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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

“Upper Skeena Arena Progressing”

Hazelton, BC - Plans for a new arena to serve the health, wellness and social needs for residents of the Upper Skeena Region continue to make progress on a number of items since the Open House on October 22nd, says George Muldoe, Chair of the Building Committee.

The Committee has been looking into the use of Wood as the primary structural component and has been working with a major company in BC that builds large span wood beams and arches for this purpose. A grant is being sought through the Wood Enterprise Coalition Commercialization fund that would help pay for a design using CLT's (cross laminated timber). Many officials in the region have expressed a desire to see wood products used throughout the new facility, which was echoed by the community during the Open House.

As many facilities throughout the province are Steel Structures, which have proven to be cost effective and have a long life span, the Committee is also exploring this concept with an Alberta firm. This firm made presentations to Smithers City Council on December 14th and to the Building Committee the following day in Hazelton. Information regarding the site and facility requirements was provided to the firm, who will be responding to the Committee in a few weeks.

Residents can stay informed about the project through www.heartofthehazeltons.com, and by completing our survey and 'liking' us on Facebook, will have a chance to win two tickets to the March 3rd Sarah McLachlan concert in Prince George, \$100 towards gas, and one nights' accommodation at the Treasure Cove Hotel.

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