

The Regional News

A Message from the Chair

In 2015 the RDBN was presented with another year of opportunities and challenges. Our focus was creating stability in the wake of mine closures and economic downturn, while maintaining service levels under those circumstances. The RDBN Board of Directors has also recently formed the RDBN Agricultural Committee in order to work on Agriculture opportunities throughout the region. Agriculture is one of the key sectors in a sustainable economy and provides food security for our region.

Some initiatives the RDBN is working on:

- Hosted an RDBN Forestry Forum (Wildfire Workshop) in Burns Lake in October, 2015:
 - ◊ A working group is being formulated in 2016 to address the recommendations from the forum;
- Temporary closure of the re-use sheds and a public consultation process in the fall of 2015:
 - ◊ Working towards the re-opening of the re-use sheds in 2016;
- Financial assistance for local recycling programs and promotion of stewardship
- Cardboard ban starting July 1, 2016;
- Phase development and scale upgrades at Knockholt Landfill
- Complete final closure works at Vanderhoof Landfill
- Update the Solid Waste Management Plan;
- The Burns Lake Airport Society on the Baker Airport Rehabilitation Project Referendum:
 - ◊ February, 2016;
 - ◊ Elector approval was obtained;
- Fort St. James Seniors Helping Seniors Transportation Service Alternative Approval Process:
 - ◊ Deadline for submissions was January 15, 2016;
 - ◊ Elector approval was obtained;
- Topley Rural Fire Protection, Topley Road Rescue and Medical First Responders Service Establishment Referendum:
 - ◊ November, 2015;
 - ◊ Elector approval was obtained;
- Chinook Community Forest
 - ◊ Signing of the agreement took place February 12, 2016;
- Due to retirement - recruitment and hiring of a new Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief Financial Officer:
 - ◊ Taking place spring 2016;
- Smithers and Telkwa are hosting Minerals North - May 18-20, 2016;
- Emergency Preparedness and 9-1-1 public education
- Hold Northern Emergency Support Services training workshop
- Assist with implementation of the Regional Skills Gap Analysis
- Sponsor community event promoting local food production
- Marketing the RDBN region to employees, residents, tourists and investors;

The Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako, Kitimat-Stikine and Skeena-Queen Charlotte, along with their member Municipalities, formed the Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance and are working towards negotiations with the Province on a Revenue Share Agreement that would mitigate impacts to our local tax base from new resource projects in Northwest B.C.

Stay tuned for updates in 2016!

“A World of Opportunities Within Our Region”

The RDBN vision statement is a reflection of the Board of Directors’ focus on creating and sustaining a healthy and thriving environment for all to enjoy.

Respectfully, Bill Miller, RDBN Board Chair

New Directors on the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board



Director Mark Parker - Electoral Area “D” Fraser Lake Rural

It is an honour to serve the residents of Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) and the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. I was born and raised on a farm on the north shore of Fraser Lake and reside and actively farm the very same piece of land my father did starting in the 50's. I have a background in business stemming from my ownership of Par 3 Sports from 1988 to 2013. In 2013 I decided a change was in order and sold my business and became a fulltime farmer and stay at home father with our now 3 and 6 year old girls. When I was approached about being past Area Director Ralph Roy's alternate I had no idea of the complexity of the Regional District and the number of services it provides. Unfortunately my mentorship from Director Roy was far too short as he lost his battle with cancer a few months after I became his alternate. Although that time was short it lit a fire in me and a hunger to learn more about local government and what I could do to help the region. I decided to run for Director in the spring of 2015 and was successful. I have been on a steep learning curve ever since. I strive to bring a common sense approach to the table when representing the public and very much enjoy all dialog with my constituents. Most recently the RDBN has formed an Agriculture Committee of which I have been appointed Chair - a position in which I am passionate about and am determined to work extremely hard at to help promote and grow agriculture across our vast region. The time commitment in the 1st year has been greater than expected but I feel like I am gaining a good understanding of the RDBN and how important it is to local residents to have local representation when it comes to dealing with the province. The most enjoyable part of my 1st year has been the great people I have met - the dedicated RDBN staff, Directors, and all the other people I have had the pleasure of meeting across the entire province. I look forward to the next 2 ½ years on the Board and encourage the residents of Electoral Area D to feel they have a voice and to approach me about any topic that may be on their mind.



