**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
AGENDA****Thursday, September 9, 2021**

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	<b><u>AGENDA- September 9, 2021</u></b>	<b>Approve</b>
	<b><u>Supplementary Agenda</u></b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>	
<b>3-6</b>	<b>Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes - June 10, 2021</b>	<b>Approve</b>
	<b><u>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</u></b>	
<b>7-9</b>	<b>Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning - Development Variance Permit Applications to Legalize Existing Buildings</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>AGRICULTURE REPORTS</u></b>	
<b>10-21</b>	<b>Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator (West) – Veterinary Shortages in the RDBN</b>	<b>Receive</b>
<b>22-25</b>	<b>Michelle Roberge, Regional Agriculture Coordinator (East) – BCSPCA Inspections on Commercial Livestock and Poultry Operations</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>RURAL REPORTS</u></b>	
<b>26-27</b>	<b>Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – COVID-19 Relief Funds - Remaining Allocation</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Universal Broadband Fund and Connectivity Update</b>	<b>Receive</b>
<b>29-31</b>	<b>Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Canada Community Building Fund/Gas Tax Fund Top-Up Payment and Updated Eligibility Guidelines</b>	<b>Receive</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Grant in Aid Update: April-June 2021</b>	<b>Receive</b>

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>	<b><u>RURAL REPORTS (CONT'D)</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<b>33-50</b>	<b>Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor - RDBN Rural Septage</b>	<b>Discussion</b>

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, June 10, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert – arrived at 9:39 a.m., left at 10:05 a.m.  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Chris Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

Alternate Director Andrea Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
Megan D’Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator (West) – via Zoom  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Michelle Roberge, Agriculture Coordinator (East) – via Zoom  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers – arrived at 10:18 a.m.  
Shane Brienen, District of Houston – arrived at 10:17 a.m.  
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – arrived at 10:18 a.m.  
Brad Layton, Village of Telkewa – arrived at 10:00 a.m.  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James  
Tarilee Rauscher, Manager, Stakeholder Relations, BC Oil & Gas Commission – arrived at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom  
Garth Thoroughgood, Executive Director, Major Projects, BC Oil & Gas Commission – arrived at 10:15 a.m. via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Fisher**RDC.2021-6-1**

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for June 10, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes -May 13, 2021

Moved by Director Petersen  
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-2

“That the minutes of the Rural/Agriculture Committee meeting of May 13, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **Crown Land Referral**

Crown Land Referral No. 7410187

Moved by Director Petersen  
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

RDC.2021-6-3

“That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Referral No. 7410187 be provided to the Province.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Municipal Referral**

Town of Smithers – Rezoning Amendment No.21-04 (Area A)

Moved by Director Fisher  
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-4

“That Staff respond to the Town of Smithers that the RDBN has no comments regarding Rezoning Amendment No. 21-04.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE REPORTS**

### **RDBN Food Economy and Food Hub Assessment Final Report**

#### Discussion:

- Next steps and recommendations when the Report is brought forward to the Board
  - o Agriculture Coordinators undertaking business planning
- Clear outline on how to use the report
- Develop an easy to read version of the Final Report to provide to the public
- Connecting various organizations and groups undertaking food economy and food hub initiatives
  - o Opportunities to support organizations
- Importance of a network in the region.

Slaughter Facilities

Moved by Director Lambert  
 Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-6-5

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s (West) Slaughter Facilities memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **AGRICULTURE REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Discussion:

- Proposed Provincial changes not significantly improving accessibility to local meat within the RDBN
- Meatcutter education and training
  - o Initiating discussions with the College of New Caledonia in Vanderhoof
  - o Apprenticeships
- Bring forward shortfalls regarding Class D & E Licences with the Minister of Agriculture at the 2021 Virtual UBCM Convention
- Encouraging “buy local” requires adequate slaughter and meat processing abilities
- Increasing processing capabilities within the RDBN
- Class A & B licensed facilities
- Class D and E licensed facilities.

### Growing Opportunities -Agriculture e-Newsletter

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
 Seconded by Director Petersen

### RDC.2021-6-6

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator’s (East) Growing Opportunities – Agriculture e-Newsletter memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **RURAL REPORTS**

### COVID-19 Safe Re-start Grant -Additional Allocation

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

### RDC.2021-6-7

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee recommend that the Board approve an additional allocation of COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant in the amount of \$132,047 to Rural Directors for COVID Relief efforts within their jurisdiction.”

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
 Seconded by Director Petersen

### RDC.2021-6-8

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee defer the COVID-19 Safe Re-start Grant – Additional Allocation.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Discussion took place regarding:

- Smithers Airport
- COVID-19 friendly workspaces in electoral areas
- RDBN Board room technology upgrade grant funding
  - o Tentative completion date for the RDBN Board room technology upgrade is September, 2021
- Funding areas that have expressed needs
- Flexibility in allocating funding moving forward and timelines for allocation.

## **RURAL REPORTS**

### **Remuneration for Rural Directors**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

RDC.2021-6-9

“That the Rural/Agriculture Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s Remuneration for Rural Directors memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **UBCM Electoral Area Director’s Summer Meeting -June 28, 202 10am-12pm**

Chair Parker mentioned that UBCM’s Virtual Electoral Area Director’s Summer Meeting will take place June 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 12pm. Any Directors wanting to register for the free session may do so and if assistance is required to register Directors may contact staff.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2021-6-10

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:22 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**  
**STAFF REPORT**

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**TO:** Chair Parker and Rural / Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
**DATE:** September 9, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Development Variance Permit Applications to legalize existing buildings

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Receipt

**VOTING**

All Directors / Majority

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Planning Department was asked to provide this report to facilitate discussion regarding the use of the development variance permit (DVP) process to legalise structures built contrary to RDBN bylaws. This report provides a brief overview of the DVP process, application statistics, and staff comment for the Board's consideration.

**DISCUSSION**

**An Overview of the DVP Process**

The *Local Government Act* allows a property owner to apply for a DVP to vary a regulation for a specific situation. Applications most commonly involve variances to building setbacks, building height, off-street parking and loading facilities, and parcel size (in some situations). A DVP may not be used to vary use, density, or a floodplain specification.

An application for a DVP must follow a process that is outlined in the *Local Government Act* and the Regional District's Development Procedures Bylaw. An application is considered by the Board after receiving a staff report on the application and any comments provided by the public in response to notice provided to adjacent property owners. Local governments must provide

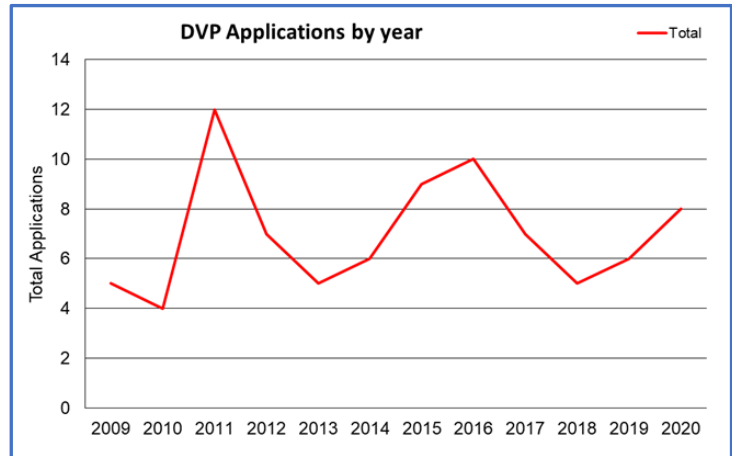
public notice of the variance. However, allowing public input is at the discretion of the Board. DVP applications are not typically referred to Electoral Area Advisory Planning Commissions.

The time required to process a Development Variance Permit varies depending on the scope of the application, and the number of issues that need to be addressed. Generally, the process takes from two to three months to be completed.

### Development Variance Permit Application Numbers

As shown on the graph to the right the RDBN processes on average 7 DVP applications per year.

The table below shows the DVP applications considered by the Board in 2020. Applications most commonly relate to property line setbacks.



DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT APPLICATIONS 2020				
FILE #	ELECTORAL AREA	LOCATION	VARIANCE	BOARD DECISION
A-01-20	A	6943 Lake Road	Setback variance	Denied
A-03-20	A	6150 Donaldson Road	Setback variance	Approved
C-01-20	C	11186 Huffman Drive	Setback variance	Denied
C-02-20	C	Highway 27, Fort St. James	Vary minimum parcel size	Approved
F-01-20	F	55655 Jardine Road	Setback variance	Approved
F-02-20	F	2770 Giesbrecht Road	Vary minimum parcel size	Approved
G-01-20	G	48190 Axe Road	Setback variance	Approved

This year 2 of the 4 DVP applications considered by the Board were to legalize structures built contrary to zoning bylaw building setbacks. The Board approved one application and denied the other.

In 2020 1 application was to legalize a structure build contrary to zoning bylaw setbacks. This application was approved.

Additional data can be provided on request.



**Staff Comment**

Staff's recommendations on all applications are based on the land use issues and impacts associated with the proposed or existing development. Staff do not typically factor non-compliance into their recommendations for application support or denial. Denying an application as a deterrent to future non-compliance is seen as a political consideration and not the purpose of staff's evaluation.

Most DVP applications for existing buildings are associated with a property owners desire to obtain a building permit. On average less than 1% of all building permits issued involve a variance to RDBN bylaws. These applications are commonly made because of enforcement action by RDBN staff. Should this type of application be denied, a building permit cannot be issued, and further enforcement action may follow. In many situations the building will remain unless legal action is taken to have it demolished or removed.

The *Local Government Act* requires the Board to consider all DVP applications. However, the Board's approval is discretionary, and the Board may deny any application, and may direct staff to take appropriate enforcement action.

Staff are hopeful that the proposed ticketing bylaw and bylaw adjudication process will provide the RDBN with a practical and effective deterrent to building contrary to RDBN bylaws.



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural / Agriculture Committee Memorandum

To: Chair Parker and Committee  
 From: Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator, West  
 Date: September 9, 2021  
 Regarding: Veterinary Shortages in the RDBN

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Committee recommend that the Board write letters to the Ministers of Advanced Education and Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in support of the request made to the Province by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) – Society of BC Veterinarians (SBCV) Chapter to make veterinary training a funding priority and increase the number of seats available to BC students at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

### **Background:**

There has been a general shortage of veterinary resources in the RDBN. Farmers and ranchers are at a particular disadvantage as livestock care is even harder to access and they can no longer purchase antibiotics and other medications without an existing relationship with a veterinarian, at a minimum. A 2019 Labour Market Study from the CVMA Society of BC Veterinarians Chapter demonstrates that in BC need is outstripping demand by a gap of approximately 100 vets per year and that an aging demographic for veterinarians means the shortages are anticipated to become more pronounced as we move forward.

Only one of the five veterinary colleges in Canada, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, accepts students from BC and the number of seats is limited to 20. The CVMA – SBCV Chapter has been lobbying the Province to increase the number of seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine from 20 to 40

If BC students do not qualify for the BC seats, which are subsidized by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, they can also qualify for International seats, which increases the annual tuition from around \$11,000 to over \$65,000, making the cost of the program prohibitive for some students. The cost to the Ministry of Advanced Education to hold the 20 seats is approximately \$8.3 million per year. Increasing the capacity to 40 seats would double the cost to the government. The money goes towards research and other university program costs. The BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has offered support for the idea, but the BC Ministry of Advanced Education has not moved forward with any action.

The Society for BC Veterinarians has also had discussions with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine about securing spots in the college for indigenous students, students specifically interested in livestock medicine, etc. At this point in time, the 20 additional seats could be made available to BC students for the 2022 intake, but soon those seats will open to international students. BC students can still apply but will pay close to the international student rate for tuition.

Staff recommend that the Board send two letters – one to Lana Popham, the Minister of Agriculture, asking her to direct her Ministry to work with the Ministry of Advanced Education as the lack of veterinary support will impact the growth of the agriculture sector in our area, and the second to Anne Kang, the Minister of Advanced Education, asking her to support the idea of securing the additional 20 seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and making veterinary training support in BC a funding priority.

Over the longer term, we will also continue to look for cost-effective ways to promote the RDBN to graduates of various veterinary programs.

Attachments:

CVMA SBCV Letter to MLA's (April 21, 2021)



**The Minister of Advanced Education Has Failed to Meet  
With the Society of BC Veterinarians About the Shortage of Veterinarians in BC  
Despite Continued Suffering and Preventable Deaths of Animals**

*Right now, the shortage of veterinarians in BC -- the worst in Canada -- is responsible for animals suffering and dying. Food security is under threat, public health is at risk, animal rescue groups are limited in which animals they can rescue, equine owners have euthanized their horses for preventable maladies, companion animal owners face delays that contribute to their animals suffering and dying, and puppy and kitten owners face lengthy waits for preventative and urgent veterinary care.*

*The Minister of Advanced Education refuses to fund 20 additional seats at BC's regional veterinary school which would help to address the horrors caused by this shortage of veterinarians, and won't even sit down with veterinarians to discuss the problem.*

Dear BC MLAs,

We are the Society of BC Veterinarians Chapter (CVMA-SBCV Chapter), the voice of BC veterinarians. The veterinary profession is regulated by the College of Veterinarians of BC; the Chapter is the member service organization. On behalf of a beleaguered profession, exasperated animal owners and farmers, and suffering animals who cannot speak for themselves, we are asking for your help.

Despite our best efforts beginning in 2018, we have been unable to secure a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education (neither the then-Minister nor the current Minister) where we intend to impress upon her the urgent need for her to increase the number of BC seats at our regional veterinary college (WCVM) from 20 to 40.

Both the Minister of Agriculture and the Chief Veterinary Officer for BC support our request for securing the funding for the additional 20 seats at WCVM for BC, however funding comes from Advanced Education which has said **veterinarians are not a funding priority**.

#### A LANDSCAPE SCAN

BC students wishing to become veterinarians in Canada attend the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon (WCVM) - BC's regional vet school. Only 20 BC students are admitted each year to this four-year program. Each student pays approximately \$11,000 of their own money for tuition annually; BC's Ministry of Advanced Education funds WCVM through the interprovincial agreement. Students graduate with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (DVM).

We learned that Alberta, which has its own veterinary school for Alberta residents, was no longer going to send any of its Alberta students to WCVM after 2019, thus those 20 “Alberta” seats were no longer reserved for Alberta students and became "available."

Of note, BC currently educates 20 veterinarians each year of the four-year program. Alberta educates 52, Saskatchewan educates 20, and Manitoba educates 15. Thus, there are 80 BC-funded students at WCVM at any given time.

We asked WCVM if those 20 available (Alberta) seats could be available to BC and they said yes. BC needs them all.

We went to the Minister of Agriculture in October 2018 and asked for her support in BC securing an additional 20 seats and she fully supported our request.

We went to the Province of BC's Chief Veterinary Officer and she supported that same request.

#### MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION WON'T MEET WITH US

In December 2018, we went to the Ministry of Advanced Education which provides the budget for veterinary seats. They funded the Chapter in 2019 to do a labour market study to demonstrate need, which was completed (<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/sbcv/news/labour-market-study-may-2019>) and which demonstrated that **BC would be short 100 veterinarians per year for each of the subsequent five years, culminating in a shortage of 500 veterinarians by 2024.**

We are already seeing the tremendous challenges presented from this shortage of veterinarians already. There is no doubt that animals are suffering and dying. Securing these additional 20 available seats for BC students is the best and fastest way of addressing the problem long-term starting in 2026 when the first group would graduate.

