

Fall/Winter 2019

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

The Regional News

2019 RDBN Meeting Dates:

Board Meetings:

- November 21st
- December 12th

Committee Meeting:s

- November 7th
- December 12th

Questions & Comments:

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Websites:
www.rdbn.bc.ca

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

www.visitbulkleynechako.com



Update from the Chair



It has been an honour to serve as the Chair of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for the past year. As you see from this report, even though we did not have the disasters we had last year, we were still very busy.

Beginning July 1st, Curtis Helgesen joined the Regional District as the Chief Administrative Officer. Curtis spent the last thirteen years with the District of Elkford; six years as the Director of Financial Services and the last seven years as the Chief Administrative Officer. Having previously worked in the area, Curtis brings a local knowledge perspective, in addition to a well-rounded education in public administration, accounting, executive leadership, and emergency management. We are very pleased to welcome him to our team.

Fortunately, we did not experience the extreme wildfire activity that we faced in 2018. Emergency Management & Training Inc. conducted a review of the Regional District's Emergency Operations Centre Response to the 2018 Wildfires. The report identifies a series of recommendations and considerations that can be implemented for future events. Our Board and staff will be working towards the implementation of those recommendations.

During the last year, the Regional District has been studying what we feel is a lack of internet connectivity within our Regional District. We commissioned a report from TanEx Engineering to make recommendations for improvements. This report is now complete and was included on the August 15th Board Agenda ([that can be found on our website](#)). I encourage all those interested or concerned in high speed internet to read the report and provide comments. To get additional information on the speed of internet in the Regional District we have partnered with the Canadian Internet Registration Authority to provide a geographically referenced speed test tool just for our Regional District. Take a look at our Economic Development Department's web article "[Connecting the RDBN](#)".

The Regional District completed its Solid Waste Management Plan in 2018 which identified that more residential recycling options in the region should be explored. As a result,

(Continued on page 2)

Holiday Hours:

The RDBN will be closed
Wednesday, December 25,
2019 to Wednesday,
January 1, 2020.

"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES
WITHIN OUR REGION"

2018 Wildfire Recovery Update

In 2018 the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako experienced some of the worst wildfires in modern BC history. A State of Local Emergency was in place from August 1st to September 20th, 2018. A total of 15 wildfires that caused 1550 homes to be put on evacuation order. Eight homes and over 45 other structures were destroyed. Over 1800 cows, 1200 sheep or goats and 140 horses were evacuated. Many lives have been changed forever by the wildfires.

Over the past 14 months, funding and support has come from all levels of government and support organizations. Local governments and community groups have supported affected residents and businesses in their recovery from extensive damage caused by the fires. Non-profit groups such as the Canadian Red Cross, Team Rubicon and Mennonite Disaster Service as well as local faith-based support groups have provided incredible support and continue to do so where they can. Provincial and federal agencies and ministries have provided resources and support to the recovery.

The recovery phase of emergency management is transitioning back to preparedness and mitigation. Life after the fire will never be the same for many, but it is important that we move from looking backward at the event that caused us hardship, to a rebuilding phase. Making sure individual recovery plans are in place is an important step in returning to a sense of normalcy.

In many cases, recovery activities that could be completed, have been completed. Support for our small business partners has been provided where possible. Outreach and community wellness programs will continue.

Residents of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako are invited to join us at a **Community Meeting and Dinner**. Members of the community will have an opportunity to meet with agencies and organizations and to connect and share experiences.

Date: November 7, 2019

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: Francois Lake Community Hall

Address: 770 Francois Lake East Road, Burns Lake

Contact: Recovery Manager, 250-692-3195 or eoc.recovery@rdbn.bc.ca

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Update from the Chair

recycling depots were opened at the Vanderhoof and Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Stations. Subsequently, depots were opened at the Burns Lake and Fort St. James Transfer Stations. This direction is proving to be successful in diverting waste from the landfill. The Regional District continues to work towards solutions with a special focus in the Village of Fraser Lake and the District of Houston.

The Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako, Kitimat-Stikine and North Coast, along with their member Municipalities, continue to work towards negotiations with the Province on a resource benefits sharing agreement that will benefit both Northwest BC and the entire Province through greater economic development and more sustainable and livable communities. The RBA, along with Regional District representatives, met with Premier Horgan, the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention in September. The meeting was very productive, with Premier Horgan firmly committing to negotiate a resource benefits sharing agreement with the RBA.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I look forward to continuing to serve the people of this region. We at the Board would love to hear from you. I encourage you to contact your local representative or contact myself as Chair at gerry.thiessen@rdbn.bc.ca. We welcome your input and feedback and encourage you to contact us so we can do our best to assist you.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO RESOLUTIONS ENDORSED BY UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES

The Regional District brought the following Resolutions to the Union of BC Municipalities conference in September, all five resolutions were endorsed by the conference attendees.

Community Resilience Investment Program – FireSmart Bulkley-Nechako RD Community Funding

Whereas the Community Resilience Investment Program's funding model for FireSmart related activities on private property is capped at \$100,000 per local government regardless of population or geographic area;
And whereas the funding model and funding eligibility requirements put geographically large regional districts at a notable disadvantage compared to local governments with significantly less wildfire interface areas;
Therefore be it resolved that the Province develop eligibility requirements for Community Resilience Investment Program funding, and a funding model, that are equitable and based on local government need.

Permitting Entry into an Evacuation Order Area

Whereas wildfire events are increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration, and local governments and the BC Wildfire Service are required to implement an efficient, effective, and coordinated approach to address the demand for persons, equipment, and supplies requiring entry into an evacuation order area;
And whereas the BC Wildfire Service does not have a comprehensive permitting process to facilitate the entry of support personnel, equipment, and supplies into an evacuation order area, and the *Emergency Program Act* and British Columbia Emergency Management System do not address, recognize, or provide any direction regarding the permitting of residents, farmers, or persons working in coordination with the BC Wildfire Service to enter into an evacuation order area:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with local governments to develop a permitting system and associated policy, procedures, and best practices that facilitate the necessary entry of persons, equipment, and supplies into an evacuation order area;

And be it further resolved that the Province consider the need for legislation that addresses the risk management issues associated with allowing entry into an evacuation order area.

Stay and Defend Policy

Whereas wildfire events are increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration, and local governments and the BC Wildfire Service are increasingly required to deal with the issues created by residents who stay within an evacuation order area to defend their property and farmers who stay to look after livestock sheltering in place;

And whereas the *Emergency Program Act* and the British Columbia Emergency Management System do not address, recognize, or provide direction regarding the management of issues created by persons choosing to stay and defend their property from wildfire:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with local governments to develop policy and best practices regarding stay and defend issues with consideration given to formally recognizing a person's right to stay and defend their property from wildfire.

Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding

Whereas the Province has delegated responsibility for emergency and disaster recovery to local governments under Section 6 of the Emergency Program Act;

And whereas the Province's current policy of providing funding for disaster relief and recovery to organizations other than local governments is proving ineffective in meeting the needs of many British Columbians who require such assistance;

The Vanderhoof Rural Official Community Plan (OCP) review is underway!

The Regional District has launched a process to update the Official Community Plan for rural Vanderhoof. The process started off with an open house in Vanderhoof on October 9, 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in 2020 with First Nations, stakeholder and public consultation to occur from now through spring, followed by the formal approval process.



An OCP is intended to set out the community vision for the Plan area and contains statements of goals and objectives identified in consultation with the community to guide future growth and development of an area. It guides the Regional District Board, staff and others in their land use and development decisions.

A copy of the current Vanderhoof Rural OCP and associated maps and more information are available on the Regional District's website: <https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning/area-f-ocp-review>

A survey has been prepared to collect information from rural Vanderhoof residents to better identify issues and understand public opinion regarding land use and planning in the rural area. The survey results play an important role in the OCP update process. The survey can be found on the website here:

<https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/planning/area-f-ocp-review/area-f-ocp-survey>

If you have any questions or would like to become involved in the Vanderhoof Rural OCP review process, please contact the Planning Department at (250) 692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Planning Department is on Facebook! For up to date information on land use planning in your area, Like us **@RDBN Planning**.



Agriculture Support in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Agriculture in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), is a strong sector of the economy and continues to be an area of opportunity. The 2016 Census of Agriculture for the region had over 1,500 people employed in agriculture with gross farm receipts just over \$63 million annually.

The RDBN hosted an agriculture forum in 2016 and identified a need for an agriculture coordinator position. A two-year pilot project was brought to fruition through a partnership between Northern Development Initiative Trust, (NDIT), and the RDBN. Debbie Evans joined the RDBN in November 2017 and is currently working as the Agriculture Coordinator, a full-time staff position in the RDBN. In August 2019 a year extension was approved by NDIT taking the pilot project to the end of October 2020.

A large part of the Agriculture Coordinator role is building relationships with agriculture stakeholders, producers and all levels of Government and other agriculture support services. We also work with agriculture groups to leverage opportunities for their specific commodity groups or producer associations. In March 2018 a beef producer strategy workshop was held, March 2019 we held "SheepFest" for sheep producers. Livestock Emergency Preparedness workshops were held in 2018 and 2019. We participate at association and other organization events throughout the region, for example teaming up with Stuart Nechako Community Futures two-day workshop on hops, craft brewing, malting barley with an hour presentation on "The Many Ways to Craft a Brew". We are currently working on the 2020 RDBN Agriculture Forum for February 2020. Also trying to leverage opportunities and weaknesses in agriculture and planning workshops in 2020 for the Beef industry with varied topics, one of which will be pests, grasshoppers and cutworms. Marketing has been identified as a crucial producer tool that needs to be addressed and we are planning a 1x or 2x day Marketing workshop in 2020.



Participation in a two-year project as a member of the working group for the Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser-Fort George BC Agriculture & Climate Change, Regional Adaptation Strategies. As of August 2019, the project has now moved into the phase of identified projects and supporting up to six projects running until 2023. Support on behalf of the RDBN for the 2020 phase of climate change projects.

The RDBN is currently updating the 2012 RDBN Agriculture Plan. A food and agriculture plan are a strategic planning document that will help to develop a shared vision for food and agriculture amongst farmers, the public, and local governments within the RDBN, as well as goals, objectives and actions for achieving the vision. Upon completion, the agriculture plan will be approved by the Regional District Board of Directors and used to guide future activities affecting agriculture for the next 5-7 years. The update is expected to be approved in March 2020 and will also include a marketing plan for the distribution of the information.

The distribution of agriculture information is assisted with the agriculture department pages on the RDBN website. The site is intended to be an information "go-to" site for producers and potential new farmers in the region. The site is www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/agriculture and it is updated at least monthly.

Another role of the Agriculture Coordinator is to support the RDBN emergency events for livestock support. The large 2018 wildfires event resulted in over four months of time focusing on livestock support to producers during and after the event with agriculture support funded by Emergency Management B.C.

The Agriculture Coordinator reports to the CAO of the RDBN and the RDBN Agriculture Committee Chairperson. Assist in preparation of meetings and prepare written responses as identified by the committee. Also update the committee on regional, provincial, national or world agriculture news. Work with other departments of the RDBN such as Planning with ALR applications, Economic Development on our Connecting Consumer & Producers Guide and other initiatives within the RDBN.

The motto of the RDBN is "**A World of Opportunities Within Our Region**" and there are many opportunities to support and expand agriculture within the RDBN.

Submitted by Debbie Evans, P. Ag, Agriculture Coordinator of the RDBN

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Expands Transfer Stations to Include Recycling Centres

The RDBN has opened two more recycling centres in our region, one at the Fort St. James Transfer Station on Necoslie Road and another at the Burns Lake Transfer Station on Babine Lake Road. Both are Recycle BC Depots, accepting all the same items that you are used to taking to the previous depots that used to operate in those communities.



