes
- An opportunity to meet and discuss your Nation's interests, concerns, or expectations in greater detail

Given the urgent need for the proposed Project, we are seeking confirmation that you are satisfied with the proposed approach to continue to work with your community as the Project progresses and that you have no concerns or issues at this point that would prevent you from supporting the Project and endorsing the application for a BC Environmental Assessment Office exemption to expedite the approval and construction of this Project to address the immediate concerns related to potentially running out of water supply for the City of Dawson Creek.

We recognize and respect the Treaty 8 agreements and related guidance documents that will be considered throughout Project planning. As well, we are aware of other



recent projects in the region, such as the Pouce Coupe – Taylor to Gordondale Pipeline Project and the NEBC Connector Project. We intend to leverage the publicly available data, outlined interests, and mitigation practices from those projects to inform our approach.

Proposed engagement schedule

The Project is in its' early stages, and the intent of this early communication is to provide opportunities to provide meaningful input to inform the draft Engagement Plan, and the overall Project approach. Your feedback will inform the schedule for further engagement.

Next steps

We would appreciate feedback on the draft IPD and Engagement Plan as well as completion of the Engagement Questionnaire, by July 22, 2025, to support submission of the IPD and Engagement Plan to the BC Environmental Assessment Office.

A meeting can be arranged at your convenience—virtually or in person, based on your Nation's preferences. Engagement will continue through subsequent regulatory steps, and we are committed to working with your Nation to identify appropriate protocols, involvement opportunities, and areas where further planning or assessment may be needed.

To support continued dialogue, the Proponent, and supporting consultants, will also be attending the **July 10 Treaty 8 Tribal Association meeting** to share additional information about this critical and time-sensitive project. Hard copies of these Project materials will be provided at the meeting. We hope you are able to attend as this provides a convenient forum to discuss the project further and hear directly from leadership and community representatives.

For questions, meeting requests, or to share input, please contact: Darcy Friesen at pipeline@pris.ca or (250) 263-1547

Sincerely,

Darcy Friesen
President
DC Environmental Ltd, on behalf of the City of Dawson Creek



Engagement Questionnaire

This questionnaire is to be used as a guide to receive feedback on the proposed Project. Information collected will be used to inform the engagement plan that will be submitted to the BC Environmental Assessment Office to support the exemption application. In line with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP), any information shared through this questionnaire that relates to Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, or community interests will be treated with respect and sensitivity. We recognize that such information is owned and controlled by the communities who share it. The information will only be used for the purpose of informing this project's planning and engagement approach and will not be disclosed or shared without permission.

If you would prefer to meet before responding or would like to discuss the project in more detail, we would be pleased to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Questionnaire completed by:

Name:

On behalf of:

Date:

Relationship-Building and Communication Protocols		
	Comments/Feedback/Concerns	No Comment/Concerns
Who are the appropriate leadership and knowledge holders we should engage with?		<input type="checkbox"/>
How would you prefer to be engaged and involved throughout this project?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there engagement timelines the Proponent needs to consider to support community involvement and capacity?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any cultural, seasonal, or community events we should be aware of when planning engagement activities?		<input type="checkbox"/>

What are your expectations for project updates and communication?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Who should be our main point of contact moving forward, and how should we communicate with your representatives?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there preferred formats for sharing information (e.g., plain language summaries, maps, digital vs. paper)?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Land and Water Values & Cultural Knowledge		
Are there areas along the proposed route that are culturally, spiritually, or historically significant to your Nation that we should be aware of?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there specific environmental concerns or priorities the Nation has in relation to this project (e.g., wildlife and wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, aquatic species and habitat, cultural or endangered plants, etc.)?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Based on the initial information included in this package, do you have concerns about how this project may impact your ability to exercise Treaty rights? If yes, please describe the nature and location of the concern and potential mitigations that may address the concern.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there traditional land use studies or Indigenous Knowledge related to the proposed Project that you would be willing to share? If yes, explain what would be required to work with you to access or review this information?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Would the Nation be interested in participating in environmental and archaeological monitoring or assessments?		<input type="checkbox"/>



Are there any additional issues or concerns related to the broad concept of the Project that you wish to discuss?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Close-out		
Are there any immediate next steps we should take following this meeting?		<input type="checkbox"/>



July 8, 2025

City of Dawson Creek
PO BOX 150
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4G4

Subject: Dawson Creek Water Supply System — Acknowledgement of Preliminary Engagement and Intention to Seek Exemption Request

The proposed Project triggers a BC Environmental Assessment, and the Proponent intends to seek an exemption from the BC Environmental Assessment process. As required under the Early Engagement Policy, we have shared a preliminary engagement package that includes the Initial Project Description (IPD) (working draft), Engagement Plan (working draft), routing map, and a summary of key project details for your review and comment.

Given the urgent need for the project, we are seeking confirmation that you are satisfied with proposed approach to continue to work with your community as the project progresses and that you have no concerns or issues at this point that would prevent you from supporting the Project and endorsing the need to apply for an EAO exemption to expedite the approval and construction of this Project to address the immediate concerns related to potentially running out of water supply for Dawson Creek.

We respectfully request confirmation that:

- You have received and reviewed the attached materials.
- You have had the opportunity to provide input into the IPD and Engagement Plan.
- You have no current concerns that would prevent the Project from moving forward to an exemption request, recognizing that further engagement will continue during detailed planning and regulatory permitting processes.

We acknowledge receipt of the Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project preliminary engagement materials and confirm that:

☐ We have reviewed the materials and are in support of the Project

☐ We have had the opportunity to provide input into the IPD and Engagement Plan

☐ We have no outstanding concerns at this time and endorse the Proponent's approach to seek an exemption from the requirement to complete an Environmental Assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act.

If you would prefer to meet before responding or would like to discuss the project in more detail, we would be pleased to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Name

On behalf of

Signature

Date

Appendix B

Letters of support



Box 56 Rose Prairie, BC V0C 2H0

Phone: (250) 827-3776 Fax: (250) 827-3778

November 4, 2024

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Attn: Marianne Johnson
Director, Authorizations
Northeast Region Authorizations
Permitting Transformation Division

Email: Marianne.Johnson@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Re: Letter of Support for City of Dawson Creek Conditional Water Licence Application

Doig River First Nation fully supports the City of Dawson Creek in their application for a Conditional Water Licence on the Peace River.

