

The Regional News

2019 RDBN Meeting Dates:

Board Meeting:

- May 16th
- June 20th
- July 18th
- August 15th
- September 19th
- October 24th
- November 21st
- December 12th

Committee Meeting:

- May 2nd
- June 6th
- July 18th
- August 15th
- September 5th
- October 10th
- November 7th
- December 12th

Questions & Comments:

37 3rd Avenue
Burns Lake, B.C

Mail: P.O. Box 820
Burns Lake, B.C.
VOJ 1E0

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250-692-3195

Toll Free:
1-800-320-3339

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@rdbn.bc.ca

Websites:
www.rdbn.bc.ca

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

www.visitbulkleynechako.com

Message from the Chair



This is my first ability to communicate in this format since being elected as Chair following the local elections that occurred in October of last year. This is a great honour and I thank the Directors for giving me this opportunity.

Since taking office our CAO has decided to move closer to her property in Fort St. James and is now the CAO for the District of Fort St. James. In the Interim, Cheryl Anderson is our Acting CAO and we have had a very smooth transition.

Last year we had a very bad year when it came to forest fires, we hurt as individuals and respectively as a region. This last while the Directors have approved the rehiring of Deborah Jones-Middleton to be our Director of Protective Services. We will never be able to plan for all emergencies but we certainly feel that as a large Regional District with a small population that we are as prepared as possible. It is important that each

resident makes sure their property is FireSmart. If you need more information in this regard, please don't hesitate to call our Regional District office.

We have also made huge gains to get our Solid Waste Management Plan updated, and also saw the Water System in Fort Fraser updated. These are two projects that have been on the books for a long time, and I would like to thank our staff for the great work they have done on these projects during an election year.

On the topic of election, I would like to thank you for the group of individuals you have elected to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako as Directors. In the few months we have worked together there has been a real sense of teamwork.

In my next communication I look forward to sharing an update on items of recycling, broadband connectivity, planning, as well as attraction and retention.

Spring is here and we are looking forward to a great year!

Update on the RDBN Zoning Bylaw Review

The Regional District has developed a preliminary draft of a proposed new zoning bylaw for the rural area of the RDBN. This bylaw regulates the use and development of land in the rural area of the RDBN. It is important to keep the Zoning Bylaw relevant and

(Continued on page 12)

Clint Lambert, Electoral Area 'E' Director



I'm honoured to serve as the Electoral Area E representative for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for my first term. Currently I am working towards getting better cell and internet service to help residents be connected, as well as helping to bring in three phase power to help stimulate the economy. I am looking into the possibility of a larger boat launch with parking for vehicles on the Northshore of Francois Lake and have just granted some funds for the Francois Lake Hall to complete a renovation, as well as some other projects.

Electoral Area E is the only area in the RDBN to have grown in population in 2018. Hopefully with new members in our community, new ideas and people, this will continue to stimulate growth in the area.

I have lived on the Southside of Francois Lake my entire life and am a third-generation rancher on the property I own with my wife, Deanna and 6 children. I am a ticketed millwright and part-time logger as well.

Serving in my community is something my wife and I are passionate about. I am an active volunteer 4-H Beef Leader, Junior LDSS Boys Basketball Coach, active member and volunteer in the local branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and member of the local Cattlemen's Association. I am extremely grateful to have been taught to work hard and that my neighbours and family were taught those same principles. This last summer we saw that when a community works together great things can be accomplished!

Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area "B" Director

Although born in Vancouver, I spent my formative years at Ootsa Lake. After leaving the area to attend college, I returned in 1982, and in the early 1990s moved to Palling with my young family. We remained there for more than a decade; although I now reside in Burns Lake, I remain at heart a rural resident. Most of my free time is spent in the great outdoors, enjoying the Lakes District's spectacular scenery.

I care passionately about community. I love the fact that when you live in a rural area, you know your neighbours and look out for them – even if they live miles away. Ironically, that feeling of belonging and caring is often missing in urban settings, even though population densities there are much higher.

Rural residents face unique challenges. Unlike their city-dwelling counterparts, they often receive few 'hard' services from local government and only select services from the private sector. While this often places them at a disadvantage, it also instills in them a spirit of independence. Rural residents are creative problem-solvers, and they're resilient. They have to be.

Our world is changing. The knowledge-based economy and digital commerce, supported by 'big data' and the internet, are transforming society in ways most of us never thought possible. Some of these changes will challenge us, but with any crisis comes opportunity.

For rural communities to thrive in this brave new world, we need to create conditions that will allow existing residents (particularly young people) to stay in the area and make visitors want to move here. I believe the key to resident attraction and retention lies in improving local quality of life. We need to ensure that rural residents have access to services and opportunities – economic, social, cultural, technological – comparable to those available in urban centres. If they do, the inherent benefits of rural living will keep our communities strong.

Representing Electoral Area B is an honour. Over the next three and a half years, I look forward to working with you to improve service levels in the regional district and (where financially viable) adding new services that will making living here even better. I'm dedicated to upgrading communications and recreation



(Continued from page 2)

infrastructure in the region, and to supporting projects that strengthen community identity and enhance our local economy.

