



**RAINY RIVER FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
A Community Futures Development Corporation



November 29, 2013

Mr. Mark McCaig, CAO
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 3P9

Dear Mark:

Please find attached the Rainy River Future Development Corporation's (RRFDC) invoice for services for the period July 1/13 – September 30/13. The Activity Report for the enhanced services is also attached.

I look forward to presenting our activities to Council on Monday, December 9, 2013.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours truly,



Geoff Gillon
Regional Economic Developer





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A Community Futures Development Corporation

30-Sep-13

Invoice # 008-10-2013

INVOICE

To: Town of Fort Frances
Attn: Mark McCaig

From: Rainy River Future Development Corporation

For: Fort Frances Economic Development
For the period of July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013

Amount: \$16,317.88



Description:

Investment Attraction	
Travel/Meetings	\$504.80
Advertising/Distribution	\$192.03
Consultants	<u>\$3,611.92</u>
Community Marketing	
Travel/Meetings	\$808.09
Advertising/Distribution	\$5,405.08
Consultant	<u>\$3,014.27</u>
Mining Industry Attraction	
Consultant	<u>\$1,663.05</u>
Enhanced Services Economic Development	
Travel/Meetings	\$7.38
Advertising/Distribution	\$260.50
Consultant	<u>\$8,133.31</u>
In-fill Project	
Travel/Meetings	\$74.83
Advertising/Distribution	\$682.61
Consultant	<u>\$207.88</u>
Summer Students	\$6,927.83
Economic Development Intern	\$9,044.54
Total Project Expenses	<u><u>\$40,538.12</u></u>

**Less Diversification Project Claim Apr 1/13-Sept 30/13
And Other Support** - \$24,220.24

AMOUNT DUE \$16,317.88

Any questions, please give us a call.
Thank you!

Due Upon Receipt



REPORT TO COUNCIL

to November 2013

RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

608 SCOTT STREET, FORT FRANCES, ONTARIO P9A 1H6

PH: 807-274-3276***FAX: 807-274-6989

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Mining

Several informal meetings held with Rainy River Resources including Council presentation from Kyle Stansfield. We have asked for New Gold to do a presentation on procurement for our business community and await a confirmed date.

In addition the RRFDC arranged a meeting between New Gold and area training organizations to discuss the training and skills development needs of the mine operation. We also supported Seven Generations in their quest for training funds from Industry Canada's Skills and Partnership Fund.

We've received a positive response to our input into the Environmental Assessment for New Gold. We requested that the company provide incentives and assistance that encouraged local procurement.

We continue to advertise the future opportunities related to the new Gold Mine by highlighting our industrial park prices and electricity prices. These ads run in industry publications. The RRFDC also attends and distributes Fort Frances marketing materials at the Prosperity Northwest trade show in Thunder Bay on September 25th.

We believe that the town will profit from the new mine in two ways: one that we will be the location of choice for some smaller auxiliary industries who service this mine and perhaps some iron range opportunities, and by becoming the residents of most of workforce. Largely all the work that has been done over the past few years on the Towns social media and internet presence that promotes us as the great place to live that we are is to set the stage to inform these potential new residents.

Industrial Park and Property

We continue to distribute the new industrial park promo piece when appropriate.

We are working with three potential new (or expanding from another location) business start-ups in a variety of fields. One is a small scale manufacturer that is growing and looking at Fort Frances as a potential home.

We hosted a site selector tour that looked at various properties around the Town.

We have presented Council with an offer to purchase that ended with two lot sales.

We assisted with the sale of two private commercial properties.

We have received the okay for access to funding to create a "Fort Frances" private sector fund and are seeking legal and accounting advice on how to best structure the fund.

Forestry

We continue to offer any and all help we can to Resolute Forest Products.

We are continuing to work to work with EDAC on tenure reform having now scheduled six presentations. These included presentations from the MNR, Ainsworth, the Loggers Association and First Resources. A presentation from the Marathon Local Forest Group and Resolute are scheduled for December.

We have had several meetings with many of these groups and economic development professionals from the communities that they represent. A report to council should be forthcoming in the New Year.

Infill

After revising the brochure and provided that to contractors and home building centers and the streamlining of the program resulted in 5 successful building grant applications so far in 2013. It is of particular note that the programs current success is largely the efforts of Travis Rob in promoting and facilitating the applications to the program.

Condo Development

We changed the sign on the property this spring and began to actively seek private sector developers. We are currently working with two interested parties and hope council will have an announcement soon.

Tourism

We have begun planning a new summer festival for 2014 and are on the process of assembling a committee and applying for funds.

The Music Festival and Cultural Exchange will bring together Canadian and American performers and instructors from First Nations, and the Metis Community. The event will take place on the Fort Frances waterfront (July 17, 18 and 19th), which has been a traditional meeting and trading place for the Ojibwa peoples dating back to pre-contact. At the time of the early explorers, the Fort Frances waterfront was home to both the Northwest Company and Hudson's Bay Company Trading posts on the La Verendrye route. The waterway led Voyageurs west to the Prairies and south to the Mississippi Delta. The Music Festival and Cultural Exchange will feature two nights and one afternoon of entertainment for visitors under the Fort Frances waterfront tent.

We have hired Twist Marketing to work with the community to establish a brand. A workshop was held and we have begun the process of soliciting feedback from the community.

We organized the Canada Day parade this year at Council's request. Assisted with the Bass Championship, Pulling for Peace, Dragon Boat races and the Kraft Celebration Tour where we could.

The RRFDC also assisted NCDS in its Celebration Ontario application for an expanded Dragon Boat Festival in July 2014.

We have had students stationed at the border 50 or more hours each week all summer long to greet tourists and provide information. We also kept the Sorting Gap and Museum brochures stocked.

We organized with the Chamber of Commerce a subsidized system that will allow us to claim tourism expenditures placed on the Town's behalf for FedNor or Ontario Heritage Fund funding.

Community Foundation

We completed EDAC's work on the Community Foundation and look forward to the community's creation of such an organization in the future.

Go Local

Over the course of its first year, Go Local Fort Frances has witnessed a positive shift towards local shopping within the community.

- Awareness of the Go Local Rewards Program is very high (82%) in Fort Frances.
- ½ of households surveyed in Fort Frances have at least one membership in the household.
- High agreement (73%) that encouraging residents to shop at locally owned and operated businesses helps to build a stronger community.
- There was a net increase (+20%) in local spending by Go Local Reward Program member households compared to non-member households.

We have distributed Loyalty Rewards Cards to half the households in Fort Frances and reinvested \$12,000 into the community. The recent enrollment of more local merchants has brought our business membership to over 40 businesses.

The RRFDC assists this project by marketing the advantages of the program to Fort Frances and area businesses, encouraging them to sign on. We also do all the project reporting, bookkeeping and statements.