Director Mark Fisher - Electoral Area “A” Smithers Rural

My name is Mark Fisher, that's me in the photo trying to juggle my farm work with being your Area A (Smithers/Telkwa) Rural Director on the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Board.

Since 1999, when I first moved to the Bulkley Valley, I have developed and managed several community projects and small businesses. This, combined with my formal training in public administration, and my passion for community led me to the Regional District. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you, and for you on a variety of issues during my first year on the Board. It has been both challenging and very rewarding.

Local government provides most of the direct services that people use in their daily lives (one estimate is that local government provides 80% of the services with 20% of the tax dollar). Information is essential for relevant and accurate budgeting, and key when negotiating diverse opinions on things like land use planning, waste management, economic development, fire protection, recreation, forestry and agriculture issues, and how to best implement other regional district services (please see the website for a complete overview). For this reason I invite you to continually keep informed and give any thoughts or feedback you may have by contacting me at mark.fisher@rdbn.bc.ca, 250-877-8434, or www.facebook.com/markfisherpolitical . I would ask you take a few minutes to complete an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/smithers-telkwa-rural .

The world and our region are constantly changing. Despite seemingly unstable and transitioning economic, physical, and cultural climates there remains unlimited opportunities in the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. Our history, resources, creative thinking, committed RDBN staff, and informed and motivated residents all work together to adapt and strengthen the role of local government, and how it serves us. Again, please contact me if I may be of assistance in this or any other way.

Bulkley-Nechako Directory

The Bulkley-Nechako Directory was created five years ago and offers local businesses and organizations operating within the RDBN a place to list and advertise for free. The directory is a user directed tool that includes the following features:

- Your ability to edit or add to your listing
- Your customers can email you through your listing
- The directory is promoted at mining and tourism tradeshow throughout the province
- The directory is linked through all RDBN websites (main site, opportunities site, and tourism site)
- Your customer can search within the directory
- Your listing is **FREE** and allows for pictures, logos, hours of operations, business description, and contact information

Yes!

Are You Listed?

How to claim your listing

1. Go to www.directory.rdbn.bc.ca
2. On the right hand menu create an account (If you already have one, log into your account)
3. Search your company name
4. Click on your business name
5. On the right-hand menu, click on 'Update/Claim Listing'

Editing your listing

1. Log on
2. Click manage on the listing you wish to edit under the 'My Listings' heading
3. Click 'Edit Listing'
4. Make edits and click 'submit' at the bottom of the screen

Not Yet!

Create your listing

1. Go to www.directory.rdbn.bc.ca
2. On the right hand menu create an account
3. When logged on click 'My Account' on the right hand menu
4. Click 'Add Listing' on the right hand menu
5. Create your listing and submit

Why should I be listed?

More people than ever are using the internet as a source of information. With so many places to list your business it is difficult to know what is the most effective site. The Bulkley-Nechako Directory has many benefits:

- ◆ It is **FREE** to list and advertise your business
- ◆ The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako promotes the directory to industry thereby helping make business connections for you
- ◆ Sends traffic to your website through links in the listing
- ◆ The user directed site allows you to personalize your listing, add photos and your company logo
- ◆ You control the content of your listing

How do I find the Bulkley-Nechako Directory?

directory.rdbn.bc.ca

Links to the Directory are on the following RDBN websites:

www.rdbn.bc.ca

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

visitbulkleynechako.ca

Need Assistance?

RDBN Contact: Deneve Vanderwolf

Email: deneve.vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca

Phone: 250-692-3195

EXPLORE THE **Bulkley-Nechako**

OVER 33,000 VISITORS CONSIDER US A VACATION DESTINATION!