The historic and pervasive drought of the past several years, combined with the effects of climate change, have had a significant and detrimental impact on the Kiskatinaw watershed which currently, and historically, has supplied water to the City of Dawson Creek. Over the past 18 months, the Kiskatinaw River flow has steadily diminished until January 20 of this year when it all but stopped. A period of extreme cold weather in January caused the river to freeze off reducing flows to almost zero.

Water conservation measures were enacted to limit industrial use and preserve as much water as possible in the reservoirs. The City of Dawson Creek was unable to pump water from the Kiskatinaw until March 15, by which time storage reservoirs had been substantially depleted. Currently, the City of Dawson Creek is replenishing its reservoirs which, when refilled, provide approximately 200 days of water supply. The concern is that available forecasts indicate another hot, dry summer exacerbated by a changing climate will make these types of events more frequent. Securing an alternate source of water is crucial to the health of the city, its economy, and to ensuring the long-term health of the Kiskatinaw watershed for generations to come.

We understand the proposed point of diversion to be downstream of the Highway 97 North crossing and support this location. We understand the City of Dawson Creek is looking for maximum daily withdrawals of 40,000 cubic meters, less than 0.05% of daily flow in the Peace River, or 14,600,000 cubic meters annually. However, withdrawals are expected to be

significantly lower based on recent demands and these values have been chosen to allow for future growth, and we support this.

We understand the proposed project will be beneficial for residents of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace, local industry and organizations which may include but are not limited to agriculture, oil and gas, and wildfire mitigation.

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Dawson Creek, and we encourage you to consider granting their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chief Trevor Makadahay
Doig River First Nation



WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATIONS



Box 90 Moberly Lake BC V0C 1X0
Telephone: 250-788-3663 Facsimile: 250-788-9792

July 10, 2024

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Attn: Marianne Johnson
Director, Authorizations
Northeast Region Authorizations
Permitting Transformation Division

Email: Marianne.Johnson@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Re: Letter of Support for City of Dawson Creek Conditional Water Licence Application

West Moberly First Nations fully supports the City of Dawson Creek in their application for a Conditional Water Licence on the Peace River.

The historic and pervasive drought of the past several years, combined with the effects of climate change, have had a significant and detrimental impact on the Kiskatinaw watershed which currently, and historically, has supplied water to the City of Dawson Creek. Over the past 18 months, the Kiskatinaw River flow has steadily diminished until January 20 of this year when it all but stopped. A period of extreme cold weather in January caused the river to freeze off, reducing flows to almost zero.

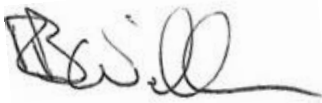
Water conservation measures were enacted to limit industrial use and preserve as much water as possible in the reservoirs. The City of Dawson Creek was unable to pump water from the Kiskatinaw until March 15, by which time storage reservoirs had been substantially depleted. Currently, the City of Dawson Creek is replenishing its reservoirs which, when refilled, provide approximately 200 days of water supply. The concern is that available forecasts indicate another hot, dry summer exacerbated by a changing climate will make these types of events more frequent. Securing an alternate source of water is crucial to the health of the city, its economy, and to ensuring the long-term health of the Kiskatinaw watershed for generations to come.

We understand the proposed point of diversion to be downstream of the Highway 97 North crossing and support this location. We understand the City of Dawson Creek is looking for maximum daily withdrawals of 40,000 cubic meters, less than 0.05% of daily flow in the Peace River, or 14,600,000 cubic meters annually. However, withdrawals are expected to be significantly lower based on recent demands and these values have been chosen to allow for future growth, and we support this.

We understand the proposed project will be beneficial for residents of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace, local industry and organizations which may include but are not limited to agriculture, oil and gas, and wildfire mitigation.

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Dawson Creek, and we encourage you to consider granting their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Willson", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Chief Roland Willson

June 26, 2024

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Attn: Marianne Johnson

Director, Authorizations

Northeast Region Authorizations

Permitting Transformation Division

Email: Marianne.Johnson@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Re: Letter of Support for City of Dawson Creek Conditional Water Licence Application

The Saulteau First Nations fully supports the City of Dawson Creek in their application for a Conditional Water Licence on the Peace River.

The historic and pervasive drought of the past several years, combined with the effects of climate change, have had a significant and detrimental impact on the Kiskatinaw watershed which currently, and historically, has supplied water to the City of Dawson Creek. Over the past 18 months, the Kiskatinaw River flow has steadily diminished until January 20 of this year when it all but stopped. A period of extreme cold weather in January caused the river to freeze off reducing flows to almost zero.

Water conservation measures were enacted to limit industrial use and preserve as much water as possible in the reservoirs. The City of Dawson Creek was unable to pump water from the Kiskatinaw until March 15, by which time storage reservoirs had been substantially depleted. Currently, the City of Dawson Creek is replenishing its reservoirs which, when refilled, provide approximately 200 days of water supply. The concern is that available forecasts indicate another hot, dry summer exacerbated by a changing climate will make these types of events more frequent. Securing an alternate source of water is crucial to the health of the city, its economy, and to ensuring the long-term health of the Kiskatinaw watershed for generations to come.

We understand the proposed point of diversion to be downstream of the Highway 97 North crossing and support this location. We understand the City of Dawson Creek is looking for maximum daily withdrawals of 40,000 cubic meters, less than 0.05% of daily flow in the Peace River, or 14,600,000 cubic meters annually. However, withdrawals are expected to be significantly lower based on recent demands and these values have been chosen to allow for future growth, and we support this.

We understand the proposed project will be beneficial for residents of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace, local industry and organizations which may include but are not limited to agriculture, oil and gas, and wildfire mitigation. We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Dawson Creek, and we encourage you to consider granting their application.

