

Regional Economic Operations & Community Transition Services



Ministry of
Jobs, Economic Development
and Innovation

Marc von der Gonna, Director

Kathleen Van Ekris, Community Adjustment Manager

March 16, 2023

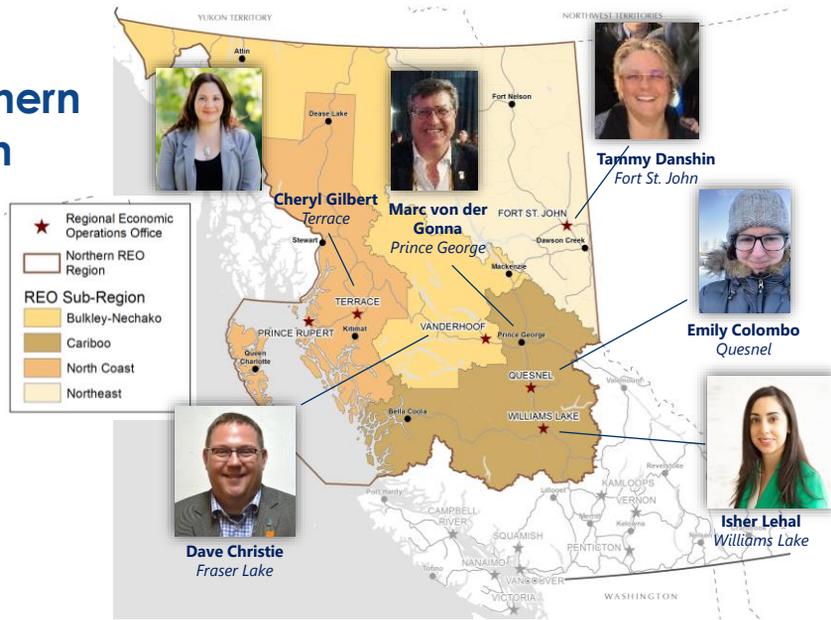
Regional Economic Operations

What We Do

Promote Inclusive Growth, Clean Growth and Economic Resilience

- Deliver on-the-ground support to build economic development capacity and support communities and businesses with investment readiness and business expansion
- Assist Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to support strategic planning, awareness of existing economic development tools/resources and work with communities to pursue economic priorities
- Provide leadership on economy sector recovery and work in partnership with disaster-impacted communities to advance recovery projects/initiatives
- Serve as provincial lead on community transition – economic recovery following the loss of a major employer in a rural community (e.g., fibre supply losses leading to mill closures)

REO Northern Region



Community Transition Services

Our Approach

- Each community transition response is tailored to the unique circumstances, strengths and capacity of a community.
- Three main pillars in supporting when a major employer is curtailed or closed in rural communities:
 - Worker Transition
 - Community Supports
 - Economic Development

How it Works

- When asked to work with a community the Community Transition Team coordinates supports by engaging across government.
- Together with the community we identify their needs and challenges, then coordinate resources, design responses, and engage across provincial ministries, service providers, federal government, and others to address the impacts.

Community Transition Services

Worker Transition refers to supports and coordination of services for directly impacted workers.

Community Supports refers to support to local governments including with town hall and other information events as well as recognition that economic dislocations can impact the demand for community services (counselling, health services, food banks, etc.).

Economic Development refers to working with communities to ensure they have an economic development and diversification plan and are assisted to implement that plan.

5

5

Supports for Workers, Businesses and Communities

Programs for economic development and to offset negative economic impacts

Workers

WorkBC Employment Services

Supports job-seekers with occupational training, coaching, and job-search assistance

Skills Training for Employment

Supports training and wrap around services for sustainable employment

Bridging to Retirement

Supports for forestry workers to transition to retirement

Community

Community Transition Services

Offers in-community support after job loss

Rural Economic Diversification & Infrastructure Program

Supports communities and non-profits with economic development projects

Community Workforce Response Grant

Supports community-driven training initiatives

Business & Industry

BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund

Supports businesses with high-value manufacturing and industrial projects

Rural Business & Community Recovery Initiative

Funds business advisors delivered through the B.C. Economic Trusts

Employer Training Grant

Supports employer-driven training initiatives for current employees and new hires

6

6

Contact

Marc von der Gonna

 (778) 702-1416

 Marc.vondergonna@gov.bc.ca

Kathleen Van Ekris

 (250) 850-1888

 Kathleen.vanekris@gov.bc.ca