



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
AGENDA  
Thursday, November 4, 2021  
(VIRTUAL)**

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	<b><u>AGENDA- November 4, 2021</u></b>	<b>Approve</b>
	<b><u>Supplementary Agenda</u></b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>	
<b>2-3</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2021</b>	<b>Approve</b>
	<b><u>DELEGATIONS</u></b>	
	<b><u>MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS &amp; RURAL DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	
	<b>RE: Aerial Removal of Wolves for Caribou Recovery Heather Wiebe, Director, BC Caribou Recovery Program Leo Degroot, Wildlife Biologist</b>	
	<b><u>NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST</u></b>	
	<b>RE: NDIT Initiatives - Update Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer</b>	
	<b><u>REPORTS</u></b>	
<b>4-5</b>	<b>Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Delay in E-Comm 911 Dispatch to BC Emergency Health Services</b>	<b>Receive</b>
<b>6-7</b>	<b>Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison – Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Calls to Action</b>	<b>Discussion/ Receive</b>
	<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>	
<b>8-9</b>	<b>The Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing – UBCM Follow- Up Letter</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u></b>	
	<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>	
	<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**VIRTUAL****Thursday, October 21, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill  
Shane Brien  
Dolores Funk  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Annette Morgan  
Bob Motion  
Chris Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Sarrah Storey

Director Absent Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Media Eddie Huband, LD News

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Storey**C.W.2021-10-1**

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 21, 2021 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****MINUTES****Committee of the Whole**  
**Minutes – October 7, 2021**Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Lambert**C.W.2021-10-2**

"That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 7, 2021 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORT**

### **Boardroom Technology -Options**

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the Boardroom Technology – Options memorandum and provided a short viewing of the Boardroom Technology from the October 7, 2021 Committee Meeting.

The following was discussed:

- Town of Smithers recordings retained on its Facebook Page
- Live streaming bandwidth capability and capacity
- Timeframe to retain recorded meetings
  - o Between meetings
  - o Public's use/recording/copying meetings
- The permanent record of a meeting are its minutes
- Information posted on the internet remains in perpetuity
- Platform to be used - RDBN Website
- Side by side viewing layout
- Opportunity for gallery members/participants to speak
- Staff will bring forward a policy for consideration.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
 Seconded by Director McGuire

**C.W.2021-10-3**

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:57 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Gerry Thiessen, Chair

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Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY NECHAKO  
STAFF REPORT**

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**TO:** Chair Thiessen and the Committee of the Whole  
**FROM:** Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief  
**DATE:** November 4, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Delay in E-Comm 911 dispatch to BC Emergency Health Services

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receipt

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

E-Comm who is a Primary Service Answering Point (PSAP) for 911 has been facing scrutiny after members of the public published concerns on social media with regards to wait times. In response to this, E-Comm President and CEO Oliver Gruter Andrew issued a statement on September 28, 2021, addressing the 911 wait times, and how the call taking delays are directly related to the limited staffing levels of BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) the agency responsible for BC Ambulance dispatch.

E-Comm call takers are required to stay on the line until the agency requested, police, fire, or ambulance, answers the call. When there is a delay in the agency answering the call E-Comm call takers are delayed in responding to other 911 calls, which could potentially put lives at risk.

The province has announced it is strengthening its BCEHS service with the largest hiring in BC's history and other initiatives to mitigate the situation.

Written by,

Handwritten signature of Jason Blackwell in cursive script.

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Jason Blackwell  
Regional Fire Chief

Handwritten signature of Deborah Jones-Middleton in cursive script.

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Deborah Jones-Middleton  
Director of Protective Services

**DISCUSSION:**

Currently when someone in the RDBN calls 911, they are connected to call takers at E-Comm who are the PSAP for most of the province. The caller will be asked “do you require Police, Fire, or Ambulance?” Once the caller identifies the agency they need, the caller is transferred to that agency’s dispatchers, who are specialized in that field, to be triaged. Currently when a caller is transferred from E-Comm to BCEHS dispatch there can be significant delays in the BCEHS dispatcher picking the call up due to lack of staffing capacity. Some callers are becoming frustrated and hanging up and calling again which just prolongs the whole process and increases the response time for emergency services.

The E-Comm call taker and the caller are held on the initial call while they are waiting for the transfer to BCEHS dispatch. E-Comm call takers are not trained to provide medical advice but must stay on the line with the caller until it has been transferred, which means the caller is left waiting for potentially lifesaving advice and results in a delay for all calls coming into E-Comm.

To further complicate the issue E-Comm is transferring medical calls that should be going directly to BCEHS over to the Fire Operations Communications Centre (FOCC) for fire dispatch. While this frees up the E-Comm call takers, it creates other concerns, Fire Departments are now responding to calls that have not been properly coded or triaged, which the Fire Departments are not trained to do, and the FOCC dispatchers are now held up on the line trying to contact BCEHS dispatch so an ambulance will respond. FOCC dispatchers are also not trained to triage or assess medical events.

On September 14, 2021, major service enhancements to BCEHS were announced which included the hiring of new full-time paramedics across the province and hiring 30 new full-time dispatchers. These new positions will not be able to start immediately as they will require extensive training before they are able to fulfill the job requirements. BCEHS has informed the Association of BC 911 Service Providers that it will take approximately 3 months to fully train these new positions, there are also 18 trainees that are currently in various stages of their practicums that will be able to start within the next month. BCEHS is also implementing other measures to try and fill these gaps in the interim, such as pay incentives for extra shifts, a prioritized queue for critical callers and the FOCC and Police Dispatch will have a separate line to call for updates, that will not tie up the main line.

The BCEHS initiatives to mitigate these issues should relieve the delays in response to all 911 callers, staff will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the E-COMM program returns to normal call times.



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole**

**FROM: Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison**

**DATE: November 4, 2021**

**SUBJECT: Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' Calls to Action**

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

To receive/discuss.

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the RDBN's efforts for creating space to discuss the 94 Calls to Action and how to support local First Nations in their advocacy for reconciliation efforts in the region, staff has prepared this memo for discussion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' Calls to Action on the legacy of Residential Schools and education.

**CALLS TO ACTION FOR DISCUSSION**

Legacy of Residential Schools and Education.

6. We call upon the Government of Canada to repeal Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*<sup>1</sup>.

7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

8. We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 43, Correction of child by force, reads: "Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances." R.S., c. C-34, S. 43.

9. We call upon the federal government to prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves, as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.

10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

- i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.
- ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.
- iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
- iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.
- v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.
- vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.
- vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref: 621127

October 25, 2021

Chair Gerry Thiessen  
and Members of the Board  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
PO Box 820  
Burns Lake BC V0J 1E0  
Email: [mayor@district.vanderhoof.ca](mailto:mayor@district.vanderhoof.ca)

Dear Chair Thiessen and Members of the Board:

Thank you to your delegation for meeting with ministry representatives during this year's virtual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention process. I would also like to thank you for your October 8, 2021 follow up letter. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to adapt and develop new approaches to how we conduct our work. I am pleased that our governments have had the chance to connect and I want to thank your delegation for its flexibility with provincial appointments this year.

As the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, I write to acknowledge topics raised during our conference call, including the need for shelter spaces and complex care housing.

I appreciate hearing about the housing challenges in your region. We know homelessness and encampments are an issue in many communities across the Province and responding can be complex and sensitive. We have heard from people experiencing homelessness across the province how important it is to access basic services, find the right supports and affordable housing, and feel a sense of belonging in their community.

The ministry is working closely with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health to develop complex care housing, which will provide an enhanced suite of services to people with complex needs that are not adequately supported in existing supportive housing. Local and regional governments are key partners in responding to homelessness and we look forward to working with you to support people in your community who are experiencing or at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

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Chair Gerry Thiessen  
and Members of the Board  
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I encourage you to reach out to Amy Wong, BC Housing's Regional Director for Development for the North ([awong@bchousing.org](mailto:awong@bchousing.org)), to discuss funding opportunities. BC Housing welcomes discussions on an ongoing basis with partners interested in developing new housing through various funding streams. More information is available online at: [bchousing.org/projects-partners/funding-opportunities](http://bchousing.org/projects-partners/funding-opportunities).

I also appreciate you raising the issue of the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance. The Province recognizes that strong partnerships are essential to addressing issues facing people throughout British Columbia, and we will continue to work closely with the Resource Benefits Alliance and its communities to strengthen economic development in Northwest BC.

Thank you, again, to your delegation for the meeting.

Yours truly,



David Eby, QC  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing

pc: Angela Cooke, Associate Deputy Minister  
Cheryl May, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Douglas Scott, Deputy Minister, Crown Agencies Secretariat  
Shayne Ramsay, CEO, BC Housing  
Amy Wong, Regional Director for Development for the North, BC Housing  
Mayor Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako