



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, June 11, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

June 11, 2026

Approve

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2026

Page 3-8

Approve

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Referrals

**Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Crown Land Application
Referral No. 6409600 – Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

Page 9-11

Recommendation

**Cameron Kral, Planner - Crown Land Referral No. 7410408 -
Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)**

Page 12-14

Recommendation

**Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral
No. 7410392 - Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)**

Page 15-17

Recommendation

REPORTS**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Grant Funding Review**

Page 18-27

Receive

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
CRTC Decision 2026-8**

Page 28-38

Receive

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Connectivity Project Announcement May 2026**

Page 39

Receive

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Draft Volunteer Recognition Program Policy**

Page 40-44

Discussion

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**NEW BUSINESS****ADJOURNMENT**

- 2022-2026 RDBN Board 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
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, May 14, 2026**

Directors Present: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Shirley Moon
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others: Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

May 14, 2026

2026-RSC-050

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Agenda for May 14, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Thursday, May 14, 2026

2 of 6

2026-RSC-051

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Rural Services Committee Supplementary Agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2026

2026-RSC-052

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Cameron Kral, Planner - Notice of Work Referral No. 0200077 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2026-RSC-053

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Notice of Work Referral No. 0200077.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cameron Kral, Planner Crown Land Referral No. 6409585 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2026-RSC-054

1. That the Committee receive the District of Houston's letter on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That the comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land Referral No. 6409585.

2026-RSC-055

Moved by Director Newell

Thursday, May 14, 2026

3 of 6

Seconded by Director Parker

That the comment sheet be amended to request that the Province engage with surrounding properties in relation to the application by the Houston Motocross Association for an outdoor motocross facility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Parker

That the question be called on Motion 2026-RSC-055 as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Newell spoke of the following:

- Importance of outdoor motorized recreation in Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)
- Ensuring that all residents in the area are made aware of the application to the Province by the Houston Motocross Association for a License of Occupation for an outdoor motocross facility
- Surrounding property owners awareness of the potential noise levels of the facility
- Letter from the District of Houston doesn't identify if engagement of surrounding property owners were consulted
- Requesting the Province adequately engage with property owners

Rowan Nagel, GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral No. 6409599 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2026-RSC-056

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Referral No. 6409599 as amended to include: that approval is granted subject to no negative impacts to existing fishing, hunting or industrial use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the potential impacts to other users of the river.

Rowan Nagel, GIS Technician - Crown Land Referral No. 7410403 - Electoral

Thursday, May 14, 2026

4 of 6

Area C (Fort St. James Rural)**2026-RSC-057**

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Referral No. 7410403.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Community Hall Appraisal Project Update****2026-RSC-058**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services Community Hall Appraisal Project Update.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Moon requested direction moving forward. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer mentioned that Directors can reach out to staff to discuss further and that a report could be provided in the future.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Resource Roads**

Director Newell outlined concerns regarding the maintenance of resource used Forest Service Roads with the recent downturn in the forest industry.

- Major licensees no longer maintain roads
- Very little funding from Ministry of Forests for road maintenance
 - Some funds provided for maintenance to certain roads based on recreation use
 - Example - Morice Lake area is deemed a high recreation use area
- Impacts from spring freshet, nature and recreational use
- Light industrial use
 - Silviculture and block layout forest companies
 - Do not pay for road use

Thursday, May 14, 2026

5 of 6

- Consideration being given to charge exploration companies, fishing and hunting guide outfitters road users
- Process for major license holders and continued forest operations utilizing FSRs
- Major license holders continue to have requirements under their license to operate
- Prime maintainer responsibilities
- Identify and encourage the maintenance where high value recreation areas are located
- Maintenance by rural residents.

Determining solutions, options and advocacy work with the Province was brought forward for discussion. CAO Helgesen commented that he will reach out to the local government CAOs in the Province to determine if there are similar issues and concerns.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Joint advocacy with other local governments
- Importance of FSRs for alternative egress routes throughout the region
 - Need for collaboration between the Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Transportation and Transit
- Release of FSRs by major licensees to Ministry of Forests
- Concerns regarding the proposal to impose maintenance costs on light users when there has been stumpage rate relief for major licensees
- Discussing with First Nations communities use of FSRs.

Director Parker indicated as RDBN Chair he will be meeting with the Chairs of the Cariboo Regional District and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George while attending NCLGA in Prince George May 20-22nd and will bring the topic forward for discussion. Director Elphee mentioned that the District of Fort St. James has submitted resolution R21 - Remote Communities Forest Service Road Emergency Egress Maintenance at the NCLGA Conference and AGM.

2026-RSC-059

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to further the advocacy and investigation into rural resource roads.

Thursday, May 14, 2026

6 of 6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**Chambers of Commerce**

Director Parker met with the President of the Fraser Lake and District Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Regional District's role in supporting Chambers.

The Rural Committee discussed the following:

- Examples of how Electoral Area Directors support their local Chambers of Commerce
- Chambers of Commerce support of municipal and rural business
- Steps to engage or initiate contact with local Chambers of Commerce where existing relationships have yet to be established
- Chambers of Commerce role
 - economic development
 - business promotion
 - effectiveness and measuring success
- Each Electoral Area Director building relationships with respective Chambers of Commerce to better understand opportunities for support.

ADJOURNMENT**2026-RSC-060**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the meeting be adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

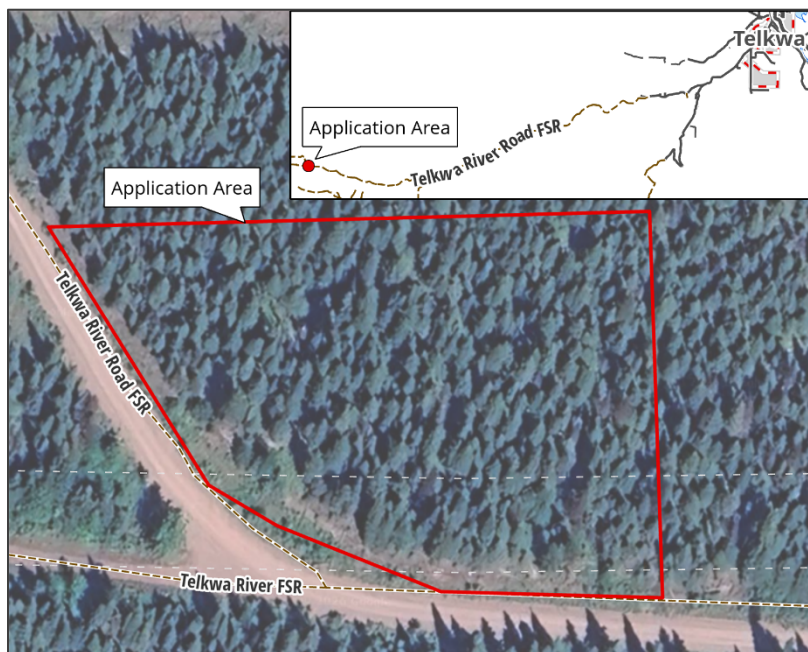
To: Chair and Committee
From: Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: **Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409600 – Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural)**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's response to Crown Land Application Referral No. 6409600.

BACKGROUND

The RDBN has received a request to provide comments on Renew Commodities Ltd.'s Licence of Occupation (LoO) application for an aggregate quarry on 0.68 ha (1.68 ac) of Crown land near the junction of Telkwa River FSR and Telkwa River Road FSR. The LoO area is approximately 930 m north of the Telkwa River and more than 20 km from the nearest residence. The lands are not zoned, do not have an official community plan designation, and are not within the building inspection service area.



The intended use of the quarry for a sand and gravel borrow pit over a five-to-10-year timeframe. The borrow pit will be marketed for use for forest service road upgrades and the

North Coast Transmission Line Project. Site constructed would require some tree removal and the use of up to 10 heavy load trucks and 60 light trucks. On-site diesel generators and portable toilets are proposed. The applicant plans to have on-site drainage, utilizing berms to divert overland water flow. A traffic management plan was not provided as the quarry material is intended for local use, reducing the need to haul material from farther distances.

The pit would be mined and operated year-round, based on local demand for the sand and gravel. Planning staff requested details on operation frequency (months and days per year), and hours of operation. No response was received at the time of the writing of this report.

The proximity of the LoO area to the Telkwa River and Winfield Creek is important to the applicant as they plan to pump water directly from these sources for use in dust and silica management. Planning staff have confirmed with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (MWLRS) that the proposal will require an additional application for water authorization, which may be referred to the RDBN upon determination of MWLRS's Authorizations Specialist.

The proposed aggregate operation area overlaps with the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) Statutory Right-of-Way and a LoO area for a commercial recreation operation (guided mountaineering/rock climbing). Planning staff recommend the Board encourage the Province to engage with these parties to discuss any potential impacts to their operations.

ATTACHMENT:

- Comment Sheet

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral 6409600

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
Applicant:	Renew Commodities Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Undeveloped
Zoning:	Not applicable
OCP Designation:	Not applicable
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	Not applicable
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Telkwa River FSR
Building Inspection:	Within the building inspection area
Fire Protection:	None
Other comments:	

Based on the site map provided in the application, the proposed aggregate operation appears to overlap with the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) Statutory Right-of-Way and a LoO area for a commercial recreation operation (guided mountaineering/rock climbing), along an established FSR. The Province is encouraged to engage with PRGT and the commercial recreation LoO holder to discuss any potential impacts to their operations.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cameron Kral, Planner
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: **Crown Land Referral No. 7410408 - Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)**

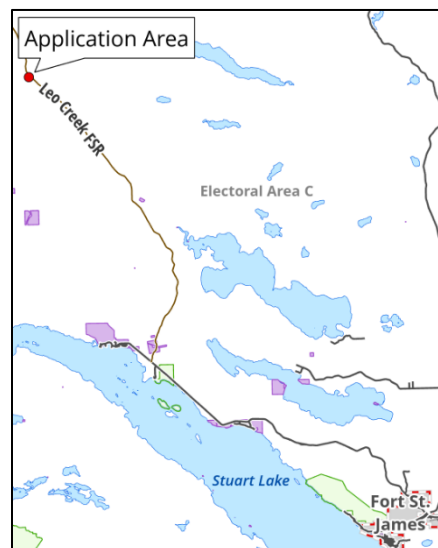
RECOMMENDATION: **(all/directors/majority)**

That the attached comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land Referral No. 7410408.

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has received a request from the Province to provide comment on K&D Logging Ltd.'s application to convert an existing Ministry of Forests Special Use Permit for a logging camp into a longer-term Licence of Occupation. The application area covers approximately 13.8 ha (34.2 ac) and is located approximately 63 km northwest of the District of Fort St. James on the Leo Creek FSR. The subject lands are not zoned and do not have an Official Community Plan designation.

The application states the camp has been operating since 2003 and supports forestry operations in the area. It also states the proposal represents a continuation of existing operations and is not expected to increase demand for emergency response, health, or fire protection services. No new construction, expansion or change in use is being proposed in this application. The applicant stated to staff the camp currently supports a maximum of 70 occupants.



The camp is serviced by an existing electrical transmission line, groundwater well, and sewage system. Refuse is transported to the Fort St. James Transfer Station. The application states the camp incorporates FireSmart principles including vegetation management, maintenance of defensible space around structures, an on-site fire suppression, and work to reduce fuel loading (see Attachments for Site Plan).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet
- [Applicant Site Plan and Management Plan](#) (link)

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 7410408**

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)
Applicant:	K&D Logging Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Logging Camp
Zoning:	N/A
OCP Designation:	N/A
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Leo Creek FSR
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	None



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

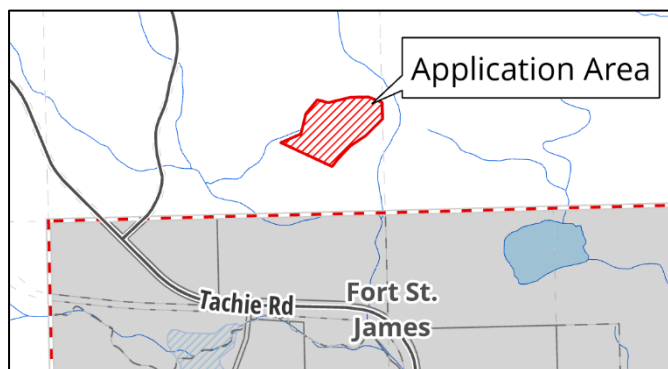
To: Chair and Committee
From: Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: **Crown Land Referral No. 7410392 - Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)**

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

That the attached comment sheet be provided as the Regional District's response to Crown Land Referral No. 7410392.

BACKGROUND

The Applicant, Dyno Nobel Canada Inc., has applied for a 10-year license of occupation over a 9.6 ha section of Crown land directly north of Fort St James for the purposes of storing explosives. The application states that the explosives will be used for pipeline construction and removed during periods of inactivity. The application does not specify a pipeline project.



The explosives will be stored in Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD) certified Type-4 explosives storage magazines. Contents will be spread across two powder magazines and one detonator magazine. Each powder magazine is 3 m by 12.2 m (10 ft x 40 ft), while the detonator magazine is slightly smaller. The application also mentions the possibility of one additional smaller magazine if required. Each magazine is a temporary portable structure requiring no foundation other than a gravel pad.

Traffic to the site will vary based on work requirements. The magazines will receive approximately one tractor-trailer delivery of explosives per week. The explosives will be stored on site then distributed to local work sites using a tandem axle truck. As explosives storage is regulated by NRCAN, the applicant must first acquire a NRCAN explosives storage license to use this site for their intended purpose. These licenses are renewed yearly, subject to annual inspection by NRCAN staff. A small amount of vegetation and timber may need to be cleared to meet NRCAN requirements.

As the site is relatively close to the municipality, this application has been referred to the District of Fort St. James. Additionally, this application was internally referred to the Protective Services department, which raised two questions. First, will the BC Wildfire Service, as a responding agency to wildfires on crown land, be made aware of the explosives? And second, is there a plan for the site if it falls under an evacuation alert or order? Staff reached out to the applicant for clarification but did not receive a response.

Staff recommend that the Province ensure that any proponent using the facility for explosives storage develop an emergency response plan to be reviewed by the RDBN which includes communications protocols with the Village of Fort St. James Fire Department, the BC Wildfire Service, and the RDBN in the event of a structure fire or wildfire in the area. Once the explosives storage use is confirmed the property will be flagged at the time of emergency services dispatch.

The nearest RDBN addresses are the Fort St. James ski hill and shooting range, approximately 1.7 km to the north and northeast respectively. The site is accessed by Tachie Road.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
Not Applicable

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Comment Sheet on Crown Land Referral No. 7410392

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)
Applicant:	Dyno Nobel Canada Inc.
Existing Land Use:	Unsurveyed Crown land
Zoning:	Not Zoned
OCP Designation:	Designated Resource (RE)
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Tachie Rd
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	Fort St James Rural Fire Protection Area
Other comments:	

That the Province ensure that any proponent using the facility for explosives storage develop an emergency response plan to be reviewed by the RDBN which includes communications protocols with the Village of Fort St. James Fire Department, the BC Wildfire Service, and the RDBN in the event of a structure fire or wildfire in the area.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: **Grant Funding Review**

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

Receive.

BACKGROUND

At the half-way point of the fiscal year, staff are providing a review of the grant funding allocations available to Rural Directors. Individual Electoral Area summaries will be provided directly. Several funding allocations have specific spending deadlines, which are included on the individual summaries. Directors are encouraged to continue to identify projects in their EA and bring them to the CAO and Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services who will assist with aligning the project(s) with available funding sources. Individual meetings with EA Directors can be setup at any time to brainstorm project ideas.

As a reminder, in the approved 2026 Budget \$724,000 of the annual Community Works Fund (CWF) allocation is incorporated into the Environmental Services Capital budget, which reduces taxation for that service. The equivalent taxation is included as Regional Grant in Aid, which is split between Electoral Areas using a population formula, the same way CWF is calculated. Grant in Aid eligibility is outlined in the [Grant in Aid Policy](#) and is broadly eligible for projects to support Societies, including special events, capital items, and building or property improvements. Economic Development Service eligibility includes projects that demonstrably support economic development in an area. Eligibility for RBA funds and CWF funds include primarily infrastructure that is owned by local governments. Eligibility tables for both programs are attached to this memo.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Grant in Aid and Economic Development Service Funding Allocation Tables to June 2, 2026
- RDBN Funding Support Infographic
- Northwest B.C. Regional Funding Agreement Appendix 2 – Eligible use of Annual Funds
- CWF Eligibility Categories

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
 Not Applicable

**Electoral Area Funding Summaries
to June 2, 2026**

Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Economic Development Service

2026 Starting Balance:	\$52,902	Current Balance:	\$52,902

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$252,323	Current Balance:	\$205,618
Lakes District Kennel Club	New Trailer	\$	900
Telkwa Elementary PAC	Kitchen Equipment	\$	2,785
PNW Science Fair	2026 Event	\$	1,500
BV Arts Council	Spotlight on Talent Event	\$	2,000
Smithers Seniors	Entry Safety	\$	14,200
Smithers Seniors	Dishwasher	\$	10,000
Groundbreakers	Seedy Saturday, School Programs	\$	2,820
Smithers Curling Club	Roof Engineering	\$	5,000
BV Christian School Society	Gym Floor Replacement	\$	5,000
BV Christian School Society	Litter-a-thon 2026	\$	2,500

Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Economic Development Service

Special Projects:	Village of Burns Lake Healthcare Recruitment Project	\$15,000
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2026 Starting Balance:	\$25,000	Current Balance:	\$25,000

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$68,302	Current Balance:	\$60,577
LDSS PAC	Photo Booth	\$	1,725
Lakes District Kennel Club	New Trailer	\$	900
LDSS Sr. Boys Basketball	Provincials	\$	1,000
Burns Lake Saddle Club	Gymkhanas	\$	1,000
Burns Lake Airsoft Association	First Aid	\$	2,500
Burns Lake Youth Soccer	Mother's Day Tea	\$	600

Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Economic Development Service

2026 Starting Balance:	\$100,000	Current Balance:	\$100,000

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$57,176	Current Balance:	\$44,076
Fort St, James Sled Dog Association	2026 Caledonia Classic	\$	2,000
RC Legion Branch 274	wreath for 2025 ceremony	\$	100
Fort St. James Minor Hockey	Fort Forum History Project	\$	5,000
Fort St. James Secondary School	2026 Bursary	\$	1,500
Music on the Mountain	2026 Festival	\$	2,500
Nechako Valley Exhibition	Inflatable Purchase	\$	1,000
Fort St. James Secondary School	Sr. Girls Soccer Provincials	\$	1,000

Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

Economic Development Service

2026 Starting Balance:	\$150,000	Current Balance:	\$150,000

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$87,740	Current Balance:	\$75,715
Lakes District Kennel Club	New Trailer	\$	900
Village of Fraser Lake	Family Day Event	\$	1,500
Fort Fraser Cemetery Commission	New walkway	\$	5,000
FLESS	Exchange Event	\$	1,000
FLESS	Sr. Girls Soccer Zones	\$	2,625
Fraser Lake RCMP	Bike Rodeo 2026	\$	1,000

Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)**Economic Development Service**

Special Projects:	Village of Burns Lake Healthcare Recruitment Project	\$15,000
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2026 Starting Balance:	\$110,000	Current Balance:	\$110,000

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$68,286	Current Balance:	\$59,061
LDSS PAC	Photo Booth	\$	1,725
Lakes District Kennel Club	New Trailer	\$	900
Francois-Tchesinkut Lake Recreation Commission	Francois Lake Hall 100 Celebration	\$	5,000
LDSS Sr. Boys Basketball	Provincials	\$	1,000
Burns Lake Youth Soccer	Mother's Day Tea	\$	600

Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)**Economic Development Service**

2026 Starting Balance:	\$100,000	Current Balance:	\$100,000

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$158,837	Current Balance:	\$130,934
Lakes District Kennel Club	New Trailer	\$	900
Nechako Valley Rodeo Association	2026 Rodeo Event	\$	2,500
Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce	Women's Day Event	\$	450
Music on the Mountain	2026 Festival	\$	1,000
Nechako Valley Exhibition	Inflatable Purchase	\$	5,000
Nechako Valley Exhibition	Easter Event	\$	1,000
Vanderhoof Children's Theatre	Lighting Equipment	\$	5,000
Nechako View Seniors/Charis Housing	Duplex Renovation	\$	8,650
Vanderhoof Curling Club	Security/Camera Project	\$	3,127
Nulki-Tachik Lakes Stewardship Society	Event Supplies	\$	278

Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)**Economic Development Service**

2026 Starting Balance:	\$43,313	Current Balance:	\$43,313

Grant in Aid

2026 Starting Balance:	\$58,367	Current Balance:	\$56,367
Topley 4-H	Achievement Weekend	\$	2,000

RDBN Project Funding

any questions - give staff a call!

Infrastructure and Programs

1

Grant in Aid

Grant in Aid supports cultural, charitable, sporting, or recreational services and special events for the purpose of benefitting the community.

Eligible groups: Non-profit Societies, Charities

Eligible projects: Events, programs, or capital projects that provide a benefit to residents.

Not eligible: Operating expenses like insurance/utilities, wages, services with an existing bylaw.

2

Economic Development Service Grants

Ec Dev service grants support projects that are incremental to an organization's regular activities and improve economic potential, revenue generation, or support resident attraction and retention.

Eligible groups: Municipalities, Organizations that provide economic development or business support services.

Eligible projects: Events, programs, or capital projects support economic development.

Not eligible: Projects that do not justifiably support economic development.

3

Community Works Funds

CWF supports recreational, cultural, tourism, water system, energy system, or fire hall infrastructure.

Eligible groups: Local Government or Indigenous Government owned Projects.

Eligible projects: Infrastructure projects in eligible categories.

Not eligible: infrastructure owned by a society, ineligible categories.

4

RBA

RBA supports recreational, cultural, tourism, water system, energy system, or emergency management and public safety infrastructure.

Eligible groups: Local Government or Indigenous Government owned Projects.

Eligible projects: Infrastructure projects in eligible categories.

Not eligible: infrastructure owned by a society, ineligible categories.

Infrastructure Only



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1-800-320-3339

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Appendix #2

Eligible Use of Annual Funds

1. The following purposes are eligible uses of Annual Funds:
 - a. First Nations Outreach Projects and Initiatives
 - i. A policy statement must be included as part of LTDP indicating how the Signatories are using the Annual Payment to advance reconciliation with local First Nations.
 - ii. The following costs are included in this eligible purpose:
 - A. costs of providing local government First Nations liaison positions with the local government;
 - B. all costs related to the development of MOUs and servicing agreements with First Nations;
 - C. Local government/First Nations cost-shared projects (capital or operations) both local government and First Nation owned or led; and
 - D. Local government funded projects (capital or operations) that directly benefit neighboring First Nation communities.
 - b. Capital Costs, including:
 - i. Public drinking water supply, treatment facilities and water distribution;
 - ii. Development finance portions of infrastructure costs that support affordable/attainable housing. These may include DCCs (Development Cost Charges) or subdivision servicing charges payable or similar costs.
 - iii. Childcare facilities;
 - iv. Municipal or regional capital projects that service, directly or indirectly, neighboring First Nation communities,
 - v. Wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities;
 - vi. Storm water management;
 - vii. Natural assets (where the asset provides a service);
 - viii. Solid waste management infrastructure;
 - ix. Public safety/emergency management equipment and facilities not funded by senior level government;
 - x. Local road improvements and upgrades;

- xi. Sidewalks, curbing and lighting;
 - xii. Active transportation amenities not funded by senior level government;
 - xiii. Improvements that facilitate transit service;
 - xiv. Natural hazard mitigation;
 - xv. Park additions/maintenance/upgrades including washrooms/meeting space and other amenities; and
 - xvi. Recreation and cultural related amenities.
- c. Non-Capital Costs, including:
- i. All costs related to asset management planning and development.
 - ii. Planning Costs, including:
 - A. Costs of feasibility studies (including infrastructure capacity assessment);
 - B. Early-stage development work (including climate resilience assessments);
 - C. Costs of designing, tendering, and acquiring land (where it is wholly required for eligible infrastructure projects).
 - iii. Maintenance costs related to existing or new local government infrastructure.
 - iv. Operational costs, which are limited to 15% of total Annual Payments, including:
 - A. facility operating costs;
 - B. protective services and bylaw enforcement costs;
 - C. programs for vulnerable populations;
 - D. environmental cleanup and community beautification initiatives;
 - E. computer and other electronic technology costs; and
 - F. grants to charitable, philanthropic, and not-for-profit organizations providing core community services.
2. If a local government is providing assistance to a business, the business must be providing a local service under a partnering agreement, and that service should be related to one of the eligible costs.

CWF Eligible Categories

Category	Description
Local Roads, Bridges and Active Transportation	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, life extension or safety-related improvements on local roads and bridges. Planning activities are also eligible.
Drinking Water	New construction, upgrading, repurposing or life extension of infrastructure that supports drinking water conservation, collection, treatment and distribution systems. Planning activities are also eligible.
Wastewater & Stormwater	New construction, upgrading, repurposing or life extension of infrastructure that supports wastewater and stormwater collection, treatment and management systems. Planning activities are also eligible.
Solid Waste	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of infrastructure that supports solid waste management systems. Planning activities are also eligible.
Public Transit	New construction, upgrading, repurposing or life extension of infrastructure that supports a shared passenger transport system available for public use, including rolling stock. Planning activities are also eligible.
Fire Halls and Fire Trucks	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of fire halls. Purchase of fire trucks as stand-alone projects is eligible. Planning activities are also eligible.
Community Energy Systems	New construction, upgrading, repurposing or life extension of infrastructure that generates energy or increases energy efficiency. Planning activities are also eligible.
Sport Infrastructure	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of amateur sport facilities. Planning activities are also eligible.
Recreation Infrastructure	New construction, upgrading, repurposing or life extension of recreational facilities or networks. Planning activities are also eligible.
Cultural Infrastructure	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of infrastructure that supports arts and/or heritage culture. Planning activities are also eligible.
Tourism Infrastructure	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of infrastructure that attracts travelers for recreation, leisure, business or

CWF Eligible Categories

	other purposes. Planning activities are also eligible.
Regional & Local Airports	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, life extension or safety-related improvements to aeronautical and/or non-aeronautical infrastructure at regional, local, or remote airports. Planning activities are also eligible.
Brownfield Redevelopment	Remediation or decontamination and redevelopment of a brownfield site within municipal boundaries where redevelopment includes eligible public infrastructure or related public purposes. Planning activities are also eligible.
Resilience (formerly Disaster Mitigation)	New construction, modification, reinforcement or relocation of public infrastructure to improve resilience and reduce risks from extreme natural events and climate change impacts. Planning activities are also eligible.
Broadband Connectivity	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of infrastructure that provides internet access to residents, businesses and institutions in Canadian communities. Planning activities are also eligible.
Short-sea Shipping	New construction, upgrading, repurposing, or life extension of fixed port infrastructure that increases short-sea shipping capacity. Planning activities are also eligible.
Short-line Rail	New construction, upgrading, repurposing or life extension of freight rail infrastructure. Planning activities are also eligible.
Capacity Building	Projects that strengthen the ability of municipalities to develop long-term infrastructure management and planning practices.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: **CRTC Decision 2026-8**

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

Receive.

BACKGROUND

In November 2024, the RDBN provided a comment on CRTC Application 8000-P114-202404929 – Application to Disclose Certain Annual Facilities Survey Data. The application was put forward by the Ministry of Citizen’s Services with three requests, one that more detailed information about broadband internet and mobile services available in Canada be released publicly through ISED mapping, and two requests related to the release of confidential facilities and transport network datasets for use by provinces and territories. In January 2026 the CRTC published the decision, which is attached to this memo.

The CRTC decision did approve releasing more detailed service data. As a result, the federal government's broadband map will be able to show more detailed information. This means that Canadians will be able to see which providers serve their area, available technologies (e.g., fibre, wireless), and available speeds. It also means that all levels of governments and public safety organizations will have better information for connectivity planning.

The second and third requests were not approved as the CRTC determined that the security and resiliency risks outweighed the public benefits of disclosure.

ATTACHMENTS:

CRTC Decision 2026-08

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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

4. Community and Economic Sustainability

Additionally, the recommendation supports the following objective(s) related to this Focus Area(s):

4.3 Continue advocacy efforts for high-speed internet service and explore innovative solutions

for high-speed internet service in partnership with the Connectivity Committee and other partners.



Telecom Decision CRTC 2026-8

PDF version

Reference: Part 1 application posted on 20 September 2024

Gatineau, 15 January 2026

Public record: 8000-P114-202404929

Making broadband Internet and mobile service information available to Canadians – British Columbia Ministry of Citizens’ Services’ application to disclose certain Annual Facilities Survey data

Summary

Canadians need access to reliable, affordable, and high-quality Internet and mobile services for every part of their daily lives.

In Telecom Regulatory Policy 2016-496, the Commission established the universal service objective to help ensure that all Canadians have access to broadband Internet access services and voice services. The Commission and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) each have a role to play in helping reach the universal service objective.

As part of its regulatory role, the Commission collects data about telecommunications service providers’ networks, including information on where service is available. This information is shared with ISED, which uses it and other sources to publish and maintain its National Broadband Map (the Map), an interactive map that helps Canadians explore broadband Internet service availability across the country. Other information collected by the Commission is treated as confidential and not published on the Map.

In September 2024, the British Columbia Ministry of Citizens’ Services (the Ministry) requested that provinces and territories be given access to three types of confidential data collected by the Commission. First, it asked that more detailed information on where broadband Internet and mobile services are available in Canada be released publicly through the Map. Although ISED publishes and maintains the Map, this request was directed to the Commission because it collects the data and holds it in confidence. The Ministry explained that this information was needed to meet the Commission’s universal service objective, and that it would allow Canadians to better understand their service options at home and in their communities. The Ministry’s second and third requests involved providing data confidentially for use by the provinces and territories.

Based on the record of this proceeding, the Commission approves the Ministry’s first request. Approving this request means that the Commission will no longer hold this data

in confidence. Consequently, ISED will be able to increase the level of detail available to the public on the Map, which will help Canadians shop for the telecommunications services that fit their needs. Canadians will be better equipped to identify the service providers, technologies, and speeds available in their homes and in their communities. Providing more data will also improve the delivery of programs aimed at connecting everyone in Canada, including municipalities and public safety organizations.

With regard to the Ministry's other requests for additional information to be made available confidentially to provincial and territorial authorities, parties raised significant public safety concerns on the record. In the Commission's view, approving the Ministry's first request already serves the public interest as requested in its application. Accordingly, the Commission denies the second and third requests at this time.

To help improve accuracy and address gaps in mobile coverage, the Commission is also launching a public consultation today to seek views on a mobile reporting standard in Telecom Notice of Consultation 2026-9.

Background

1. The [Annual Facilities Survey](#) is an annual exercise conducted by the Commission to collect data from telecommunications service providers (TSPs) on their networks, including information on service coverage and available speeds and technologies.
2. Data collected through the Annual Facilities Survey supports the Commission's policies and decisions and feeds into the [National Broadband Map](#), an interactive map published and maintained by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) that helps Canadians explore broadband Internet service availability across the country and is the foundation of provincial, territorial, and federal connectivity programs. Currently, the map displays coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services by provider, technology, and speed using 25-square-kilometre hexagons.
3. In Telecom Circular 2005-4, the Commission determined that, beginning with the 2005 data collection, TSPs would no longer be required to designate information as confidential when submitting data as part of the Annual Facilities Survey. Instead, the Commission adopted a practice where most data forms submitted would automatically be considered to have been filed in confidence.

Application

4. On 20 September 2024, the British Columbia Ministry of Citizens' Services (the Ministry) filed an application requesting the disclosure of certain Annual Facilities Survey data. In particular, the Ministry requested that:

- service coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services be disclosed at the 250-metre road-segment level by provider, technology, and speed (first request);¹
 - complete broadband Internet and mobile service provider facilities datasets² be shared, via ISED, with the Ministry on a confidential basis for use in support of any existing or future contribution programs. This would include the right to make such data public at the same level of detail as that made available by the Commission and ISED (second request);³ and
 - the transport data⁴ the Commission provides to ISED be shared, via ISED, with the Ministry on a confidential basis for use in support of any existing or future contribution programs (third request).
5. The Commission received interventions supporting the Ministry's application from various provincial governments, municipalities, public safety organizations (including the Halton Regional Police Service and Peel Regional Police), and advocacy groups (including the Alberta Rural Connectivity Coalition, Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation, the Canadian Association of Wireless Internet Service Providers, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority, and the Great Bear Initiative Society).
 6. The Commission also received interventions opposing the Ministry's application from Bell Canada; Bragg Communications Inc., carrying on business as Eastlink (Eastlink); the Canadian Communication Systems Alliance (CCSA); the Independent Telecommunications Providers Association (ITPA); Quebecor Media Inc. (Quebecor); Rogers Communications Canada Inc. (Rogers); Saskatchewan Telecommunications (SaskTel); TELUS Communications Inc. (TELUS); and Xplore Inc. (Xplore).

Requests for disclosure of information designated as confidential

7. Requests for disclosure of information designated as confidential are covered under section 39 of the *Telecommunications Act* (the Act). Specifically, subsections 39(1) and (5) of the Act apply in this case because the Ministry's requests relate to information submitted outside the course of a proceeding.
8. Under those provisions, the Commission may disclose or require the disclosure of information designated as confidential in two instances:

¹ The 250-metre road-segment level is also known as the [Pseudo-Household Demographic Distribution](#).

² The complete facilities datasets contain more granular service availability information.

³ The Ministry is seeking full access to the confidential Annual Facilities Survey datasets from ISED's mapping team (beyond the limited 250-metre road-segment level proposed for public release in its first request) and the right to publish those datasets at the same level of detail as that made available by the Commission and ISED.

⁴ The transport data contains the specific location of transport network endpoints where key telecommunications infrastructure, including copper facilities, is concentrated.

- the information does not fall within one of the categories of information that can be designated as confidential under subsection 39(1) of the Act; or
- the information was properly designated as confidential, but disclosure is relevant to the determination of a matter before the Commission and is in the public interest.

First request

Positions of parties

The Ministry

9. The Ministry submitted that access to more granular coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services is needed to meet its 2027 connectivity targets, which are consistent with the Commission's universal service objective.⁵ It added that access to accurate and granular data would significantly strengthen connectivity planning, reduce duplication of efforts, and improve resiliency during emergencies, such as wildfires. The Ministry also emphasized that transparency is essential for Canadians to understand their service options at home and in their communities.
10. The Ministry stated that it does not currently have access to adequate information to identify gaps in coverage, particularly in rural and remote areas. It also noted that some jurisdictions, such as the province of Quebec, already allow consumers to check service availability at a specified address.
11. The Ministry indicated that the Commission's practice of automatically considering Annual Facilities Survey data as confidential should be reviewed. Specifically, it submitted that provider, speed, technology, and coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services should not be treated as confidential because TSPs do not consistently treat this type of information as such. The Ministry added that consumers can access information about available services in their area through websites, customer service, sales, and marketing materials.
12. The Ministry noted that information on available Internet service plans and speeds is searchable by civic address and already available on many TSPs' websites. It added that TSPs without online tools are also able to share this information, either through customer service or other marketing channels, which shows that the data is not consistently treated as confidential by them. The Ministry submitted that if the data requested is found to be available publicly, the Commission should not continue to hold this information in confidence under subsection 39(1) of the Act. The Ministry indicated that treating service coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile

⁵ The universal service objective is as follows: (i) all Canadians should have access to Internet speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 10 Mbps upload (50/10 Mbps) with unlimited data options; and (ii) all Canadians should have access to the latest generally deployed mobile technology, not only in homes and businesses, but also along major transportation roads.

services as confidential is an outdated approach, particularly given broadband's critical role in society.

Interveners

13. Most interveners, including municipalities, provinces, and public safety organizations, expressed support for access to service coverage data at the 250-meter road-segment level by provider, technology, and speed. They highlighted that the benefits are far-reaching and include (i) supporting infrastructure investment, resulting in improved broadband Internet access across Canada, which helps achieve the universal service objective; (ii) strengthening public safety by allowing local authorities and first responders to plan and respond to emergencies more effectively; and (iii) enabling Canadians, especially those living in rural and underserved areas, to better understand their connectivity options.
14. The Halton Regional Police Service and Peel Regional Police supported the Ministry's first request. They mentioned that granular coverage information is essential for identifying coverage gaps and ensuring the safety of first responders. They added that having access to detailed information on service availability is vital for coordinating operations and identifying areas where connectivity is insufficient.
15. The City of Calgary also supported improving the granularity of data available through ISED's National Broadband Map. It explained that accurate service availability data is critical for identifying underserved areas and helping the public to understand what services are available to them.
16. Most TSPs mentioned that disclosing broadband Internet and mobile service availability data at the 250-metre road-segment level goes beyond what is necessary for public use. They argued that the level of detail currently available on the National Broadband Map provides sufficient information.
17. Bell Canada submitted that allowing consumers to verify whether they can receive service at a particular location does not make TSPs' service coverage information readily available publicly, which is why this information is treated confidentially. It added that it offered the ability to search by address on its website to support current and potential customers in determining what services are available to them. Bell Canada emphasized that it does not readily disclose its broadband Internet service coverage information, let alone at the 250-metre road-segment level.
18. Rogers submitted that, although TSPs do already make service availability information accessible to consumers by way of address look-up tools on their websites and through customer service, there is a critical difference between making it discretely available through those channels and making it widely available in a public database. It explained that its online address look-up tool only allows consumers to make a limited number of queries before redirecting them to Rogers' telephone support for further assistance.

19. Bell Canada, Rogers, SaskTel, and TELUS expressed concerns about how the Annual Facilities Survey data would be shared and stored. The companies cited the potential for data misuse, version control issues, and unauthorized access to sensitive information.
20. Bell Canada, Eastlink, Rogers, SaskTel, and Xplore submitted that the disclosure of sensitive network data violates section 39 of the Act, which addresses the protection of information designated as confidential, such as commercially and technically sensitive information. They added that releasing the requested data could reveal sensitive network information, making telecommunications infrastructure vulnerable to theft or damage.
21. Bell Canada, the CCSA, Eastlink, the ITPA, Quebecor, Rogers, and Xplore submitted that publicly disclosing detailed network data would harm TSPs' competitive positions by giving their competitors an unfair advantage. They added that releasing this data would allow competitors to develop targeted investment strategies, undermining TSPs' market positions.

Commission's analysis

22. The Commission notes that many TSPs already allow consumers to obtain detailed information on service technologies and speeds available at a particular address through their marketing channels (e.g., websites) and when providing customer service (e.g., on the telephone). Furthermore, although TSPs may limit the amount of coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services that consumers can access through their online tools (e.g., by restricting the number of address queries consumers can perform), this information remains publicly available.
23. In addition, Quebecor mentioned that it has collaborated with the Government of Quebec to develop an interactive broadband map as part of the Operation High Speed program. The map provides service coverage information obtained from TSPs, demonstrating that this type of data is not consistently treated as confidential and that it is possible to provide more coverage information without disclosing sensitive network information.
24. The Commission therefore considers that coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services at the 250-metre road-segment level by provider, technology, and speed is not consistently treated as confidential by TSPs.
25. Further, the Commission considers that, even if the information were deemed confidential, its disclosure would be in the public interest. For example, providing this information through the National Broadband Map would ensure that service availability data is presented in a consistent and reliable manner across the country. The data that the Ministry requested be disclosed (i.e., service coverage data at the 250-meter road-segment level by provider, technology, and speed) is essential for Canadians to understand what broadband Internet and mobile services are available in their homes and in their communities.

26. Regarding TSPs' concerns that publicly disclosing the requested data may harm their competitive positions, the Commission notes that approving the first request would allow for the same information to be made available to all TSPs, which could help small TSPs compete more effectively. Increased competition creates more choice, lower prices, and brings about greater levels of innovation, to the benefit of consumers.
27. Further, under Telecom Regulatory Policy 2024-180, wholesale TSPs are required to compile a list of locations within their traditional wireline incumbent serving territories where fibre-based high-speed services are available and provide those lists to competitors upon request. Access to those lists can be made conditional to entering into a reasonable non-disclosure agreement. This illustrates that detailed service availability information is already being shared with competitors.
28. Regarding the argument that releasing the requested data could reveal sensitive network information, making telecommunications infrastructure vulnerable to theft or damage, the Commission notes that, while specific examples of network disruption were provided as part of this proceeding, the record did not demonstrate any causal link between the data being made publicly available (e.g., in the province of Quebec) and an increased risk to critical infrastructure or to the resiliency of telecommunications networks.
29. In light of the above, the Commission considers that the public interest in disclosing service coverage data at the 250-metre road-segment level by provider, technology, and speed outweighs any potential competitive harm and network security concerns raised by TSPs. The Commission also considers that service coverage data is relevant to the administration of the Act and its regulations because it supports the Commission's decisions and ongoing work.

Second and third requests

Positions of parties

The Ministry

30. The Ministry submitted that the confidential disclosure of complete broadband Internet and mobile service provider facilities datasets (second request) and transport data (third request) is necessary for provincial, territorial, and First Nation governments to further support connectivity planning, funding decisions, and efforts to reduce the digital divide.

Interveners

31. Multiple interveners supported the Ministry's requests and the sharing of additional information with provincial, territorial, and First Nation governments. They also suggested safeguards to protect confidentiality, such as non-disclosure agreements.

32. Build Nova Scotia, the Government of Prince Edward Island, and the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure submitted that provinces and territories should be given confidential access to complete facilities datasets to meet connectivity goals and coordinate funding programs effectively. They added that limited data sharing hinders their ability to plan and improve connectivity services. They also emphasized that improved data access would strengthen provincial decision-making and support more efficient connectivity outcomes across Canada.
33. TSPs stated that sharing complete facilities datasets with the Ministry would involve disclosing information that has consistently been treated as confidential under section 39 of the Act.
34. Bell Canada, the CCSA, the ITPA, Quebecor, SaskTel, TELUS, and Xplore submitted that sharing detailed network data would increase the risk of vandalism, copper theft, and malicious attempts to disrupt networks. They added that facilities and transport data is sensitive because malicious actors could use it to identify vulnerable points in TSPs' networks.
35. Bell Canada and TELUS mentioned that disclosing granular facilities and transport data exposes critical telecommunications infrastructure to significant risks. TELUS reported multiple incidents of copper theft in 2024 that disrupted communities for extended periods of time.

Commission's analysis

36. The Commission notes that complete facilities datasets and transport data is confidential and that TSPs consistently treat it as such. Accordingly, this information falls within one of the categories of information that can be designated as confidential under subsection 39(1) of the Act.
37. TSPs provided evidence that detailed infrastructure data, such as geospatial data, can be exploited for malicious purposes. Incidents of copper theft and vandalism have disrupted Internet access service in the past, and in some cases, deprived communities of Internet access for extended periods. Considering these significant security risks, complete facilities datasets and transport data needs to be treated with a high degree of protection.
38. The Commission considers that, if granted, the second and third requests would involve disclosing highly sensitive data about critical telecommunications infrastructure, which poses significant security and resiliency risks. Unlike the first request, which entails disclosing service availability data, the second and third requests entail providing additional information related to network facilities that are vulnerable to theft and vandalism.
39. Accordingly, the Commission is of the view that the public interest in disclosing the information at issue in the Ministry's second and third requests does not outweigh the serious risks raised by TSPs. Moreover, the Commission considers that approving the

first request would already serve the public interest as requested in the Ministry's application.

40. In light of the above, the Commission considers that the record of this proceeding does not support the confidential disclosure of complete broadband Internet and mobile service provider facilities datasets and transport data at this time.

Conclusion

41. In light of all of the above, the Commission approves the Ministry's request for coverage data for broadband Internet and mobile services to be disclosed at the 250-metre road-segment level by provider, technology, and speed. The Commission will continue to work with ISED to make this information available to the public, notably through ISED's National Broadband Map.
42. The Commission denies the Ministry's requests that complete broadband Internet and mobile service provider facilities datasets and transport data be shared with the Ministry on a confidential basis.
43. To help improve accuracy and address gaps in mobile coverage, the Commission is also launching a public consultation today to seek views on a mobile reporting standard in Telecom Notice of Consultation 2026-9.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Call for comments – Mobile reporting standard*, Telecom Notice of Consultation 2026-9, 15 January 2026
- *Modern telecommunications services – The path forward for Canada's digital economy*, Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2016-496, 21 December 2016
- *Telecommunications industry data collection: updating of CRTC registration lists, telecommunications fees, Canadian revenue-based contribution regime, international licences and monitoring of the Canadian telecommunications industry*, Telecom Circular CRTC 2005-4, 9 February 2005



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services

Date: June 11, 2026

Subject: **Connectivity Project Announcement May 2026**

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

Receive.

BACKGROUND

On May 29, 2026 in Prince George, the Honourable Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Honourable Diana Gibson, British Columbia's Minister of Citizens' Services, announced up to \$236 million in joint federal and provincial funding for eight broadband internet projects.

The [Backgrounder document](#) with the full list of projects is linked here.

Telus Project CCBC 010011 includes connectivity at: Sheraton, Woodmere, Tchesinkut Lake, Tintagel, Forestdale, Rose Lake, Tyhee Lake, Cinema, Quick, Round Lake, Sinkut River, Reid Lake, Walcott, Dunkley, Buckhorn, Glentanna, Ferndale, Braeside, Evelyn, Stoner, Prairiedale, Hixon, Nukko Lake, Driftwood Creek, Colleymount, Old Remo, Leduc Marsh, Mapes, Red Rock, Strathnaver, François Lake, Topley, Mud River, Foreman, Lean-to Creek, Clemretta, Wiley, Woodpecker, Engen, Perow, Topley Landing, Babine 25 (Lake Babine Nation), Poison Creek 17A (Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation).

CityWest project CCBC 020044 includes connectivity at Endako, Savory, and Glenannan.

CityWest project CCBC 010017 includes connectivity at Houston (rural), Buck Flats.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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

4. Community and Economic Sustainability

Additionally, the recommendation supports the following objective(s) related to this Focus Area(s):

4.3 Continue advocacy efforts for high-speed internet service and explore innovative solutions for high-speed internet service in partnership with the Connectivity Committee and other partners.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: **Draft Volunteer Recognition Program Policy**

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

Discussion.

BACKGROUND

As per direction at the April 16, 2026, Rural Services Committee, staff are bringing a Volunteer Recognition Program Policy for review and comments.

The attached draft policy was developed based on comments from the April 16 meeting, and all aspects of the document can be amended as needed to ensure the program reflects the direction of rural directors, including the selection process and awards presentation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft RDBN Volunteer Recognition Policy

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:
 Not Applicable



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Volunteer Recognition Program Policy
ADOPTED: TBD**

Purpose:

To recognize individuals who make exceptional contributions to the community through volunteer service. The program aims to:

- Celebrate outstanding volunteer contributions.
- Promote a culture of volunteerism.
- Increase public awareness of the value of volunteers.
- Strengthen relationships between local government and community organizations.

Policy:

Nominations

Nomination Period: Nominations for Volunteer of the Year for each Electoral Area will be open from January 15 to February 28 (or closest weekday prior if the date falls on a weekend) of each year.

The nomination form will be available on the RDBN Website, as well as a downloadable fillable form that can be returned by email or regular mail.

Selection

Nominations will be evaluated by 3-5 staff using the attached scoring matrix.

Candidates selected to receive Volunteer of the Year for their community will receive a letter under signature of the Chair informing them of their award. The letter will include an invitation to the Awards Presentation.

Awards Presentation

At the April Committee meeting each year, RDBN Directors will break for lunch in time to attend an off-site Volunteer of the Year luncheon organized by RDBN staff in Burns Lake. Each Volunteer of the Year will be invited to attend with a guest, for a total of fourteen guests in addition to RDBN Directors and staff.

Following a catered meal, RDBN EA Directors will present engraved plaques to the awardees from their area.

The costs for the luncheon over and above regular Committee lunch costs will be included in the annual Economic Development budget as a line item.

Photographs of each award recipient with the respective RDBN Directors will be shared on the RDBNs social media channels.

RDBN Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee Name:

Community:

Organization/Program:

Volunteer Role(s):

Length of Service:

Approximate hours contributed in last 12 months:

Nominator Name:

Relationship to Nominee:

Email/Phone:

Please answer the following questions (each with a maximum of 250 words):

1) IMPACT

Describe how the nominee's volunteer efforts have made a meaningful impact on the organization, community, clients, or members.

2) COMMITMENT

Provide examples of the nominee's dedication, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond expectations.

3) LEADERSHIP

Describe the ways the nominee has demonstrated leadership, problem-solving, mentorship, innovation, or initiative.

4) VALUES

How does the nominee exemplify the mission, vision, and values of the organization?

5) INSPIRATION

What is one specific accomplishment or contribution that best illustrates why this individual deserves Volunteer of the Year?

Volunteer of the Year Scoring Matrix:

Category	Weight	Score
IMPACT	40	/40
COMMITMENT	20	/20
LEADERSHIP	20	/20
VALUES	15	/15
INSPIRATION	5	/5
Total	100	/100

Detailed Scoring Guide

1. Impact (40 points)

0-10 Limited or localized impact

11-20 Positive impact on a program or project

21-30 Significant and measurable impact affecting multiple people or initiatives

31-40 Exceptional impact with lasting, transformative results

Look for: Number of people affected, Measurable outcomes, Sustainability of contribution, Unique contributions.

2. Commitment (20 points)

0-5 Meets expectations

6-10 Frequently exceeds expectations

11-15 Consistently dependable and highly engaged

16-20 Extraordinary commitment and service above and beyond expectations

Look for: # of Volunteer hours, Attendance, Responsiveness, Longevity.

3. Leadership (20 points)

0-5 Participates effectively

6-10 Occasionally takes initiative

11-15 Regularly leads, mentors, or improves processes

16-20 Inspires others and drives meaningful change

Look for: Mentoring, Team leadership, New ideas, Problem-solving.

4. Values (15 points)

0-4 Demonstrates organizational values

5-8 Frequently exemplifies values

9-12 Strong ambassador for the organization

13-15 Exceptional role model and community champion

Volunteer Recognition Program Policy

Page 4

5. Overall Inspiration Factor (5 points)

This is the judge's discretionary score. After reviewing all nominations, how strongly does this individual stand out as Volunteer of the Year?

- 1 Good nominee
- 2-3 Strong nominee
- 4 Outstanding nominee
- 5 Exceptional, clear award contender