Our time at the Chapter has been focused on this particular resolution as it will best address the needs of those in BC; especially rural, suburban, remote, and Indigenous communities. By securing these available additional 20 seats, we can then turn our attention to addressing the remaining shortages through alternate federal channels which would still not provide us with the number of veterinarians we need but would offer some small assistance.

#### **Educating BC students is the superior resolution to address this crisis.**

Despite the labour market study results and our evidence from BC veterinarians of the shortage and how it affects them, the Ministry of Advanced Education said that funding of BC veterinarians is not a funding priority. The previous and the current Ministers of Advanced Education have declined to meet with the Chapter. Our repeated requests to meet with Minister Anne Kang have been avoided, cancelled and not re-booked, and now just not responded to.

## WHAT BC VETERINARIANS ARE EXPERIENCING

Daily, our veterinarians hear about situations where animals are dying and suffering as a result of an inability to obtain a timely appointment with their veterinarians, specifically due to a desperate shortage of veterinarians.

Urban veterinarians are reporting two weeks or longer wait times to get appointments for veterinary care. Rural veterinarians report eight weeks or longer and, in some cases, the animals die before getting the help they need.

Mobile veterinarians are in short supply and these veterinarians are the ones typically providing end-of-life care for animals belonging, in many cases, to the elderly or infirm who cannot pick up a large immobile animal and take it to a veterinary clinic, if an appointment was available. These animals, then, die painfully in front of their owners.

Equine veterinarians are telling us that horses have died because a veterinarian was not available despite the horse having a treatable condition. In some cases, euthanasia is performed solely due to lack of an available veterinarian. We heard of one instance of a horse dying in a BC Ferries parking lot on its way to see a veterinarian who could not take the time to travel as it would leave other horses without veterinary care.

Large and small animal rescue and welfare groups are calling us to ask what they can do to force the government to step in and help. Rescue animals cannot be rescued if there are no veterinarians to provide veterinary care.

Cattle ranchers tell us that the shortage of veterinarians has caused a considerable problem, as there are fewer opportunities to secure a “family veterinarian” which means there is no longer the relationship between veterinarian, rancher, and herd. Prescription medications are therefore harder to obtain so cattle are denied timely access to medications and treatment. What few food animal veterinarians there are, then, are over-subscribed and can only focus on current, not new clients. The remote locations of cattle ranches place tremendous burdens on ranchers in Chilcotin, Cariboo, Smithers, Nechako, Skeena, and Vanderhoof.

Hobby farmers say that by the time conditions like a urinary blockage or bloat become obvious to goat or sheep farmers, the condition is an emergency, yet without a relationship with a veterinarian, emergency care is unavailable for new clients. Worse, we are now hearing that referrals between veterinarians for these small ruminants, especially on Vancouver Island, are often going unattended as there are simply not enough veterinarians. There is no more capacity for new clients. The animals die in particularly painful ways.

We hear from a few retirement-aged veterinarians that they have tried to sell their practices for years, and ultimately closed their doors for lack of a replacement veterinarian. We heard from one non-veterinarian who owned a practice that they, too, closed their doors when they could not hire a veterinarian for that community.

COVID only made matters worse: veterinarians were declared essential services and now work excessive hours caused by an increase in pet acquisition and increased time per

appointment due to COVID protocols and increased delays between appointments due to cleaning procedures.

The BC students at WCVM have offered to contact government to express their displeasure. They do not understand why 20 of them were admitted as BC students, and another 15 admitted as Canadian (unfunded) students. So, in addition to serious concerns about entering a profession where the shortage of veterinarians negatively impacts their work daily, they are also upset that 15 of them (unfunded Canadian – BC students) pay \$67,000 a year in tuition while their BC-funded cohort each pay \$11,000.

The public calls us begging for help and asking us why we cannot get the government to train more veterinarians to address the dire shortage in BC.

**We ask you the same question: why can't this government address the shortage of veterinarians by increasing the number of BC students trained as veterinarians?**

#### THE PROBLEM

BC is suffering from a shortage of veterinarians and as of the 2020 intake at BC's regional veterinary university, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), an additional 20 seats for students became available. All these additional seats could have been allocated to BC to increase the number of BC students from 20 to 40 per year, had the Ministry of Advanced Education approved the additional funding required to secure these positions.

Beginning in 2018, the BC Minister of Advanced Education was asked to obtain these seats, which would include seats for rural and northern BC students, to address the rural need for veterinarians, and Indigenous seats, to encourage and provide real opportunities for Indigenous BC students.

The Ministry of Advanced Education funded the Chapter to complete a Labour Market Study in 2019. Upon finalization of the report, the Ministry withheld its permission for the Chapter to release the report to the public. We have now sought legal advice and have released the report, attached.

The Dean of the WCVM has confirmed these 20 previously-Alberta seats could be made exclusively available to BC for the 2022 intake, providing BC commits to the additional funding by March 1, 2022. There is some talk that an immediate decision by the BC government to increase funding from 20 to 40 students may be accommodated by WCVM for the September 2021 intake (as some of those unfunded Canadian students are, in fact, BC students).

#### A SOLUTION WAS DECLINED

The Minister of Advanced Education refused to fund these available 20 seats. WCVM had no choice but to make these available seats open to Canadian and International students. Those available 20 seats that BC requested (and continues to request) instead went to both Canadian and International students.

It is noteworthy that when WCVM opened up those 20 available seats to all Canadians, 15 of those went to BC students who each paid about \$67,000 per year from their own pocket to attend; having not been selected as funded BC students. This means they graduate with the possibility of significant student loan debt, unless they have families who could pay the increased fee.

**The Chapter believes that admission should be open for 40 BC seats without consideration of an applicant's ability to pay or incur debt.**

It is also of note that BC had more than 145 qualified applicants for its 20 BC seats. There was no shortage of qualified applicants and BC would have no problem filling 40 BC seats.

#### COST FOR ANOTHER 20 BC SEATS?

Current funding of our assigned 20 BC seats for the four-year program resulting in a DVM degree is \$8.3 million per year (there are 80 BC students at WCVM: 20 in 1st year, 20 in 2nd year, 20 in 3rd year, and 20 in 4th year -- total cost of \$8.3 per year).

It is assumed that if BC were to increase its student contingent to 40 BC students each year, **the ADDITIONAL cost would be less than \$2.1 million in the first year**, less than \$4.2 million in the second year, less than \$6.3 million in the third year and an additional \$8.3 million in the fourth and all subsequent years (subject to scheduled increases already approved by the BC government). Thus, the cost to the province of BC for educating 40 BC veterinarians would be \$16.6 million a year, instead of educating 20 veterinarians a year at a cost of \$8.3 million a year.

#### HELP FOR RURAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES WAS DECLINED

We explained that with an additional 20 BC seats at WCVM, we could work with WCVM to ensure that there were equity seats for qualified BC Indigenous applicants (currently there are only 2 Equity seats for three provinces to share). We explained that with an additional 20 BC seats at WCVM, we could work with WCVM to ensure there were preferential spaces available for qualified applicants wishing to return to northern or rural communities, where the shortage of veterinarians is currently dire. Neither of these arguments for rural or Indigenous communities were persuasive with the Minister of Advanced Education.

#### SUMMARY

As predicted in our Labour Market Study, the shortage of veterinarians has and will continue to have a significant negative effect on the health and welfare of companion animals; equines; farm animals; exotic animals; birds; wildlife; aquatic animals; honeybees; and more.

The shortage of BC veterinarians has and will continue to have a significant negative effect on public health as BC veterinarians play a substantial role in public health, antimicrobial stewardship, and zoonotic disease surveillance.



