

# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO MEETING MINUTES Thursday, August 14, 2025

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker

Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell

Michael Riis-Christianson

Stoney Stoltenberg

Sarrah Storey Henry Wiebe

Directors Absent: Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa

Alternate Director: Annette Morgan, Alternate Director

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief – arrived at

12:50 p.m.

Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator -

arrived at 12:52 p.m., left at 1:37 p.m.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – arrived at 12:52 p.m., left at 1:37

p.m.

John Iles, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and

**Development Services** 

Others: Wade Abbott –Director of Regulatory Strategy - BC Energy Regulator - via Zoom - left at 11:51 a.m.

Katie Cunningham, Environmental Advisor, TC Energy - left at 11:51 a.m.

Kari Dressler, Business Intelligence Analyst, BC Energy

Regulator - via Zoom - left at 11:51 a.m.

Claire Gibbs – Executive Director Energy Resources Division - Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (ECS) - via Zoom - left at

11:51 a.m.

Sara Gregory, Chief Legal Counsel, Governance & Regulatory Affairs from the BC Energy Regulator - via Zoom - left at 11:51 a.m.

Sharon Hartwell, MLA Bulkley Valley-Stikine - left at 10:27 a.m. Vicky Hoskins, Assistant to MLA Hartwell - left at 10:27 a.m. Justine Johnson, Community Relations- BC Energy Regulator - via Zoom - arrived at 10:36 a.m., left at 11:51 a.m.

Tanner Moulton, Community Relations Advisor, TC Energy - left at 11:51 a.m.

Parker Nesdoly, Operations Planning Engineer, TC Energy - left at 11:51 a.m.

Jackson Porreca – Senior Policy Analyst – BC Energy

Regulator- via Zoom - left at 11:51 a.m.

Ian Swan – Manager of Regulatory Engagement – BC Energy Regulator - via Zoom - left at 11:51 a.m.

Garth Thoroughgood – VP Public Trust – BC Energy Regulator - left at 11:51 a.m.

Kim Walters – Director of Renewable Resources – BC Energy Regulator - via Zoom - left at 11:51 a.m.

Media: Jake Wray, Lakes District News

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

### **First Nations Acknowledgement**

### **AGENDA**

### 2025-BM-085

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Agenda for August 14, 2025 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### **MINUTES**

### **Board Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2025**

### 2025-BM-086

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Greenaway That the Board Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025 be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### **DELEGATIONS**

### SHARON HARTWELL, MLA BULKLEY VALLEY-STIKINE Re: Update

MLA Hartwell spoke of her time in the Bulkley Valley and provided an overview of her history in local government.

MLA Hartwell provided an update since being elected as MLA for Bulkley Valley-Stikine.

- Visits from Official Opposition Critics
  - Showcased the vastness of the north
  - Ian Patton, Critic for Agriculture, Fisheries and Agricultural Land Commission
  - Harman Bhangu, Critic for Transportation
  - Pete Davis, Critic for Mining, Critical Minerals and Columbia Treaty is planning to visit in the future
- Topics of focus:
  - Forestry
    - Toured local woodlot and heard concerns regarding old growth and stagnation
      - Drax unable to take blowdown fibre due to old growth designation
      - Reviewing changes to legislation

- Healthcare in the region
  - Need for new hospital in Smithers
- Working to establish a constituency office.

### Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Transportation challenges in the Bulkley Valley
- Director Atrill is attending a meeting regarding the Smithers Hospital and will provide an update
- Recognizing the differences between southern and northern BC and implementing legislation that respects the differences
- · Value of a collective voice
- Village of Telkwa concerns:
  - Support for water infrastructure upgrades
  - Access to land
  - Increasing transportation
  - Telkwa Bridge upgrade/replacement
  - Meetings with the Province at UBCM and outside of UBCM are inadequate and inequitable
    - receive little or no response
    - Have opportunities for growth in the community
    - Having a voice, sharing and negotiating with the province is a priority
    - Mayor and Council's message to constituents- "Committed to working 7 days a week"
  - BC Utilities Commission
    - Concerns about the Pacific Natural Gas increased rates
    - Village of Telkwa intervenor status declined
      - Alternate Director Morgan was accepted as an intervenor personally
      - Audit of PNG and costs to residents
  - After hours support for seniors care and seniors in crisis
    - return of Public Health Nurse for Seniors health and wellness care
  - Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)
    - support for the renewal and increase of the Northwest Benefits Agreement with the Province.

Chair Parker thanked MLA Hartwell for attending the meeting.