The key to better living is collaboration. If you have a project or an idea that will benefit the residents of Electoral Area B, contact me. If your group needs seed money to get a community initiative off the ground, give me a call. If you are facing a problem, ask me for help. I believe the role of local government is to facilitate positive change and support residents as they move their communities forward.

RDBN Agricultural Plan

In 2012, the RDBN released an Agricultural Plan. What is an agricultural plan? Agricultural plans recognize agriculture as the highest and best use of agricultural land and focus on developing strategies to support a viable agricultural industry at the regional level. The 2012 RDBN Agriculture Plan was utilized in development of local Official Community Plans. The strategies provide a forum for discussion concerning issues relevant to farming and the local food system. A food system is local when it allows farmers, processors, distributors, retailers and their customers to interact face-to-face. The agriculture plan also attempts to identify and anticipate future changes, challenges and ways to help support a healthy, resilient and sustainable agricultural sector.

Agricultural plans have specific actionable items, but overall plans have a “shelf-life” and after reviewing other regional districts, the “shelf-life” appears to be three to nine years. The RDBN will be updating the regional agriculture plan this year as after seven years, there are some gaps that need to be updated, as well as revise the strategic directions for actionable items. The updated agricultural plan could include agriculture viability studies, agriculture strategies, arability studies, incorporation of the Climate Change Agriculture Adaptation, foodshed analyses and much more.

As part of the revision of the agriculture plan, the region will be inviting individuals from agriculture commodity groups as well as support services to join a steering committee. There will be online surveys to gather information from producers, general public and Indigenous communities as one goal is to have a shared vision. There will be planning/information gathering workshops and public open houses for input/feedback as part of the revision process.

More information will be posted on the RDBN website as the 2019 revision process for the agricultural plan moves forward. Once revised, the plan will be promoted throughout the region to highlight a five-year strategy. The Updated 2019 RDBN Agricultural Plan will focus on regional agriculture to discover practical solutions to issues, identify opportunities to strengthen farming and ultimately to contribute to the long-term sustainability of agriculture. Please check the RDBN website for updates and plan to complete a survey and attend an open house as sustainable agriculture supports local food systems.



Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District

On January 3rd, 2019, the Board of the Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District (SNRHD) approved its 2019 budget. The amount of taxes raised will be \$4,652,184 up from \$2,148,006 in 2018. Taxation for a \$100,000 property will increase from \$64.73 in 2018 to \$140.19 in 2019.

Highlights of this year's budget include:

- \$3 million for the SNRHD's first payment towards the new Stuart Lake Hospital in Fort St. James.
- \$480 thousand towards the new Fort St. James primary care building.
- \$300 thousand towards the final completion of the Pines Cafeteria Expansion in Burns Lake.
- \$380 thousand towards upgrades in the St John Hospital in Vanderhoof.

The priority in the next few years will be the construction of the Stuart Lake Hospital. The SNRHD has committed contributing 20% to the total cost of this project. Tax rates are expected to remain steady for the next five years.

The SNRHD includes the communities of Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake and Granisle and the Electoral Areas "C" (Fort St. James Rural), "F" (Vanderhoof Rural), "D" (Fraser Lake Rural), "B" (Burns Lake Rural) and "E" (Francois Lake Rural).



Burns Lake Pines Extended Care



On March 22, 2019, the Board of the North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) approved its 2019 budget.

The total amount of taxes raised will be \$9,754,513, an increase of \$495,539 from 2018. The residential tax rate on a \$100,000 property is estimated at \$64.86 for 2019.

The 2019 budget includes grants for minor and major equipment and Building Integrity funds.

Highlights of projects underway and in planning include:

- Completion of the BVDH CT Scanner project
- Completion of the BVDH radiography project
- New ultrasound for BVDH

- New phone systems for Houston and Stikine clinics

The Mills Memorial Replacement Project Business Plan

is with the Province and awaiting permission to move on the procurement and construction stage.

NWRHD committed in 2018 to contributing 30% to this project to a maximum of \$113.7 million. Included in this contribution is funding 100% of the Business Plan. This expenditure will be complete in 2019.

As of December 31, 2018 NWRHD has a balance of \$14.5 million in its capital infrastructure reserve. These funds will be used to lower future borrowing for the Mills Memorial replacement.

The NWRHD shares the same boundaries as the entire Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, and North Coast Regional District, and the western portion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako including Houston, Telkwa, and Smithers, and the Nisga'a Nation. For more information please visit <http://www.rdks.bc.ca> or email nwrhd@rdks.bc.ca



Mills Memorial Hospital

Emergency and Livestock Preparedness

Over the past three months, the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator has paired up with members of the BC Wildfire Services (BCWS) from the Northwest and VanJam offices. Together they presented ten Emergency and Livestock Preparedness workshops throughout the region. The aim was to meet with livestock producers, commercial and hobby farmers to share information on preparing for a wildfire emergency. Thank you to all who attended the workshops.

Participants who were at the workshops had a presentation from the BCWS about fire history in the specific area of the region, BCWS outlined the staff and what type of crews they have in each of the local areas, how wildfires are ranked with human safety the number one priority and how to FireSmart around home and property. FireSmart Canada helps home and property owners understand the potential risk of wildfire and how to protect their asset. The handout supplied at the workshops was the FireSmart Homeowner's Manual which outlines how to prepare your property in zones to reduce the risk of wildfire damage. Another brochure, the FireSmart Canada Guide to Landscaping, outlines tree and plant species that are safer than other species. Visit FireSmart Canada and FireSmart BC website for more information.

