



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA

Thursday, October 8, 2015

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	Receive
	<u>AGENDA</u> – September 3, 2015	Approve
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
3-9	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2015	Receive
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
	<u>RICHARD JAQUES</u> , Green Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George	
	<u>TRACY CALOGEROS</u> , Liberal Party Candidate, Cariboo-Prince George	
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
10-11	Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development – 2016 RDBN Business Forum	Direction
12-19	Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Regional Economic Development Status Report	Receive
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
20	Re-Use Shed Public Meeting Details	Receive
21-26	Salvaging and Re-Use Shed Background Document	Receive
27-30	Promoting Re-Use in the RDBN – Ideas/Suggestions/ Solutions Questionnaire	Receive
31	Lyn Nugent – Request for Additional Garbage Disposal Option	Receive
32	Earnie Harding – One-Stop Recycling Facilities	Receive
	<u>INVITATION</u>	
33-34	Nechako Watershed Roundtable Launch October 21-22, 2015, Prince George, B.C.	Receive

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING****Thursday, September 3, 2015**

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dwayne Lindstrom
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell – arrived at 11:34 a.m.
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Directors Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 12:20 p.m., left at 12:48 p.m., returned at 12:54 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Nathan Cullen, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley, New Democratic Party – arrived 10:37 a.m., left at 12:20 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDAMoved by Alternate Director McGuire
Seconded by Director BrienenC.W.2015-6-1

"That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of September 3, 2015 be approved; and further that the Supplementary Agenda be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES**Committee of the Whole Minutes – June 11, 2015Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director PetersenC.W.2015-6-2

"That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of June 11, 2015 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

RDBN Staff Attendance at
UBCM Convention, 2015

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2015-6-3

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that it endorse sending Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning/Interim Deputy Administrator to the 2015 UBCM Convention in Vancouver, in place of the RDBN CAO."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

NATHAN CULLEN, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley, New Democratic Party

Chair Miller welcomed Nathan Cullen, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley, New Democratic Party.

Mr. Cullen thanked the Regional Board of Directors for a chance to come and present to the Board.

He mentioned that he is currently assisting a colleague in regard to the Syrian refugee crisis that has recently taken place.

Mr. Cullen mentioned that with the writ being dropped on August 1, 2015 and ending October 19, 2015 that this is the longest Federal Election. With the election being a longer period of time it also increases the cost by an additional \$200-\$300 million.

He spoke to the early commitments made by the New Democratic Party (NDP) during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Convention in Edmonton, June 4-8, 2015 to add an extra cent on the gas tax revenues to Regional Districts and Municipalities.

Mr. Cullen noted the recession that Canada has experienced in the early part of 2015 and the negative growth that has occurred. The economy is fragile and is experiencing the lowest job creation rate in two years in comparison to the past 45 years. He noted that infrastructure is a hallmark to moving forward in tough economic times. The NDP is planning to have infrastructure projects aligned to allow for a shovel ready approach if the NDP is elected. The NDP is also committed to a balanced budget the first year. If elected they will assume the last quarter current budget and are committed to balancing the budget for the 2016-2017 budget year.

He noted that consumer affairs are key: for example the current low price per barrel of oil is not reflected at the pumps. Mr. Cullen spoke of a study completed on the disconnect in regard to oil prices and prices at the fuel pumps and the analogy "rocket up and feather down" was discussed. If oil prices are up the price at the pump is up, if oil prices drop the price at the pump feathers down. There has been the suggestion of implementing a Gas Ombudsperson. Another key factor is the lack of refining capacity in Canada. Chair Miller mentioned that fuel prices at the pump have a direct effect on economic growth.

Chair Miller suggested the need for Federal Parliament and the Provincial Legislature to work together and find solutions and consensus.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

NATHAN CULLEN, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley, New Democratic Party

Mr. Cullen spoke of the Unisto'ot'en Camp south of Houston. Concerns have been brought forward in regard for the potential for an escalation of violence and the inconsistency as to who is allowed into the area. Mr. Cullen mentioned that representatives from the Unisto'ot'en and the RCMP are working on communication. He noted that rumours from the media and social media have had an impact and he has attempted to correct them in order to keep the atmosphere neutral. Director Strimbold asked at what point and whose role is it to find a resolution to the issue. Mr. Cullen commented that pipelines are an issue and will continue to be, he mentioned that the land issues need to be resolved. It creates uncertainty for investors and is overwhelming for citizens, First Nations, and non-First Nations. He mentioned the importance of having the province engaged also.

Director Thiessen noted the refugee crisis and spoke to the churches sponsoring refugees in the past but those opportunities do not seem to be available today. What can communities do to assist in the refugee crisis? Mr. Cullen explained that during the Vietnam crisis and the faith sponsorships during that time Canada received 60,000 refugees but currently faith based applications are being rejected outright. In the last three years Canada has received approximately 1,000 refugees. He also stated that Turkey has offered assistance to Canada but Canada has not moved forward.

Director Thiessen spoke to concerns that there has been no new rental housing projects and the elimination of capital gains to assist in reinvesting in light rental housing projects would be very beneficial. People have to often leave their communities or find poorer housing because of the lack of affordable rental housing. Mr. Cullen mentioned that the NDP has committed to 10,000 housing units across Canada in the first year. They are working with CMHC and developing plans that can be customized for each community to address its needs. He noted that the pace of making changes to the capital gains depends on the budget. He also mentioned that Canada is the only country that doesn't have a national housing strategy.

Alternate Director Hughes commented on the issues of internet/cell coverage in the region. He mentioned the importance and necessity of having internet and hopes there can be more focus on coverage in the region. Alternate Director Hughes stated concerns regarding the frequencies auctioned by Industry Canada and the lack of acknowledgement and compensation to people using those frequencies. Mr. Cullen reported that Telus has shown interest in completing coverage along Highway 16. Mr. Cullen mentioned that Netflix takes up approximately 2/3 of broadband width. He spoke to connectivity needing to be a joint effort between industry and government. Director McGuire thanked Mr. Cullen for taking a letter forward from the Village of Granisle in regard to receiving funding through the Connecting Canadians Grant Funding for cell coverage.

Director McGuire inquired as to the grant funding that was put on hold recently until the federal election is complete. Mr. Cullen noted that 4-5 communities that have received letters of support but have been requested to delay announcement of funds received. The NDP has stated that if an organization has in hand a letter of approval from the federal government that money is in the budget for the 2015 budget year and will be provided. He stated that organizations should announce that they have received funding but understands that due to the direction provided they are withholding announcing funding received.

Chair Miller brought forward the resolution forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in regard to the \$800 million that was to be allocated to Mountain Pine Beetle impacted areas and communities. Mr. Cullen reported that approximately \$200 million of those funds have been allocated but when inquiring about the remaining funds it no longer appears to be a part of the budget. He mentioned that he cannot commit to providing the funds as there requires further research into the actual location of the funds.

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DELEGATION (CONT'D)

NATHAN CULLEN, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley, New Democratic Party

Director Repen asked if the NDP had a plan to reinvest in rural areas and draw human resources to support an evolution in economy and provide stability to the country. Mr. Cullen mentioned the need to have manufacturing abilities in the country and that Canada needs to refine its raw resources in country. He noted that BC currently exports 97% of its raw logs and that in research and development Canada ranks 30 out of 30 developed countries. He spoke to the need to get smarter in order to get better at managing resources. Mr. Cullen also stated that Canada has the lowest rate of patents and that innovation is also a key component to success. Mr. Cullen reported that schools like BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology) are also moving forward with innovative ideas.

Mr. Cullen noted that the NDP has committed to reducing the small business tax rate by 25% along with a \$40 million innovation fund and an accelerated capital cost allowance to allow to write down equipment quicker.

He mentioned that funds had been allocated to Elections Canada to conduct pilot projects for online voting but unfortunately that funding was cut and the project was not able to move forward.

Discussion took place regarding the senate and the issues it faces. Reviewing the senate requires opening the constitution and requires conversations with the provinces.

Mr. Cullen commented that if communities are not on the campaign debate list to please write to his campaign and request an opportunity to have Mr. Cullen come to their community.

Director MacDougall spoke of the challenges and issues with CN and companies not able to get products to market due to lack of rail service. He also asked Mr. Cullen about the Bills being brought forward. Mr. Cullen mentioned that he had introduced a bill that was defeated regarding the banning of raw bulk exports off the coast of Prince Rupert regarding Enbridge. One of the Private Members Bills being brought forward is in regard to notification for dangerous goods moving through communities via rail. He has had conversations with the National Fire Chiefs Association and wanted a policy in place for pre-notification to communities. He expressed his frustration regarding the liability and lack of training for volunteer fire departments in regard to what is being transported through communities. The National Fire Chiefs Association has indicated they are having good dialogue with the Transportation Safety Board and will keep moving forward. He commented that there should be penalties in place for CN when rail cars are not being supplied to get product to market.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Cullen for attending the meeting.

Break for lunch at 11:37 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

REPORT

Re-Use Shed Closure and Salvaging Ban

Director McGuire expressed her concerns that not all communities should have the same guidelines for the reuse sheds as each community is different. Janine Dougall, Director of Environmental Services noted that Granisle and Southside may not have the same level of issues that the other facilities in the region have encountered but they have had issues also. Discussion took place regarding the need to have consistent service levels in the region and closing the re-use sheds initially until a solution could be found.

Re-Use Shed Closure and Salvaging Ban (CONT'D)

Chair Miller spoke to the necessity of the decision to address the risk and liabilities to staff, volunteers and the public.

Directors Repen, Fisher and Bachrach met at the Smithers Telkwa Transfer Station and reviewed possible solutions for the safety issues. Director Repen will provide the information to staff.

The re-use sheds will be closed as soon as reasonably possible if the Regional Board moves forward with the recommendations.

Discussion took place regarding the need to find a solution to the issues associated with the re-use sheds. The need to move forward as soon as possible was discussed.

Discussion took place regarding the media release titled "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Media Release –Closure of Re-Use Sheds and Banning of Salvaging Activities at Solid Waste Management Facilities."

A timeline in regard to the closure of the re-use sheds along with the media outlets utilized was outlined.

Input provided at the public meetings along with any input provided to the RDBN, be it verbal or written, will be recorded and considered during the public consultation process.

Discussion took place regarding the need to have the public meetings relatively soon and the scheduling of those meetings. Staff will be working with the Regional Board of Directors this afternoon and tomorrow to schedule public meetings at the discretion of the Regional Board of Directors schedules.

Re-Use Shed Closure and Salvaging Ban

Moved by Alternate Director McGuire
Seconded by Alternate Director Hughes

C.W.2015-6-4

1. "That the Committee of the Whole receive the Director of Environmental Services' August 25, 2015 memo titled "Re-Use Shed Closure and Salvaging Ban."
2. Further, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize staff to issue the media release titled "Closure of Re-Use Sheds and Banning of Salvaging Activities at Solid Waste Management Facilities."
3. Further, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize staff to proceed with the public meetings as outlined."

Re-Use Shed Closure and Salvaging Ban (CONT'D)

Moved by Director Fisher
 Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2015-6-5

"That Motion C.W.2015-6-4 be amended to include the date of each community meeting on the closure notices."

Opposed: Dir. Benedict CARRIED
 Dir. Brienens
 Dir. MacDougall

(All/Directors/Majority)

"The question be called on Motion C.W.2015-6-4 as amended."

Opposed: Dir. Bachrach
 Dir. Fisher
 Alt. Dir. Hughes
 Alt. Dir. McGuire
 Dir. MacDougall

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED

DISCUSSION

1. Guiding Principles – Airshed, Water Management and Solid Waste

Director Repen noted the need for a combination of public education and the utilization of best practices by industry, businesses and residents in regard to airshed, water use and solid waste management in the region. This is a key component to a healthy economically viable region.

Discussion took place in regard to the possible impacts to the region and the cost that may be borne by the region in regard to future development. The importance of welcoming new businesses and industry and encouraging growth in the region was also discussed.

Director Fisher drafted and read an outline of a guiding principle. He will provide the information to the Regional Board of Directors and staff for further comment and the statement will be brought forward at a future meeting.

Director Thiessen noted concerns regarding air quality and the District of Vanderhoof Council has recently supported an initiative with students in the community called the David Suzuki Blue Dot Project. The project aims to add environmental rights into the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom by gathering support from seven out of 10 provinces.

Discussion took place regarding the strategic plan of the Regional Board and the priorities of the Board along with staffing implications.

Director MacDougall spoke to individual community initiatives that could be shared across the region.

Outdoor wood burning stoves and the issues and air quality impacts associated with the emissions from the units was discussed. Director Thiessen stated that everyone has a right to free air and access to water.

DISCUSSION (CONT'D)

Director Bachrach commented on the permit associated with the development of a pellet plant in Smithers along with the air particulates from CN Rail Trains in communities.

Director Newell mentioned that the potential for negative impacts expand beyond the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and include neighboring Regional Districts in northwest B.C.

2. TransCanada Timber Salvage Strategy

Chair Miller commented that the TransCanada Timber Salvage Strategy relates to the guiding principles in regard to airshed, water management and solid waste management.

NEW BUSINESS

Cell Service to Granisle

Alternate Director McGuire mentioned that Grainisle now has cell service.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2015-6-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:37 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole October 8, 2015

To: Chair Miller and the Committee of the Whole
 From: Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
 Date: September 30, 2015
 Regarding: 2016 RDBN Business Forum

Staff are requesting direction for the planning of the 2016 RDBN Business Forum.

History

The RDBN Business Forum was created to allow potential and current projects taking place in the RDBN to report their status to the RDBN Board. The Board determined it was valuable information to share with residents and businesses, so invitations were extended. The RDBN Staff organized the first two forums in Burns Lake. The Board requested that the communities within the RDBN be given the option to co-host the Forum. The first year the process was selected by reviewing proposals submitted by those communities wishing to host the Forum. The proposal process was determined to be too onerous for both the municipalities and the RDBN therefore a list of communities alternating east to west was determined. The Business Forums have been hosted by:

- Vanderhoof - 2011
- Smithers -2012
- Fort St James - 2014

In the past, Regional Advisory Committee has been appointed to assist the host community to determine forum content and provide planning support. RDBN Staff also provide planning/coordinating assistance before and during the Forum.