### **BC ENERGY REGULATOR - via Zoom**

Wade Abbott, Director of Regulatory Strategy, Sara Gregory, Chief Legal Counsel, Governance & Regulatory Affairs, Justine Johnson, Community Relations, Kari Dressler, Business Intelligence Analyst, Ian Swan, Manager of Regulatory Engagement, Jackson Porreca, Senior Policy Analyst, Garth Thoroughgood, VP Public Trust, Kim Walters, Director of Renewable Resources and Clair Gibbs, Executive Director Energy Resources Division, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (ECS) Re: Renewables Framework: Policy Intention

A PowerPoint Presentation was provided.

### **Renewables Framework: Policy Intention**

- · Who is the BC Energy Regulator (BCER)
- · BCER Regulatory Approach
- · What does the *Renewable Energy Projects Act* (REPA) do?
- · What does REPA Not do?
- · Regulatory Framework
- · Legislative & Regulatory Timeline
- · Context for Initial Engagement
- · Theme 1: Environmental Assessment & Protection
  - o Water, Land & Wildlife
  - o Birds & Bats
  - o Cumulative Effects Management
  - o Agriculture Land Use
  - o Decommissioning & Restoration
- · Theme 2: Supporting Reconciliation
  - o Pre-Engagement
  - o Consensus Seeking & Decision Making
  - o Capacity Funding
  - o Protecting Cultural Heritage Sites
  - o Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge
- · Theme 3: Social Well-Being
  - o Assessment of Community Impacts
  - o Shadow Flicker
  - o Solar Panel Glare
  - o Noise
  - o Crown Land Access
  - o Community Engagement
- · Theme 4: Protecting Public Safety
  - o Technical Hazards & Risks
  - o Natural Hazards & Climate Risks
- · The Path Forward
- · Summary.

### The following was discussed:

- No mention of consultation with local governments during the presentation
  - BCER's envision of local governments within the Renewables Framework and in the future
    - Intention to introduce a consultation requirement to submit an application to the local authority or jurisdiction
  - Value of local government engagement
- Process to bring forward concerns during engagement with proponents has been unsuccessful at times during past experience with resource developers
  - Consultation and comments are submitted to BCER as well as the requirements under REPA
- Consultation process required for proposed projects
  - Regulatory framework
  - Investigative Use Permits
    - Applicants seeking a wind resource
    - Meteorological testing
    - May include archeological testing
    - Determining if a project has value
    - Notification feedback valuable
- BCER funding structure
  - Under Energy Resource Activities Act the BCER receives and functions through fees charged to applicants for permits
  - Have ability to charge levies throughout life cycle of activity
  - Fees are determined 100% cost recovered
  - Fees and levies are subject to approval through the Provincial Treasury Board
- · Streamlining regulatory oversight
- Use of private land for wind and solar resources requires an agreement with the private landowner
- Cumulative impacts and the tracking of all projects on the land base
  - BCER's current cumulative management process and the new Renewables Framework
    - Includes information regarding the impacts of multiple activities
- Concerns regarding the complete lack of response or acknowledgement to over 50+ formal comments sent by the Regional District to the BCER (formally BC Oil

### & Gas Commission)

- Suggest the new Renewables Framework include a more meaningful process
- BCER spoke of trying to build a process different than the Environmental Assessment process and lessons learned regarding consultation
- First Nations capacity funding to provide input and comments
- BCER not subsidized by taxpayers, but it requires taxpayers dollars for the Regional District to review projects in the region
  - Local governments also require capacity funding
- Encourage the use of existing resource corridors for future resource development.

Chair Parker thanked the BC Energy Regulator and Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions for attending the meeting.

### **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

### **Bylaw for First and Second Reading**

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ F-03-25 First and Second Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025 Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

#### 2025-BM-087

Moved by Director Moon Seconded by Director Moutray

- 1. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025 be given first and second reading this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025 and subsequently taken to public hearing.
- That the public hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural).

## Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ F-01-25 First and Second Readings for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2080, 2025 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

#### 2025-BM-088

Moved by Director Moon Seconded by Director Brienen

- 1. That the Senior Planner's Rezoning Application RZ F-01 25, First and Second Readings for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2080, 2025 Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) memorandum be amended.
- 2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2080, 2025 be given first and second reading this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.
- 3. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2080, 2025 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development OCP Amendment and Rezoning Application RZ RDBN-01-25 First and Second Reading for OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2083, 2025 and Rezoning Bylaw No. 2084, 2025

#### 2025-BM-089

Moved by Director Wiebe Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

- 1. That the Board consider and approve the consultation identified in the consultation checklist.
- 2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2083, 2025 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2084, 2025 be given first and second reading this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.
- 3. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2083, 2025 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2084, 2025 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural).

### **Bylaw for Third Reading**

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ G-01-25 Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075, 2025 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

### 2025-BM-090

Moved by Director Newell Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

- 1. That the Public Hearing Report for Bylaw No. 2075 Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
- 2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075, 2025 be given third reading this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Bylaw for Adoption**

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ F-02-25 Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 -Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) 2025-BM-091

Moved by Director Moon Seconded by Director Moutray

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 be adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ A-01-25 Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2079, 2025 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2025-BM-092

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Newell

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2079, 2025 be adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

### **Other**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services – OCP Bylaws Review 2025-BM-093

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson Seconded by Director Brienen

That the Board receive the Director of Planning and Development Services' OCP Bylaws Review memorandum.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **ALR Applications**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development - ALR Non-Adhering Residential Use Application No. 1281

2025-BM-094

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board not authorize the submission of Agricultural Land Reserve Non-Adhering Residential Use Application No. 1281 to the Agricultural Land Commission.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

Lunch break at 12:06 p.m., reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

### **Land Referral**

### Chloe Taylor, Planning Summer Student - Crown Land Application Referral No. 6404813 - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2025-BM-095

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 6404813.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

### Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Q2 Quarterly Report 2025-BM-096

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Q2 Quarterly Report memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Glacier Gulch Water Diversion Local Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2078 - Adoption

2025-BM-097

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Atrill

That Glacier Gulch Water Diversion Local Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2078, 2025 be adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

# Cheryl Anderson - Director of Corporate Services - RDBN Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 2066, 2025 – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Reading

### 2025-BM-098

Moved by Director Moon Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 2066, 2025 be given 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Racquet Courts Update and Review

### 2025-BM-099

Moved by Director Atrill Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

- 1. That the Board publish a Notice of Intent that it plans to enter a five-year management agreement with the Bulkley Valley Aquatic Management Society to manage the operations of the pool.
- 2. That the Board accept the proposed donation of funds from the Bulkley-Valley Aquatic Management Society and direct staff to prepare an RFP for the Engineering and Architectural Design of the new proposed entrance to the pool.
- 3. That staff bring back a bylaw to a future meeting increasing the scope of Bylaw No. 1350 (to include the climbing wall and the fitness studio room).

#### 2025-BM-100

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Alternate Director Annette Morgan

That Motion 2025-BM-099 be amended to defer items 2 and 3 to a future meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

That the question be called on Motion 2025-BM-099 as amended.

## John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Cancellation of Credit Facilitation 2025-BM-101

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson Seconded by Director Brienen

That the Board authorize the cancellation of the \$400,000 Credit Facility with the Bulkley Valley Credit Union.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Topley Fire Department Communications Tower

2025-BM-102

Moved by Director Newell Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board authorize staff to utilize 911 Capital Reserves to relocate and upgrade Topley Volunteer Fire Department's communications equipment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

# Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Canada Community-Building Funds for Village of Fraser Lake Bulk Water Station 2025-BM-103

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson Seconded by Director McGuire

- 1. That the Board authorize contributing up to \$22,000 of Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to the Village of Fraser Lake for a Drinking Water Infrastructure project, and (participants/weighted/majority)
- 2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$22,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

## Northern Summit Volleyball Club – NDIT Resolution of Support 2025-BM-104

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Northern Summit Volleyball Club for the Tyhee Lake Beach Volleyball Court Project.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator - Growing Opportunities Newsletter - Issue 28, July 2025

2025-BM-105

Moved by Director Lambert Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's Growing Opportunities Newsletter - Issue 28, July 2025 memorandum.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

Discussion took place regarding:

- Bringing forward a meeting request at the 2025 UBCM Convention regarding impacts of invasive plants to agriculture and agriculture lands
  - Invasive plants are thriving due to the drought conditions
- Increase advocacy to address invasive plants along transportation corridors, railways and highways and in highway gravel/sand pits
- · Addressing invasive plants within municipalities
- Funding for the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC).

### **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

## Northern Development - 2025 Grant Writing Support Approval 2025-BM-106

Moved by Director Stoltenberg Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board receive the correspondence from Northern Development regarding 2025 Grant Writing Support Approval.

### Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport - Community Gaming Grants Program

2025-BM-107

Moved by Director McGuire Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport regarding Community Gaming Grants Program.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness - Response to ESS Team Leads RDBN Letter

2025-BM-108

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the letter from the Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness in response to the ESS Team Leads RDBN Letter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## Neighbourlink Vanderhoof - Request for Support - Building Purchase 2025-BM-109

Moved by Director Moon Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board receive the correspondence from Neighbourlink Vanderhoof regarding a Request for Support - Building Purchase.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Union of BC Municipalities - 2023 CRI - FireSmart Community Funding Supports - 2023 RDBN FireSmart Program

2025-BM-110

Moved by Director Storey Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding the 2023 CRI - FireSmart Community Funding Supports - 2023 RDBN FireSmart Program.