The BCWS members also spoke on burning and participants took home the Open Burning Practices for Farmers and Ranchers and went over the Open Fire Regulations. These and more burning regulations can be found on the BCWS website. The BCWS website is a resource to follow during the wildfire season at www.bcwildfire.ca and offers a variety of information.

The RDBN Agriculture Coordinator presented general farm emergency planning for both commercial livestock producers and hobby farmers. A commercial producer has farm status and if you currently do not have farm status and want to find out if you qualify, visit <https://info.bcassessment.ca> and search classifying farm land. With farm status, in an emergency event, support may be available to qualify producers.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture was also suggested as a good emergency planning resource for business risk management and livestock relocation planning guides. A variety of livestock emergency material is available on the website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-preparedness> which includes links to Beef Emergency Guide and the Emergency Management Guide for B.C. Small Mixed Farms.

All producers, big and small, are encouraged to have a farm emergency plan and attendees of the workshops received a planning workbook and a guide to complete the workbook. The links to the guide and workbook are available on the RDBN website. In addition to the workbooks on the RDBN website, you can find the RDBN Quick Reference Guide to Emergency Commercial Livestock Relocation and the 2019 Bulkley-Nechako Regional Emergency Contact list. We live in a fire-prone ecosystem and by taking the necessary steps to protect property and planning for livestock care during an emergency are steps we can take now. The more prepared we are, a better response to an emergency we will have.



RDBN Recycling Centres

The RDBN is working together with Recycle BC to establish two new recycling centres in our region. One will be at the Fort St. James Transfer Station on Necoslie Road and the other will be located in Houston (site yet to be determined). Potentially, the Fort St. James facility could be open June 12, 2019, with the Houston facility to follow in late summer of 2019. There will be attendants hired for each site. Along with the Smithers/Telkwa and Vanderhoof depots, this will bring the RDBN Recycle BC sites up to 4!!



RDBN depots accept all materials in Recycle BC's residential packaging and printed paper recycling program, including non-deposit glass bottles and jars, plastic bags and plastic foam packaging, along with curbside recycling materials such as newsprint, cardboard, metal containers, plastic containers, spiral wound cans and paper packaging that held liquid when sold, such as coffee cups and soup cartons.

Recycle BC is a non-profit organization responsible for residential packaging and printed paper recycling throughout British Columbia. Recycle BC ensures packaging and printed paper is collected from households and recycling depots, sorted and recycled responsibly. The Recycle BC program is funded by over 1,200 businesses, like retailers, manufacturers and restaurants, that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents, to shift recycling costs away from homeowners.



Composter Rebates

Once again, the Regional District will be offering composter rebates of \$40 to those residents who would like to keep organics out of our waste stream by doing backyard composting. Participating retailers in our Region will offer the rebates when you purchase a composter at their establishment.

For more information on any of these initiatives, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 1-800-320-3339 or

wastewatchers@rdbn.bc.ca.



Knockholt Landfill Closure Works

Closure works on phase 1 & 2 are to be completed at the Knockholt (Houston) Landfill this summer. This will include laying down a metre of clay, followed by 30 cm of top soil. After that, the area will be seeded.

Purchase of New Excavator

The Environmental Services Department is planning to purchase an excavator that will be used for processing/loading of wood waste throughout the region. This will reduce annual operational costs the RDBN pays for this material to be landfilled.

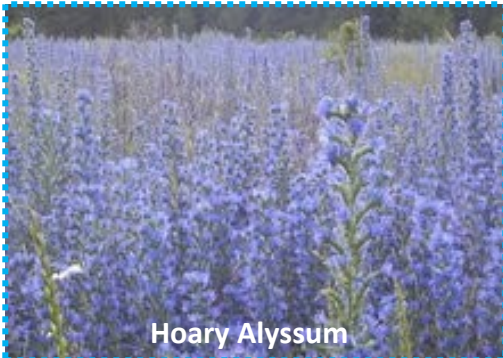
Cost Recovery Study Continues

With the Solid Waste Management Plan completed, work continues on implementing the plan by looking at cost recovery (tipping fees) to be implemented in 2021/2022. The RDBN continues to work together with Tetra Tech and Carey McIver & Associates on this project in 2019.

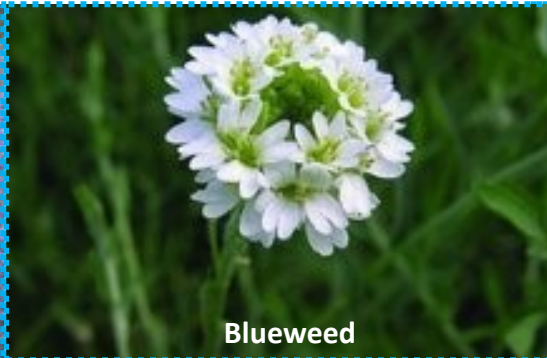


Regional Invasive Plant Management

Land Owner Weed Removal Rebate - The Environmental Services Department is responsible for administering the funding for the Regional District's Invasive Plant Management Program (\$3,000 budgeted for 2019), the goals of which are to provide public education and assistance in the control of invasive plant species through the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC). The RDBN seasonally likes to pass along an option of some assistance for home owners in the region who are planning to manage invasive weeds on their property. This Program allows for the home owner to have 50% of the cost of the work reimbursed up to \$500 to manage invasive weeds. To utilize this rebate, the home owner can fill out the designated form and submit it to NWIPC. The RDBN can assist you by sending you this form or visit www.nwipc.org to download a copy. For more information on RDBN's involvement in invasive plant management please see our website.



Hoary Alyssum



Blueweed



Mountain Bluet

Sustainability Newsletter

Would you like the Sustainability Newsletter emailed to you?
Email elaine.wiebe@rdbn.bc.ca and she will add you to the list.

This newsletter can be viewed online at:

www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmentalservices/recycling/sustainability-newsletter

In the Spring issue:

- Recycling in the RDBN
- Wood ashes
- Backyard composting
- Compost Rebate Program
- Lasagne gardening

Like us at
"Sustainable
RDBN"



GET READY!

The 2019 Start-up Business Contest is coming!



Business
ACTION
INNOVATION
Leadership
ENTREPRENEUR
VISION
enterprise
SOLUTIONS
future
GROWTH

**2019
STARTUP BUSINESS
CONTEST**



In preparation for the 2019 Start-up Business Contest, contact your local Community Futures today for Business Canvas Training!

Contest opens May 4th. Follow us on Facebook for further contest details to come!

facebook.com/BulkleyNechakoOpportunities



Houston: 250-845-2522

Smithers: 250-847-1380

Vanderhoof: 250-567-5219



BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN BACKYARD BURNING

With spring upon us, everyone is looking forward to getting outside and starting spring cleanup activities. Please keep in mind that backyard burning is one of the leading causes of forest fires at this time of year. An unattended grass or shrub fire can quickly get out of control. Wildfires threaten lives of people, livestock and wildlife. It destroys timber, and other forest resources costing millions of dollars to extinguish.

Important tips to consider when planning a backyard burn or a grass fire:

- Ensure adequate hand tools, water, and personnel are available on site to keep the fire under control
- Be aware of weather conditions, do not light or burn when the wind is strong enough to carry sparks onto combustible material
- Keep informed regarding the burning bans, restrictions, and municipal bylaws in your area.

Lighting or fueling an open fire within one kilometer of forest or grassland, must comply with the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations. It is your responsibility to phone the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to check the venting index and make sure there are no **bans or restrictions in place at 1-888-336-7378 or 1-888-797-1717 to register for a burn permit if required.**



Connecting Consumers and Producers Community Events

Grant Funding Available

Funding up to \$1,100 per event

Guidelines and Applications
available by emailing
economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca

Application Deadline: June 28, 2019

2019 BUSINESS FORUM



REGISTRATION OPENING SOON
AT RDBN.BC.CA

2019 REGIONAL BUSINESS FORUM

CREATING A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

VANDERHOOF, BC

OCTOBER 22 & 23, 2019

FIND OUR EVENT ON FACEBOOK

162 Smithers To Smithers

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	6:46 am	—
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:00	—
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:14	—
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:24	—
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:30	—
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:38	—
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	7:58	—
Topley: Rest Area	8:10	—
Houston: Leisure Facility	8:33 Ar	—
Houston: Leisure Facility	8:48 Lv	1:00 pm
Telkwa: Post Office	9:33	1:45
Smithers: 8th Ave at Columbia Dr	9:49	—
Smithers: Roi Theatre	9:53 am	2:00 pm

162 Burns Lake To Burns Lake

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Smithers: Roi Theatre	11:30 am	3:00 pm
Smithers: 8th Ave at Columbia Dr	—	3:04
Telkwa: Post Office	11:45	3:20
Houston: Leisure Facility	12:30 pm	4:05 Ar
Houston: Leisure Facility	—	4:15 Lv
Topley: Rest Area	—	4:38
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	—	4:50
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Drive at Hwy 16	—	5:07
Decker Lake: Trading Post	—	5:12
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	5:20 Ar
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	5:25 Lv
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	—	5:35
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	—	5:41
Decker Lake: Trading Post	—	5:49
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	—	5:54
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	6:08 pm



(Transit schedules cont'd on Page 11)

Suggestions or Comments?

If you have comments about service in general or suggestions for improvements, contact:



*Deneve Vanderwolf,
Regional Transit Coordinator
Toll Free 1-800-320-3339 or
deneve.vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca*

Newsletter

If you wish to be included in the distribution list to receive the "Regional News" please send an email to:

inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca and ask to be added to the email or mail list. You can read past issues [here](#).

161 Prince George/To Prince George

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:00 am
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:05
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:13
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:23
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:29
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:33
Tintagel: Rest Area Hwy 16 at Tintagel	7:44
Endako: Endako Pub	8:14
Stellaquo: Slenyah Store	8:21
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	8:27 <i>Ar</i>
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	8:37 <i>Lv</i>
Nautley: Nadleh Whut'en Store	8:54
Fort Fraser: Community Hall	9:01
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:31 <i>Ar</i>
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:41 <i>Lv</i>
Hospital Rd at Health Care Ave	9:46
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:50
Beverly: Petro Canada	10:48
Prince George: Westgate Mall	10:58
Prince George: Pine Centre	11:06
Prince George: Edmonton at 13th Ave (Hospital)	11:15
Prince George: Downtown 7th at Dominion	11:22 am

161 Burns Lake To Burns Lake

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Prince George: Downtown 7th at Dominion	3:00 pm
Prince George: Edmonton at 13th Ave (Hospital)	3:04
Prince George: Pine Centre	3:16
Prince George: Westgate Mall	3:26
Beverly: Petro Canada	3:36
Beverly: Petro Canada	3:41
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:39 <i>Ar</i>
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:49 <i>Lv</i>
Hospital Rd at Health Care Ave	4:54
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:58
Fort Fraser: Community Hall	5:28
Nautley: Nadleh Whut'en Store	5:35
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	5:52 <i>Ar</i>
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	6:02 <i>Lv</i>
Stellaquo: Slenyah Store	6:08
Endako: Endako Pub	6:15
Tintagel: Rest Area Hwy 16 at Tintagel	6:45
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	6:56
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:06
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:12
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:20
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:25 pm

Riding The Bus:

Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early; seats are for customers, hold your bag on your lap or on the floor where it will not obstruct aisles or other customers. Please allow others to make use of the seats; have correct fare; take a seat as soon as possible; hold on while the bus is in motion; keep head, hands and arms inside bus at all times; assist your

children on and off the bus; never allow your children to stand or kneel on the seat while riding the bus; be considerate of others e.g. loud music, offensive language; remind your driver if you have to get your bike off the bike rack; never enter the street in front of or directly behind a stopped bus. Make sure traffic can see you; take your garbage with you when you leave. Rural residents

requiring information in regard to flagging the bus please contact the Regional District at 1-800-320-3339 or 250-692-3195.



**Regional District of
Bulkley-Nechako Board
of Directors
Municipalities**

- Town of Smithers**
- Mayor Taylor Bachrach
- Village of Telkwa**
- Mayor Brad Layton
- District of Houston**
- Mayor Shane Brienen
- Village of Granisle**
- Mayor Linda McGuire
- Village of Burns Lake**
- Mayor Dolores Funk
- Village of Fraser Lake**
- Councillor Kim Watt-Senner
- District of Fort St. James**
- Mayor Bev Playfair
- District of Vanderhoof**
- Mayor Gerry Thiessen-Chair

- Electoral Areas**
- A - Smithers Rural**
- Director Mark Fisher
 - B - Burns Lake Rural**
- Director Michael Riis-Christianson
 - C - Fort St. James Rural**
- Director Tom Greenaway
 - D - Fraser Lake Rural**
- Director Mark Parker
 - E - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural**
- Director Clint Lambert
 - F - Vanderhoof Rural**
- Director Jerry Petersen
 - G - Houston Rural**
- Director Rob Newell

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- * [Sustainable RDBN](#)
- * [Bulkley-Nechako Emergency Information.](#)

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updated to reflect changes in legislation, planning law, and land use and development trends. It is also an opportunity to improve the bylaw's clarity and effectiveness.

Public engagement is an important part of the review process. Earlier this year the Planning Department hosted open houses across the region to provide opportunities for public consultation and input. We will continue to accept comments on the draft bylaw until the formal approval process starts.

Following the public consultation and referral process, the bylaw will enter the formal approval process. This includes presenting the bylaw to the Regional District Board for consideration of first and second reading, followed by the holding of a Public Hearing. This process is anticipated to begin in early summer 2019. To read the zoning bylaw draft and find out more information about the review process, please visit our website at:

<https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/planning-department/zoning-bylaw-review/722-zoning-bylaw-review>

Become an ESS Volunteer

Volunteering as an ESS responder is a rewarding experience. Would you like to help people in your community during a crisis or emergency? Would you like to work with a team of other dedicated volunteers? Can you be available on short notice to respond to an emergency event? We need your help!

You will be part of a team that provides shelter, food and a shoulder to lean on when disaster forces people from their homes. ESS volunteer training is offered through the Justice Institute and your local government. All ESS volunteers receive WorkSafe BC and liability insurance coverage while on assignments. For more information or to become an Emergency Support Services Volunteer, call the Regional District of Bulkley- Nechako at (250) 692-3195 or email Rebecca.rodriquez@rdbn.bc.ca.



Do you know that you can now pay by debit card for your building permit fees, Regional District utility and industrial waste invoices?

Come try our new debit machine at the Regional District Office!



Emergencies can happen anytime. Is your family ready?

Emergencies and disasters can strike at any time and can leave you without basic services such as water, gas, electricity or a working telephone. You might have to evacuate your home or neighbourhood, or you may be confined to your home for safety. Roads may be closed or important supplies unavailable.

Your best strategy for dealing with disasters and emergencies is to be as prepared as possible. Don't be caught off-guard. Know the hazards in your area and take the time to assemble your family emergency kit. Predetermine meeting places to reunite with family and contact persons close-by and out-of-town.



Prepare a 72-Hr Emergency Kit

Pack everything in carryable totes or bags and store in one easy-to-reach location. Ensure everyone in the household knows where it is. Use the checklist provided as a guide to stock a basic 72-hr kit and add items depending on your family's needs:

Toiletries

- Cleaning supplies (hand sanitizer, dry shampoo, etc.)
- First aid kit
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Feminine supplies

Special Needs Items

- Infant needs (diapers, formula, bottles, etc.)
- Prescription medicines
- Extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses
- Pet items (food, leash, muzzle, medication, pet carrier/portable kennel, etc.)

Personal Documents and Items

- A list of your emergency contacts (names and contact numbers)
- An extra set of house and car keys

- Cash in smaller bills

- Copies of important documents like passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies

Food and Water

- Four litres of water per person per day
- Food that doesn't require cooking and won't spoil, such as granola and protein bars, trail mix, dried fruit, canned tuna (remember to replace food and water once a year)

Equipment

- Manual can opener
- Flashlight (wind-up or battery operated) and batteries (replace batteries every year)
- Wind-up or battery powered radio (replace batteries every year)
- Candles, lighter, waterproof/strike-anywhere matches
- Pens and paper
- Duct tape
- Pocket knife
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Garbage bags
- Whistles and flares (to attract attention)

DO YOU HAVE A SMOKE DETECTOR?

A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



BUSINESS FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



2019 Funding Now Available

If you have a business in a commercially zoned building in Topley, Fort Fraser or Endako, funding is now available for improvements to your building façade. Grants for projects meeting the eligibility criteria are available on a first come- first served basis.

Grants for up to \$5,000 are available

For up to 50% of the budget for projects that increase the appeal of your business.

Q: Does my business qualify?

A: Give us a call, we can certainly let you know.

Q: What kind of improvements can I make?

A: A complete list can be found in our guidelines, but projects can include new siding, paint, awnings, and other architectural features.

Q: What about accessibility projects, will they qualify?

A: Yes, accessibility projects can qualify for this funding if they are part of a larger improvement project.

Many municipalities in our region have, or are currently, participating in the Building Façade Improvement Program.

The RDBN is pleased to partner with NDIT to ensure that unincorporated communities along Highway 16 will also be eligible.



Vibrant commercial areas have the potential to attract new customers, clients, visitors and potential investors.

The Application Deadline is June 30, 2019
For more information, call Jordanna Evans at 250-692-3195
or email economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca

One of the potential impacts of a wildfire is the increased possibility of landslides or erosion. In areas that have been severely burned the stability of slopes can be greatly compromised. The decrease in smaller plants and soil below trees can result in increased runoff after an intense rainfall or rapid snowmelt. Any structures below the burned area may be at risk of localized floods and landslides.

Watch for weather events such as intense rainfall. Know where your home or property is situated with respect to natural drainage channels. Be aware of changes that could signal a landslide. These may include:

- Sudden changes in stream flow
- Rapid changes or pulses in flow (e.g. changes in volume) or pulses of sediment (e.g. from clear to murky)
- Abnormally dirty water
- Accumulation of large logs or debris
- Rapid accumulation of sediment or bed-load along a flat section of a creek channel
- Tension cracks near the top of the slope
- Falling rocks or boulders or flowing or sliding soil. This may precede a much larger landslide

For more information go to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/landslides>

Spring Flooding

Spring Is Upon Us – Please Ensure You Are Prepared Should Flooding Occur!

Floods are a naturally occurring event which can happen any time of year. They are most commonly caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of a thick snowpack, ice jams, or more rarely, the failure of a natural or human made dam. The most severe floods typically occur during the spring season due to rapidly melting snowpack and heavy rainfall.

As the snowpack is slowly melting, it may contribute to increased water levels and debris in waterways. It is important to stay aware of the possible risks and hazards. Steps you can take to minimize the risk of flood and water damage include:

- Use caution when working or recreating on or near bodies of water.
- move any indoor/outdoor items that may be damaged by flooding to higher ground if located in low-lying areas which have experienced flooding in the past.
- Relocate hazardous materials, such as cleaners and pesticides, to higher ground to prevent water contamination.
- Be prepared to unplug and disconnect any electrical items.
- Gather important papers in water-tight containers and keep a record of valuables in a safe place.
- Make arrangements for pets and livestock to be moved to safe locations.
- Seal cracks in your house the foundation and around doors and windows.
- Install backflow valves on basement floor drains, washing machine drains, toilets and sink drains.



Sandbagging

The Regional District of Bulkley–Nechako (RDBN) may provide sand and sandbags to residents whose homes are under imminent threat from overland flooding.

For more information on how to request sand and sandbags, call:

1-800-320-3339 or visit www.rdbn.bc.ca/protectiveservices/

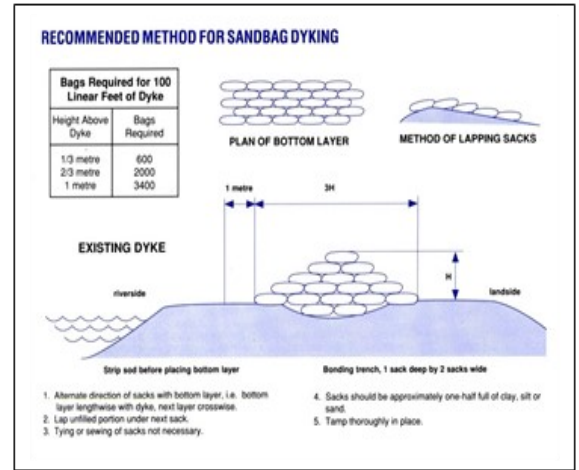
And after hours contact Emergency Management BC at 1-800-663-3456.

Additional information

For more information on flood warnings and advisories visit the River Forecast Center at: www.bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/

For more information on how to protect your home visit:

www.2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery



Emergency Support Services

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a Provincial emergency response program that is facilitated by local governments. This service can provide British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies support for up to 72 hours. Services may include food, lodging, clothing, and information about the crisis.

If you do not have insurance to cover your immediate essential needs, or are unable to access your insurance immediately, the Province of BC will cover the cost through ESS for up to 72 hours. You will be responsible for any needs not considered essential, such as long-distance phone calls, tobacco, and alcohol. Some additional services which may be provided through ESS by coordination with other organizations and agencies:

- Emotional Support
- Communications
- First Aid
- Health Services
- Information
- Child Care
- Transportation Services
- Recreation Services
- Multicultural Services
- Pet Services



ESS is provided by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako by trained staff and volunteers. When you need ESS support, ESS volunteers will meet with you to help determine your family’s immediate needs in a practical, timely and sensitive manner.

Being displaced from your home during an emergency can be a very stressful time for you and your family. You may forget important details and/or feel unable to cope. Things that may assist in dealing with your situation include:

- Make plans for accommodation, food and clothing beyond the first 72 hours
- Advise your employer of your current situation
- Let your children’s teachers know what has happened
- Re-direct your mail if you are not returning home for an extended period of time
- Contact extended family and friends to let them know that you are safe
- Contact your ESS provider if you change your location during an event.



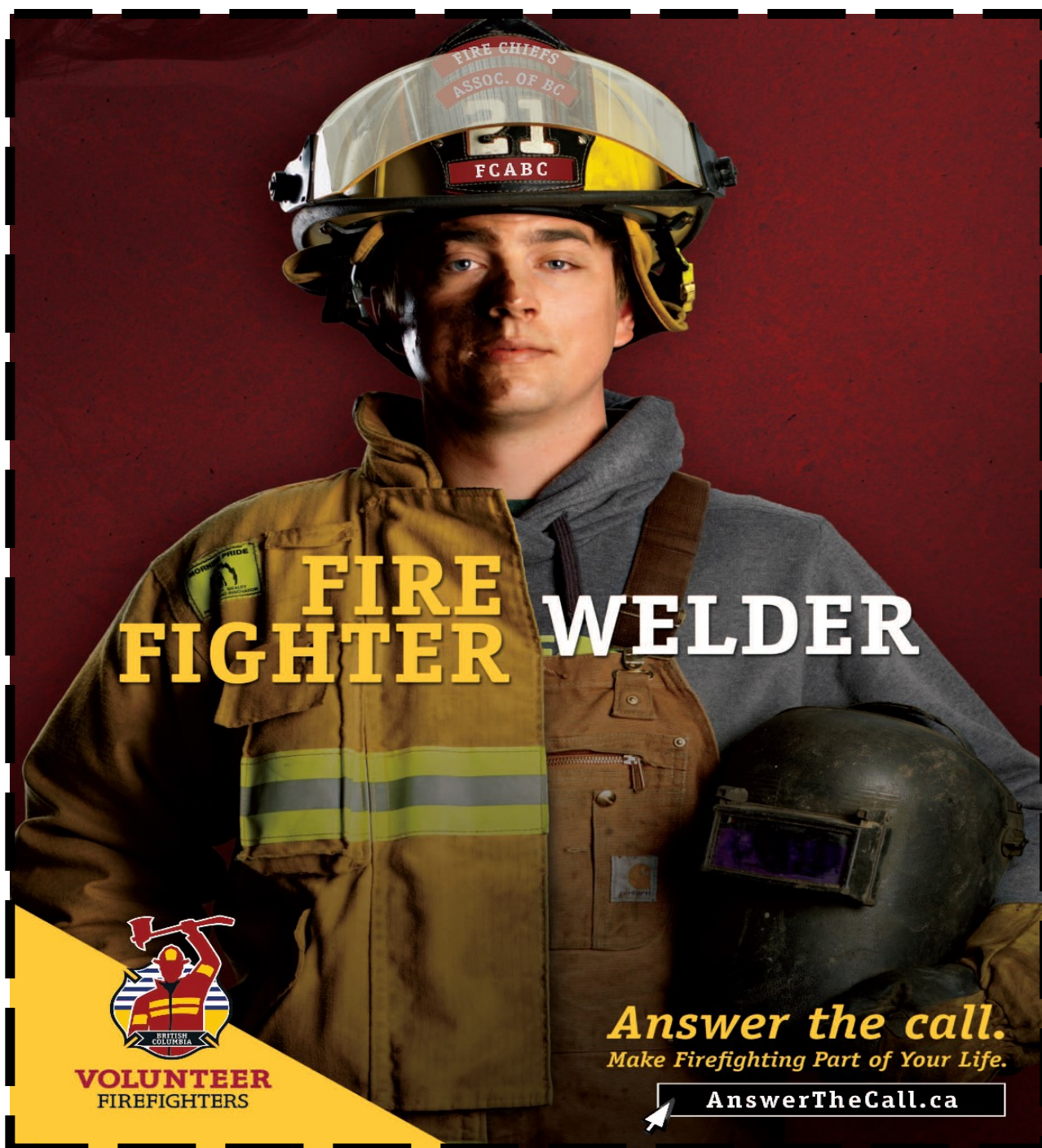
WHAT IF

No one answered the call?

What if you called to report a fire or medical emergency, and no one answered the call?

Did you know that over 80% of the country's fire service is volunteer based?
Are you looking to give back to your community?

Join a local department today for an experience of a lifetime!

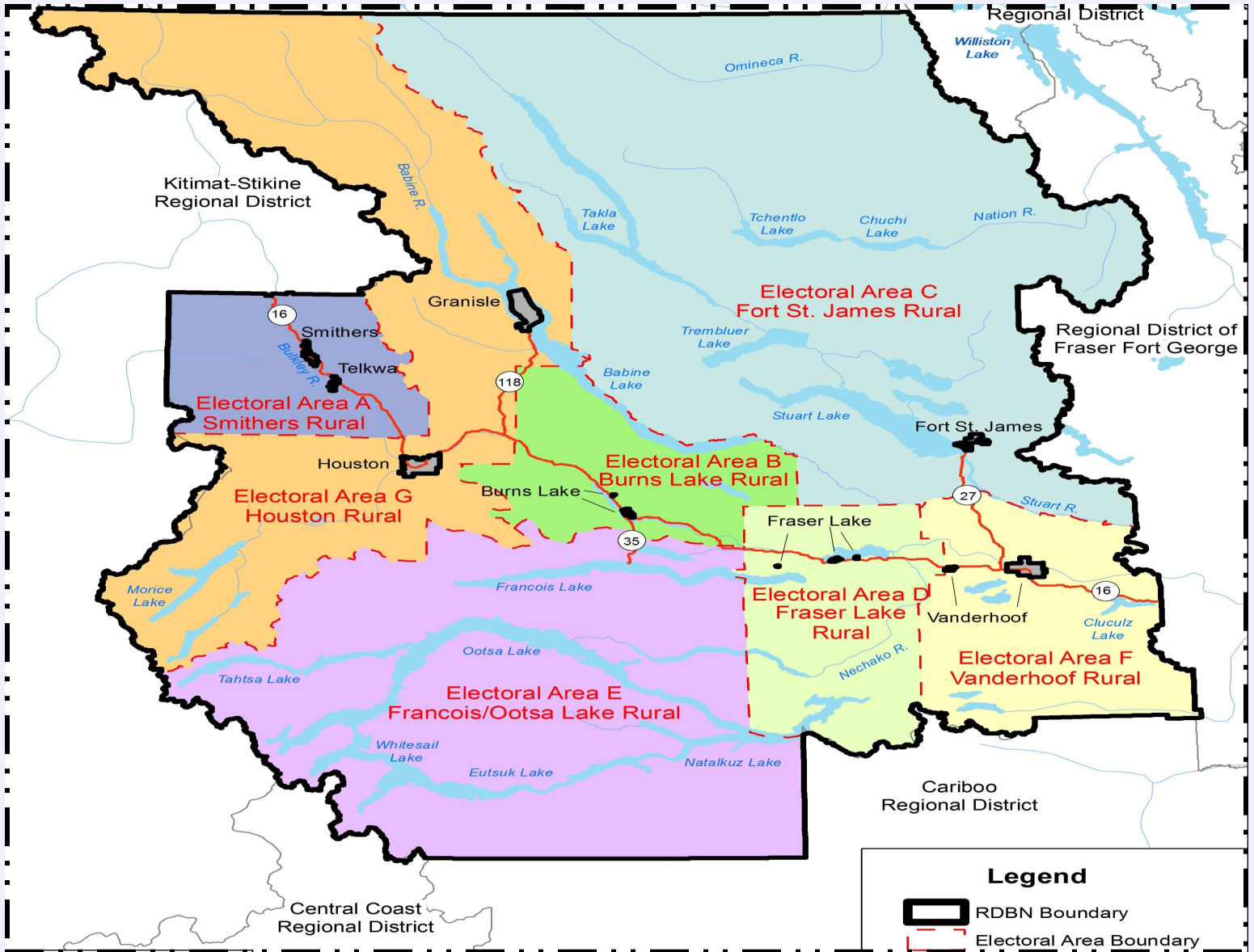


FIRE FIGHTER WELDER

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

*Answer the call.
Make Firefighting Part of Your Life.*

AnswerTheCall.ca



- Municipalities**
- Town of Smithers
 - Village of Telkwa
 - District of Houston
 - Village of Granisle
 - Village of Burns Lake
 - Village of Fraser Lake
 - District of Fort St. James
 - District of Vanderhoof

- Electoral Areas**
- Electoral Area "A" Smithers Rural
 - Electoral Area "B" Burns Lake Rural
 - Electoral Area "C" Fort St. James Rural
 - Electoral Area "D" Fraser Lake Rural
 - Electoral Area "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural
 - Electoral Area "F" Vanderhoof Rural
 - Electoral Area "G" Houston Rural