Find an adventure in your own backyard using the **Bulkley-Nechako Discovery App!**

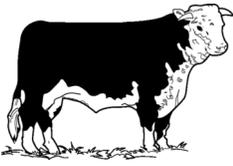
FIND YOUR ADVENTURE @ VisitBulkleyNechako.ca/discovery

WIN 1 OF 4 GOPRO HERO4 SESSIONS!

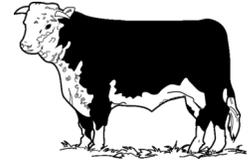
Find your adventure with the **Bulkley-Nechako Discovery App**. Take a picture on your adventure. Upload your photo with **#visitbulkleynechako** and enter to WIN!

Contest details at visitbulkleynechako.ca

Connecting Consumers and Producers



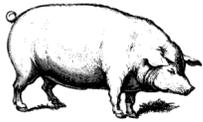
**2016 projects will include:
Updated RDBN Agriculture Brochure
Grant funding for Community Events**



You can't buy happiness but
you can buy local and that is
kind of the same thing.



Local and Regional food
systems are about
Opportunity



**To be listed in the directory or for more information on hosting a
community event visit**

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca/agriculture



Connecting Consumers and Producers

There is a growing movement in our region towards eating locally produced food. Locally produced food often is grown without pesticides or fertilizers. We, as consumers, want to purchase high quality food but may have a difficult time finding a place to purchase locally. *Connecting Consumers and Producers* is a regional economic development project that began in 2014. It promotes local food producers and provides resources about how to eat locally produced food all year round.

The 2015 *Connecting Consumers and Producers* project saw numerous successes.

- 82 producers listed in the Agriculture Brochure
- 900 Agriculture Brochures distributed
- 8 community events hosted
- \$6,830 locally produced food purchased for the 8 events
- 20,000 consumers reached

Events included interactive farming education for kids at two of our fall fairs, three harvest dinner celebrations, support for our future producers, and two Farmers' Market events.

"It was great to see so many aspects of country life, vegetables, eggs, the animals...plus the Agriculture Brochure from the RDBN, I found to be an excellent source of where to get local food from and how to preserve and store it."

Ruth Lloyd on the Bulkley Acres Farm at the Bulkley Valley Exhibition

The project will continue in 2016. Applications for community event funding will open in May and the Agriculture Brochure will be reprinted. To be listed in the directory or for more information on the community events visit opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca/agriculture.



Lakes District Airport Referendum

2016 Meeting

Dates:

Board Meetings:

- May 26th
- June 23rd
- July 21st
- August 18th
- September 22nd
- October 20th
- November 24th
- December 15th

Committee Meetings:

- May 12th
- June 9th
- September 8th
- October 6th
- November 3rd

The RDBN mining portal has expanded and now includes information on:

- Mining
- LNG Projects
- Agriculture Industry
- Tourism Sector
- Business Sector
- Workforce & Training

Learn about:

- Regional Economic Development Projects
- Upcoming Events
- Latest Media Releases
- Job Opportunities
- Service and Suppliers in our Region

Check it out today!

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

Lakes District Airport is owned by the Village of Burns Lake and operated by the Lakes District Airport Society. In 1998, the RDBN established a bylaw wherein the Village of Burns Lake and Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) contribute annually to the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Lakes District Airport.

On Saturday, February 27, 2016 the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako held a referendum to determine if voters in Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) were in favour of increasing the taxation limit for the Lakes District Airport to replace the sub-grade of the runway by grinding the existing asphalt and mixing it with the existing sub-grade, then repaving it with new airport grade pavement.

The referendum passed in the RDBN with 531 “yes” votes and 85 “no” votes. The referendum also passed within the Village of Burns Lake with 216 “for a number of grants for the project which are pending approval .yes” votes and 32 “no” votes.

Lakes District Airport Society has done a community funding drive and has also applied for a number of grants for the project which are pending approval.

