



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release  
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### **RDBN and Cycle 16 hold Grand Opening Ceremony for the Smithers-Laidlaw Multi-use Trail**

**Burns Lake, B.C.** – The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) and Cycle 16 Trail Society are pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the multi-use Commuter Trail from the Town of Smithers to Laidlaw Rd. in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural). Construction on the 3.5 km trail is now complete and the trail is open to the public. A Grand Opening Celebration is planned for June 10 at 11:00 am at the Cycle 16 kiosk site adjacent to the former Par 3 Golf Course.

The project was made possible through notable support from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as a \$1,465,940 grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for construction of the commuter trail. The successful proponent for the construction contract was Terus Construction.

The trail is the first to be undertaken by the RDBN under its new Parks and Trails Service. The trail parallels Highway 16 and will allow residents and visitors to tour or commute in a safer, more enjoyable way. Cycle 16 has been working for years to make this project a reality, and all parties are thrilled that it is now open for public use. There are two further stages to the trail project that will, once built, connect Smithers and Telkwa with one continuous multi-use, 10.5 km long commuter trail.

“As we emerge from the pandemic, projects funded under the COVID-19 Resilience Stream continue to benefit Canadians. The Smithers-Laidlaw section of the Cycle 16 commuter trail will provide residents and visitors of the Bulkley-Nechako District with a safe way to enjoy the outdoors, get active, and reach their destination using active travel. We will continue to work with our partners and invest in projects that build stronger, more vibrant, and better connected communities across the country.”

- The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities

“The completion of the first phase of the trail is a testament to the perseverance, skill, and dedication of a remarkable group of volunteers. The way they have navigated such a complex project is truly impressive! I’m so thrilled to see this milestone achieved, and I can’t wait to see the next phase take shape over the coming years.”

- The Honourable Taylor Bachrach, Member of Parliament for Skeena-Bulkley Valley

“People all around BC are looking for opportunities to get out of their cars and get around by walking, cycling, and other forms of active transport more often,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “Commuter trails like this one give people that option and improve connectivity, supporting strong and thriving communities. People from Telkwa to Smithers will enjoy this path for many years to come.”

- The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

“This new trail will be a wonderful asset to our communities and encourage even more residents and visitors to try cycling. I’m so grateful for the hard work of so many that helped make this project a reality. I can’t wait to go for a ride!”

- The Honourable Nathan Cullen, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Stikine

“The RDBN is pleased to continue working with the Cycle 16 Trail Society, who has spent countless hours engaging the community and advocating for this project. We are also grateful for the incredible support we have received from the Province of BC and the Government of Canada through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to make this project a reality.

- Mark Parker, RDBN Board Chair

“This trail is only possible because of the passion and dedication of our communities to active lifestyles and environmental sustainability. Cycle 16 and the residents of the Bulkley Valley have worked very hard to make this a reality and we are very grateful to them for their efforts. The trail is proof of the connection between our communities, and we are very pleased that commuters and visitors alike will be able to safely travel along our beautiful highway.

- Stoney Stoltenberg, RDBN Director, Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

“The Cycle 16 Trail Society is very excited to have the first phase of this great community project open. Let’s keep it rolling on to Telkwa! We want to thank our partners, funders, and our passionate community members for helping to bring this project to life.”

- Allan Cormier, President, Cycle 16 Trail Society

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