Sincerely,



Rudy Paquette

Chief

Saulteau First Nations

Proudly determined

Premier Eby
Office of the Premier
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

November 27, 2024
premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby:

RE: Access to Long-Term Sustainable Water Supply

I am writing today in support of our friends and neighbors in the South Peace Community of Dawson Creek. Mayor Dober, and Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Henderson attended an in-camera Council meeting this week and talked to us about the issue of a historical and current water shortage facing the City of Dawson Creek. As you are well aware, community viability depends on the availability of safe, plentiful, potable water. This is a fundamental human right.

During this meeting we learned that Dawson Creek is working tirelessly to secure a source of water that will allow their community to remain viable for many years to come. We had been unaware of the scope of the problem, or the severity of the water shortage created by our historical drought. It is essential that the City of Dawson Creek receives support from senior levels of government to ensure community viability. As you may well imagine, this project although essential, will also be extraordinarily expensive and will be undertaken at an expense that is well beyond the capacity of any local government.

These discussions focused on the possibility of working towards a pipeline connecting a water source on the Peace River with the Community of Dawson Creek. We wholeheartedly support these efforts and wanted to communicate this support to the Province of British Columbia in the strongest possible terms. In addition to conveying our support for the City of Dawson Creek during this long regulatory process, we also would like to offer our assistance if there is any way we might contribute to a solution for this existential community problem facing our neighbors to the south. Our own water supply also comes from the mighty Peace River near Taylor, BC, and so we have long experience with the design, maintenance and operation of these well and water pipelines.

There are many close ties between the City of Dawson Creek and the City of Fort St. John. Over the years, we have provided support to Dawson Creek in water treatment and benefited from mutual support in return. It is common for us to collaborate, strategize and work together to further the interests we share in the region.

Sincerely,

Lilia Hansen

Mayor Lilia Hansen

On behalf of the Fort St. John City Council

cc: MP Zimmer

cc: Mayor Dober

cc: CAO Kevin Henderson



2024-06-17

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Attn: Marianne Johnson
Director, Authorizations
Northeast Region Authorizations
Permitting Transformation Division

Email: Marianne.Johnson@gov.bc.ca

Re: Letter of Support for City of Dawson Creek Conditional Water Licence Application

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Saddle Hills County fully supports the City of Dawson Creek in their application for a Conditional Water Licence on the Peace River.

The historic and pervasive drought of the past several years, combined with the effects of climate change, have had a significant and detrimental impact on the Kiskatinaw watershed which currently, and historically, has supplied water to the City of Dawson Creek. Over the past 18 months, the Kiskatinaw River flow has steadily diminished until January 20 of this year, when it all but stopped. A period of extreme cold weather in January caused the river to freeze off, reducing flows to almost zero.

Water conservation measures were enacted to limit industrial use and preserve as much water as possible in the reservoirs. The City of Dawson Creek was unable to pump water from the Kiskatinaw until March 15, by which time storage reservoirs had been substantially depleted. Currently, the City of Dawson Creek is replenishing its reservoirs which, when refilled, provide approximately 200 days of water supply. The concern is that available forecasts indicate another hot, dry summer which, exacerbated by a changing climate, will make these types of events more frequent. Securing an alternate source of water is crucial to the health of the city, its economy, and to ensuring the long-term health of the Kiskatinaw watershed for generations to come.

Junction of Highway 49 and Highway 725, RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0
Phone: 780-864-3760 | Fax: 780-864-3904 | Toll Free: 1-888-864-3760



We understand the proposed point of diversion to be downstream of the Highway 97 North crossing and support this location. We understand the City of Dawson Creek is looking for maximum daily withdrawals of 40,000 cubic meters, less than 0.05% of daily flow in the Peace River; equivalent to 14,600,000 cubic meters annually. However, withdrawals are expected to be significantly lower based on recent demands and these values have been chosen to allow for future growth, which we support.

We understand the proposed project will be beneficial for residents of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and the South Peace, local industry, and organizations which may include, but are not limited to, agriculture, oil and gas, and wildfire mitigation.

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Dawson Creek, and we encourage you to consider granting their application.

Sincerely,

Alvin Hubert
Reeve, Saddle Hills County



KELLY LAKE FIRST NATION

Consultation Department
P.O. Box 2415, Dawson Creek BC V1G 4T9
Email: consultation@kellylakefirstnation.com



“A Community Located in British Columbia”

City of Dawson Creek
C/O DL Environmental Ltd.
Box 150
Dawson Creek, Alberta V1G 4G4

August 14, 2025

Attention: Darcy Friesen - Delivered via Email to: pipeline@pris.ca

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT: Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project

“Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual and material relationship with the lands, territories, waters, coastal sea, and other resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used; and to uphold their responsibilities for future generations in this regard....” The U.N. Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Geneva, SWT.

The City of Dawson Creek has advised Kelly Lake First Nation (KLFN) of an application made on a proposed new waterline supply system to address the serious water security issues faced by the South Peace region. Portions of this project fall within the Nation’s traditional territory, and as such this letter represents KLFN’s response to the proposed project, and confirmation of our support to expediate the process.

To the people of Kelly Lake, water is far more than a resource or commodity—it is a *sacred, living entity* imbued with spirit and central to the wellbeing of the land, people, and future generations. Water is considered the lifeblood of Mother Earth, connecting all living beings in a delicate balance. For Indigenous peoples, the stewardship of water is a sacred duty passed down through generations, rooted in a deep spiritual and material relationship with the land and all its elements.

Ceremonies, teachings, and daily practices reflect this profound respect, recognizing water’s power to nurture, heal, and sustain life. Disruptions to the natural flow or purity of water are felt not only as practical or environmental concerns but as spiritual injuries to the relationship between the people and their ancestral lands. The responsibility to protect water is therefore woven into the governance, law, and culture of KLFN in an effort to ensure that decisions made today honor both the ancestors and those yet to come.

The urgency of the current situation cannot be overstated; water scarcity threatens the health, livelihoods, and daily routines of all those living in the region, including the members of Kelly Lake First Nation who live, work and play in the Dawson Creek area. For many, access to clean water is not simply a matter of convenience but a fundamental necessity that impacts every aspect of existence—from drinking and cooking to sanitation and spiritual practices. The Nation’s members rely on these water sources for sustenance, for connecting with their heritage, and for ensuring the resilience of their community in the face of ongoing challenges.



