

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

The Regional News

2016 Meeting
Dates

Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Service

Board Meetings:
• December 15th

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](#).



Holiday Hours:
The RDBN will be closed Monday, December 26th and reopening on Tuesday, January 3rd.



BC Transit and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have committed to providing enhanced funding to support the establishment of new or extended inter-community transit services along the Highway 16 corridor. The Regional District, in collaboration with local municipalities and First Nations communities, has established a Regional Transit Committee to guide services spanning from Prince George to Smithers and is in the process of moving forward with the steps necessary to establish the service and meet the needs of our local residents.

BC Transit conducted extensive public consultation and provided recommendations based on the input they received. Details can be found at <https://bctransit.com/highway16>.

The new inter-community transit service in Bulkley-Nechako, expected to be operational in 2017 depending on timing of local approval, will run from Burns Lake to Prince George and from Burns Lake to Smithers. Three days per week are recommended in each direction.

Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Proposed Fares

Proposed Fares (valid on Regional Service only)
Cash fare each trip \$ 5.00
Tickets, sheet of 10 \$45.00

All passengers would pay a cash fare (proposed \$5.00) or one ticket each time they board the bus.

- A separate fare** is required to connect to any local transit systems.
- Children aged five and under travel free** when accompanied by a fare-paying guardian.

(Continued on Page 2)



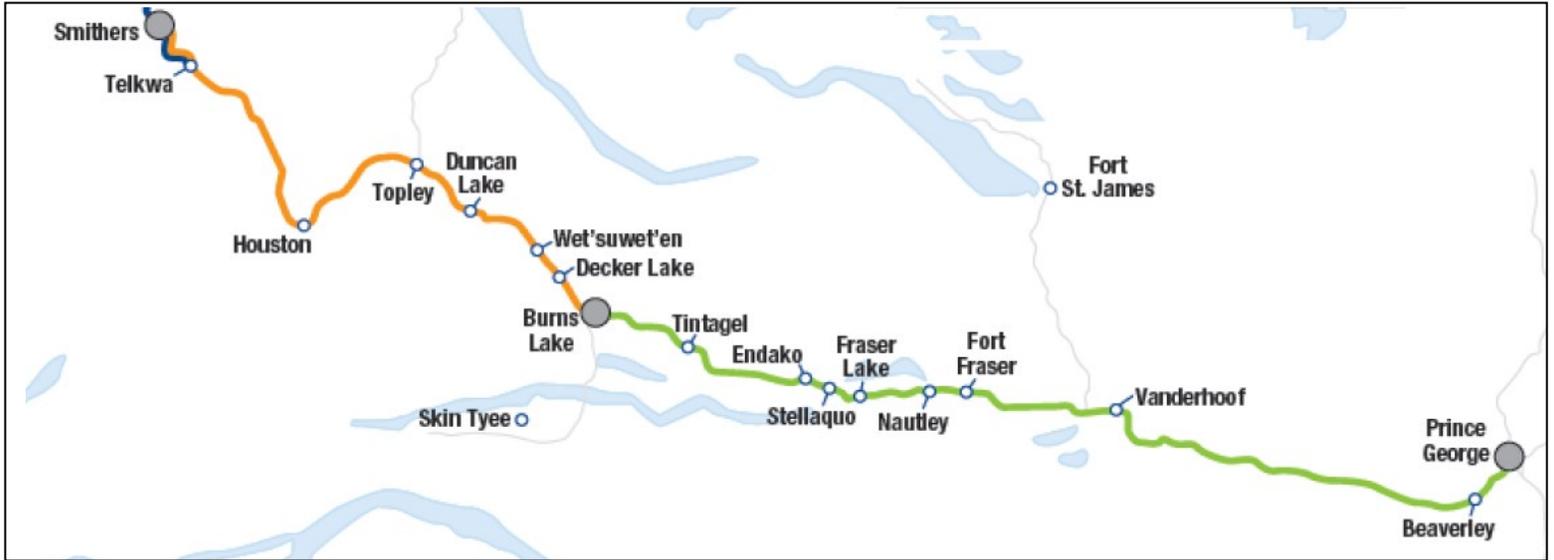
"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES
WITHIN OUR REGION"

Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Proposed Fares

(Continued from Page 1)

□ **BC Bus Pass** —a universal bus pass available to lower income seniors and people with a disability ad-

ministered through the BC Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation—could be used on all Highway 16 transit services.



Sustainability Newsletter

Did you enjoy this newsletter from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako? Are you concerned with sustainability and ways to incorporate that into your life? Sign up to receive the monthly Sustainability Newsletter from the Environmental Services Department! You can receive it via email, find it on our [“Sustainable RDBN”](#) page on Facebook or pick it up at selected locations in your community. Contact Elaine to join or for more information (elaine.wiebe@rdbn.bc.ca or 1-800-320-3339).

Sustainability Newsletter
November 2016

What happens after the recycling depot?
Many materials that are used to package your favourite consumer products can be recycled again and again. Here's the low down on what happens with some of the most frequently recycled materials.

- Aluminum cans:** These are eventually baled, melted and are back on the shelf again as a can within as little as six weeks. This saves a tremendous amount of raw material, plus it takes 95% less energy to manufacture a can from recycled aluminum compared to making it from brand new material.
- Paper products:** Mixed paper and newsprint are deinked and returned to a pulp form, ultimately to be remade into recycled newsprint and other paper products. Cardboard is remade into cardboard and bobbles.
- Plastics:** Plastic packaging is used in household goods, packaging and building material. Plastic beverage containers are used for new bottles, jugs, buckets and more. Recycling plastics uses about 1/3 less energy than manufacturing new plastic.
- Glass:** Glass bottles are reused an average of 15 times. They are then recycled into new glass bottles and other glass products. Glass can be ground down into small pieces called "cullet" and are used in the manufacturing of a variety of things such as fiberglass insulation, sandblasting material and sand for golf-course sand traps. Ground glass is also added to asphalt in the making of new roads.

Check out the BC Recycles Handbook at www.bcrecycles.ca for more great info! Remember the 3 r's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. By cutting back on the amount of things you bring into your home, reusing as many of them as possible and then recycling whatever you can, it will help to cut down on the amount of waste generated each and every day!

This newsletter can be viewed online at: www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmental/services/recycling/sustainability-newsletter
If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact Elaine Wiebe, Environmental Services Assistant, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako at 250-692-3195, toll free: 1-800-320-3339, email: elaine.wiebe@rdbn.bc.ca.

Smithers and Area Victims' Services Alternative Approval Process

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is currently conducting an Alternative Approval Process to determine if the electors in Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural) are in favour of establishing a service, jointly with the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa, to provide support services to victims and/or witnesses of crime and other trauma.

Currently, the service is being provided by the Northern Society for Domestic Peace under a joint funding formula that shares costs 50% by the Ministry of Justice and 50% by local government. The local government portion is being funded by the

Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa. Although Electoral Area “A” has access to the service, it is not currently a funding partner.

The current local government funding partners are not able to fund the full local government 50% share of costs which has resulted in a reduction of service. To restore the service back to the level needed, an increase in local government funding is necessary. Should the Alternative Approval Process be successful, a Regional District service will be established, and the required funding will be available.

The annual tax limit for the entire Service Area

(Electoral Area “A”, Village of Telkwa, and Town of Smithers) under the newly established service would be \$45,000. This is equal to a maximum annual tax of \$2.45 for a residential property assessed at \$100,000, based on 2016 assessments.

Further information can be found on the Regional District website or by contacting the Regional District office.



Director Eileen Benedict - Electoral Area "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural

It is a pleasure to serve the electorate of Electoral Area "E" and to work with the rest of the Regional District in improving this region of our province. It is a great place to live. I was born in Burns Lake and have lived in the area most of my life. Owning a business in Burns Lake for 13 years and now managing the family ranch has definitely kept me in touch with the economic issues that we face as a community.



I have represented Electoral Area "E" for 18 years as the Regional Director which has given me the opportunity to serve the residents of this area and work on some very challenging issues, such as the Francois Lake Ferry and the improvements to the road on the Southside, as well as many other region-wide issues.

With the downturn of our natural resource sector we are facing some very difficult times. One thing our Regional District is doing is working with the three neighbouring Regional Districts and the Provincial Government on a revenue sharing agreement.

Area "E" priorities at this time are high speed internet and cell service, as well as improving the Colleymount Road along the north side of Francois Lake.

If you have any concerns or questions you can contact me at 250-695-6335.

Director Jerry Petersen - Electoral Area "F" Vanderhoof Rural

Hi, my name is Jerry Petersen and I am the Director for Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. I am also the Chair of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District.

In the past year in Area "F" there has been \$40,700 spent in Grant in Aid monies and \$817,018 in Federal Gas Tax funds for recreation and culture for the betterment of our residents.

In the Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District, the Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre Replacement Project was completed at a cost of \$55 million. For the St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof, \$450,100 was spent on major equipment. A total of \$432,634 was spent on minor capital projects in the hospital district.

The proposed budget for capital planning concept plans for replacement of the Fort St. James Hospital

is \$75 million (we should see some movement on the Health Clinic this coming year).



There is a proposed budget of \$1,854,000 for The Pines cafeteria expansion in Burns Lake and \$125,100 in major equipment for the C-Arm replacement at St. John Hospital.

I'm pleased to report that the Reuse Shed in now reopened at the Vanderhoof Transfer Station.

Always here to serve.

Jerry

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Facebook Pages

Please check out our facebook pages from various departments of the Regional District:

[Connecting Consumers and Producers](#)

[Visit Bulkley Nechako](#)

[Bulkley Nechako Opportunities](#)

[Sustainable RDBN](#)

[Bulkley-Nechako Emergency Services](#)



Knockholt Western Sub-Regional Landfill Projects

The RDBN initiated the development of the next phase of the landfill to allow for future garbage disposal. Test pitting activities were conducted to confirm the underlying soil conditions in the expansion area and depth to groundwater, which is critical information in establishing appropriate design criteria. A detailed site survey was also completed. A consulting firm is currently in the process of designing the landfill liner system and creating a design brief which will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval. In the interim, works were completed to remove topsoil and create drainage that will allow for full liner construction and garbage placement in 2017.



(Knockholt Phase 2 Expansion Project—2012)

Another project at the Knockholt Landfill was addressing excess sludge buildup in the lagoon which currently collects and treats septage effluent and landfill leachate. Over the last number of years, sludge levels in the lagoon had increased to a point where it was effecting the effluent quality of the liquid that is transferred to an engineered wetland for final treatment. The initial plan was to remove the sludge from the lagoon, which can unfortunately be a very expensive procedure. When investigating available options in more detail a nutrient/bacteriological additive trial project was initiated in an effort to breakdown sludge levels at significantly less cost. The results of the trial project in 2016 indicated very positive results and as a result the trial will continue in 2017.



(Knockholt Septage/Leachate Lagoon)

Is your wood stove winterized?

- ⇒ Keep all flammable household items, drapes, furniture, newspapers, and books, far from the wood burning appliances.
- ⇒ Start fires only with newspaper and dry kindling. Never start a fire with gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch.
- ⇒ Keep the doors of your wood-burning appliance closed unless loading or stoking the live fire. Harmful chemicals, such as carbon monoxide, can be released into your home.
- ⇒ Regularly remove ashes from your wood-burning appliance into a metal container with a cover. Store the container of ashes outdoors on a cement or brick slab (not on a wood deck or near wood).
- ⇒ Keep a fire extinguisher on hand at all times.



Reuse Sheds

The reuse sheds at the Smithers/Telkwa, Granisle, Southside, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof Transfer Stations, as well as the Knockholt (Houston) Landfill were reopened in the last little while. It is gratifying to see the amount of items that are not being sent to the landfill, but instead find a new home and a new lease on life. The sheds are open primarily on the weekends, so check your local site to see what hours they are available.



Please keep in mind that items **MUST:** 1. Be clean and in good/reusable condition and 2. Electronic devices must be in working order. There is also a list of prohibited items and some new rules for the reuse sheds. Please check out our website for further details (<http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmentalservices/recycling/reuse-sheds>). We appreciate the community enthusiasm for these facilities and ask for your cooperation to keep them running smoothly.

Cardboard Ban

The region-wide cardboard ban has been in effect now since July 1st. Overall, implementation went well. Not familiar with the cardboard ban?? Residents are asked to drop their corrugated cardboard off at their local recycling depot if they don't have curbside pick-up. Industrial, commercial and institutional customers are responsible for finding a local collector or service provider and paying any associated costs.



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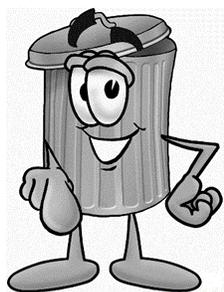
Backyard Composting

The backyard composting promotion program was well-received this year. The first 100 composters were snapped up in days and a large wait-list formed. Fortunately, another 100 composters were made available and the folks on the wait-list were able to purchase the subsidized composter kit (which included the composter and a mixing tool) as well. It is exciting to see people enthusiastic about keeping organic waste out of the landfills and the wonderful side benefit is a great soil additive for their gardens and yards.



Solid Waste Management Plan

The RDBN's current Solid Waste Management Plan has been in place since 1996. A few things have changed in the last 20 years! We are looking to do a full review, part of which will include public consultation. Stay tuned for more info in 2017!



Disposal Fee Changes

The Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw No. 1764 came into effect on the 24th of June and this affected several user fees at all Regional District landfills and transfer stations. If you are dropping off asphalt, (continued on Page 6)



Disposal Fee Changes

(continued from Page 5)

concrete, non-metal plumbing components, electrical wire, drywall, shingles and insulation (construction and/or demolition waste), these items are still free of charge if you only have a level pick-up truck load. If you have more than that, you will have to take it to a landfill and there will be a disposal fee applied. That disposal fee is now \$90 per metric tonne. This disposal fee also applies to land clearing debris.

The other fee change is for any appliance that contains an ozone depleting substance. Typically, that includes fridges, freezers, water coolers and air conditioners. The fee for disposing of these is now \$20.



The Great British Columbia Shake-Out 2016

Every year in October, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) asks its residents to participate in the “Great ShakeOut”, a worldwide event that practices how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” in preparation for earthquakes. On October 20th, 2016, over 54.8 million people worldwide participated in this exercise with over 800,000 people participating in British Columbia. The Great ShakeOut is the world’s largest “Drop, Cover and Hold On” earthquake drill!



Earthquakes are the result of tectonic plate movement along plate boundaries. As the south coast of British Columbia is within an area of plate movement it is at risk of an earthquake. On October 27th, 2012, an earthquake from the Haida Gwaii archipelago measured a magnitude of 7.8, making it the second largest ever recorded in the area. Although this earthquake was over 450km away, the tremors were still felt throughout the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN).

Shakeout BC is an engaging way to practice earthquake preparedness as the Province’s Earthquake risk is an ever growing concern. Although the RDBN residents may not feel the immediate, devastating, physical effects of this pending catastrophic disaster, those that visit earthquake prone areas should be prepared. RDBN office staff still partake in Shake-Out every year to show support and also use this exercise as a platform to practice office safety.

This year, the RDBN office staff focused on general office safety by being tested on locations of fire pulls, fire extinguishers, eyewash stations, safety kits, etc. Staff were also offered an opportunity to learn how to use a fire extinguisher by watching and partaking in a fire extinguisher demonstration.

Home Safety Tips

- Check all smoke alarms at least once a month to ensure they are working.
- Check the expiry date on your fire extinguisher every six months.
- Check chimney and heating systems at least once a year and get them cleaned, if needed, by trained professionals.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- Post all emergency telephone numbers beside each telephone in the home.



**CHECK YOUR
SMOKE
DETECTOR**

Update on the Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Review

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is in the process of reviewing the Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Rural Official Community Plan (the Plan).

The Plan area extends from Sheraton to Broman Lake, up to Babine Lake and down to the north shore of Francois Lake. The Plan sets 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. The review process started in January 2016 and has included consultation with First Nations, community groups, government agencies and the public. Four open houses have been held in the area to solicit input on the Plan.

A copy of the draft Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Rural OCP and associated maps are available on the Regional District's website (www.rdbn.bc.ca) or paper copies of the OCP can be viewed at the Regional District office in Burns Lake.

Public input regarding the content of the Plan will be received until the close of the formal Public Hearing on the Plan, which is expected to occur in January 2017. Please look for notice of the Public Hearing on our web page, and in the Lakes District News.



Zoning Bylaw Re-Write

The Regional District Planning Department is in the process of doing a comprehensive review of Zoning Bylaw No. 700, 1993. It is important to keep the Zoning Bylaw relevant and updated to reflect changes in provincial legislation and to address new anticipated land uses. It is also an opportunity to improve wording clarity, improve certainty regarding intent, and amend select regulations to increase the bylaw's effectiveness and to make the bylaw more user-

friendly.

Public engagement is an important part of the process. The Planning Department will be hosting information meetings this winter to provide opportunities for public information and input. Stay informed by watching the RDBN website www.rdbn.bc.ca for updates on the zoning bylaw review process and check your local newspaper for advertisements of public meetings.



Energy Saving Tips for the Holidays

- Switch to LED Christmas lights. LED lights use 90% less energy than regular Christmas lights;
- Limit the time Christmas lights are on. Turn them on only when it's dark out and turn them off before you go to bed;
- When you go shopping for holiday gifts and groceries, bring your own bags with you;
- Try to buy gifts with minimal packaging;
- Buy gifts that don't use electricity or batteries
- Use recycled materials to make decorations instead of purchasing new ones;
- Turn down the heat when you are cooking in the kitchen. All of that extra heat from the stove and oven will be more than enough to keep you warm!

Connecting Consumers and Producers

There is a growing movement in our region towards eating locally produced food. Supporting our local producers keeps our money in our communities. For three years now the Connecting Consumers and Producers project has promoted local food producers and provided resources to

consumers on eating locally produced food all year round.

Thank you to all who have supported this project and continue to support our local producers.

To download the Agriculture Brochure click [here](#).



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

EXPLORE THE Bulkley-Nechako

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

OVER 33,000 VISITORS CONSIDER US A VACATION DESTINATION!

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE @ VisitBulkleyNechako.ca/discovery

Advertise for **FREE** in the Bulkley-Nechako Directory

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:

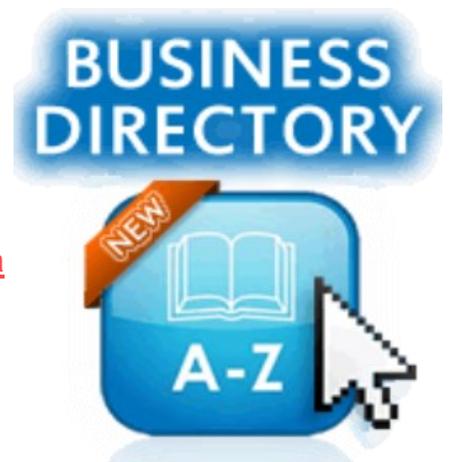
www.rdbn.bc.ca opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca visitbulkleynechako.ca

Need Assistance?

RDBN contact:

Deneve Vanderwolf—Email: deneve.vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca -

Phone: 250-692-3195



Federal Gas Tax Funds at Work in the Region

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

Electoral Area 'A', Smithers Rural - Energy Efficient LED Lighting and Boiler replacements at the BV Aquatic Centre; Rebuilding of the Chandler Park Soccer Fields; Upgrades to the Outdoor Rink in Telkwa; Roof and insulation upgrade at the BV Legion; and Roofing upgrades at the BV Child Development Centre.

Electoral Area 'B', Burns Lake Rural - Rose Lake Hall upgrades; and New Freon Plant at the Village of Burns Lake Ice Arena.

Electoral Area 'B', Burns Lake Rural and Area 'E', Francois-Ootsa Rural combined - Fall Fairgrounds Lagoon improvements; and Resurfacing the runway at the Baker Airport.

Electoral Area 'C', Fort St. James Rural - Replaced the inefficient furnace at the Stuart Lake Seniors Centre; Groomer building at the Murray Ridge Ski Hill; Purchased a new projector for the District of Fort St James; and committed funds to the Pope Mountain Arts building

renovations.

Electoral Area 'F', Vanderhoof Rural - Cluculz Lake Hall renovations.

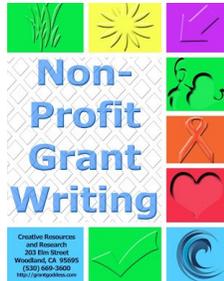
Electoral Area 'G', Houston Rural and Area 'B', Burns Lake Rural combined - Topley Fire Hall Energy Efficiency Upgrades.

For more information on the RDBN's Federal Gas Tax program, please contact Kristi Rensby, Finance/Administration Coordinator, or check out our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca.



The RDBN has a grant writer on staff who works with not-for-profit organizations in the region to source money for:

- * Capital Projects
- * Operating Expenses
- * Program Costs



To get started, fill out the

Request for Assistance Form under the Assistance for Non-profit Societies section on our website

rdbn.bc.ca/economicdevelopment

Have You Inspected Your Heating System?

Before winter sets in make sure your heating system is in good working order:

- * Replace filters;
- * Clean the air ducts;
- * Ensure warm and cold intakes are unblocked;
- * Check for signs of deterioration;
- * Clean chimney;
- * Remove excess ashes;
- * Ensure area around furnace is free of clutter;
- * Consult a professional if unsure how to check if your furnace is running efficiently.



Winter Driving Tips

- Know the road conditions - call 1-800-550-4997 or visit www.drivebc.ca.
- Keep a filled sandbag in your trunk for added traction on slippery roads.
- Have a cell phone in the car.
- Keep a shovel, emergency blanket, flares, 1st Aid Kit and some water and non-perishable snacks in your trunk.
- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition and your windshield washer reservoir is full.
- Keep your gas tank full or as close to full as possible.
- Make sure your rear-window defroster works.
- Clean snow and ice off your car-entirely!
- Drive more **SLOWLY** than usual during winter conditions - even if it is sunny, you may not notice occasional patches of black ice.
- Pull over where safe to use your cell phone or mobile device.



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 Brien

Village of Granisle

- Councillor Thomas

Liversidge

Village of Burns Lake

- Acting Mayor John Illes

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

Questions & Comments:

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Toll Free: 1-800-320-
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Fax: 250-692-3305

Email: inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca

Websites:

www.rdbn.bc.ca

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

www.visitbulkleynechako.com

Highlights of 2016:

- 2017 to 2021 Financial Plan;
- 2017 Hospital District Budget;
- B.C. Assessment Tax Code Audit;
- Continuing partnership with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council to manage invasive plants in the Region;
- Reopening reuse sheds;
- Backyard composting promotion program - very popular for the third year!;
- Recycling depots continue to provide recycling opportunities for residents;
- Phase 3 development work continued at the Knockholt Sub-Regional Landfill;
- Cardboard ban successfully implemented;
- Grant application underway for the Canada/BC Clean water/Wastewater Fund for the Fort Fraser Infrastructure Improvement Project;
- Completed the Rural Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines;
- Renewed Rural Fire Protection, Recreation, and Culture Agreement;
- Renewal of the Fort St. James Fire department Agreement for Luck Bay;
- Maintained training of Rural Fire Departments;
- Facilitated training for ESS Volunteers throughout region;
- ESS agreement with Town of Smithers;
- Participated in and organized the Northern Emergency Support Services Training Weekend;
- Completed Household Emergency Preparedness guidebook for distribution;
- Completed Social Media Communication Emergency Plan;
- Held Annual Seasonal Preparedness Meeting with Emergency Event Stakeholders;
- Started new work on the Emergency Plan;
- Maintained and Updated Emergency Contacts for the region;
- Developed Social Media pages for information distribution;
- Host EMBC sponsored EOC training for staff;
- Updated and re-stocked ESS reception centre kits in preparation for an emergency event;
- Renewal of 9-1-1 agreements with First Nations
- Annual 9-1-1 K-1 School Presentations;
- E-Comm Text to 9-1-1 made available for the “Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired community”;
- Facilitated OH&S meetings with department representatives and upheld to WCB standards;
- Sent staff for workplace first aid training;
- ShakeOut 2016;
- Lakes District Airport Referendum;
- Highway 16 Transit Service;
- Agriculture Forum;
- Smithers and Area Victims Services Alternative Approval Process;
- Northern Health Authority Steering Committee for Fort St. James Primary Care Facility;
- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance - Fair Share;
- Internet/Cell Phone Connectivity;
- Community to Community Forum for First Nations and Community Leaders;
- New Service Implementation—Fort St. James Seniors Helping Seniors;
- Established Chinook Comfor Ltd and Chinook Comfor Ltd. Partnership, Profit Sharing Agreement between Village of Burns Lake and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;
- Transition to New Chief Administrative Officer;
- Transition to New Chief Financial Officer.