



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA
Thursday, December 10, 2020

PAGE NO.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

ACTION

2-7

**Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
-Cardboard Ban Reinstated – Initial Impacts**

Receive

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
FROM: Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
DATE: December 10, 2020
SUBJECT: Cardboard Ban Reinstated – Initial Impacts

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive

BACKGROUND

Director Fisher requested information be brought forward to the Board regarding the Cardboard Ban being reinstated and the initial impacts to the Bulkley Valley.

Attachments:

- Email from Director Fisher
- One Page Briefing Note for Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine
- Letter from Canadian Tire Associate Store #631 - Smithers

From: [Cheryl Anderson](#)
To: [Wendy Wainwright](#)
Subject: FW: One pager to Nathan Cullen
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 3:04:43 PM
Attachments: [Recycling issue in BV one pager for Nathan.docx](#)

From: Mark Fisher <mark.fisher@rdbn.bc.ca>
Sent: December 9, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Curtis Helgesen <curtis.helgesen@rdbn.bc.ca>; Cheryl Anderson <cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca>
Cc: Gerry Thiessen <gerry.thiessen@rdbn.bc.ca>
Subject: One pager to Nathan Cullen

Hi Curtis,

As discussed. For the cardboard discussion.

1. Attached is the one pager I did for Nathan, to give him some background and a starting point for his conversations with Heyman. Specific asks, will need discussions, but he wanted something that clarifies the issue, and something to start the action. Asks are not commitments.

2. Regarding the corporate responsibility of major waste producers.

- I will follow up with Canadian Tire on a local level and try to connect with their head office. They are involved in zero waste groups, lets get that energy into a local solution.

- We could also take a similar approach with some of the other national chains in the RDBN.

Perhaps this could be part of the workplan/committee discussion in January.

- This relates to the desire by various schools in the RDBN to process local. Be it Loop, SD 91 or 54, or another business or group, support for this is something that could form part of the workplan for the committee as well.

Thanks.

Mark

Mark Fisher
Area A Director (Smithers / Telkwa Rural)
Regional District Bulkley Nechako
mark.fisher@rdbn.bc.ca
250-877-8434 (c)

Recycling issue in BV one pager for Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine

Assumptions:

- RDBN supports a strong EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) program! We want the system to improve but it is losing validity throughout rural BC. With limited service, there is the temptation to 'go at it on ones own'. This is not desirable as it undermines the system (among other negative outcomes). That said...people are fed up with lack of basic service and want a solution, even if it means each community doing their own thing.
- Cardboard is cardboard, plastic container is a plastic container. The public and businesses do not see a difference, and do not understand or support a fragmented system (e.g residential recycling different than ICI (industrial, commercial, institutional). They just want service for all recycling, which is not available in our area.
- RDBN population is small and dispersed resulting in:
 - o Extra transportation costs to transport material from collection point to final destination (usually out of community).
 - o Small volumes of material to pay for all components of the EPR system.
 - o Property taxes subsidizing residential and commercial recycling to provide equal and full service throughout the region.
- Infrastructure capital costs (i.e. baling facilities) only part of the problem. The biggest challenge is cost of ongoing operations with limited volumes and inadequate compensation rates for residential EPR system.
- Increase in commercial cardboard and residential recycling (from municipalities no longer served by Recycle BC curbside program) advancing landfill development timelines.

Solutions and direct asks:

1. Consolidation centre(s) in RDBN. RDBN did look at a consolidation centre to replace the facility that burnt down in May 2019. At a \$130,000 per year operational loss, it could not be justified. This week we experience a setback in a potential private centre in the BV (with focus on ICI cardboard). In order for a private enterprise or local government to build a facility, we must look at capital infrastructure support, but more importantly we must ensure adequate material volumes and revenue to ensure long term financial viability:
 - a. Tool 1. Direct subsidy (from EPR service provider or MOE) to cover operation cost, until ICI material is included in an EPR program (bringing service in rural BC closer to cost recovery).
 - b. Tool 2. Immediate and full ICI recycling EPR program.
 - c. Tool 3. Immediate increase in compensation rates for service providers in all parts of the residential EPR system (from EPR program funds).
2. Re-institution of curbside recycling in Bulkley Valley.
 - a. Tool 1. MOE negotiate a contract between Recycle BC and the Town of Smithers and Village of Telkwa that covers 100% of cost associated with

getting residential recycling to a consolidation centre in the short term, with the guarantee that should the Bulkley Valley be able to build a consolidation centre to serve its community, then material would then be re-diverted to the local facility.

- b. Tool 2. MOE negotiate a contract between RBC and RDBN that includes a capital investment, as well as increase material compensation rates over the long term (not just a few years) so RDBN can build a consolidation centre for its residents at a cost recovery basis.
3. Northern ICI EPR program: Province immediately put together a Northern ICI recycling working group to create a Northern ICI EPR program. RDBN has offered several times to serve as a geographical area to run an ICI pilot project (recommending ICI cardboard as a starting point). This offer stands and RDNB would be willing to play a leading roll in a Northern ICI EPR working group if facilitated by the province.
4. Investments in local processing (recycling and remanufacturing): Currently in RDBN there are several potential waste based businesses but no support, and the collection logistics for all potential usable material (eg. ICI recycling) are not in place. Two concrete tools: By funding a NISP (National Industrial Symbiosis Program) Northern BC Facilitator, businesses wanting to deal with waste locally will be supported. By creating specific waste based business loans and grants (perhaps through NDI), these leaders can get their projects off the ground.

To the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako,

The following outlines some of our concerns with regard to the state of Cardboard disposal in the Smithers area, and our request to have a short term exemption made for our business with regards to disposal of said corrugated cardboard.

As a business we have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential impact of further cost increases due to cardboard disposal is something that is both worrying and troublesome.

Our business has a 40 yard compactor bin onsite, owned by the store, that we use to compact, and then haul away the empty, recyclable cardboard our business creates on a daily basis. The 40 yard bin was trucked to the facility here in Smithers on Tatlow Road prior to it burning down in the spring of 2019. The cost to our business at the time for this service was approximately \$1400 per month to have done. When the facility burnt down, our hauler/contractor then had to haul the cardboard to the Knockholt facility just outside of Houston. Besides the fact that the cardboard was no longer being recycled and going straight to a landfill, the monthly cost of cardboard disposal rose to approx. \$4800. The financial cost of cardboard disposal moving from a yearly total of approximately \$16,800, to \$57,600 was absorbed by the business short term with the understanding that a long term solution would be adopted within a reasonable period of time. Here we now sit, in December of 2020, 19 months on, and there is to date no solution in site, and as a business we are now being told by the RDBN, and the Town of Smithers that we will have to now pay upwards of \$15,000 per month to have our Corrugated Cardboard trucked to Prince George. This is both unreasonable and unrealistic, as it now translates into a yearly cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of approx. \$180,000.

It does not take a financial wizard to realize that a cost increase from \$16,800 per year, to \$180,000 per year for a small business that is locally owned, is unsustainable. In this time of economic uncertainty, the fact that as a business we are at a fork in the road where we may have to make some hard choices is disconcerting. One fork will lead us down a road in which we ask the RDBN to make an exception for our business allowing

our hauler to haul to the Knockholt site outside of Houston, or to the transfer station outside of Telkwa, until such time as a long term alternative is implemented. The second option, or fork, will lead us down the road of having to potentially eliminate 6 full time positions to offset the cost for cardboard disposal.

In conclusion, we are hopeful that the RDBN will take into consideration the financial implications upon both our business, and the individual constituent's here in Smithers and the RDBN, and grant an exemption at this time.

Thank You

Shane Mooth
General Manager
Canadian Tire Associate Store #631
Smithers, BC
250-847-3117