Questions & Comments:

Mail: P.O. Box 820
Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0

Phone: 250-692-3195

Toll Free: 1-800-320-3339

Fax: 250-692-3305

Email: inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca

Websites:

www.rdbn.bc.ca

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

www.visitbulkleynechako.com

If you wish to be included in the distribution list to receive the “Regional News” please send an email to:

inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca and ask to be added to the email or mail list. You can read past issues [here](#).

2016 Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Budget

On March 24, 2016, the Board of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District (SNRHD) approved its 2016 budget. The total amount of taxes raised will remain at \$1,790,000, the same as in 2015. The residential tax rate on a \$100,000 property will increase from \$54 in 2015 to \$56 in 2016, due primarily to a reduction in property assessments resulting from the closure of the Endako Mine.

The construction of the Burns Lake Hospital and demolition of the old hospital are now complete. The 2016 budget includes \$0.8 million to pay for any remaining bills as they come in. The 2016 budget also includes the following items for which the amount shown is the SNRHD share:

- \$340,000 for a sprinkler system at the Fort St. James Hospital;
- \$91,440 for telephone system upgrades at the Vanderhoof and Fort St. James Hospitals;
- \$71,224 towards Northern Health’s Integrated Community Clinical Information System;
- \$172,920 for Minor Equipment Grants;
- \$24,000 for building repairs;
- \$62,000 for a Healing Garden at the new Burns Lake Hospital, funded from local donations.

In 2016, the SNRHD will make its first contribution of \$709,016 to a capital reserve to accumulate funds for its share of the costs of the proposed new hospital in Fort St. James.

Further details on the 2016 budget can be found in the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District section of our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca.

The boundaries of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District include the municipalities of Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake and Granisle as well as Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural), C (Fort St. James Rural), D (Fraser Lake Rural), E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural), and F (Vanderhoof Rural).

Northwest Regional Hospital District

The North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) shares the same boundaries as the entire Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) and Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District (SQCRD), and the western portion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako including Houston, Telkwa, and Smithers. For more information please visit <http://www.rdks.bc.ca/content/north-west-regional-hospital-district> or phone (250) 615-6100 or 1-800-663-3208.

2016 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Budget

At its meeting on March 24, 2016, the Regional District Board of Directors approved the Financial Plan for the years 2016 to 2020. Included in the Financial Plan is the Budget for 2016, which shows a tax increase for Regional Services of \$11,966 and a tax increase for Local Services of \$232,510. The table below compares the taxation budget for 2016 with 2015.

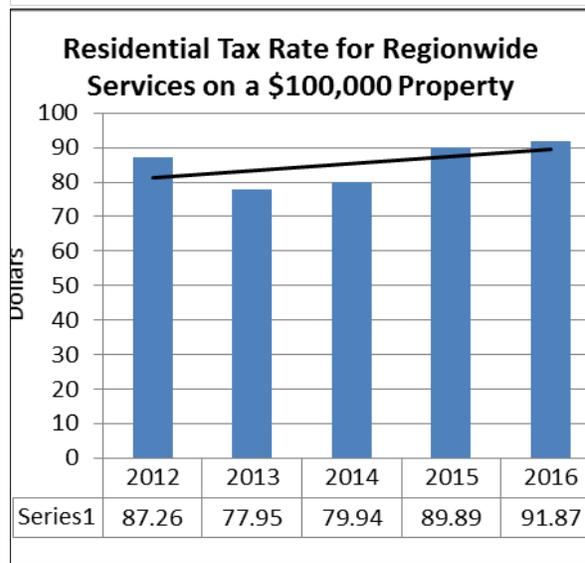
The residential tax rate for services affecting municipal taxpayers increases slightly from \$89.89 for a \$100,000 property in 2015 to \$91.87 in 2016, primarily resulting from reduced property assess-

ments due to the closure of the Endako Mine as well as an increase in Administration costs, partly offset by reductions in the cost of the 9-1-1 Service. For rural taxpayers, the residential tax rate decreases slightly from \$119.49 for a \$100,000 property in 2015 to \$119.43 in 2016, primarily due to a decrease in the costs for emergency preparedness and a decrease in taxation for Rural Grants in Aid, in addition to the factors that also affect municipal taxpayers.

