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**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
Thursday, July 20, 2017**

**PAGE NO.**

**ACTION**

**AGENDA- July 20, 2017**

**Approve**

**Supplementary Agenda**

**Receive**

**MINUTES**

**2-5**

**Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes  
- June 8, 2017**

**Receive**

**REPORTS**

**6-40**

**Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative  
Services – Mail Ballot Voting**

**Direction**

**41-42**

**Kristi Rensby, Finance/Administration Coordinator  
- Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax  
Funds – Second Quarter 2017**

**Receive**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, June 8, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 1:17 p.m.  
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-6-1

"That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for June 8, 2017 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2017-6-2

"That the Rural Directors Committee Supplementary Agenda be received and dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -May 11, 2017

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2017-6-3

"That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of May 11, 2017 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS**

**Northern Society for  
 Domestic Peace-Request  
 for Grant in Aid -Electoral  
 Area "A" (Smithers Rural)**

Moved by Director Fisher  
 Seconded by Director Miller

**RDC.2017-6-4**

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Northern Society for Domestic Peace be given \$2,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) for costs associated with providing training for Bulkley Valley Critical Incident Response Team Volunteers."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Bulkley Valley Christian School  
 -Request for Grant in Aid  
 -Electoral Area "A" (Smithers  
 Rural)**

Moved by Director Fisher  
 Seconded by Director Newell

**RDC.2017-6-5**

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Bulkley Valley Christian School be given \$200 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) towards the Litter-a-Thon."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Electoral Area Allocation of  
 Federal Gas Tax Funds  
 -First Quarter 2017**

Moved by Director Petersen  
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

**RDC.2017-6-6**

"That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Finance/Administration Coordinator's May 15, 2017 memo titled "Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds – First Quarter 2017."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place in regard to the expanded criteria that has allowed for more Federal Gas Tax application allocations. The criteria expansion has provided a better opportunity for municipalities and rural areas to partner and work together to better their communities. The possibility to review the criteria and submit suggestions to the Union of B.C. Municipalities to further expand application criteria was discussed along with having staff attend a future meeting in discussing criteria expansion.

Director Parker thanked Kristi Rensby, Finance/Administration Clerk for her assistance in determining whether an application may be eligible and assisting with the application process.

Discussion took place in regard to the possible challenges of changing the criteria as it would require senior government to reopen the entire agreement to make any changes. The date of the last renewal and length of time of the current Federal Gas Tax Fund contract was discussed.

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (All Directors)**

**REFERRALS**

Land Referral File No. 7409908 Moved by Director Greenaway  
Takla First Nations Seconded by Director Parker  
- Electoral Area "C"

RDC.2017-6-7 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 7409908 be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409908."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No. Moved by Director Greenaway  
7409932 BC Hydro Seconded by Director Miller  
- Electoral Area "C"

RDC.2017-6-8 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409932" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409932."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral File No. Moved by Director Petersen  
7409792 – Ski View Ranch & Seconded by Director Newell  
Timber - Electoral Area "F"

RDC.2017-6-9 "That the comment sheet titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 7409792" be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7409792."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**REPORT**

Fort St. James Humane Society Moved by Director Greenaway  
-Request for Grant in Aid Seconded by Director Miller  
-Electoral Area "C" (Fort St.  
James Rural)

RDC.2017-6-10 "That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fort St. James Humane Society be given \$1,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with the travelling spay and neuter clinic."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FCM Update - Director Miller**

Director Miller mentioned that he attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Convention in Ottawa, Ontario June 1-4, 2017. While at FCM he attended the Rural Broadband Forum. There were four panelists, three telecommunications companies and a financial analyst that has completed business case research for the major equity banks. They discussed the need for backbone as various technologies improve rapidly. The \$500 million of federal funding will be utilized very quickly and more funding will be required in order to provide adequate service to rural communities. The majority of the panelists also expressed the need for the funding to be competitively neutral with no competitive advantage for one carrier over another.

Director Newell noted that the backbone in the region runs along Highway 16 only. He also spoke of his download and upload speeds utilizing Explornet and that the cost may not be prohibitive for all users.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Newell  
Seconded by Director Parker

**RDC.2017-6-11**

"That the meeting be adjourned 1:21 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen Benedict, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

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**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Chair Benedict and Rural Directors Committee**

**FROM: Cheryl Anderson  
Manager of Administrative Services**

**DATE: July 12, 2017**

**SUBJECT: Mail Ballot Voting**

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The RDBN has received several requests from Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) residents to consider reviewing its Mail Ballot Voting Bylaw to offer mail ballot voting throughout the region for both elections and referenda. Currently, the bylaw allows mail ballot voting in the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection area for referenda only (see attached bylaw). The bylaw was adopted as a "pilot" in 2011 and included the specified area as a result of numerous requests from "seasonal dwellers."

The sequence of events following up to and after the adoption of the mail ballot bylaw is as follows:

- November 6, 2010 – Referendum was conducted for Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1565, 2010.
  - Referendum Failed – area "F" residents conveyed that the process was unfair as many seasonal dwellers were not provided adequate opportunity to vote (ie lack of mail ballot voting).
- May 24, 2011 – staff prepared report for RDBN Board regarding Mail Ballot Voting. (Schedule "A")
- June 23, 2011 – RDBN Board passed a resolution to amend the Election Procedure Bylaw to allow for mail ballot voting for referenda only in the Cluculz Lake Area (boundaries of Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area). The decision was not unanimous. (Schedule "B")
- February 16, 2013 – Referendum was conducted for Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) Vanderhoof Swimming Pool Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1644
  - First Opportunity for Mail Ballot Voting – 181 ballots requested – 162 were returned in time.
  - Referendum Failed – Area "F" residents expressed concern that mail ballot voting was not allowed for all Area "F" residents (only residents in Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area as per bylaw 1617).
- November 2014 – Elections were conducted.

