

The Regional News

2017 Meeting

Dates:

Board Meetings:

- May 25th
- June 22nd
- July 20th
- August 17th
- September 21st
- October 26th
- November 23rd
- December 14th

Committee Meetings:

- May 11th
- June 8th
- July 20th
- August 17th
- September 7th
- October 12th
- November 9th
- December 14th

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

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to spring. Things are heating up in our region, literally and figuratively. The construction season has started, crops are in, and new calves sprinkle our rural landscape. At the RD this year's budget has been adopted and staff have work plans in place. Some of the tasks for this year are: a solid waste management plan, land fill expansions, a business forum in September, and internet connectivity and backbone for our communities and rural areas. We continue through hard copy, along with digital media, to promote our region's assets and market its products.

The focus of the Board this year is, of course, the solid waste review. As well, we are



continuing with the agriculture committee to strengthen that sector. We continue to work with Provincial Ministries on forest related issues - timber supply, wildfire mitigation, mill closures and community sustainability are top of the list. As always, we continue to ad-

vocate for our constituents at the provincial level on issues that affect us regionally, like the new building codes and building inspector qualifications. The provincial election looms, so it is for us the time to lobby hard for a fair share agreement with the province. The Resource Benefits Alliance, composed of the three Regional Districts - Kitimat Stikine, Northcoast and Bulkley-Nechako and all of the member municipalities have joined together to follow up with the province on the business case for that revenue share.

(for more information on the Resource Benefits Alliance, see below and visit: <http://www.nwresourcebenefits.ca/>)

Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance

Byline: Message from Bill Miller, Chair of RDBN

In the past five years, \$13 billion in spending has happened as a result of resource development projects coming into the Northwest region of BC. From that, over \$500 million has gone straight to the provincial government by way of income and sales tax, and not one penny has come back to the Northwest communities.

In order to maintain our communities' way of life, our local governments have to spend your tax

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"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES
WITHIN OUR REGION"

Spring

(Cont'd from Page 1)

dollars to address the growing list of infrastructure, service and social needs that are impacting every municipality within our region. These costs for example, are those associated with pre-development planning and permitting, service demand increases in areas like parks and recreation, police, other first responders, social programs, transportation, environmental protection, economic development and post-development.

This strain on resources forces our local governments to allocate funds sparingly, making tough decisions and sometimes losing out on other provincial funding needed to support or replace aging infrastructure and greatly needed essential services - and simply, we cannot keep up.

In order to address this critical issue, the RDBN joined the other two Northwest Regional Districts, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the North Coast Regional District (formerly the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District), and all 18 municipalities across the northwest to form the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) in 2015.

The first of its kind, the RBA's mandate is to negotiate a fair revenue sharing deal with the provincial government so that our communities receive:

- A share of revenue from the past five years to allow planning and begin to reduce the infrastructure deficit;
- A proportional share of revenue earned over time to cover costs;
- A legacy for the region;
- Ability to have control over distribution of contributions.

While our communities face deteriorating conditions such as failing asphalt, unpaved roads, inadequate sewer and water infrastructure, and lack of social services and amenities, the rest of the province is prospering. Local residents and businesses are forced to subsidize the provincial government, creating a significant competitive disadvantage for the region compared to the rest of BC.

The Northwest was promised revenue sharing in the last election but no progress has been made, although the province has made deals with others.

We need your support!

We don't want to be subsidizing the rest of the province and we don't want to be second-class citizens.

Speak to the electoral candidates in your region and ask if they support a regional revenue sharing deal, make sure they're aware of the RBA and vote for those who commit to pushing it forward in cabinet should they be voted in on May 9th.

As residents of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, we deserve better.

For more information visit the Resource Benefit Alliance website: <http://www.nwresourcebenefits.ca/>



NORTHWEST BRITISH COLUMBIA
RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE

Tom Greenaway - Electoral Area "C" Director - Fort St. James Rural

My name is Tom Greenaway and I am pleased to have served as the Director of Electoral Area C (Rural Fort St James) for the last eight years. I have been a resident of Fort St James for 43 years and along with my wife have raised our 3 children here. I worked in the Forest Industry for 30 years until retiring in 2006. Along with my wife we presently run a Cow Calf operation on our farm.



My interest in politics was sparked by the downturn in the Forest Industry and what it might mean to Fort St James and Rural Area. The future will bring many new challenges in the Forest Industry with the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation ramping down and the new threat of the Omineca Spruce Beetle. Work is under way so that we get our fair return on the revenue leaving Fort St James and Rural Area in the form of a Revenue Sharing Agreement. We have seen some very positive things happening in Fort St James

and Rural Area. Mount Milligan Mine has opened, as well as the building of a Bio Mass Plant Fort St James Green Energy that will soon to be online selling electricity to BC Hydro.

Through the Gas Tax the RDBN has been able to contribute to the Geo Thermal heating system in the arena, new projector and screen in the Community Hall Theater, building a new shop at the ski hill for the packer, Integrity Recycling building and upgrades to the Pope Mountain Arts building.

Through the Gas Tax, LED lighting has been installed at Music Makers, Curling Rink, and the Golf Course Building. The Grants-In-Aid have also helped to fund many school functions and helped many Non Profit Organizations.

Presently, the Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District is working with the Primary Health Care Society and District of Fort St James to bring better health care to Fort St James. The RDBN has reopened the Reuse Shed with the addition of an attendant to help keep the building safe for everyone using it.

If you would like to discuss any issues or have any suggestions for improving life in Area "C", please do give me a call at 250 996-8484 or email me at greenawayfarms@gmail.com. You can also visit the RDBN website www.rdbn.bc.ca to find more information on these and other issues effecting our Rural Areas.

Got Weeds?



Northwest
INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

Report Invasive Plants
1-866-44-WEEDS
(1-866-449-3337)

A non-profit society working to prevent and control the spread of invasive plants.



Are you in a Fire Protection Area?

If you are unsure if you are included in a rural Fire Protection Area you can find



out by visiting the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako website link: <http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department/mapping>, or you can call 250-692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339 and ask for the Emergency Services Manager.

Pet Preparedness

Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready for the unexpected. Assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family and your pets, is the same regardless of the type of emergency.

Be prepared to adapt the information found on our website to your personal circumstances. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.

Check the Emergency Planning section of the website for a full article on pet preparedness: www.rdbn.bc.ca



The RD Agriculture Committee was formed in February of 2016. As a Board we felt that the Agriculture sector was an important economic and social sector in our region and province and needed its own committee, similar to forestry. The committee was formed to advance and promote agriculture as well as create awareness of what it brings to the region.



In the committee's first 2 or 3 months we spent time gathering input from board members on strengths and issues they knew of in their area that needed addressing and put these in a priority system. We also reviewed what we already

had for resources such as the completed Agriculture plan plus what the economic development and planning departments had on the go as part of the Ag process. As the committee started to become more involved in the Ag sector, we realized we didn't have a clear cut understanding of our role with local agriculture groups and citizens or with the province and authorities such as the Agriculture Land Commission and British Columbia Agriculture Council and many other organizations. It was because of this that the committee put on its first ever Agriculture Forum on November 9th 2016.

The forum was very successful with over 44 participants. We had representatives from the province and Agriculture Land Commission and British Columbia Agriculture Council, our planning department and economic development department as well as members from area associations and institutes and education reps. The forum was based

around defining our role as well as the role of the above representatives and what their responsibilities are and just as importantly aren't. The forum was a great starting point for the committee to hear from the Ag groups what they thought our role should be with them as well as with the province.

One major item that has stemmed from the forum was information about a study going on in Ottawa where there is a standing committee of the Senate doing a study on the acquisition of farm land in Canada. We sent in a paper with our concerns and were contacted to give a presentation to the Senate. This was a huge opportunity for our voice to be heard at the federal level. We look forward to our second year of existence and will hopefully build on our success of 2017.

Mark Parker
Chair Agriculture Committee
RDBN



Connecting Consumers and Producers

2017 projects will include:

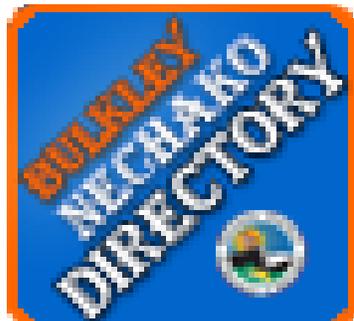
Updated RDBN Agriculture Brochure

Grant funding for Community Events



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

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca/agriculture



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opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca/agriculture

2017 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO BUDGET

At the board meeting on March 23, 2017, the Regional District Board of Directors approved the Financial Plan for the years 2017 to 2021. Included in the Financial Plan is the Budget for 2017, which shows a tax increase for Regional services of \$5,793 and a tax increase for Local Services of \$136,291. The table below compares the taxation budget for 2017 with 2016.

The residential tax rate for services affecting municipal taxpayers decreased from \$91.87 for a \$100,000 property in 2016 to 90.66 in 2017, primarily resulting from reduced Administration costs, partly offset by increases in the cost of the 9-1-1 Service. For rural taxpayers, the residential tax rate decreases from \$119.43 for a \$100,000 property in 2016 to \$119.32 in 2017, primarily due to the same factors cited above that affect municipal taxpayers. As well, there are decreased costs for the unsightly premise and emergency preparedness services. The decrease was partially offset by an increase in building inspection costs.

	Taxation		Increase (Decrease)	%
	2016	2017		
Regional Services				
Environmental Services	\$3,110,493	\$3,137,000	\$26,507	0.85%
Regional Government	\$1,447,601	\$1,284,353	(\$163,248)	-11.28%
Planning & Related Services	\$662,554	\$705,932	\$43,378	6.55%
Emergency Preparedness	\$163,943	\$159,671	(\$4,272)	-2.61%
Regional Economic Development	\$274,274	\$263,021	(\$11,253)	-4.10%
9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Response	\$84,932	\$199,613	\$114,681	135.03%
	\$5,743,797	\$5,749,590	\$5,793	0.10%
Local Services				
Recreation & Culture	\$1,987,032	\$1,982,109	(\$4,923)	-0.25%
Fire Protection & Emergency Response	\$855,854	\$913,197	\$57,343	6.70%
Street Lighting & Transportation	\$161,292	\$242,154	\$80,862	50.13%
Sewer & Water	\$94,329	\$88,631	(\$5,698)	-6.04%
Local Economic Development	\$140,186	\$145,842	\$5,656	4.03%
Other	\$9,892	\$12,943	\$3,051	30.84%
	\$3,248,585	\$3,384,876	\$136,291	4.20%
	\$8,992,382	\$9,134,466	\$142,084	1.58%

Taxation for local services has increased by a total of \$136,291 due to new local services:

- Smithers & Area Victims Services previously funded solely by the Town of Smithers now also includes funding from Area A;
- Regional Para-Transit Service.



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



A LOOK *at the* BUDGET

2017 Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Budget

On March 23, 2017 the Board of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District (SNRHD) approved its 2017 budget. The total amount of taxes raised will remain at \$1,790,000, the same as 2015 and 2016. The residential tax rate on a \$100,000 property will remain at \$56, the same as 2016.

The 2017 budget includes the following items for which the amount shown is the SNRHD share:

- \$24,000 for building repairs
- \$178,108 for Minor Equipment Grants
- \$105,200 Vanderhoof & Southside Telephone System Upgrades
- \$130,000 Vanderhoof Post-Anaesthetic Recovery Patient Monitoring
- \$122,647 towards Northern Health's Community Health Record system
- \$59,694 towards Northern Health's Cardiology Information System
- \$73,106 for Medical Imaging/Radiology Echo PACS
- \$19,132 towards Health Link North – Cerner Upgrade
- \$800,000 towards a Primary Care Unit in Fort St James



In 2017, the SNRHD will contribute \$814,751 to a capital reserve to continue accumulating funds for its share of the costs of the proposed new hospital in Fort St James.

Further details on the 2017 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).

North West Regional Hospital District

On March 24, 2017, the Board of the North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) approved its 2017 budget. The total amount of taxes raised will be \$9,258,968, an increase from \$5,895,989 in 2016. The increase is primarily to provide additional contributions to the Capital Infrastructure Fund, as the Province has announced intentions to move forward with replacing the Terrace Mills Memorial Hospital. The residential tax rate on a \$100,000 property will increase from \$46 in 2016 to \$66 in 2017.

The construction of the new Haida Gwaii Hospital is now complete and demolition of the old hospital is in progress. The 2017 budget includes costs related to a planned addition \$7.8 million of long term borrowing to complete the project. The 2017 budget includes grants for minor and major equipment and Building Integrity funds. Highlights of projects planned and the NWRHD share include:

- \$1,135,612 for a MRI at Mills Memorial;
- \$124,000 for a Rooftop Air Handling System in Houston;
- \$240,000 for upgrades to the BVN Radiology Room in



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Smithers;

- \$390,826 for a regional Medical Imaging/Radiology Echo PACs;
- \$242,041 for a regional Cardiology Information System;
- \$157,595 towards Northern Health’s Integrated Community Clinical Information System;

In 2017, the NWRHD will contribute \$3 million to a capital reserve bringing the balance to \$13 million by the end of 2017. \$1,750,000 may be spent from this fund for the Mills Memorial Replacement Business Plan as discussions

are occurring regarding starting this work in the fall of 2017. Further details on the 2017 budget can be found on the NWRHD website.

The NWRHD shares the same boundaries as the entire Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, and North Coast Regional District (formerly Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District), and the western portion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako including Houston, Telkwa, Smithers, Electoral Area “A” & “G”. 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.

RDBN Initiatives for 2017

Continue work with Resource Benefits Alliance to investigate resource revenue sharing	Review of the Regional Emergency Plan
Working to enhance rural internet and cell phone connectivity	Fort Fraser Infrastructure Improvement Project
Emergency Social Services structure review	Implement new Regional Para-Transit service
Adopt new Zoning Bylaw	Update the Solid Waste Management Plan
Continue phase development and scale upgrades at Knockholt Landfill	Marketing the RDBN region to employees, residents, tourists and investors
Comprehensive assessment of rural fire departments in the region	Host 2017 Start-up Business Contest
RDBN Business Forum in Fall 2017	Participate in Strategic Workforce Opportunities Team to implement Regional Skills Gap Analysis

Further details of the 2017 to 2021 Financial Plan can be found in the Finance section of our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca

RDBN’S Federal Gas Tax Program

As we move into the Spring and Summer of 2017, there are a number of projects in our region that are being funded in whole or in part by the RDBN’s Federal Gas Tax Program. In early 2017, these projects include:

- Electoral Area “A”, Smithers Rural - Smithers Regional Airport Terminal Expansion; Upgrades to the Smithers Municipal Parking on 2nd Avenue; Renovations to the Buchfink Family Memorial Ski Lodge.
- Electoral Area “B”, Burns Lake Rural - Burns Lake and District Health-Care Auxiliary - Furnace replacement at the newly renovated Thrift Store.
- Electoral Area “C”, Fort St. James Rural - Stuart Lake Golf Club Energy Efficiency Upgrades.
- Electoral Area “G”, Houston Rural and Area “B”, Burns Lake Rural combined - Further Energy Efficiency Upgrades at the Topley Fire Hall.

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.



[Transit Expansion](#)

- New inter-community transit services are coming to Highway 16 from Terrace to Prince George;
- All BC Transit Highway 16 transit services allow people to travel to their next largest community and return home the same day;
- On January 30, 2017, BC Transit started a commuter service between Smithers and Moricetown, on a 6 days per week schedule. The one-way fare for this 34 km trip is \$2.75;
- Transit service between Burns Lake and Smithers and between Burns Lake and Prince George, on a 3 days per week schedule, will start later this spring;
- New transit service, 3-days per week, from the Hazeltons to Terrace will begin later this spring.

[Community transportation grant program](#)

Twelve communities and organizations received grants worth \$2 million for the purchase and operation of community vehicles through [Highway 16 Community Transportation Funding](#).

- Binche Keyoh Bu Society – Binche and Tl'azt'en Community Connector
- Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society – Community Connections
- Fraser Lake and Area Community Bus Service
- Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert – 3 Sister Community Transportation Service
- Gingolx Village Government – Gingolx Transportation Service
- Gitanmaax Band – Gitanmaax Transportation Service
- Gitanyow Human Services – Gitanyow Connections Program
- Granisle Better at Home / Village of Granisle – Granisle Better at Home Transportation Services
- Kermode Friendship Society – Kermode Transportation Partnership Initiative
- Nee Tahi Buhn – Nee Tahi Buhn Community Transportation
- Saik'uz First Nation – District of Vanderhoof - Saik'uz – Vanderhoof Community Transportation
- Takla Lake First Nation – Driftwood Corridor Transportation Services

[Highway Infrastructure Safety](#)

- Six new all-weather bus shelters have been installed along the corridor, in Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Moricetown, Gitaus and Kitimat.
- In 2016, the ministry activated five new web camera locations:
 - Highway 16 in Burns Lake at North Francois Highway;
 - Highway 16 in Telkwa at Hankin Road;
 - Highway 16 at Nautly Road in Fort George - Nechako;
 - Highway 16 at Highway 27 in Fort George;
 - Highway 16 at Main Street in Smithers.

The webcams help to increase the safety and visibility of pedestrians and motorists along Highway 16. More webcams will be installed and activated in the spring and summer.



Celebrating The Newly Renovated Cluculz Lake Hall

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held before Christmas to re-open the doors to the Cluculz Lake Hall. Residents joined Jerry Petersen, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) Area 'F' Regional Director; Gerry Thiessen, Mayor of Vanderhoof; and Roy Spooner, Chair of the Cluculz Lake Community Recreation Association; to celebrate the completion of upgrades to the beloved facility that has played host to over 20 years of events.

The occasion brought the community together, once again, through games and crafts for the children, Christmas-

related activities, and live music. The evening closed with a potluck dinner.

Thanks to \$250,000 in funding from the federal Gas Tax Fund, the community was able to replace the insulation, flooring and siding. It also installed a new electric furnace, fixed the drainage problems and upgraded some equipment.

The hall's reopening signals the exciting revival of community activity for Cluculz Lake residents.



Burn Responsibilities

With spring upon us, everyone is looking forward to getting outside and starting spring clean-up. Please keep in mind backyard burning is one of the leading causes of forest fires at this time of year. Unattended grass or shrub fires can quickly get out of control. Wildfires threaten lives of people, livestock and wildlife, destroys timber, and other forest resources costing millions of dollars to extinguish.

When starting a backyard fire please consider the following:

- The Wildfire Act and Regulations state a fire must not exceed 2 metres in height and 3 metres in width, or if burning grass or stubble over an area that does not exceed 0.2 hectares.
- Always establish and maintain a fuel break.
- Have an adequate fire suppression system available at the burn area.
- Ensure the fire is watched and patrolled by a person equipped with firefighting hand tools.
- Never allow the fire to exceed your capacity to take timely action to prevent any fire from escaping.
- Legally, you must watch the fire to prevent escape. If an escape does occur you may:
 1. try to extinguish it if practical;
 2. report the escaped fire, and
 3. continue to fight the fire until relieved by an official.



Lighting or fueling an open fire within one kilometer of forest or grassland must comply with the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations.

It is your responsibility to phone the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to check the venting index and make sure there are no bans or restrictions in place before lighting a fire: 1-888-336-7378 or 1-888-797-1717 to register for a burn permit if required.

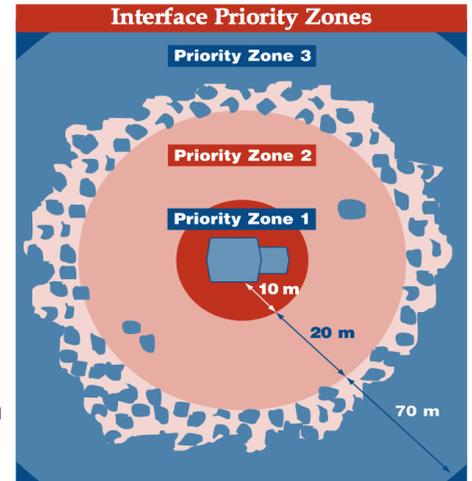
Preparing Your Home To Prevent Risks From Fire

Properly preparing your home and community doesn't guarantee that you will not incur fire damage, but it does reduce the risks. Obtain insurance coverage for all property at risk.

Reduce risks from fire by following these steps:

Priority Zone #1—The area immediately around your home

- Remove any shrubs, deadfall, trees, and ensure your grass is mowed and watered;
- Woodpiles and propane tanks should be moved out of this area;
- Ensure the roofs of all buildings have fire resistant roofing material;
- Regularly clean leaves and needles off roof;
- Use fire resistant materials on exterior walls;
- Install double pane, thermal pane or tempered glass windows rather than single pane windows;
- Enclose vents and eaves using a fine wire mesh;
- Use approved spark arresters on your chimney;
- Locate burn barrel well away from buildings and other combustible materials. Never leave a burning barrel unattended.



Priority Zone #2—10 to 20 metres away from your home

- Thin and prune vegetation and trees;
- Trees should be spaced so their crowns are 3 to 6 metres apart;
- Remove any deadfall or thick shrubs which can spread fire upwards to the tops of trees, causing a fast spreading treetop fire.

Priority Zone #3—30 to 100 metres from your home

- Thin out trees and vegetation to slow down possible fires;
- Keep trees spaced 6 metres apart.

Consider planting trees with low flammability rates, such as aspen, poplar and birch.



Learn more about being FireSmart at www.firesmartcanada.ca

Wildland Interface Fires

A wildland interface fire is a fire that threatens structures and/or people. Many wildfires in B.C. occur far from cities and towns, but sometimes they threaten homes, businesses and infrastructure. Help keep your family safe by preparing

in advance for a potential evacuation alert or order.

Nearly half of all wildfires in B.C. are caused by human carelessness. You can make a difference by following a few simple rules.

- Check for bans and restrictions before striking the match;
- Camp Responsibly;
- Use an easily controlled location for campfires;
- Campfires must be a maximum of 0.5 metres by 0.5 metres;
- Keep a shovel and at least eight litres of water nearby to extinguish your fire;
- Create a firebreak—a one-metre debris free area around your campfire;

- Don't throw garbage or foreign materials into a campfire, some materials explode in a fire;
- Before leaving, ensure your campfire is completely out and the ashes cool are to touch.

Call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cell if you spot smoke, flames or an unattended campfire.



Preparing For a Flood

Floods can occur at any time of year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of a thick snowpack, ice jams, or more rarely, the failure of a natural or human made dam.

You can lessen the impact of a flood by taking the time to prepare in advance.

Preparing for a flood:

- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground-level doors;
- Consider installing a sump pump and zero reverse flow valves in basement floor drains;
- Install drainage for downspouts far enough away from your home to ensure water will drain away from the building;
- Gather important papers in water-tight containers and keep a record of valuables in a safe place.

During a flood:

- If you come upon flood waters, stop, turn around, and go another way. Get to higher ground;
- Get out of a stalled vehicle immediately in rising water and move to higher ground;
- Move items in basements to higher levels. Turn off main power switch on breaker panel or all breaker switches;
- Listen to the radio to find out what areas are affected, what roads are safe, where to go and what to do if you are asked to;
- Evacuate;
- Do not walk or drive through flooded areas; the water may be deeper than it looks and fast moving water can sweep you off your feet or get your car stuck;
- Never play around high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines, or culverts. It is very easy to be swept away by fast-moving water;
- Stay away from areas with manhole covers or drains;
- Avoid crossing bridges if water is high and fast flowing.



After the flood:

- Do not return home until the authorities have advised that it is safe to do so;
- Use extreme caution when returning to your home after a flood;
- Make sure the building is structurally safe; check for buckled walls or floors;
- If the main power switch was not turned off before flooding, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined it safe to do so;
- Appliances that may have been flooded pose a risk of shock or fire when turned on;
- Before using any flooded appliances, heaters, pressure systems, water systems and sewer systems, have them thoroughly cleaned and inspected by a qualified electrician.

Emergency Preparedness Week - May 7- 13, 2017

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako would like to remind everyone to take the time during Emergency Preparedness Week to ensure your family:

- know the risks in our region;
- make a family emergency plan and practice it;
- prepare an emergency kit and Grab' N Go Bag for your home and vehicle to ensure you are prepared for seven days.

Check out website at www.rdbn.bc.ca for information about preparing your family and home for an emergency event.



Reuse Sheds

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**
- Councillor 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

Upcoming Events

Remember to post your community events, sporting tournaments, art and culture activities, dances, fairs and festivals on the RDBN website.

Submit your event by clicking on the **Submit Your Event to Our Calendar** button on the RDBN website.

The reuse shed in Fort St. James was reopened in March. That means that all public sites have a reuse shed operating again with an attendant looking after them. 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.

Knockholt Western Sub-Regional Landfill Phase 3 Development

The Knockholt Landfill serves the western portion of our Region. Waste is brought there from the Southside, Burns Lake, Granisle, Houston, Telkwa & Smithers. In 2016, the total population served was 21,493 people. On average, 549 kilograms of waste is generated by each person. The landfill also accepts construction and demolition waste (at \$90 per metric tonne), along with slaughter waste. The "Phase 2" area of the landfill is going to be at full capacity this year, leading to the need to develop phase 3 of the site. "Phase 3A" will be developed this summer, which involves preparing the clay liner and installing leachate drainage pipes and connecting them in to the existing drainage system. Then we're ready to add the garbage!



(Knockholt Phase 2 Expansion Project - 2012)



(Knockholt Septage/Leachate Lagoon)



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 in late 2017 and 2018, part of which will include public consultation. Stay tuned for more info!

Regional Invasive Plant Management

Land Owner Weed Removal Rebate -The Environmental Services Department is responsible for administering the Regional District's Invasive Plant Management Program, the goals of which are to provide public education and assistance in the control of invasive plant species. As a member of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC), the RDBN seasonally likes to pass along an option of some assistance for home owners in the region who are planning to manage invasive weeds on their property. The RDBN contributes towards NWIPC to assist with this program. This Program allows for the home owner to have 50% of the cost of the work covered up to \$500 to manage invasive weeds. To utilize this rebate, the home owner can fill

is more people out exploring our beautiful country and as



this is wonderful it brings along some side effects and that being that invasive plants are spreading

more rapidly. Educate yourself on the invasive species in your area and practice reporting any targeted species. A list of targeted species is available on the above website.



Be Aware of Fire Hazards

Be **Fire Aware!** Campfires and human negligence is one of the leading causes of wildfires. When out in the backcountry or grilling at home, always:

- use caution;
- adhere to camp fire regulation size of 0.5 metre by 0.5 metre;
- always have a fire break around your fire;
- never leave your fire unattended;
- have water and tools to extinguish your fire at all times;
- ensure the fire is completely OUT before you leave the area.

A small fire can quickly turn into a raging inferno that could place homes, land, animals, structures and most importantly, lives in danger.

Before lighting a campfire, please inquire about fire bans in effect at www.bcwilfire.ca (or call the Northwest Fire Centre at 250-847-6600) and the wind advisories at www.theweathernetwork.com for more information.

out the designated form and submit it to NWIPC. The RDBN can assist you with sending you this form or see www.nwipc.org files to download a copy. For more information on RDBN's involvement in invasive plant management please see our website.

The mobile Report-a-Weed BC - This app is available free of charge for iPhone and Android platforms. It lets you report weed sightings anywhere in BC, in just a few simple steps. Your report will go to a BC invasive plant specialist, who will coordinate follow-up activities with the appropriate local authorities. Visit www.nwipc.org for the link. The Regional District or Bulkley- Nechako wants you to assist in the management of our environment and become educated in what weeds are out there. As we all are aware there

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](#).

Regional Business Forum



Co-hosted by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Burns Lake Band (Ts'il Kaz Koh)

The Next 150 Years

Celebrating our History and Imagining our Future

Burns Lake September 19 and 20, 2017

Mark your Calendars and watch our website for more information



opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

2017 Regional Business Forum is on Facebook. Search or [Click Here](#)

Where to find
**Regional
Economic
Development**

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Web

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca
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YouTube

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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

Summer Grilling

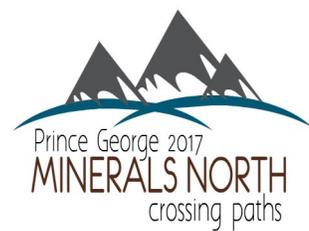
This is the time of year for being outside, enjoying the sunshine and outdoor grilling. Use caution and follow these tips for a summer of safe grilling:

- place your grill in a safe location away from trees or over tall grass;
- never grill in a garage or tent as carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas and silent killer;
- have a 1 metre 'safe zone' where kids and pets aren't playing;
- never wear loose clothing that could catch fire;
- use long handled utensils to prevent burns;
- keep a fire extinguisher close by, remember water; from a garden hose can spread a grease fire, and;
- never leave your grill unattended.



Watch for Information
on the
**2017 RDBN
Start-up Business**

Entry Forms and Contest Details
www.rdbn.bc.ca/businesscontestopportunities.bc.ca/business



Prince George 2017
MINERALS NORTH
crossing paths

April 25 - 27, 2017

Prince George

The **Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako** with the following partners will be attending the tradeshow at Minerals North 2017.

Village of Fraser Lake

Village of Burns Lake

District of Fort St. James

Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association

Come see us at **Booths 85 & 86**

mineralsnorth.ca

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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 Lake/Ootsa Lake Rural

Electoral Area "F" Vanderhoof Rural