

2019 RDBN Initiatives

- 2018 Wildfire After Action Review
- Participate in the Resource Benefit Alliance to investigate resource revenue sharing
- Produce annual guide to Eating Local
- Politically support the rural internet/cell phone connectivity enhancements
- Implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan
- Opening of additional recycling depots
- Community Event Grant Program for local producers
- Emergency preparedness and 9-1-1 public education
- Working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff on the Spruce Beetle Public Advisory Committee
- Organize the Northern Emergency Support Services Conference
- Encourage growth in the Agricultural sector with the support of the Agricultural Coordinator
- Continuation of supporting the Regional Transit service
- Promote regional tourism with 360 virtual reality videos
- Working on workforce development issues in our region
- Host 2019 Start up Business Contest and Business Forum

Inquiries regarding RDBN taxation can be directed to:

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Telephone 250-692-3195
Toll Free 1-800-320-3339

Message from Area "A" Director Mark Fisher

It is a true honour to serve you on the RDBN Board. Area A is a large, engaged, and diverse community which expects a lot... a wonderful thing! It is challenging to reach everyone however so I invite you to check out the RDBN website, Facebook page, or contact me on a regular basis. It is important to keep informed and give your thoughts on top Area A issues such as emergency preparedness, recreation, agriculture, waste management, and more. One important note regarding Grant in Aid this tax year.— This fund for small community projects has been reduced over the last few years (still supporting all those who have applied) but will see a small increase this year in order to support community groups currently coordinating wildfire mitigation plans and activities. This will be used specifically to support establishing long term neighborhood emergency networks and will drop to previous levels next year. If you have any concerns, comments, or question about this or any other services in Area A please contact me. Thank you.

Mark Fisher (Area A Director)
mark.fisher@rdbn.bc.ca , 250-877-8434

About the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Regional Districts were created by the Province to:

- Provide region wide services;
- Provide inter-municipal or sub-regional services where residents in the municipalities and rural residents outside the municipalities benefit from the same services;
- Act as local government for rural areas and provide local services.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) includes the municipalities of Smithers, Telkwa, Houston, Granisle, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James and Electoral Areas of "A" Smithers Rural, "B" Burns Lake Rural, "C" Fort St. James Rural, "D" Fraser Lake Rural, "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural, "F" Vanderhoof Rural and "G" Houston Rural. The RDBN provides a total of 79 different services throughout the region.

Northwest Regional Hospital District

The Northwest Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) was established in December of 1995 under the Hospital District Act of British Columbia. In spite of its name, the NWRHD does not own or operate any hospitals, health centres, or medical clinics of any kind. Its sole purpose is to provide a portion (usually 40% of major expenditures) of funds required by hospitals within its boundaries for equipment, renovations, and new construction. The funding is raised through property taxes. The NWRHD shares its boundaries with North Coast Regional District, the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the western portion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Nisga'a Lands Governments.

The Northwest Regional Hospital District provides capital funding for over 16 facilities including the following facilities in your area:

- Houston Health Centre
- Bulkley Valley District Hospital

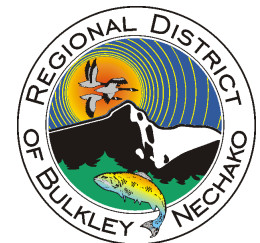
The RDBN budgeting process starts every fall and is finalized in March. The budget outlines revenues and expenditures for each service the RDBN provides for the year and in turn the tax rates. Please visit our website for more information regarding our annual budgets or to view our financial statements.

www.rdbn.bc.ca

2019 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Rural Property Tax Guide

For Taxpayers in
Electoral Area "A"
Smithers Rural



"A World of Opportunities Within Our Region"

Message from the Chair

2018 was a busy year at the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. Despite the disastrous floods in the spring and record wildfires in the summer, and the fall elections, the board has created a strong and visionary strategic plan with clear priorities that will drive our success in 2019.

The wild fire season was one of the worst imaginable. There were many evacuation orders, alerts and unbelievable smoke. It was a stressful time for residents and staff. We are hopeful we do not have another event of this size any time soon and our thoughts and prayers are with those that are still recovering.

After we have heard from our citizens that they have a strong desire to increase recycling and reduce how much waste we put into the landfill, we have adopted a new Waste Management Plan with an emphasis on waste reduction and recycling. We have worked with Recycle BC to come up with some innovative solutions on getting recycling into many of our centers with more locations to open soon.