- Received feedback from residents of Area “F” that mail ballot voting should be allowed for both elections and referenda .
- October 6, 2015 – Request from Reta Herrick, resident of Cluculz Lake, to appear as delegation re: Mail Ballot Voting (petition was presented to allow mail ballot voting region wide for elections and referenda). (Schedule “C”)
- October 22, 2015 – Reta Herrick, Randy Holubosh, and Percy Wright appeared as a delegation to the RDBN Board of Directors (presented petition with 438 signatures). (Schedule “D”)
- RDBN Board of Directors requested staff to prepare a cost analysis report regarding mail ballot voting. The costs are an estimate only as it is difficult to predict the demand for each area. Postage costs have increased since the cost analysis was prepared.(Schedule “D”)
- March 8, 2016 – Staff emailed Reta Herrick and advised that the report would be included in the March 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole Agenda (Schedule “E”)
- March 10, 2016 – Staff report presented to Committee of the Whole
  - Board requested information regarding the UBCM decision regarding Internet Voting. (Schedule “F”)
- June 28, 2016 – Reta Herrick emailed staff indicating that she could not locate any action that was taken in regard to Bylaw No. 1617. (Schedule “G”)
- Staff responded to Reta Herrick and advised that the report was received and that no further action was taken. The meeting minutes were attached for her reference. (Schedule “H”)
- November 7, 2016 – Reta Herrick emailed the RDBN requesting an update. (Schedule “I”)
- At that time, staff discussed the issue with Chair Miller and Director Petersen. Direction was given to staff to compile the chain of events for discussion at a future date.
- May 20, 2017 – Reta Herrick emailed the RDBN requesting an update. (Schedule “J”)

Staff have researched the UBCM resolution database in regard to online voting. Only 2 resolutions were found – one was not admitted for debate and the other was removed from consideration. (Schedule “K”)

In 2003, the City of Coquitlam submitted a resolution to UBCM to broaden the use of mail-in voting for Local General Elections. The resolution was endorsed at the convention. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services responded that they had previously sent out a questionnaire to local government election officers to gather information regarding mail-in ballot voting. At that time twenty local governments supported mail ballot voting while 53 did not. Sufficient concerns were expressed about the additional administrative burden imposed on smaller local governments. (Schedule “L”)

Following an Elections BC report titled “*Discussion Paper: Internet Voting*” an Independent Panel on Internet Voting was tasked with reviewing the

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opportunities and challenges related to the potential implementation of Internet-based voting for provincial or local government elections in British Columbia. (Schedule "M") (Under Separate Cover)

The following recommendations arose out of a report from the Independent Panel on Internet Voting to the Legislative Assembly of B.C.: (Schedule "N") (Under Separate Cover)

1. Do not implement universal Internet voting for either local government or provincial government elections at this time. However if internet voting is implemented, it should be limited to those with specific accessibility challenges. If Internet voting is implemented on a limited basis, jurisdictions need to recognize that the risks to the accuracy of the voting results remain substantial.
2. Take a province-wide coordinated approach to Internet voting.
3. Establish an independent technical committee to evaluate Internet voting systems and support jurisdictions that wish to implement approved systems.
4. Evaluate any Internet voting system against the principles established by the panel.

It does not appear that the province intends to implement on-line voting in the near future.

It is important to note that under the *Local Government Act*, offering mail ballot voting is not a requirement of Local Government - it is at the discretion of the local government. Section 110 of the *Local Government Act* outlining the provisions for mail ballot voting is attached. (Schedule "O")

Each year, the RDBN contributes money toward its election reserve. This is a rural government expense. Referenda are initially included under Feasibility Studies – this is a general government expense. If the referendum is successful, the cost of the referendum is applied to the service established. If the referendum fails, it is a general government expense paid for by all taxpayers in the region.

In summary, the RDBN currently offers mail ballot voting for referenda only for a portion of Electoral Area "F" known as the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area. Some Electoral Area "F" residents have requested that consideration be given to amending "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1617, 2011." As outlined in Schedule "D", mail ballot voting requires additional resources and an increase in the budget.

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Outlined below are a number of options to be considered in regard to mail ballot voting in the RDBN. **At this time, staff is seeking Board Direction by way of a resolution.**

**Option 1**

**That the “Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1617, 2011” remain status quo.**

**Option 2**

**That Bylaw No. 1617 be amended to allow mail ballot voting for all of Electoral Area “F” for referenda only.**

**Option 3**

**That Bylaw No. 1617 be amended to allow mail ballot voting for all of Electoral Area “F” for both referenda and elections.**

**Option 4**

**That a new mail ballot authorization bylaw be drafted that includes mail ballot voting for the entire region for referenda only.**

**Option 5**

**That a new mail ballot authorization bylaw be drafted that includes mail ballot voting for the entire region for both referenda and elections.**

**Option 6**

**That Bylaw No. 1617 be rescinded.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**Direction.**

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair Hamblin and Board of Directors

**FROM:** Cheryl Anderson  
Manager of Administrative Services/Chief Election Officer

**DATE:** May 24, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Mail Ballot Voting

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Staff have currently been researching mail ballot voting and have contacted other Regional Districts to determine if they conduct mail ballot voting. Out of 28 Regional Districts, 13 conduct mail ballot voting. Following are some comments received from Regional Districts:

- The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District introduced mail ballot voting in 2008 and are reconsidering for 2011 due to the amount of work involved.
- The Fraser Fort George Regional District conducts mail ballot voting for elections only. For the last election, they sent out 7 mail ballot packages and received 1 back.
- The Cariboo Regional District has indicated that the timeframe is too short to conduct mail ballot voting for elections, however, it works well for referenda.
- The Central Coast Regional District limits mail ballot voting to 2 electoral areas only.
- The Cowichan Valley Regional District has received less than 10 requests from electors for mail ballots over the last 5 general local elections/referenda.
- The Strathcona Regional District has indicated that it is a lot of work for the number of ballots actually received.
- The Sunshine Coast limits mail ballot voting to Passage and Bowyer Island residents only.

The typical process for conducting mail ballot voting is as follows:

1. Advertisement is placed indicating mail balloting information.
2. A time period is established for accepting applications for mail ballot packages.
3. Upon receipt of a valid application for a mail ballot, the Chief Election Officer sends to the applicant a mail ballot package together with an application for registration as an elector.

4. The Chief Election Officer records the name and address of the person to whom the mail ballot package has been sent.
5. Upon receipt of a mail ballot package, the Chief Election Officer shall record the date of such receipt and remove and examine the certification envelope and the completed elector registration application and mark the certification envelope as "ACCEPTED" or "REJECTED."
6. Certification envelopes remain unopened until such time as determined by the Chief Election Officer.

I have attached Section 100 of the *Local Government Act* pertaining to mail ballot voting.

Advertising costs would increase as 2 additional newspaper ads would be required for each election/referendum. The information would also be posted on the RD website for property owners that may not see the newspapers.

One of the challenges with mail ballot voting is the tight timeline that exists, especially for elections. For an election, ballots cannot be ordered until after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> which is the deadline for withdrawal of candidates. Typically it takes the printer a minimum of 1 week to have the ballots printed. If the ballots were printed by November 7<sup>th</sup>, there would be approximately 2 weeks for the Regional District to send the mail ballot package out and get it back prior to the close of voting on general voting day.

