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Nelson, Wolbers to lobby for Prosperity process

By Jeremy Deutsch Tribune Staff Writer

Mayor and regional district chair to meet with premier, ministers, to make proposed mine project a priority

The Prosperity Project is considered a top priority for the Mayor and city council.

To show just how important it is, Mayor Scott Nelson and Cariboo Regional District chair, Jon Wolbers will be heading to Victoria in the next 10 days to speak with Premier Gordon Campbell, Environment Minister Barry Penner and Mines minister Richard Neufeld.

Nelson wants to pressure the provincial and federal governments to define the environmental assessment guidelines by Dec. 15 so that **Taseko** Mine can begin the next step of the process.

The Prosperity Project is a copper and gold mine at Fish Lake, 125 kilometres southwest of Williams Lake.

On Tuesday **Taseko** Mines met with a number of community leaders to update the current status of the Prosperity Project and told participants that the environmental assessment and study is now complete.

The city believes from that presentation that both the federal and provincial government need to make a decision on how the review of the assessment will be done and when.

Taseko informed community leaders that a further delay in the process could create substantial issues for the project to continue to be viable.

City council responded by authorizing the mayor's trip to Victoria.

Council will also write letters to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Campbell, the federal and provincial ministers of Natural Resources and Exploration and Environment to request the Prosperity Project be considered a priority.

"As a region that's looking to diversify and strengthen its economic position, this is a key project for doing that," Nelson says.

Nelson says he knows the province is working hard behind the scenes to keep the project moving.

But he believes a face-to-face meeting will show just how important the project is to the community.

"We said what can we do as a community to show our support for this type of project," he says.

In the end, Nelson believes the letters and trip will help the province and fed's understand the city's sense of urgency.