



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA
Thursday, March 26, 2026**

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development -
Baptiste Nickel Project Initial Project Description**

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Recommendation

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

**Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - NCLGA
Resolution**

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Direction

ADJOURNMENT

VISION

"A World of Opportunities
Within Our Region"

MISSION

"We Will Foster Social,
Environmental, and
Economic Opportunities
Within Our Diverse Region Through Effective
Leadership"

2022-2026 Strategic Plan

1. Relationships with First Nations
2. Advocacy with the Province
3. Housing Supply
4. Community and Economic Sustainability



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services
Date: March 26, 2026
Subject: **Baptiste Nickel Project Initial Project Description**

RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

That the Board direct staff to do the following:

1. Copy the letter of support discussed in the staff report on pages 61-63 of the March 26, 2026 Board Agenda to the Provincial Environmental Assessment Office, and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada;
2. Include wording in the letter making it clear that the RDBN wishes to participate as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the environmental assessment process for the Baptiste Nickel Project;
3. And, outline in the letter the issues that the RDBN would like addressed during the environmental assessment process.

BACKGROUND

Staff recently became aware that the recently closed public comment period (February 5, 2026 to March 9, 2026) on FPX Nickel Corporation's proposed Baptiste Nickel project was also the RDBN's opportunity to provide input on the document titled "Baptiste Nickel Project Initial Project Description" (IPD). Typically, the RDBN would be sent a formal referral to comment on this type of document by either the proponent (FPX Nickel Corporation) or the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

The purpose of the IPD is to describe the project in sufficient detail to support the identification of participants in the environmental assessment (EA) process and the issues to be addressed in the assessment of the project. Section 8.2 of the document summarizes the proponent's description of their engagement with local governments, including the RDBN.

FPX Nickel has advised the RDBN that it should contact the EAO regarding its interest in participating as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the environmental assessment (EA) process and highlight the issues the RDBN would like addressed in the assessment of the project.

Given the above situation staff recommend that the letter of support discussed in the staff report on pages 61 - 63 of the March 26, 2026 agenda be copied to the Provincial Environmental Assessment Office, and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. It is also recommended that the letter make it clear that the RDBN wishes to participate as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the environmental assessment process, and outline the key issues that the RDBN would like addressed during the environmental assessment process. These issues include:

- Local employment and use of local business.
- The impact on housing and rental availability during and post construction.
- Impact on RDBN infrastructure and services.
- Traffic management and back country access.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Baptiste Nickel Project Initial Project Description \(link\)](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
4. Community and Economic Sustainability



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors Supplementary

To: Chair and Board
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: March 26, 2026
Subject: **NCLGA Resolution**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Direction

BACKGROUND

The RDBN submitted the following resolution to NCLGA for consideration at this year's AGM and Convention:

Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit Program

WHEREAS the Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit Program was created to recognize that rural and northern homeowners face higher living costs, fewer services, and greater property tax pressures than people living in urban areas;

AND WHEREAS the Province will end this program after the 2026 calendar year, which will add \$200 in extra taxes for every electoral area residential property owner;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities in Central and Northern British Columbia are currently dealing with mill closures, job losses, and economic downturns, making it harder for residents to afford increased costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association urge the Province of British Columbia to restore a program that recognizes the higher costs and unique challenges faced by rural and northern homeowners, ensuring they do not face added financial pressure.

NCLGA has advised that the City of Prince Rupert has submitted the following resolution:

Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Grant Benefit

WHEREAS the Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Benefit was repealed effective January 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS the repeal of this benefit further diminishes the purchasing power of homeowners in accessing services and supporting daily life, thereby impacting housing, health, social, and economic well-being across northern and rural communities; and

WHEREAS northern and rural communities face recruitment and retention challenges critical to supporting healthy, socially, and economically resilient communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the Province to reinstate the Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Benefit effective January 1, 2027.

NCLGA has asked if the RDBN would like to:

1. Co-sponsor the City of Prince Rupert's resolution and withdraw the RDBN resolution, or
2. Allow the RDBN resolution to stand.

If the RDBN wishes for its original resolution to stand, NCLGA has requested the following amendment to the "Therefore Be it Resolved" clause:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association **and Union of BC Municipalities** urge the Province of British Columbia to restore a program that recognizes the higher costs and unique challenges faced by rural and northern homeowners, ensuring they do not face added financial pressure.

Staff is looking for direction from the Board on how to proceed with the RDBN resolution.

Option 1:

That the RDBN withdraws its resolution and becomes a co-sponsor of the City of Prince Rupert's resolution.

Option 2:

That the RDBN resolution stands with the amendment to the "Therefore Be It Resolved" clause.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:

2. Advocacy with the Province