Taxation for local services has increased by a total of \$232,510 due to new local services:

- Topley Rural Fire Protection and Topley Road Rescue replacing the previous Topley Emergency Response at an enhanced service level;
- Round Lake Rural Fire Protection; and,
- Fort St. James Seniors Helping Seniors Transportation Service.

In addition, there was an increase in the annual capital reserve contributions for the Bulkley Valley Regional Pool to pay for eventual end of life replacement of the facility.



The graph shown here indicates that the trend-line of the residential tax rate for regional services has shown a slight increase

	Taxation		Increase (Decrease)	% Change
	2015	2016		
Regional Services				
Environmental Services	3,045,932	3,110,493	64,561	2.1%
Regional Government	1,311,002	1,447,601	136,599	10.4%
Planning and Related Services	660,933	662,554	1,621	0.2%
Emergency Preparedness	182,180	163,943	(18,237)	-10.0%
Regional Economic Development	294,550	274,274	(20,276)	-6.9%
9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Response	237,235	84,932	(152,303)	-64.2%
	5,731,832	5,743,798	11,966	0.2%
Local Services				
Recreation and Culture	1,855,069	1,987,032	131,963	7.1%
Fire Protection & Emergency Response	770,523	855,854	85,331	11.1%
Street Lighting and Transportation	125,861	161,292	35,431	28.2%
Sewer and Water	94,373	94,329	(44)	0.0%
Local Economic Development	160,357	140,186	(20,171)	-12.6%
Other	9,892	9,892	-	0.0%
	3,016,075	3,248,585	232,510	7.7%
	8,747,907	8,992,383	244,476	2.8%

Further details of the 2016 to 2020 Financial Plan can be found in the Finance section of our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Turns 50

Regional District legislation was implemented in 1965 and the process was completed in 1968. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) was incorporated on February 1, 1966 by Letters Patent. Each Letters Patent contains the name of the regional district, describes its boundary and the boundary of its electoral areas, and provides a formula for weighting the director's votes. Since 1965, regional districts in British Columbia have delivered regional services, provided a political and administrative framework for service delivery partnerships, and served as a local government for rural areas. Please click [here](#) to more information on the last 50 years on our website.



Knockholt Western Sub-Regional Landfill Projects

A number of activities will be undertaken at the Knockholt Landfill in 2016. The RDBN will be proceeding with development of the next phase of the landfill to allow for future garbage disposal. This work will entail conducting test pitting activities to confirm the underlying soil conditions in the expansion area and depth to groundwater, which is critical information in establishing appropriate design criteria. Once this work is completed, design of the landfill liner system will be finalized and submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval. Once approval is obtained, the RDBN will proceed with construction activities.

Another project at the Knockholt Landfill is desludging of the lagoon which currently collects and treats septage effluent and landfill leachate. Over the last number of

years, sludge levels in the lagoon have increased to a point where it is effecting the effluent quality of the liquid that then is transferred to an engineered wetland for final treatment. Desludging the lagoon will solve this issue in the short term, which will allow the RDBN to continue to investigate other more long term solutions such as adding solar aeration or ozone treatment to the lagoon.

A third project at the landfill will involve upgrading the weigh scale software that is used to weigh commercial loads of garbage. Accurately tracking the amount of waste landfilled at the facility is important in long term planning for infrastructure as well as evaluating the success of reduce, reuse and recycling programs and obtaining required data for annual reporting to the Ministry of Environment.



Knockholt Lagoon



Knockholt Scales—RDBN Weighing Public Drop off bin



Installation of leachate collection pipe



Knockholt Phase 2 Expansion Project—2012

Disposal Fee Changes and Pending Cardboard Ban

Doing some home renovations? Have waste from construction or demolition projects? If you have asphalt, concrete, plumbing components, electrical wire, drywall, shingles and insulation, you'll be happy to know that if you have a level pick-up truck load, it will continue to be accepted at Regional District landfills and transfer stations free of charge. If you have more than that however, you must take it to a landfill and there will be a disposal fee applied. In the next few months, that disposal fee will increase from \$60 to \$90 per metric tonne. The increase in disposal fees will also apply to land clearing debris.