To date, the biggest demand for mail ballot voting was during the "Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection" referendum. Many "seasonal" dwellers were not able to vote at either the advance poll or on general voting day.

The *Local Government Act* states that there is an obligation of the elector to ensure the delivery of the mail ballot to the Chief Election Officer before the close of voting on general voting day. Should mail ballot voting be established in this area, a polling station would also be required at the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako office to accommodate any mail ballots that may be delivered on general voting day.

Taking into consideration the comments from other Regional Districts, staff is recommending that the RDBN Election Procedure Bylaw be amended to allow for mail ballot voting for referenda only in the Cluculz Lake Area. This would give staff the opportunity to become familiar with mail ballot voting and to weigh the pros and cons of implementing mail ballot voting region-wide in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**Direction.**

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Process for Electing  
Representatives to the  
NCLGA Board

Moved by Director Roy  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2011-8-6

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors recommend that the NCLGA Board representative be a Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board member. Further, should the Regional representative position become vacant during the term, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako will then proceed to appoint a representative for the remainder of the current NCLGA term of office."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mail Ballot Voting

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2011-8-7

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Election Procedure Bylaw be amended to allow for mail ballot voting for referenda only in the Cluculz Lake Area."

Opposed: Director Clarke  
Director Harwood  
Director Lindstrom  
Alternate Director Northrup  
Director Thiessen

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED

Canadian Cancer Society  
BC & Yukon Division-Request  
for Grant in Aid

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Holmberg

2011-8-8

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors defer the Manager of Administrative Services June 13, 2011 memorandum titled "Canadian Cancer Society BC & Yukon Division – Request for Grant in Aid." Further, that clarification be requested on whether funding for capital costs for building the Kordyban Lodge in Prince George is still required, and further, whether the requested funding includes municipalities and/or rural areas."

Opposed: Director Roy

CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

**Cheryl Anderson**

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**From:** Reta Herrick  
**Sent:** October-06-15 5:31 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Andersona2f  
**Cc:** bmiller.pbm@gmail.com  
**Subject:** additional petition signatures  
**Attachments:** Delegation to the Board of Directors, RDBN.pdf; petition pg # 67, 9 signatures.pdf; petition pg. 68, 17 signatures.pdf

To the Board of Directors of RDBN,

I would like to include these 27 petition signatures that were turned in to me after I had sent the registered mail package with 411 signatures and the Delegation to the Board. This makes a total of 438 signatures. I can deliver the original sheets on October 22 if the board agrees to allow me to make my presentation.

Best Regards,

Reta Herrick  
55150 Jardine Loop RD,  
Cluculz Lake,  
VOJ3A3  
250-441-3355

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**DELEGATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Please supply information as to the matter to be placed before the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The RDBN Chairperson and/or CAO will review each request and a decision will be communicated to the spokesperson shown on the application. **SUBMISSION OF YOUR REQUEST DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL TO APPEAR.**

**REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUST BE IN BY TUESDAY, THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE BOARD MEETING.** Regular Board Meetings typically begin at 10:30 a.m., and delegations are dealt with close to the beginning of the meetings. Maximum presentation time is 15 minutes, followed by a question period, unless previously approved. All written presentation material must be in by Tuesday, the week prior to the Board Meeting. There is a limit to the number of delegations permitted per meeting. Your presentation may not be heard on the date requested due to prior commitments.

Name of person(s) attending: Reta Herrick

For (organization): Cluculz Lake and Bobtail Lake's Districts

Mailing Address: 55150 Jardine Loop Rd, Cluculz Lake, Vanderhoof BC

Phone No. (day contact): 250-441-3355 Fax: 250-441-3356

U05 3#3

email address: cluculzd@hotmail.com or cluculz@gmail.com

Subject matter: To present to the Board a petition of 411 signatures from Cluculz Lake and Bobtail Lake requesting amendment of Bylaw 1617, 2011 to allow mail in Ballots during ALL RDBN elections,

Specific request of The Board (if any), i.e., letter of support, donations, etc.  
enclosed are 66 pages of Petition signatures collected from area F, Cluculz & Bobtail

Date of Application: September 21, 2015

Signature of Applicant: Reta Herrick

Next regular Thursday meeting with The Board: October 22, 2015

A Petition to Amend Bylaw 1617, 2011 to allow Mail In Ballots during all RDBN elections

WHEREAS the Local Government Act permits voting by mail in ballot;

And WHEREAS poor voter turnout at all levels of government is a concern across Canada and the remote location of rural areas like Cluculz Lake and Bobtail Lake discourages voter turnout;

And WHEREAS Section 100 (3)b of the Local Government Act allows for mail in ballots for regional districts if the area is "remote from the voting places at which persons who reside in the specified area are entitled to vote" and Section 100 (3)c contemplates "persons who expect to be absent from the regional district on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities"

And WHEREAS voter turnout has decreased a staggering 62% in Area F since the pool referendum (the February 2013 pool referendum vote: Area F 1047 (with mail in ballots); the 2014 election: Area F 401 (in person only);

THEREFORE we, the undersigned, respectfully request the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako amend Section 2.1 of **Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1617, 2011** which "limits mail in ballots for referenda only" to include referenda, general local elections and by-elections.

PRINT FULL NAME	AREA F ADDRESS	SIGNATURE or email address
GERALD ATHERTON	45580 LLOYD DR VANDERHOOF	 Gerald Atherton @telus.ca
ANITA ATHERTON	45580 LLOYD DR. VANDERHOOF	 Anita Atherton cluculzd@hotmail.ca
Jim Martin	46455 East Bay Rd. Vanderhoof	 Jim Martin
CHERYL MARTIN	46455 EAST BAY RD. VANDERHOOF BC	 Cheryl Martin
Ryan Brown	45580 LLOYD Dr Vanderhoof	 Ryan Brown rytan@telus.net
Tannis Brown	45580 Lloyd Dr. Vanderhoof	 Tannis Brown
Daniel Martin	56000 Somerset Dr. S. Vanderhoof	 Daniel Martin
Dobres Martin	46485 East Bay Rd. Cluculz LK	 Dobres Martin
DICK MARTIN	46485 EAST BAY RD CLUCULZ LK	 Dick Martin

Please contact Reta Herrick by email [cluculzd@hotmail.com](mailto:cluculzd@hotmail.com) or at 250-441-3355 to have your signed petition picked up.

