



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA- April 8, 2021</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2- 6	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2021	Approve
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
7-10	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Provincial COVID-19 Funds	Recommendation
11	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Budget Amendment #1	Receive
12-21	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Gas Tax for 2021	Receive
22-23	Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services – North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Membership Dues	Receive
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
24	Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Response to RDBN Letter re: Revised Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs – A Guide for BC First Nations and Local Authorities	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING (VIRTUAL)****Thursday, March 11, 2021**

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Manager of Economic Development
Liliana Dragowska, HRVA Coordinator – left at 11:27 a.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Haley Jeffrey, Emergency Services Manager
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Lindsay King, FireSmart Educator – left at 11:35 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Wes Bender, Wildfire Technician – Prevention, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Brad Blackwell, Zone Wildfire Officer, Nadina Fire Zone, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Hans Erasmus, RPF – Licensed Authorizations Officer – Skeena Region, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Patrick Ferguson, RPF – Wildfire Risk Reduction Officer – Skeena Stikine District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.
Garth O'Meara, RPF – Licensed Resource Specialist & Fire Rehab Lead – Nadina Natural Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development– left at 11:27 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Funk
 Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-3-1

“That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of
 March 11, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**DELEGATION**

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL
 DEVELOPMENT - Hans Erasmus, RPF – Licensed Authorizations Officer – Skeena Region,
 Garth O’Meara, RPF – Licensed Resource Specialist & Fire Rehab Lead – Nadina Natural
 Resource District, Patrick Ferguson, RPF – Wildfire Risk Reduction Officer – Skeena
 Stikine District and Wes Bender, Wildfire Technician – Prevention RE: Wildfire Mitigation**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Hans Erasmus, RPF – Licensed Authorizations Officer – Skeena
 Region, Garth O’Meara, RPF – Licensed Resource Specialist & Fire Rehab Lead – Nadina
 Natural Resource District, Patrick Ferguson, RPF – Wildfire Risk Reduction Officer – Skeena
 Stikine District and West Bender, Wildfire Technician – Prevention, Ministry of Forests, Lands,
 Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Messrs. Erasmus and Ferguson provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Wildfire Risk Reduction – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

- Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program overview
- Current and planned projects
- Nadina Rx burning plans

CRI Program

- CRI program funding is intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their impacts
 on BC communities
- 2 streams:
 - o 1. Fire Smart Community Funding & Supports (RDBN – Lindsay King)
 - o 2. Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) (FLNRORD)

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction

- CL Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) funding supports 3 phases:
 1. Planning – Wildfire Risk Reduction Tactical Planning
 2. Site Prescriptions
 3. Operation

WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Risk Class Framework

- Likelihood + Consequence = Risk
- Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA)
- Wildland Urban Interface (2.25 km buffer, >25 structures per hectare)
- WUI Risk Class combines PSTA threat and WUI attributes.
- WUI Risk Class Mapping
- Current Projects for Nadina
- Planned Projects for:
 - o Nadina Tactical Plans
 - o Nadina Fuels Management Prescriptions
- Operational Treatment
- Bulkley Valley Tactical Plan

Bulkley Valley Planning and Implementation – Tactical Planning

- Wildfire Risk Reduction – Site Prescription FTU – Overview
- Lake Babine Tactical Plan
- Operational Treatments in Bulkley Valley
- Site Prescriptions – Funding dependent

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CONT'D)

- Community Forest in Smithers/Hudson Bay Mountain
- BC Wildfire Crew Projects
- Stay aligned with goals of RD– HRVA (Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis) to facilitate planning work

Prevention and prescribed fire burns

- Currently 3 in Nadina
- Lead agencies
 - o BL COMFOR
District of Houston
 - o Village of Granisle
- 3 prescribed burns approved Spring and Fall 2021
- Additional ones requiring review.

The following was discussed:

- Electoral Area Director input in regard to landscape resiliency analysis and assessing values
- Rural interface
- Landscape Wildfire Resiliency Analysis
 - o Strategic level analysis for the entire Nadina Forest District
 - o At the completion of data assimilation FLNRORD will move forward with review and input opportunities for stakeholders
- Fire break near Houston
 - o Fire Management Stocking Standard
- FLNRORD provided one page fact sheet to RDBN staff to be forwarded to the Board
- Interest beyond WUI risk bubble
 - o Contact Forest District staff to work together to determine a solution
- Wildfire Risk maps
 - o FLNRORD staff will provide direction on accessing public strategic risk mapping
- Woodlot owners and wildfire risk management
 - o Legislation
 - o Low impact hand treatments utilized
 - o Options
- Indian Bay – Southside of Francois Lake.