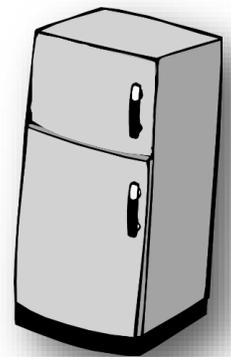


Also, just a friendly reminder that on July 1st, cardboard will no longer be accepted at Regional District landfills and transfer stations as garbage. Residential customers are encouraged to find their local depot and drop it off for recycling. Industrial, commercial and institutional customers will also be required to recycle cardboard, however they will be responsible for finding a local collector or service provider and arranging pick up and paying any associated costs.



Ozone Depleting Substance Appliance Fees

In addition, the RDBN will be raising the fees for dropping off any appliances that contains an ozone depleting substance. Typically, that includes fridges, freezers and water coolers. The ODS disposal fee will increase to \$20 per appliance from the current fee of \$16.



Official Community Plan Review Has Started the Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore)

An OCP is intended to be the community's vision for the future development and growth of an area. It includes general goals and policies that guide the Regional District Board, staff, and others in their land use and development decisions. The Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Plan area includes all of Electoral Area B and a portion of Electoral Area E and is now up for review as it was adopted in early 2010. At the end of January the Planning Department held open houses in Burns Lake and Francois Lake to introduce the community to the OCP review process.

It is important that the OCP be reviewed about every 5 years to ensure that it continues to reflect the values of community residents. The process to update the OCP is scheduled to be completed by early winter 2016 with the stakeholder and public consultation to occur from now through August, followed by the formal approval process. To access the survey please click [Here](#)

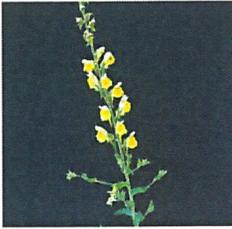


INVASIVE PLANTS IN CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEEDS THREATEN OUR RESOURCES. LEARN TO IDENTIFY THEM.

DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

- Perennial introduced from southeastern Europe
- Spreads by seeds and creeping roots
- Waxy leaves are pale green & clasp stem
- Yellow snapdragon-like flowers



ORANGE HAWKWEED

- Perennial introduced from Europe
- Orange/red flowers
- Basal rosette of leaves
- Bristly-hairy stems that exude a milky juice when broken



FIELD SCABIOUS

- Taprooted perennial from Eurasia & North Africa
- Violet-blue flowers
- Leaves reduced near tip of stem
- Hairy stems & leaves
- Very similar to many ornamental species



CANADIAN THISTLE

- Creeping rooted perennial growing to 1.2 metres
- Stalkless dark green leaves
- Flowerheads spineless and small compared to other thistles
- Flowers variable in colour from rose-purple to pink to white
- This is the only thistle with male and female flowers on separate plants



LEAFY SPURGE

- Perennial introduced from Europe
- Reproduces by seeds & deep vigorous roots
- Yellow-green flower clusters with heart shaped bracts
- Exudes a white latex juice that irritates skin



MARSH PLUME THISTLE

- Introduced from Europe. Biennial that germinates in the first year. Up to 2m tall
- Typically in a single, slender unbranched stem with a cluster of purple flowers at the top
- The upright stem is evenly covered in spiny wings



SPOTTED KNAPWEED

- Perennial introduced from Eurasia
- Purple flowers
- Black tipped bracts on flowerhead are easy to "spot"
- Prolific seed producer



SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

- Annual/Short lived perennial
- White daisy-like flower
- Multiple flowerheads per stem
- Leaves are fern-like
- Can produce up to 300,000 seeds per plant
- Plant is odourless when crushed



