

News of Funding for Highway 37 Power Line Welcome

By [250 News](#)

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Prince George, B.C.- The Mayor of Terrace is smiling, this has been an incredible week for his community, first the Hockeyville Exhibition game with the Canucks, and now, word the Federal government will kick in \$130 million to the construction of the Highway 37 transmission line. That line is a key to the development of mines in the northwest of the province, and will be a huge benefit to his community.

There is a hitch to the Federal funding and that is it is contingent on a commitment from the Provincial government for funding as well. Northern Development Initiatives Trust Board Chair, Bruce Sutherland says he is confident the province will come through “This was mentioned in the Throne speech, and by Premier Campbell that Highway 37, they were going to get going on it. So with their contribution, and the Feds contribution, it may not total up to the exact number, but I’ts very close and it’s enough where we can start moving on some things now.”

Sutherland says private industry, First Nations, the run of river projects, all now can have backing to take to the bank to get the financing they need to further their projects along.

As for Northern Development Initiatives Trust, it has not been approached to put any money into projects that would feed the Highway 37 transmission line, at least not yet.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the Federal commitment while meeting with U.S. President Barrack Obama in Washington today, which transmission line supporters says shows how important the line is to the Harper Government. The line is being touted as one way to move toward cleaner, greener energy as it will help eliminate the use of diesel generators in many communities in the northwest. It may also be linked to Alaska some day.

For Prince George, the benefits will come in the way of being a supply centre “All of B.C. has an interest in this” says Mayor Dan Rogers, “Prince George plays a role as a supply centre and that will benefit the whole region and the Province.”

As for the Mayor of Terrace, David Pernarowski is beaming “We always said if you build it they will come, and we’re ready with open arms.”

The new estimate for construction of the line is in the \$404 million dollar range. If there are no snags, construction could start as early as next spring.

Province Says It Will Contribute to Highway 37 Power Line Project

By [250 News](#)

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Prince George, B.C.- Hot off the heels of the Federal government announcement that it will put aside \$130 million dollars for the Highway 37 transmission line, comes news the Province is "in", but the exact amount has not been stated.

"We are pleased that the Federal government has recognized the importance of the Northwest Transmission Line and we are pushing ahead with the \$404 million NTL that will open mining and energy opportunities in the northern part of the province," said Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The Province has already invested \$10 million to support the environmental assessment and First Nations consultation process. The new 287-kilovolt line will extend 335 km from Terrace to Meziadin Junction and north to Bob Quinn Lake, providing access to the electricity grid for customers while supporting the economic diversification of the area.

The project could support the development of a number of new mines, take advantage of the vast mineral potential in that region and help realize the potential of the Prince Rupert Fairview Container Terminal. It will also support the development of clean, renewable electricity projects in the region. Expanding transmission along highway 37 could stimulate thousands of jobs and billions of dollars worth of economic activity for British Columbia.

Initially, the Province had agreed to put in \$250 million dollars, with the private sector picking up the balance.

Feds Kick In \$130 Million for Highway 37 Power Line

By [250 News](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 11:42 AM

Prince George, B.C. – Supporters of the Highway 37 transmission line say they are “ecstatic” as Prime Minister Stephen Harper has announced funding for the construction of the Highway 37 Transmission Line.



This project, estimated at \$404 million, is expected to be ready for construction in the spring of 2010.

The Federal Government will set aside funding of up to a maximum of \$130 million for this project. Federal financial support for this green infrastructure project is conditional on the signing of a contribution agreement with the British Columbia government under the Green Infrastructure Fund.

The Prime Minister made the announcement in Washington during his meeting with U.S. president Barack Obama.

“Our government is supporting environmentally sound infrastructure and initiatives that promote cleaner, greener energy,” said the Prime Minister. “The Northwest Transmission Line will facilitate the development of green energy and help provide British Columbia’s northern and remote communities with more sustainable and affordable power.”

“The fact he made the announcement in Washington indicates how important the federal Government views this project” says Byng Giraud, of the Mining Association of B.C.

The 335-kilometre transmission line will contribute to the development and use of green energy in the area. This project has been selected as a priority for funding under the new federal Green Infrastructure

Fund. It is possible the line could link with Alaska.

Giraud says he had heard something was in the works about the project “We had indications something might happen, but we didn’t expect to happen so quickly.”

Giraud says the importance of the economic impact of this transmission line cannot be underestimated “This isn’t just about one mine, it’s about opening up the North and possibly linking with our neighbours in Alaska.”.