The Business Forums have grown from one day projects update to a two day event including keynote speakers, individual meetings with the presenters, Start-Up Business Contest, mini-workshops, networking opportunities and a gala dinner.

The budget for the Forum has been between \$20,000 – 25,000. The RDBN sponsors the event by contributing \$10,000 and the remaining revenue is secured through sponsorships (industry/business/Grant in Aid/OBAC).

Attendance at the Forums range between 100-150 people. Attendees represent:

- Education
- First Nations
- Employment/Business Support
- Forestry, Agriculture, Energy, Mining, Tourism
- Provincial/Local Government Elected Officials/Employees
- Not for Profit
- Independent Business
- Economic Development

A focus has been on encouraging independent business owners/employees to attend the Forum. The challenges include providing content that will engage a variety of businesses, conflicting schedules, lack of capacity (someone needs to run the business) and location of the Forum (independent business won't usually travel to another community).

Current Status

Currently there is not a host municipality for the 2016 RDBN Business Forum. The Village of Burns Lake, District of Houston and Village of Granisle have declined due to staffing capacity concerns and municipal priorities already being set for 2016.

Considerations

Staff have had inquiries from industry sponsors, interested attendees and potential presenters about the next Business Forum.

The Strategic Workforce Opportunities Team has identified the Business Forum as a potential event to present on the actions of the Regional Skills Gap Analysis and engage new members and partners.

The Startup Business Contest is a very popular event for the RDBN. It assists new and expanding businesses with preparing a business plan and provides support to aid in the success of their business. This contest has many partners including Community Futures, Post-Secondary Education, Chambers of Commerce and business mentors and sponsors. The 2014 Regional Economic Development Action Plan includes adding a youth component to the Start-up Business Contest. In previous years, the contest finalists present at the RDBN Business Forum and the winner is announced at the Gala Dinner.

Potential Options

Invitations to host in the spring of 2017 (to give sufficient time to prepare) could be extended to the remaining municipalities.

The RDBN Staff could host the Business Forum with support from a Regional Advisory Committee in Burns Lake, spring of 2017.

Staff are requesting direction for hosting the RDBN Business Forum.

RECOMMENDATION:	(All/Directors/Majority)
Direction.	



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole
October 8, 2015**

To: Chair Miller and the Committee of the Whole
From: Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: September 30, 2015
Regarding: Regional Economic Development Status Report

Please find attached a status report from Regional Economic Development including:

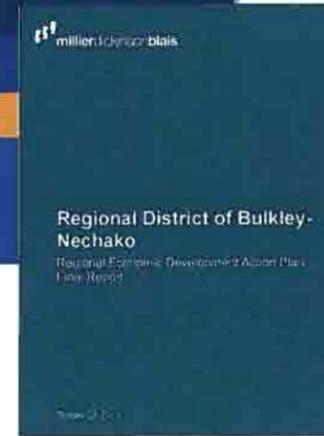
- Work plan Infographic
- Project Highlights
- Proposal Writing Status

RECOMMENDATION:	(All/Directors/Majority)
Receive.	

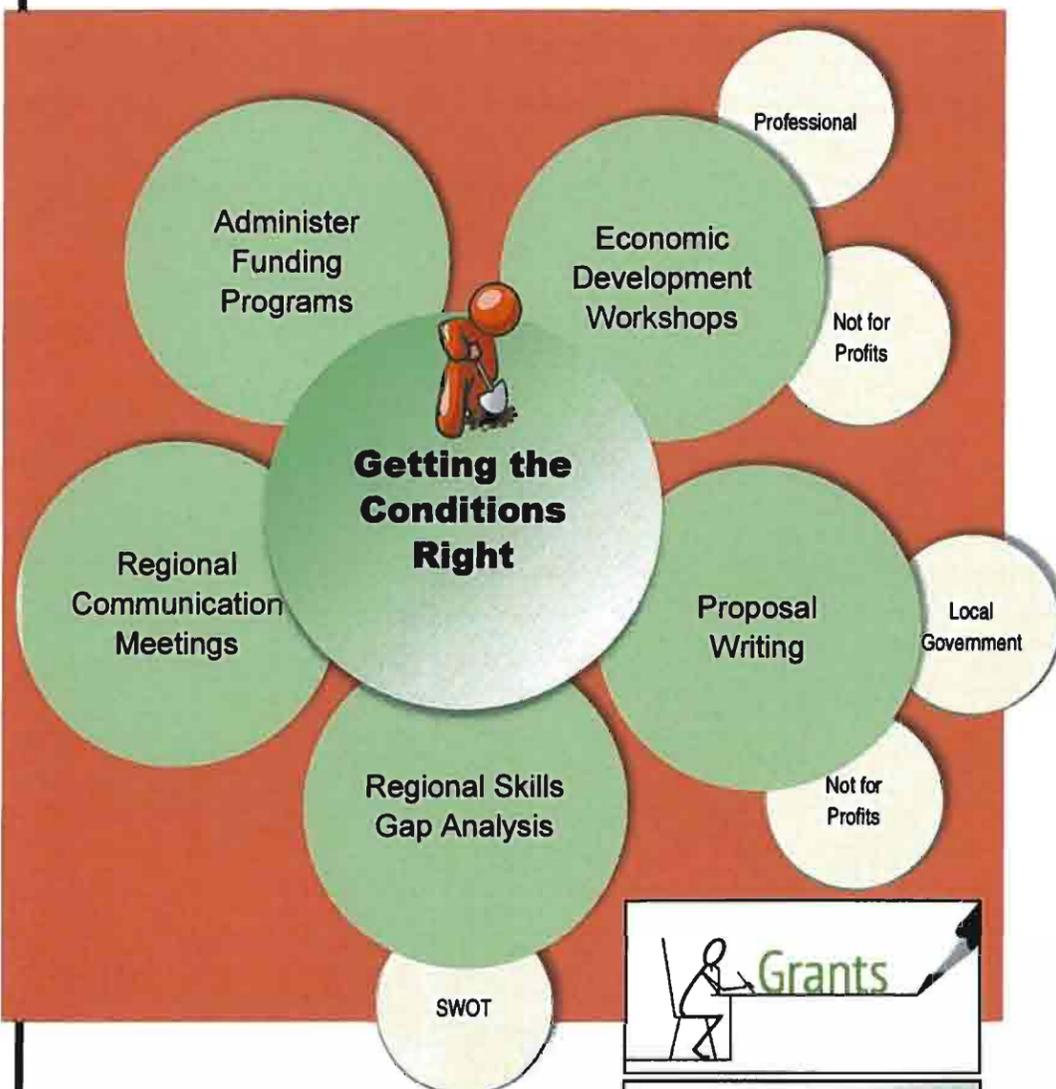
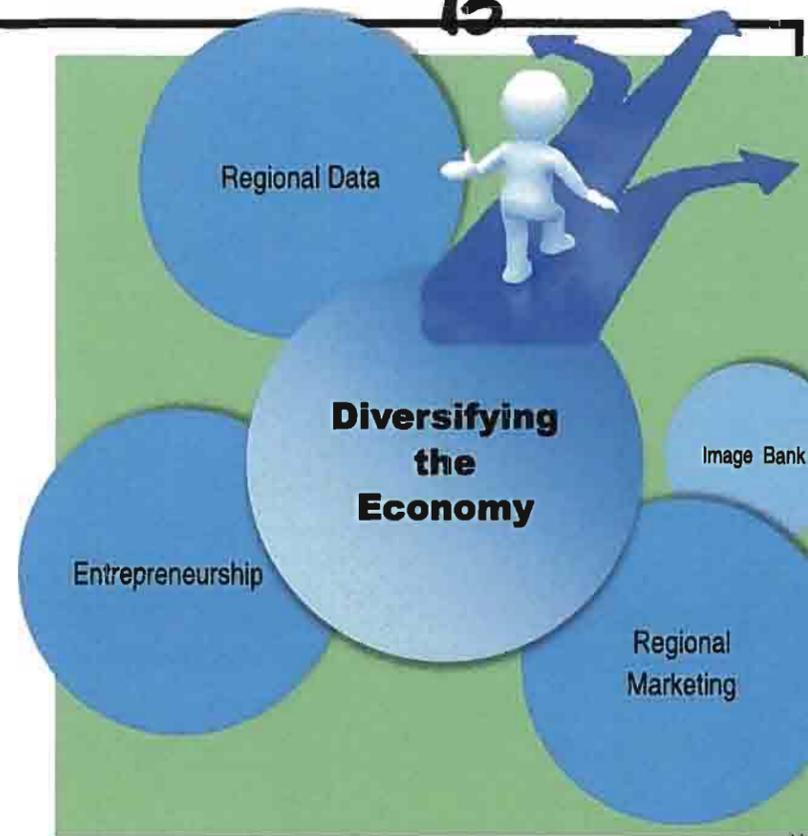


