



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
AGENDA

Thursday, October 13, 2022

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA, October 13, 2022</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
3-4	Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2022	Approve
	<u>AGRICULTURE REPORTS</u>	
5-7	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Food and Agriculture Plan -Implementation Update	Receive
8-10	Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator, West – Pollinator Assessment and Agriculture Crop/ Climate Analysis for the Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regions of BC	Receive
	Verbal Reports – Chair Parker	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veterinary Shortage</li><li>• BC Cattlemen’s Town Hall – Burns Lake</li></ul>	
	<u>RURAL REPORT</u>	
11-14	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – COVID Relief Funds	Recommendation
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	

### IN-CAMERA MOTION

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Committee that matters pertaining to Sections 90(1)(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the committee, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District if they were held in public (legacy funding), may be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, September 8, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Chris Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Shane Brienen, District of Houston  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James – left at 1:40 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-ChristiansonRDC.2022-8-1

"That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for September 8, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES**Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -July 21, 2022Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director LambertRDC.2022-8-2

"That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of July 21, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**RURAL REPORT**

COVID Relief Funds

Moved by Director Petersen  
 Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2022-8-3

"That the Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's COVID Relief Funds memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Fisher spoke of potentially utilizing remaining COVID Relief Funds for Regional Transit or the Smithers Airport. Staff will follow-up with Rural Directors.

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**Crown Land Referral**

Crown Land Referral File No.  
7410233 – Electoral Area C

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Lambert

RDC.2022-8-4

"That the Comment Sheet regarding Crown Land Referral No. 7410233 be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Mine Referral**

Notice of Work and Water  
License Referral No.  
149316026-003  
- Electoral Area C

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2022-8-5

"That the Comment Sheet regarding Notice of Work and Water License Referral No. 149316026-003 be provided to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2022-8-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:44 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
 Corporate Services



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

**To:** Chair and Committee  
**From:** Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
**Date:** October 13, 2022  
**Subject:** **Food and Agriculture Plan – Implementation Update**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

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### BACKGROUND

Upon completion of the RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan in April 2020, staff committed to providing updates on the Implementation Strategy. The Plan is currently in Phase 1: 2020-2023. Several Priority Area actions have been (or are soon to be) completed. For reference, the eight top Priority Areas from the RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan are:

1. Support producers in navigating government policies and requirements
2. Prepare for emergencies
3. Develop the food and agriculture sector and market(s) for RDBN goods
4. Engage a broad audience in regional food and agriculture activities and information
5. Prevent and manage invasive and harmful species
6. Ensure agricultural policies are in-place and consistent across the region
7. Increase climate change resiliency and adaptation capacity
8. Continue to build capacity for effective and strategic implementation

Each Priority Area includes specific actions which are included in the three-phase implementation strategy. The phases contain concurrent actions. Phase 1 is not required to be complete prior to Phases 2 and 3, and each phase includes short, medium or long-term goals.

The following Implementation Actions remain underway and are ongoing through all three Phases:

### **3.2 Continue to update and distribute the Connecting Producers and Consumers Guide annually.**

RDBN Public Engagement Summer Student, with permanent staff support, reached out to all producers to update the online directory, as well as attended each community's market to promote the program.

### **4.1 Continue to support and build relationships and networks around RDBN food and agriculture.**

### **6.2 Continue to advocate to senior levels of government and industry around issues that impact RDBN producers.**

The key issue currently is the critical lack of veterinarians in the region and Province. The RDBN continues to raise this concern with the Province through letters and at UBCM meetings. The RDBN is also supporting an Economic Impact Study on the lack of veterinarians being undertaken by the BC Cattlemen's Association to increase the data available to support long-term investment in solutions.

### **8.2 Maintain the Agriculture Coordinator Position.**

### **8.3 Compile and consolidate quantitative and qualitative data on food systems and agriculture in the RDBN.**

Once released by Statistic Canada, the RDBN will include all relevant agriculture data in our data warehouse, which is available to all regional partners. This is the first time the updated warehouse will include this data.

### **8.4 Continue to be a learning organization.**

RDBN Ag Coordinators continue to participate in a province-wide systems change project for agricultural support spearheaded by Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

The following Implementation Actions are associated with specific project work that is already complete, or well underway:

### **1.2 Create and disseminate producer-focused tools to support clarity with the multiple levels of government regulation.**

In addition to the Newsletter and Podcast series produced in the last year, additional podcast episodes and accompanying factsheets are under development for distribution.

## **2.2 Strengthen Livestock Emergency Preparedness**

Agriculture Staff support the development and dissemination of emergency preparedness materials and information for local producers.

## **5.5 Encourage private landowners to prevent and manage all weed, noxious and native.**

RDBN Ag Coordinators continue to work with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council to identify and manage high-priority agriculture sites and increase awareness of the Landowner Rebate Program.

## **7.2 Increase climate risk mitigation and adaptation for agricultural lands.**

Staff also continue to work with the Climate Action Initiative on priority items. Projects underway this year include the Pollinator Assessment and Agricultural Climate Analysis for Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George.

## **7.3 Reduce organic and plastic agricultural waste in the landfill.**

Agriculture staff continue to support the success of the CleanFarms BC Pilot for agricultural plastic recycling in the region.



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

**To:** Chair and Committee  
**From:** Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator, West  
**Date:** October 13, 2022  
**Subject:** **Pollinator Assessment and Agricultural Crop/ Climate Analysis for the Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regions of BC**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

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### BACKGROUND

RDBN Staff support the work of the Climate Change Adaptation Program. The Pollinator Assessment and Agricultural Crop/ Climate Analysis for the Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George Regions of BC was completed with RDBN staff and financial support.

The full report with data and analysis is available on the RDBN website at <https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/agriculture/climate-change> and upon request as a printed document. The accompanying Fact Sheet is attached to this memo.

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1) What's Pollinating Crops in BC's Central Interior Fact Sheet 2022



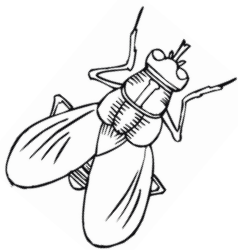
# What's pollinating crops in BC's Central Interior?

A first of its kind project in Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George is collecting information on the types of pollinators present in agricultural crops and how these pollinators are being affected by climate change.

The project is working with local producers over 2 years (2021, 2022) to collect pollinators on farms from Smithers to the Robson Valley and is using DNA barcoding to identify them. This research is being compiled into a “baseline dataset” of pollinator species present in the region. This dataset will support future research into how climate change is affecting the health and distribution of regional pollinators, and into farm practices that support pollinator health and resilience.

**Over 200 arthropods (insects and spiders) that are likely pollinators are present in agricultural areas of Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George.**

**We're still counting, but on farmland across the region you can find at least:**



**63 pollinating bee species:** including 13 different bumblebee species, 14 species of mining bee (Andrenidae), and 16 species of mason and orchard bee (Megachilidae)

**102 pollinating fly species:** including 63 species of hoverfly

**30 species of butterflies and moths, 9 beetle species, 3 spider species**

Many of these species (particularly the hoverflies and the spiders) have additional benefits for crop production, because they are also predators and can help control common crop pest species. Some groups (particularly mason bees, important pollinators of alfalfa) are more abundant and/or diverse near forests.

## The most common pollinators in this region are:



Perplexing bumblebee  
*Bombus perplexus*

(USGS, Public domain <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/bombus-perplexus-f-left-side-centre-co-pa>)



Fuzzy-horned bumblebee  
*Bombus mixtus*

(Lawrence Packer, [www.discoverlife.org](http://www.discoverlife.org), for non-commercial use)



White-banded Sweat bee  
*Lasioglossum leucozonium*

(CC-BY-NC-ND, ipat, <https://inaturalist.ca/photos/131085216>)



Yellow-fronted bumblebee  
*Bombus flavifrons*

(USGS, Public domain <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbiml/29708924588>)



Vancouver bumblebee  
*Bombus vancouverensis nearcticus*

(CC-BY-NC, Parks Canada Growing Together Conservation and Restoration Project, <https://inaturalist.ca/photos/123919249>)

## How is climate change affecting pollinators in the region?

Climate change can affect pollinators directly (e.g., heat causes mortality in species with low thermal tolerance) or indirectly, by altering plant growth and physiology (which may alter nectar rewards, pollen quality, timing of flowering, etc.).

