
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015PREM0038-000782
May 29, 2015

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Local leaders and Province sign renewed Peace River Agreement

DAWSON CREEK – Local government leaders in the Peace River and the Province have signed a new Peace River Agreement, announced Premier Christy Clark and Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and MLA's Mike Bernier and Pat Pimm.

This agreement has been achieved through negotiated agreement with the consent of all local governments in the region, and is valued at over \$1.1 billion over the next 20 years.

The new agreement will provide a permanent framework for municipalities and rural areas to plan for future needs and provide financial stability and certainty to residents of the region by providing to the local governments annual payments that recognize the lack of access to the industrial tax base in rural, unincorporated areas. These payments will ensure these local governments can continue to make the critical investments in local services and infrastructure over the coming years to maintain the region as a growing service sector for industry, including natural gas.

Key features of the new agreement will include:

- Annual payments that start at a base of \$50 million in 2016, and after 2020, will increase at an agreed annual rate for growth, through to at least 2035;
- Opportunities to re-open the annual rate of growth of the payment in both 2023 and 2031, as well as renegotiate a new base and annual rate of growth to take effect after 2035;
- New eligibility, reporting and approval requirements to improve accountability to taxpayers; and
- New provisions to support provincial-regional relationship-building through a new Partnership Committee.

Signatories will receive an additional \$3 million in 2015 as a special one-time payment for approval of the agreement, building on the \$46 million already paid on April 30, 2015, under the previous agreement. One million dollars will also be provided to the Peace River Regional District this year to support the work of the Partnership Committee over the coming years.

Quotes:

Premier Christy Clark —

“Northeast communities play a fundamental role in growing B.C.’s diverse economy. That is why we’re committed to making sure the region gets the long-term benefits of this growth in a way that provides certainty and stability. I want to thank local leaders for their vision and commitment to an agreement that works not only in the best interests of Peace River

residents, but all of British Columbia's taxpayers, for at least the next 20 years."

Mike Bernier, MLA Peace River South —

"Our government recognizes the value of this agreement to Peace River municipalities, which will help local governments fund the infrastructure needed to support growth related to the industrial development taking place."

Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North —

"The Peace Country continues to contribute substantially to B.C.'s prosperous economy. This agreement will allow communities to continue to build the infrastructure required to support the growing industry. This agreement will provide some certainty for the communities for the next many years, and has re-opener clauses if we find the needs rise to much higher levels."

Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development —

"This agreement will provide communities with the stability to more effectively plan for the future so they can provide the services and infrastructure necessary to support the region without burdening local taxpayers. I look forward to a renewed relationship between the Province and the region that will build upon this agreement and work towards a shared commitment to economic growth that benefits citizens across the province."

Merlin Nichols, mayor, Chetwynd —

"Previous versions of this agreement have been part of Chetwynd's capital budgeting process for years, and the district has used the funds for a number of crucial infrastructure projects that make Chetwynd a stronger contributor to the Provincial economy. Chetwynd extends congratulations to all of the parties who participated in this negotiation, to bring it to a successful conclusion, and for creating a perpetual economic resource for local governments in the Peace Region future generations."

Dale Bumstead, mayor, Dawson Creek —

"The City of Dawson Creek is very thankful to see a new agreement in place to ensure that long-term planning can occur to allow us to build a healthy, vibrant community. The ability to meet the needs of our community, as we face anticipated growth from resource development, is critical to ensure we provide a healthy community where families can live and prosper."

Lori Ackerman, mayor, Fort St. John and chair, Peace River Regional District —

"As the region is unique with respect to limited access to the industrial property tax base, this agreement provides funding security for the next 25 years that will bring additional capacity to our municipalities and rural areas to address historical infrastructure deficits and make investment decisions related to future growth. I look forward to working with the Province as Chair of the Peace River Regional District and Mayor of the City of Fort St. John to ensure we continue to develop those linkages to unincorporated industrial growth and invest in legacies for our communities. In addition, the Fort St. John Council welcomes the special 2015 payment, and looks forward to a conversation with the community on the development of a legacy project."

William Plowright, mayor, Pouce Coupe —

"On behalf of the Village of Pouce Coupe Council, residents, and staff, we would like to express our appreciation to the Premier and her staff, for honouring her commitment to not only extend the agreement, but to create permanent funding to strengthen the Peace Region."