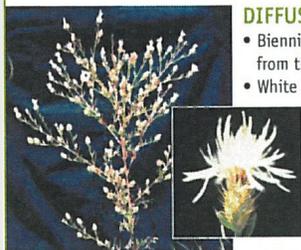
OXEYE DAISY

- Short-lived perennial. Introduced from Eurasia. Mature plants are 20-80cm in height
- Often confused with the ornamental Shasta Daisy
- White daisy-like flowers on stem ends and narrow, divided, upper leaves clasping the stem
- Spreads by seed and creeping underground stems



DIFFUSE KNAPWEED

- Biennial to perennial introduced from the Mediterranean
- White flowers (often pink)
- Short, sharp spines on flower head bracts
- Seeds spread from tumbling plants



HOUND'S-TONGUE

- Biennial introduced from Europe
- Soft & hairy basal leaves
- Red-purple flowers
- Teardrop seed burrs
- Toxic to livestock
- Seed attach to people & animals

Photographs provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Robert Needham



COMMON TANSY

- Perennial, spread by seeds and roots
- Numerous small, yellow button-shaped flowers in flat-topped clusters at the tops of the plants
- Leaves are deeply divided, almost fern-like
- Mature plants grow 0.4 - 1.5m tall with upright stems that are often purplish red
- May be toxic

WANTED DEAD



Himalayan Balsam

Common Tansy

Spotted Knapweed

If you see these or other invasive weeds report them to:



WEED HOTLINE
TOLL FREE 1-866-44WEEDS
www.nwipc.org

A non-profit society working to prevent and control the spread of invasive plants in northwestern and northcentral BC

Report Invasive Weeds on New Phone Application

The North West Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) has adopted a new way for smart phone users to Report-A-Weed using an application on your phone. This QR code will link you to this App to download at your convenience. NWIPC would like to urge you to use this tool as a way to report if you identify an invasive plant that needs to be managed in your area. (Attach QR Code)



The RDBN Sustainability Newsletter for April 2016 can be found at the following link: http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/images/pdf/EnvServices/April_sustainability_newsletter_2016.pdf



The Topley Volunteer Fire Department is proud to announce the purchase of its new Firetruck. The firetruck is 2007 International with a 1,000 gallon water tank, with four Breathing Apparatus seats and one driver. The Topley Volunteer Fire Department will host a Grand Opening in summer 2016 at its new Fire Hall. The new firetruck will be on display at that time as well.



SPRING CLEAN UP TIME AGAIN

Spring is here and it's time to
FireSmart your property

First Priority Zone

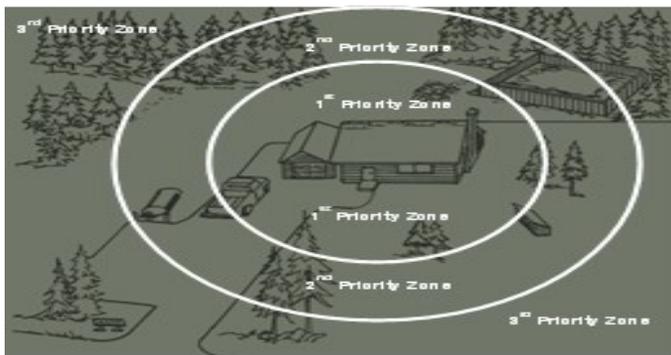
The First Priority Zone includes all buildings on your property and the surrounding 10 metres. FireSmart these areas:

- ◆ ensure roofing, eave and siding materials are fire rated and clean;
- ◆ seal all eave openings;
- ◆ close in deck openings;
- ◆ remove any shrubs, trees, or deadfall;
- ◆ move woodpiles to the Second Priority Zone; and
- ◆ keep your grass mowed and watered.

Second Priority Zone

You can reduce fuels by thinning and pruning vegetation in the area 10 to 30 metres surrounding your buildings, so combustion cannot be supported:

- ◆ remove trees and debris that can spread fire upwards to become a fast spreading crown fire;
- ◆ space trees so that the crowns of individual trees are 3 - 6 metres apart;
- ◆ remove or reduce the number of evergreen trees in the area, evergreens such as pine and spruce are much more combustible than deciduous trees, aspen, poplar and birch Do not use a stool or chair for climbing;
- ◆ remove deadfall, thick shrubbery and mature trees that might provide the opportunity for a ground fire to climb up into the forest canopy; and
- ◆ extend the second priority zone precautions further on downhill slopes and on windward exposures as fires spread more quickly on upward slopes.