Regional Economic Development

2015



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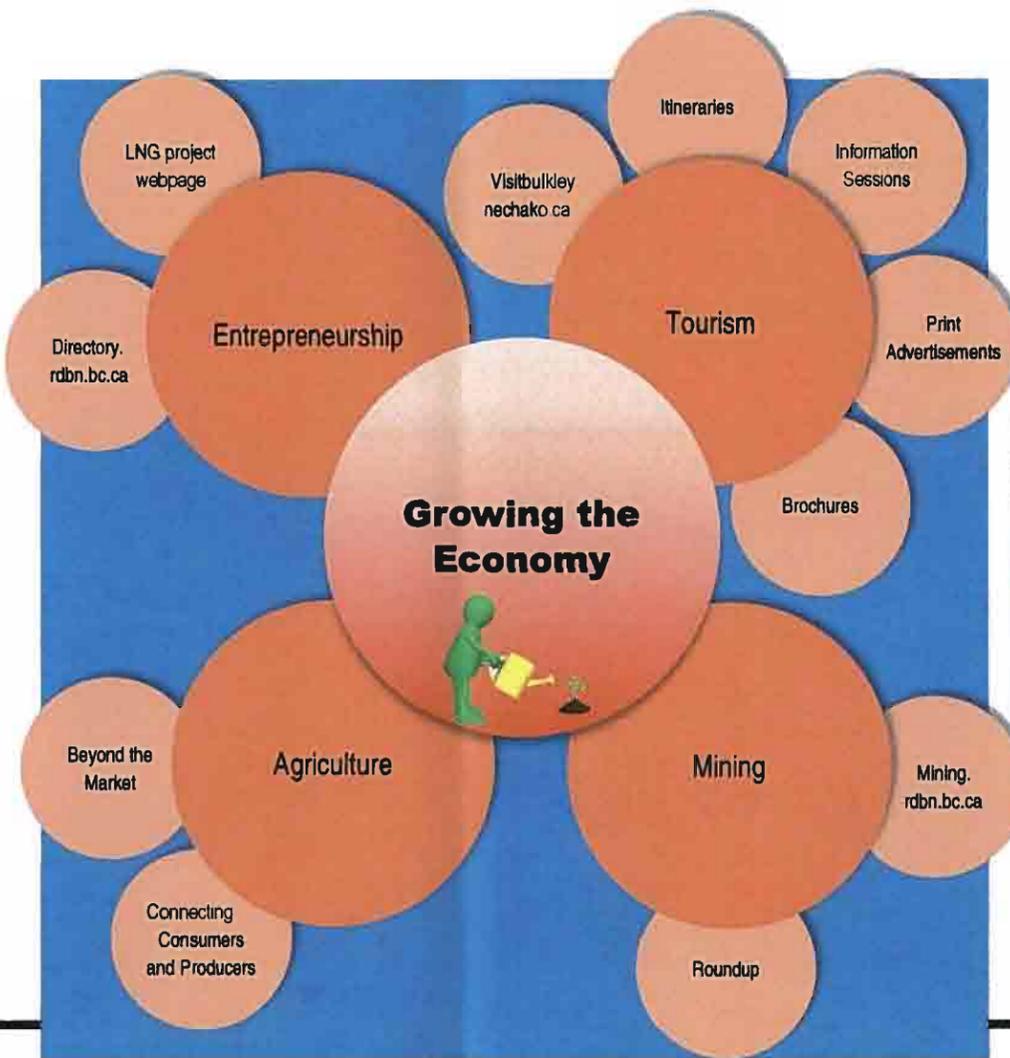
Year to Date
36 grants submitted
\$300,587 total dollars funded



30 Engaged SWOT members implementing the actions of the Regional Skills Gap Analysis



Connecting Consumers & Producers
9 Community Partnerships reaching **20,000 Consumers**



The Regional Tourism Working Group experiencing tourism opportunities at the Boer Mountain Recreation Site and Burns Lake Mountain Biking Trails.



93 attendees at the RDBN booth at Minerals Round-up 2015

Regional Economic Development: Project Highlights

<i>Getting the Conditions Right</i>				
Project	Budget/Timing	Activities	Status	Outputs
Economic Development Workshops	\$7,500 September-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host workshops for Not for Profits • Host workshops for Economic Developers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured sponsorship for economic developers to attend Performance Measurement Training • Assisted the University of Waterloo to plan training • Performance Measurement Training scheduled for Nov 19, 20 in Smithers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 in sponsorship secured
Regional Skills Gap Analysis	\$17,050 January-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Strategic Workforce Opportunities Team (SWOT) to implement the Regional Skills Gap Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT has established executive and 3 subcommittees • Workplans for the subcommittees have been developed • Staff are working on securing funding for a Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 members meeting every two months

<i>Growing the Economy</i>				
Project	Budget/Timing	Activities	Status	Outputs
Tourism Itineraries	\$10,000 August-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Tourism Itineraries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed tourism resource and signage inventory across the region • Completed tourism stakeholder interviews in all communities • Project development in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collected • GPS Coordinates of places of interest and signage • 10 Tourism Stakeholder interviews