Rob Fraser, mayor, Taylor —

"The District of Taylor has resolved to become a signatory of the new Peace River Agreement. After considerable debate, the council concluded that the new agreement provides a degree certainty that will assist the district in supporting current industrial growth rates. Council also felt that it is important to maintain positive relationships with the other signatories and the Province. The District of Taylor will work diligently with all parties to provide clarity on new clauses within the new agreement."

Don McPherson, mayor, Tumbler Ridge —

"Tumbler Ridge has certainly benefited through earlier versions of this agreement, particularly in times of economic struggle in our community. We sincerely appreciate the continued steps taken by our provincial government and our regional partners in support of this agreement. The commitments made will continue to support the economic certainty of our region. These commitments will also strengthen our capacity for proactive and effective reinforcement and expansion of our municipal infrastructure."

Media Contacts:

Sam Oliphant
Press Secretary
Office of Premier Christy Clark
250 952-7252

Gillian Rhodes
Ministry of Community, Sport
and Cultural Development
250 888-1462

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

**Event Proposal – For PREM Consideration
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Event Title:

Date: TBC	Media Market: Provincewide
Time: TBC	
Location: Water Reclamation Plant, Dawson Creek	English Media Spokesperson: PCC or MCO (TBC) Multicultural Media Spokesperson: PCC or MCO (TBC)
Author/Ministry: CSCD	

THE EVENT

PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Proactive event.

EVENT

- Signing of Peace River MOU with PCC and representatives of eight local governments from the Peace Region (TBC)

BACKGROUND

- On May 22nd (TBC) PCC will announce that an agreement has been reached by the Province and the local governments in the Peace region to extend the Memorandum of Understanding to 2035.
- The Province made a commitment in 2013 to extend the term of the agreement in order to provide greeting certainty to the region and to ensure the agreement is sustainable in the long term.
- Negotiations have been underway with representatives of the local governments and an agreement has now been reached.

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

- Government of British Columbia funding

WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- PO events/CSCD GCPE

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2013, PCC announced in Dawson Creek that she would extend the Peace MOU which is why the announcement of the signing of the agreement is taking place in Dawson Creek.
- The extension of the agreement was a commitment made by the Province.

VENUE DESCRIPTION

- The Water Reclamation Plant was built as a joint project between the City of Dawson Creek and Shell.
- The plant was opened in Sept. 2012 to treat effluent currently released into the Dawson Creek to a standard suitable for industrial and municipal uses. This includes oil and gas production, dust control on roads and the watering of sports fields.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)

- Premier Christy Clark (TBC)
- Minister Oakes (emcee)
- MLA Pimm (TBC)
- Representative(s) of local governments (TBC)

KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS

- Representative(s) of local governments (TBC)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Media
- Local government in the Peace
- Citizens of the Peace River area

VISUAL MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)

- PCC or MCO signing MOU, flanked by representatives of local governments

DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)

- PCC or MCO signing MOU, flanked by representatives of local governments

ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP

- Local government representatives in front of water treatment plant

WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

- “Today we celebrate a milestone as the Province and local governments in the Peace Region sign a new Peace River Memorandum of Understanding that extends the agreement to at least 2035. This new agreement acknowledges in a new way the significance of the relationship between the Province and the region and a recommitment to working together in the future. “

KEY MESSAGES

- The Province and local governments in the Peace Region have signed a new Peace River Memorandum of Understanding effective May 15, 2015.
- The MOU is a 20 year agreement that extends to at least 2035, providing greater certainty and stability for the region. The first payment will be made to local governments in 2016.
- The agreement provides \$50 million annually for each year between 2016/17 and 2019/20. Starting in 2020, that payment will begin to grow by 2 percent annually with options to renew the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031.
- The new 2015 MOU reflects the desire on behalf of the signatories to acknowledge in a new way the significance of the relationship between the Province and the region and a recommitment to working together in the future.

Peace MOU Announcement – Dawson Creek

Dawson Creek Water Reclamation Facility
11604 1st Street, Dawson Creek, BC

Date: Friday, May 29th, 2015

Podium: Yes

Arrival Time: 12:00 PM

Dress: Business; Sturdy Shoes

Event Summary: Premier to make announcement followed by a signing ceremony.

