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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting improves public accessibility to North Star Trail.**

Cranbrook, BC, December 1, 2011 - The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting teamed together to participate in a community partnership project to improve public accessibility to the North Star Trail. The Community Partnership Program is a new initiative this year combining the resources of road building contractors and the Ministry.

The North Star Rails to Trails is an abandoned CP railway track between Kimberley and Cranbrook that has been removed and converted to a paved trail for running, walking, biking and blading. The 'Rails to Trails' development is a joint project between the City of Kimberley and the City of Cranbrook to create a commuter and recreation trail between Cranbrook and Kimberley.

*"Our work on the North Star Trail this year is the initial phase of a multi-year initiative by Mainroad East Kootenay and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Future site improvements have already been identified in consultation with the stakeholders behind this project and we look forward to implementing these in the summer of 2012 and beyond. The North Star Trail is one of the East Kootenay's finest public resources and providing these improvements allows us to give something back to the community we live in."* says Jim Conley, General Manager of Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting.

The project consisted of building a parking lot on Wycliffe Park Road. Together, with the Ministry, Mainroad East Kootenay provided site layout and design services, signage, materials and equipment to complete this project in late October, 2011. The parking lot is now open for public use.

**About Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting:**

Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting is owned and operated by Mainroad Group, a 100% employee-owned collection of companies specializing in road and bridge products and services. Spanning across Western Canada, the Mainroad Group network connects you to a team of experts with extensive experience in diverse climates and environments. To learn more about Mainroad and its group of companies, please visit <http://www.mainroad.ca>.

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