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Regional Economic Development: Project Highlights

Tourism Marketing	\$28,505 March-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go Brochure Subscription Tourism Print Advertisements Visitbulkleynechako.ca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied to NDI for grant funding, Received \$5,678 2016 MilePost Partners: Vanderhoof Fort St James Fraser Lake Burns Lake Grainisle Houston Telkwa Completed Ad design Ad design for Prince George Visitor Guide and Northern BC Tourism Guide in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing with Go Brochure Brochure mailout 1654 Regional 598 Hiking 560 Winter 348 Activity 1 page MilePost Ad NBCTA & PG Visitor Guide ½ page ads.
Tourism Short Term Outcomes		Tourism Medium Term Outcomes		Tourism Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen relationships with stakeholders partners Increased exposure of RDBN at provincial VICs Increase exposure of Bulkley Nechako in tourism publications Promote tourism assets Increase communication with tourism stakeholders Decrease duplication in tourism initiatives Enhanced visitbulkleynechako.ca Increase awareness of tourism website Increase in information provided to RDBN visitors <p>Increase in promotion of the activities in the region</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of brochure read Increase in the number of people considering a trip to the Bulkley-Nechako Increase in number of visitors stopping at VICs Increase awareness of the RDBN tourism assets Increase travel by residents to neighboring communities within the region Residents supporting community events and activities throughout the region Increase in length of visitor stay Increase in traffic on visitbulkleynechako.ca <p>Increase of resident awareness in RDBN's commitment to the tourism industry</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of visitors to the RDBN Increase tourism revenue Provide an up to date, relevant, and popular website Increase number of people driving through to Alaska lengthening their stay in the RDBN Tourists, stakeholders and partners recognize Bulkley-Nechako as a tourist destination Sustainable tourism industry <p>Increase number of tourism operators in the region</p>

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Regional Economic Development: Project Highlights

Mining	\$10,660 January- December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend 2015 Mineral Roundup • Upgrade Mining website • Secure Booth for 2016 Mineral Roundup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended 2015 Minerals Roundup • Website upgrades in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees to the tradeshow booth: 93 • Tradeshow partners: 2 Fraser Lake Fort St James • Year to Date Mining Website Stats: 4,000 unique visitors, 9,500 visits
Mining Marketing Short Term Outcomes		Mining Marketing Medium Term Outcomes		Mining Marketing Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in accessibility of information on mining website • Increase in public awareness of the mining sector • Increase connections made with mining companies • Increase knowledge of mining industry trends 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of visitors to mining webpage • Increase of resident awareness in RDBN's commitment to the mining industry 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase revenue in mining sector • Informed public • Provide an up to date, relevant, and popular website • Established and strong relationships between the RDBN and mining stakeholders
Energy Marketing: LNG Project Webpage	\$1,020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research current and proposed energy project in the region • Develop website page of current and proposed LNG energy projects in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNG projects -data collection complete • Webpage in development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of LNG projects – 5 projects listed
Energy Marketing Short Term Outcomes		Energy Marketing Medium Term Outcomes		Energy Marketing Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in accessibility of information on potential energy projects • Increase in accessibility of industry procurement data bases and • Bulkley-Nechako Directory 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in knowledge of energy projects in the RDBN 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date resource that list all current and potential industry projects in the RDBN • Increased number of local businesses in the supply chain for large contracts. • Increase revenue for local business • Informed public

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Regional Economic Development: Project Highlights

Agriculture	\$30,175 June-November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise Agriculture Brochure • Increase producers listed • Print 1000 Brochures • Sponsor community events promoting the purchase of locally produced food in all municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Brochure completed • Community event applications received and events in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 Agriculture Brochure • 82 producers listed • 9 Community events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Smithers/Telkwa/Area A 1 Houston/Granisle/Area G 2 Burns Lake/Area B 1 Area E 1 Fort St James/ Area C 1 Fraser Lake/Area D 1 Vanderhoof/Area F • 900 locally produced tea bags • 9 Event Kits • \$6,830 locally produced food purchased for the 9 events • 20,000 consumers reached
Agriculture Marketing Short Term Outcomes		Agriculture Marketing Medium Term Outcomes		Agriculture Marketing Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in consumer awareness about local producers in region • Increase in consumer knowledge about eating locally produced food year round • Increase in short-term producer sales • Promotion of regions producers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in knowledge about the benefits of eating locally produced food • Increase in number of consumers purchasing locally produced food • Increase in short-term and long-term producer sales • Increase in number of producers listed in regional directories • Increase and strengthen relationships with stakeholders • Increase quality of life for residents • Increase of resident awareness in RDBN's commitment to the agriculture industry 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have producers who know how to grow and promote their products • To create a culture of people who value locally produced food • Increase in agriculture revenue • The agriculture sector is supported to grow and prosper in the RDBN • Increase in number of producers • Increased agriculture production

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Regional Economic Development: Project Highlights

<i>Diversifying the Economy</i>				
Project	Budget/Timing	Activities	Status	Outputs
Regional Marketing: Investment Ad	\$600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase Ad in Invest BC Magazine • Book Ad for 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Ad • 13,000 copies distributed
Regional Marketing: Image Bank	\$28,700 June-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold Amateur Photo Contest for entries from residents and visitors in the RDBN • Hire Professional Photographers in Areas A, B, E & G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo contest in progress, deadline October 31 • Entered into contract with 3 photographers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos received: 140 • Videos received: 13 • Receiving monthly reports from professional photographers including photos taken that month
Regional Marketing Short Term Outcomes		Regional Marketing Medium Term Outcomes		Regional Marketing Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase exposure of RDBN to potential tourists, residents, business, and investors • Job creation for graphic design company and professional photographer(s) • Increase number of resources in the Regional Image Bank • Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and partners • Increase social media audience • Engage local residents 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in awareness of Investment opportunity in the RDBN • Support opportunities for local business • Contributing to the local economy • Increase public knowledge of the opportunities in the RDBN • Increase use of the Regional Image Bank 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of visitors and residents in the RDBN • Increase investment in the RDBN • Increase stakeholder engagement with RDBN • Residents have increased knowledge of RDBN initiatives and supports

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**Regional Economic Development
Proposal Writing Status
September, 2015**

Year to Date Applications:

Number of Applications Submitted: 36
 Total Project Value: \$6,986,390
 Total Amount Requested: \$3,687,766
 Total Amount Funded: \$300,587
 Total Amount Pending: \$3,099,426
 Number of Organizations Assisted: 18

Electoral Area 'A' (Smithers Rural)/Smithers/Telkwa

Smithers Art Gallery
 Bulkley Valley Museum Society

Electoral Area 'B' (Burns Lake Rural)/Burns Lake

Lakes District Arts Council
 Lakes District Fall Fair Association
 Burns Lake Citizen's on Patrol Society
 Lakes District Airport Society
 Lakes District Family Enhancement Society

Electoral Area 'C' (Fort St. James Rural)/Fort St James

Fort. St. James Community Foundation
 Stuart Lake Outreach Society ~ currently in progress