The shortage of BC veterinarians, left unresolved by the provincial government, will continue to be directly responsible for animals suffering and dying, including hampering rescue organizations' abilities to seek veterinary care for the animals they rescue.

Finally, the shortage of BC veterinarians will continue to negatively impact the working conditions, working hours, mental health and resiliency, and work-life balance of the overwhelming majority of veterinarians we hear from every week.

The current situation caused by the dire shortage of veterinarians is not sustainable.

**If animal health and welfare, biosecurity, zoonotic surveillance, food security as well as One Health issues are important to you and your constituents, we urge you to help us obtain a meeting with Minister Anne Kang as soon as possible.**

**We request your support for needed funding for the additional 20 BC seats at WCVM in the 2022 intake or earlier, before the fate of many animals and people are further jeopardized due to inadequate access to veterinarians and veterinary care now as well as into the future.**

Sincerely,



Dr. Al Longair, President, Duncan



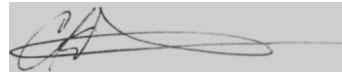
Dr. Jess Robertson, Vice President, Delta



Dr. Rob Ashburner, Secretary-Treasurer, Vancouver



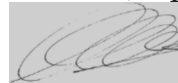
Dr. Sarah Armstrong, Past President, Vancouver



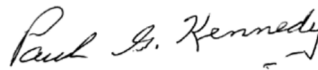
Dr. Chris Armstrong, Director, Whistler



Dr. Fraser Davidson, Director, Squamish



Dr. Marco Veenis, Director, Kelowna



Dr. Paul Kennedy, Director, Prince Rupert

**Appendix 1****Indigenous Applicants from BC**

Western College of Veterinary Medicine Self-Identified Indigenous Student Applicants from BC (as provided by WCVM)

2020

2 BC Indigenous Student applicants 1 Successful BC Pool Indigenous

2019

8 BC Indigenous Student applicants 1 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

2018

7 BC Indigenous Student applicants 1 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

2017

4 BC Indigenous Student applicants 0 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

2016

1 BC Indigenous Student applicants 0 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

2015

1 BC Indigenous Student applicants 1 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

2014

4 BC Indigenous Student applicants 1 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

2013

6 BC Indigenous Student applicants 0 Successful BC Pool Indigenous Student applicants

During this same time period, out of the total 33 Indigenous BC Student applicants, 2 were admitted under the regular intake program. In total, out of the 33 Indigenous BC Student applicants, only 7 students in total were admitted through both programs combined. With an increase of 20 additional BC student spaces each year, BC could have its own dedicated EE (educational equity) program, ensuring real opportunities for successful qualified BC Indigenous applicants.

**Appendix 2****MEDIA ATTENTION**

Veterinarians struggling during pandemic

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ab3zmpoozi9hpSP9uWUCKTudsceq1Vzb/view>

Vet shortage to blame for lack of emergency animal care in Penticton, BC veterinarians

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7645845/vet-shortage-lack-of-emergency-animal-care-penticton-b-c/>

Vet Shortage of veterinarians

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2128038>

CTV news limited class worsens

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/mobile/video?clipId=2128814>

Major shortages in the Veterinary clinics across BC | CKPGToday.ca

<https://ckpgtoday.ca/2021/02/17/major-shortages-in-the-veterinary-clinics-across-b-c/>

Animals are suffering: B.C. veterinary shortage exacerbated by pandemic

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-veterinarian-shortage-1.5765461>

Veterinarian shortage creates pet predicaments in Prince Rupert

<https://www.thenorthernview.com/local-news/veterinarian-shortage-creates-pet-predicaments/#>

It's becoming a crisis: Veterinarians say B.C. isn't doing enough to fix shortage

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/it-s-becoming-a-crisis-veterinarians-say-b-c-isn-t-doing-enough-to-fix-shortage-1.4731142>

Funding training could help with B.C. veterinarian shortage, says society

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/news/local-news/funding-training-could-help-with-b-c-veterinarian-shortage-says-society>

### Appendix 3

#### CURRENT EFFORTS AND TIMELINE FOR REQUESTS 2018 to 2021

October 2, 2018 Chapter Board and staff met with Minister Popham and DM and BC's Chief Veterinarian, who all supported our request for all 20 seats and facilitated a meeting with Minister Mark by providing contact info.

October 26, 2018 emailed requesting a meeting with the Minister Mark and Chapter Board

November 1, 2018 received an email from Minister AdvEd office declining our invitation to meet with the Minister "Minister Mark would like to thank you for the kind request to meet – unfortunately her calendar is fully engaged and I am unable to accommodate your request at this time – the Minister has asked that I pass along her sincere apologies – I have forwarded your request to our Deputy Minister's office to have staff meet on her behalf – your understanding is much appreciated – thanks and please let me know if I can be of further assistance."

December 19, 2018 Chapter Board met with DM Ag and ED Ag (and others). It was a good meeting and we were told to perform a labour market study which AdvEd paid for.

February and March and April 2019 Chapter was involved in a comprehensive labour market study which concluded that BC was short 100 veterinarians per year for each of the next 5 years (500 short). The top recommendation from the labour market study was to secure the 20 additional WCVL seats with an increase in equity seats for qualified Indigenous BC students. Overall numbers are there as WCVL receives 140 qualified applicants for the current 20 seats.

April 4 Chapter requested that the DM of Agriculture and the DM of Advanced Education attend our presentation of our labour market study. This was declined.

May 24, 2019 Chapter Board and staff attended an in-person meeting with about a dozen representatives and analysts from both Ministries.

June 2019 was called by someone in the Ministry of AdvEd and advised that there was no permission for us to release the labour market study and that we could not release the report, and to date, some 19 months later, we still do not have permission to publish our report.

June 2019 contacted DM Ag about progress of securing the 20 extra seats and was told to leave it with him, that he was meeting with DM AdvEd.

June 19, 2019 was advised that the ADMs were meeting to discuss our request.

September 9, 2019 was advised that there was a meeting between the two DMs AG and AdvEd to discuss our request.

September 11, 2019 was told there would be no money by DM Ag.

September 27, 2019 received an email on behalf of Minister Mark saying that despite broad-based support, funding is not available.

September 27, 2019 received a contentious disappointing call with ADM. Notes to Board.

January 16, 2020 wrote to Min. Mark's assistant Diego acknowledging that our Board member spoke to Minister at constituency open house and agreed to meet with our Board, stating she had never

been asked before (we provided documentation of all our efforts). Despite this, still no meeting forthcoming.

2020 COVID and provincial election. Veterinarians declared essential services and work excessive hours caused by an increase in pet acquisition and increased time per appointment due to COVID protocols and increased delays between appointments due to cleaning procedures.

January 20, 2021 requested meeting With Minister Kang.

January 29, 2021 meeting with Minister Kang confirmed for February 16, 2021.

February 9, 2021 advised that Minister Kang had an urgent meeting with Premier 7 days in the future and will cancel and substitute her Deputy.

February 9, 2021 received confirmation of Deputy meeting and were denied a new date with Minister Kang until the "executive" advised her of the outcome of the meeting

February 11, 2021 confirmed again our meeting with Deputy

February 15, 2021 provided additional material for Deputy by email on holiday Monday.

February 16 Chapter attended Zoom meeting set up by the Min Adv.ED with Chapter staff and 6 veterinarian board members who diverted time away from clients, patients and personal matters to attend. Unfortunately, no one from the Ministry showed up. After 20 minutes, Chapter staffed located someone at the Ministry who said there was no intention of anyone from the Ministry attending this meeting time, and Ministry staff erred in not advising the Chapter.

February 16, 2021 requested new meeting with Minister Kang personally as well as had agreement to also meet with Deputy Min. The Ministry has promised a meeting with Minister, but no date provided yet.

March 11, 2021 met with DM AdvEd and DM Ag. Were advised the DM Ag would schedule another meeting with us "soon" so they could get up to speed on the issues. Requested again a meeting with Minister Kang. Not provided.



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural / Agriculture Committee Memorandum

To: Chair Parker and Committee  
 From: Michelle Roberge, Regional Agriculture Coordinator, East  
 Date: September 9, 2021  
 Regarding: BCSPCA Inspections on Commercial Livestock and Poultry Operations

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### **Recommendation:**

Receipt.

### **Background:**

On August 6, 2021, the BC Cattlemen's Association sent out a memo to its members regarding the BCSPCA's intention to perform unannounced inspections of farms and ranches in BC (attached). As-of-yet unverified information published on social media by Country Life in BC Magazine indicates that a program is in place where two operations in each commodity group (beef, turkey, egg, broiler, hog and dairy) will be subject to unannounced inspections this year. Country Life BC Magazine is in the process of publishing a more in-depth article that will be sent to the RDBN once it is available.

There is no formal announcement that the BCSPCA will be performing these inspections on either the BCSPCA website or the MAFF websites.

The BC SPCA is authorized to perform inspections to residences and livestock operations without a warrant under section 15.1 of the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act. ([https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00\\_96372\\_01#section15.1](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_96372_01#section15.1)).

More information is anticipated by the time of the Committee meeting.

### **Attachments:**

BC Cattlemen's Memo to Members  
 BC Cattlemen's Notice to Producers



# Memo

**To:** All Members of the BC Cattlemen's Association  
**From:** Kevin Boon, General Manager  
**Date:** August 6, 2021  
**Re:** BC SPCA - Unannounced Farm/Ranch Inspections

## ATTENTION ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS:

We would like every member to be aware of this matter as it could potentially impact you. **We have recently been notified of the BC SPCA's intention to begin unannounced inspections of farms and ranches.**

While details are still vague, BCCA wants to share what we know as of today:

- **Authority:** The BC SPCA has the authority to conduct proactive inspections under Section 15.1 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. This does not require a warrant.
- **Scope:** SPCA plans to conduct inspections on two farms for each livestock commodity this year.
- **Timeline:** Inspections may begin immediately in some areas.
- **Unannounced:** These inspections will be conducted without prior notice to producers.
- **Inspection participants:** The BC SPCA will bring their inspector and a veterinarian. A staff person from Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) will participate as an observer.
- **Inspection results:** Producer information and inspection results are protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Inspection results will be private between the BC SPCA and the individual producer.
- **Biosecurity:** Plans and protocols that are in place will be adhered to by the BC SPCA investigators.
- **Animals in Distress:** The BC SPCA will be assessing for distress during the inspections. If an animal is found to be in distress, BC SPCA will bring it to the attention of the producer and provide the producer with an opportunity to make changes that will relieve the distress. The BC SPCA has the authority under the Act to request animal care records. Producers who are caring for sick or injured animals will want to be in contact with their veterinarian and/or have a plan for their care.
- **Accepted Industry Practices:** The [Code of Practice](#) and any verification programs will be used by the BC SPCA as a guide for compliance. BC SPCA will be looking to see that proper due diligence is in place so that an animal is not at risk of becoming distressed. **A summary of the required practices under the Code of Practice for the Care & Handling of Beef Cattle is enclosed.**

I want to reassure our members that BCCA is working to address this issue. Since being notified by the BC SPCA we have contacted government to raise our concerns. We have also been collaborating with the other livestock industries to meet with government and the BC SPCA to clarify the authority, the rationale and the process for inspections.

We will continue to share more information as it becomes available. If you have questions or concerns, please our office 1-877-688-2333.

Regards,  
 Kevin Boon,  
 BCCA General Manager

Attached:

- Notice to Livestock Producers
- Summary of Code requirements



August 6, 2021

## ATTENTION ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

**BC Cattlemen's Association wants to inform our members of an issue that has come to our attention that may impact you.**

We have been notified of the BC SPCA's intention to begin "unannounced proactive inspections" of farms and ranches.

### WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The BC SPCA has notified livestock organizations that they intend to conduct proactive, unannounced inspections on farms/ranches this summer. The BC SPCA has the authority to conduct proactive inspections under Section 15.1 of the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act](#).

### WHAT IS BCCA DOING?

- **Voiced Strong Opposition.** BCCA stated our strong opposition with the ministry and inquired about whether SPCA had such authority.
- **Seeking Clarification.** BCCA is asking the ministry of agriculture to clarify whether enshrining the Codes of Practice into regulation has altered the process SPCA's ability to conduct inspections.
- **Protecting personal rights.** BCCA is working with other livestock associations on this matter. We are reviewing legal opinions obtained by other livestock associations to ensure that we are protecting your rights and fully understand the scope of the SPCA's authority.
- **Joining Forces.** BCCA has been working with the BC Agriculture Council and the other livestock associations to understand the details of this initiative. We are working to gather more information and will provide you with accurate information as soon as possible so that you are prepared in case a visit takes place.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- **Witness.** If the SPCA comes to conduct an inspection, we recommend that you have someone, such as a veterinarian, who can participate in the inspection as a witness. The Ministry of Agriculture has agreed to provide a member of their staff to participate as an observer in the SPCA's inspections. If an SPCA inspector makes a proactive visit to your ranch, please notify the BCCA office.
- **Biosecurity.** The SPCA inspectors have agreed to follow your biosecurity plan and protocol. We recommend that signage be posted indicating all visitors must report to the office and follow biosecurity prevention measures.
- **Confidentiality.** Producers should ask for a copy of inspection results (which are confidential between the SPCA and the producer).
- **Follow the Code of Practice.** All producers are asked to familiarize themselves with the *Code of Practice for the Care & Handling of Beef Cattle*. This is the accepted standard of recommended and required industry practices. A summary of the "required" practices from the Code is enclosed.
- **Develop a biosecurity and animal welfare plan.** The Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) Program assists producers with templates and guidance on building plans for biosecurity, animal care and environmental stewardship for your operation. Contact: Bree Patterson, VBP+ Coordinator  
Ph: 1-877-688-2333 Email: VBP@cattlemen.bc.ca.



## RESOURCES

### Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle

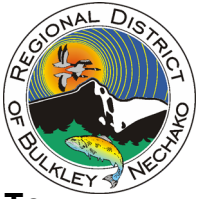
- [www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle](http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle)

### Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) Resource Webinar Series

- [www.verifiedbeef.ca/producer-resources/webinars.cfm](http://www.verifiedbeef.ca/producer-resources/webinars.cfm)

### Beef Cattle Research Council Resources

- [www.beefresearch.ca/blog/beef-care-code-video/](http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/beef-care-code-video/)
- [www.beefresearch.ca/blog/science-informed-beef-care-code/](http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/science-informed-beef-care-code/)
- [www.beefresearch.ca/blog/ga-on-conventional-production-of-canadian-beef/](http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/ga-on-conventional-production-of-canadian-beef/)



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

**To:** Chair and Committee  
**From:** Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
**Date:** September 9, 2021  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Relief Funds – Remaining Allocation

### RECOMMENDATION

(all/directors/majority)

Direction.

### Background:

The RDBN received COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant monies from the Province of BC in the amount of \$897,000. That grant was allocated in three ways:

- 1) \$381,746.00 to internal COVID-19-related expenses
- 2) \$132,047.00 to Electoral Area Services for community groups, and
- 3) \$383,207.00 as an allocation for consideration by the Rural Directors Committee.

### Internal COVID-19 Related Expenses

The internal RDBN expenses were approved via memorandums and include a total value of \$381,746.00. Of these funds, \$100,372.00 were spent in the 2020 fiscal year and the remainder, which includes upgrades to the RDBN Boardroom Audio/Visual capabilities, will be spent in 2021.