KELLY LAKE FIRST NATION

Consultation Department
P.O. Box 2415, Dawson Creek BC V1G 4T9
Email: consultation@kellylakefirstnation.com



"A Community Located in British Columbia"

As such, the call for immediate action reflects not only practical needs but the enduring commitment to safeguard the well-being of both present residents and future generations.

In recent discussions with City representatives (Darcy Friesen/Kevin Henderson) we understand that the City of Dawson Creek is committed to consultation with Kelly Lake First Nation, however with time being of the essence, will submit its proposal to the Province of British Columbia to act swiftly.

To assist in the acceleration of the application process Kelly Lake First Nation hereby provides its support for the project and looks forward to participating in discussions as the project moves forward.

Regards,

KELLY LAKE FIRST NATION, Industry Consultation

Cc: Chief Norman Calliou
BC Environmental Assessment Office

From: Mike

Date: August 14, 2025 at 6:05:04 PM MST

To: Darcy Friesen <pipeline@pris.ca>

Subject: Dawson water

To whom it may concern ! Cathy & Mike Kosick are in favour of the Dawson Creek water project drawing water from the peace river ! Near or on our south Taylor property which the bc government should fast forward this approval asap ! This is an urgent project for the city and people of Dawson creek . Thank you

Mike Kosick

Sent from my iPhone

Appendix C

Engagement Log

Table C-1. Engagement Log - Indigenous Nations

Entity	Date	Contact	Activity	Incoming/ Outgoing	Description
West Moberly First Nations	16-Jan-24	Chief Roland Wilson	Email	Outgoing	Follow up
Doig River First Nation	22-Apr-24	Lacey Beaumont	Email	Outgoing	Request meeting
Doig River First Nation	23-Apr-24	Lacey Beaumont	Email	Outgoing	Request meeting
Blueberry River First Nations	25-Apr-24	Lynn Harvey	Email	Outgoing	Set phone meeting
Blueberry River First Nations	25-Apr-24	Lynn Harvey	Phone Call	Outgoing	Set second phone meeting
West Moberly First Nations	30-Apr-24	Tenille Desjarlais	Email	Outgoing	Request meeting
West Moberly First Nations	1-May-24	Tenille Desjarlais	Email	Outgoing	Request meeting
Blueberry River First Nations	7-May-24	Lynn Harvey	Email	Outgoing	Phone meeting
Horse Lake First Nation	13-May-24	Chief Horseman	Email	Outgoing	Follow up to request in-person meeting
Saulteau First Nations	14-May-24	Niki Ghostkeeper	Email	Outgoing	Request meeting
West Moberly First Nations	22-May-24	Tenille Desjarlais	Email	Outgoing	Confirm meeting date
Horse Lake First Nation	?-May-24	Chief Horseman	Phone	Outgoing	Shared initial project information, requested follow up meeting.
Doig River First Nation	27-May-24	Lacey Beaumont	Email	Outgoing	Request meeting
Doig River First Nation	28-May-24	Lacey Beaumont	Email	Outgoing	Set meeting date
Doig River First Nation	28-May-24	Lacey Beaumont	Email	Outgoing	Shared meeting materials
Saulteau First Nations	29-May-24	Niki Ghostkeeper	Email	Outgoing	Second Request for meeting
McLeod Lake Indian Band	31-May-24	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided project information and letters
Saulteau First Nations	31-May-24	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided project information and letters
Blueberry River First Nations	31-May-24	Chief Desjarlais	Email	Outgoing	Provided letters
Doig River First Nation	3-Jun-24	Chief and Council	Meeting		Information & materials at Council meeting; Chief and Council present
Saulteau First Nations	4-Jun-24	Niki Ghostkeeper	Email	Outgoing	Confirm meeting date
McLeod Lake Indian Band	6-Jun-24	Chief Chingee	Phone call	Outgoing	Discuss project
West Moberly First Nations	17-Jun-24	Chief and Council	Meeting		Present Information and Letters at Council Meeting; Chief and Council present
Saulteau First Nations	26-Jun-24	Chief Rudy Paquette	Letter	Incoming	The Chief submitted a letter of support to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, attn. Marianne Johnson, Director, Authorizations for the Conditional Water License approval
Blueberry River First Nations	7-Jul-24	Chief Desjarlais	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email with letter attached
McLeod Lake Indian Band	9-Jul-24	Chief Chingee	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email to previous phone conversation & sent follow up letters
Saulteau First Nations	10-Jul-24	Chief and Council	Meeting		Presentations and Letters Provided to Chief and Council
Horse Lake First Nation	10-Jul-24	Chief Horseman	Email	Outgoing	Third request for a meeting
Horse Lake First Nation	10-Jul-24	Chief Horseman	Email	Outgoing	Provide letters and additional project information
West Moberly First Nations	10-Jul-24	Chief Roland Willson	Email	Outgoing	Follow up with template letter attached
West Moberly First Nations	10-Jul-24	Chief Roland Willson	Email	Outgoing	Request for follow up conversation
Saulteau First Nations	12-Jul-24	Niki Ghostkeeper	Email	Outgoing	Provided copy of presentation and meeting materials to Chief and Council
Saulteau First Nations	12-Jul-24	Chief and Council	Letter	Incoming	Received Letter of Support
West Moberly First Nations	23-Jul-24	Chief Roland Willson	Virtual Meeting		Discuss Chief's ideas for project
Blueberry River First Nations	3-Sep-24	Kelly DeCaux	Email	Outgoing	Request contact - letters attached
Horse Lake First Nation	15-Oct-24	Chief Horseman	Email	Outgoing	Follow up on previous phone call, meeting request
Blueberry River First Nations	15-Oct-24	Council, K. DeCaux, Admin	Email	Outgoing	Follow up
Doig River First Nation	15-Oct-24	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Follow up on previous conversation, meeting request