Electoral Area 'D' (Fraser Lake Rural)/Fraser Lake

Fraser Lake Secondary School

Electoral Area 'E' (Francois/Ootsa Rural)

St. Luke's Church on the Lake
 Grassy Plains Community Hall Association
 Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission (Wistaria Hall)
 Lakes Animal Friendship Society

Electoral Area 'F' (Vanderhoof Rural)/Vanderhoof

Gospel Chapel Evangelical Free Church
 Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Nechako Valley Search and Rescue

Electoral Area 'G' (Houston Rural)/Houston/Granisle

Topley Fire Protection Society
 Houston Christian School



Re-Use Shed Public Meeting Details

Open house events, where the public will be provided with additional information and have an opportunity to provide suggestions on how to address liability concerns related to the operation of the re-use sheds will take place at the following locations:

Date	Community	Open House Time	Location	Address
Tuesday, October 6	Smithers/Telkwa	6pm-8pm	Telkwa Community Hall	1380 Birch Street
Wednesday, October 7	Houston	6pm-8pm	Houston Seniors Activity Center	3250 14th St. West (Beside Health Clinic)
Wednesday, October 14	Vanderhoof	6pm-8pm	Nechako Senior Citizens Friendship Center	219 East Victoria St.
Thursday, October 15	Fraser Lake	6pm-8pm	Fraser Lake Recreation Complex	30 Carrier Cres
Monday, October 19	Southside of Francois Lake	7pm-8pm	Grassy Plains School	34310 Keefes Landing Road
Tuesday, October 20	Fort St. James	6pm-8pm	Stuart Lake Seniors Center	250 Simon Fraser Ave.
Wednesday, October 21	Burns Lake	6pm-8pm	Regional District Office - Burns Lake	37-3rd Ave.
Monday, October 26	Granisle	6pm-8pm	Granisle Seniors Center	#19 Chapman St.

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If you have questions, please call the Environmental Services Department at (250) 692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339



Salvaging and Re-Use Shed Background Document

Board Motion

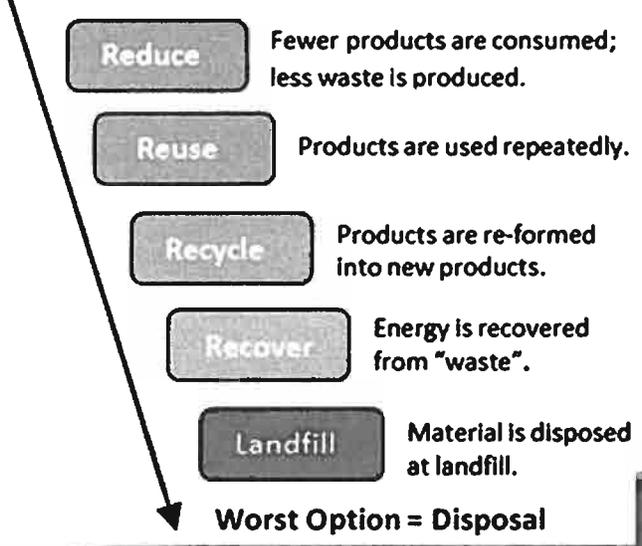
At the August 20, 2015 Board Meeting the following motion was passed by the Board of Directors:

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct RDBN Staff to develop and implement bylaws to ban all salvaging activities at RDBN Solid Waste Management Facilities and further, that the re-use sheds be immediately closed until or unless a safe solution is found; and further that it is made public that the closure is due to safety concerns and legal liability to the taxpayers of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako."

Intent of Re-Use Sheds

The original intent of the re-use sheds was to promote and encourage the re-use of items that were still in good and useable condition as a methodology to minimize waste generation. Most re-use shed facilities were constructed when RDBN solid waste management facilities transitioned from landfills to transfer stations. The re-use shed that has been in operation the longest (greater than 15 years) is located at the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station. At many locations, volunteers who have donated their time to clean up and sort materials have been an integral component in the operation of these facilities.

Best Option = Waste Prevention



Re-Use Sheds Today

For many years, the use of the re-use sheds by the general public and coordination between RDBN staff and volunteers made for the successful operation of the re-use sheds. Unfortunately however, over the past number of years, there has been a distinct change in the way re-use sheds are being utilized. The following are some examples of what has been occurring:

Inappropriate (Unacceptable) Items in Re-Use Sheds

- o Hazardous wastes inappropriately placed in re-use shed (cleaning products, used hypodermic needles, live ammunition, unmarked prescription medication).
- o Placement of what is clearly garbage in the re-use sheds (eg. bag of fish guts, dirty diapers).
- o Potentially contaminated items such as clothing, toys and canned goods/food items.
- o Children's car seats/strollers and helmets, which may or may not meet current certification standards and ultimately be unsafe.

Incidents of Bad Behaviour

- o Differences in opinion of what is garbage and what is a re-useable item, which leads to conflict and items which are not suitable to be placed in re-use shed.
- o Aggressive/intimidating behaviour of some individuals toward other members of the public and RDBN employees while the public are accessing items in the re-use sheds. Also, aggressively taking items from other people's vehicles without permission. There have been reports of "fights" at some facilities and cases of what could be classified as assaults.
- o People backing up to the re-use shed with a vehicle and removing everything from the shed. Sorting what they want and don't want at home. This is resulting in a number of "unsightly premises" in the RDBN for which taxpayer's dollars are being spent on enforcement by the RDBN to clean up these properties. This activity also does not allow use of items by others and is seen by some as "unfair".
- o People are also opening bags/boxes and scattering items on the re-use shed floor and leaving them there. It has been reported by one transfer station attendant that when asking a member of the public to not scatter items on the floor, the individual subsequently urinated on the items on the floor.
- o In some instances where RDBN staff have tried to enforce rules regarding salvaging and appropriate use of re-use sheds, some members of the public have threatened or verbally abused staff.

Other Unintended Consequences

- Loitering – People hang out near the re-use sheds in order to access items from other members of the public resulting in vehicle congestion.
- Children accessing the re-use sheds. At one of the RDBN transfer stations a child was run over by a vehicle. Thankfully the child was ok. Children are quite often left at the re-use sheds unattended for long periods of time while parents access other areas of the site.
- Use of the re-use sheds as a convenient “dumping” ground for items that should be recycled (eg. TV’s, electronics, small appliances). In many circumstances these products ultimately have the cords cut off, are smashed and are rendered unusable and cannot be recycled. This leads to more garbage to landfill and does not support local recycling businesses that take these items and receive payment under Extended Producer Responsibility programs.
- The RDBN has tried to allow “safe salvaging” of metals and wood products by designating specific low hazard areas. Unfortunately, some members of the public ignore the dangers and hazards of crawling up the metal and wood piles and ultimately put themselves and others at risk of injury.

Liability to the RDBN Taxpayer

Taken from Legal Opinion (September 16, 2015 Document): *“As the owner and operator of the re-use sheds, the Regional District is an “occupier” of those facilities within meaning of the Occupiers Liability Act. As an occupier, the Regional District has a statutory duty to ensure that anyone who attends the re-use sheds will be “reasonably safe” while on the property.”*

WorkSafe and Responsibilities of the RDBN under the Workers Compensation Act

The landfills and transfer stations operated by the RDBN are worksites and as such the RDBN has certain responsibilities under the *Workers Compensation Act*.

