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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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REGION GETS FIRST LOOK AT MULTI-CENTRE OPTIONS

QUESNEL – More than 100 members of the public joined the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee last night to hear the first presentation from David Hewko of Cannon Design on the pre-feasibility study for the multi-centre project in Quesnel.

Council Chambers at Quesnel City Hall was full as members of the Cariboo Regional District's Northern Caucus and Quesnel City Council were briefed by Hewko about the work done to date. He provided a number of options for site location, provided some very initial cost estimates and, most importantly, set about gathering information from the public.

"The time is now," said Quesnel Mayor Nate Bello. "This project must move forward. Location, cost and scope are all important decisions to be made and we'll be relying heavily on the public's input to make them."

"This meeting was a good first step to hear what options are available and more details will be necessary before any decision is made," said CRD Board Co-chair Ronda Wilkins. "I think Director Glassford said it best, "this needs to be a decision of the community". I feel our job now, is to listen to what residents want and then take their ideas forward."

This was the first of many opportunities for the public to have their say. It was an invaluable information gathering exercise that provided some very clear ideas for the consultant to follow. He will take the information and await further direction from the Joint Planning Committee before completing the pre-feasibility study. Hewko distributed a questionnaire after the presentation for members of the public to fill out and return. Those questionnaires are available at City Hall, at the Quesnel and District Arts & Recreation Centre, the Quesnel Twin Arenas or online at www.city.quesnel.bc.ca under What's New or at www.cariboord.bc.ca.

Funding for the pre-feasibility study was obtained by the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation through Western Economic Diversification Canada.

-30-

Editors: this news release is also online at www.cariboord.bc.ca or www.city.quesnel.bc.ca

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