



## **Deh Tai LP Secures \$40.5 Million for Canada's First Geothermal Project**

March 12, 2021 — Fort Nelson, Unceded Treaty 8 Territory

Deh Tai LP—Fort Nelson First Nation's development corporation—is excited to announce that the Clarke Lake Geothermal Project (CLGP) is proceeding. This historic project is likely to be one of the first geothermal electricity facilities in Canada. Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) is leading the energy transition by pursuing this 100% Indigenous-owned innovative renewable energy project. FNFN has secured nearly \$40.5 million in Federal funds which includes \$38.2 million from NRCan's Emerging Renewable Power Program.

"Fort Nelson First Nation is proud to lead the energy transition by harnessing the earth's heat with the Clarke Lake Geothermal Project. This geothermal project will be an economic driver for the entire region. FNFN is defining industrial activities in our territory by diversifying our economic portfolio for the benefit of generations to come."

— Chief Sharleen Gale, Fort Nelson First Nation & Chair of Deh Tai LP

Although the region is served by BC Hydro for electricity, the electric grid is fully reliant on fossil fuel generated electricity. By creating this project, Deh Tai LP is addressing climate change by reducing the region's emissions as well as adding energy capacity with clean baseload power. It is anticipated that CLGP will produce anywhere from 7-15 MW of electricity, helping the Provincial and Federal governments meet their climate change targets.

FNFN are stewards of the land, and their people believe in protecting their territory. This geothermal project aligns their desire to diversify economic activities while also preserving resources for future generations. This new industry will act as an economic catalyst for the entire Northern Rockies Region while creating British Columbia's first geothermal hub.

Besides electricity generation, geothermal energy complements other economic activities by using the abundant direct heat for buildings, forestry and agriculture. The Fort Nelson community is amongst the most northern communities in British Columbia with long cold winters. This availability of heat has captured the imagination of many in exploring the cascade of opportunities it will offer.

A drill rig is currently being mobilized to deepen an existing gas well to 2,000-2,500 feet as well as developing a new full sized geothermal production well. Test results will be available by the end of August 2021 to help quantify the heat energy available.

"Deh Tai LP looks forward to exploring the potential for further economic development using geothermal energy; Clarke Lake Geothermal GP is structured to manage the development while also maximizing local business initiatives along with training for employment opportunities."

— Jim Hodgson, CEO of Deh Tai LP

The Fort Nelson region has experienced an economic downturn for the past decade, but CLGP provides hope. Clarke Lake’s depleted gas field is being repurposed for clean energy production. The presence of a geothermal resource is well known due to over 60 years of gas production data, public sector, and academic assessment. The legacy of gas development also provides transferable skill sets, equipment and knowledge that will be built on to help this geothermal project succeed.

FNFN has chosen to deploy a knowledgeable team for CLGP through our economic development arm, Deh Tai LP. To bring this project to fruition, Deh Tai LP is working with Barkley Project Group — a project management firm with experience in over 60 renewable energy projects. Deh Tai LP also thanks First Nations Major Project Coalition for the dedication and [support](#) of the project thus far.

“The electric grid in Northeastern BC is completely reliant on fossil fuel generated electricity, and the Clarke Lake Geothermal Project helps the Province of BC meet its climate targets and achieve the CleanBC plan. Fort Nelson First Nation is forging the way with British Columbia’s first geothermal project.”

– John Ebell, Project Manager of Barkley Project Group

With this historic project, the Northern Rockies will be a geothermal hub catalyzing economic activity. Site preparation work is already underway, and the project is anticipated to be complete by 2024. FNFN is leading the energy transition with the 100% Indigenous-owned Clarke Lake Geothermal Project. After more than a decade of limited economic activity, FNFN is shaping the industrial landscape in their territory with Clarke Lake Geothermal Project.

— 30 —

*Chief Sharleen Gale, Fort Nelson First Nation and Chair of the Board for Deh Tai LP will be available for interviews Friday March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to organize an interview.*

Visual assets can be [viewed here](#).

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