Taken from Legal Opinion (September 16, 2015 Document): *“As an employer the Regional District is under a statutory duty, under Section 115 of the Workers Compensation Act, to ensure the health and safety of its workers, and without limiting that obligation, must remedy any workplace conditions that are hazardous to the health and safety of its workers.”*

“The Regional District needs to be mindful of the fact that as an employer, it has a legal duty to address bullying and harassment in the workplace, as set out in policies recently adopted by WorkSafe BC (WorkSafe BC policies respecting bullying and harassment make it clear that this obligation extends to dealing with the behavior of members of the public directed towards Regional District employees in the workplace).”

OPTIONS INVESTIGATED TO DATE

Hire Additional RDBN Staff to Monitor and Maintain the Re-Use Sheds

The table below outlines the estimated additional staffing costs associated with this option. Please note that the estimated costs are for a single additional attendant at each transfer station, working the same hours as existing staff, at a wage rate of \$17/hour. This option could require the re-use shed areas to be fenced and/or relocated, depending on the operational hours. A "pick-fee" could be implemented to offset additional staffing costs and to curb large scale purging of the re-use sheds. Other Regional Districts in the Province that operate re-use sheds (free stores) have indicated that adequate staffing, time limits, and fees associated with deposit of items into the shed or a per item pick fee are key variables in the effective and safe operation of the facilities.

Facility	Additional Staff Hours/Week	Additional Staffing Costs – Wages, Benefits, Sick and Holiday Relief
Fort St. James Transfer Station	58	\$69,126
Vanderhoof Transfer Station	66	\$78,064
Area "D" Transfer Station	56	\$66,892
Burns Lake Transfer Station	66	\$78,064
Southside Transfer Station	24	\$31,140
Knockholt Landfill	56	\$66,892
Granisle Transfer Station	30	\$37,844
Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station	66	\$78,064
Total		\$506,085

Use of Volunteers

The RDBN has received a legal opinion on the use of volunteers to manage the re-use sheds.

WorkSafe BC would not regard re-use shed volunteers as "workers" and as such there would not be an impact on the RDBN's obligations or liabilities under the *Workers Compensation Act*. However, volunteers would be within their right to sue the RDBN for damages if they were injured while performing their volunteer duties and further the signing of a waiver form will not be sufficient to knowingly expose those volunteers to the hazards and conditions currently being experienced at the re-use sheds.

Overall, the use of volunteers to look after the re-use sheds does not waive the liability risks to the taxpayer of the RDBN and may require extra RDBN staff resources to manage a volunteer program.

Alternative Re-Use Opportunities

There are alternative recycling and re-use opportunities across the RDBN for products that are most commonly placed in re-use sheds. These alternative options include, but are not limited to:

- Industry (Extended Producer Responsibility) Programs

Extended Producer Responsibility is a policy approach whereby responsibility for a product's end-of-life management is shifted from local government and taxpayers to the producers of that product. Businesses across the Regional District are being established to take back products for recycling and are being paid by industry and you as a consumer for this service.

Material	Locations
<p>Electronics – Encorp Electronics Recycling Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Televisions Computers Stereos Video Gaming Equipment Electronic Toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraser Lake Bottle Depot Houston Recycling Bulkley Valley Bottle Depot (Smithers) Burns Lake Return-It Recycling Depot NVSS Bottle Depot (Vanderhoof)
<p>Small Appliances and Power Tools – ElectroRecycle Small Appliance and Power Tools Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toasters, Microwaves Coffee Makers, Kettles Vacuum Cleaners, Carpet Cleaners Irons, Sewing Machines Portable Heaters, Fans Blow dryers, Curling Irons Electric Razors / Beard Trimmers Electric Toothbrushes Power Tools – portable and bench top Exercise Machines, Sports, Leisure Arts & Crafts Devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraser Lake Bottle Depot Houston Recycling Bulkley Valley Bottle Depot (Smithers) Burns Lake Return-It Recycling Depot
<p>Lighting Fixtures and Light Bulbs – LightRecycle Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table Lamps Ceiling fixtures/fans Fluorescent tubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraser Lake Bottle Depot Houston Recycling Bulkley Valley Bottle Depot (Smithers) Burns Lake Return-It Recycling Depot McLeod's True Value Hardware (Fort St. James) – Bulbs Only Nak'azdli Recycling Depot (Fort St. James) – Bulbs Only

Alternative Re-Use Opportunities

- Community/Church Organizations and Thrift Stores – clothing, shoes, books, kitchen items, sports equipment, knickknacks (Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers)
- Free Classifieds – L.D. Free Classifieds (Burns Lake), Phraser Connector (Fraser Lake), Pleasant Valley Express (Houston, Granisle, Topley), The Gander (Vanderhoof), Southside News (Southside of Francois Lake), Bulkley Browser (Smithers)
- Websites – Kijiji and Craigslist
- Facebook Pages – community buy and sell (eg. Burns Lake Buy and Sell, Houston Buy and Sell), item specific pages (eg. Vanderhoof Clothing Swap and Buy)
- Community Garage Sales (eg. Mother Millie in Burns Lake – profits to help animals in need)

It is appreciated that the alternative re-use and recycling opportunities may not be considered as convenient as the re-use sheds. Also, it should be considered that not all individuals have access to internet and local thrift stores have limited space.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Ideally, the RDBN wants to promote and encourage re-use as it is a fundamental component of good waste management policies and when done properly results in less garbage to landfill. The challenge is how do we do so in a way that does not result in unacceptable risk and liability, supports local recycling businesses and be cost effective to the taxpayer of the RDBN?

If you have ideas to share, please pick up the “Promoting Re-Use in the RDBN” document, fill it out and return to the RDBN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

If you have further questions, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 250-692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339.

**RDBN Office: 37-3rd Ave, P.O. Box 820
Burns Lake, BC, V0J 1E0**

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday to Friday, Except Statutory Holidays

Website: www.rdbn.bc.ca



37, 3RD AVE PO Box 820
BURNS LAKE, BC
VOJ 1E0

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

“A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION”

Promoting Re-Use in the RDBN – Ideas/Suggestions/Solutions

What is to be Done?

Ideally, the RDBN wants to promote and encourage re-use as it is a fundamental component of good waste management policies and when done properly results in less garbage to landfill. The challenge is how do we do so in a way that does not result in unacceptable risk and liability, supports local recycling businesses and be cost effective to the taxpayer of the RDBN?

Please fill out the following form and return to the RDBN. Forms may be submitted by mail (PO Box 820, Burns Lake, BC, V0J 1E0), fax (250-692-3305), e-mail (inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca) or hand delivered (37-3rd Ave. Burns Lake) between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday, Excluding Statutory Holidays.

Do you have suggestions/ideas on how to ensure inappropriate, dangerous and hazardous materials do not end up in the Re-Use Sheds?

Horizontal lines for writing suggestions/ideas.