High pollinator biodiversity can buffer systems against pollination declines induced by many of the stressors that are exacerbated by climate change. Managing landscapes to maintain high pollinator biodiversity is likely the best way to protect against future pollination deficits associated with climate change.

## How your farm (and farm practices) can support pollinators:

**Preserve what you have:** identify areas with native plants that are currently used by pollinators, and forest-adjacent areas with sandy soils (often used for nesting). Limit disturbances in these areas (i.e., don't mow, till, or compact soil).

**Allow native plants to bloom in field margins and non-productive areas.**

**Retain forest patches within and adjacent to agricultural areas.**

**Consider selecting cover crops that can provide nectar and/or pollen** (see this [cover cropping guidebook](#) for details).

**Create new pollinator habitat:** if you are considering planting for pollinator habitat enhancement, Pollinator Partnership Canada has planting guides for each ecoregion of Canada and an interactive tool to help in selecting plants:

<https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/find-your-roots>

**View the full project report from the first year of pollinator/climate change research.**

Funding for this project has been provided in part by the Northern Development Initiative Trust and in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional project support was provided by the University of Northern British Columbia. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.





## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

**To:** Chair and Committee  
**From:** Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
**Date:** October 13, 2022  
**Subject:** **Final COVID-19 Relief Funds Allocations**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** (all/directors/majority)

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the following final allocations for COVID-19 Relief Funds.

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### BACKGROUND

Area A (Smithers Rural)		
Regional Transit Service	Operations	\$20,562
Area B (Burns Lake Rural)		
Regional Transit Service	Operations	\$2,400
Area C (Fort St. James Rural)		
Fort St. James Music Makers	Insurance and Utilities	\$5,000
Fort St. James Curling Club	Hydro	\$3,598
Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)		
Regional Transit Service	Operations	\$2,512
Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)		
Regional Transit Service	Operations	\$9,097
Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)		
Village of Granisle	Solar panels for rural connectivity tower	\$3,288
Granisle Power Boat Club	Insurance and Hydro	\$3,064

COVID-19 Relief Funds are now fully allocated. The following table includes all the Societies who were approved through this program.

<b>Organizations Area A</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organizations Area B</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bulkley Valley Collaborative Learning Society	\$ 12,556	Burns Lake & District Chamber of Commerce	\$ 2,000
Bulkley Valley Farmers' Market Association	\$ 2,490	Burns Lake Community Garden Society	\$ 673
Bulkley Valley Folk Music Society	\$ 9,294	Burns Lake District Seniors Society	\$ 4,000
Bulkley Valley Gymnastics Association	\$ 8,318	Burns Lake Legion	\$ 3,045
Bulkley Valley Research Centre	\$ 2,183	Burns Lake Paintball Association	\$ 2,675
Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club	\$ 8,091	Burns Lake Public Library	\$ 2,960
BV SAR	\$ 2,500	Burns Lake Woman's Vortex Hockey	\$ 3,494
Friends of the Smithers Library	\$ 2,500	Decker Lake Recreation Commission	\$ 5,062
Friends of the Smithers Library	\$ 3,004	Eagle Creek Recreation Commission	\$ 1,317
Glenwood Community Hall	\$ 11,996	Lakes District Fair Association	\$ 4,447
Lake Kathlyn Protection Society	\$ 8,431	Lakes District Family Enhancement Society	\$ 7,067
Paul Lychak Community Hall	\$ 12,553	Lakes District Festival Association	\$ 1,444
Round Lake Community Association	\$ 6,277	Lakes District Film Appreciation Society	\$ 12,657
Smithers Bikes	\$ 2,500	Lakes District Museum Society	\$ 1,588
Smithers Chamber	\$ 5,000	Lakes Literacy	\$ 200
Smithers Gallery Association	\$ 939	Ride Burns	\$ 2,654
Smithers Multicultural Society	\$ 1,250	Rose Lake Community Club	\$ 7,181
Smithers Zone Canadian Ski Patrol	\$ 7,721	The Link - BL Covid Community Support Committee	\$ 454
Telkwa and District Seniors Society	\$ 4,965	Tweedsmuir Rod and Gun Club	\$ 2,980
Telkwa Museum Society	\$ 7,542	Regional Transit Operations	\$ 2,400
Treehouse Housing Association - The Ark Playday Centre	\$ 14,139	<b>Total Area B Grants</b>	<b>\$ 68,297</b>
Regional Transit Operations	\$ 20,562		
<b>Total Area A Grants</b>	<b>\$ 154,809</b>		