Action/Visual:

Venue Audience:

MLAs attending: MLA Mike Bernier, Peace River South – Co-emcee
MLA Pat Pimm, Peace River North – Co-emcee

Additional VIP's: MAYORS:
-

Time	Event Itinerary
8:00 AM	SW A/V team to begin set up.
11:30 AM	Guests begin to arrive at the facility
11:50 AM	Tim Wong to guide Mayors into the briefing room and await for Premier's arrival
12:00 PM	Premier to arrive and is met by Tim Wong. Premier is escorted to the briefing room with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MLA Mike Bernier - MLA Pat Pimm - Minister Oakes - Mayor Dale Bumstead - Mayor Lori Ackerman - Mayor Merlin Nichols - Mayor William Plowright - Mayor Don McPherson - Mayor Rob Fraser (Will not be able to attend) - Mayor Gwen Johansson (Will not be able to attend)
12:02 PM	Tim to lead briefing and have Mayors pre-sign the MOU
12:07 PM	Tim to lead the platform party to their seats and have MLAs Bernier and Pimm stand next to the podium to begin the event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MLA Bernier and MLA Pimm are the emcees; Bernier to start and Pimm to be positioned podium right (Kyle in position for photos)
12:08 PM	MLA Mike Bernier to deliver opening remarks and introduce the Premier.
12:10 PM	Premier to deliver remarks and make the announcement.
12:15 PM	MLA Mike Bernier to thank the Premier for her remarks and proceeds to introduce Mayor Dale Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek
12:16 PM	Mayor Bumstead to deliver remarks.
12:18 PM	MLA Bernier to thank Mayor Bumstead and introduce Mayor Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
12:19 PM	Mayor Ackerman to deliver remarks.
12:21 PM	MLA Bernier to thank Mayor Ackerman and introduce Mayor Nichols, District of Chetwynd
12:22 PM	Mayor Nichols to deliver remarks.
12:24 PM	MLA Bernier to thank Mayor Nichols and introduce Mayor Plowright, Village of Pouce Coupe
12:25 PM	Mayor Plowright to deliver remarks.
12:27 PM	MLA Bernier to thank Mayor Plowright and introduce Mayor McPherson, District of Tumbler Ridge
12:28 PM	Mayor McPherson to deliver remarks.

Events Coordinator – Tim Wong

Phone Number: 's.22

Last updated: 2015-07-21 8:29 AM

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Peace MOU Announcement – Dawson Creek

Dawson Creek Water Reclamation Facility
11604 1st Street, Dawson Creek, BC

12:30 PM	MLA Pimm to thank Mayor McPherson and signal the transition to the MOU signing ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All Mayors to line up behind the signing table- Minister Oakes and Mayor Lori Ackerman to sit at the signing table- Premier to stand behind Minister Oakes (Kyle in position for photos)
12:36 PM	MLA Pimm to provide closing remarks and announce Media Availability
12:38 PM	Media Avail
12:48 PM	Premier Departs

Manifest

Contacts

Events Coordinator – Tim Wong

Phone Number: s.22

Last updated: 2015-07-21 8:29 AM

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May 28, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY – Office of the Premier

Please note: two opportunities follow – 11:45 a.m., Dawson Creek and 3 p.m., Fort St. John.

DAWSON CREEK – Media are invited to join Premier Christy Clark, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Coralee Oakes, MLA for Peace River South Mike Bernier and MLA for Peace River North Pat Pimm, as well as municipal leaders for an announcement regarding communities in the Peace River Region.

Event Date: Friday, May 29, 2015

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Location:

Dawson Creek Water Treatment Plant
11604 - 1st St.
Dawson Creek

Media are also invited to join the announcement by telephone.

Dial-in numbers:

Vancouver: 604 681-0260
Outside Vancouver: 1 877 353-9184

Participant code: 37236#

To avoid delays, media are asked to begin dialing at 11:35 a.m.

FORT ST. JOHN – Media are also invited to join Premier Christy Clark as she tours the Pomeroy Sport Centre in Fort. St. John.