A Petition to Amend Bylaw 1617, 2011 to allow Mail In Ballots during all RDBN elections

WHEREAS the Local Government Act permits voting by mail in ballot;

And WHEREAS poor voter turnout at all levels of government is a concern across Canada and the remote location of rural areas like Cluculz Lake and Bobtail Lake discourages voter turnout;

And WHEREAS Section 100 (3)b of the Local Government Act allows for mail in ballots for regional districts if the area is "remote from the voting places at which persons who reside in the specified area are entitled to vote" and Section 100 (3)c contemplates "persons who expect to be absent from the regional district on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities"

And WHEREAS voter turnout has decreased a staggering 62% in Area F since the pool referendum (the February 2013 pool referendum vote: Area F 1047 (with mail in ballots); the 2014 election: Area F 401 (in person only);

THEREFORE we, the undersigned, respectfully request the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako amend Section 2.1 of **Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1617, 2011** which "limits mail in ballots for referenda only" to include referenda, general local elections and by-elections.

Jim Yorston / 46366 MARSOLAIS DR SR.

PRINT FULL NAME	AREA F ADDRESS	SIGNATURE or email address
DIANE YORSTON	46366 MARSOLAIS DR.	
Kelsey Martin	VANDERHOOP B.C. 46395 EAST BAY ROAD	
SHAWN MARTIN	50895 CLUCULZ LP BC	
MIKE MARTIN	50895 CLUCULZ RD. PO BOX	
MIKE MARTIN SR	46366 MARSOLAIS DR. MARSOLAIS RD.	
DOUNA MARTIN	46366 MARSOLAIS DR. LOYD Rd.	Donna Martin.
BILL MARTIN	SHALLOW BAY Rd.	Bill Martin
RANDY LLOYD	46570 57460 MARSOLAIS DR.	
Joyce Lloyd	46570 57460 MARSOLAIS DR.	
TRACEY MARTIN	SHALLOW BAY RD.	
Lianne <sup>Cropey</sup>	46690 Marsolaus Dr	
Dave Cropey	46690 Marsolaus Dr.	
CRAIG JONES	51095 Cluculz PL	
Kustae Jones	51095 Cluculz PL	

DANNY LLOYD

Lot 2 Lloyd Dr

Please contact Reta Herrick by email [cluculzd@hotmail.com](mailto:cluculzd@hotmail.com) or at 250-441-3355 to have your signed petition picked up.

Pamela Lloyd

Lot 2 Lloyd Dr

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## Cheryl Anderson

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**From:** Cheryl Anderson  
**Sent:** October-09-15 1:38 PM  
**To:** gail.chapman@rdbn.bc.ca  
**Cc:** bill.miller@rdbn.bc.ca  
**Subject:** FW: additional petition signatures

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**From:** Reta Herrick [mailto:cluculzd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** October-09-15 1:28 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Anderson <cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: additional petition signatures

Cheryl,  
I thank the board for approving my request to appear.  
The presenters will be Randy Holubosh and myself, Percy Wright would like to attend as an attendee.

Regards,  
Reta Herrick

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**From:** Cheryl Anderson [mailto:cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** October 8, 2015 3:51 PM  
**To:** Reta Herrick  
**Subject:** RE: additional petition signatures

Good afternoon Reta,

Your request to appear as a delegation at the October 22, 2015 Board meeting has been approved by the RDBN Chair. You will be provided 10 minutes for your presentation, followed by a five minute question and answer period.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. I will confirm this time one week prior to the meeting.

Can you please provide me with a list of presenters, as well as attendees, at your earliest convenience?

Thank you.

**Cheryl Anderson**  
Manager of Administrative Services  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Phone: (250) 692-3195  
[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Reta Herrick [mailto:cluculzd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** October-06-15 5:30 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Anderson <cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca>

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Cc: [bmiller.pbm@gmail.com](mailto:bmiller.pbm@gmail.com)

Subject: additional petition signatures

To the Board of Directors of RDBN,

I would like to include these 27 petition signatures that were turned in to me after I had sent the registered mail package with 411 signatures and the Delegation to the Board. This makes a total of 438 signatures. I can deliver the original sheets on October 22 if the board agrees to allow me to make my presentation.

Best Regards,

Reta Herrick  
55150 Jardine Loop RD,  
Cluculz Lake,  
VOJ3A3  
250-441-3355

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October 22, 2015

Delegation  
Schedule D

**DELEGATION**

**RETA HERRICK & RANDY HOLUBOSH – Re: Mail Ballot Voting in Electoral Area “F”  
(Vanderhoof Rural)**

Chair Miller welcomed Reta Herrick & Randy Holubosh, residents of Cluculz Lake.

Mrs. Herrick thanked the Regional Board for the opportunity to present the petition of 438 signatures.

The residents and property owners at Bobtail and Cluculz Lakes are respectfully requesting that the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako amend Section 2.1 of Bylaw 1617, 2011 to include referenda, general local elections and by-elections for Bobtail and Cluculz Lakes.

The voting stations are at Cluculz Lake and Vanderhoof. The remote distance to travel in the fall when roads are often hazardous, makes it difficult if not impossible for voters to exercise their democratic right to vote. Being a recreational area, many property owners live in and around the Prince George Area. Several non-resident property owners live as far away as Vancouver Island, Prince Rupert and Fort St. John; others are snowbirds or workers in remote camps. Mail-in ballots would give them all a voice.

**DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

**RETA HERRICK & RANDY HOLUBOSH – Re: Mail Ballot Voting in Electoral Area “F”  
(Vanderhoof Rural)**

Statistics for previous ballot counts at the Cluculz Lake voting station with no mail-in voting:

- November 2010 Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department referendum vote, 208 votes were cast;
- November, 2014 election of Directors for RDBN 168 votes were cast.
- February, 2013 Pool Referendum vote:
  - o Mail-in was permitted for Cluculz Lake, not Bobtail Lake;
    - Total of 296 votes cast locally:
      - 150 votes cast at the Cluculz Lake voting station;
      - 145 mail-in votes. (one rejected)

These statistics show mail-in ballots certainly do encourage voter participation.

A survey of other Regional Districts in British Columbia showed that most districts have a bylaw to allow mail-in voting for all elections. This includes the District of Fraser-Fort George. Their area includes Cluculz Lake neighbours to the east of Bednesti, Dahl and Norman Lakes.

Please help to encourage voter turnout by amending this bylaw to permit all residents and non-resident property owners the opportunity to vote.

Mrs. Herrick thanked the Regional Board for the opportunity to present the petition.

Mr. Holubosh thanked the Regional Board for the opportunity to speak in regard to the need to correct the injustice to a group of overlooked people. Seasonal and fulltime taxpayers are not able to vote in RD elections along with disabled and seniors that have had to move to larger communities as their health no longer allows them to live at the lake. They lose the ability to vote without mail in ballots. Mr. Holubosh mentioned that he felt the democratic rights of individuals is violated without the ability to have mail in ballots and this is not the way to be treated as an aging population.

