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POWER SUPPLY INVESTMENT NORTH ISLAND

Whereas reliable and sustainable power supply is critical to supporting economic diversification, enhancing infrastructure, and ensuring the growth of rural communities in the North Island (North of Campbell River);

Whereas increased power capacity will support economic investment in industries transitioning to sustainable practices, such as aquaculture, mining exploration, and other economic investment, while encouraging the development of green energy projects in the region;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities requests that the Provincial Government commit to upgrading the power supply infrastructure on the North Island, including those communities North of Campbell River, ensuring sustainable and reliable energy delivery that supports economic growth, green energy projects, and the region's transition to a diverse and resilient economy.

BACKGROUND

The North Island region of British Columbia has been grappling with significant power supply challenges that impact the reliability of electricity for residents and the potential for economic growth. Over the years, the area has experienced notable power outages, underscoring the need for infrastructure improvements.

Capacity Constraints and Economic Growth

The existing power infrastructure in the North Island faces challenges in meeting the region's growing energy demands. As industries such as aquaculture transition to more sustainable practices and mining exploration activities expand, the demand for reliable and increased power supply becomes critical. However, the region may struggle to support these economic developments without significant investments to upgrade and expand the electricity grid.

In July 2024, BC Hydro announced plans to invest over \$3 billion in capital projects on Vancouver Island over the next decade to upgrade and expand the electricity grid.

[BC Gov News](#)

While this investment is a positive step, the specific allocation of funds and the timeline for improvements in the North Island region remain concerns.

Green Energy Initiatives

To address both the reliability of the power supply and environmental considerations, the provincial government has selected nine wind energy projects. These projects are expected to provide nearly 5,000 gigawatt hours per year of electricity by 2031, boosting BC Hydro's supply by 8%.

[BC Gov News](#)

Integrating such green energy projects is essential for the North Island to diversify its energy sources and reduce dependence on traditional power infrastructure.

Conclusion

The North Island's power supply challenges are multifaceted, involving the need for immediate infrastructure improvements to prevent outages and strategic investments to support future economic growth. Emphasizing green energy projects will enhance reliability and align with broader environmental goals, allowing the region to diversify and thrive in a changing financial landscape.