RDBN depots accept all materials in Recycle BC's residential packaging and printed paper recycling program, including non-deposit glass bottles and jars, plastic bags and plastic foam packaging, along with curbside recycling materials such as newsprint, cardboard, metal containers, plastic containers, spiral wound cans and paper packaging that held liquid when sold, such as coffee cups and soup cartons.

The RDBN is also excited that the Fort St. James Transfer Station is now offering electronics recycling and soon will offer small appliance, household batteries, lamps and light bulbs recycling as well.

Recycle BC is a non-profit organization responsible for residential packaging and printed paper recycling throughout British Columbia. Recycle BC ensures packaging and printed paper is collected from households and recycling depots, sorted and recycled responsibly. The Recycle BC program is funded by over 1,200 businesses, like retailers, manufacturers and restaurants, that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents, to shift recycling costs away from homeowners.



Cont'd from Page 3

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work collaboratively with local governments to establish policy and best practices relating to the provision of disaster recovery assistance, and thereafter make all funding for this purpose available directly to local governments in support of their legislated responsibilities under the *Emergency Program Act*

Provincial Download

Whereas Section 2 of the *Community Charter* states that the Provincial government must not assign responsibilities to municipalities unless there is provision for resources required to fulfill the responsibilities; And whereas legislated changes have shifted responsibility for managing a wide range of complex issues, including but not limited to the significant impact of emergency response services onto local governments placing notable strain on local government resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that adequate resources and funding are provided to local governments to fulfill the responsibilities that have been assigned to local governments.

Composter Rebate Program Popular

Once again, the Regional District was able to offer composter rebates of \$40 to those resi-



dents who would like to keep organics out of our waste stream by doing backyard composting. Overwhelming response to the rebate meant that we had to close off the

program in August. Thank you all for joining in and happy composting!!

Year	Method	Total Distributed
2019	Rebate	171
2018	Rebate	99
2017	Rebate	96
2016	Direct sale	200
2015	Direct sale	100
2014	Direct sale & workshop	100
	Grand Total!	766

Purchase of New Excavator and Tractors

The Environmental Services Department has purchased an excavator that will be used for processing/loading of wood waste throughout the region. This will reduce annual operational costs the RDBN pays



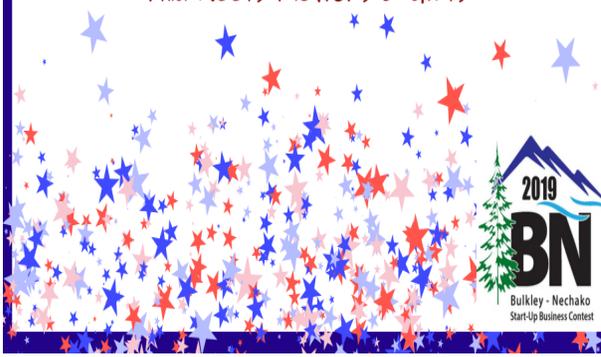
for this material to be landfilled. Current hauling staff will be utilized to haul / operate the machine site to site.



We were also able to purchase two Kubota tractors for use at our Smithers/Telkwa and Vanderhoof Recycling Depots. The smaller tractors that were there went to the Fort St. James and Burns Lake Recycling Depots.

**Congratulations to our
2019 Start-Up Business Contest
Finalists!**

- AirRays
- Bare Hands Landscaping & Design
- Stark Bee Products
- Stir Artisan Tisanes
- Wild Roots Flowers & Gifts



Do Grant Applications make your head hurt?



We're here to help!

Did you know the RDBN offers free, confidential grant-writing services? We can help your non-profit society to:

- ✓ Identify grant opportunities
- ✓ Review Proposals
- ✓ Plan Projects
- ✓ Write and Submit Grant Applications

Call 250-692-3195 or email economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca for more information

www.rdbn.bc.ca



#VISITBULKLEYNECHAKO

WIN A GOPRO HERO 7 PRIZE PACKAGE



*How to enter:
Take a picture of your adventure in the Bulkley-Nechako
Upload your photo to Instagram with the hashtag*

#VISITBULKLEYNECHAKO

Tag your photo's location

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako will be monitoring the implementation of its Solid Waste Management Plan that was adopted by the RDBN Board of Directors and would like to have members of the public sitting on the committee for their input.

The Solid Waste Management Plan is the guiding document that lays out how we manage our recycling, compost and disposal of solid waste for the next 10-20 years. The current plan was updated in 2018 and can be found on the RDBN's website (rdbn.bc.ca).

The Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Committee will be looking at:

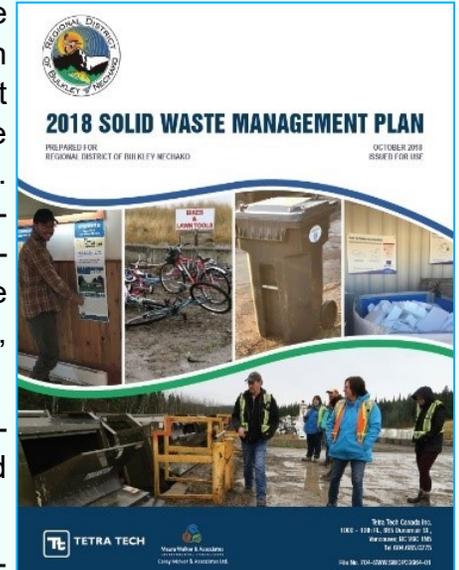
- The progress made on the plan to date
- Key topics and trends in the solid waste and recycling sectors and their impact on the region
- Prioritizing and implementing projects and initiatives.

Interested citizens may apply to be part of the Plan Monitoring Committee for the RDBN's Solid Waste Management Plan. If you are interested in waste management and recycling for our Region, we invite you to be part of this process. There will be 2 meetings (2 to 3 hour duration) taking place every year for the next 5 years (possibly May & November or as needed). You will have an opportunity to review reports, provide feedback and participate in discussions related to the scope of this committee. Terms of Reference will be posted on the RDBN's website for those interested. Please submit an Expression of Interest (found at rdbn.bc.ca) before October 23, 2019.

We acknowledge the distances that will need to be traveled within the Regional District, and as such there will be remuneration for mileage and meals as required for committee meetings.

For more information on any of these initiatives, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 250-692-3195, toll free at 1-800-320-3339 or e-mail at:

wastewatchers@rdbn.bc.ca.



Help us understand connectivity in the RDBN!

Use the link on our website to test your internet performance and be entered to win a prize package from local businesses worth over \$200!

www.rdbn.bc.ca

Emergencies and disasters can strike at any time and 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.

Your best strategy for dealing with disasters and emergencies is to be as prepared as possible. Don't be caught off-guard. Know the hazards in your area and take the time to assemble your family emergency kit. Predetermine meeting places to reunite with family and contact persons close-by and out-of-town.

Prepare a 72 - Hour Emergency Kit

Pack everything in totes or bags and store in one easy-to-reach location. Ensure everyone in the household knows where it is. Use the checklist provided as a guide to stock a basic 72- hr kit and add items depending on your family's needs:

Toiletries

- Cleaning supplies (hand sanitizer, dry shampoo, etc.)
- First aid kit
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Feminine supplies

Special Needs Items

- Infant needs (diapers, formula, bottles, etc.)
- Prescription medicines
- Extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses
- Pet items (food, leash, muzzle, medication, pet carrier/portable kennel, etc.)



Personal Documents and Items

- A list of your emergency contacts (names and contact numbers)
- An extra set of house and car keys
- Cash in smaller bills
- Copies of important documents like passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies

Food and Water

- Four litres of water per person per day
- Food that doesn't require cooking and won't spoil, such as granola and protein bars, trail mix, dried fruit, canned tuna (remember to replace food and water once a year)

Equipment

- Manual can opener
- Flashlight (wind-up or battery operated) and batteries (replace batteries every year)
- Wind-up or battery powered radio (replace batteries every year)
- Candles, lighter, waterproof/strike-anywhere matches
- Pens and paper
- Duct tape
- Pocket knife
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Garbage bags
- Whistles and flares (to attract attention)



What are Ice Jams?

River ice jams usually occur during spring melt as the ice begins to break up and during winter freeze-up. Ice jam floods can be unpredictable and potentially more destructive than open water flooding.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) continuously monitors ice jam situations as they occur. RDBN issues public notices to residences who may be at risk of being affected by an ice jam.

Sand and Sandbags may be issued by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to residents whose homes are under imminent threat to ice jam flooding.

When do Ice Jams usually happen?

In winter and spring months, residents in low-lying areas are at a higher risk for ice jam flooding. Ice jams occur most frequently in spring, when ice melts and begins to break up; and early winter when freeze-up begins.

Tips for dealing with and preparing for Ice Jams

- Follow information on weather advisories from the River Forecast Center.
- Have a plan and educate others.
- Have access to a sump pump.
- Know where to access and how to use sand and sandbags.
- Know the risks associated with living in a flood plain.
- Have a 72 Hour Emergency Kit available and easily accessible.



Tips for Winter Storms

- Insulate walls and attic.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Insulate any water lines that run along outer walls.
- Install an easy-to-read outdoor thermometer.
- Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that may fall on your home or other structure during a storm.
- Keep your vehicle fueled up to minimize risk of the fuel line freezing
- If you go away, leave the heat on in your home to keep the temperature above 55°F.
- Check your 72-hr emergency kit for any items which need to be replaced.

During Winter Storms and Blizzards, Keep Your Family Safe with the Following Tips

- Stay Indoors if possible.
- Select a location where heat can best be conserved, such as the side of the house that receives the most sunlight and is away from cold winds.
- Avoid heat loss by closing off unneeded rooms and stuffing towels or rags in cracks underneath doors to conserve heat.
- Cover the windows at night.
- Keeping your water running at a trickle to prevent your pipes from freezing.
- Keep kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors open to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, light weight and warm clothing.
- Eat and drink to prevent dehydration.
- If caught in a blizzard, seek shelter and wait out the storm.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a Provincial emergency response program that is facilitated by local governments. This service can provide British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies support for up to 72 hours. Services may include food, lodging, clothing, and information about the crisis.

If you do not have insurance to cover your immediate essential needs, or are unable to access your insurance immediately, the Province of BC will cover the cost through ESS for up to 72 hours. You will be responsible for any needs not considered essential, such as long-distance phone calls, tobacco, and alcohol. Some additional services which may be provided through ESS by coordination with other organizations and agencies:



- Emotional Support
- Communications
- First Aid
- Health Services
- Information
- Child Care
- Transportation Services
- Recreation Services
- Multicultural Services
- Pet Services

ESS is provided by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako by trained staff and volunteers. When you need ESS support, ESS volunteers will meet with you to help determine your family's immediate needs in a practical, timely and sensitive manner.

Being displaced from your home during an emergency can be a very stressful time for you and your family. You may forget important details and/or feel unable to cope. Things that may assist in dealing with your situation include:

- Make plans for accommodation, food and clothing beyond the first 72 hours
- Advise your employer of your current situation
- Let your children's teachers know what has happened
- Re-direct your mail if you are not returning home for an extended period of time
- Contact extended family and friends to let them know that you are safe
- Contact your ESS provider if you change your location during an event

Become an ESS Volunteer

Volunteering as an ESS responder is a rewarding experience. Would you like to help people in your community during a crisis or emergency? Would you like to work with a team of other dedicated volunteers? Can you be available on short notice to respond to an emergency event? We need your help!

You will be part of a team that provides shelter, food and a shoulder to lean on when disaster forces people from their homes. ESS volunteer training is offered through the Justice Institute and your local government. All ESS volunteers receive WorkSafe BC and liability insurance coverage while on assignments.



For more information or to become an Emergency Support Services Volunteer, call the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako at (250) 692-3195 or email

Rebecca.rodriquez@rdbn.bc.ca

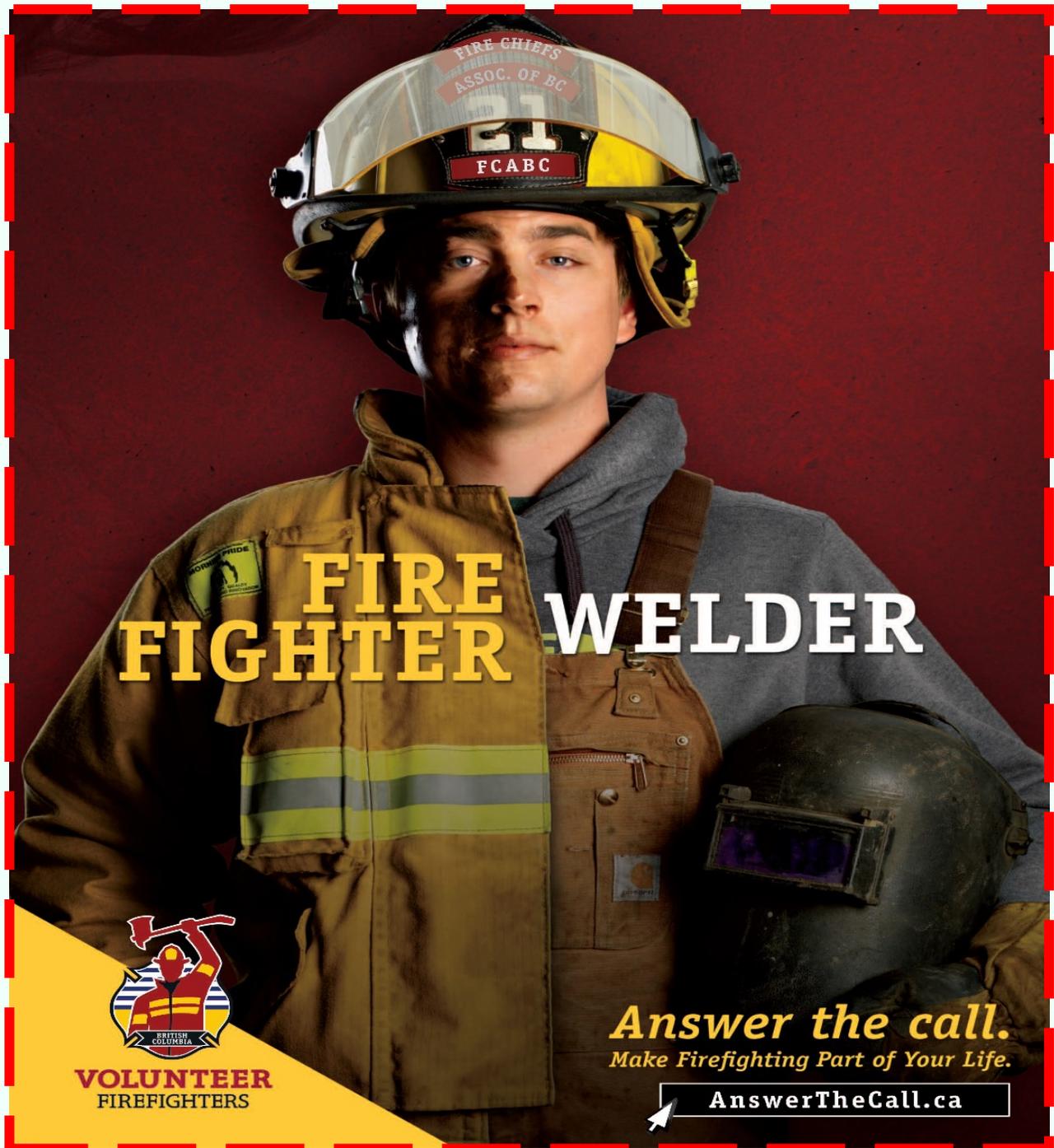
WHAT IF

No one Answered the Call?

What if you called to report a fire or medical emergency, and no one answered the call?

Did you know that over 80% of the country's fire service is volunteer based?
Are you looking to give back to your community?

Join a local department today for an experience of a lifetime!



FIRE FIGHTER WELDER

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

*Answer the call.
Make Firefighting Part of Your Life.*

AnswerTheCall.ca

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Investigations into home fire deaths often find that a smoke alarm did not sound. It may have been disconnected or not in working order. The batteries may have been dead, or someone may have taken them out.

Many fatal fires start at night. Smoke alone won't necessarily wake you up. In fact, the fumes could put you into an even deeper sleep. Often, victims never wake up. Only a working smoke alarm can save your life.

The Canada Safety Council advises all Canadians to make sure their smoke alarms are working. A dead unit is worse than none at all — it can give you a false sense of security



Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, as well as near the kitchen and sleeping areas.

Test your smoke alarms monthly, and if powered by batteries replace them twice a year. Smoke detectors are only good for 10 years and must be replaced upon expiry to ensure your safety.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

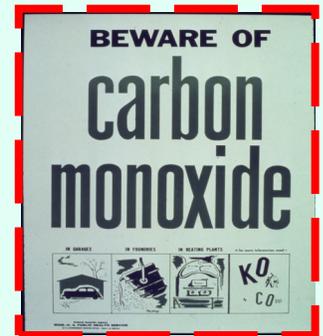
How do you protect yourself and your family from something you can't see, smell, or taste? Install a carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels are burned incompletely such as natural gas, propane, and wood.

Never use equipment designed for outdoor use, such as barbecues, camp stoves, propane lanterns, generators or lawnmowers, in any enclosed space. Remove vehicles and gas-powered equipment from the garage immediately after starting the engine.

Breathing in carbon monoxide depletes the oxygen in your blood, and too much exposure could lead to unconsciousness, brain damage and death. Symptoms to watch for include;

- Headaches
- Nausea
- Drowsiness
- Impaired judgment
- Loss of coordination

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get outside to fresh air and call 911.



Fire Escape Plans

Every household in Canada should have an emergency plan in order to react quickly if a fire were to occur. Draw up a floor plan of your home showing all possible exits from each room. If possible, plan two exits: a main route and an alternate route from each room. Identify a safe place where everyone should meet. Practice the plan with your family and make sure every member knows what to do.

Close Before You Doze

We all know how important it is to have working smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, escape plans, and a designated meeting place. But did you know that closing your door especially before you go to bed is also an important step to ensure your safety in case of a fire. Because of synthetic materials, furniture and construction, fires spread faster than ever before. 17 minutes is how much time you had to escape a house fire 40 years ago, and 3 minutes is how much time you now have to escape. With the limited time that a resident may have to escape, any extra measure to ensure safety is worth the effort. Some of the benefits of a closed door are;

- Temperature reduction- a closed door can mean reducing the temperatures in the room from 600 degrees to 40 degrees,
- Carbon monoxide, smoke and toxic gas levels are reduced.
- Helps slow the fires spread by reducing the available oxygen.
- Gives you more time to react if the smoke alarm sounds.

Fire Extinguishers

Many people have a fire extinguisher, but they may not know how to use one. Everyone should have at least one fire extinguisher at home, but it's just as important to ensure you have the proper type of fire extinguisher. Fire extinguishers are divided into four categories, A, B, C, or D, based on different types of fires.

The following is a quick guide to help choose the appropriate extinguisher for the right type of fire.

Class A extinguishers are for ordinary combustibles materials such as paper, wood, drapes and upholstery.

Class B extinguishers are for flammable and combustible liquids such as fuel oil, gasoline, paint, grease in a frying pan, solvents and other flammable liquids.

Class C extinguishers are for electrical equipment such as appliances, wiring, overheated fuse boxes, conductors, and other electrical sources.

Class D extinguishers are for metals such as magnesium, potassium and sodium, and are commonly found in a chemical laboratory.

Most household extinguishers are a multi-purpose extinguisher labelled ABC and will put out most types of fires such as wood, paper, cloth, flammable liquids, and electrical fires.

Before using your fire extinguisher, make sure to read the instructions.

Although there are many different types of fire extinguishers, all of them operate in a similar manner.

Pull the pin. Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, inversion or other motion.

Aim the extinguisher nozzle (horn) at the base of the fire.

Squeeze or press the handle.

Sweep from side-to-side at the base of the fire and discharge the contents of the extinguisher.



If you have any questions about home fire safety, feel free to contact the Regional District Fire Chief,

Jason.blackwell@rdbn.bc.ca

You and your family are fast asleep when the smoke alarm sounds:

Do you know what to do?

Consider this scenario: it's 2am, you and your family are fast asleep when you wake to the sound of the smoke alarm and the smell of smoke. What do you do? If you are not prepared for this situation, it could jeopardize your safety or worse, possibly prove deadly.

In a typical residential fire with working smoke alarms, you may only have a few minutes to escape safely once the alarm goes off. This is one of the reasons home escape plans are so crucial, and why they must be practiced. It helps ensure that all members of the household know what to do in the event of a fire.

The theme for this year's fire prevention week was, "Every second counts, Plan 2 ways out". It is meant to educate the public on not only the importance of developing a home escape plan, but also practicing that plan, as it can truly make a difference when seconds count.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako encourages all residents to develop a plan and practice it. It consists of working smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. It also includes 2 ways out of every room, usually a door or window, and an outside meeting place a safe distance from the home. A good rule of thumb is to practice your escape plan at least twice a year, as well as change the batteries in all your smoke detectors. Some residents may not be aware that smoke alarms do not last forever, and need to be replaced every ten years. Check the manufacturers date on the back of your alarm to ensure it has not expired. For more information and to download a home escape plan template visit <http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Safety-in-the-home/Escape-planning/Basic-fire-escape-planning>

RDBN'S Federal Gas Tax Program

Numerous projects were completed in the region this year with the assistance of Federal Gas Tax Funds, including:



Electoral Area "A", Smithers Rural Airport Upgrade Project with the Town of Smithers



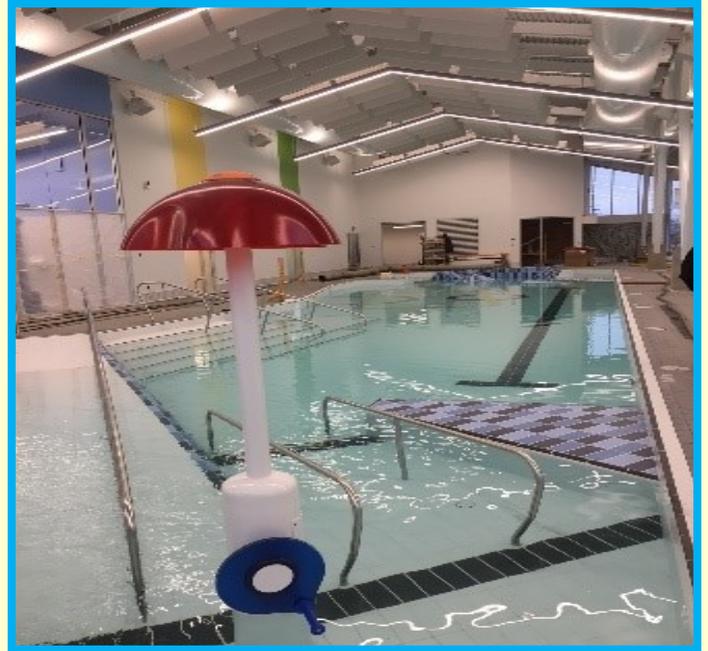
Electoral Area "D", Fraser Lake Rural - Backup Generator for the Fort-Fraser Water Project



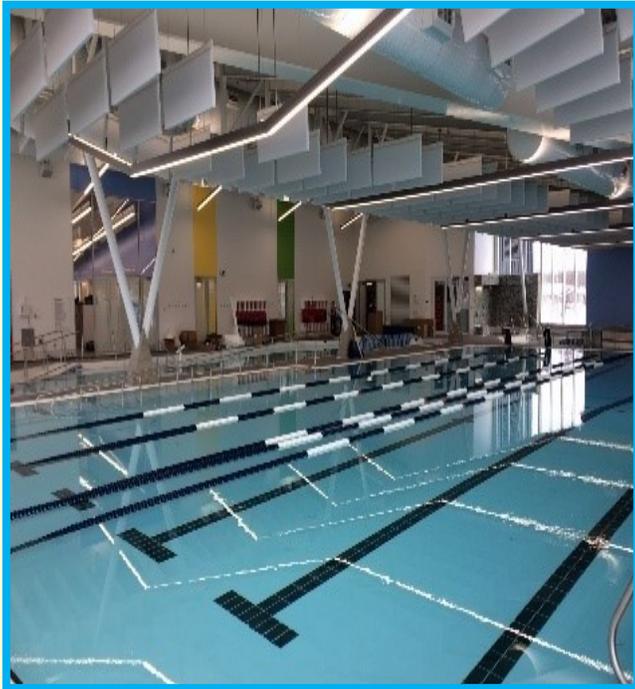
Electoral Area "E", Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural Well Drilling Project at the Lakes District Fall Fair Grounds; Refinish Floors and install Dishwasher at the Francois Lake Hall



Electoral Area "B", Burns Lake Rural - Kitchen Expansion project at the Rose Lake Community Hall - (No picture available)



Electoral Area "F", Vanderhoof Rural - Pool Completion with the District of Vanderhoof



Skateboard Park Project with the District of Vanderhoof

For more information on the RDBN's Federal Gas Tax program, please check out our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca.

162 Smithers To Smithers

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	6:46 am	—
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:00	—
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:14	—
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:24	—
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:30	—
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:38	—
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	7:58	—
Topley: Rest Area	8:10	—
Houston: Leisure Facility	8:33 Ar	—
Houston: Leisure Facility	8:48 Lv	1:00 pm
Telkwa: Post Office	9:33	1:45
Smithers: 8th Ave at Columbia Dr	9:49	—
Smithers: Roi Theatre	9:53 am	2:00 pm

162 Burns Lake To Burns Lake

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Smithers: Roi Theatre	11:30 am	3:00 pm
Smithers: 8th Ave at Columbia Dr	—	3:04
Telkwa: Post Office	11:45	3:20
Houston: Leisure Facility	12:30 pm	4:05 Ar
Houston: Leisure Facility	—	4:15 Lv
Topley: Rest Area	—	4:38
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	—	4:50
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Drive at Hwy 16	—	5:07
Decker Lake: Trading Post	—	5:12
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	5:20 Ar
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	5:25 Lv
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	—	5:35
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	—	5:41
Decker Lake: Trading Post	—	5:49
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	—	5:54
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	6:08 pm



(Transit schedules cont'd on Page 18)

Suggestions or Comments?

If you have comments about service in general or suggestions for improvements, contact:



*Deneve Vanderwolf,
Regional Transit Coordinator
Toll Free 1-800-320-3339 or
deneve.vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca*

Newsletter

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](#).

161 Prince George/To Prince George

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:00 am
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:05
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:13
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:23
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:29
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:33
Tintagel: Rest Area Hwy 16 at Tintagel	7:44
Endako: Endako Pub	8:14
Stellaquo: Slenyah Store	8:21
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	8:27 Ar
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	8:37 Lv
Nautley: Nadleh Whut'en Store	8:54
Fort Fraser: Community Hall	9:01
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:31 Ar
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:41 Lv
Hospital Rd at Health Care Ave	9:46
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:50
Beverly: Petro Canada	10:48
Prince George: Westgate Mall	10:58
Prince George: Pine Centre	11:06
Prince George: Edmonton at 13th Ave (Hospital)	11:15
Prince George: Downtown 7th at Dominion	11:22 am

161 Burns Lake To Burns Lake

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Prince George: Downtown 7th at Dominion	3:00 pm
Prince George: Edmonton at 13th Ave (Hospital)	3:04
Prince George: Pine Centre	3:16
Prince George: Westgate Mall	3:26
Beverly: Petro Canada	3:36
Beverly: Petro Canada	3:41
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:39 Ar
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:49 Lv
Hospital Rd at Health Care Ave	4:54
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:58
Fort Fraser: Community Hall	5:28
Nautley: Nadleh Whut'en Store	5:35
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	5:52 Ar
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	6:02 Lv
Stellaquo: Slenyah Store	6:08
Endako: Endako Pub	6:15
Tintagel: Rest Area Hwy 16 at Tintagel	6:45
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	6:56
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:06
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:12
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:20
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:25 pm

Riding The Bus:

Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early; seats are for customers, hold your bag on your lap or on the floor where it will not obstruct aisles or other customers. Please allow others to make use of the seats; have correct fare; take a seat as soon as possible; hold on while the bus is in motion; keep head, hands and arms inside bus at all times; assist your

children on and off the bus; never allow your children to stand or kneel on the seat while riding the bus; be considerate of others e.g. loud music, offensive language; remind your driver if you have to get your bike off the bike rack; never enter the street in front of or directly behind a stopped bus. Make sure traffic can see you; take your garbage with you when you leave. Rural residents

requiring information in regard to flagging the bus please contact the Regional District at 1-800-320-3339 or 250-692-3195.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors Municipalities

Town of Smithers
- Deputy Mayor Gladys Atrill

Village of Telkwa
- Mayor Brad Layton

District of Houston
- Mayor Shane Brienen

Village of Granisle
- Mayor Linda McGuire

Village of Burns Lake
- Mayor Dolores Funk

Village of Fraser Lake
- Councillor Kim Watt-Senner

District of Fort St. James

- Mayor Bev Playfair

District of Vanderhoof
- Mayor Gerry Thiessen-Chair

Electoral Areas

A - Smithers Rural

- Director Mark Fisher

B - Burns Lake Rural

- Director Michael Riis-Christianson

C - Fort St. James Rural

- Director Tom Greenaway

D - Fraser Lake Rural

- Director Mark Parker

E - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural

- Director Clint Lambert

F - Vanderhoof Rural

- Director Jerry Petersen

G - Houston Rural

- Director Rob Newell

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* [Sustainable RDBN](#)

* [Bulkley-Nechako Emergency Information.](#)

* [RDBN Planning](#)

Lake Babine Nation Gets a New Bus Shelter

The Lake Babine Nation community of Woyenne has a new bus shelter. The shelter is located directly across from the administration building on Sus Ave.

A shelter was needed at this bus stop so riders have a place to wait for the bus that is protected from the weather. The shelter also has lighting further increasing safety for passengers.



CCTV Installed on Bulkley-Nechako Transit Buses to Improve Safety

To improve safety on Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Closed-Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) have been installed on two of the three buses. The installation of CCTV cameras will help reassure passengers that taking the bus is a safe option.

“Over the last three years, BC Transit has been working on a program to install closed-circuit television cameras on buses across the province,” said BC Transit communications manager Jonathon Dyck. “The idea behind installing the CCTV cameras on buses is to help deter inappropriate activity on the bus.”

BC Transit works closely with law enforcement in the province, so when there is an incident on a bus the videos are a useful tool to provide on-camera evidence, according to Dyck.

“We know when there is an incident on a bus we need as much evidence as possible to be able to follow up,” he said, “and so this provides another piece for police to see what occurred, and then use that as part of their evidence as they move forward.”

Each bus has four to eight cameras recording events in the interior. As well, a high-definition camera in the driver’s compartment that records events in front of the bus and two more cameras watch the outside of the bus.

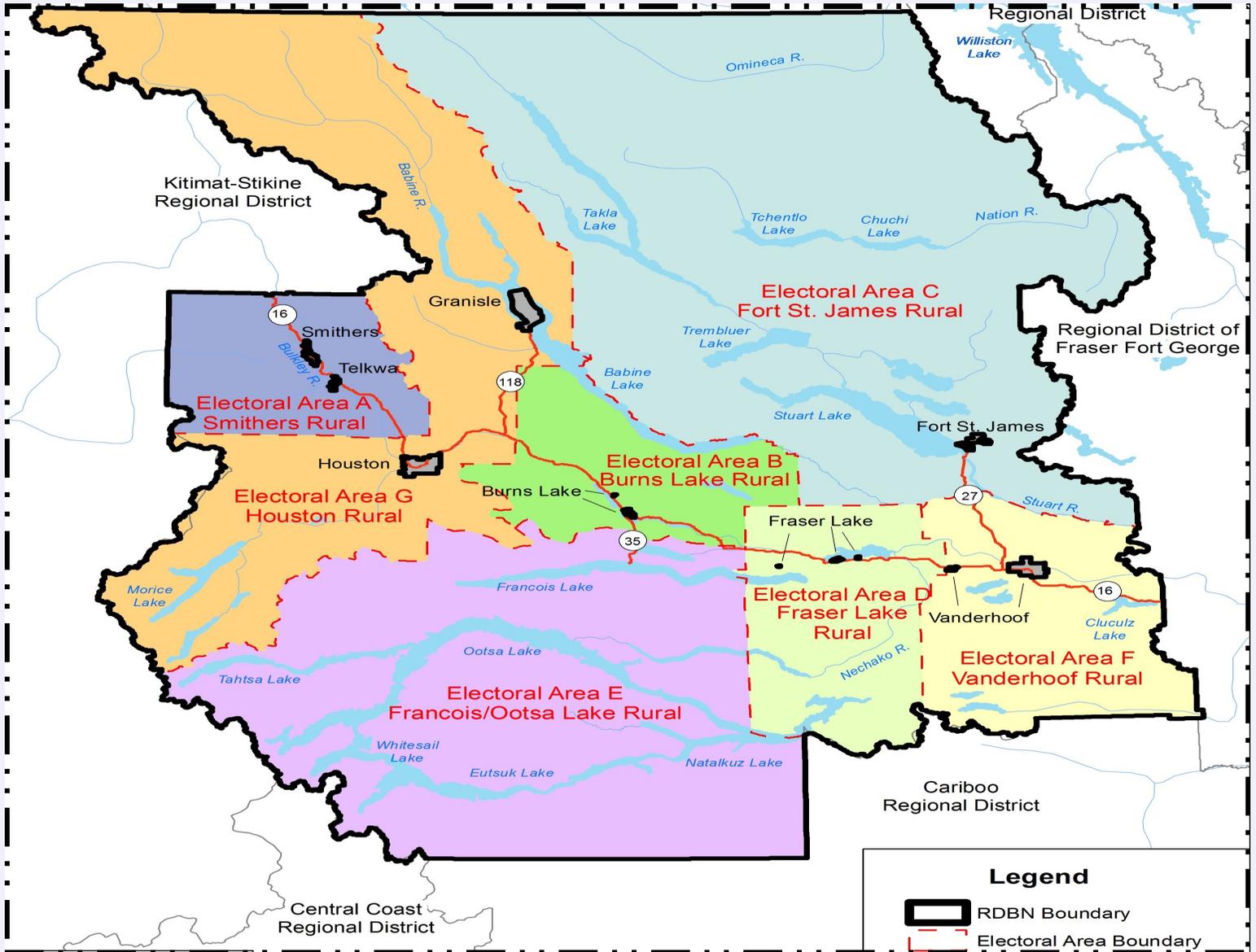
Cameras are not monitored live, but video files are encrypted and stored on hard drives for up to seven days.

Do you know that you can now pay by debit card for your building permit fees, Regional District utility and industrial waste invoices?

Come try our new debit machine at the Regional District Office!



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako



Municipalities

Town of Smithers

Village of Telkwa

District of Houston

Village of Granisle

Village of Burns Lake

Village of Fraser Lake

District of Fort St. James

District of Vanderhoof

Electoral Areas

Electoral Area "A" Smithers Rural

Electoral Area "B" Burns Lake Rural

Electoral Area "C" Fort St. James Rural

Electoral Area "D" Fraser Lake Rural

Electoral Area "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural

Electoral Area "F" Vanderhoof Rural

Electoral Area "G" Houston Rural