Event Date: Friday, May 29, 2015

Time: 3 p.m.

Location:

Pomeroy Sport Centre
9324 - 96 St.
Fort St. John

Contact:

Sam Oliphant
Press Secretary
Office of Premier
250 952-7252

May 29, 2015

- The Province and local governments in the Peace Region have signed a new Peace River Agreement effective May 29, 2015.
- This Agreement is based upon a negotiated outcome that has received the consent of all local governments in the region, and is valued at over \$1.1 billion over the next twenty years.
- This agreement will provide greater certainty and stability for the region, and includes a revised formula of conditional payments that will extend to at least 2035, with an opportunity to renew beyond that date. The first payment will be made to local governments in 2016.
- The agreement provides \$50 million annually for each year between 2016/17 and 2019/20. Starting in 2020, that payment will begin to grow by 2 percent annually with options to review the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031 as well as to renew the base payment and annual rate of growth after 2035.
- For 2015, in addition to the \$46 million already provided to the Region under the previous agreement, signatories will additionally receive \$3 million as a one-time special payment for approval of the agreement.
- Under the new agreement, the Province will make annual payments directly to the signatories based upon a new framework of annual reporting and approvals that will ensure that grants continue to support growth of the region as a service sector to industry, including natural gas.

- The new 2015 agreement also reflects the desire on behalf of the signatories to acknowledge the significance of the relationship between the Province and the region and a recommitment to working together in the future.
- That includes creation of a new Partnership Committee that will include both the Region and the Province as a means to support ongoing collaboration on issues of shared interest between the parties. \$1 million will be provided to the Regional District to support the activities of this Committee over the coming years.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ratification of 2015 Peace River Agreement – May 29, 2015

Advice to Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Q1: What are you announcing today?

- We are announcing that the province and local governments in the Peace Region have signed a new Peace River Agreement effective May 29, 2015.
- The agreement will take effect in 2016 with a new payment formula that will be in place until at least 2035, with the option to extend beyond that date.
- The agreement provides for contributions of \$50 million annually for each year between 2016 and 2019. Starting in 2020, that payment will begin to grow by 2.0 percent annually, with options to renew the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031. In 2031, negotiations will commence on potential changes to the base and rate of growth to take effect for 2035 and beyond.
- The agreement will include new reporting, application and approval mechanisms to ensure that recipients of the grant can report to the Province and the public on the progress they are making in utilizing annual payments towards growing their communities and the region as service centres to industry; and
- As well, it will include new language to support ongoing collaboration between the Province and the region on issues of shared interest in meeting the spirit of the agreement. This will be mainly exercised through a new Partnership Committee that will be tasked to support collaboration between the Province and region on issues of shared interest. A one-time payment of \$1 million will be provided to the Peace River Regional District to support projects through this Committee.
- For 2015, the signatories will also share a one-time special payment of \$3 million for timely approval of the agreement. This is in addition to the \$46 million already paid to the Region on April 30 under the provisions of the 2005 MOU.
- Ratification of the 2015 MOU means that the 2005 MOU is no longer in effect.

Q2: What is the total value of this agreement?

- The total amount of the payments is estimated to be \$1,132 million between 2015/16 and 2034/35. It was based on negotiation between all of the local governments in the region and has received the consent of all of those local governments.
- The total value is estimated based on a 2.0 annual rate of growth that commences in 2020/21. That total value may change as a result of the reviews of the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031.

Q3: Why was achieving ratification of this new agreement important?

- The goal of this Agreement since its first version in 1994 has been to support the region in becoming a growing service centre to industry. The annual grant is in recognition of the unique circumstances in the region whereby the municipalities

do not have access to the significant industrial property tax base in the rural areas (mainly associated with the oil and gas industry).

- Over time the communities have become reliant upon this contribution to make the essential investments in services and infrastructure to support this industry. This extended agreement will provide greater financial stability and certainty in the region for at least the next 20 years.
- The agreement is also appropriate for all British Columbia's taxpayers across the province through a predictable annual rate of growth.

Q4: How much will the agreement pay on an annual basis?

- A new conditional base grant of \$50 million beginning in 2016 that will be paid annually up until 2019.
- Starting in 2020, that payment will begin to grow by 2.0 percent annually, with options to renew the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031. In 2031, negotiations will also commence on a revised base payment and annual rate of growth to potentially take effect beginning in 2035.