### Electoral Area Services

\$132,047.00 was allocated based on population to Electoral Area Services and was made available to community groups via application. As per Rural/Agriculture Committee Direction, when the original allocation was over-spent, the additional support was taken from the Rural Directors Committee allocation. The total amount of support provided through Electoral Area Services is included in the table below.

Electoral Area	Funding Allocated	Electoral Area Service Over/Under
A – Smithers Rural	\$36,346.85	\$6,385.15
B – Burns Lake Rural	\$27,725.44	(\$11,969.44)
C – Fort St. James Rural	\$21,003.61	(\$9,499.61)
D – Fraser Lake Rural	\$6,941.00	\$5,026.00
E – Francois/Ootsa Rural	\$19,631.30	(\$6,680.30)
F – Vanderhoof Rural	\$37,777.88	(\$7,981.88)
G – Houston Rural	\$13,010.00	(\$5,669.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$162,436.08</b>	<b>(\$30,389.08)</b>

## Rural Directors Committee Allocation

These funds were set aside for the Rural Directors Committee to determine how they would be spent. The original allocation of \$383,207.00 was reduced by \$30,389.08 to facilitate additional support for community groups. \$352,817.92 remains in the Rural Directors Committee allocation.

Staff has provided the following suggestions for consideration in allocating the remaining COVID-19 Relief Funds:

### 1) Municipal Recreation Allocation - \$175,000.00

Municipal facilities and recreation programming experienced significant disruptions as a result of the pandemic. Staff are recommending an allocation (divided based on population), which would result in the following payments to municipalities to support the return of recreation services:

<b>Recreation Allocation:</b>	
Vanderhoof	41,259.03
Fort St James	14,852.88
Fraser Lake	9,183.13
Burns Lake	16,535.21
Houston	27,818.94
Granisle	2,816.28
Telkwa	12,334.02
Smithers	50,200.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,000.00</b>

### 2) Smithers Regional Airport - \$100,000.00

As the only airport in the region with commercial flight service, Smithers Regional Airport experienced a substantial loss of revenue due to flight cancellations by commercial carriers. As a result, the Town of Smithers anticipates a future deficit of \$540,000 in required capital reserve allocations. Additional details of COVID-19's financial impact to the airport are available to Director's upon request.

### 3) RDBN Building Re-Wiring - \$50,000.00

Staff recommend that the RDBN building be re-wired to replace the existing Category 5 wiring with Category 7 to improve internal network connectivity speeds to ensure future-proofing of the building capacity for uninterrupted network access during work and meetings.

### 4) Community Group allocations - \$12,740.89

The following community group requests were received after the August Board meeting:

Lake Kathlyn Protection Society	COVID-related contract work	\$8,430.61
Colleymount Recreation Society	Insurance, Hydro, Propane	\$2,710.28
Arocha (Houston Hatchery)	Outdoor Meeting Space	\$1,600.00

### 5) Contingency - \$15,077.03

Suggestions 1 through 4 total \$337,740.89, leaving \$15,077.03 remaining as a contingency that can be used for any remaining community group requests, or in case of cost increases for planned projects.



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural / Agriculture Committee Memorandum

To: Chair Parker and Committee  
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Date: September 9, 2021  
Regarding: **Universal Broadband Fund and Connectivity Update**

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### **Recommendation:**

Receive.

### **Background:**

Earlier this year several Rural Directors committed to allocating Federal Gas Tax funds to support the construction of connectivity infrastructure in their Electoral Areas. Those funds were included in the project budgets for applications submitted in collaboration with CityWest to the Federal Universal Broadband Fund (UBF). The recently called Federal Election means that no notifications regarding the UBF can be made until the completion of the election.

The Connectivity Committee Chair and staff are working on a thorough update for the Connectivity Committee in October. Staff will continue the process of establishing a Regional Connectivity Service as well as creating the RDBN Connectivity Strategy.



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural / Agriculture Committee Memorandum

To: Chair Parker and Committee  
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
Date: September 9, 2021  
Regarding: **Canada Community Building Fund/Gas Tax Fund Top-Up Payment  
and Updated Eligibility Guidelines**

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### **Recommendation:**

Receive.

### **Background:**

UBCM has informed the RDBN that we have received a one-time, top-up payment of Community Works Funds for fiscal 2021/2022. This payment was \$858,116.44.

Additionally, the Government of Canada has expanded the eligibility categories to include fire halls and fire station infrastructure. Eligibility details include:

- New fire hall (building) for housing fire-fighting apparatus and staff (may include attached dorms, basic training facilities and administration areas)
- Retro-fit and modernization of existing firehalls and attached building space
- Acquisition of a fire-truck as a capital asset **as part of an overall capital upgrade** to an existing fire hall or construction of a new firehall

Note: the following investments are **not eligible** in the fire hall category:

- Acquisition or replacement of fire trucks or other vehicles as a standalone project
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) and gear and other fire station related equipment
- Fire hydrants and reservoirs
- Communications devices (Ex.: Cell phones, radios, pagers)
- Structural Protection Units and contents

### **Attachments:**

Canada Community Building Fund/Gas Tax Fund Letter from UBCM  
Gas Tax allocations with top-up payment included

August 11, 2021

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

Dear Gerry Thiessen:

**RE: CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND/GAS TAX FUND:  
COMMUNITY WORKS FUND TOP-UP PAYMENT AND UPDATED ELIGIBILITY  
GUIDELINES**

I am pleased to advise that UBCM is in the process of distributing a top-up to your Community Works Fund (CWF) payment for fiscal 2021/2022. An electronic transfer of \$858,116.44 is expected to occur the week of August 16, 2021.

This additional one-time payment from UBCM for the CWF was approved for disbursement by the Government of Canada to supplement the fiscal 2021/2022 allocation which was delivered in July.

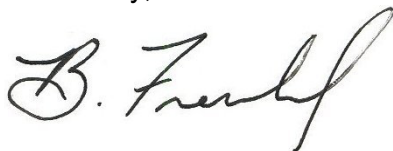
Also announced by the Government of Canada is the expansion of CWF investment categories to now include fire halls and fire station infrastructure.

CWF is made available to eligible local governments by the Government of Canada pursuant to the Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia. Funding under the program may be directed to local priorities that fall within one of the eligible project categories.

Further details regarding use of CWF and project eligibility are outlined in your CWF Agreement and details on the Canada Community-Building Fund (Gas Tax Fund) can be found on our website at [www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca).

For further information, please contact Canada Community-Building Fund Program Services by e-mail at [ccbf@ubcm.ca](mailto:ccbf@ubcm.ca) or by phone at 250-356-5134.

Yours truly,



Brian Frenkel  
UBCM President

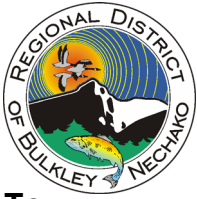
PC: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer

Updated as of: August 30, 2021

**Federal Gas Tax Community Works Fund**

**Year: 2021**

Electoral Area	Population	Opening Balance 2021	Interest Earnings	Funds Spent	Funds Committed	Funds Internally re-allocated	Funding Received	YTD Funds Available
A	5,256	1,406,826.20	5,587.70	71,495.85	774,017.34		567,997.55	1,134,898.26
B	1,938	698,838.96	2,775.68	33,900.00	463,217.00		209,432.89	413,930.54
C	1,415	638,222.84	2,534.93	-	521,824.00	125,000.00	152,914.11	396,847.88
D	1,472	798,446.52	3,171.31	58,808.00	325,002.00		159,073.90	576,881.73
E	1,593	431,331.48	1,713.18	38,250.00	208,362.00		172,149.94	358,582.60
F	3,665	823,988.00	3,272.76	105,570.93	449,067.00	(250,000.00)	396,063.74	418,686.57
G	903	434,573.55	1,726.06	-	-	125,000.00	97,584.05	658,883.66
	16,242	<b>5,232,227.55</b>	<b>20,781.63</b>	<b>308,024.78</b>	<b>2,741,489.34</b>		<b>1,755,216.18</b>	<b>3,958,711.24</b>



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rural/Agriculture Committee

**To:** Chair Parker and Committee  
**From:** Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
**Date:** September 9, 2021  
**Subject:** Grant in Aid Update: April - June 2021

### RECOMMENDATION

(all/directors/majority)

Receive.

