



“A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION”

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - WINTER 2025

Delegations

At the November 6th Regional Transit Committee Meeting BC Transit provided an update to the Committee.

At the November 20th Board Meeting Rio Tinto and the Northwest Invasive Plant Council provided updates to the Board.

Reports

2026 Budget Kick-off Presentation

At its November 6th Committee of the Whole Meeting the Board kicked off its 2026 Budget process. The Regional District's Five-Year Financial Plan (2026 Budget) will be considered at the Committee of the Whole and Board Meetings in January, February and March 2026. With the budget being legislated to be approved by March 31st the Board will consider approval at its March 26th Board Meeting.

Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw Proposed Amendment

At its November 6th Committee of the Whole Meeting and the December 11th Board Meeting the Board reviewed changes in the Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw. The RDBN is proposing to increase user fees to better align with the provincial average, to better recover costs from major industry projects and recover costs for long-term landfill management.

Non-Profit Newsletter Project

At the November 6th Rural Services Committee Meeting staff were directed to include a quarterly newsletter for non-profit organizations in the Economic Development department workplan.

Letter to the Ministry of Citizens' Services - Cellular Drive Study Data - Highway 16

The Rural Services Committee, at its November 6th Meeting discussed deteriorating cellular service along Highway 16 and recommended that the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Citizens' Services requesting the Ministries Cellular Drive Study data along Highway 16.

Civic Address Sign Project

At the November 20th Board Meeting the Board approve applying to the Union of BC Municipalities 2026 NG911 funding stream for a Civic Address Sign Project.

2026 Board Meeting Schedule

At the November 20th Board Meeting the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule was approved. Please visit the RDBN website for dates.

Community Hall Appraisal Project

At the November 20th Board Meeting the Board approved Regional Grants in Aid for Community Halls interested in participating in an appraisal project.

Letter re: Health and Restoration of the Nechako River

The RDBN, together with Stellat'en First Nation, Saik'uz First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, and the District of Vanderhoof wrote a letter to Premier Eby and Prime Minister Carney requesting support of both governments for feasibility studies of the Kenney Dam Release Facility and Tahtsa Narrows Dredge projects. The letter was received at the November 20th Board meeting.

Lakes District Airport Society – Support for BC Air Access Program Applications

At the December 11th Board Meeting, the Board provided their support to the Lakes District Airport Society's application to the BC Air Access Program for an Airport Master Plan and Runway maintenance equipment at the Burns Lake Airport.

Grant in Aid and Economic Development Service Funding

At its November 20th and December 11th Board Meeting the Board approved the following Grant in Aid Applications:

- Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
 - o Groundbreakers Youth on Farms Program for the 2026 Youth on Farms Program
- Area B (Burns Lake Rural)
 - o Decker Lake Recreation Commission for new tables and a commercial dishwasher at the Decker Lake Hall
 - o Village of Burns Lake received Economic Development Service funds for the Healthcare Recruitment project
- Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
 - o Lakes District Family Enhancement Society for a capital equipment upgrade project
- Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
 - o Grassy Plains Community Hall association for an interior repair project
- Area C (Fort St. James Rural)
 - o Fort St. James Public Library for a re-useable inter-library shipping project
 - o Fort St. James Ski Club for equipment repairs and the Library Pass Program
 - o District of Fort St. James received Economic Development Service funds to support the work of the Healthcare Recruitment Project
- Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)
 - o Mouse Mountain Parent Advisory Council for school ski equipment
 - o Endako Rod and Gun Club for a safety berm project
- Areas F (Vanderhoof Rural) and D (Fraser Lake Rural)
 - o Nechako Valley Search and Rescue for the purchase of a trailer to transport equipment for search operations
- Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
 - o Neighbourlink Vanderhoof to support the purchase of their rented building
 - o Mapes Blackwater Sob Lake Community Club for a cemetery fencing project
 - o Nechako Valley Exhibition Society received Regional Grant in Aid and Economic Development Service funds for a Campground Development project at the Fair Grounds.

RDBN Agriculture Water Assessment and Community Irrigation Study

At its December 11th Board Meeting the Board had an opportunity to review the RDBN Community Irrigation System Report 2025. The report was developed utilizing matching funds through Stream 3 of the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

If you would like to view any previous or upcoming Board Agenda(s), please go to our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca or click here for a direct link: [Board & Committee Meetings](#).

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2026!