Entity	Date	Contact	Activity	Incoming/ Outgoing	Description
McLeod Lake Indian Band	15-Oct-24	Chief Chingee	Email	Outgoing	Follow up on previous phone call, meeting request
West Moberly First Nations	15-Oct-24	Chief Roland Willson	Email	Outgoing	Follow up on previous phone call, meeting request
Doig River First Nation	30-Oct-24	Shona Nelson	Email	Outgoing	Provide template Letter of Support
Doig River First Nation	4-Nov-24	Shona Nelson	Letter of Support	Incoming	Received Letter of Support
West Moberly First Nations	4-Nov-24	Chief Roland Willson	Text Message	Outgoing	Follow up
West Moberly First Nations	18-Jan-25	Chief Roland Willson	Email	Incoming	Letter of Support received
Blueberry River First Nations	8-Jul-25	Chief & Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided date/time for upcoming engagement and project information package for review.
Horse Lake First Nation	8-Jul-25	Chief Horseman & Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided date/time for upcoming engagement and project information package for review.
Halfway River First Nation	8-Jul-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided date/time for upcoming engagement and project information package for review.
McLeod Lake Indian Band	8-Jul-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided date/time for upcoming engagement and project information package for review.
Saulteau First Nations	8-Jul-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided date/time for upcoming engagement and project information package for review.
West Moberly First Nations	8-Jul-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Provided date/time for upcoming engagement and project information package for review.
Treaty 8 Tribal Association Meeting	10-Jul-25	Chief Valerie Askoty, Councillor Bev Stager - Prophet River First Nation Chief Archie Harrold, Fort Nelson First Nation Chief Rolan Willson - West Moberly First Nation Councillors, Asher Atchiqua, Theresa Davis, Clarence Wilson, Sam Desjarlais - West Moberly First Nations, Councillors Colleen Totesuk, Juritha Owens - Saulteau First Nation	Presentation/In-person	Outgoing	Presented the project for discussion at the July 10 Treaty 8 Tribal Association meeting. Project information packages, including preliminary maps, were distributed in hard copy and electronically prior to the meeting.
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society	16-Jul-25	Lyle Letendre	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and project information package for review.
Rivers of the Peace Métis Society	16-Jul-25	Valerie Paice	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and project information package for review.
Fort St. John Metis Settlement Society	16-Jul-25	Alana Copeland	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and project information package for review.
North East Métis Association	16-Jul-25	Brenda House	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and project information package for review.
Moccasin Flats Métis Society	16-Jul-25	Le Anne McFeeters	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and project information package for review.
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society	22-Jul-25	Marnie Sutor	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and project information package for review.
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society	1-Aug-25	Marnie Sutor	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Rivers of the Peace Métis Nation	1-Aug-25	Valerie Paice	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Northeast Métis Nation	1-Aug-25	Brenda House	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Moccasin Flats Métis Nation	1-Aug-25	Le Anne McFeeters	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Blueberry River First Nations	1-Aug-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Horse Lake First Nation	1-Aug-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
McLeod Lake Indian Band	1-Aug-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Treaty 8 Tribal Association BC	1-Aug-25	Representatives	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Kelly Lake Métis Nation	1-Aug-25	Marnie Sutor	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Halfway River First Nation	1-Aug-25	Chief and Council	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package

Entity	Date	Contact	Activity	Incoming/ Outgoing	Description
Fort St. John Métis Settlement Society	1-Aug-25	Alana Copeland	Email	Outgoing	Follow up email seeking feedback following the review of the project information package
Kelly Lake First Nation	5-Aug-25	Chief Norman Calliou	Email	Outgoing	Provided engagement and information package for review.
Blueberry River First Nations	13-Aug-25	Council	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Doig River First Nation	13-Aug-25	Chief Trevor Makadahay	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Halfway River First Nation	13-Aug-25	Chief Darlene Hunter	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Horse lake First Nation	13-Aug-25	Chief Ramona Horseman	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
McLeod Lake Indian Band	13-Aug-25	Chief Harley Chingee	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Saulteau First Nations	13-Aug-25	Chief Rudy Paquette	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
West Moberly First Nations	13-Aug-25	Chief Rolan Wilson	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Kelly Lake First Nation	13-Aug-25	Chief Norman Calliou	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Fort St. John Métis Society	13-Aug-25	Alana Copeland	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society	13-Aug-25	Lyle Letendre	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Moccasin Flats Métis Society	13-Aug-25	Le Anne McFeeters	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
North East Métis Association	13-Aug-25	Brenda House	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
River of the Peace Métis Society	13-Aug-25	Valerie Paice	Email	Outgoing	Notice of the upcoming submission of the IPD and EP to the EAO and commitment to on-going engagement
Kelly Lake First Nation	14-Aug-25	Marnie Sultor Chief Norman Calliou	Meeting - Virtual		Virtual meeting to discuss the Project and water security concerns. Letter of Support for the Project received

