



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blueberry River First Nations announces CEO of new economic development corporation

FORT ST. JOHN, B.C., October 19, 2022 – Chief Desjarlais and Blueberry River First Nations congratulate Lori Ackerman on her appointment as CEO of Blueberry River Resources Ltd., a new entity established to manage the business interests of the Nation.

Lori Ackerman, who will commence with her new duties on November 1, 2022, is well known in the community, having served three terms as Mayor of Fort St. John, BC. She previously announced that she would not seek re-election in the October 15, 2022 general election. She has long-standing and positive relationships with Northeastern B.C. First Nations as well as with local industry and provincial administrative entities, and is well placed to advance the interests of the Nation in a way that benefits all parties.

“We are delighted to have Lori as part of our management team,” said Blueberry River First Nations Chief Judy Desjarlais. “She brings a wealth of expertise in the areas of business management, resource development, community infrastructure, and stakeholder engagement - which makes her uniquely qualified for this new role to create business opportunities that will benefit the Nation and its Members for generations to come.”

Former Mayor Ackerman is a passionate community champion. As Mayor for 11 years, she represented Fort St. John on many local, regional, and provincial boards and committees to support community success and raise awareness of critical issues. In 2016, she was named one of the Top 35 Most Influential Women in BC by *BC Business Magazine* and was named 2019 Energy Person of the Year by the Energy Council of Canada.

“The Blueberry River First Nations and its leadership have done a significant amount of work preparing to move forward with a structure that acknowledges opportunities for reconciliation and economic benefit for its members and ultimately our region,” said Ackerman. “I am honoured to have this opportunity.”

Blueberry River Resources Ltd. has been created as an independent entity to advance the Nation’s economic priorities and provide opportunities for sustainability and self-sufficiency for its Members.

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About Blueberry River First Nations

Blueberry River First Nations is at the forefront of establishing Indigenous Treaty and Land Rights. With new leadership and a strong commitment to change and progress, the Nation is dedicated to collaborating with industries, partners, and government to create a balanced approach to development, while respecting culture and the rights of its Members.

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