



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, October 09, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

Approve

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Receive

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - September 4, 2025

Page 3-6

Approve

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Mine Referral

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Notice of Work Referral No. 0200333 - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Page 7-8

Recommendation

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Notice of Work Referral No. 0200254 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Page 9-11

Recommendation

REPORTS

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Grant in Aid for Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Bulkley Valley
Search and Rescue**

Page 12-17

Recommendation

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Grant in Aid for Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Smithers Mountain
Bike Association**

Page 18-23

Recommendation

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -
Community Hall Meeting Summary**

Page 24-28

Receive

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer and Nellie Davis, Manager of
Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Community Hall Appraisal
Report**

Page 29

Recommendation

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

2022-2026 RDBN Board Strategic Plan

1. Relationships with First Nations

2. Advocacy with the Province

3. Housing Supply

4. Community and Economic Sustainability



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, September 04, 2025**

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

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others: Shane Brienen, District of Houston – left at 1:22 p.m.
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

AGENDA

2025-RSC-001

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Agenda for September 4, 2025 be approved as amended to include under New Business: Community Hall Meeting Sept 11, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - June 5, 2025

2025-RSC-002

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Rural Grant Service Update

2025-RSC-003

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Rural Grant Service Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Staff will follow up with Directors regarding declined municipal grant in aid applications
- Allocation of 2025 unspent Grant in Aid funds
 - Yearly advertising
 - Grant in aid yearly limit under the *Local Government Act*
 - Options to partner with municipalities
 - Options to utilize for Regional District projects
- Electoral Area Directors sharing Grant in Aid funds
- Staff will follow up with Director Greenaway regarding Community Works Funds from 2019

- RBA funded projects
 - Staff will provide a report at a future meeting
- Community Hall support
- Utilizing funds for joint partnerships with municipalities
- Funding allocated for broadband projects
- Options to create business arrangements to create funding for the Regional District e.g. CityWest
 - Requires Inspector of Municipalities approval
- Potential projects with First Nations
 - Directors can discuss with staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Hall Meeting September 11, 2025

- Received great response attendance
 - 12 of the 14 Community Halls will have representatives attending
- Meeting will take place at Burns Lake Heritage Church September 11, 2025 from 12-1 pm
- Staff will forward the agenda prior to the meeting
- Some topics for discussion
 - Grant assistance options
 - Commercial Kitchens
 - Assistance to community halls to help be successful
 - Synergies to assist in expediting projects.

2025-RSC-004

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Committee receive the Community Hall Meeting verbal report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2025-RSC-005

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Tech
Date: October 9, 2025
Subject: **Notice of Work Referral No. 0200333 - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)**

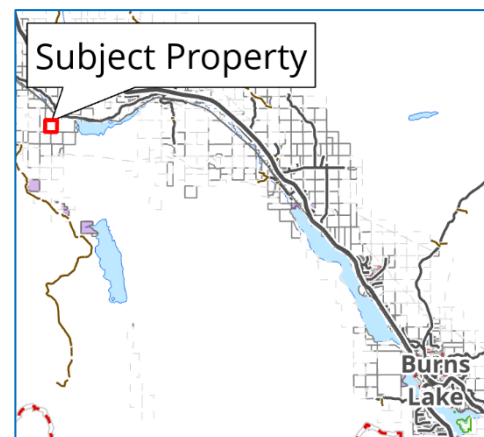
RECOMMENDATION:

(all/directors/majority)

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No. 0200333

BACKGROUND

The applicant (E.A. Strimbold Ltd.) has submitted a Notice of Work application to renew the Mine permit for a gravel pit. This application would allow mining operations to continue for 5 years. The gravel pit is located approximately 29 km northwest of Burns Lake and is accessed by Rose Lake Cutoff Road. The closest RDBN residential address is approximately 400 m to the south and is owned by the operators of the gravel pit. Outside of the application itself, no new documents were provided by the applicant.



While no changes to extraction volume or operating hours are specified in the application, the owners have identified a need to operate a crusher and screener on site in the future. While the Regional District cannot regulate the removal or deposit of soil, it can regulate aggregate processing like crushing and screening. Aggregate processing is not a permitted use in the Ag1 zone, so the applicant would need a Temporary Use Permit to operate those machines on-site.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Comment Sheet on Mines Referral No. 0200333

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)
Applicant:	E. A. Strimbold Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Aggregate Extraction
Zoning:	Agricultural (Ag1)
OCP Designation:	Agriculture (Ag)
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	See Comments
Agricultural Land Reserve:	Yes
Access:	Rose Lake Cutoff Rd
Building Inspection:	Yes
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	

While the Regional District's Zoning Bylaw cannot regulate the removal or deposit of soil, the Zoning Bylaw can regulate Aggregate Processing such as screening, crushing, and washing. Aggregate Processing is not a permitted use in the Ag1 Zone; therefore, the applicant needs an approved Temporary Use Permit from the Regional District to process aggregate.

Additionally, as the subject property is within the Agricultural Land Reserve, the Agricultural Land Commission requires a Notice of Intent for aggregate extraction.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

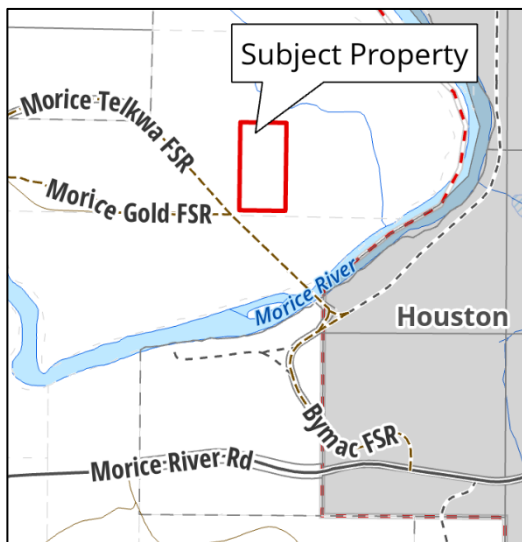
To: Chair and Committee
From: Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Tech
Date: October 9, 2025
Subject: **Notice of Work Referral No. 0200254 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No. 0200254

BACKGROUND

The applicant (R. Groot Contracting Ltd.) has submitted a Notice of Work application including an updated mine plan for an operational gravel pit. This application is submitted in accordance with the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC, which requires mine plans to be updated every five years. The site, named Walcott Pit, is located approximately 500 m west of the District of Houston and is accessed by the Morice-Telkwa FSR. The closest RDBN residential address is approximately 1.5 km to the south.



The updated mine plan does not outline significant changes to operations as the mining rate and operating hours remain unchanged. However, the Noise and Dust Management policy has been formalized as a written management plan. In addition, the new mine plan details their progressive reclamation efforts as of 2025 and outlines how these efforts will continue in the future. Lastly, the new plan explicitly confirms that they will apply for a Temporary Use Permit with the RDBN before any aggregate crushing activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Comment Sheet
- [Applicant Mine Plan \(Link\)](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Comment Sheet on Mines Referral No. 0200254

Electoral Area:	Electoral Area G (Houston Rural)
Applicant:	R. Groot Contracting Ltd.
Existing Land Use:	Aggregate Extraction
Zoning:	Agricultural (Ag1)
OCP Designation:	Agriculture (Ag)
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	See Comments
Agricultural Land Reserve:	Yes
Access:	Morice-Telkwa FSR
Building Inspection:	No
Fire Protection:	No
Other comments:	

While the Regional District's Zoning Bylaw cannot regulate the removal or deposit of soil, the Zoning Bylaw can regulate Aggregate Processing such as screening, crushing, and washing. Aggregate Processing is not a permitted use in the Ag1 Zone; therefore, the applicant needs an approved Temporary Use Permit from the Regional District to process aggregate.

The Agricultural Land Commission has approved the gravel extraction in the ALR. extraction.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

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

Date: October 9, 2025

Subject: **Grant in Aid for Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**
Bulkley Valley Search and Rescue (BV SAR)

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

1) That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$26,000 in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Bulkley Valley Search and Rescue Society towards the replacement of their primary rescue truck.

BACKGROUND

BV SAR's primary rescue truck was lost in a fire in September 2024 while responding to a call. The group is fundraising to replace it with a new response vehicle that will allow equipment storage, as well as volunteer, boat, snowmobile, and UTV deployment as required.

Director Stoltenberg is supportive of contributing \$26,000 from Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Grant in Aid. The Current balance is \$78,103

Please see the attached application for further detail.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) BV SAR Grant in Aid Application
- 2) Quote

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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

Nellie Davis

From: website@rdbn.bc.ca
Sent: September 22, 2025 8:24 PM
To: Nellie Davis
Subject: Website Form Submission – Online Grant in Aid Application Form

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

There has been a submission of the form Online Grant in Aid Application Form through your concrete5 website.

Organization Legal Name:
 Bulkley Valley Search and Rescue Society

Contact Email Address:
 ruth.bredenhof@bvsar.com

Contact Phone Number:
 2508778956

Organization Mailing Address:
 PO Box 159 Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Project or purpose for which you require assistance:

Our primary rescue truck was lost in a fire in September 2024 while responding to a call. We are thankful that no one was injured in the fire, however, the vehicle, as well as all the equipment inside, was completely destroyed. While we remain operational, we currently rely on volunteers' personal vehicles. We only received a small amount of insurance coverage, and are currently fundraising to be able to purchase a new truck with a customized canopy. This truck will be the main vehicle used in our responses. It stores a lot of our equipment needed out in the field, and will also allow us to transport our volunteers, our boat, snowmobile, and/or UTV to the site of rescues if required.

Amount of Grant Requested:
 26000

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information that is provided in this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I hereby certify that this application for assistance is NOT being made on behalf of an individual, industry, commercial or business:
 Yes

Please describe the services/benefits that your organization provides to the community. Are these services/benefits available to the community from another organization or agency?:

Our mission is to provide professional search and rescue services, support emergency response efforts, and educate the public on wilderness safety. BVSAR is a dedicated volunteer organization committed to helping those in need in the wilderness and promoting safety in the great outdoors. With a team of 40+ operational members, help is available 24/7, 365 days of the year free of charge to anyone in need of emergency assistance. We serve a vast region that extends from its base in Smithers to the neighbouring communities such as Witset and Hazelton, and Houston (supporting their team), and to any other northern area of BC that requests our assistance, providing ground, rope, swift water, as well as avalanche response. We also support the RCMP and BC Ambulance when requested.

We are the only group in Smithers that provides this service.

Is your organization voluntary and non-profit?:

Yes

Please detail any remuneration paid, or funds otherwise made available to members, officers, etc. of your organization.:

Volunteers can request to have their expenses reimbursed while on a task. All members are volunteers and do not get paid.

The only paid person is myself, a part-time administration position.

Please comment on the number of members/volunteers in your organization and how long your organization has been in operation.:

We currently have 51 active volunteers, and beginning to train a bunch of new volunteers.

BV SAR began in the early 1980s and officially became a non-profit in 1994.

Assistance is being requested for.:

Capital project and/or equipment

Other Purpose:

Please describe the project/event for which you are requesting assistance. If you are applying for an exemption from fees and/or charges or other consideration, please provide details of your request here. Attach additional information if required.:

We are fundraising for a new main rescue truck with a customized canopy.

Describe how this proposal will benefit the community.:

This rescue truck will help us better respond to emergency calls in our community. We are currently relying on the use of volunteer vehicles to respond to calls. The volunteer responders cannot mobilize as effectively without the truck, and it also increases the response times to get to where we need to go because the primary rescue truck would have most of the necessary gear already in the truck, ready to go. Relying on volunteer vehicles also can be an issue because the volunteer trucks don't always have the correct hitch to use or trailer to transport the boat, UTV, etc. Some volunteers also do not have suitable vehicles for the often back-country/rough roads we need to travel. Many people in our community have benefited from the assistance of Search and Rescue.

Have you applied for a grant/funding from other source(s)?:

Yes - please provide information below

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Wetzink'wa Community Foundation

Amount applied for:

9000

Status of application:

Approved

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

CN

Amount applied for:

30000

Status of application:

Pending

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Mutual Fire

Amount applied for:

15000

Status of application:

Pending

Has the organization received assistance (grant in aid/waiving of fees, etc.), from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in previous years?:

Unknown

If yes, please provide the year, the amount, and the purpose for the assistance.:

Does your Organization: (Please check all that apply):

Provide an opportunity for individuals to make direct contributions?

Contact Name:

Ruth Bredenhof

Attach supporting financial information, ie: budget/financial report. Ensure all information is clearly itemized, including: total cost of project, grants/funding from other sources, funding contributed by applicant, total expenses for the fiscal year.:

9488,9486,9489,9491,9510,9490,9508,9509

Contact Name:

Anastasia Ledwon

Contact Phone Number:

2508470406

Contact Email Address:

anastasia.ledwon@bvsar.com

Which RDBN electoral area(s) receive services or benefits from your organization?:

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Is your organization signed up to receive funds from the RDBN via Electronic Funds Transfer?:

Yes.

https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r03/___https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/view/2315___.YzFjOnJkYm46YzpvOjU3ZmZiNTJkNTRjNjZyOGQzNzUwNzIIM2E5OTQ2ZGM4Ojc6ZWQzNzo1YmRjMGVmMWJhNDVhZDQ5ZTkzMzY3Yjc3MzZkODYzNWMwMzRkN2MxMzY1ZjQ1ZDlmNWU1NjYzMjQzMzM5ZWlZOnA6VDpO



HOSKINS FORD SALES LTD.
3146 HWY 16 EAST, PO BOX 400
SMITHERS, BC, V0J 2N0

Rep: Brendan deVries
Phone: (800) 663-7765
Fax:

Date: 04/12/2025
Key: BULK240905
Tax: BC COMM

Vehicle

2025 FORD SUPER DUTY F-350 SRW XLT



Stock	Build
Type	New Vehicle
Model	W3B
Number	
Exterior	OXFORD WHITE
Engine	6.8L 2V DEVCT NA PFI V8 GAS
Transmission	TORQSHIFT-G 10-SPEED AUTOMATIC
Drive	Four Wheel Drive
Body	4WD Crew Cab 8' Box
Odometer	0

Customer

Name	BULKLEY VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE	Email	ryan. zapisocki@bvsar. com
Address	BOX 159	Lead	Not Set
City, Province	SMITHERS, BC	Contract Date	04/10/2025
Postal Code	V0J 2N0	Payment Date	04/10/2025
Code	1006257		

Cash

Selling Price	\$78,960.00	PST Taxable	\$135,607.93
Transfer of Equity	\$0.00	PST 7%	\$9,492.56
A/C TAX	\$100.00	GST Taxable	\$135,607.93
BANK FEE	\$0.00	GST 5%	\$6,780.40
DOC FEE	\$599.00	Luxury Tax Taxable	\$0.00
PPSA TAXABLE	\$0.00	Luxury Tax 10%	\$0.00
TIRE LEVY	\$32.50	Payout Lien Amount	\$0.00
Delivery From ITB to smithers	\$1,250.00	Cash Down	\$0.00
ITB Custom Canopy	\$31,520.00	Total Balance Due	\$151,880.89
Hoskins ford suplied accessories	\$18,295.00	Amount Received	\$0.00
Decal Package	\$275.00	Due on Delivery	\$151,880.89
Radio supplied by tower	\$1,561.75		
Winter Tire package	\$3,014.68		
Trade	\$0.00		
Sub-Total	\$135,607.93		

I / We have reviewed the above disclosure and agree to the vehicle, price and payment information as declared.

X

BULKLEY VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE

X

Dealer Acceptance



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

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

Date: October 9, 2025

Subject: **Grant in Aid for Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**
Smithers Mountain Bike Association

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

- 1) That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$20,000 in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Smithers Mountain Bike Association for a trail building project; and,
- 2) That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$20,000 in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Economic Development Service monies to the Smithers Mountain Bike Association for a trail building project.

BACKGROUND

Smithers Mountain Bike Association is planning a new, blue trail from the top of the Bluff Recreation Area that will make the Bluff more accessible to a wider range of riders. This request is for \$40,000 towards the project to ensure it can happen before next year's riding season.

Director Stoltenberg is supportive of contributing \$20,000 (half of the request) from Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Grant in Aid. The current balance is \$78,103

Director Stoltenberg is also supportive of contributing \$20,000 (the remainder of the request) from the Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Economic Development Service. The current balance is \$52,902

Please see the attached application for further detail.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Smithers Mountain Bike Association Grant in Aid Application
- 2) Project Budget

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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



Apocalypse Trail Rebuild Budget

Budgeted Expenses:

Trail Contractor	\$ 45,000.00
Inkind support (volunteer time project admin, liaising with contractor) 20 hours \$ \$50/hour	\$ 1,000.00
Total Budgeted Expense:	\$ 46,000.00

Funding Sources:

SMBA Sponsorships	5,000.00	
SMBA Inkind Support	1,000.00	
RDBN Grant In Aid	40,000.00	
		46,000.00
Total		-

From: website@rdbn.bc.ca
Sent: September 22, 2025 7:30 PM
Subject: Website Form Submission – Online Grant in Aid Application Form

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

There has been a submission of the form Online Grant in Aid Application Form through your concrete5 website.

Organization Legal Name:
Smithers Mountain Bike Association

Contact Email Address:
information@smithersmountainbike.ca

Contact Phone Number:
350-302-1863

Organization Mailing Address:
PO Box 2547, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Project or purpose for which you require assistance:
The Smithers Mountain Bike Association ("SMBA"), is seeking \$40,000 from trail enhancements in the Bluff Recreation trail network to hire a contractor to restore and modernize the Apocalypse trail in the Bluff trail network.

Amount of Grant Requested:
40000

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information that is provided in this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I hereby certify that this application for assistance is NOT being made on behalf of an individual, industry, commercial or business:
Yes

Please describe the services/benefits that your organization provides to the community. Are these services/benefits available to the community from another organization or agency?:

The Smithers Mountain Bike Association (SMBA) is a registered non-profit society dedicated to building, maintaining, and sustaining the Bluff trail network for the community. Since 2009, SMBA has expanded riding opportunities by creating modern, sustainable trails such as the Bluff Expansion Project and continues to focus on maintaining and improving the network for riders of all levels.

Beyond trails, SMBA fosters a strong biking culture through events, volunteer opportunities, and community outreach, encouraging active lifestyles and tourism in Smithers. These services are not provided by any other organization; SMBA is the only group dedicated specifically to mountain biking and stewardship of the Bluff trail system.

Is your organization voluntary and non-profit?:
Yes

Please detail any remuneration paid, or funds otherwise made available to members, officers, etc. of your organization.:

No funds are made available to members or members. There is one paid part time Executive Director position.

Please comment on the number of members/volunteers in your organization and how long your organization has been in operation.:

The SMBA was established in 2009 focused on establishing a modern trail network, increasing intermediate and beginner trails and establishing a maintenance approach that would lead to sustainability. As this trail network in the main mountain bike trail network for riders in the Smithers and Telkwa area.

In 2024 the SMBA has 352 memberships consisting of 225 adult memberships, 47 family memberships and 34 youth memberships. In 2025 at the time of writing our membership consists of 248 adult members, 50 family member and 24 youth members.

The SMBA board consists of 8 volunteer Board Directors and there is one paid part-time Executive Director position.

Assistance is being requested for::
Capital project and/or equipment

Other Purpose:

Please describe the project/event for which you are requesting assistance. If you are applying for an exemption from fees and/or charges or other consideration, please provide details of your request here. Attach additional information if required.:

The SMBA manages the trails in the Bluff Recreation Area and is currently developing a new blue intermediate trail from the top of the Bluff that will connect to the existing trail, Apocalypse. By adding this intermediate line, the Bluff will become more accessible to a wider range of riders, providing newer riders with a safe way to progress their skills while still offering a fun and rewarding experience for seasoned bikers. The Bluff network is the most frequently used riding area for the Smithers and Telkwa communities, making this project especially impactful.

To complete the vision of an intermediate route from the top of the bluff, the Apocalypse trail requires targeted enhancements to restore and modernize sections of the trail. The SMBA is seeking funding to hire a paid contractor to complete this work, ensuring the trail meets modern standards and provides a proper intermediate option within the Bluff network. The total budget for this project is \$46,000, for the trail contractor. The SMBA has \$5,000 in sponsorship funding available, and is seeking a \$40,000 grant for the remaining portion. The SMBA will also contribute \$1,000 in in-kind time to manage the project.

Describe how this proposal will benefit the community.:

This project will benefit residents of Smithers and Telkwa by adding a true blue intermediate trail from the top of the Bluff, giving riders a safe and enjoyable way to progress their skills on the community's most popular trail network. Currently, only black-diamond options are available from the top, and residents have repeatedly requested more intermediate choices. By filling this gap, the project addresses a clear community need while also enhancing the Bluff's appeal as a mountain biking destination. Expanding the variety of trails will keep local riders engaged, attract visitors of all skill levels, and support local businesses through increased tourism. In this way, the project strengthens both community recreation and the regional economy.

Beyond recreation, mountain biking delivers wide-ranging benefits to the community. It promotes healthy, active lifestyles, engages youth and families in outdoor activity, and fosters a strong sense of community through

volunteering and events. Trails also draw visitors who contribute to the local economy while showcasing Smithers and Telkwa as vibrant, outdoor-oriented communities.

Have you applied for a grant/funding from other source(s)?:

No

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Amount applied for:

Status of application:

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Amount applied for:

Status of application:

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Amount applied for:

Status of application:

Has the organization received assistance (grant in aid/waiving of fees, etc.), from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in previous years?:

No

If yes, please provide the year, the amount, and the purpose for the assistance.:

Does your Organization: (Please check all that apply):

Provide an opportunity for individuals to make direct contributions?

Contact Name:

Kevin Welsh

Attach supporting financial information, ie: budget/financial report. Ensure all information is clearly itemized, including: total cost of project, grants/funding from other sources, funding contributed by applicant, total expenses for the fiscal year.:

9504,9505,9506,9507

Contact Name:

Jack Carrigan

Contact Phone Number:

250-784-1776

Contact Email Address:

jackcarrigan@me.com

Which RDBN electoral area(s) receive services or benefits from your organization?:

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Is your organization signed up to receive funds from the RDBN via Electronic Funds Transfer?:

No, but we would like to be.

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r03/___https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/view/2315___YzFjOnJkYm46YzpvOmM1MmRmNTcyZDA4MWJhYjhiNDYxMjAyODliNTA3MjYzOjc6MGNIzdpiMTM5ODU2OTQ5NTIzN2JhOGY0MTFhM2JlYTgzNGZjZjRmMTRkMzgyZTY0ZTdjOTE0YjE1YjUzYWlzMzY5OnA6VDpO



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: **Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services**
Date: October 9, 2025
Subject: **Community Hall Meeting Summary**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

BACKGROUND

On September 11, 2025, the RDBN hosted a meeting for all community hall societies within the region at the Heritage Church in Burns Lake. Out of fourteen halls, twelve were able to send representatives. There were approximately 35 participants in attendance, plus Rural Directors and RDBN staff.

The meeting was structured to create discussion and generate as many ideas and comments as possible about challenges and opportunities that hall societies are experiencing.

The attached document is a summary of both the information provided, and the comments collected at the meeting. It has been sent to attendees to assist in continuing communication, both with the RDBN, as well as between societies, about what kind of supports or learning opportunities may be beneficial.

ATTACHMENTS:

Community Hall Meeting Summary

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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

COMMUNITY HALL MEETING SUMMARY

September 11, 2025



What started this conversation?

RDBN Rural Directors are aware that rural Community Halls face unique challenges, including rising costs for operations, declining volunteerism, high costs for infrastructure improvements, aging demographics, and changing community needs. We wanted to hear directly from you about what you are facing.

Community Halls in the RDBN

Glenwood Hall
Driftwood School House
Paul Lychak (Evelyn) Hall
Round Lake Hall

Topley Community Club
Rose Lake Community Hall
Palling Community Hall
Decker Lake Community Hall
Francois Lake Community Hall
Trout Creek Community Hall

Grassy Plains Community Hall
Endako Community Hall
Fort Fraser Community Hall
Mapes/Blackwater Community Hall
Braeside Community Hall
Cluculz Lake Community Hall

What we have heard from Halls:

Our Society is aging – without younger volunteers I'm not sure how long I'll have the energy for this.

Some community members can't get into the hall because of accessibility issues – how can I fix that?

Renting the hall makes us money, but managing the rentals and cleaning is a lot.

I love planning events, but our Hall needs a lot of work and it's so hard to find money to fix it.

Insurance and utilities are just too expensive – how can we afford them?

What we know is true:

Community Halls serve an important function in rural communities, even if it looks different than it used to.

Hearing from other halls and brainstorming together can generate wonderful ideas.

Each Hall is experiencing unique wins and challenges and will need a unique support plan.



What supports already exist?

Grant in Aid for small - medium infrastructure projects or events.

Free Grant Writing support.

Service establishment for two halls within the RDBN.

Examples from other jurisdictions:

Local Government ownership of infrastructure - operating agreement with Society.

Local Government ownership and administration of some aspects of hall operation.
User agreements with Societies.

Service establishment for individual Hall service area or larger area that includes multiple Halls.

What are the most important functions of a community hall?

Community halls play an important role in the life of a community by serving as welcoming gathering places where people can meet new friends and strengthen connections. They host a wide variety of events, from annual celebrations and memorials to regular activities such as darts and bingo, while also providing essential services like space rentals, polling stations, and venues for clubs and initiatives.

Community halls often act as fundraising hubs, supporting local projects and offering opportunities for volunteering that keep people engaged. They are versatile spaces, accommodating everything from religious services and training workshops to arts and cultural events such as music nights, theatre, dances, and dinners. Beyond their practical uses, they preserve local history, foster connections across generations by bringing seniors, families, and youth together, and remain cost-effective and accessible for all demographics. In times of need, they can even serve as emergency meeting places, highlighting their role as vital, adaptable, and enduring cornerstones of community life.



What would you like to see start at (or return to) your hall?

- **Social & Cultural Events:** Movie nights, games nights (crib, bridge, darts), bingo (bring-a-prize format), family dances, coffee houses, community dinners, cook-offs, craft fairs, quilt retreats, health fairs, community garage sales, and bottle drives.
- **Recreation & Outdoor Activities:** Baseball tournaments, horse events (gymkhana, team penning), “super league” competitions between communities, swimming, camping services, playgrounds, horseshoes, team sports, cross-country skiing, and seasonal events like Trunk-or-Treat.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborations with First Nations and partnerships with other groups, AGMs, and shared initiatives.
- **Facilities & Amenities:** Commercial kitchens and food processing spaces, newer outdoor washroom facilities, increased storage, and essential upgrades such as electrical, heating, and insulation improvements.



What is the biggest challenge in the operation of your hall?

- **Volunteer Capacity:** Shortage of volunteers, especially younger people.
- **Rising Costs:** High insurance rates, increasing utility bills tied to energy efficiency, and water costs/drinkability concerns.
- **Infrastructure Needs:** Aging heating and electrical systems requiring upgrades.
- **Operations & Administration:** Lack of marketing and clerical support, financial reporting and auditing requirements, and the ongoing management of routine maintenance (e.g., snow removal).
- **Technology & Connectivity:** Need for improved internet access and newer technology.
- **Community Engagement:** Difficulty in identifying and responding to what community members most want provided.
- **Safety & Security:** Necessity of upgrades to prevent theft and damage.

What kind of support would be most helpful to you?

- **Clerical & Administrative Support:** Grant writing, financial management, pooled purchasing power
- **Contract Management**
- **Information Sharing:** Newsletters or mailouts with upcoming events and regular get-togethers
- **Volunteer Support:** Volunteer registry, recruitment, and appreciation (e.g., discounts)
- **Community Engagement:** Community surveys, education, and communication initiatives
- **Insurance & Funding:** Common insurance carrier, service establishment for funds, collaboration with the Regional District (RD), and funding opportunities
- **Youth & Education Programs:** School career programs, 4-H groups providing fundraising services
- **Facilities & History:** Optimized hall set-ups for different activities, and documentation/preservation of local history
- **Collaboration & Capacity Building:** Ongoing inter-hall collaboration, RDBN as a knowledge hub, capacity/governance seminars

Where we think the RDBN can start:



- 1 Explore pooled purchasing options for insurance.
- 2 Look at starting an online information hub and/or newsletter for Societies.
- 3 Develop standard community survey for Halls to review.
- 4 Explore options to document and preserve historical information about halls.
- 5 Develop communication and marketing tools for Halls.
- 6 Develop volunteer recruitment and retention programs or ideas for sharing.
- 7 Organize information sessions about topics of interest, such as insurance, grant writing, and other governance topics.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural Services Committee

To: Chair and Committee

From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services

Date: October 9, 2025

Subject: **Community Hall Appraisal Report**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the Committee direct staff to pursue a contract for appraisals of all fifteen community Hall locations in the RDBN.

BACKGROUND

At the September 11, 2025, Community Hall Meeting, insurance considerations were identified as one of the most important topics of discussion.

Staff have reached out to Suncorp Valuations, who recently provided appraisal reports for all RDBN capital assets, regarding a similar project for community halls. The estimate was \$1,800 per site for each of the fifteen locations. Each site's appraisal would be conducted on behalf of (and be the property of) the Hall Society.

Information from a region-wide appraisal project could be used to explore pooled purchasing options for insurance. The cost of the appraisals is an eligible expense for Grant in Aid.

If directed, staff will reach out to inquire about which halls would be interested in participating.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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