<b>Organizations Area C</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organizations Area D</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Fort St James Community Foundation	\$ 3,917	Endako Hall Society	\$ 10,524
Fort St James Grad Class 2022	\$ 2,000	Fort Fraser Community Hall Society	\$ 6,079
Fort St. James Music Makers	\$ 9,436	Fort Fraser Community Recreation Society	\$ 5,679
Fort St. James Slo-pitch Society	\$ 2,049	Fraser Lake Chamber of Commerce	\$ 750
FSJ Curling Club	\$ 19,133	Fraser Lake Curling Club	\$ 1,419
FSJ Falcons Speed Skating Club	\$ 5,000	Fraser Lake Historical Society	\$ 1,500
Stuart Lake Recycling Co-op	\$ 5,592	Fraser Lake Minor Hockey Association	\$ 3,725
Stuart Lake Seniors Association	\$ 3,500	Fraser Lake Public Library	\$ 150
<b>Total Area C Grants</b>	<b>\$ 50,628</b>	Fraser Lake Saddle Club	\$ 3,303
		Glenannan Community Association	\$ 1,628
		Regional Transit	\$ 3,000
		<b>Total Area D Grants</b>	<b>\$ 37,757</b>
<b>Organizations Area E</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organizations Area F</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Burns Lake Public Library	\$ 2,960	Cluculz Lake Community Hall	\$ 17,923
Colleymount Recreation Commission	\$ 4,199	Mapes Blackwater/ Sob Lake Community Club	\$ 9,103
Eagle Creek Recreation Commission	\$ 1,244	Nechako Valley Search and Rescue	\$ 12,623
Francois Tchesinkut Lake Recreation Commission	\$ 4,986	Nechako Valley Exhibition Society	\$ 37,996
Grassy Plains Community Hall Association	\$ 8,678	Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce	\$ 2,000
Lakes District Fair Association	\$ 4,447	Vanderhoof Children's Theatre	\$ 3,000
Lakes District Film Appreciation Society	\$ 18,157	Vanderhoof Community Foundation	\$ 1,101
Lakes District Museum Society	\$ 792	Vanderhoof Curling Club	\$ 17,474
Ride Burns	\$ 2,654	Vanderhoof Farmers' Market Society	\$ 775
Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission	\$ 5,119	Vanderhoof International Airshow	\$ 3,139
Regional Transit	\$ 2,512	Regional Transit	\$ 9,098
<b>Total Area E Grants</b>	<b>\$ 55,748</b>	<b>Total Area F Grants</b>	<b>\$ 114,233</b>

<b>Organizations Area G</b>	<b>Amount</b>
A Rocha Houston Hatchery	\$ 1,600
Granisle & District Senior Association Society (insurance)	\$ 5,500
Granisle and District Senior Citizen's Association Society	\$ 6,423
Granisle Marina (Power Boat Club)	\$ 3,064
Granisle Public Library	\$ 2,500
Love by the Bowl Soup Kitchen	\$ 2,500
Pleasant Valley Horse Club	\$ 996
Topley Community Club	\$ 3,520
Topley Community Club (insurance)	\$ 2,510
Topley Fire Department	\$ 1,612
Village of Granisle	\$ 3,288
<b>Total Area G Grants</b>	<b>\$ 33,514</b>