

## 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 NDI) 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 RDBN taxation can be directed to:

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

### 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/](http://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.

## Stuart - Nechako Regional Hospital District

The Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District (SNRHD) raises funds through property taxation to provide a portion (usually 40%) of funds required by hospitals within our boundaries for medical equipment, building renovations and new construction.

The SNRHD does not own or operate any hospitals or health centres of any kind. The facilities the SNRHD supports are operated by the Northern Health Authority. They are:

- Fraser Lake Diagnostic and Treatment Centre
- Granisle Health Centre
- Lakes District Hospital - Burns Lake
- St. John Hospital - Vanderhoof
- Stuart Lake Hospital - Fort St. James
- Southside Health and Wellness Centre

Taxation for 2020 remains unchanged from 2019.

Highlights of this year's budget include:

- Continuation of the funding for the Stuart Lake Hospital in Fort St. James
- Upgrades to St. John Hospital in Vanderhoof
- Funds to support the relocation of the Granisle Health Centre

The priority in the next few years will be the construction of the Stuart Lake Hospital. The SNRHD has committed contributing 20% to the total cost of this project. Tax rates are expected to remain steady for the next five years.

The SNRHD includes the communities of Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake and Granisle and the Electoral Areas "C - Ft. St. James Rural", "F - Vanderhoof Rural", "D - Fraser Lake Rural", "B - Burns Lake Rural" and "E - Francois Lake Rural".

John Illes, CPA, CGA  
Chief Financial Officer  
Regional District of Bulkley Nechako  
P 250-692-3195 F 250-692-3309

# 2020 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Property Tax Guide For Taxpayers in Electoral Area "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake 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](http://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 "E" - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural

### Residential Taxes per \$100,000 assessed value (except as otherwise noted)

Service	2020	2019
Rural Government Services	5.59	5.22
Area "E" Grant in Aid	5.56	5.34
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
*(1) Southside Rural Fire Protection	178.21	178.81
(1) Burns Lake & Area Victim Services	1.64	1.47
*(1) Burns Lake Arena	51.31	61.47
(1) Lakes District Arts & Culture	44.34	45.76
(1) Lakes District Airport	18.77	20.74
(1) Burns Lake TV Rebroadcasting	5.59	6.32

#### (1) Taxation on improvements only

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 "E" contribute to each of the functions listed above. Ex. If you live outside of the fire protection area, but in Area "E" 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 "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake 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.

### Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District

The SNRHD provides capital funding for the hospital facilities in our region.