Chair Thiessen thanked Messrs. Erasmus, O'Meara, Ferguson, and Bender for attending the meeting.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – February 11, 2021

Moved by Director McGuire
 Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2021-3-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of February 11, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

RDBN Response Letter to the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Consultation – Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Area (TSA) Apportionment Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Funk

C.W.2021-3-3

“That the Board direct staff to send the March 11, 2021 letter to the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in response to the Consultation for the Lakes and Prince George Timber Supply Area (TSA) Apportionment.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Moved by Director Petersen
 Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2021-3-4

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the following Correspondence:
 -North Central Local Government Association – Province of BC Response to 2020 Resolution: Municipal Solid Waste – ICI EPR Program
 -Environment and Climate Change Canada – Public Comment Period: Amendments to Schedule 1 of *Species at Risk Act*.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Chair Funk, Natural Resource Committee

- Natural Resource Issues/Concerns

Discussion took place regarding:

- Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)
 - Concerns in regard to natural resource extraction from the rural area
- Additional Directors indicating their desire to participate in the committee beyond the number outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Consideration be given to adjusting the ToR to a Committee of the Whole format
- Chair Funk and staff will meet to determine steps moving forward
- Smaller Committee provides opportunity to address specific issues to build strategy and bring forward to the Board
- Determining the key issues in the region
- Evolution of Committee moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2021-3-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:46 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

To: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: April 8, 2021
Re: Provincial COVID – 19 Relief Funds

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

Of the \$314,000 in additional Covid Relief funds received, that \$251,200 be allocated to rural government special projects and that \$62,800 be allocated to general government special projects.

Background:

At previous meetings, the Board allocated \$132,047 broken down by Electoral Areas to be used for Covid Relief efforts within their jurisdictions:

A	\$42,732	E	\$12,951
B	\$15,756	F	\$29,796
C	\$11,504	G	\$ 7,341
D	\$11,967		

In addition, the Board further allocated an additional \$132,007 to be distributed by the Electoral Area Directors as a committee.

The Provincial Government has now provided an additional \$314,000 of which 20% is allocated to the Regional District as a whole and 80% is allocated based on rural population.

This change would bring the amount allocated to the Electoral Area Directors as a committee up from \$132,007 to \$383,207.

Staff will bring back recommendations for the additional \$62,800 allocated to general government. The pandemic has caused the costs of some equipment, including laptop computers to spike as the demand for mobile working equipment has increased. Staff are working on updating estimates collected in 2020 and it is expected that some of these funds will be used to address the increase in costs for equipment that was expected to be purchased in 2021.

Attachment: **Letter from Okenge Yuma Morisho dated March 22, 2021**



March 22, 2021

Ref: 265703

Curtis Helgesen
Chief Administrative Officer
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
PO Box 820
Burns Lake BC V0J 1E0

Dear Curtis Helgesen:

The provincial government understands the fiscal impacts that COVID-19 has placed on local service providers. To help address these challenges, the Province of British Columbia announced nearly \$2 billion in joint Federal/Provincial spending, including: \$540 million for local governments, \$418 million for community infrastructure, and \$1 billion for transit, TransLink, and ferries.

The \$540 million for local governments was further divided into three funding streams. Two of the streams (Development Services for \$15 million and Strengthening Communities for \$100 million) are application-based funding. For more information on these two funding streams, please visit the following program webpages:

- **Development Services** – <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/local-government-development-approvals.html>
- **Strengthening Communities** – <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/strengthening-communities-services.html>

The third stream provides direct grants to local governments. This funding stream is called the "COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments" and provides \$425 million for local operations impacted by COVID-19. This funding supports local governments as they deal with increased operating costs and lower revenue due to COVID-19.

Of this \$425 million, \$415 million was paid out in November 2020 to local governments and the Province is now in a position to allocate the remaining \$10 million to continue to support local service providers. Of the \$415 million allocated to local governments in November, \$21 million was allocated to regional districts. This amount was relatively small (compared with the allocation to municipalities) because municipalities faced revenue risks and expenses, and the Province and municipalities ensured that regional requisitions would be fully remitted in 2020.

.../2

While the regional tax base was kept whole in 2020, the Province acknowledges that regional districts have developed other COVID-related financial shortfalls and pressures. For this reason, the Province has decided to allocate the \$10 million holdback to the 27 regional districts.

Under section 36 of the *Local Government Grants Regulation*, the amount of the grant to each regional district is set by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The determination of this amount was based on an allocation formula that applies equally to all regional districts. The allocation is as follows: 20 percent of the holdback will be allocated on total regional population, and the remaining 80 percent was allocated on rural population (i.e. population in electoral areas). This was done in recognition of the additional costs associated with servicing remote rural areas.

For the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, the Province provided **\$583,000** in November 2020. The Province is providing an additional **\$314,000** in March 2021, which represents a **54 percent** increase over the initial installment. The total of both installments is **\$897,000**.

Like the November payment, this funding will also ensure regional districts can continue to deliver the services people depend on in their communities. COVID related eligible costs will include:

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- other related costs.

To ensure optimal transparency on the use of funds, there are two reporting requirements for regional districts. First, as part of the 2021 audited financial statements, the regional district must provide a report on how the funds were allocated to various regional and local services.

The second reporting requirement is an annual report on how the grant funds were spent in that year. This will be a schedule to your audited financial statements, under section 377 of the *Local Government Act*. The schedule will include the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of unused funds. This report may be consolidated for the entire regional district, rather than reporting on a service-by-service level. Your regional district must continue to annually report on the use of grant money until the funds are fully drawn down.

For the purpose of reporting, the two payments (November 2020 and March 2021) may be treated as one pooled grant. Thus, a regional district is **not** required to report on the two payments separately.

If you have a questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch, by email at: Jennifer.Richardson@gov.bc.ca, or by telephone at: 778 698-3243.

Curtis Helgesen
Page 3

The provincial government welcomes this opportunity to support COVID-19 restart and recovery throughout British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a cursive name.

Okenge Yuma Morisho
Deputy Minister

pc: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: April 8, 2021
Re: Budget Amendment #1

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

Receipt

Background:

This year, the Provincial Government requires that the Regional District submit its requisition for taxation on April 10, 2021.

The requisition is based on the Regional District's approved budget using the 2021 Revised Assessments provided by BC Assessment. The revised assessments are expected to be released on March 31st, and the currently approved budget must be updated based on this revision.

Therefore, a budget amendment will be prepared for a special Board Meeting on April 8th. This updated assessment will not change the total amount of taxation; however, it may change the distribution of taxation between different jurisdictions (as the assessments for each jurisdiction will be redetermined). This change is usually very small.

The updated budget amendment will also include the \$314,000 of additional Covid Relief funds just received from the province. These funds will be allocated to special projects in Rural and General Government as an interim measure.

The budget amendment will be provided as soon as possible after the revised assessments are received.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: April 8, 2021
Re: Gas Tax for 2021

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

Receipt

Background:

The Federal Government has recently announced that Gas Tax payments to the province will double in 2021.

The Regional District, by Board Policy, distributes Gas Tax to each Electoral Area based on population. Based on the 2020 amount received the expected amounts to be received in 2021 by area is as follows:

EA	Population	2020		2021	
A	5256	\$	277,691.16	\$	555,382.32
B	1938	\$	102,390.69	\$	204,781.38
C	1415	\$	74,758.94	\$	149,517.88
D	1472	\$	77,770.43	\$	155,540.86
E	1593	\$	84,163.24	\$	168,326.49
F	3665	\$	193,633.58	\$	387,267.16
G	903	\$	47,708.36	\$	95,416.71
	16242	\$	858,116.40	\$	1,716,232.80

Attachments: **Press release from the Government of Canada**
Press release from FCM



Government
of Canada

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du Canada

Canada.ca > [Department of Finance Canada](#) > [News](#)

Government Announces Additional Pandemic Support For Vaccines, Health Care, and Municipalities

From: [Department of Finance Canada](#)

News release

March 25, 2021 - Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada

Fighting the COVID-19 pandemic is a Team Canada effort. All orders of government continue to take action to fight the pandemic, support Canadians and Canadian businesses, and keep Canadians safe and healthy. The federal government continues to work closely with provinces, territories, municipalities, and Indigenous communities in the face of COVID-19.

In recognition of the extraordinary pressures faced by all orders of government and First Nations communities during the ongoing pandemic, today, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, introduced Bill C-25. This legislation would provide an additional \$7.2 billion in support for urgent health care needs across the country, the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, and for local infrastructure projects in our cities and communities.

The proposed funding includes:

- \$4 billion through the Canada Health Transfer to help provinces and territories address immediate health care system pressures, including

addressing backlogs in access to care as the pandemic continues.

- \$1 billion as a one-time payment to the provinces and territories to ensure the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out continues to accelerate and keeps pace with growing supply, and does not encounter any delays.
- \$2.2 billion to address short-term infrastructure priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities. The funds would flow through the federal Gas Tax Fund.
 - The federal government also proposes to rename the federal Gas Tax Fund as the Canada Community-Building Fund.

To date, more than eight out of every ten dollars to fight the pandemic has been provided by the federal government. Today's announcement will build on the substantial investments made to support provinces and territories.

Quotes

"Fighting COVID-19 and safely restarting our economy requires a Team Canada approach. We have said we will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to support Canadians. That is what today's announcement is about. We know there are urgent, ongoing strains on the health care system. We know that the vaccine roll-out is ramping up – and that must continue without delay. And we know that our cities and towns, which are responsible for local infrastructure that Canadians use, need urgent support. That is support the federal government will provide."

- The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

“The introduction of today’s legislation is another example of our government’s commitment to Canadians during the pandemic. Working collaboratively with the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous partners, we are providing the tools and investments needed to support Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Together, Canadians will get through this pandemic.”

- The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

“As we rebuild from the greatest public health and economic crisis of our time, I understand the vital role that immediate investments in infrastructure will play in addressing the needs of municipalities and Indigenous communities, reviving local economies and improving the lives of Canadians. The Government of Canada is taking decisive action to support communities across Canada by proposing to double this year’s federal Gas Tax Fund payment and rename it the Canada Community-Building Fund. This would put \$2.2 billion in the hands of communities to fund projects like high-speed broadband, public transit and recreation centres, and get Canadians to work.”

- The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been there for Canadians. With today’s announcement, we are further investing in our health care system, as we continue to work with the provinces and territories to vaccinate and support Canadians from coast to coast to coast.”

- *The Hon. Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Health*

Quick facts

- In December 2020, the federal government announced that it was providing \$43.1 billion through the Canada Health Transfer to provinces and territories for 2021-2022.
- In March 2020, the federal government provided an additional \$500 million to provinces and territories to address critical health system needs.
- In June 2020, the federal government announced that the annual allocation of \$2.2 billion under the federal Gas Tax Fund would be accelerated and provided in a single payment in June to help Canadian communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as possible, while respecting public health guidelines.
- The federal Gas Tax Fund is a permanent source of twice-yearly funding for provinces and territories, who in turn provide these funds to municipalities. The federal Gas Tax Fund also supports on-reserve infrastructure projects in First Nations communities.
- In July 2020, the federal government announced the Safe Restart Agreement, a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories with surges in cases of COVID-19.

- Through the Safe Restart Agreement, the Government of Canada is contributing \$2 billion to support municipalities with COVID-19 operating costs with an additional contribution of \$2.4 billion for public transit. Provincial and territorial governments will cost-match federal investments made this fiscal year.
- Through the Safe Return to Class Fund announced in August 2020, the federal government has provided \$2 billion in support for provinces and territories to ensure students, teachers and staff members have the support they need to stay safe and healthy throughout the school year.

Related products

- [Support for Health Care and Vaccinations across Canada](#)
- [Support for Municipalities](#)

Associated links

- [Fall Economic Statement 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [A Team Canada Approach to Fighting COVID-19: Supporting Provinces, Territories, Municipalities and Indigenous Communities](#)
- [Safe Restart Agreement](#)

Contacts

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Date modified:

2021-03-25

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COMMUNITY ROOTED RECOVERY**

Municipalities welcome key step toward a community-rooted recovery

March 25, 2021

FCM President Garth Frizzell issued the following statement in response to today's announcement that the federal Gas Tax Fund transfer to municipalities will be doubled for one year—growing it by \$2.2 billion—and renamed as the “Canada Community Building Fund.”

“By doubling down today on the most proven and reliable tool available to strengthen municipal infrastructure, the Government of Canada is taking an important step toward fostering the strong, community-rooted recovery Canadians deserve on the other side of COVID-19.

“Municipalities are responsible for 60 per cent of the public infrastructure that supports Canada's economy and communities. Investing in that infrastructure is a time-tested way to create jobs, generate growth, and raise Canadians' quality of life. The best available tool to do that is the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) transfer to municipalities. Every year, it directly and predictably empowers

communities of all sizes—rural, urban, northern and remote—to move the best local projects forward.

“Right now, in some communities, that may mean fixing a bridge to keep commuters safe and to support local commerce. In others, it may mean upgrading a recreational facility to keep people healthy and connected—or energy-retrofitting one to save money and reduce emissions. Or it could mean improving critical water and wastewater infrastructure to protect the local environment.”

“The GTF works because it leverages the expertise of local leaders—the ones closest to people’s daily lives. They are well positioned to identify the most pressing local needs, and the Gas Tax Fund is a powerful tool to meet them. Doubling next year’s transfer means more jobs, real economic growth, and better lives for Canadians everywhere. And that’s exactly what we’ll need to drive a strong and truly national post-pandemic recovery.

“Today’s announcement responds to FCM’s recommendation to grow the GTF transfer through a three-year post-COVID recovery window. It also leads off a response to FCM’s wider call for a national recovery that is rooted in Canada’s communities. These are the places where people live, work and raise their families—and where they’re living the realities of this pandemic.

“FCM has advanced strong recommendations to drive that recovery, [starting in the upcoming federal budget](#). Those include bold action to tackle homelessness and housing insecurity—including building on the successful new Rapid Housing Initiative. We’ve put forward proposals to strengthen rural communities and practical solutions to economic uncertainty in Western communities. And to ensure municipalities can gear up for recovery, we continue to call for a durable solution to COVID-driven budget shortfalls that cannot be covered by last year’s national Safe Restart Agreement.

“To drive the national recovery Canadians deserve, we’ll need to work together. Today’s announcement recognizes municipalities’ central role in recovery, and local leaders stand ready to turn this key investment into jobs and better lives—in communities of all sizes across the country.”

For more information: FCM Media Relations, (613) 907-6395,
media@fcm.ca

Infrastructure

Municipal finance



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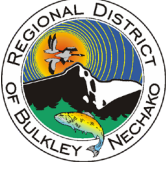
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**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole

FROM: Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services

DATE: April 8, 2021

SUBJECT: North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)
Membership Dues

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

BACKGROUND

Attached is a letter from NCLGA regarding a change in fee structure. The impact to the RDBN is minimal. Under the current fee structure, the RDBN membership fee is \$6,587.36. The new fee structure results in an increase of \$343.25 for a total of \$6,930.61.



March 18, 2021

Chair Gerry Thiessen
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

RE: NCLGA Membership Dues

Dear Chair Thiessen,

Thank you for your continued support of the North Central Local Government Association. As a valued member, your financial support enables NCLGA to carry out its mission and advocate for the concerns of local governments in north-central BC.

At the beginning of April, NCLGA will forward an invoice for 2021/2022 membership dues to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The fee will be based on the current membership fee structure. For 2022/2023, NCLGA is considering updating how it determines membership fees. The goal is to further enhance fairness and equitability of fees among all member communities in the NCLGA region.

The following information outlines the current and proposed NCLGA membership fee structures and how your community would be affected by using 2021 fees as an example. The amounts are based on 2016 census information, which could change once 2021 census data is released later in 2021 or early 2022.

Current Membership Fee Structure:

Base rate (\$500) + 50% of population assessment value + 50% of regional hospital district assessment value
2021 membership fee - \$6,587.36

Proposed New Membership Fee Structure:

Base rate (\$500 for members with populations < 1,500, \$750 for members with populations > 1,500) + 60% of population assessment value + 40% of regional hospital district assessment value
2021 membership fee - \$6,930.61

NCLGA would appreciate feedback from members regarding the proposed fee structure change. Please forward your comments to Susan Chalmers, Executive Coordinator of NCLGA at admin@nclga.ca by **April 6**. The topic may also be raised at the 2021 NCLGA AGM & Convention in May.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Storey'.

Sarah Storey
President, NCLGA



March 11, 2021

Gerry Thiessen
Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Email: gerry.thiessen@rdbn.bc.ca

Dear Gerry Thiessen:

Thank you for your letter dated February 12, 2021, addressed to the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, regarding the Revised Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs – A Guide for BC First Nations and Local Authorities. I am responding on behalf of Minister Farnworth.

I appreciate the effort taken by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in reviewing the revised guidelines and assembling thoroughly considered feedback. Your input, along with the feedback received from other local authorities, is helping Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to better understand the concerns around the revised guidelines.

It will take some time for EMBC staff to fully review all the valuable feedback that was received. EMBC is committed to reviewing all feedback and updating local governments and First Nations on the topic later this spring.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeline Maley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Madeline L. Maley, RPF
Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations
Emergency Management BC

pc: The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Reference: 615482