



Aug. 28, 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Adding It All Up region's first conference on cumulative effects

This November, the Bulkley Valley Research Centre hosts the region's first conference focusing on cumulative effects. The conference is being held Nov. 14 to 16, 2012 and is expected to draw upwards of 100 participants.

"Researchers, government and industry are beginning to understand the importance of studying the combined effects of development on communities and the landscape," said Don Morgan, conference chair for Adding It All Up: Balancing Benefits and Effects from Resource Development. "This conference examines the balance between mitigating those impacts while recognizing the importance of industrial expansion for our northern economy."

With an economic boom projected for northwestern B.C., this conference provides a timely look at the effects of resource development on the region and raises discussion about maximizing benefits while mitigating environmental impacts. The conference brings together representatives from industry, First Nations, community groups, government and the research community to consider development's potential changes and opportunities. Conference sponsors include the Moore Foundation, Smithers Exploration Group, Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, Alta Gas, Crossroads Cultural Resource Management, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust and World Wildlife Fund.

Participants will learn about current and upcoming projects, gain awareness about development in the region, and take part in panel discussions, poster sessions and evening events all designed to focus on preparing and planning for economic expansion. Smithers mayor Taylor Bachrach says he welcomes the conference and its timely topic.

"As resource development expands in the north, communities like ours have a huge opportunity — and a responsibility — to maximize local benefits and leave a positive legacy for future generations," Bachrach said. "This conference is the next step in the important conversation about our region's future."

Adding It All Up is the first in a series of events planned for the next several years that will look at the potential effects and benefits of development for communities in northwest B.C. For more information about the conference or to register, please visit the Bulkley Valley Research Centre website at [www.bvcentre.ca/addingitallup](http://www.bvcentre.ca/addingitallup).

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre is a Smithers-based not-for-profit that aims to improve knowledge of natural resource sustainability by facilitating credible research projects across British Columbia. For more information, please visit [www.bvcentre.ca](http://www.bvcentre.ca) or contact the centre at (250) 847-2827.