Seasonal property owners that live in Prince George and other communities also have challenges voting during an election as they also need to vote in the area in which they live and in order to leave after work, travel to the Cluculz Lake polling station is difficult as road conditions can be a factor. Mr. Holubosh noted that there is no control in regard to the road conditions but the ability to vote can be resolved with a mail in ballot system to improve the democratic process.

Mr. Holubosh commented that this is Canada and the Regional Board has the ability to change this process.

There are 438 signatures on the petition from property owners of Cluculz Lake and Bobtail Lake and not just random people. These vested interest taxpayers which exceeds the total people that voted in the Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) election of 401 votes could be voters if they had the mail in ballot option. Mr. Holubosh mentioned that he had calculated that 146 eligible voters had the opportunity to vote taken away because mail in ballots were not allowed.

He spoke to the need for higher voter turnout for votes and elections. The voice of more residents needs to be heard to ensure fairness and a unified movement.

Director Reppen mentioned that residents that live in the region and work in a camp setting quite often, due to the timeframe for advance voting and general election day, do not have the opportunity to vote. He indicated his awareness of an additional cost but encouraged the Regional Board to consider mail in voting throughout the region.

#### **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

#### **RETA HERRICK & RANDY HOLUBOSH – Re: Mail Ballot Voting in Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural)**

Moved by Director Strimbold  
Seconded by Director Bachrach

2015-12-4

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to draft a cost analysis report in regard to mail ballot voting in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and; further, that the report be brought forward at a future RDBN Board Meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Staff will provide e-mail notification to Ms. Herrick when the report is brought forward for consideration.

Chair Miller thanked Ms. Herrick and Mr. Holubosh for attending the meeting.

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair Miller and Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Cheryl Anderson  
Manager of Administrative Services/Chief Election Officer

**DATE:** February 29, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Mail Ballot Voting

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In August, 2011 the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors, upon the request of a number of seasonal dwellers in a portion of Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural), specifically Cluculz Lake, adopted "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1617, 2011" (attached) to allow for Mail Ballot Voting within a portion of Electoral Area "F" for referenda only.

Following adoption of the bylaw, there has been one referendum which included the Cluculz Lake area where Mail Ballot Voting was used. There were 181 mail ballots requested and 162 were returned prior to the close of voting. The process was extremely onerous and time consuming.

In November, 2015 the Regional Board received a delegation from the Cluculz Lake area wherein it was requested that the RDBN consider allowing all eligible RDBN electors to vote by mail ballot for both elections and referenda. As a result, the RDBN Board of Directors requested that staff prepare a report in regard to Mail Ballot Voting.

Staff have been researching mail ballot voting and have contacted other Regional Districts to determine if they conduct mail ballot voting, and if so, what their procedures are. Out of 29 Regional Districts (inclusive of Islands Trust and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality) five do not conduct mail ballot voting of any kind, and three, including RDBN, allow mail ballot voting in specified areas only.

The majority of Regional Districts have noted that the number of electors voting by mail is relatively small. I would like to note that the number of requests for mail ballots we received from the Cluculz Lake area exceeds the number received by other Regional Districts for their entire regional district. In addition, I believe a controversial referendum will result in more mail ballot requests than an election (ie past Vanderhoof Pool Referendum).

The following is information related to the number of mail ballots requests to date in other regional districts:

- Regional District of Central Okanagan
  - 2014 Elections – 16 requested, 6 returned
- Capital Regional District
  - 2014 Elections – 200 requested, 120 returned
- Cariboo Regional District – typically 20-30 requested
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
  - 2008 Elections – 57 requested
  - 2011 Elections – 68 requested
  - 2014 Elections – 77 requested
- Comox Valley Regional District
  - 2014 Elections – 45 requested
  - 2015 Referendum (Hornby Island Fire Hall) – 193 requested
  - 2015 Referendum (Homelessness) – 19 requested
- Regional District of East Kootenay
  - 2008 Elections– (Elections in 4 areas) 49 requested, 44 returned
  - 2011 Elections – (Elections in 3 areas) 18 requested, 14 returned
  - 2014 Elections – (Elections in 3 areas) 39 requested, 36 returned
- Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
  - 2011 Election – 4 requested
  - 2014 Election – 2 requested
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary – 11 requested, 8 returned
- Regional District of Nanaimo
  - Recent referendum for one electoral area – 62 returned
  - 2014 Election – 75 returned
    - Comments – It is surprising how much time it takes to process the applications. Processing registrations can take up more time, especially when packages are returned incomplete and time is spent obtaining the correct information.
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
  - 2014 Election – 7 requested
- Peace River Regional District
  - 2015 Referendum (3 Electoral Areas) – 7 requested, 5 returned

Prior to March, 2008, legislation permitted mail ballot voting for electors with a disability or electors considered living in a “remote area” with a great distance from polling stations. On March 31, 2008, legislation changed which enabled local governments to expand the provision of mail ballot voting to include persons who expected to be absent from the Regional District on both general and advance voting days. Section 110 of the *Local Government Act* states that a Regional District **MAY**, by bylaw, permit voting by mail ballot.

### Typical Process for Conducting Mail Ballot Voting

- Advertisements are placed in local newspapers, as well as the P.G. Citizen for Cluculz Lake residents, indicating mail balloting information.

- Upon receipt of a valid application for a mail ballot, the Chief Election Officer sends to the applicant a mail ballot package together with an application for registration as an elector.
- The Chief Election Officer records the name and address of the person to whom the mail ballot package has been sent.
- Upon receipt of a mail ballot package, the Chief Election Officer shall record the date of such receipt and remove and examine the certification envelope and the completed elector registration application and mark the certification envelope as "ACCEPTED" or "REJECTED."
- Certification envelopes remain unopened until such time as determined by the Chief Election Officer.

### **Mail Ballot Voting Benefits**

- Creates additional voting opportunity for eligible electors.
- May increase voter turnout for non-resident property electors and "snowbirds".
- May eliminate complaints by the public in regard to the lack of additional voting opportunities.
- May assist those with mobility challenges.

### **Mail Ballot Voting Challenges**

#### ***Mailing and Return of Ballots***

- Voters are required to formally request a mail ballot package.
- For an election, ballots cannot be printed until one week after the close of the nomination period. It takes approximately one week for the ballots to be printed. This leaves about a 3 week window for the ballots to be sent to electors and returned to the Chief Election Officer prior to the close of voting.
- Will be problematic should the elector be outside of the province or the country, however, the *Local Government Act* states that it is the responsibility of the person applying to vote by mail ballot to ensure that the mail ballot is received before the close of polls on general voting day.
- Referendum ballots may be printed much further in advance, allowing sufficient time for the elector to return their ballot.

#### ***Cost of Mail Ballot Packages***

The cost to mail out each package could range in price as follows (Canada Post Regular mail):

- Canada \$1.71 - \$2.77 per package
- US \$2.68 - \$4.85 per package
- International \$5.56 - \$9.69 per package
- Prices will vary depending on the weight of the package.
- There is no way of knowing how many voters will request a mail ballot package, a total cost cannot be estimated.

### ***Validity of Mail Ballots***

- May be questions raised or challenges regarding the validity of the mail ballot.
- Legislation provides that the onus is on the voter signing a declaration stating that they are eligible to vote.
- Voter eligibility will be difficult to verify as the legislation does not include any regulations that require electors to provide proof that they are eligible to vote.

### ***Additional Staffing for Issuance and Collection of Mail Ballots***

- Administrative process for mail ballot voting is very intensive.
- Additional work for the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer would be required.
- If mail ballot voting were to be implemented region wide for elections, additional staffing would be a necessity. Even more staff would be required should a region-wide referendum be held.
- It is difficult to estimate the number of additional staff needed as it will be dependent on public interest.
- A minimum of 2 additional staff would be required in-house for a 3 week period to prepare ballot packages, record mail ballot requests, mail out packages, and answer telephone and email requests.
- Cost of 2 temporary full-time staff for a 3 week period is estimated to be \$4,800.
- Added cost to advertise and interview for additional staff required.

### ***Additional Staffing on General Voting Day***

- Sought a legal opinion in regard to implementing a deadline for the receipt of mail ballots by the Chief Election Officer prior to the close of voting.
- Does not seem reasonable that the Regional District office be staffed on general voting day in the event that a mail ballot is delivered.
- Canada Post is closed on Saturdays and Courier services in the area do not deliver on the weekends.
- The only way a mail ballot could be received would be if it was hand-delivered, in which case the mail ballot should be delivered to the appropriate polling station.
- Legal opinion indicates that the legislation is not clear - even though the legislation allows the Chief Election Officer to establish time limits in relation to mail ballot voting, it also states that the elector is obligated to ensure delivery of the mail ballot to the Chief Election Officer prior to the close of voting on General Voting day.
- Legal opinion indicated that if challenged, the courts would interpret the legislation in a manner that prevented local governments from imposing stricter time limits for the return of mail ballots which may pose a problem.
- Difficult for an RD Chief Election Officer to be stationed at a specific location on general voting day as there could be up to 18 polling stations operational at the same time across the region.
- CEO and Deputy CEO need to be available to attend any polling stations should issues arise.

- A legal opinion was sought in regard to appointing election officials at specific polling stations to accept any walk-in mail ballots.
- Legal opinion indicated that is reasonable, and that there is nothing in the legislation that prohibits this.
- In order for mail ballots to be accepted and opened at specific polling stations, 2 additional election officials would be required at each of the specified polling stations to receive walk-in ballots and count all mail ballots received at the close of voting.
- Due to the lack of RD ability to impose timelines in relation to a deadline for receipt of mail ballots, all mail ballots will be in the possession of the CEO at the close of voting on the day prior to general voting.
- It has been the practice of the RD to combine ballot boxes containing less than 25 ballots with another box, as per Section 137 of the *Local Government Act*, for the purpose of preserving the secrecy of the ballot.
- Mail Ballots received at the RD office would have to be delivered to the appropriate polling station prior to the close of general voting.
- Hiring up to three additional staff to deliver the ballots may be required.
- Advertising costs would increase as 2 additional newspaper ads would be required for each election/referendum specific to Mail Ballot Voting.
- Newspaper ads are extremely expensive.

### Financial Implications

Increased costs to implement mail ballot voting are difficult to quantify as it will be partially dependent upon how many electors choose to vote by mail ballot, and how many areas are impacted by the election/referendum. The costs to mail the packages would vary depending on the size of the package and where the package is being sent. In addition, the number of additional staff required in-house to administer the process would depend upon the scale of the election/referendum. Following is a list of additional costs:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Mail ballot packages   | unknown                    |
| • Mailing costs  | unknown                    |
| • 2 additional staff at RDBN (3 week period)                                     | \$4,800                    |
| • Workstation (telephone and computer) for additional staff                      | unknown                    |
| • 2 additional Election Officials in each area                                   | \$4,500 (\$650 per area)   |
| • 2 additional advertisements in each area                                       | \$8,000 (\$1,000 per area) |
| • 3 staff to deliver mail ballots on general voting Day plus transportation cost | unknown                    |
| • Advertisements for Additional Staffing and Election Officials                  | \$300 per area             |
| • Staff/Election official training   | unknown                    |

### **Summary**

Changes to the *Local Government Act* have expanded the provision of mail ballot voting to eligible electors who expect to be absent from the regional district on advance and general voting days. There are significant challenges with the implementation and provision of mail ballot voting. The benefits are unknown at this time, although it does provide an opportunity for non-resident property electors to vote.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**Direction at the Discretion of the Board**

**Cheryl Anderson**

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**From:** Reta Herrick  
**Sent:** March-08-16 1:31 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Andersona2f  
**Subject:** Re: Mail Ballot Voting  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Thanks Cheryl,

I will be looking forward to the results.

Reta Herrick

On Tue, Mar 8, 2016 at 10:08 AM, Cheryl Anderson <[cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca)> wrote:

Good morning Reta,

A memo regarding mail ballot voting has been included in the March 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole Agenda. Following is a link to the memo.

<http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/administration/regional-board-committee-meetings>

**Cheryl Anderson**

Manager of Administrative Services

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Phone: [\(250\) 692-3195](tel:(250)692-3195)

[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)



**Cheryl Anderson**

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**From:** Reta Herrick  
**Sent:** June-28-16 3:25 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Andersona2f  
**Cc:** bmiller.pbm@gmail.com; jeraud@telus.net  
**Subject:** Request update on mail in ballot voting petition

Cheryl Anderson

Manager of Administrative Services

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Hi Cheryl,

Regarding the mail-in ballot voting petition presented to the Board November 2015:

I did receive an email notice of the Agenda of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting, Thursday, March 10, 2016 where the staff report was submitted.

I have not since been able to find any more information to indicate that the Board had discussed the Bylaw 1617, 2011 or is considering changes to this Bylaw.

Would you please direct me to the minutes of such meetings?

I look forward to getting an update on the outcome.

Sincerely,

Reta Herrick,

55150 Jardine Loop Rd,

Cluculz Lake

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Would you please direct me to the minutes of such meetings?

I look forward to getting an update on the outcome.

Sincerely,

Reta Herrick,

55150 Jardine Loop Rd,

Cluculz Lake

250-441-3355

**Cheryl Anderson**

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**From:** Cheryl Anderson  
**Sent:** June-28-16 3:47 PM  
**To:** cluculzd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Request update on mail in ballot voting petition  
**Attachments:** March 10 2016 COW Minutes.pdf; image003.jpg

Hi Reta,

The Board of Directors discussed the report, received it, and no further action was taken.

The minutes are attached.

**Cheryl Anderson**

Manager of Administrative Services  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Phone: (250) 692-3195  
[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)



**From:** Reta Herrick [mailto:cluculzd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** June-28-16 3:19 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Anderson <cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** bmiller.pbm@gmail.com; Jerry Petersen <jeraud@telus.net>  
**Subject:** Request update on mail in ballot voting petition

Cheryl Anderson

Manager of Administrative Services

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Hi Cheryl,

**Cheryl Anderson**

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**From:** geraldine.craven  
**Sent:** November-07-16 2:53 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Anderson; Melany Deweerdt  
**Subject:** FW: Request for information regarding the Mail in vote in Area F  
**Attachments:** Request to RDBN for update on Mail in voting rules.docx

**From:** D & R Herrick [mailto:cluculzd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** November 7, 2016 2:12 PM  
**To:** bmiller.pbm@gmail.com  
**Cc:** inquiries <inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca>; Jerry Petersen <jeraud@telus.net>  
**Subject:** Request for information regarding the Mail in vote in Area F

Attention:  
 Director Bill Miller, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
 Director Jerry Petersen  
 Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services/Chief Election Officer,

In November, 2015 the Regional Board received a delegation from the Cluculz Lake area wherein it was requested that the RDBN consider allowing all eligible Area F, RDBN electors, to vote by mail ballot for all elections and referenda.

The Board decided to wait for the Provinces response to the resolution endorsed at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention to be held September 26-30, 2016.

Would you please give me an update on the current minutes of all and any recent meetings regarding discussion on this issue? I have searched the minutes and have not been successful in finding anything.

**At the November 2015 board meeting, the Board requested the Staff provide e-mail notification** to me when the report is brought forward for consideration.

It is important to the People of Area F, Cluculz Lake that this issue be resolved soon and well before the next Regional Election.

We do hope you have not forgotten about us.

I have attached my letter in full.

Sincerely,

Reta Herrick

Cluculz Lake

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**geraldine.craven**

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**From:** Reta Herrick <cluculzd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** May 20, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** Bill Miller  
**Cc:** info@telkwa.ca; Jerry Petersen; inquiries  
**Subject:** amend Section 2.1 of Bylaw 1617,  
**Attachments:** letter to RDBN May 2017.docx

**RECEIVED****MAY 23 2017****REGIONAL DISTRICT OF  
BULKLEY NECHAKO**

Attached is a copy of the letter posted:

RDBN Board of Directors,

November 2015 a petition of 438 area F, eligible voters, was presented to the RDBN Board .The residents and property owners at Bobtail and Cluculz Lake respectfully requested that the board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako amend Section 2.1 of Bylaw 1617, 2011 to include referenda, general local elections and by-elections for Bobtail and Cluculz Lakes.

One year later at the November 24 2016 meeting the board received correspondence from me, Reta Herrick, regarding an update regarding the Mail Ballot Voting; at that time Director Repen requested staff to follow up with the Union of BC Municipalities in regard to Mail Ballot voting. Was this done and if so what was the result? I have not been able to find anything in the board minutes to show the issue has ever been addressed since.

I briefly spoke to our area Director Jerry Petersen at the Cluculz Lake AGM meetings In January 2017, When I asked him what was happening with the petition issues his reply was that **"it had not been on the agenda."**

If the Board does not intend on addressing the issue, please let me know and I will pursue other avenues.

It is important to the People of Area F, Cluculz Lake that this issue be resolved soon and well before the next Regional Election.

This board has the power to give all the voters their democratic right to be able to cast a vote.

Sincerely,

Reta Herrick,  
Cluculz Lake

Reta Herrick  
55150 Jardine Loop Rd,  
Cluculz Lake, Vanderhoof, BC  
V0J 3A3  
250-441-3355

May 20, 2017

RECEIVED  
MAY 23 2017  
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF  
BULKLEY NECHAKO

To RDBN Board of Directors,

November 2015 a petition of 438 area F, eligible voters, was presented to the RDBN Board .The residents and property owners at Bobtail and Cluculz Lake respectfully requested that the board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako amend Section 2.1 of Bylaw 1617, 2011 to include referenda, general local elections and by-elections for Bobtail and Cluculz Lakes.

One year later at the November 24 2016 meeting the board received correspondence from me, Reta Herrick, regarding an update regarding the Mail Ballot Voting; at that time Director Repen requested staff to follow up with the Union of BC Municipalities in regard to Mail Ballot voting. Was this done and if so what was the result? I have not been able to find anything in the board minutes to show the issue has ever been addressed since.

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When I asked him what was happening with the petition issues his reply was that **"it had not been on the agenda."**

If the Board does not intend on addressing the issue, please let me know and I will pursue other avenues.

It is important to the People of Area F, Cluculz Lake that this issue be resolved soon and well before the next Regional Election.

This board has the power to give all the voters their democratic right to be able to cast a vote.

Sincerely,

Reta Herrick,  
Cluculz Lake

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Schedule K



## Resolutions Detail

Year	Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
2011	C8	Online Local Government Voting	Coquitlam

### Resolution Text

WHEREAS Coquitlam in 2008 experienced a below average voter turnout of 21.5% - the provincial average is 35%; AND WHEREAS there is a need to engage a greater number of voters to maintain a healthy democracy; AND WHEREAS our citizens are using the internet for banking, purchases, selling, networking and information; AND WHEREAS our citizens are busy, many too busy to vote in the traditional manner; AND WHEREAS 57% of non-voters cited time pressures that prevented them from getting out to vote; AND WHEREAS many local governments in other provinces, and more largely the Province of Ontario (44 municipalities), have been using online voting in their elections for some time; AND WHEREAS the BC Liberal Party allowed online and telephone voting in their election to choose a new Premier; AND WHEREAS both the Cities of Vancouver and Surrey have spoken out in support of online voting: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government look into the possibility of online voting with the intention of utilizing it for the 2014 local government elections.

### Convention Decision

Not Admitted for Debate

### Executive Decision

### Committee Decision

### Provincial Response

### Federal Response

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## Resolutions Detail

Year	Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
2011	B16	Online Voting in Local Government Elections	North Vancouver City

### Resolution Text

WHEREAS it is desirable to increase the level of interest and participation in local government by young people in the community: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government introduce online voting in local government and provincial government elections.

### Convention Decision

Removed from Consideration

### Executive Decision

### Provincial Response

### Committee Decision

### Federal Response

### Other Response

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Schedule L



## Resolutions Detail

Year	Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
2003	B5	Mail-in Voting for General Election	Coquitlam

### Resolution Text

WHEREAS the provincial and municipal governments have worked hard to increase the number of voters participating in municipal elections; AND WHEREAS the voter turnout for General Local Elections has remained consistently low due to the requirement for electors to be physically present at a voting place on general voting day or at an advance voting opportunity; AND WHEREAS other provinces and jurisdictions have successfully enacted alternative voting methods such as mail-in voting as a way to increase voter turn out; AND WHEREAS the Local Government Act of British Columbia only permits very limited use of alternative voting methods such as mail-in voting; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province amend the Local Government Act to broaden the use of mail-in voting for Local General Elections.

### Convention Decision

Endorsed

### Executive Decision

### Committee Decision

### Provincial Response

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY, ABORIGINAL & WOMEN'S SERVICES The ministry supports initiatives that increase public participation in the general local elections. A questionnaire was sent to local government election officers last year about their experiences with the 2002 general local election. The purpose was to determine where practitioners were experiencing difficulties, whether improvements in the legislation are needed, or whether additional informational material is needed. One of the questions asked was whether the respondents supported mandatory mail ballot voting. Twenty local governments supported mail ballot voting and fifty-three did not support it. The questionnaire results are not necessarily a rejection of mandatory mail ballot voting. However, there were sufficient concerns expressed about the additional administrative burden that would be imposed on smaller local governments that further consultation on the issue will be needed. The ministry will undertake further consultation with local

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governments on this matter and any others that might increase public participation in general local elections.

**Federal Response**

**Other Response**

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**Mail ballot voting**

**110** (1) Subject to this section and any regulations under section 168 [*election regulations*], a local government may, by bylaw, permit voting to be done by mail ballot and, in relation to this, may permit elector registration to be done in conjunction with this voting.

(2) For a municipality, the only electors who may be permitted to vote by mail ballot are

- (a) persons who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity, and
- (b) persons who expect to be absent from the municipality on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities.

(3) For a regional district, the only electors who may be permitted to vote by mail ballot are

- (a) persons who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity,
- (b) if, for this purpose, a bylaw under subsection (1) specifies an area on the basis that it is remote from the voting places at which persons who reside in the specified area are entitled to vote, persons who reside in that specified area, and
- (c) persons who expect to be absent from the regional district on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities.

(4) A bylaw under subsection (1) may

- (a) establish procedures for voting and registration that differ from those established under other provisions of this Part, and
- (b) establish, or authorize the chief election officer to establish, time limits in relation to voting by mail ballot.

(5) The chief election officer must give notice of an opportunity to vote by mail ballot in any manner the chief election officer considers will give reasonable notice to the electors who will be entitled to vote by this means.

(6) The procedures for voting by mail ballot must require the chief election officer to keep sufficient records so that challenges of an elector's right to

vote may be made in accordance with the intent of section 126 [*challenge of elector*].

(7) Mail ballot packages must contain the following:

- (a) the ballot or ballots to which an elector is entitled;
- (b) a secrecy envelope that has no identifying marks, in which the ballots are to be returned;
- (c) a certification envelope on which is printed the information referred to in subsection (8) for completion by the person voting, in which the secrecy envelope is to be placed;
- (d) an outer envelope on which is printed the address of the chief election officer at the local government offices and in which the envelopes under paragraphs (b) and (c) and, if applicable, the registration application under paragraph (e) are to be returned;
- (e) if permitted by the bylaw under subsection (1), an application for registration as an elector, to be completed if necessary and returned in the outer envelope;
- (f) instructions as to how to vote by mail ballot.

(8) The certification envelope must be printed

- (a) with spaces in which the person voting is to record his or her full name and residential address, and
- (b) with a statement to be signed by the person voting declaring that the person
  - (i) is entitled to be registered as an elector for the election,
  - (ii) is entitled to vote by mail ballot, and
  - (iii) has not previously voted in the election and will not afterwards vote again in the election.

(9) In order to be counted for an election, a mail ballot must be received by the chief election officer before the close of voting on general voting day and it is the obligation of the person applying to vote by mail ballot to ensure that the mail ballot is received by the chief election officer within this time limit.



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Rural Directors Committee Memorandum  
July 20, 2017**

**To:** Chair Benedict and Rural Directors  
**From:** Kristi Rensby, Finance/Administration Coordinator  
**Date:** July 5, 2017  
**Regarding:** Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds – Second Quarter 2017

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The Electoral Area Allocations of the Federal Gas Tax Funds have been updated for the second quarter of 2017 as per the enclosed spreadsheet.

If you have any questions, I would be pleased to discuss them further with you.

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>(All/Directors/Majority)</b>
That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Finance/Administration Coordinator's July 5 <sup>th</sup> memorandum titled "Electoral Area Allocations of Federal Gas Tax Funds – Second Quarter 2017".	

Updated as of: Jun 30, 2017

**Federal Gas Tax Community Works Fund**

**Year: 2017**

Electoral Area	Population	Opening Balance 2017	Interest Earnings	Funds Spent	Funds Committed	Funding Received	YTD Funds Available
A	5,256	1,533,964.09	9,590.68	52,052.25	637,576.50	-	853,926.02
B	1,938	202,033.64	1,263.16	17,000.00	5,000.00	-	181,296.80
C	1,415	309,767.68	1,936.74	16,375.85	99,624.28	-	195,704.29
D	1,472	734,066.49	4,589.55	-	475,896.20	-	262,759.84
E	1,593	171,423.12	1,071.78	-	50,300.00	-	122,194.90
F	3,665	758,227.17	4,740.60	55,531.99	511,578.88	-	195,856.90
G	903	143,169.77	895.13	-	15,300.00	-	128,764.90
	<b>16,242</b>	<b>3,852,651.96</b>	<b>24,087.63</b>	<b>140,960.09</b>	<b>1,795,275.86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,940,503.64</b>

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