# Union of BC Municipalities - 2023 CEPF: Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training - Cultural Competence in Emergency Response 2025-BM-111

Moved by Director Storey Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding 2023 CEPF: Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training - Cultural Competence in Emergency Response.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### Village of Granisle - Update

Director McGuire commented:

- Universal Broadband Funding is being utilized to bring fibre to the home starting next week
- Houses continue to sell
- Regional Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) funding is being utilized to remediate the strip mall
  - The roof is complete with next steps being the windows and doors
- Ellis Ross, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley and John Rustad, MLA Nechako Lakes participated in the Granisle Day Parade on August 9<sup>th</sup>. MP Ross also judged the pie eating contest.

### Village of Burns Lake

Director Wiebe provided the following update:

- 3rd Avenue and Government Street paving are complete
- Attended meeting with Lake Babine Nation for the official signing of some of the timber license from Houston Canfor being transferred to West Fraser. The Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests was in attendance
- Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre Emergency Room closure concerns
  - Director Wiebe has been invited to participate on a panel regarding the issue at the 2025 UBCM Convention in September
- Light Up the Lake and Rock the Dock Music event will take place at Spirit Square on August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Village Heights installment of services is approximately 50% complete
- Planning for the proposed golf course is moving forward.

### Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Director Lambert noted the following:

- Attended a meeting with the First Nations communities on the Southside on August 6<sup>th</sup>
- Attended Cheslatta Carrier Nation's Annual Campout August 13<sup>th</sup>
- Helicopter pilot recently moved to the Southside and has been training with Search and Rescue, Southside Ambulance and Southside Volunteer Fire Department

### Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Director Greenaway advised:

- Union of BC Municipalities will be addressing Regional District legislative reform as a special project
- Attended a meeting with the Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Communities and Evan Brown, Executive Advisor to discuss Regional District legislative reform
- Met with RDBN Planning and Parks staff to review a potential recreation site
- Parks and Trails Master Plan for Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural) Public Meeting is being planned for the near future.

### Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Director Newell commented that he attended a meeting regarding road use with Ministry of Forests staff and spoke about the use of Forest Service Roads (FSRs) for recreational purposes and specifically the funding for the Morice FSR.

### Town of Smithers

Director Atrill reported the following:

- Mainstreet Market was a success with approximately 50 vendors
- Cycle 16 and the cycling paths from Smithers, Telkwa and Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) are being connected and completed
- Princess Street development moving forward utilizing RBA funding
- Smithers and District Transit
  - Conducting a survey to determine the future of transit
- Hudson Bay Mountain Ride to Sky weekends
  - Chair lift rides to the top of the mountain with a barbeque
- Bulkley Valley Fall Fair Exhibition August 21-24
- Encampment fire incident
  - Challenging for everyone involved, including first responders and business
  - Continued advocacy
- North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)
  - Mental Health Symposium October 15, 2025 Prince George
  - 2025 AGM May 20-22, 2025.

### District of Houston

Director Brienen provided the following update:

- · Paving projects are being completed utilizing RBA funding
- · Two subdivision developments are underway

- The Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests was in Houston last week
- Attended a wonderful performance by the Prince George Symphony Orchestra in Houston.

### Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

**Director Moon commented:** 

- Nechako Valley Exhibition took place August 8-10
- District of Vanderhoof is working on celebrating is 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2026
- St. John Hospital Emergency Room closure concerns
  - Worked to adjust schedules to ensure staffing was sufficient during the Nechako Valley Exhibition
- · Cattle prices remain high
- Hay challenges in the Peace River and northern Alberta.

### Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Director Stoltenberg commented regarding the following:

- Work is continuing at the Round Lake Hall and Paul Lychak Hall
- Installation of an accessibility outhouse at Trout Creek
- Cycle 16 Trail Phase 3 being completed by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

### Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Director Riis-Christianson noted:

- Concerns regarding the emergency room closures at the Burns Lake Hospital
- Area B funded potable water station is nearing completion.

### **RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS**

#### 2025-BM-114

Moved by Director Storey Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### 2025 UBCM Convention Ministry Staff Meetings

- Deadline to submit meeting request is August 20<sup>th</sup>
- · Awaiting confirmation of Minister meetings
- Regional District Legislative Reform
  - Sent a letter to the Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Communities
- · Health Authority meetings included in Ministry staff meeting requests

- Request Northern Health Meeting
  - Critical issues
    - Emergency room closures
    - Recruitment and retention.

### **IN-CAMERA MOTION**

### 2025-BM-115

Moved by Director Brienen Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

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

· Solid Waste.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

### **ADJOURNMENT**

2025-BM-116

Moved by Director Lambert Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Mark Parker, Chair	
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director	Cornorate Services