Ensuring that all our residents have access to high speed Internet access is a board priority. We are working with experts to develop a plan so that the new federal high-speed internet standard will be provided throughout our region. To meet this commitment, we are striving to build strong relationships with our federal and provincial funding partners and both small and large internet providers. Our natural resource industries are strongly committed to our communities and this has made our Region strong. To support the forestry industry, we are continuing to advocate for better use of the fibre in our forests. We can no longer live with slash piles being burnt but instead we need to see these “waste piles” used to build jobs in our region and to make sure we have a strong bio-energy sector. We are also working to ensure our agriculture lifestyle remains strong and we continue to look for new markets and opportunities.

Even with some horrible downloads from more senior levels of government, the Board has worked hard and has managed to increase our high level of service while still maintaining only a minimum tax increase. With representation from Smithers in the West to Vanderhoof in the East, Wistaria in the South and Fort St. James in the North the board always manages to work together to find consensus and provide a clear path to the future. I count it as an honour and privilege to be the Chair of the Regional District and thank you for electing the Board that I have been able to serve with this past year.

Sincerely,
Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Electoral Area “A” - Smithers Rural Residential Taxes per \$100,000 assessed value (except as otherwise noted)

Service	2019	2018
Rural Government Services	5.22	5.94
Area “A” Grant in Aid	4.15	1.32
General Government	21.72	20.92
Regional Economic Development	1.58	3.21
Solid Waste Management	56.25	54.70
Unsightly Premises Regulatory Control	0.87	0.86
Development Services	4.63	4.15
Electoral Area Planning	4.35	3.70
Feasibility Studies	0	0
Emergency Preparedness	8.93	6.93
(1) 9-1-1 Service	4.75	4.76
Noxious Weed Control	1.31	1.29
Building Numbering	0.25	0.24
*Building Inspection	10.85	7.60
*Smithers Rural Fire Protection	51.72	52.16
*Telkwa Rural Fire Protection	97.90	107.21
*Round Lake Rural Fire Protection	137.63	108.93
Smithers Victim Services	1.73	1.90
(1) Area “A” Emergency Services	0.87	0.96
(1) Smithers Para-Transit	0	0.95
Bulkley Valley Regional Pool	35.99	35.93
Smithers Rural Rec & Culture	75.55	79.73
*Laidlaw Street Lighting Service	1.77	2.96
*(1) Smithers/Telkwa/Houston TV	2.98	3.18
(1) Area “A” Economic Development	1.73	1.93
*(1) Telkwa Pedestrian Crosswalk	0.17	0.19
*(2) Lake Kathlyn Weed Harvesting	152.00	153.00
*(2) Glacier Gulch Water Diversion	48.00	48.00

- (1) Taxation on improvements only
(2) Tax on each parcel of land

This is an estimate based upon the 2019 adopted financial plan. These amounts exclude the 5.25% fee charged by the Province to collect taxes for Regional Districts. *Please note that not all properties in Area “A” contribute to each of the functions listed above. Ex. If you live outside of the fire protection area, but in Area “A” you do not pay for the service.

How is the RDBN portion of your property taxes calculated?

- The RDBN determines the budget and tax levy (or funding) to provide each service after thorough review by the RDBN Board of Directors
- BC Assessment Authority provides assessment information, which it has independently determined
- Calculate tax rate per \$1,000 of assessments:
Budgeted tax levy
÷
Assessed property value x 1000

Assessments & Tax Rates

How does the change in assessed values affect the amount of tax I pay?

This is a question many taxpayers ask each year. What happens when my property value increases? As all property values do not change by the same percentage the examples below address those issues:

If the budgeted tax levy to provide services remains the same from one year to the next, but property values increase 25%, the amount of tax collected does not change, but the rate declines:

Year	Assessed Value	Tax Rate	Tax you pay (levy)
1	\$150,000	1.00	\$150
2	\$187,500	.80	\$150

If the budgeted tax levy to provide services increases by 10%, and property values increase by 25% the change could be shown as follows:

Year	Assessed Value	Tax Rate	Tax you pay (levy)
1	\$150,000	1.00	\$150
2	\$187,500	0.88	\$165

Understanding your Tax Notice

You have just received your 2019 property tax notice from the province. The Province collects taxes for schools, roads, policing and Regional District services. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako receives a lump sum payment from the province in August of each year. The following will explain each line on your property tax notice.

BC Assessment Authority

BC Assessment Authority is a crown corporation that sets all property values in the province. Their costs are recovered by this tax.

Municipal Finance Authority

The Municipal Finance Authority coordinates financial borrowing for all local governments in the province.

Provincial School Tax

The Province collects this tax for education and school facilities.

Provincial Rural Tax and Police Tax

The Provincial Government tax is for rural road maintenance and police protection services.

Electoral Area “A” Smithers Rural

This is your electoral area tax for services provided by the RDBN.

Other Local Services

You may benefit from other local services such as street lighting or fire protection. These may be listed separately on your tax notice.

Northwest Regional Hospital District

The NWRHD provides capital funding for the hospital facilities in this region.