Q5: What are the key features of this agreement?

- The 2015 MOU is built on the 2005 MOU framework, but includes the following modifications of note:
 - A new conditional base grant of \$50 million beginning in 2016 that will be paid annually up until 2019.
 - Starting in 2020, that payment will begin to grow by 2.0 percent annually, with options to renew the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031.
 - Inclusion of new reporting, application and approval mechanisms to ensure that recipients of the grant can report to the Province and the public on the progress they are making in utilizing annual payments towards growing their communities and the region as service centres to industry; and
 - New language to support ongoing collaboration between the Province and the region on issues of shared interest in meeting the spirit of the MOU. This includes a new Partnership Committee model.

Q6: How much did the Peace get this year?

- A payment of \$46 million was made on April 30, 2015. This was consistent with the requirements under the 2005 MOU which was still in effect at that time.
- As a result of this new agreement, the signatories will also receive a one-time payment of \$3 million to be allocated in recognition of their approval of the new agreement.
- An additional one-time payment of \$1 million will be provided to the Peace River Regional District to support ongoing activities of the Partnership Committee.

Q7: How much did the Peace get last year?

- The payment made on April 30, 2014, was \$43 million.

Q8: Who are the local governments included in the agreement?

- The same local governments as under the previous agreement: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, Taylor, Tumbler Ridge and the Peace River Regional District.

Q9: You've been trying to achieve consensus since March. How did you finally ratify this agreement?

- Since we started discussions, we have always been clear that while we had challenges with the affordability of the 2005 MOU, our goal was always a negotiated, extended agreement.
- This result was the product of hard work by all the local governments in the region, and their commitment to a sustainable solution for the region.

Q10: How does the current agreement mitigate the terms of the former agreement that were unsustainable?

- The 2005 MOU had an annual rate of growth (sometimes called an "escalator") that was tied to annual growth in the industrial assessment base. This resulted in average growth of 8.7 percent annually, more than doubling payments in only ten years (from \$20 million in 2005 to \$46 million in 2015).
- The annual rate of growth that is built into this agreement starting in 2020/21 will be 2.0 percent, which is far more consistent with expected growth in provincial revenues. There are opportunities in the agreement in 2023 and 2031 to examine this rate of growth in light of two principles – the emerging needs of the region due to industrial growth, and provincial affordability based on growth in revenues. Those discussions may result in further changes to that annual rate of growth if circumstances warrant.

Q11: How will the province fund this agreement if the previous one was unsustainable?

- This agreement provides significant savings to the Province over the next four years compared to the 2005 MOU – over \$27 million between 2016/17 and 2019/20. This is a meaningful change in the formula that allows the Province to make a longer term commitment to the region.
- Because the payments will grow more slowly, the new agreement is affordable to the province.

Q12: Is it true that the Province originally wanted to cut the payment to \$40 million a year, and almost withheld the last payment back in April?

- The Province and the signatories explored a number of options at the table. This is a natural part of the negotiation process. It would not be appropriate to detail those confidential discussions.
- I credit all of the parties for their persistence in continuing to work through those discussions.

Q13: What is the money flowing from this agreement used for?

- The local governments must use the funding for operations and maintenance related to growing their communities and the region as service centres primarily for the oil and gas industry.
- As part of this new agreement, there will be annual reporting, application and approval requirements put in place to ensure they continue to use these payments towards this goal, providing greater transparency and accountability to citizens as a result.

Q14: Do communities have to report on their expenditures?

- New reporting, application and approval mechanisms will ensure that recipients of the grant can report to the Province and the public on the progress they are making in utilizing annual payments.
- Local governments in the region will be providing this information alongside regular annual reporting activities they already undertake as required under the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act*.

Q15: Doesn't this agreement set a precedent for other regions who believe they deserve a share of revenue from industry?

- The situation in the Peace River is a very unique one in the Province. Approximately 70 percent of the province-wide industrial (Class 4 and 5) tax base is situated in that single regional district. This represents a substantial concentration of industry that municipalities are providing services to but are not able to tax through conventional means.
- This agreement is clearly not a revenue-sharing agreement – it is a grant in recognition of their unique challenge of not having access to rural industrial property tax base.
- While this situation is not matched in any other region, we do recognize that other regions are looking for ways to derive additional benefits from industry outside of their boundaries. That is one of the key drivers behind the Rural Dividend, a concept currently being examined as part of the mandate of the Rural Advisory Council under Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett.

Q16: Why are the payments “conditional”? Does that mean the communities may not get the money owed to them?

Q&A – INSERT DATE
Advice to Minister

- One of the issues with the former agreement is that there was a lack of accountability as to how the money was spent. That was not fair to BC taxpayers. Under the agreement, the local governments must demonstrate how the annual payments are contributing to enhancing the region as a service centre for industry and its workers, and while payments can therefore be withheld, the province believes the risk of this is mitigated since it is expected that the recipient will demonstrate the appropriate accountability.



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

Mike Bernier, MLA Peace River South and

Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North

Joint Emcees

**Peace River Agreement – Dawson Creek Signing
Ceremony**

Dawson Creek Water Treatment Plant

11604 1st Street, Dawson Creek

Friday, May 29, 2015

12:00 Noon – 12:50 p.m.

Please check against delivery

Event Profile:

This is the signing ceremony for the official new Peace River Agreement.

Premier Christy Clark will be attending; Minister Coralee Oakes will sign the agreement on behalf of the Province.

MLA Mike Bernier will start the program, introduce the Premier and Mayor Bumstead of Dawson Creek. MLA Pat Pimm will introduce the remaining speakers, transition to the signing ceremony/photo opportunity and provide closing remarks.

Audience: Media, MLAs, local mayors and councillors

Dress: Business Casual

Contact on site: Tim Wong, Events Coordinator, Premier's Office: cell: s.22

Agenda: subject to change/update on-site from Tim Wong

Time	Event Itinerary
8:00 AM	SW A/V team to begin set up.
11:30 AM	Guests begin to arrive at the facility
11:50 AM	Tim Wong to guide Mayors into the briefing room and await for Premier's arrival
12:00 PM	Premier to arrive and is met by Tim Wong. Premier is escorted to the briefing room with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MLA Mike Bernier- MLA Pat Pimm- Minister Oakes- Mayor Dale Bumstead- Mayor Lori Ackerman- Mayor Merlin Nichols- Mayor William Plowright- Mayor Don McPherson- Brent Taillefer from the District of Taylor (representing Mayor Rob Fraser)- Mayor Gwen Johansson (Will not be able to attend)
12:02 PM	Tim to lead briefing and have Mayors pre-sign the MOU

12:07 PM	Tim to lead the platform party to their seats and have MLAs Bernier and Pimm stand next to the podium to begin the event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MLA Bernier and MLA Pimm are the emcees; Bernier to start and Pimm to be positioned podium right (Kyle in position for photos)
12:08 PM	MLA Mike Bernier to deliver opening remarks and introduce the Premier.
12:10 PM	Premier to deliver remarks and make the announcement.
12:15 PM	MLA Mike Bernier to thank the Premier for her remarks and proceeds to introduce Mayor Dale Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek
12:16 PM	Mayor Bumstead to deliver remarks.
12:18 PM	MLA Bernier to thank Mayor Bumstead and introduce MLA Pat Pimm
12:19 PM	MLA Pat Pimm to introduce Mayor Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
12:20 PM	Mayor Ackerman to deliver remarks
12:22 PM	MLA Pimm to thank Mayor Ackerman and introduce Mayor Nichols, District of Chetwynd
12:23 PM	Mayor Nichols to deliver remarks.
12:25 PM	MLA Pimm to thank Mayor Nichols and introduce Mayor Plowright, Village of Pouce Coupe
12:26 PM	Mayor Plowright to deliver remarks.
12:28 PM	MLA Pimm to thank Mayor Plowright and introduce Brent Taillefer from the District of Taylor representing Mayor Rob Fraser
12:29 PM	Brent Taillefer, District of Taylor to deliver remarks.
12:31 PM	MLA Pimm to thank Brent Taillefer and introduce Mayor McPherson, District of Tumbler Ridge
12:32 PM	Mayor McPherson to deliver remarks.
12:34 PM	MLA Pimm to thank Mayor McPherson and signal the transition to the MOU signing ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Mayors to line up behind the signing table - Minister Oakes and Mayor Lori Ackerman to sit at the signing table - Premier to stand behind Minister Oakes (Kyle in position for photos)
12:38 PM	MLA Pimm to provide closing remarks and announce Media Availability
12:40 PM	Media Avail
12:48 PM	Premier Departs

12:08: MLA Mike Bernier: Welcome/Introduction of Premier and Mayor Bumstead

- Good afternoon and welcome everyone, to the traditional territory of the Dane-zaa (De-ney-za) people.
- I am Mike Bernier, MLA for Peace River South. It is my great pleasure today to start today's program as Emcee. My colleague Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North, will also be Emceeing today's event.
- I would like to thank you all for joining us today and would especially like to welcome Premier Clark to Peace River country.
- I would also like to recognize Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
- Just yesterday we wrapped up the 2015 Spring Session of the Legislature and what better way to celebrate the first day of

being back in our constituencies than by meeting in Peace River country.

- Today marks an important day - and it is significant why we are meeting here today at the Dawson Creek Water Treatment Plant.
- Just over two years ago, Premier Clark was tirelessly campaigning throughout the North and was at this exact location.
- Today she's back with exciting news – I would now like to invite Premier Christy Clark to the podium.

12:10

Premier Christy Clark Speaks

12:15

- Thank you, Premier. This is such a great announcement. It's truly an amazing day to be in the Peace!
- A great deal of hard work got us to where we are today.

12:16

- So I'd like to now invite the first of our local leaders to speak about the significance of the agreement to their communities – Dale Bumstead, Mayor, City of Dawson Creek to speak.

[Dale Bumstead speaks]

12:18

- Thank you Dale.
- I am pleased now to introduce you to my colleague, Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North.

12:19 MLA Pat Pimm: Introduction of Mayors Ackerman, Nichols, Plowright and McPherson, Photo Opportunity and Closing Remarks

- Thank you Mike. And it now gives me great pleasure to invite Lori, Ackerman, Chair of the Peace River Regional District and Mayor, City of Fort St. John to speak.

[Lori Ackerman speaks]

12:22

- Thank you, Lori.
- I would like to now invite Merlin Nichols, Mayor, District of Chetwynd to speak.

[Merlin Nichols speaks]

12:25

- Thank you Merlin.
- I would like to invite William Plowright, Mayor Village of Pouce Coupe to speak.

[William Plowright speaks]

12:28

- Thank you William.
- Now I would like to introduce you to Brent Taillefer from the District of Taylor, who I understand is filling in for Mayor Rob Fraser.

[Brent Taillefer speaks]

12:31

- Thank you Brent.
- And that brings us to Don McPherson, Mayor, District of Tumbler Ridge.

[Don McPherson speaks]

12:34:

- Thank you Don

- It is now my pleasure to ask all of the mayors to join Minister Oakes for the official signing of the Peace River Agreement.

12:38: Closing Remarks and media availability

- [personal comment on the significance of the signing]
- Without question, we are facing exciting times in the North with the prospect of economic growth across a number of sectors.
- Today, we put into place a permanent framework that ensures local governments can continue to make investments in local services and infrastructure over the coming years.
- These investments are a critical part of maintaining the region as a growing service sector for industry.

- But equally as important, these investments will make our communities even better places to live, work and raise families.
- In closing, I would like to thank the Province and all the Peace communities for their commitment to this agreement.
- Thanks, everyone, for attending today's announcement. This now concludes the formal part of our program.
- I understand that Premier Clark, Minister Oakes and local mayors will now be available to take questions from the media – both here at the event and on the line from around the province.

12:40: Media Availability

12:48: Event ends; guests depart.

-30-

From: [Collicott, George GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Emcee for May 29 Peace Rive Announcement??
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 11:51:28 AM

Thanks Gillian

From: Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 11:48 AM
To: Collicott, George GCPE:EX
Cc: Wong, Tim PREM:EX; Bell, Jordan CSCD:EX; Ehl, Cameron CSCD:EX
Subject: FW: Emcee for May 29 Peace Rive Announcement??