### Background:

The following Grant in Aid requests of \$2,500 or less were approved by Electoral Area Directors between April 1 and June 30, 2021.

Community Group	Project	Amount
<b>Area 'A' (Smithers Rural)</b>		
Bulkley Valley Christian School	Roadside Cleanup	\$1,000.00
Backcountry Horsemen of BC	Solar Power Installation	\$2,410.26
Driftwood School Restoration Committee	Playground	\$2,500.00
Bulkley Valley Museum	Refinish Old Church floor	\$1,000.00
Smithers Chamber of Commerce	Lake Kathlyn Float Fest	\$2,350.00
<b>Area 'B' (Burns Lake Rural)</b>		
LD Family Enhancement Society	Heat Pump Installation	\$4,384.10
<b>Area 'C' (Fort St; James Rural)</b>		
Stuart Lake Seniors Association	Floor Curling Set	\$1,850.00
Fort St. James Secondary School	Grad 2021 Banners	\$2,000.00
<b>Area 'D' (Fraser Lake Rural)</b>		
SD 91 & Fraser Lake Community Garden	Outdoor Picnic Area	\$1,100.00
<b>Area 'E' (Francois/Ootsa Rural)</b>		
LD Family Enhancement Society	Heat Pump Installation	\$4,384.10
Lakes Literacy	WOW Bus Service	\$500.00
<b>Area 'F' (Vanderhoof Rural)</b>		
Cluculz Lake Community Association	AED for Hall	\$1,836.45
<b>Area 'G' (Houston Rural)</b>		





## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

### Rural/Agriculture Committee Memorandum

To: Chair Parker and Rural/Agriculture Committee

From: Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor

Date: September 9, 2021

Subject: RDBN Rural Septage

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Discussion.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is responsible for 4 septage receiving/treatment systems within the RDBN as part of the Liquid Waste Service (Bylaw 1035 & 1553). This service allows septage haulers within the region to haul and dispose of liquid waste (sewer) from rural septage tanks. Bylaw 1553 allows the RDBN to charge an annual permit fee of \$1,000 per site, per hauler. These permit fees are used for site maintenance.

Locations of these RDBN septage receiving beds are:

- Fort Fraser (Fort Fraser Sewer Facility- 501 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.)
- Burns Lake Transfer Station
- Knockholt Landfill
- Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station

The District of Fort St. James and the District of Vanderhoof Sewer Facilities also accept rural septage. These are operated and managed by the municipality.

Facts:

- The permit fees from the 6 rural haulers do not cover the operational cost for the 4 RDBN facilities
- The facilities are not adequate to treat current volumes from rural septage haulers, let alone, the additional volumes from the proposed population growth and affects from the change in sewage systems standard (2004) involving holding tanks
- Rural areas are choosing to install more holding tanks vs. septic tank/field systems
- LNG camp liquid waste is mostly being accepted at member municipalities for a fee, charged by the municipality. Some municipal systems were upgraded as part of the LNG pipeline impacts to the region to support the camps.
- General comments from rural haulers/and public are they don't want to charge their customers a higher cost and that they would like to see costs covered with taxation.

**Attachments**

- 1. April 5, 2009 memo re: Pump and Haul Service Review**
- 2. Bylaw No. 1035**
- 3. Bylaw No. 1086**
- 4. Bylaw No. 1553**



## MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Committee  
From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Date: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Re:

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### PURPOSE

At the January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Planning Committee meeting the Planning Committee made the following motion.

“That staff investigate the infrastructure that is necessary to sustain pump and haul sewage disposal systems within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako over the long term together with identification of the number of lease lots within the Region.”

This staff memorandum provides the Planning Committee with the results of staff's investigations into the above issues.

### PUMP AND HAUL SYSTEMS EXPLAINED

A pump and haul system is a system where sewage waste flows into a holding tank, and the waste is then pumped into a truck and taken to an off site treatment facility. There is no treatment of that waste on the property. The Waste is most often taken to one of the Regional District's treatment facilities or to a municipal treatment facility where the municipality is willing to accept pump and haul waste. At present the Regional District has septage receiving facilities at the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station, the Burns Lake Transfer Station, and the Fort Fraser wastewater treatment facility. The Knockholt facility is not yet online to accept pump and haul waste.

Pump and haul holding tanks are relatively inexpensive to install; however, the annual cost to maintain the system and pump and haul the sewage to a Regional District disposal facility can be quite high. Given this high operating cost, pump and haul systems are typically used on recreational properties where use is limited, or where on site treatment systems are not practical or possible.

### TREATMENT OF HOLDING TANK WASTE

There are fundamental differences between pump and haul waste and septage waste associated with a septic system. Waste from a pump and haul system has a high volume of water and relatively low solids content. Septage waste has less volume and



is more solid in consistency. The RDBN's septage receiving facilities were designed to accept septage waste from septic tanks and, therefore, have limited capability to accept high volumes of pump and haul waste.

The RDBN's facilities may not be able to accommodate future pump and haul waste if pump and haul systems significantly increase in number and usage in the future. The capacity for each RDBN facility to accept holding tank waste is not known and can not be determined without further study of those systems. However, the Environmental Services Department advises that there is no reason to believe that any of the currently operational facilities are close to capacity at this time. It is noted that the septage receiving facility at the Knockholt Landfill is not currently operational and would not be able to handle pump and haul waste without system upgrades.

In order to delay, or potentially avoid, the long term need for new RDBN sewage disposal facilities to deal with pump and haul waste, staff takes every opportunity to limit the future use of pump and haul systems. Northern Health also discourages their use for other reasons.

### **SMALLWATERFRONT LOTS**

It is anticipated that the greatest potential demand for pump and haul systems in the future will be associated with small waterfront properties that are currently undeveloped, serviced by an outhouse, or serviced by an older failing septic system. For example, Cluculz Lake, in Electoral Area F has over 500 waterfront lots that are less than 1 acre in parcel size. Fraser Lake in Electoral Area D has over 130 waterfront lots that are less than 1 acre in parcel size. On site sewage disposal systems for many of these properties will be very expensive, and may be impossible in some cases. A pump and haul system may be the only practical option in the future.

Staff consulted with the Integrated Land Management Bureau and they have confirmed that they have no idea of the number of small waterfront lots they own that may be available for sale. Staff spent a notable amount of time checking the ownership and development status of small lots on various lakes throughout the RDBN and it appears that the vast majority of these lots are already in private ownership, and are not lease lots owned by the Province.

### **FUTURE ACTION**

The Environmental Services Department advises that there is no reason to believe that any of the RDBN facilities accepting pump and haul waste are close to capacity at this time. The future use of pump and haul systems, and their impact on the capacity of RDBN facilities depends upon many factors, many of which are not within the RDBN's control.

At this time no action is recommended by staff. Unless advised to proceed differently by the Board, staff shall monitor the number of pump and haul permits issued by



Northern Health and any potential capacity implications for our receiving facilities, and report back to the Board as necessary.