Third Priority Zone

Thin the area 30—100 metres surrounding your buildings so fires will be of low intensity and more easily extinguished:

- ◆ remove all ladder fuels; and
- ◆ cut down dry grasses.

Emergency Preparedness Week May 1 – 7, 2016

Emergencies can happen anytime. Is your family ready?

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

Municipalities

Town of Smithers

- Mayor Taylor Bachrach

Village of Telkwa

- Mayor Darcy Repen

District of Houston

- Mayor Shane Brienen

Village of Granisle

- Councillor Thomas

Liversidge

Village of Burns Lake

- Mayor Luke Strimbold

Village of Fraser Lake

- Mayor Dwayne Lindstrom

District of Fort St. James

- Mayor Rob MacDougall

District of Vanderhoof

- Mayor Gerry Thiessen

Electoral Areas

A - Smithers Rural

- Director Mark Fisher

B - Burns Lake Rural

- Director Bill Miller

C - Fort St. James Rural

- Director Tom Greenaway

D - Fraser Lake Rural

- Director Mark Parker

E - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural

- Director Eileen Benedict

F - Vanderhoof Rural

- Director Jerry Petersen

G - Houston Rural

- Director Rob Newell

Emergencies and disasters can strike at any time, and can leave you without basic services such as water, gas, electricity or a working telephone. You might have to evacuate your home or neighborhood, or you may be confined to your home for safety. Roads may be closed or important supplies unavailable.

Ensure your family is prepared to care for yourselves for a minimum of 72 hours. Develop an Emergency Plan

Don't be caught off-guard. Know the hazards in your area and take the time to assemble your family emergency kit. Discuss exits from your home and the area, meeting places to reunite with family, arrangements for picking up children from school or daycare, and contact persons close-by and out-of-town.

Prepare an Emergency Survival Kit

Pack everything in one bag or backpack in an easy-to-reach location. Ensure everyone in the household knows where it is. Be sure to include:

- Flashlight, radio and batteries
- First-aid kit, candles and matches
- Important papers (identification), car keys and cash
- Non-perishable food (3 day supply per person) and a manual can opener
- Bottled water (1/2 to 1 gallon per person per day)
- Clothing and blankets or a sleeping bag (aluminum foil blankets take up less space)
- Toilet paper and other personal items
- Copy of your Emergency Plan and contact information
- Any special needs your family might have (infant formula, diapers, medication, etc.)

Talk to your Neighbours

It is natural for neighbours to come together and to help one another during times of crisis. The Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program is designed to help individuals and neighbours prepare to be self sufficient for an extended period of time.

For more information about Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness contact Deborah Jones-Middleton at 250-692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339.



WE WANT YOU! Become an Emergency Support Volunteer for YOUR Community today

Community volunteers are essential to a successful Emergency Social Services Program. Emergency Support Services is a program that provides assistance to residents when they have been displaced from their homes in an emergency or disaster, such as a house fire, wildfire, or overland flooding.

Emergency Social Services Volunteers help provide temporary support, up to 72 hours, for:

food « accommodations « clothing « incidentals « support

Emergency and disaster response work offers a unique opportunity for **YOU** to help others when the help is needed most. Working in this field challenges volunteers to stretch their own limits and potential.

Our Municipal and Regional District Emergency Social Services Teams provide excellent opportunities for training, team building, exercises, and contributing to emergency preparedness in your community. Our committed Team leaders provide volunteer support before, during and after an event.

Volunteer appreciation functions are held annually, recognizing our volunteer's commitment and contributions.

**Bulkley-Nechako for more information
and a team near YOU
1-800-320-3339 or 250-692-3195**