There are 2 events now. One is in Dawson Creek, Emcee there is MLA Bernier. The other one is in Fort St. John and the Emcee is MLA Pimm.

I've copied Tim as I'm pretty sure that PCC is doing both events, but wanted him to know we're talking about it in case anything changes.

From: Collicott, George GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX
Subject: Emcee for May 29 Peace Rive Announcement??

Hi Gillian:

I'm preparing PCCs notes for the May 29 Peace River Agreement announcement. Do you know who is emceeing the event?

Thanks, George

From: [Giles, Alison GCPE:EX](#)
To: [CSCD Communications](#)
Subject: FW: your query re: Peace River agreement
Date: Friday, May 29, 2015 2:35:56 PM

Closed.

From: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 2:36 PM
To: 'andrew.kurjuta@cbc.ca'
Subject: your query re: Peace River agreement

Hi Andrew,

The following is for background.

The \$3 million one-time payment is a lump sum for all communities to share using the distribution formula in the agreement.

The \$50 million is a base annual payment. In 2020 that payment will begin to grow by 2.0 per cent annually, with options to renew the annual rate of growth in 2023 and 2031.

Guest List Template

RSVP	First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone
	Merlin	Nichols	Mayor	District of Chetwynd	mnichols@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4102
	Doug	Fleming	Chief Administrative Officer	District of Chetwynd	dfleming@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4103
	Carol	Newsom	Deputy CAO/Director of Corp	District of Chetwynd	cnewsom@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4104
	Clay	Bassendowski	Councillor	District of Chetwynd	cbassendowski@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4100
	Alec	Brownlee	Councillor	District of Chetwynd	abrownlee@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4100
	Mel	Deck	Councillor	District of Chetwynd	mdeck@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4100
	Rochelle	Galbraith	Councillor	District of Chetwynd	rgalbraith@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4100
	Ernest	Pfanner	Councillor	District of Chetwynd	epfanner@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4100
	Laura	Weisgerber	Councillor	District of Chetwynd	lweisgerber@gochetwynd.com	250-401-4100
	Dale	Bumstead	Mayor	City of Dawson Creek	mayorbumstead@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)784-3616
	Mark	Rogers	Councillor	City of Dawson Creek	mrogers@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)784-4376
	Paul	Gevatkoff	Councillor	City of Dawson Creek	pgevatkoff@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)719-8739
	Charlie	Parslow	Councillor	City of Dawson Creek	cparslow@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)784-3867
	Terry	McFadyen	Councillor	City of Dawson Creek	tmcfadyen@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)782-2237
	Cheryl	Shuman	Councillor	City of Dawson Creek	cshuman@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)782-5323
	Shaely	Wilbur	Councillor	City of Dawson Creek	swilbur@dawsoncreek.ca	(250)719-6133
	Jim	Chute	Chief Administrative Officer	City of Dawson Creek	jchute@dawsoncreek.ca	250-784-3613
	Lori	Ackerman	Mayor	City of Fort St. John	Lori.Ackerman@prrd.bc.ca	250-787-8160
	Trevor	Bolin	Councillor	City of Fort St. John	tbolin@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Bruce	Christensen	Councillor	City of Fort St. John	bchristensen@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Dan	Davies	Councillor	City of Fort St. John	ddavies@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Larry	Evans	Councillor	City of Fort St. John	levans@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Gord	Klassen	Councillor	City of Fort St. John	gklassen@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Byron	Stewart	Councillor	City of Fort St. John	bstewart@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Dianne	Hunter	Chief Administrative Officer	City of Fort St. John	dhunter@fortstjohn.ca	250-787-8150
	Gwen	Johansson	Mayor	District of Hudson's Hope	mayor@hudsonshope.ca	250-783-9901
	Caroline	Beam	Councillor	District of Hudson's Hope	caroline@hudsonshope.ca	250-783-9904
	Nicole	Gilliss	Councillor	District of Hudson's Hope	nicole@hudsonshope.ca	250-783-9901
	David	Heiberg	Councillor	District of Hudson's Hope	david@hudsonshope.ca	250-783-9901
	Heather	Middleton	Councillor	District of Hudson's Hope	heather@hudsonshope.ca	250-783-9901