Table C-2. Government Engagement Log

Entity	Date	Government Contact	Activity	Description
Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	19-Mar-24	Marianne Johnson	Virtual & in-person meeting	Initial discussion of proposed project. Supportive conversation; guidance offered for how to proceed
Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	25-Mar-24	Marianne Johnson	Email	Follow up. Provided background and contextual information; listed action items for next steps
Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	8-Apr-24	Marianne Johnson	Teams meeting	Discuss further steps and include Consultant for City of Dawson Creek
County of Saddle Hills	4-Jun-24	Reeve and Council	Presentation to Council	Presented materials and template letter of support; Reeve and Council present. Supportive response to proposal.
BC Hydro	6-Jun-24	Mike Kellett	Email conversation	Information shared following an informal in-person conversation
BC Hydro	6-Jun-24	Mike Kellett	Email conversation	Response to BC Hydro rep's re: withdrawal amount for permit
County of Saddle Hills	17-Jun-24	Reeve and Council	Letter of Support	Reeve provided Ministry signed letter of support
BC Hydro	26-Jun-24	Mike Kellett	Email conversation	Clarification of review process
BC Hydro	26-Jun-24	Mike Kellett	Email conversation	Follow up comments
City of Fort St. John	19-Jul-24	Mayor Lilia Hansen	In-person meeting	Discussion of proposed project; Mayor and CAO present
District Of Taylor	19-Jul-24	Mayor Brent Taillefer	In-person meeting	Presented materials and template letter of support; Mayor and CAO present
Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	27-Aug-24	Marianne Johnson	Email	Update on engagement process
BC Hydro	10-Sep-24	Mike Kellett	Email conversation	Follow up comments; suggestion re: potential intake requirements
Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	18-Sep-24	Min. Nathan Cullen	In-person meeting at UBCM AGM	Meeting to discuss proposed project. Followed up with emailed documents to further highlight the urgency of the proposed project.
City of Fort St. John	9-Oct-24	Christina Brace, DCO	Email	Confirmed date of presentation to Mayor and Council
Ministry of Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	9-Oct-24	Dep. Min. Lori Halls	Letter via email	Letter in response to meeting
Peace River Regional District	10-Oct-24	Joanne Caldecott, DCO	Email	Requested date to present to PRRD Board. Date provided.
Peace River Regional District	10-Oct-24	Joanne Caldecott, DCO	Email	Confirmed date to present and provided presentation materials
Peace River Regional District	7-Nov-24	Becky Gelsthorpe, EA	Email	Provided template letter of support
Peace River Regional District	13-Nov-24	Becky Gelsthorpe, EA	In-person Board Presentation	Presentation and request made to PRRD Board for consideration. Resolution of Support Confirmed.
City of Fort St. John	25-Nov-24	Christina Brace, DCO	Council Meeting Presentation	Presented materials and template letter of support to Council. Supportive response to proposal.
City of Fort St. John	27-Nov-24	Mayor Lilia Hansen	Letter of Support	The Mayor submitted a letter of support to Premier Eby
Peace River Regional District	29-Nov-24	Becky Gelsthorpe, EA	Email	Letter of Support provided to Ministry of Water (Marianne Johnson)
Ministry of Jobs	10-Feb-25	Robert Wood	Teams meeting	Discussion of potential funding opportunities through federal programs and grants (DRIF)
Ministry of Municipal Affairs	20-Mar-25	ADM Tara Faganello	Teams meeting	Discussion of proposed water security project
MLA	21-Jul-25	MLA Larry Neufeld	In-person meeting	Discuss current water situation and request assistance to lobby provincial government for support. Additional information requested and provided.
MLA	24-Jul-25	MLA Larry Neufeld	Emailed letter	Emailed letter as requested in previous meeting.

Appendix D

Contact information

Table D-1. Contact Information

Entity	Category	Contact Name	Mailing address	Email address	Phone number
Saulteau First Nations	First Nation	Niki Ghostkeeper Chief and Council Chief Rudy Paquette	PO Box 1020 Chetwynd, BC V0C 1J0	nghostkeeper@saulteau.com communications@saulteau.com rpauquette@saulteau.com	(250) 788-3955
Halfway River First Nation	First Nation	Roslyn Notseta	PO Box 59 Wonowon, BC V0C 2N0	rnotseta@hrfn.ca reception@hrfn.ca	
Horse Lake First Nation	First Nation	Chief Horseman Erin Peters Farra Grey Casey Horseman	PO Box 303 Hythe, Alberta T0H 2C0	Administration@horselakefn.ca consultation@hlfncr.ca	(780) 356-2248
Blueberry River First Nations	First Nation	Lynn Harvey Kelly DeCaux Council Administration	18785 Blueberry Reserve Rd Buick, BC V0C 2S0	lharvey@blueberryfn.ca kdecaux@blueberryfn.ca hr@blueberryfn.ca	(250) 630-2800
Doig River First Nation	First Nation	Lacey Beaumont Chief and Council Shona Nelson Chief Trevor Makadahay	PO Box 56 Rose Prairie, BC V0C 2H0	lbeaumont@doigriverfn.com tmakadahay@doigriverfn.com snelson@doigriverfn.com	(250) 827-3776
McLeod Lake Indian Band	First Nation	Chief Chingee	61 Tse'khene Drive McLeod Lake, BC V0J 2G0	hchingee@yahoo.ca	(250) 750-4415
West Moberly First Nations	First Nation	Tenille Desjarlais Chief Roland Wilson Chief and Council	7434 West Moberly Lake Road Moberly Lake, BC V0C 1X0	info@westmo.org	(250) 788-3663
Kelly Lake First Nation	First Nation	Chief Norman Calliou Marnie Sutor	PO Box 116 Toms Lake BC V0C 2L0	kellylakefirstnation@gmail.com consultation@kellylakefirstnation.com	(780) 518-3082
City of Fort St. John	Government	Mayor Lilia Hansen	10631 - 100 Street Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5	info@fortstjohn.ca	(250) 787-8150
District of Taylor	Government	Mayor Brent Taillefer	PO Box 300 10007 100A Street Taylor, BC V0C 2K0	BTaillefer@districtoftaylor.com	(250) 789-3392
Saddle Hills County	Government	Deputy Reeve Alvin Hubert	Junction of Hwy 49 & Secondary Hwy 725 RR1 Spirit River AB T0H 3G0	frontdesk@saddlehills.ab.ca ahubert@saddlehills.ab.ca	(780) 864-3760
BC Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	Government	Marianne Johnson	PO Box 9012 STN PROV GOVT Victoria BC V8W 9L6	WLRS.minister@gov.bc.ca	(778) 405-3094
BC EAO	Government	Meaghan Hoyle Matthew Scarr	PO Box 9047 Stn Pov Govt Rm 112, Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8W 9E2	ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca Meaghan.Hoyle@gov.bc.ca	(250) 387-1187
BC Water, Land, Resource Stewardship	Government	Lori Halls	PO Box 9367 STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9M3	WLRS.DMO@gov.bc.ca	(236) 478-0907
BC Environment and Climate Solutions	Government	Kevin Jardine	PO BOX 9339 STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W9M1	DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca	N/A
BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness	Government	Heather Stober	PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9T5	Heather.Stober@gov.bc.ca	(778) 698-4026
BC Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation Major Projects Office	Government	Rob Wood	PO BOX 9325 STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 1N3	Robert.Wood@gov.bc.ca	(778) 698-1630
BC Hydro	Agency	Mike Kellett	PO Box 8910 Vancouver, BC V6B 4X3	mike.kellett@bchydro.com	(250) 613-9087
Fort St. John Métis Society	Chartered Métis Community	Alana Copeland	9316 99 Avenue Fort St. John, BC V1J 7C2	fortstjohncc@mnb.ca	(250) 785-1541
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement	Chartered Métis Community	Marnie Sutor Lyle Letendre	PO BOX 616 Hythe, AB T0H 2C0	kellylakecc@mnb.ca	(780) 296-1921
Moccasin Flats Métis Society	Chartered Métis Community	Le Anne McFeeters	PO Box 698 102-4612 N Access Road Chetwynd, BC V0C 1J0	moccasinflatcc@mnb.ca	(250) 601-0073
North East Métis Association	Chartered Métis Community	Brenda House	1005 – 102 Avenue Dawson Creek, BC V1G 2B9	northeastcc@mnb.ca	(250) 806-0204
River of the Peace Métis Society	Chartered Métis Community	Valerie Paice	PO Box 701 #100 – 10801 Dudley Drive Hudson's Hope, BC V0C 1V0	peacrivercc@mnb.ca	(250) 601-0172

Appendix E

Executive Summary: Sure Water Information & Consultation Outcomes (2013)



INFORMATION & CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Prepared for:
City of Dawson Creek

Prepared by:
**Jan Enns Communications
Alliance Communications
Discovery Research**

MAY 2013

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2013 WATER SURVEY FINDINGS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe's water supply is prone to drought and not expected to meet future demand for water by residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses.

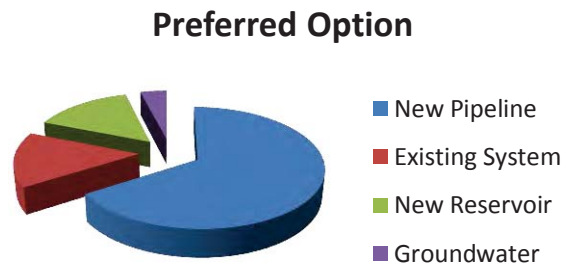
In response, the City of Dawson Creek contracted with Jan Enns Communications, Alliance Communications, Studio TGP, and Discovery Research to conduct the SURE WATER information and consultation campaign in April and May of 2013. The objective was to identify water users' preferred option among the four presented:

1. Upgrade the existing system as needed
2. Build a new raw-water storage reservoir
3. Tap into groundwater aquifers
4. Build a new water pipeline.

The following outcomes report is divided into two sections. The first section was developed by Jan Enns (Jan Enns Communications) and Joanne de Vries (Alliance Communications) and outlines the information and consultation strategies, actions, and collateral materials used during the design and delivery of the SURE WATER campaign. The second section was prepared by Cale Lewis (Discovery Research), and features the outcomes of the qualitative and quantitative research activities.

More than 1,000 Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe residents shared their insights and ideas during the campaign. Outcomes of the qualitative analysis (611 paper and online surveys) are congruent with outcomes from the quantitative analysis (400 telephone surveys). Almost 80 percent of respondents support the City investigating future water supply options, and more than two-thirds support the development of a new water pipeline to either the Peace River or Murray River. This compares with 15 percent support for upgrading the existing system as needed, 15 percent support for the construction of a new raw-water reservoir, and 4 percent support for the use of groundwater aquifers. These outcomes provide Dawson Creek Council and staff with a strong mandate to move into the next phase of research and costing.

Other findings of note showed that 82 percent oppose the use of fresh water for industrial purposes such as gas fracking, and 62 percent support increased public education about water conservation.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Dawson Creek and Village of Pouce Coupe's water supply is susceptible to drought and isn't expected to meet the needs of residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural users into the future. To explore water supply expansion options, the City of Dawson Creek embarked on a comprehensive consultation campaign in April 2013 to gather broad-based public feedback that will help guide Council and staff decisions regarding the development of costly water supply infrastructure.

To that end, the SURE WATER campaign was designed to inform and engage all water users about past water supply planning processes and outcomes, current water supply challenges and opportunities, potential water supply options, and opportunities to provide feedback on these options.

The four primary options presented to the public for input included:

1. Maintaining and upgrading the existing Kiskatinaw River water supply system
2. Enhancing the existing system with increased raw-water storage to minimize drought-related impacts and water restrictions
3. Tapping into groundwater aquifers as a back-up to the existing source
4. Building a water pipeline from a new source such as the Peace River or Murray River.

The project team used proven consultation strategies and actions to inform and engage internal and external stakeholders during the project timeframe of February to June 2013. Strategies of note included campaign-specific branding and messaging and multiple opportunities for both information sharing and input gathering. Appendix B showcases the collateral materials used to support the strategies.

PROJECT TEAM

The key stakeholders in the SURE WATER project team included:

- Kevin Henderson, City of Dawson Creek
- Melanie Turcotte, City of Dawson Creek
- Tryna Gower, Studio TGP
- Kit Fast, Studio TGP
- Don Pettit, Studio TGP
- Barb Swail, Studio TBP
- Cale Lewis, Discovery Research
- Jan Enns, Jan Enns Communications
- Joanne de Vries, Alliance Communications

The project team collaborated to develop the SURE WATER Action Plan and the SURE WATER Project Management Plan shown in Appendix A. The team met as a whole twice during the project, on February 18th, 2013 and April 4th, 2013. All other meetings and communications were conducted between and among appropriate team members via email and telephone calls.

PROJECT BRAND

The first order of business was to develop a project brand that would be used throughout the campaign to increase project awareness and guarantee project identity. The SURE WATER name, the tagline 'Ensuring our future water supply,' and the graphic design were developed by the project team and used in all subsequent collateral materials.

KEY MESSAGES

Jan Enns and Joanne de Vries worked with senior City staff to develop the key messages needed to properly inform internal and external audiences. Specific attention was paid to presenting the pipeline proponents' information accurately and objectively. Once approved, the key messages were distributed to Council and frontline staff for use in discussions with residents. They were also used in all subsequent collateral materials.

INFORMATION-SHARING ACTIVITIES

The project team used numerous avenues for sharing project information with internal and external stakeholders in Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, and surrounding areas.

Internal Stakeholders

- The project team communicated with Council as needed through Jim Chute (CAO) and Kevin Henderson (Director, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development).
- A series of three **Council Briefs** were prepared during the campaign to inform councillors of project activities and to encourage their involvement.