MUNICIPALITIES:

SARVENO FT-ST. JAMES
VANDERHOOF FRASER LAKE
HOLISTON TELAMA
BURNS LAKE GRANVILLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A-SARVENO RURAL F-VANDERHOOF RURAL
B-BURNS LAKE RURAL E-FRANCOIS & ODESSA LAKES
C-FORT ST. JAMES RURAL G-HOLISTON RURAL
D-FRASER LAKE RURAL

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2015

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

From: Lyn Nugent [mailto:lyn.nugent@gmail.com]
Sent: September-27-15 3:18 PM
To: inquiries <inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca>
Subject: Request for Additional Garbage Disposal Option

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I live on the Telkwa High Road, about a 20 minute drive from the Transfer Station. As is common in this area we have several bears who regularly transit our property. To avoid problems with the bears we keep our garbage indoors. However this sometimes creates a problem for us, to wit: a nasty smell in the basement. In order to avoid this, we have to take the smelly (or potentially smelly) garbage to the Transfer Station even if we don't have a full truckload accumulated. This wastes fuel and time. I am writing to ask if you will consider a proposal to alleviate this wasteful practice.

My suggestion is that the Regional District install a locked garbage dumpster at the Recycling Depot in Smithers and sell "tickets" to residents to deposit garbage therein. The tickets could be in two (or more) denominations: a cheaper one for a small (grocery-sized) bag; and a more expensive one for a full-sized bag. Residents of the Regional District could buy books of tickets either at the Depot or at some other convenient location of the District's choosing, and then simply pass over a ticket when they drop off their bag(s). The Regional District would arrange and pay for the dumpster to be emptied.

I believe this plan could easily be revenue neutral or even make a profit if the District deems that appropriate.

I should mention that this plan is premised on the idea that most people in the District travel to Smithers regularly for other purposes (eg. work, shopping, and children's activities) and so will be making the trip regardless.

Reasons to support this plan:

- 1) It will reduce individual trips to the Transfer Station which waste fuel and contribute to greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. A single truck traveling with a full load should be much more efficient than dozens of individual cars/trucks travelling with one or two bags.
- 2) It will reduce bear problems for residents who don't dispose of garbage quickly enough or don't store it inside. This is better for the bears, the humans, and the Wildlife Shelter who has to deal with orphaned cubs.
- 3) It will reduce inconvenience to residents by minimizing the build-up of smelly garbage and allowing them to dispose of it on a trip they are making anyway.
- 4) It will encourage recycling by taking residents to the recycling facility.
- 5) It could generate some additional revenue for the Regional District.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my proposal.

Sincerely,
Lyn Nugent

September 17, 2015

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RECEIVED

To: Janine Dougall – Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

From: Earnie Harding

SEP 17 2015

Subject: One-Stop Recycling Facilities

REGIONAL DISTRICT
BULKLEY-NECHAKO

The BVBD has established a One Stop Drop-Off facility that services Smithers, Telkwa, and Area "A". We accept all refundables and electronics under the Encorp Program; All residential institutional, commercial and industrial lamps under the Light Recycle Product Care Program, all the small appliance & Power Tools etc., under the Electronic Recycle Program, and all type of residential and commercial batteries and cell phones under the Call2Recycle and All State Battery Return-It Program. In addition we have "Depot Status" under the MMBC Program for all their products and we have agreed to become the drop-off facility for paints, oil containers etc. under the Product Care Association Program.

In establishing one-stop convenience for recycling with an "Echo Depot" we have committed to consumer convenience. To this end we are faced with economics of operation and must generate maximum revenues to sustain and continue on with this convenient facility. Because of the small population we service we must recover as many recyclables as possible.

Under the various Programs we have signed up for we find that the Regional District of the Bulkley Nechako is competing with our facility for volumes that should be dropped off at our facility for processing. The Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station has a space allocated for glass, another space for tin cans, containers for paint and batteries, and six dumpsters for cardboard that are mainly used by local residents. The six dumpsters were placed at the transfer station by the Town of Smithers in lieu of a grant to the Smithers & Area Recycling Society. These bins are picked up daily and delivered to the Recycling facility at Tatlow Road and processed as I.C.I. materials as per MMBC instructions. Almost 100% of this volume is from residential sources and should be dropped off at our "Echo Depot". We estimate that in excess of 50% of the volume that is available for processing under the various programs is being diverted through the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station.

We formally request that the collection of all recyclables at the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station cease and be directed to our "Echo Depot" located at 3446 – 19th Ave, Smithers, BC.

Please call if you have questions or need clarification on these matters.

Earnie Harding

Cc: Lynda Fyfe - RDBN

Taylor Bachrach – Mayor of Town of Smithers

Darcy Ripen – Mayor of Village of Telkwa

Mark Fisher – Director of Area "A"

Gail Chapman

From: Theresa Fresco <tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca>
Sent: September-29-15 1:53 PM
Subject: You're Invited! Nechako Watershed Roundtable Launch, Oct 21 & 22, 2015
Attachments: NWR Launch Abbreviated Agenda-October 21-22-2015.docx

You're Invited!!

Nechako Watershed Roundtable Launch

October 21 & 22, 2015

The FraserBasin Council and the founding members of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable would like to cordially invite you to their official launch on **Wednesday October 21st, 2015 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm** and **Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 from 9:00am to 4:00 pm** at the UNBC Campus in Prince George.

Event Details: We will be hosting an evening open house and reception on October 21st at the UNBC Atrium to raise awareness about the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, inspire action to improve watershed health and provide a forum for networking. The first formal meeting of the Roundtable will take place on October 22nd at the UNBC Bentley Centre. This meeting aims to engage the community and broaden participation in the Roundtable as well as explore priorities and opportunities to work together for the health of the region (see attached agenda). Please see the attached agenda for more details.

Background: The Nechako Watershed Roundtable is a group of representatives from a diversity of organizations, First Nations and government agencies with a shared commitment and concern to protect and improve the health of the Nechako watershed for future generations. Members of the Roundtable began meeting as the Nechako Watershed Alliance in 2012 to share information and knowledge as well as brainstorm the actions and strategies needed to advance the health of this watershed. The Fraser Basin Council has actively participated in, and provided coordination and support to, this collaborative initiative. Other groups that have participated in the formation of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable include:

- Bulkley Nechako Regional District
- Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- City of Prince George
- District of Vanderhoof
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Fraser-Fort George Regional District
- Integrated Watershed Research Group, University of Northern BC
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society (NEWSS)
- Northern Health
- Saik'uz First Nation

For more information, please visit our webpage
at [http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/Nechako Watershed Roundtable.html](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/Nechako_Watershed_Roundtable.html).

Registration: We hope you can join us for this very exciting event! To register, please RSVP
at <http://www.createsurvey.com/s/QJxwKy/?> or contact me at tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca or [604-488-5361](tel:604-488-5361) for
more information.

Sincerely,

--

Theresa Fresco
Program Coordinator
Watersheds and Water Resources Program
Fraser Basin Council
1st Floor 470 Granville St.
Vancouver, BC, V6C 1V5, Canada
Email: tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca
Tel: (604) 488-5361
Fax: (604) 488-5351
<http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca>