



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole
AGENDA
Thursday, June 8, 2023

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>First Nations Acknowledgement</u>	
	<u>AGENDA – June 8, 2023</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
3-6	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - April 6, 2023	Receive
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
7	Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services -Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee	Recommendation
8	Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services -Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community (CRRBC) Western Conference and Expo -November 2-3, 2023 in Kelowna	Recommendation
9-12	Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services -Union of BC Municipalities – Minister Meetings/ Ministry Staff Meetings/Resolutions	Recommendation
13-15	Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services -BC Hydro – UBCM Meeting Request	Receive
16-17	Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services – Invitation - Tachick Lake Healing Centre Ground-breaking Ceremony – June 12, 2023 -10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Recommendation

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>REPORTS (CONT'D)</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
18	Shari Janzen, Economic Development Assistant -District of Houston – Letter of Support Request	Recommendation

19-47	Cameron Hart, Economic Development Assistant Draft 2022 Annual Report	Receive
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CORRESPONDENCE

48-54	Elaine Taylor – Proposed BC Hydro Project CAP3: Capacitor Station at Telkwa	Receive
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55	TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association -Letter to the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure	Receive
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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

IN-CAMERA MOTION

That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) and (2)(b) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour Relations
- Legacy Funding
- Provincial Memorandum of Understanding
- Northwest B.C Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKOCOMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGThursday, April 6, 2023

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Shane Brienen Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire – via Zoom Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Sarrah Storey – via Zoom
	Directors Absent	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake
	Alternate Directors	Charlie Rensby, Village of Burns Lake Frank Wray, Town of Smithers
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – left at 11:00 a.m. Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – arrived at 10:34 a.m., left at 10:55 a.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Media	Frank Peebles, LD News – arrived at 10:33 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2023-4-1 “That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 6, 2023 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes – March 9, 2023

Moved by Director Brienen
 Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2023-4-2

“That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2023 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Code of Conduct

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Moutray

C.W.2023-4-3

“That the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the revised Code of Conduct.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Accessibility Act Timeline

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2023-4-4

“That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to pursue Joint-Committee establishment with interested partners within the region; and further, that Section 10 of the Draft Terms of Reference be amended replacing Committee Chair with Board Chair.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Newly adopted *Act* and local government requirements
- Terms of Reference to be a living document
- A support hub has been established to provide resource documents and examples of plans
- Committee membership is not yet formalized and will be dependent on member municipalities interest in participating in a joint committee
- Potential time commitment and goal to develop a plan
- Challenges meeting the requirements of the *Accessible BC Act* by the Province’s September 2023 deadline
 - o Potentially requesting an extension for the adoption of an Accessibility Plan by the deadline
- Town of Smithers *Accessibility Act* Committee
- Board members interested in participating can provide their name to Chair Parker.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Analysis Report Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2023-4-5

"That the Committee receive the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Analysis Report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Appreciation to staff for the work on the HRVA process and report
- Follow-up and monitoring of regional organizations training e.g. S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety Training
 - o Challenging to determine and keep a data base of all those trained in the region
 - o Staff will reach out to agencies
- Staff will be moving through the recommendations through its Work Plan
- Storm Water Flooding Hazard was not considered in the report. Staff will follow-up.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport -Geographical Name Change -Rescind Cripple Creek Moved by Director Dekens
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2023-4-6

"That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport – Geographical Name Change – Rescind Cripple Creek."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of BC Municipalities -Potential Land Opportunities for Housing within your Local Government Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Dekens

C.W.2023-4-7

"That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities – Potential Land Opportunities for Housing within your Local Government."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

**Business Forum in Telkwa
 March 28-29, 2023**

Alternate Director Wray thanked staff and the Village of Telkwa for hosting the Business Forum in Telkwa on March 28-29, 2023. He noted it was a wonderful, well-organized event with interesting speakers and panelists.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2023-4-8

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(e) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Land acquisition."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Brienen

C.W.2023-4-9

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:03 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
 Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: **Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

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

Receive

BACKGROUND

The Terms of Reference for the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC) indicates that membership must include a minimum of 2 representatives from member municipalities and a minimum of 2 representatives from RDBN electoral areas. The 2023 appointments included 3 electoral area representatives. Director Newell has requested that he be removed from the committee. A replacement member is not required but may be added if there is interest amongst the Electoral Area Directors.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: **Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community (CRRBC) Western Conference and Expo – November 2-3, 2023 in Kelowna**

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

That the Committee recommend that the Board authorize attendance of Director Riis-Christianson at the 2023 Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community (CRRBC) Western Conference and Expo November 2-3, 2023 in Kelowna, B.C.

BACKGROUND

Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community (CRRBC) Western Conference and Expo is being held on November 2-3, 2023 in Kelowna.

As Chair of the Connectivity Committee, Director Riis-Christianson has expressed an interest in attending the conference. Costs will come from the rural legislative budget.

ATTACHMENTS

CRRBC Conference Registration Information



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: **Union of BC Municipalities – Minister Meetings/Ministry Staff Meetings/Resolutions**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the Committee recommend to the Board that the Minister Meeting requests be submitted for the 2023 Union of BC Municipalities Convention.

BACKGROUND

Attached are letters from Premier Eby and Minister Kang, Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding the upcoming UBCM Convention. The deadline to request minister meetings is June 30, 2023. The deadline for meetings with ministry staff is August 30, 2023.

The following Minister Meeting requests were identified:

1. Honourable, George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
 - Environmental Assessment Process for Industry
2. Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation
 - Regional Transit Service Funding
 - Electronic logs (impacts on cattle hauling)
3. Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food (joint meeting with RDFFG)
 - Update re: veterinary shortage
 - Electronic logs (impacts on cattle hauling)
4. Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (joint meeting with RDFFG)
 - Update re: veterinary shortage
5. Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance/Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs/Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
 - Grant in Lieu of Taxes (Alcan Kemano MOU)
 - RDBN – Renewal of MOU
 - SNRHD – Similar MOU
 -

6. Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Government House Leader
 - Request for funding assistance for a regional approach to a Housing Supply Pilot Project
7. Honourable David Eby, Premier
 - Progress of the RBA Agreement
8. Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs
 - Progress of the RBA Agreement
9. Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
 - Progress of the RBA Agreement

Discussion also took place regarding advocacy for training of engineers in the north. Staff have confirmed that the University of Northern BC offers three engineering degrees at the undergraduate level – a Civil Engineering degree, an Environmental Engineering degree, and a joint Environmental Engineering degree with UBC.

The Board also discussed a resolution regarding the Environmental Assessment Process for industry. Staff discussed that a resolution would be specific to the issues in our region, and therefore, a meeting with the Minister may be better suited.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Premier Eby re: UBCM Meetings
2. Letter from Minister Kang re: UBCM Meetings

BRITISH
COLUMBIA

May 24, 2023

Dear Mayors and Regional District Chairs:

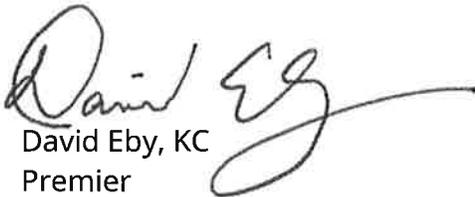
The 2023 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention will be held in Vancouver from September 18-22. As we prepare for the upcoming convention, my caucus colleagues and I are looking forward to meeting and working with you to continue building strong, sustainable and vibrant communities throughout our province.

We all have a role to play in finding ways to ensure our communities thrive, and UBCM provides a wonderful opportunity to listen to one another, share ideas and find new approaches. With local, provincial, federal and First Nations governments working together, we can continue to build a better BC and ensure high-quality and affordable housing for all.

If you would like to request a meeting with me or one of my Cabinet colleagues, please register online at <https://ubcmreg.gov.bc.ca/> (live, as of today). Please note that this year's invitation code is **MeetingRequest2023** and it is case sensitive. The deadline to submit your meeting requests is June 30, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact UBCM.Meetings@gov.bc.ca or phone 250-213-3856.

I look forward to once again being part of your convention, meeting with many of you and exploring ways that we can partner together to address the urgent need for housing and other common issues.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier



May 24, 2023

Ref: 272632

Dear Mayors and Regional District Chairs:

It is my pleasure to write to you as the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the process for requesting a meeting with me, or provincial staff, during the upcoming 2023 UBCM Convention taking place from September 18–22, 2023 in Vancouver, B.C.

You will receive a separate letter from the Honourable David Eby, Premier, containing information about the online process for requesting a meeting with the Premier or other Cabinet Ministers.

If you would like to meet with me, please complete the online request form at [MUNI Minister's Meeting](#) and submit it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs by **June 30, 2023**. Meeting dates and times will be confirmed in late August. I will do my best to accommodate as many meeting requests as possible. If I am unable to meet with you, arrangements may be made for a meeting post-Convention.

To get the most out of your delegation's meeting with me, it continues to be helpful for you to provide as much detail as possible in the online form on topics you wish to discuss. Providing this information in advance gives me a better understanding of your delegation's interests and our discussion can be more productive.

Ministry staff will email you shortly with the Provincial Appointment Book. This document lists all ministry, agency, commission, and corporation (MACC) staff available to meet with delegates at Convention, as well as details on how to submit an online staff meeting request.

While this will be my first UBCM Convention as Minister responsible for local government, my background has focused on community, as a three-term Burnaby City Councillor and a teacher in the Burnaby school system. I understand the importance of these opportunities to connect in person and have enjoyed meeting with many communities during my first six months in this portfolio to hear more about challenges and accomplishments. I look forward to continuing these meetings this summer and at Convention. As partners, we can build vibrant and healthy communities.

Sincerely,

Anne Kang
Minister

pc: Honourable David Eby, Premier
Jen Ford, President, Union of BC Municipalities



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: **BC Hydro – UBCM Meeting Request**

RECOMMENDATION:

(all/directors/majority)

Receive

BACKGROUND

BC Hydro is offering to meet with elected officials at the upcoming UBCM Convention. The deadline to submit a request is June 30, 2023.

At this time, staff is requesting that the Board identify any topics it wishes to bring forward for discussion at the UBCM Convention.

ATTACHMENTS

BC Hydro Meeting Request Form

From: Kellett, Mike <Mike.Kellett@bchydro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:39 PM
Subject: UBCM 2023 Meeting Request with BC Hydro

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Please do not click on links on open attachments from unknown sources.
Good afternoon,

BC Hydro is once again offering local government officials the opportunity to meet with senior BC Hydro executives during the week of September 18 at the 2023 UBCM Convention to discuss an issue of concern facing your community.

As always, we are pleased to meet with you outside of UBCM to discuss and resolve any issues.

If you would like to arrange a meeting, the deadline to submit the attached request form is **Friday, June 30**. Please return the form to Matt Lahti (matt.lahti@bchydro.com).

We will provide full meeting details in early September when we confirm the dates and times.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Mike Kellett, APR | Manager, Northern Community Relations

BC Hydro
3333 – 22nd Avenue
Prince George, BC V2N 1B4

P 250 561 4929
M 250 613 9087
E mike.kellett@bchydro.com

bchydro.com

Smart about power in all we do.

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UBCM 2023 Meeting Request with BC Hydro Form*

Municipality/Regional District:
Attendees:
Issue:
Background on Issue:
Key Contact: (Name, Phone Number, Email)

***Note: The deadline for submission is Friday, June 30, 2023.**



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: Invitation – Tachick Lake Healing Centre Ground-breaking Ceremony – June 12, 2023, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the Committee recommend that the Board authorize the attendance of Chair Parker and Director Moon at the Tachick Lake Healing Centre Ground-breaking Ceremony on June 12, 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Board reviewed and participated in the process from Carrier Sekani Family Services for an exemption from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) which was granted, allowing the non-farm use of the Tachick Lake site and for the use of a Healing Centre.

Chair Parker and Director Moon have expressed an interest in attending the Ground-breaking Ceremony.

ATTACHMENTS

Invitation -Tachick Lake Healing Centre Ground-breaking Ceremony



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

Creating wellness together.



www.csfs.org

May 16, 2023

Invitation - Tachick Lake Healing Centre Ground-breaking Ceremony

Hello,

Carrier Sekani Family Services cordially invites you to a ground-breaking ceremony for an important new facility – the Tachick Lake Healing Centre. This event celebrates the formal breaking of the earth as we initiate the construction of the addictions support and recovery-focused center on the traditional lands of Saik'uz First Nation. This facility will play an important role in healing our people and we will work with other institutions to create an Indigenous Centre for Excellence in mental health/wellness and addictions.

When: June 12, 10 AM to 2 PM (announcement and ground-breaking to be followed by a traditional meal on site)

Where: Tachick Lake, BC (just outside Saik'uz First Nation, close to the town of Vanderhoof, BC), a map will be provided after confirmation of attendance.

Since 1990, Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) has delivered social services to children and families and expanded care, including health, legal and housing services. As one of the largest employers in Northern BC, CSFS employees over 400 staff and our core service delivery spans from Prince George, to Takla Lake, Smithers, and Ootsa Lake - over 76,000 square kilometres. Other CSFS services assist members of all 54 First Nations within Northern BC, Alberta, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Alaska.

The Tachick Lake Healing Centre will provide individuals and families in need of addiction-recovery services (including medical detox) with wrap-around care that is safe, culturally appropriate and inclusive of Carrier cultural and western treatment modalities. This is an effort to address the Toxic Drug overdose crisis that disproportionately affects Indigenous people and communities, and ensure that much-needed services will be provided for Indigenous people.

Mussi Cho,

Corrina Leween
President

Corporate Head Office
408b – 100 Park Royal S,
West Vancouver, BC,
V7T 1A2
Phone: 604-229-3900
Fax: 604-926-6701

□ **Reply To:**
987 4th Ave
Prince George, BC V2L 3H7
Phone: 250.562.3591
Fax: 250.562.2272
Toll Free: 1.800.889.6855

□ **Reply To:**
240 W Stewart Ave, P.O. Box 1219
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
Phone: 250.567.2900
Fax: 250.567.2975
Toll Free: 1.866.567.2333

□ **Reply To:**
P.O. Box 1475
#8-870 Highway 16 W
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250.692.1800
Fax: 250.692.1877



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Shari Janzen, Economic Development Assistant
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: **District of Houston – Letter of Support Request**

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

That the Committee recommend that the Board provide a Letter of Support to the District of Houston for their funding application to the Northern Healthy Communities Fund - Capacity Building Program.

BACKGROUND

The District of Houston has applied to the Northern Healthy Communities Fund Capacity Building Program administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust. This program supports initiatives that assist healthy, sustainable, and resilient communities facing rapid and large-scale economic development and associated need for enhanced social service readiness.

The District of Houston has applied for funding for four key projects through this fund.

1. **Housing Strategy and Implementation:**
This initiative aims to develop and implement a strategic housing plan to address the District of Houston's housing challenges and provide practical solutions for the community.
2. **Project Manager:**
A Project Manager position will enable the District to effectively complete current projects and plan for future ones, ensuring the long-term sustainability of municipal services.
3. **Emergency Program Coordinator:**
The Emergency Program Coordinator position will focus on developing resources to better prepare residents, visitors, business owners, and District staff in emergencies such as wildfires, floods, or extreme weather.
4. **Streamline Development Processes:**
With the help of consultation, this initiative aims to overhaul the Development Bylaw, which is outdated, complicated, and posing an obstacle to investment and delaying development applications.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cameron Hart, Economic Development Assistant
Date: June 8, 2023
Subject: **Draft 2022 Annual Report**

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

Receive.

BACKGROUND

The Board's previous Strategic Plan had 'public engagement – communication' as a strategic priority. In order to improve our public engagement, a number of initiatives were undertaken, including the issuance of an annual report starting in 2022.

Section 98 of the *Community Charter* requires Municipalities to issue their annual report prior to June 30th each year, and it specifies what it must include. Regional Districts are not mandated to issue an annual report, but best practices have many within the province doing so.

Starting in 2022, to improve our public engagement and transparency, staff started preparing formal departmental quarterly reports, and these reports are now utilized to compile and create a comprehensive Annual Report for 2022. Prior to 2022, much of the information that is presented in the quarterly reports was still presented to the Board throughout the year, but not in a formal and consistent manner.

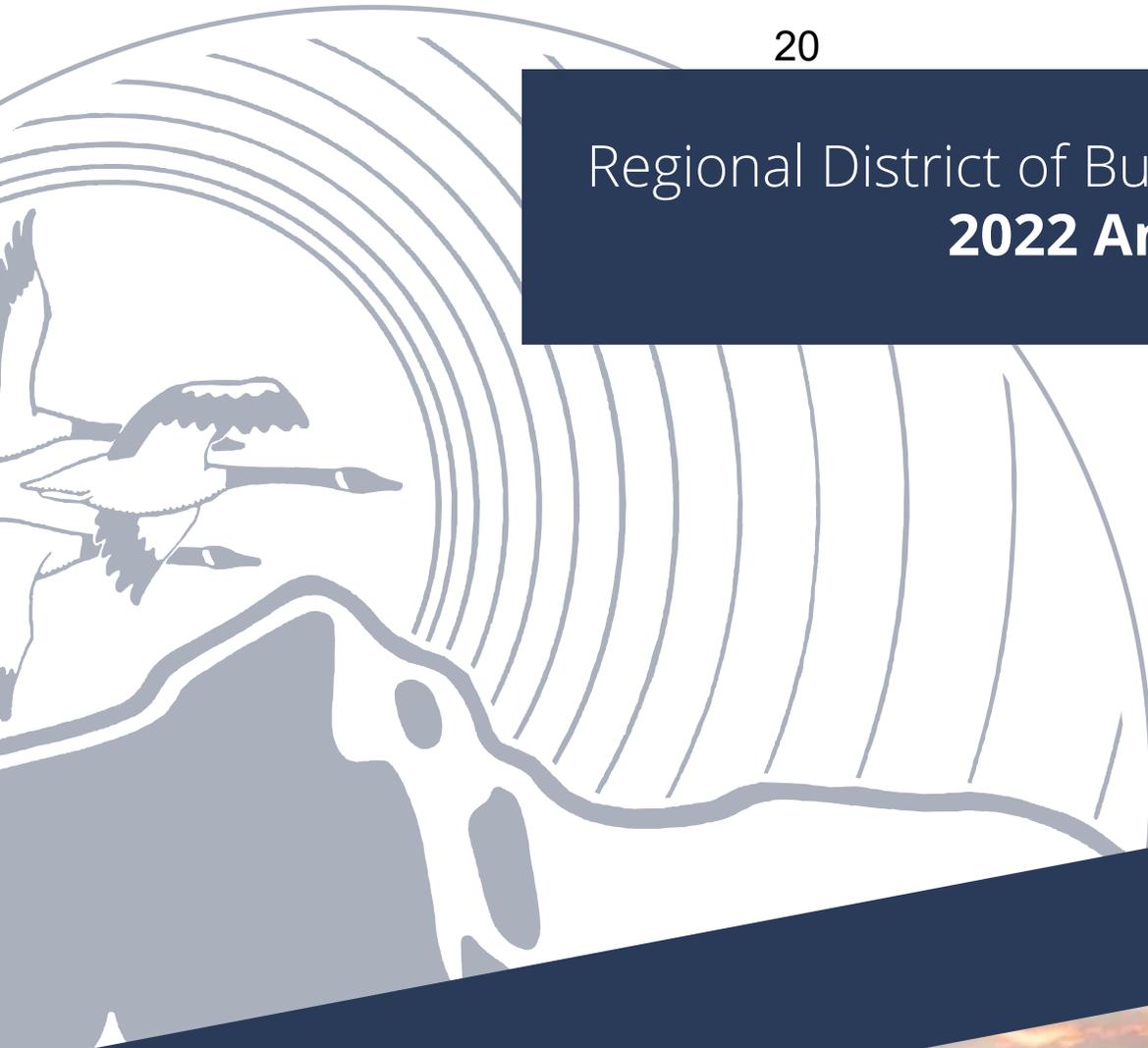
The Draft Annual Report is attached for review and comment. Any requested changes will be incorporated and the final version will be presented for approval at the June 22, 2023, Board meeting.

File compression for the agenda may result in some visual abnormalities that will not be present in the final, published version. The approved Annual Report will also include the audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft 2022 Annual Report

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako **2022 Annual Report**

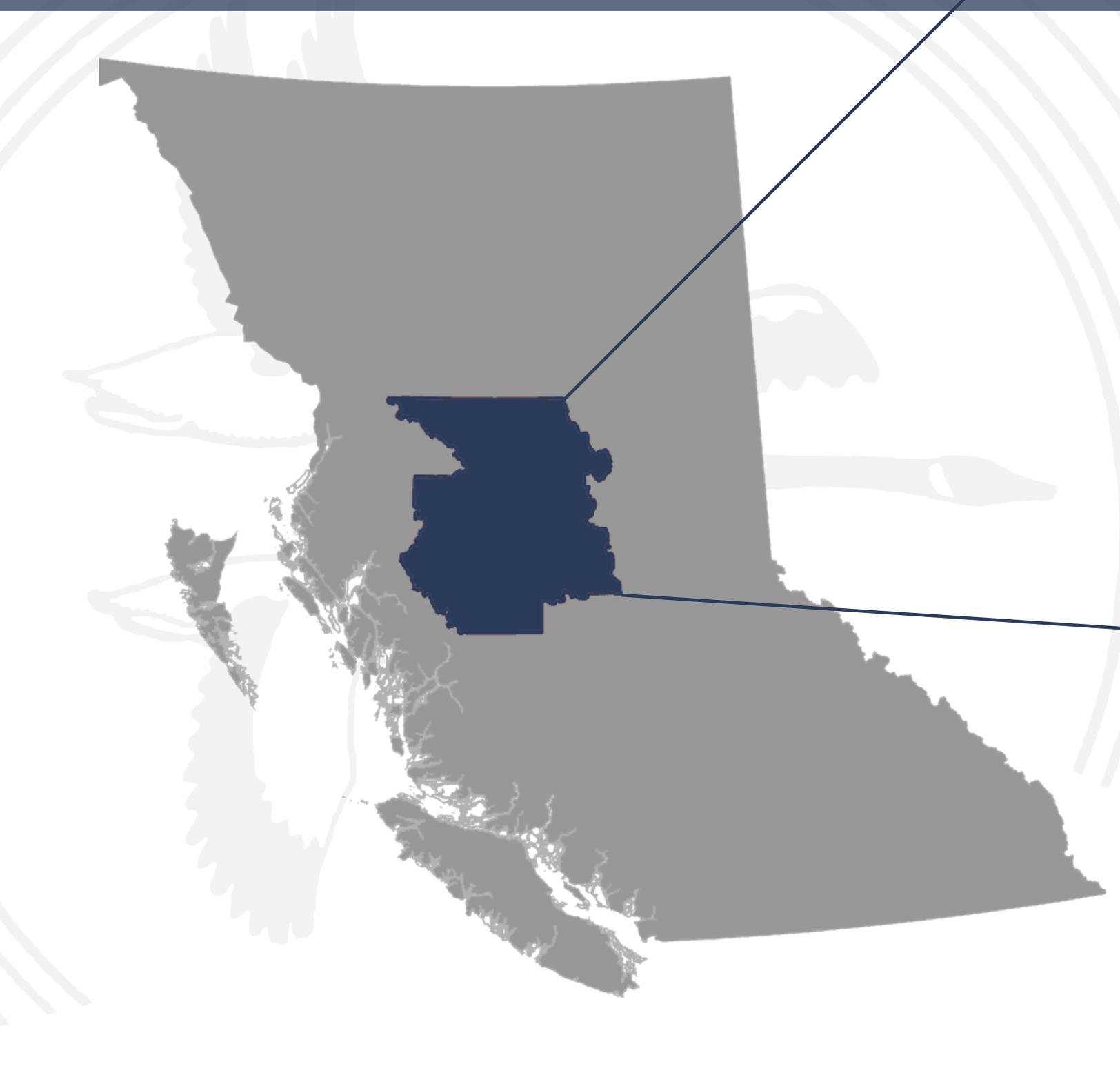


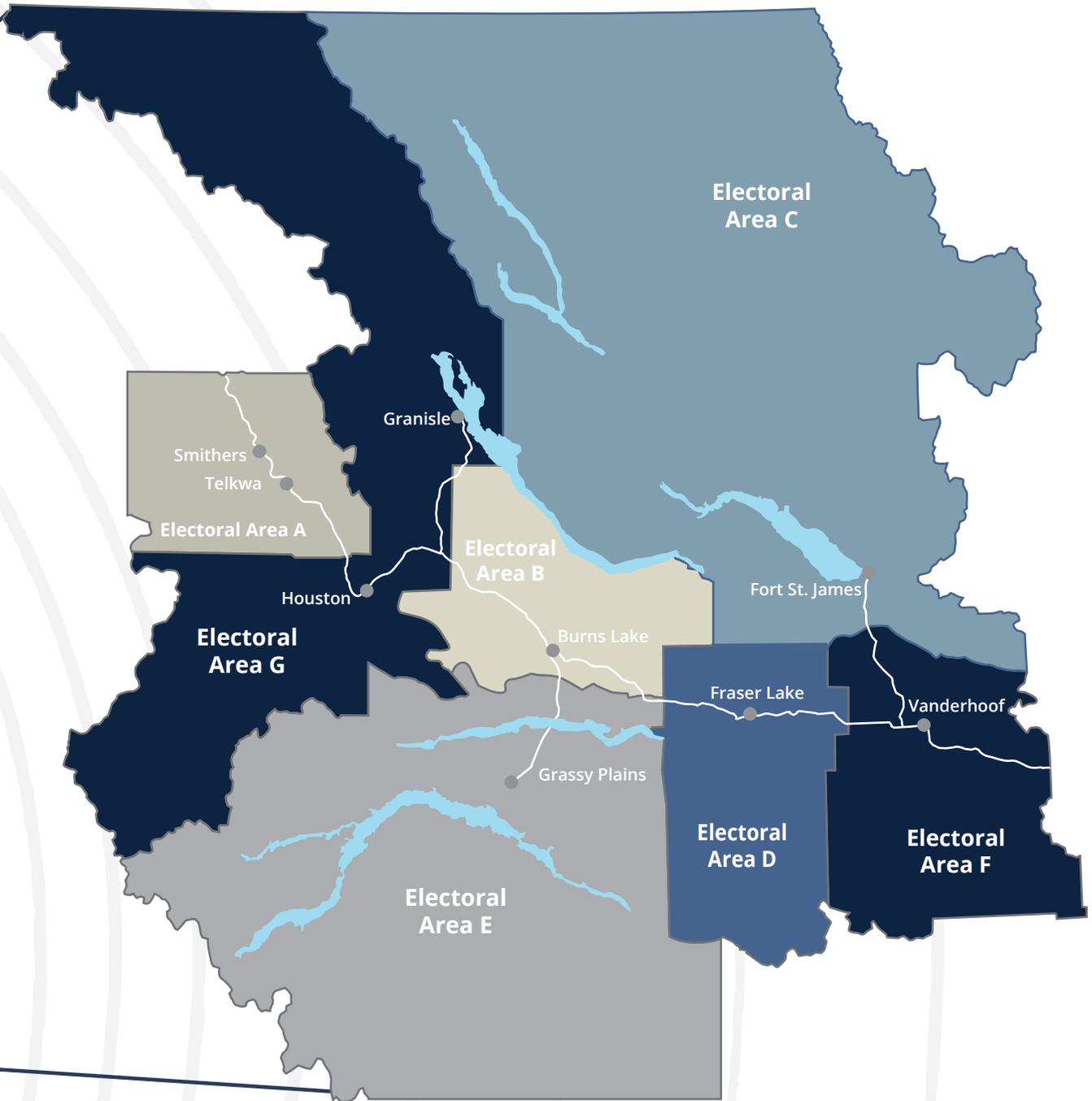
The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board and staff would like to open this report by acknowledging that we deliver our local government services on the traditional territories of First Nations across the vast Bulkley-Nechako region. This region covers an area over 70,000 square kilometers, spanning the territories of the Dakelh, Nedut'en, Tse'khene, and Witsuwit'en speaking peoples. We respect the distinct cultures of the Indigenous Peoples in the Bulkley-Nechako and honour their long-standing relationship with these lands and waters since time immemorial.

We are further committed to building strong and enduring relationships with the 14 First Nations governments within the boundaries of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

Listed in Alphabetical Order They Are:

- Binche Whut'en
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- Lake Babine Nation
- Nadleh Whuten
- Nak'azdli Whut'en
- Nee-Tahi-Buhn
- Saik'uz First Nation
- Skin Tye
- Stelat'en First Nation
- Takla Nation
- Tl'azt'en Nation
- Ts'il Kaz Koh (formerly Burns Lake Band)
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation
- Yekooche First Nation





The Regional District Of Bulkley-Nechako



Message from the Board Chair

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is one of the finest places to live and work in our province. Our incredible communities, excellent recreation opportunities, abundant employment, and affordable housing are second to none. I would also like to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples who came before us and share their spectacular land with us.

The RDBN board and staff have a deep respect for this place and its people, and I believe it is shown in the work that we have accomplished in 2022. Our team is always striving to find ways to enhance the services provided to our residents and to create a space where all people can thrive. Whether it is securing new fire protection equipment for our rural fire departments, coordinating and tightening emergency response networks, or working toward greater levels of internet connectivity all over the region, our goal remains the same: We will work tirelessly to help the RDBN grow and face the challenges of the day, while still retaining the rural spirit of our communities. The people of this region are hard working, resilient, and considerate of their neighbours, and we aim to reflect that in everything we do.

I want to thank the Board of the RDBN for their diligence and cooperation in decision making. Representing the needs of such a vast geographical region is always challenging, and I am very proud of the way in which we have met the needs of our communities through all the unforeseen challenges that the previous term brought with it. I want to thank the RDBN Board members who will not be returning for the 2022-2026 term: Mark Fisher, Dolores Funk, Tom Greenaway, Annette Morgan, Bob Motion, Jerry Petersen, and especially former Chair, Gerry Thiessen. Their dedication to the board and to their communities is something to aspire to, and we want to wish them all the best in whatever adventure they find next.

I also want to thank the RDBN staff. They are an exceptional group of dedicated professionals who provide sound advice and then take the Board's direction and make it a reality. I feel nothing but pride in the care they take of the region and its people.

Finally, I want to thank the residents of the RDBN, for being the kind of people for whom it is a joy to work for and with, for the betterment of the region. Thanks for your support through 2022. I look forward to achieving more great things in 2023.



RDBN Board of Directors

Back Row

Constable Nit

Kevin Moutray
Mayor - District of Vanderhoof

Mark Parker
Director - Area D Fraser Lake Rural

Henry Wiebe
Mayor - Village of Burns Lake

Judge Jackson

Clint Lambert
Director - Area E Francois/Ootsa Rural

Shane Brienen
Mayor - District of Houston

Chris Newell
Director - Area G Houston/Granisle Rural

Middle Row

Linda McGuire
Mayor - Village of Granisle

Judy Greenaway
Director - Area C Fort St. James Rural

Michael Riis-Christianson
Director - Area B Burns Lake Rural

Shirely Moon
Director - Area F Vanderhoof Rural

Leroy Dekens
Mayor - Village of Telkwa

Sarah Storey
Mayor - Village of Fraser Lake

Front Row

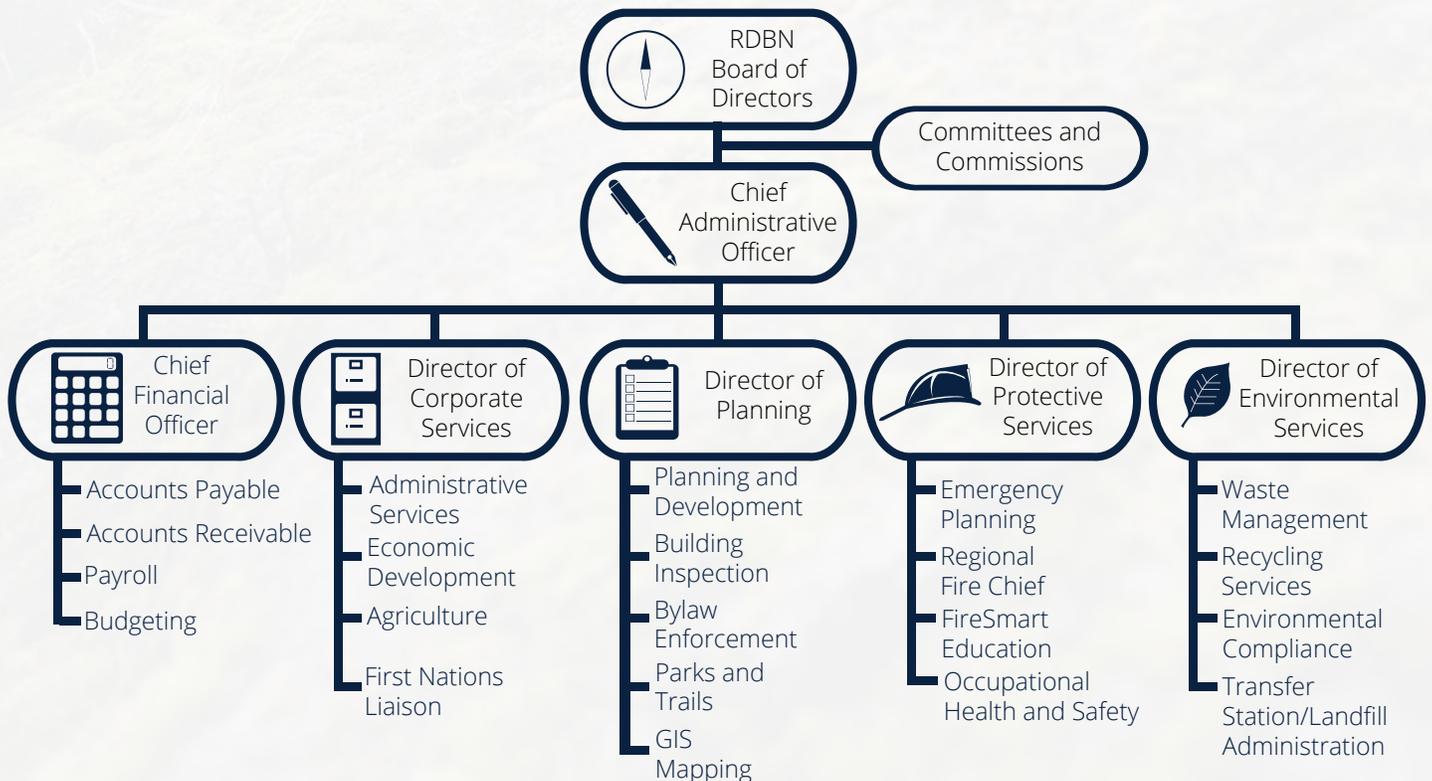
Gladys Atrill
Mayor - Town of Smithers

Martin Elphee
Mayor - District of Fort St. James

Stoney Stoltenberg
Director - Area A Smithers/Telkwa Rural



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Organizational Chart



Which Government Oversees What Service?



Regional District

Solid waste management • Residential service (outside municipal boundaries) • Regional parks and recreation • Rural area planning and development • Emergency services • 911 operation • Grant services • Economic development • Regional environmental services • Building Inspection



Municipal Government

Municipal road maintenance • Snow removal • Water supply • Waste water management • Municipal parks • Municipal cemetery • Recreation facilities • Fire rescue • Business licenses • Municipal property tax



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Provincial Government

Schools • Provincial parks • Rural Road Maintenance • Crown land • Health care • WorkSafe • ICBC/Driver Licensing • Provincial courts • Highway maintenance • Provincial income/property/sales tax • Water Licensing

Canada

Federal Government

Income tax • Employment insurance • Child benefit tax • Military • National parks • Immigration • Criminal law • Foreign relations • Fisheries and oceans

In 2022, the RDBN worked to restart programs that had either changed or had been on hold during the period of Covid-19 restrictions. The changes to the immediate needs of the Region during that time, and the complications that the pandemic brought to everyday business, put a number of projects on hold. As the ability to gather and do work in person returned over the course of 2022, the RDBN has been able to focus again on those priorities that were set by the Board at the beginning of their four year term in 2018.

Danger

Private Property
No Trespassing
Trespassers will be
prosecuted
CN Police

88-4

2018-2022 RDBN Board Strategic Priorities



Wildfire/Emergency Services: In the wake of the devastating wildfires in 2018, the Board wanted to address the increased need for emergency resources. As climate change increases the likelihood of natural disasters such as wildfire and flooding, the RDBN looked to increase preparedness through policy changes, advocate to other levels of government, improve communication between regions and communities, and grow public awareness in preparation for, and during, an emergency.

Housing Strategy: Though this goal began as a resident attraction/retention initiative, the Board decided to change the direction of the strategy in 2021 toward a housing plan, as it was discovered that potential residents were having a difficult time finding places to rent or buy. This also included work on an Economic Development Plan, a healthcare advocacy initiative, the creation of a Regional Parks and trails service, an arts and culture promotion program, an effort to increase awareness of education needs, and a push for better internet connectivity throughout the region.

HOUSING



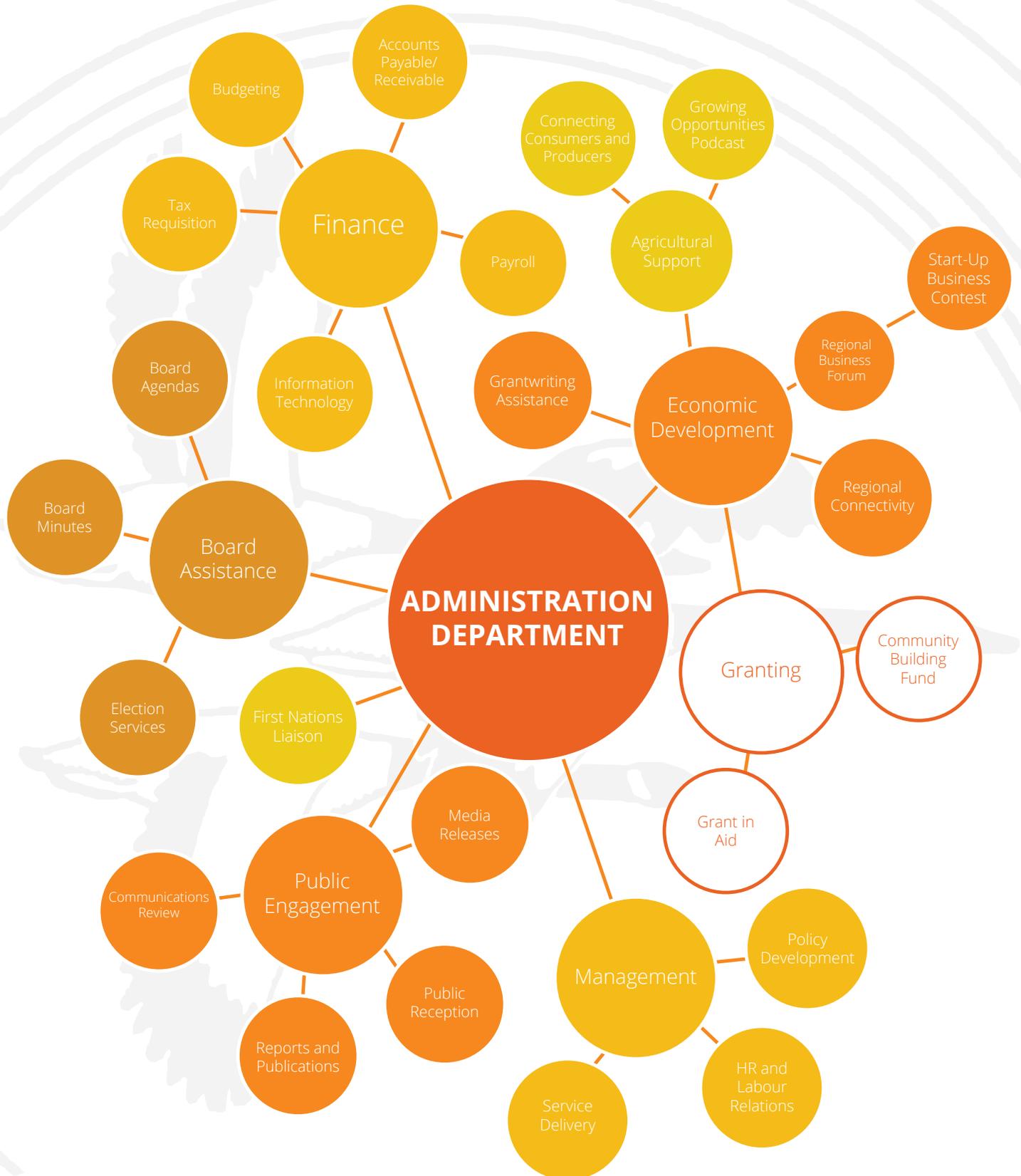
Revenue Sharing: With the influx of industrial initiatives related to resource extraction, the Board wanted to ensure an equitable system by which the revenue generated from these efforts could be used to enrich the communities they most affect. The RDBN sought to advocate for a livability/sustainability plan for the province. This included work with the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance, which seeks to create a funding agreement with the Province to ensure that more of the revenue generated in the northwest of BC remains in the region.

Work Camp Strategy: Increased industrial activity has created the need to accommodate worker camps throughout the region. These camps present unique challenges to communities and to infrastructure, and the Board sought to find ways to ensure that the temporary increase to the local population would have a positive impact on communities and that any additional strain put on infrastructure could be accommodated.



Communication and Public Engagement: Understanding the needs of residents and businesses can be a challenge for any government body. Additionally, keeping the public informed as to what their government is doing for them, especially during emergencies, is incredibly important. The RDBN prioritized the creation of a Communications Policy and Plan, and also sought to increase internal and external communication across all channels.

Administration Department



2022 Administrative Strategic Initiatives



Regional District Elections: The general elections for the RDBN Board and the Fort Fraser Local Commission were held on October 15, 2022. Two RDBN electoral areas held elections, Area C (Fort St. James Rural) and Area F (Vanderhoof Rural). All other Area Directors were acclaimed. Each municipality appointed their representatives to the board after the elections were completed and the board was sworn in for the coming term at the November 17th meeting. The board term runs from 2022 to 2026 and a new strategic plan will be developed in early 2023.

Veterinarian Shortage: The Regional District has been looking at ways to address the worsening lack of veterinarians in the region. As many vets begin to retire from their practices, there is a concern about the availability of animal care services in the coming years. Not only would this lack of service pose a danger to domestic animals, but it could also make farming in the region less sustainable. To help address this concern, the RDBN Board submitted a resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and met with ministry representatives in order to bring the issue to the attention of other levels of Government. The RDBN is hopeful that funding and programs will be made available to ensure that the shortage is addressed and that veterinarians are attracted to fill the needs of the RDBN and the rest of the North.

Cultural Awareness Training: The RDBN Board and Staff participated in cultural awareness training with leadership from the College of New Caledonia. The training was designed to increase the RDBN's engagement with First Nations groups by helping others understand how to introduce and interact with groups in an open, honest, and culturally sensitive way. The training was very well received and created meaningful connections and dialogue between the RDBN board and the First Nations groups present.

Connectivity: The RDBN Administration staff are working with communities and service providers to increase the areas serviced with cell phone and internet coverage to include the entire region. Working with the Provincial Government, staff have been meeting regularly with stakeholders to encourage the broadening of services in all regions.

Grant Funding: In 2022, administrative staff have helped local governments and not-for-profit societies to apply for over \$4 million in funding for initiatives in the region. Staff used their granting expertise to help secure funding for a variety of projects including a new fire truck for Fort Fraser, a study to determine the feasibility of a walking/biking path along Highway 35 in Area B, summer art programs and many more.

Resource Benefit Alliance: The RDBN continued to work with the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance, which is a group dedicated to working with the Province to ensure that more of the revenues generated by industry in the Northwest are utilized for initiatives in Northwest regions.



Granting Services by Area

Smithers, Telkwa, and Area A

Grantwriting Assistance

- Approved Grants **\$71,665**
- Pending Grants **Approx \$4 million**

Grant In Aid

- Granted to community groups **\$24,105**

Covid Relief Funds

- Granted to Covid relief efforts **\$45,511**

Community Building Funds

- Granted to community groups **\$103,750**
- Granted to municipalities **\$70,000**
- Used for RDBN Projects **\$270,000**

Burns Lake, Area B, and Area E

Grantwriting Assistance

- Approved Grants **\$41,339**
- Pending Grants **Approx \$180,000**

Grant In Aid

- Granted to community groups **\$16,238**

Covid Relief Funds

- Granted to Covid relief efforts **\$52,448**

Community Building Funds

- Granted to community groups **\$220,862**

Fort St. James and Area C

Grantwriting Assistance

- Approved Grants **\$41,339**

Grant In Aid

- Granted to community groups **\$117,625**

Covid Relief Funds

- Granted to Covid relief efforts **\$27,623**

Community Building Funds

- Granted to community groups **\$27,000**
- Granted to municipalities **\$185,500**

Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser, and Area D

Grantwriting Assistance

- Approved Grants **\$43,000**
- Pending Grants **Approx \$68,000**

Grant In Aid

- Granted to community groups **\$4,965**

Covid Relief Funds

- Granted to Covid relief efforts **\$22,167**

Community Building Funds

- Used for RDBN Projects **\$300,000**

Vanderhoof and Area F

Grantwriting Assistance

- Pending Grants **Approx \$220,300**

Grant In Aid

- Granted to community groups **\$26,734**

Covid Relief Funds

- Granted to Covid relief efforts **\$63,884**

Community Building Funds

- Granted to community groups **\$95,000**
- Granted to municipalities **\$100,000**
- Used for RDBN Projects **\$35,000**

Houston, Granisle, and Area G

Grantwriting Assistance

- Pending Grants **Approx \$200,000**

Covid Relief Funds

- Granted to Covid relief efforts **\$17,291**

Protective Services Department





2022 Protective Services Initiatives

Emergency Operations Training: The Protective Services Department has been working to increase the skills of the entire RDBN organization in operating our Emergency Operation Centres. Onboarding of new employees and ongoing training with all levels of staff have resulted in increased proficiency for all staff in

serving the public during wildfires, floods, or other emergencies. The team at the RDBN is dedicated to the residents of the region and have prepared themselves to be at their best when the need arises.

Next Generation 911: The RDBN is working with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to coordinate the implementation of updated dispatch consoles for fire stations around the region. These consoles will provide a greater level of information to the fire teams as they respond to all types of calls and will support greater functionality for all departments.

Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment: In 2022, the RDBN completed a Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA), which is a document that outlines the various potential disasters and threats within the region and ranks them based on how likely they are to occur and how much potential damage they may cause. The HRVA supports the development of a collective community understanding of hazards and the development of activities to enhance our regional awareness and resilience. The findings from this analysis will serve as a tool in updating the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and determine the work plan for the Protective Services Department for the coming years. The HRVA is a requirement mandated by the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulations of the Emergency Program Act.



Cluculz Lake Fire Hall Grand Opening

In 2022, the RDBN celebrated the grand opening of the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department. This infrastructure project was made possible through the Northern Capital and Planning grant from the Province of BC. The new fire hall at Cluculz Lake is part of a larger plan to increase fire response capacity in the Cluculz Lake area. The Hall also provides a training area and space for equipment storage, components that will assist with volunteer recruitment and retention. In addition to equipment, further support will ensure that volunteer firefighters in the area have access to the resources they need, such as in-house training in Critical Incident Stress Management.





The new fire engine was delivered to the Fort Fraser Volunteer Fire Department in October of 2022.

Fire Apparatus: The RDBN worked alongside two fire departments this year to acquire new equipment for fire response. The first was a new Pierce Fire Engine purchased for the Fort Fraser Volunteer Fire Department. The truck was received in a push-in ceremony on October 15, 2022. Firefighters and local residents gathered to push the truck into the firehall in a traditional Fire Service act of dedication.

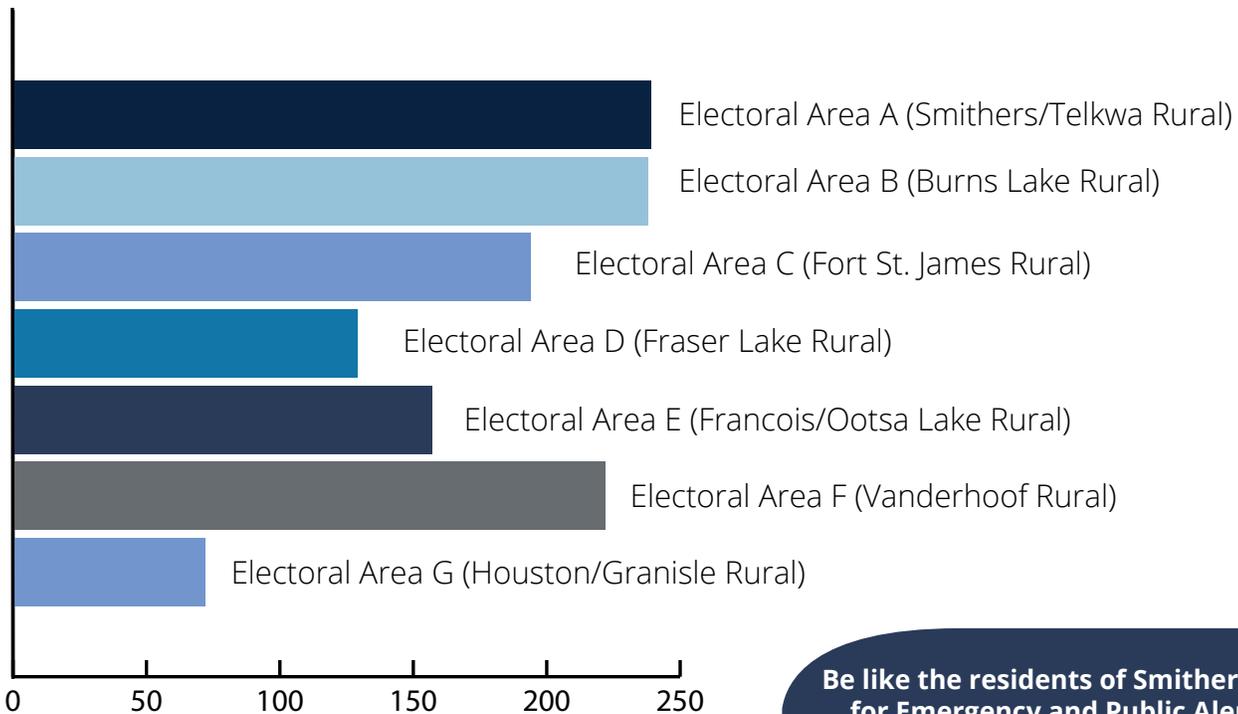
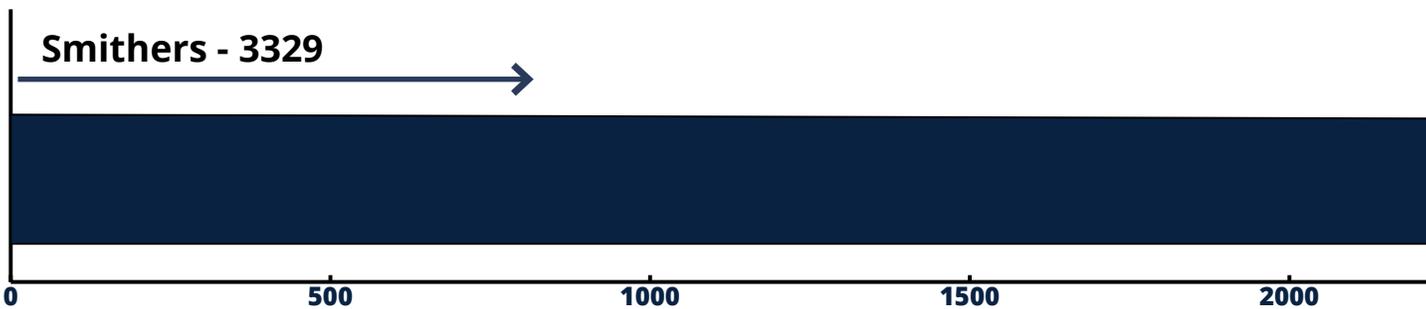
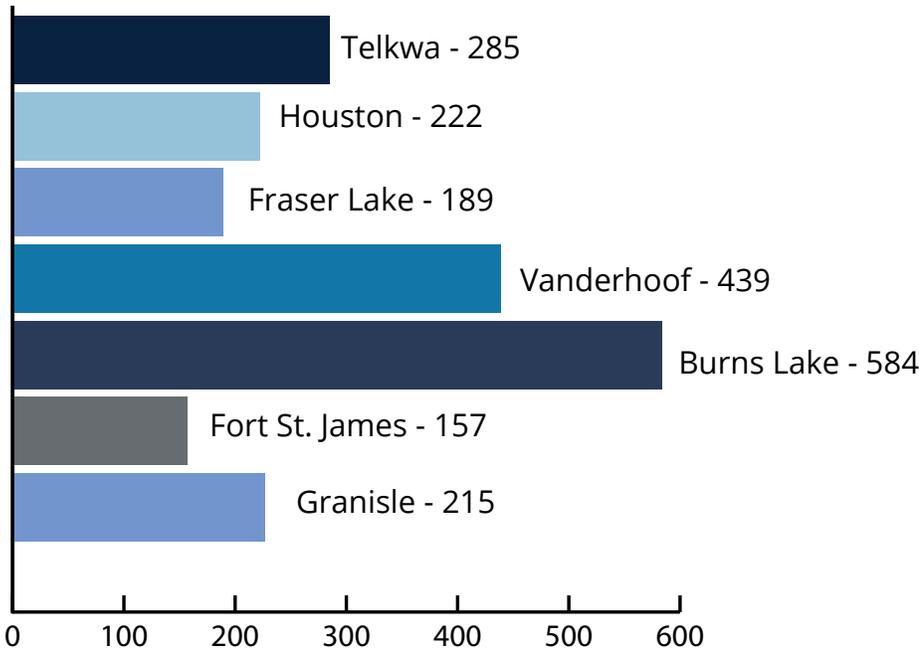
The new truck, which will allow the department to be better prepared to respond to fires throughout the Fort Fraser Fire Protection service area, is the first new truck in the department's history. Its purchase was supported by Northern Capital and Planning Grant funding, Capital Reserve Funds, and a generous donation from the Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund. This made it possible for the truck to be purchased without any additional tax burden for residents in the service area. The delivery of this truck also allowed the outgoing fire truck to be passed on to the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department, which will expand their capability to fight fire in their rural region.

The RDBN also purchased a Wildland Engine for the Southside Fire Department. The engine is a flatbed truck equipped with a large tank, hoses, and pumps that allow for filling from almost any water source. The truck is smaller than the fire tender, allowing it to access fires in more difficult to reach regions of the Southside and attack the blazes before they begin to spread. This versatile tool will provide the Southside Fire Department with more capability to address the challenges in fighting fire in a rural region.



RDBN Emergency and Public Alert System ³⁵

Number of residents subscribed to the Emergency and Public Alert System by region/municipality:



In 2022 the RDBN worked to expand and promote the Emergency and Public Alert System. This service allows all residents to sign up for alerts in the event of an emergency situation, an evacuation order or alert, or other events which could endanger those within the Region.

Registration for the service has been excellent, and there is still room for improvement! Smithers currently sits at the highest number of residents subscribed by a substantial margin.

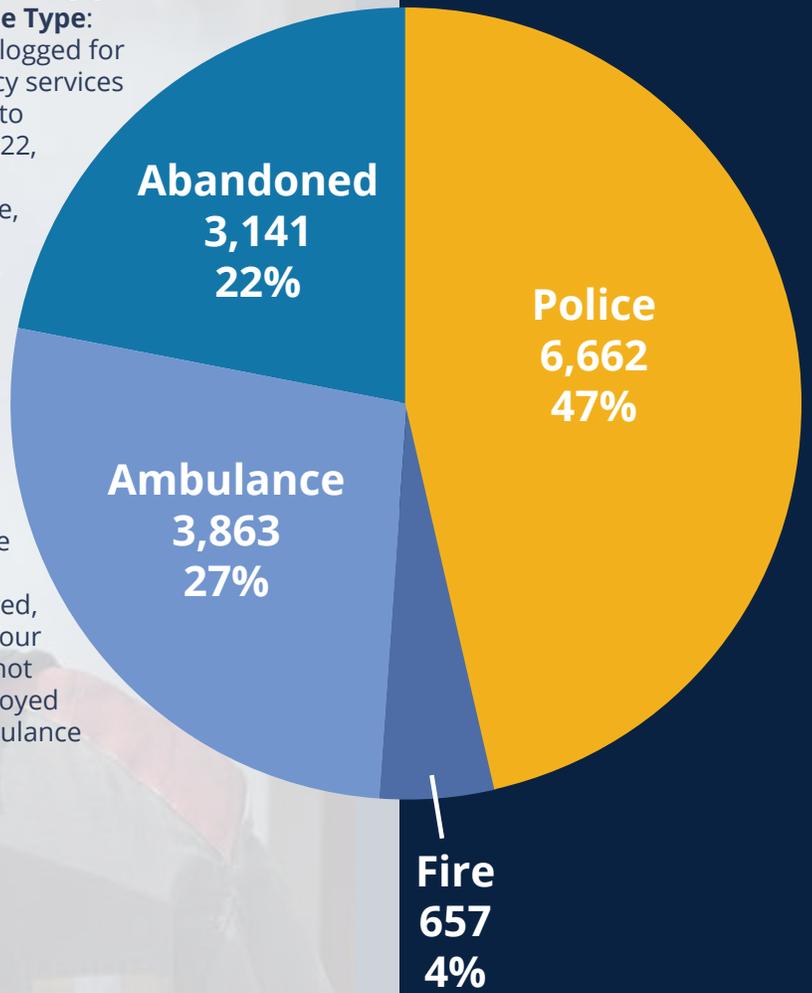
In the coming year, staff will strive to increase these numbers in other areas around the region

Be like the residents of Smithers and sign up for Emergency and Public Alerts System:
rdbn.bc.ca/departments/protective-services

Percentage of Emergency Calls for Each Service Type:

Every call that is made to 911 within the RDBN is logged for the purpose of ensuring that adequate emergency services of every type are available in our area, as well as to identify ways to improve response services. In 2022, 911 received 14,323 calls from the RDBN area. These calls break down into four types: Police, fire, ambulance, and abandoned calls. Abandoned calls are those which 911 receives but are unable to communicate with anyone on the other side of the call. This is most often an accidental call or one during which the caller no longer wants emergency service. These calls, though often made in error, still require follow up by 911 dispatchers. Fire calls are further broken down by type below.

In 2022, calls for police made up nearly half of the 911 calls made from the RDBN, Ambulance calls made up approximately a quarter of those received, and another near quarter were abandoned, and four per cent were for fire response (this figure does not include calls that require departments to be deployed to emergencies primarily requiring police or ambulance presence).

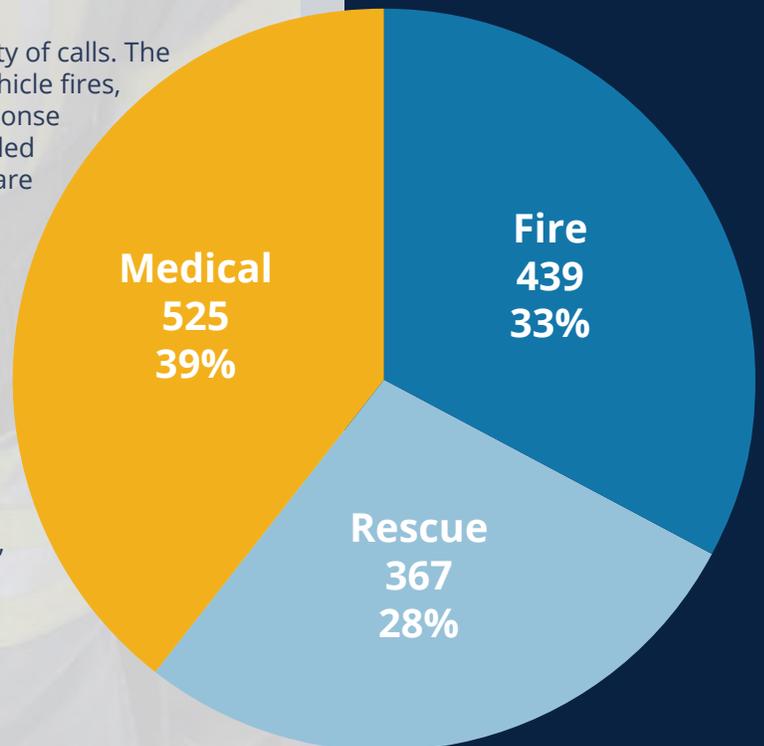


2500 3000 3500

Percentage of Fire Response Calls by Type:

Fire departments within the RDBN respond to a variety of calls. The fire tender trucks respond to structural and motor vehicle fires, or grass or other wildfires that occur within their response area. Even more often, however, the fire service is called to respond to medical and rescue calls. Medical calls are those in which medical attendants require assistance with the patient, either in lifting them or restraining them as they are transported to the hospital. Rescue calls are primarily at the scenes of motor vehicle incidents. Removing accident victims who have become trapped in their vehicle or otherwise need extraction from the scene in order to be treated are assisted by firefighters trained in safely removing people from life threatening situations.

In 2022, fire departments within the Regional District responded to 1,331 call outs. Of those, 439 were fires, 367 were rescues, and 525 were medical assists.





The FireSmart Program helps homeowners to get their property assessed for hazards that might make them vulnerable to wildfire, and to take action to mitigate the issue. A review of their property is completed and recommendations are made such as removing flammable plants from beside the house, cutting off low limbs of trees, and not connecting wooden fences to the structure of the house. In 2022, the RDBN helped property owners receive four times more rebates for household remediation projects than in any year previous. This success has helped make our area safer from wildfires as small factors can make the difference between spark and blaze.

The results of the program can be found in the table to the right. Stream One funding is ongoing and is open to all applicants. Stream Three funding was for those 65 or older, or those with disabilities.

Stream One FireSmart Funding

Year	Assessments	Rebates
2020	33	\$10,757
2021	116	\$10,945
2022	80	\$17,582
Total	229	\$39,284

Stream Three FireSmart Funding

Year	Assessments	Rebates
2021	39	\$62,894
2022	155	\$276,323
Total	194	\$339,217



Being prepared for an emergency is an essential activity that many of us ignore. Having the right supplies available to shelter in place or evacuate quickly can mean the difference between relative comfort and considerable difficulty during an emergency. The RDBN has created a series of short, helpful videos with instructions on how to prepare for all types of emergency situations. Now is the time to get your house and family ready to act in the event of an emergency. Take a few moments to watch these videos and follow up on the preparation steps.

Find the videos on YouTube at:

www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/protective-services

Planning Department



2022 Planning Department Initiatives

Permitting - A sharp uptick in construction throughout the region has resulted in significantly more building and development permits for the RDBN planning department. In addition to applications in rural areas, the RDBN planning department contracts to some of the municipalities within the region, handling permits and inspections. Data showing the number of permits can be found later in the document.

Cannabis and Liquor Licensing Policy - The RDBN liquor licensing policy was last updated in 2003. To reflect changes in legislation, the policy was reviewed and updated to include cannabis licenses as well, and was adopted by the board in February. The policy details the process of applying for a liquor or cannabis sales license within the rural regions and lays out how the application is forwarded through the provincial liquor licensing department and reviewed at varying levels of government.

Agricultural Land Commission Changes - Much of the RDBN lies within the Agricultural Land Reserve, which are areas designated by the Provincial Government as farm land that cannot be developed for other purposes. These regulations are governed by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), and any variances to the use of the land are required to be approved by this body. In the past year, the planning department worked with the ALC to implement changes to the regulations, which now allow for more than one dwelling to be built on an ALR property. This allows those with agricultural land more flexibility in their property, and will let multiple generations of families continue to farm while not being forced to find alternative housing.

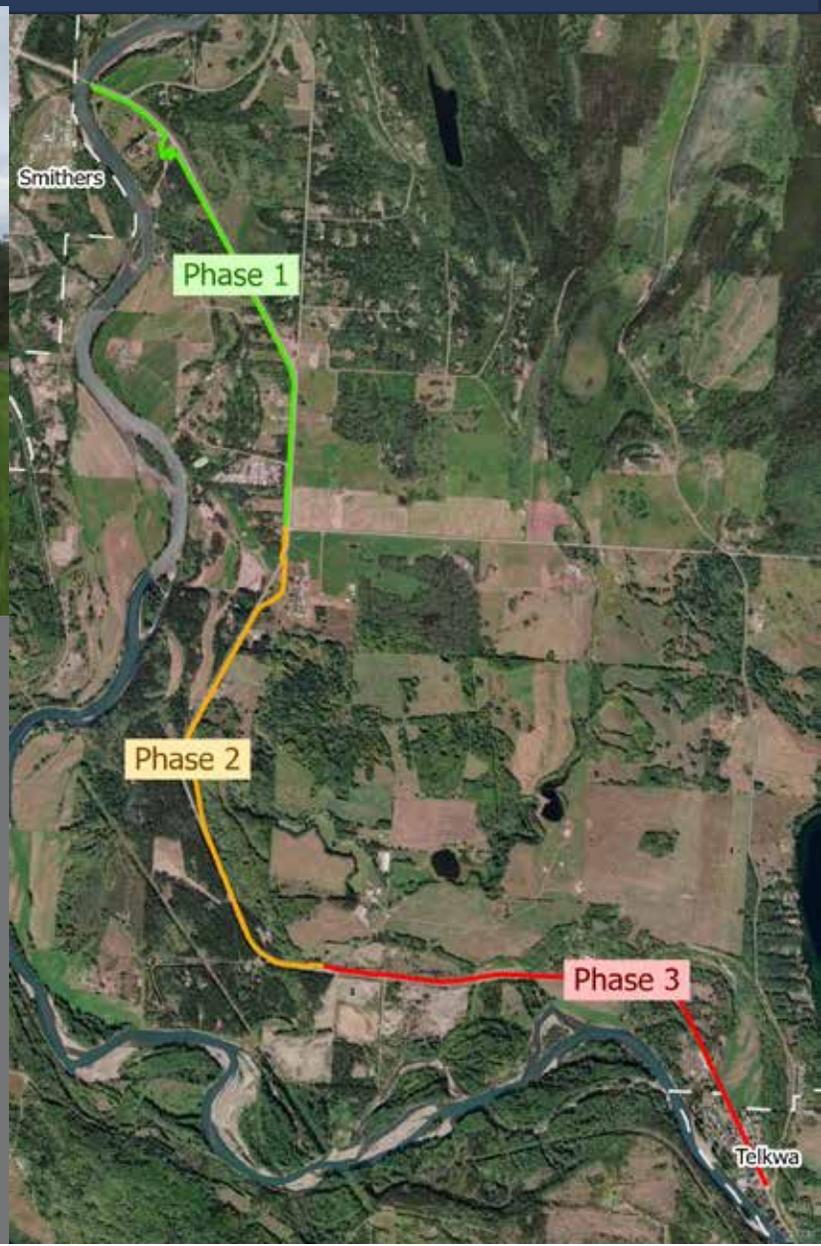
Tenas Coal Project Review - The planning department participated in an environmental assessment for the Tenas Coal Project (Telkwa Coal). This assessment ensures that the presence of the coal mine project will have as little impact as possible on the local environment. Staff then worked with the project coordinators to address areas of concern and make corrections to the plan where necessary.

Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Socio-Economic Effects - Staff have been continually tracking the effects of the pipeline's presence in the region through a report called the Socio-Economic Effects Management Plan. This plan is designed to address the issues that face local communities as pipeline construction ramps up and declines.



Cycle 16 Trail

The Cycle 16 Trail Phase 1 is a newly installed cycling and walking path that parallels Highway 16. In 2022, phase one of construction brought the trail from Smithers to Laidlaw Rd. The next two phases of the trail will bring it all the way to Telkwa, creating a path for bike commuters and hobbyists that is much safer than using the shoulder of the highway. The groundbreaking event was held in June, and the final touches on phase one are expected to be completed in spring of 2023. (Photo left to right: RDBN Board Chair Gerry Thiessen, Smithers Mayor Gladys Atrill, Skeena Bulkley Valley MP Taylor Bachrach, Cycle 16 Director Tony Harris, Telkwa Acting Mayor Derek Meerdink, and RDBN Area A Director Mark Fisher)



Planning and Engaging - The task of bringing together the many stakeholders and interests connected with the trail was monumental. In addition to talking to property owners, liaising with the Cycle 16 Trail Society and staff with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, RDBN staff reviewed the design work, applied for grants, and coordinated the construction for this important regional trail. The project has been years in development and would not have been possible without the cooperation of all levels of government, the countless hours of volunteers, the RDBN Board and staff, and last but not least, the diligent and continued advocacy and fundraising by the Cycle 16 Trail Society.

2022 Building Permit Data

Area	Total Permits	Total Construction Value	Permit Fees
A	68	\$16,219,900	\$95,366
B	25	\$4,808,000	\$25,871
C	5	\$848,659	\$5,092
D	8	\$1,471,600	\$8,494
E	N/A	N/A	N/A
F	30	\$6,197,400	\$33,444
G	2	\$100,000	\$160
Burns Lake	22	\$8,982,016	\$52,240
Fort St. James	11	\$96,604,211	\$578,129
Fraser Lake	11	\$3,671,437	\$24,487
Granisle	4	\$217,000	\$1,476
Houston	24	\$2,819,558	\$19,586
Telkwa	11	\$339,000	\$1,300
2022 RDBN Totals	237	\$142,278,781	\$842,635
Vanderhoof	28	\$8,633,057	\$23,942
Smithers	75	\$10,389,063	\$67,750
Totals	312	\$161,300,901	\$934,327

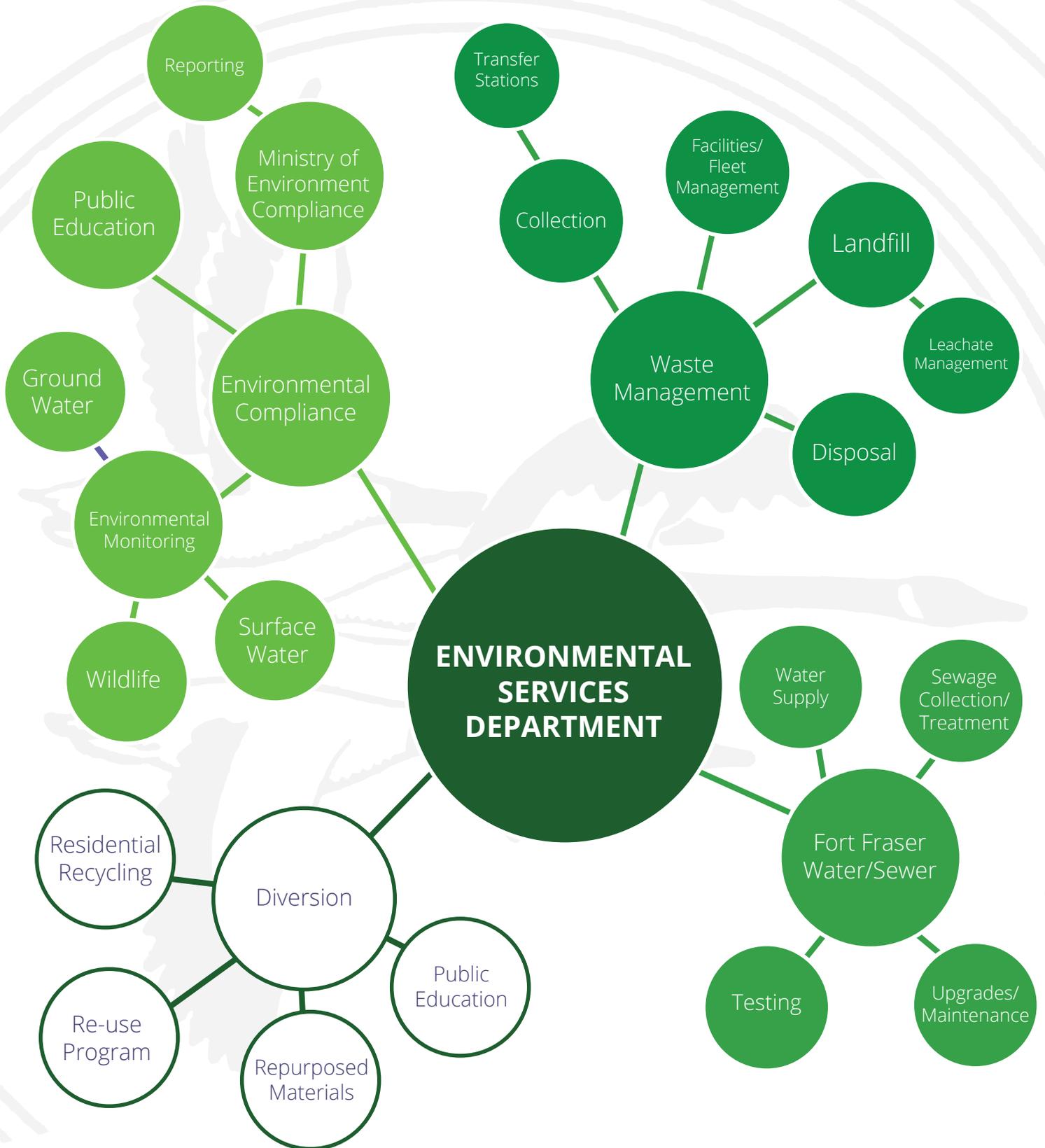
The RDBN has seen record high building permit applications since 2020. As well as the rural area permits, the RDBN contracts permit services to the smaller municipalities in the region, processing applications and performing inspections.

10 Year Historical Rural Area Permit Data

Year	Number of New Permits	Construction Values	Permit Fees
2022	138	\$29,653,559	\$168,763
2021	147	\$30,238,356	\$163,668
2020	137	\$17,784,976	\$93,473
2019	128	\$17,665,394	\$97,935
2018	100	\$14,036,541	\$79,758
2017	102	\$13,699,822	\$84,353
2016	91	\$6,983,200	\$42,515
2015	101	\$8,555,444	\$47,927
2014	115	\$12,102,760	\$71,235
2013	116	\$12,781,476	\$73,477



Environmental Services Department



2022 Environmental Services Initiatives

Clearview Landfill Expansion Funding - In 2022, the RDBN worked to find funding to offset the cost of expanding the Clearview Landfill near Fort St. James. This landfill receives about half of the waste in the RDBN, serving Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, Fort Fraser and Vanderhoof. This is the first time it has needed to be expanded since it was built in 2005, and the new construction must adhere to modern environmental safety standards. These standards dictate that all leachate (water from precipitation that passes through waste in a landfill) must be collected and treated before passing off site. This ensures that the surrounding area is not polluted by the presence of the landfill. While important, these changes will make the expanded landfill much more expensive to build. Additionally, the expansion has come much more quickly than anticipated as local industries such as mines and pipelines have deposited a large quantity of waste into the landfill during their construction, operation, and demobilization phases. This has resulted in a reduced timeline to create capital budget savings for the expansion. To alleviate this shortfall, the RDBN has applied to NDIT's Northern Healthy Communities Fund, which is designed to fund local projects that have been made necessary by the presence of the pipelines and other industry. The results of this application will be released in the first half of 2023 and construction is slated to begin in 2024.

Air Curtain Burner - The Environmental Services Department regularly burns untreated and clean wood as a means of diverting it from the landfill. This year, the department purchased and implemented an Air Curtain Burner, which is a machine that burns fuel such as wood under forced air, making the combustion process more complete. This results in a cleaner burn, producing fewer emissions and particles which can negatively affect air quality, reducing the impact on the environment from landfill operations.

Fort Fraser Water and Sewer - The Environmental Services Department has been working for several years to upgrade the water and sewer services in Fort Fraser. This year, the water distribution system was upgraded along Dock Avenue. This work on the water and sewer infrastructure will make the service safer and more reliable for the residents of Fort Fraser.

Sampling and Testing - The ongoing mandate for the waste management service within the RDBN is to ensure that the environment is impacted as little as possible by the active and closed landfills, and the surrounding operations. To this end, samples of ground and surface waters surrounding the sites are continually tested and monitored for contaminants. With the installation of leachate collection systems at the active landfills, contamination will become less likely as the leachate treatment is actively managed.



Knockholt Landfill Expansion



The project was completed in 2022 with a combination of contractors and RDBN Landfill staff. The expansion covers about 70,000 square meters and will hold approximately 250,000 tonnes of solid waste.

The Knockholt Landfill services the entire western half of the RDBN, receiving waste from Smithers, Telkwa, Houston, Granisle, and Burns Lake, as well as the rural areas around them. This year, the landfill was expanded, which included the construction of a clay liner and installing a leachate collection system. The project began in 2020, but was delayed due to permitting issues with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Significant groundwater was discovered at the site, and the Environmental Services Department worked closely with MOECCS to redesign the expansion to prevent the impact it would have on the environment.

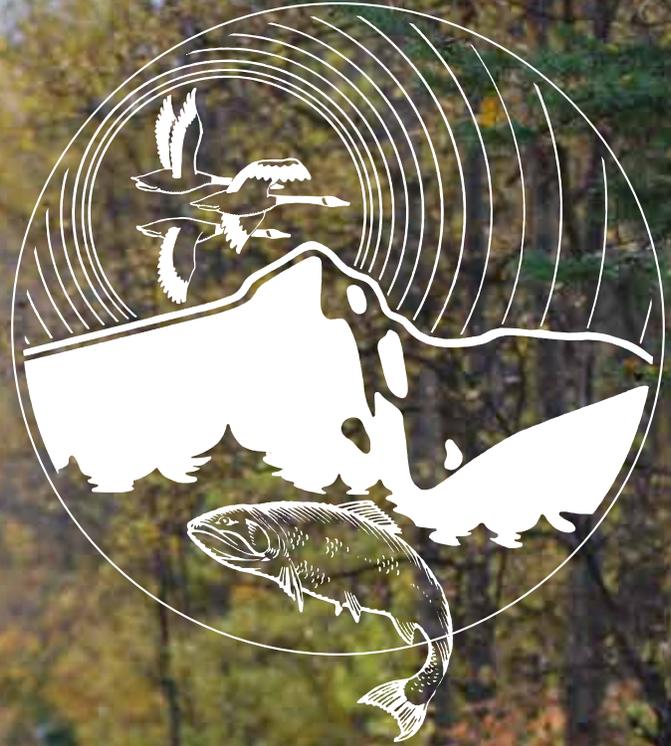
The primary work of expanding the Knockholt Landfill included several stages. First, the sub base was contoured with earth moving machines to create slopes which control the flow of leachate. Then approximately 24,000 tonnes of blue clay was used to create a layer of less-permeable soil approximately 1.2 meters thick. Then 288 meters of perforated pipe was installed which is designed to collect and divert leachate to the treatment lagoon. On top of this, a layer of drainage rock was installed. Finally, a 270 meter perimeter berm was created around the edge of the expansion. This system will ensure that leachate created by precipitation on the landfill will be diverted to treatment ponds before being discharged safely off site.

The previous drop areas at the site for wood, yard waste, metal and agricultural plastics needed to be relocated due to the footprint of the expansion. A high-quality public area was constructed that will function for the next 10-20 years, with room for diversion program expansion.

Photo Below:

Additional works included contouring the quarry pit for wood waste curing (top left), relocating topsoil piles to one location (bottom left), clearing and developing stockpile area (top right), developing the new public drop-off area (bottom right), construction of 450m of new ditching and installing 4 new culverts.





**Attached are the
2022 Audited Financial
Statements**



To the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Board & Admin:

Re. Proposed BC Hydro Project CAP3: Capacitor station at Telkwa

Ref # 68040 v2

I am writing regarding the application for the removal of a portion (appr. 50 acres) of the ALR in Quick (Walcott Rd.) for BC Hydro's purpose of building a capacitor station. My apologies for not using the correct terminology, but I think you will know what I intend. I do not have time to research the fine points. I understand the applicants are BC Hydro and Mr. Ellis, the landowner.

As you well know, the Commission exists to protect BC's very limited reserve of farmland from being diminished by ensuring it is not used for purposes other than agriculture. BC Hydro, as we all know, is in the business of selling power. Its main customer in this case is industry, and specifically, the LNG project, but also with a vision of supporting industry growth into the North's future. It is a great opportunity for them.

I appreciate the fact that most of the Board agrees that the application should be denied. Even so, I want to express some of the concerns some of us have, in case through some appeal or negative review by the ALC, or unforeseen pressure, that motion might itself be denied.

The site BCH has chosen on Walcott Rd. is seen as a fast, easy, and uncontroversial location for expediting their project, avoiding possible lengthy negotiations with other parties than mere ordinary individuals. An enormously profitable entity such as BCH certainly has the means to absorb any delays that a more complex route might entail. Whatever greed, powers, profit or outside (global) pressures may be driving their haste to take what they see as the Quick path of least resistance should in no way constitute a sense of urgency on the part of the RD or the Commission. I hope you would agree. There *is* considerable grass-roots resistance: farmers who love their Valley, and the land, and just want things done right. I expect there are still more than a few who haven't had their say, due to busyness or little hope of succeeding against BCH. One lady I spoke with today was appalled that she didn't know about it.

While BCH's vision is turning everyone's natural resource (ie. water) into a profitable commodity to provide opportunity for other industries to do the same, my vision is to see young Canadians able to create an independent livelihood and lifestyle where their interacting with this natural resource that is the land instils in them an acute awareness of its true value, a pride in their part in tending it responsibly, and a vision for a sustainable (in the true sense of the word) future for a well-fed Canada, in harmony with Creator and Creation.

A potential farmer/agronomist eagerly awaits the day he or she can move onto that special piece of land. He dreams of, she searches for, that spot that captures the heart with its pastoral views, sparkling creek, and endless potential, but sadly, few there be that find it. Constantly rising land prices (driven mostly by increasing foreign ownership), regulatory impediments to supply and demand economics and entrepreneurship spoil the dreams of many fine Canadians.

NIMBY is a truism. I only became aware of this situation in Quick because if the project goes through, it will be in my Granddaughter and Grand-son-in-law's backyard. They are dairy farmers in that beautiful valley. The piece of land under discussion borders on their land, only a stone's-throw from the cows' loafing shed, and a bit farther to the milking and calf barn, and house. Capacitor stations are unavoidably unsightly and not something any one of *us* would want in *our* backyard – or our neighbour's. I warrant none of the BCH CEOs would tolerate it either. Furthermore, such installations are considered by many to create a hazardous environment for both humans and livestock and devalue surrounding properties. The health concerns have not been disproven.

The current owner of the property under discussion is of an age when many farmers pack up and move closer to doctors and grandchildren, and he may be content to do so. But the dairy farmer is young, with a young family, and typically serious financing based on prior assessments of the farm. What happens to their financial planning when the land loses value? I know I am not the only one who wouldn't live next to one of these monstrosities even if you paid me. Did Mr. Ellis discuss the pros and cons with the Rouws? How would he have known the extent of potential problems to even talk about it? In urban areas it is a requirement that the neighbourhood be polled as to any concerns by area property owners about an impending change in traffic movement, zoning, or paving. I have not gotten an answer to this yet, as to whether or how this was done.

What about the daily visual reminder to everyone living in the area that industry cares nothing for the people who chose to not live where cement and steel abound? This is why we have zoning regulations. The pictures on the RD website are just a couple of examples of beauty in the ALR that makes all the hard work of farming almost worth it. Imagine those vistas with a capacitor station inset. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/land-use-inventories/smitherslui2013rprt_2014-08-06.pdf . The photo of a "typical capacitor station" that BC Hydro uses in its promo material shown in the documents of the RDBN appears to be considerably smaller than the specifications given therein for CAP3, and the potential for expansion mentioned by BCH could have implications we can't imagine. I think you get that, too.

Financial mitigation awarded to the Cattlemen's Association can in no way mitigate the negative effects about which I am apprehensive. Some things money just can't buy. And why always the Cattlemen? Why not the Shepherders?

Surely the poorly advertised, phony, so-called public consultations and virtual meetings offered by BC Hydro aren't considered by the RD to be a substitute for community consultations? That would be most inappropriate. With no local voice on the commission anymore, and the impression that the opinion of the regional district carries only a little weight in the discussion, plus the overall lack of open communication to the public these days by every level of government, my concern that too many decisions are being made 'in camera' is being well-nourished. I do attend municipal meetings as often as possible, (I live in Telkwa). The regional district meetings are almost 2 hours away and I could find no zoom link; I have included here the insipid (BCHydro) ad the local paper carried.* I missed it; I don't sit around in the coffee shop; so I heard nothing about this until the day before I was leaving the north for 10 days, during which I could not respond to what was happening. In fact the neighbour to the property under discussion, who would likely be the most affected, didn't know much before I did. Hopefully someone does a better job warning us here about fire or flooding!

I cannot imagine why someone suggested I contact my MLA about the situation. He's between a rock and a hard place trying to please First Nations while getting a feather in his cap from and for industry. I will, just so he can't say he didn't know. For you on the RD or ALC, accepting FN's (self-appointed) authority to reject a site on Crown Land (as has been alleged by someone) pushes BCH to consider private land and pits them against the little farmer. I do not accept that the FN own the sole right to rule over what belongs to all Canadians. Hopefully wisdom will prevail.

If the application process has not been finalised, I do question why *any* work is being done there. If it has been finalised and the applicant is allowed to remove this parcel from ALR status, then on Tuesday May 23rd, BCH spokespersons, in the virtual meeting, were not being up front about the status of the application, speaking as if it is still in the planning stage. Far too soon to worry about it. There is another virtual meeting on the 31st, which was advertised as if it pertained to the topic at hand, but when I tried to register for both virtual meetings (having only returned home on the 18th), they emailed and phoned me to say the 31st was on a topic that would be of no interest to me. I told them I am still interested and will watch for a link.

It might be in your interest to see how they hold their virtual consultation. I heard only 30 people went to the physical meeting in Smithers, and all were from Quick. (It is a 35-40 minute drive once you're on the highway, it's planting time, hot as blazes, and some cows still get milked on a schedule. And we've all been to useless "consultations" with the likes of

BCH who are just putting on a show of community caring and accountability.) I doubt any of the attendees felt they had been heard in the least. They could have held it in Quick. Scary proposition! Actually it would have been more transparent and informative for the RD to have a public meeting in Quick. Your mandate is the protection of agricultural lands. BC Hydro is BC Hydro and their reputation precedes them.

Pages 81 & 82 of the RDBN Board Agenda read:

Site Plan

DISCUSSION

Official Community Plan (OCP)

The subject property is designated Agriculture (AG) under the OCP. The intent of the designation is to protect and preserve farmland and soil with agricultural capacity, and facilitate the appropriate utilization of that land for agricultural purposes. OCP Policy 3.1.2(5) states “New roads, utility and communication corridors should be located to minimize the negative impact on existing and potential agricultural operations”. Additionally, OCP policy 3.1.2(6) states:

“6) Non-farm use of agricultural land shall be avoided. Applications for exclusions, subdivisions, and non-farm uses within the Agricultural Land Reserve may only be considered under the following circumstances:

- (a) There is limited agricultural potential within the proposed area.
- (b) Soil conditions are not suitable for agriculture.
- (c) Neighbouring uses will not be compromised.
- (d) Adequate provisions for fencing are provided, where a proposed development is adjacent to an existing agricultural use.
- (e) The application is in the best interest of the community.
- (f) The proposed development considers and addresses potential impacts and improvements to recreational features and the environment, including wildlife habitat.
- (g) And, traffic management issues will be considered and addressed appropriately.

“A strong argument could be made that this application does not adequately meet the OCP requirements for consideration. Therefore, the Board would have justification for not forwarding the application on to the APC for consideration, should this be the Board’s wish.”

Is the RD protecting the land and people it represents to the extent of its authority? As you have acknowledged: the proposed usage is not in accordance with the Official Community Plan: Not (a), nor (b) (Any perceived inability of the land to be as productive as adjacent land is due to neglect or disuse. It is the same soil as Mr. Ellis’s neighbour’s, which is highly productive); nor (c), nor (e). For future consideration 3.1.2.6(f) should, by rights, include *human habitat*, as farming assumes human habitation. Does the ALC have different criteria? If not, it seems a review by them would be redundant.

Would I be as concerned about all this if it weren't my family affected? Yes, if I knew about it and felt people weren't being told how disruptive this project would be and for how long, and how open-ended these expansions might turn out to be, as we are sensing with Telkwa Coal; and if the residents there wanted me involved. In my role as interim Chair of the Agriculture & Food 'shadow cabinet' of the Policy & Strategy Committee for the Christian Heritage Party of Canada I have followed an alarming trend of selling off Canadians' natural resources, including the land itself. Most Canadians are too busy just surviving to see how much we've lost or understand the implications for future generations. Our Party has advocated for no foreign ownership of land for the 37 years we've existed. But the Big Parties would sell their own Mothers. We have likely already sold-off our sovereignty.

BCH wants their project in my little Great Grandson's backyard. It's a farm, and a home, not an industrial zone. It is a high calling, that of protecting a thing of great or small value; when the one vying for it despises you for valuing it, and it because he might not have it, it is clearly about principles versus profits.

Thank you for listening, and hopefully, for informing BC Hydro there is a lot of 'vacant' Crown Land out there where no one can feel they went to sleep on the farm surrounded by pleasant, fertile fields and woke up in what looks like an industrial boneyard.

Sincerely,

Elaine Taylor

Telkwa

Cc to Rouw Family

Additional notes for RDBN below.

NOTES for RDBN

On the ALC's site: Consultation on Land Use Plans & Bylaws:

“However, local government planning and zoning powers have never been removed or replaced. Both the ALC and **local governments have legitimate regulatory authority over ALR land.**”

“Application Process

Local governments are usually the first point of contact when someone makes an application under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (the “ALC Act”). They receive and review the application and supporting documents, on which basis staff prepare a report. The municipal council or regional board then decide **whether to** forward the application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for decision. Local governments provide information to the ALC related to land use planning and zoning bylaws and provide comments specific to each application.”

(If there is consensus on the decision by the RDBN and no one in the community is contesting it except perhaps the applicant, why would you take it to another body, even a higher one? Is there a fear that BC Hydro might sue? BC Hydro is obligated to abide by the ruling you make. They are not above the law although they may sometimes give that impression.

“The *ALC Act*, Sections [25\(3\)](#) and [29\(4\)](#), provides that local government must authorize an application to be forwarded to the ALC if the application involves land that is zoned for agricultural or farm use or requires an amendment to a plan or bylaw. If a proposal is contrary to local land use planning, local governments have the authority to **stop** applications from proceeding to the ALC.”

So I am still not clear on the reasons the application goes or is gone to the ALC. Voters elect local people to represent their interests, based mainly – I hope – on their reputations, character and integrity – things that are knowable. A body “down South” or in Victoria may not share the values of a farming committee, and may more easily lean toward industry interests, even conflicting ones. Unethical influence is widespread in industry, but unlike the case of SNC Lavalin, few are ever caught. And should the ALC for some reason overturn your recommendation to deny the application and side with BCH's goal, will we ever *really* know why, and what recourse is there then?

ET

North Coast Electrification Information Sessions

We're bringing more clean, reliable electricity to the North Coast of B.C. Electrification is a key step towards achieving the CleanBC emission reduction targets by supporting our industrial customers who want to switch from using fossil fuels to clean electricity.

To help realize our electrification goals, we're planning to build three new 500kV transmission lines and associated infrastructure from Prince George to Terrace through two projects: the Prince George to Glenannan Transmission project (PGGT) and the Glenannan to Terrace Transmission Project (GTTT).

Please join us at an upcoming Information Session anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to learn about North Coast Electrification and our plans for the upcoming projects that will support the needs of our customers and our province.

Terrace	Smithers	Burns Lake
Monday, May 15	Tuesday, May 16	Wednesday, May 17
Sportsplex, Banquet Room	Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge	Lakes District Secondary
3320 Kaum Street	Alpine Room	Multi-purpose Room
	2251 East Highway 16	685 Highway 16 West

Can't make an in-person event? We're having two virtual events from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23 and Wednesday, May 31. Please register at projects@bchydro.com by May 18. We look forward to discussing our plans with you.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 1 866 647 3334, email us at projects@bchydro.com, or visit the North Coast Electrification website at www.bchydro.com/ncelectrification.



This little town went to market

The first Bulkley Valley Farmers Market was held on April 29. The markets will continue to be at the corner of Hwy 16 and Main Street every Saturday morning until the fall. (Marisa Baker photo)

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Grab your copy at local newsstands or visit your Black Press Media news website for an e-copy. Join us in celebrating food, community and earth.

Which ads jump out at you ?



“76 Years as the TCYHA ~ 97 Years as the YHA”

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~

C.A.O.

John Wojcicki



May 18, 2023

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government of British Columbia

Sent via email to: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Minister Fleming,

On behalf of those municipalities whose voices we help represent, we would like to acknowledge and commend your Ministry on the recent announcement of the resurfacing of 128 kms on TransCanada#16 Yellowhead and 54 kms on BC#5 Yellowhead highways.

We appreciate your ongoing collaboration with the TCYHA and working together to identify key areas of highway infrastructure improvements.

These two economic corridors play a key role in boosting trade, tourism, and general economic growth for Central and Northern BC. Ensuring these highways meet those transportation demands by providing safe and secure travel is critical to that growth and this investment shows your commitment to support all aspects of the economy.

We look forward to ongoing conversations.

Wishing you safe and healthy travels,

Merv Starzyk
TCYHA President
(Mayor, RM Yellowhead MB)

Paul Smith
TCYHA Past President
(Life Member, Strathcona, AB)

Pete Pearson, TCYHA BC Director
(Councillor, Valemount BC)

Sandy Salt, TCYHA BC Director
(Life Member)

Cc: Mayor Merlin Blackwell, Clearwater BC
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