

2020 RDBN Initiatives

General Services

- Participate in the Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance to investigate resource revenue sharing
- Politically support (rural internet/cell phone) broadband connectivity enhancements
- Capital Asset Management Plan
- Parks and Outdoor Recreation Study

Environmental Services

- Monitoring and moving forward with the initiatives in our recently approved Solid Waste Management Plan including regional waste diversion and expansion of regional recycling programs.
- Landfill phase development projects for the Clearview and Knockholt Landfills
- Backyard Composting Program promotion

Protective Services

- Perform Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Fire Smart public education and programs
- Implement a new Regional Mass Notification System
- Organize the Northern Emergency Support Services Conference

Economic Development

- Grant Support Services (Grant Writing Services, Gas Tax Grant Program and Grant in Aid)
- Supporting Immigrant Entrepreneurs through participation in the BC Provincial Nominee Program's Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot
- Supporting Local Producers through the Connecting Consumers and Producers Community Events Grant Program
- Providing support for Businesses (in partnership with NDIT) through the Business Façade Improvement Program
- Preparing "Connecting Consumers & Producers" - A Guide for Eating Local

Inquiries regarding RDBN taxation can be directed to:

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Telephone 250-692-3195
Toll Free 1-800-320-3339

About the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Regional Districts were created by the Province to:

- Provide region wide services;
- Provide inter-municipal or sub-regional services where residents in the municipalities and rural residents outside the municipalities benefit from the same services;
- Act as local government for rural areas and provide local services.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) includes the municipalities of Smithers, Telkwa, Houston, Granisle, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James and Electoral Areas of "A" Smithers Rural, "B" Burns Lake Rural, "C" Fort St. James Rural, "D" Fraser Lake Rural, "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural, "F" Vanderhoof Rural and "G" Houston Rural. The RDBN provides a total of 79 different services throughout the region.

Inquiries regarding Provincial Taxation and your property tax notice

Please contact the Surveyor of Taxes

1-800-663-7867 and request a transfer to
250-387-0555

www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/rpt/

The B.C. Property Taxation website has information re home owner grants, the tax deferral program as well as other valuable tax information.

Northwest Regional Hospital District

The Northwest Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) was established in December of 1995 under the Hospital District Act of British Columbia. In spite of its name, the NWRHD does not own or operate any hospitals, health centres, or medical clinics of any kind. Its sole purpose is to provide a portion (usually 40% of major expenditures) of funds required by hospitals within its boundaries for equipment, renovations, and new construction. The funding is raised through property taxes. The NWRHD shares its boundaries with North Coast Regional District, the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the western portion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Nisga'a Lands Governments.

The Northwest Regional Hospital District provides capital funding for over 16 facilities including the following facilities in your area:

- Houston Health Centre
- Bulkley Valley District Hospital

The RDBN budgeting process starts every fall and is finalized in March. The budget outlines revenues and expenditures for each service the RDBN provides for the year and in turn the tax rates. Please visit our website for more information regarding our annual budgets or to view our financial statements.

www.rdbn.bc.ca

2020 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Rural Property Tax Guide

For Taxpayers in Electoral Area "A" Smithers Rural



"A World of Opportunities Within Our Region"

Message from the Chair

This has been a full year as a new Board after the election in the fall of 2018. It is always great to have new perspectives around the table at our Board of Directors meetings.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board continued to work on concerns from the 2018 wildfire event in 2019 and looked to the Province to provide clear direction in the *Emergency Program Act* on how local government is to support residents who want to stay on their property in time of emergency. The Province developed the Managing Access to Areas Under Evacuation Order for Local Authorities and First Nations. This resource was very helpful in updating the RDBN Evacuation Order Entry Permit Policy and Procedures. In 2020 the Protective Services Department will be initiating new programs for all Electoral Area and Municipal residents.

2019 was a challenging year for recycling with the loss of a baling facility which impacted curbside programs and commercial cardboard recycling in the western part of our district. We are continuing to look for solutions to re-establish that service. The RDBN was excited to receive approval for its Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change acknowledging our effort to collaborate with the region's residents, other local governments and First Nations in its development. Following the SWMP, the RDBN established two more residential recycling depots within the region, enabling a more efficient way to divert materials from our landfills.

The Regional Board continues to work toward all residents having access to high speed internet and completed its RDBN Broadband Study in July 2019. The RDBN began conducting an Internet Speed Test through the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) in 2019 and will continue with the test in 2020. If you would like to participate in the Internet Speed Test, please visit our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca.

Industry plays a key role in the region and in 2019 we started to see more LNG pipeline activity and recognize the importance of accountability in development along with strong socio-economic diversity. The Board advocated for a number of key forestry issues as well, working hard to see our agriculture sector thrive. The Board initiated a Parks and Outdoor Recreation Services Study that will be completed in 2020 to assist the Board in determining steps moving forward in regard to recreation services throughout our District.

The RDBN, as a member of the RBA (Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance) continues to work with the Province to negotiate a new funding agreement for our citizens to ensure that our region benefits from the tremendous level of economic development activity in and going through our area.

Our Board has continued to work hard to maintain moderate, yet sustainable taxes to support the wants and needs of the region which allows us to advocate to higher levels of government on the issues, concerns and requirements of our residents. It continues to be my honour and privilege to be the Chair of the Regional District and work with a dedicated Board of Directors from across the region.

Sincerely,
Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Electoral Area "A" - Smithers Rural Residential Taxes per \$100,000 assessed value (except as otherwise noted)

Service	2020	2019
Rural Government Services	5.59	5.22
Area "A" Grant in Aid	0.00	4.15
General Government	20.70	21.72
Agriculture	1.90	0.00
Regional Economic Development	3.10	1.58
Solid Waste Management	55.60	56.25
Unightly Premises Regulatory Control	1.80	0.87
Development Services	5.80	4.63
Electoral Area Planning	5.90	4.35
Emergency Preparedness	9.14	8.93
(1) 9-1-1 Service	4.10	4.75
Noxious Weed Control	1.67	1.31
Building Numbering	0.26	0.25
*Building Inspection	12.08	10.85
*Smithers Rural Fire Protection	53.32	51.72
*Telkwa Rural Fire Protection	94.79	97.90
*Round Lake Rural Fire Protection	119.51	137.63
Smithers Victim Services	1.63	1.73
(1) Area "A" Emergency Services	0.77	0.87
Bulkley Valley Regional Pool	34.49	35.99
Smithers Rural Rec & Culture	73.54	75.55
*Laidlaw Street Lighting Service	0.73	1.77
*(1) Smithers/Telkwa/Houston TV	2.80	2.98
(1) Area "A" Economic Development	1.21	1.73
*(1) Telkwa Pedestrian Crosswalk	0.00	0.17
*(2) Lake Kathlyn Weed Harvesting	154.00	152.00
*(2) Glacier Gulch Water Diversion	48.00	48.00
(1) Taxation on improvements only		
(2) Tax on each parcel of land		

This is an estimate based upon the 2019 adopted financial plan. These amounts exclude the 5.25% fee charged by the Province to collect taxes for Regional Districts. ***Please note that not all properties in Area "A" contribute to each of the functions listed above. Ex. If you live outside of the fire protection area, but in Area "A" you do not pay for the service.**

How is the RDBN portion of your property taxes calculated?

- The RDBN determines the budget and tax levy (or funding) to provide each service after thorough review by the RDBN Board of Directors
- BC Assessment Authority provides assessment information, which it has independently determined
- Calculate tax rate per \$1,000 of assessments:

$$\frac{\text{Budgeted tax levy}}{\text{Assessed property value} \times 1000}$$

Assessments & Tax Rates

How does the change in assessed values affect the amount of tax I pay?

This is a question many taxpayers ask each year. What happens when my property value increases? As all property values do not change by the same percentage the examples below address those issues:

If the budgeted tax levy to provide services remains the same from one year to the next, but property values increase 25%, the amount of tax collected does not change, but the rate declines:

Year	Assessed Value	Tax Rate	Tax you pay (levy)
1	\$150,000	1.00	\$150
2	\$187,500	.80	\$150

If the budgeted tax levy to provide services increases by 10%, and property values increase by 25% the change could be shown as follows:

Year	Assessed Value	Tax Rate	Tax you pay (levy)
1	\$150,000	1.00	\$150
2	\$187,500	0.88	\$165

Understanding your Tax Notice

You have just received your 2020 property tax notice from the province. The Province collects taxes for schools, roads, policing and Regional District services. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako receives a lump sum payment from the province in August of each year. The following will explain each line on your property tax notice.

BC Assessment Authority

BC Assessment Authority is a crown corporation that sets all property values in the province. Their costs are recovered by this tax.

Municipal Finance Authority

The Municipal Finance Authority coordinates financial borrowing for all local governments in the province.

Provincial School Tax

The Province collects this tax for education and school facilities.

Provincial Rural Tax and Police Tax

The Provincial Government tax is for rural road maintenance and police protection services.

Electoral Area "A" Smithers Rural

This is your electoral area tax for services provided by the RDBN.

Other Local Services

You may benefit from other local services such as street lighting or fire protection. These may be listed separately on your tax notice.

Northwest Regional Hospital District

The NWRHD provides capital funding for the hospital facilities in this region.