External Stakeholders

- The project team first identified opportunities for the City of Dawson Creek to introduce the SURE WATER campaign through existing information channels. Teaser information was included in the February issue of the City's **Our Community newsletter** and throughout the campaign in the City's **utility bills** and **e-newsletters**.
- A **water forum page** was introduced to the City of Dawson Creek's website and was updated regularly throughout the campaign. The page provided links to important information tools such as the project newsletter, narrated webinar, Council reports about water supply-related issues and, ultimately, a video of the City's presentation at the Community Water Security Forum. The page also provided a link to the online survey. An email subscription was made available on the page for people who wanted ongoing information about the project.
- A **SURE WATER printed newsletter**, containing a feedback form, was sent to all area households via Canada Post Unaddressed AdMail in early April. Newsletters were also available at Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe municipal offices, at the Dawson Creek library and pool, and at the Annual Kiwanis Trade Show. About 7,500 copies of the newsletter were circulated.

The newsletter included an invitation to the Community Water Security Forum, along with information about past water supply planning processes and

outcomes, current water supply challenges and opportunities, potential water supply options, and opportunities to provide feedback on the options.

- A document outlining **Frequently Asked Questions** and associated answers was available on the website and at Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe municipal offices in mid-April.
- Community **presentations** featuring a project PowerPoint were made to the Watershed Stewardship Forum April 9th, a Rotary Club luncheon April 6th (25 attendees), and a seniors' luncheon April 22nd, (65 attendees).
- The project PowerPoint was also used to create a 15-minute **narrated webinar** that was available for viewing on the website starting in mid-April.
- The **Community Water Security Forum** held at the Encana Events Centre April 24th drew more than 200 attendees. An open house with **display panels** was held from 4pm -9pm and presentations by Kevin Henderson were given at 5pm and 7pm. About 95 people attended the 5pm session, while about 75 took in the 7pm session. The forum was facilitated by Wayne Plenert of Peacebuilder Mediation (see Appendix A for his report). Overall, discussion was productive and feedback about the campaign and the event was positive.
- A **video featuring the forum presentation** made by City staff was posted to the website and promoted through social media following the Community Water Security Forum.

All above-mentioned collateral materials can be found in Appendix B.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The project team utilized various promotional tools, both paid and unpaid.

- A **poster and newspaper ad** were created to build awareness around the Community Water Security Forum. Posters were distributed to about 15 locations through the area in early April, and the ad ran twice in the local newspaper leading up to the Community Water Security Forum.

A **social media campaign** provided five project updates before and after the Community Water Security Forum via Facebook, the City's e-newsletter, and to residents who signed up for email updates.

- A **trade shown booth** at the Annual Kiwanis Trade Show hosted by the Northern Environmental Action Team drew about 300 visitors between April 19th and 21st. The booth featured a stand-up poster inviting people to attend the Community Water Security Forum.
- The **media campaign** included four news releases, radio PSAs, and on-air interviews and contests. Up-take from the local media was strong, and surely contributed to the overall success of the campaign. Copies of the media clippings are available through City Hall.

All above-mentioned collateral materials can be found in Appendix B.

Telephone survey outcomes showed that water users learned about the SURE WATER campaign through a variety of channels:

- 31 percent heard about it through the local newspaper
- 28 percent by word of mouth
- 12 percent by radio
- 12 percent through newsletter in mailbox
- 8 percent by TV
- 7 percent through online news and social media.

Interestingly, 26 percent of those called to participate in the survey had not heard about the campaign.

INPUT-GATHERING ACTIVITIES

The project enabled and encouraged public input throughout the campaign. City staff, along with Jan Enns, Joanne de Vries, and Cale Lewis from Discovery Research, developed a set of questions that was used for virtually all research.

Qualitative Research

Qualitative research tools included a paper feedback form attached to the printed newsletter and an online survey used by residents on their computers and visitors to the kiosks at the Annual Kiwanis Trade Show and the Community Water Security Forum. Public input via the feedback forum and the online survey was accepted from early April until May 10th, 2013. A dotmocracy exercise, where forum attendees used coloured stickers to show their preferences for the four options, was also conducted at the forum.

Response rates were robust, as more than 600 people responded to the paper and online surveys:

- **Paper Feedback Forms:** 228 forms were completed and submitted to Dawson Creek or Pouce Coupe municipal offices or dropped off to the Dawson Creek library or pool. Data was entered into the online survey site by City staff.
- **Online Surveys:** 383 were completed. (see attached report)

Quantitative Research

Statistically valid research was conducted by Discovery Research via a random telephone poll of 400 residents between April 26th and May 6th, 2013. The poll was conducted using tactics designed to ensure a representative cross-section of area residents by age, gender, and location.

Given the size of the area served by the City of Dawson Creek's water utility, the Combined survey and polling response rate of more than 1,000 provides a solid base upon which to build future decisions. Statistics generated from the sample size of 400 is accurate within plus/minus 4.9 percent, at the 95 percent confidence interval (19 times out of 20).

As shown in the attached research outcomes report:

- 79 percent of respondents support the City investigating future water supply options
- 66 percent support developing a new water pipeline, compared to the 15 percent who support for upgrading existing system as needed, the 15 percent who support building a new raw-water reservoir, and the 4 percent who support tapping into groundwater aquifers
- 82 percent oppose the use of fresh water for industrial purposes such as gas fracking
- 62 percent support increased education about water conservation.

Research outcomes also showed that while some water conservation practices are widespread, others would benefit from increased education.

- 81 percent of respondents use water-efficient appliances
- 77 percent use low-flow shower heads and faucets
- 54 percent use a rain barrel
- 33 percent water their yards between dusk and dawn.
- 5 percent set their automatic sprinklers according to weather conditions
- 3 percent have a low-flow toilet or flush only when needed.
- 1 percent minimize washing machine use, reuse bath water, and turn off the tap when washing or brushing their teeth.

CONCLUSION

The SURE WATER campaign met the City of Dawson Creek's objective of garnering widespread, statistically valid feedback from water users' about their preferred option for water supply expansion. Council and staff can proceed knowing that the majority of Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe residents want the City to investigate the options and costs associated with developing a new water pipeline to protect against drought and meet the demands of residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural users well into the future.