**Recommendation**

Receipt

All / Directors / Majority

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Llewellyn  
Director of Planning

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
BYLAW NO. 1035**

A Bylaw to establish a local service for the disposal and  
treatment of septic waste within the Regional District  
of Bulkley-Nechako

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**WHEREAS** the Regional District may, pursuant to Section 798(1)(a) of the Municipal Act, establish a local service for the disposal and treatment of septic waste within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;

**AND WHEREAS** the Regional District operates septic lagoons at various landfill sites within the Regional District under permits from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks;

**AND WHEREAS** the cost of operating these services should not be charged to solid waste disposal, and the Board has therefore determined that it should establish a separate local service for the disposal and treatment of septic waste at these lagoons;

**AND WHEREAS** the Regional District Board has received assent for establishing the service from the electors of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako by counter petition, under Section 809 of the Municipal Act;

**AND WHEREAS** the number of counter-petitions against the proposal represent fewer than FIVE (5%) PERCENT of the electors in the service area;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Regional Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. That the Regional District hereby establishes a local service for the purpose of disposal and treatment of septic waste within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;
2. The boundaries of the local service area shall be the boundaries of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;
3. The participants of this service shall be all the municipalities and electoral area in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;
4. The cost of providing this service shall be recovered by the imposition of fees and other charges as specified under Section 816 (1)(c) of the Municipal Act;
5. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned by fees and other charges annually for this service, under Section 816 of the Municipal Act, shall be FIFTY THOUSAND (\$50,000) DOLLARS.

Page 2 of By-Law No. 1035


6. This Bylaw may be cited as " Disposal and Treatment of Septic Waste Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1035, 1997".

READ A FIRST TIME this 18 day of December , 1997

READ A SECOND TIME this 18 day of December , 1997

READ A THIRD TIME this 18 day of December , 1997

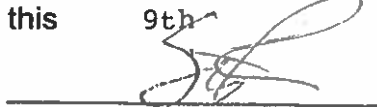
Certified a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 1035

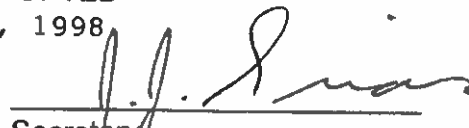
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Jay Simons,  
Secretary

APPROVAL BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVED  
this 19th day of January , ~~1997~~ 1998

ASSENT OF THE ELECTORS RECEIVED this 20th day of March, 1998

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED  
this 9th day of April, 1998

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

FILED WITH THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Province of British Columbia



No. \_\_\_\_\_

# Statutory Approval

*Under the provisions of section* 807(1)(a)

*of the* Municipal Act

*I hereby approve Bylaw No.* 1035

*of* the Regional District  
of Bulkley-Nechako, *a copy*

*of which is attached hereto.*

*Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of January, 1998*

*[Signature]*  
Deputy Inspector of Municipalities



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****BYLAW NO. 1086**

**A bylaw to regulate the discharge of trucked  
liquid waste into septage disposal facilities  
operated by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**

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**WHEREAS the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako by bylaw, has established a function of providing septage disposal facilities within the Regional District;**

**AND WHEREAS the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has the power to acquire, construct, maintain, operate and regulate septage disposal facilities, the power to compel persons to make use of any system established for the disposal of septage and authority to establish a scale of charges payable for depositing septage at a septage disposal facility;**

**AND WHEREAS the Regional District is empowered to prescribe the terms and conditions upon which persons may make use of such system, and pursuant to the Waste Management Act and the Municipal Act, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is authorized to adopt a bylaw respecting the direct or indirect discharge of waste into sewers connected to a sewage facility operated by the Regional District;**

**NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:**

**1. Definitions**

**The following terms, words and phrases when used in the bylaw, have the meaning set forth in this Section. If not defined below, the words and phrases used in this bylaw have their common and ordinary means to the degree consistent with the technical subjects in this bylaw:**

**“Regional District” means the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;**

**“Holding Tank” means a tank designed to store sewage on a parcel of land for a period of time before the sewage is transported to an approved disposal site or community sewer system located elsewhere;**

**“Load” means the contents of the hauling vehicle which is to be discharged to a septage disposal facility;**

**...2**

**Page 2 of Bylaw No. 1086**

**“Local Service Area” means the Local Service Area as set out by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;**

**“Municipality” means any participating member city, town, village or other incorporated area of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako as a municipality or the Regional District itself;**

**“Prohibited waste” means prohibited waste as defined in Schedule “A” to this bylaw;**

**“Septage” means a combination of liquid and solid wastes and/or settled solids from residences, businesses, institutions and industries, normally collected in a septic tank, holding tank or accumulated in wastewater lines and appurtenances;**

**“Septage disposal facility” means a septage disposal facility owned by the the Regional District, listed and described in Schedule “B” of this bylaw that gathers, treats, transports, stores, utilizes or discharges trucked liquid wastes;**

**“Sewage” means human excretion or the water carried wastes from personal or domestic washing, food preparation and laundering, resulting from occupation of a building;**

**“Substance” means any solid, liquid or gas;**

**“Trucked liquid waste” means any waste that is collected and transported from the site where the waste originated by means other than discharge to a sewer, including but not limited to, septic tank waste, chemical toilet contents , oil and grease from interceptors or traps and other sludge or organic or inorganic origin;**

**“Waste” means any substance that is intended to be discharged or discarded, directly or indirectly, to a septage disposal facility;**

**“Wastewater” means the composite of water and water-carried wastes from residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional premises or any other source.**

**2. Discharges to Septage Facility**

**(1) No person shall discharge trucked liquid waste directly**

**...3**

**Page 3 of Bylaw No. 1086**

**or indirectly to a septage disposal facility except in accordance with this bylaw.**

- (2) No person shall directly or indirectly discharge or allow or cause to be discharged any prohibited waste as described in Schedule "A" into a septage disposal facility.**
- (3) No person shall directly or indirectly discharge or allow or cause to be discharged into a septage disposal facility any water or other substance for the purpose of diluting any septage, sewage, wastewater sludge or industrial wastewater.**
- (4) The discharge of a load shall be discontinued at the instruction of an employee of the Regional District if he or she has reasonable grounds to believe that the load does not meet the requirements of this bylaw.**

**3. Off-Site Regulations**

**No person shall discharge septage to any disposal facility except a septage disposal facility as defined in Schedule "B".**

**4. Use of Septage Facility by Haulers**

- (1) A hauler who discharges any trucked liquid waste at a septage disposal facility must follow the rules for the use of that facility appended in Schedule "D".**
- (2) The Director of Environmental Services may suspend or revoke the privilege of using a septage disposal facility if a hauler discharges prohibited waste.**

Page 4 of Bylaw No. 1086

**5. Monitoring of Wastes**

**The contents of any vehicles transporting waste to a septage disposal facility, as a condition of discharge, may be sampled at any time by the Regional District.**

**6. Offences and Penalties**

- (1) A person who contravenes this bylaw, or other requirement made or imposed under this bylaw, is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.**
- (2) Where an offence is committed or continues for more than one day, a person shall be deemed to have committed separate offences for each day on or during which an offence occurs or continues, and separate fines, each not exceeding \$2,000, may be imposed for each day on or during which an offence occurs or continues.**

**7. Rates and Fees**

- (1) Every person using a septage disposal facility shall pay the fees set out in Schedule "C" to this bylaw.**
- (2) The annual fee enumerated in Schedule "C" of this bylaw shall be billed monthly and shall be payable upon presentation of log book records by each hauler at the end of every month. The user fee is multiplied by the number of reported litres per month to arrive at a total monthly fee for each hauler.**
- (3) No complaint of an error in any charge for user fees or administration fees shall be considered and no adjustment of any such error shall be made after a period of one year has elapsed since the end of the period for which such user fees or administration fees were made. After the termination of this period all such user fees or administration fee charges shall be deemed to have been properly and correctly made.**

## Page 5 of Bylaw No. 1086

**8. General**

- (1) No person may hinder or prevent a Bylaw Enforcement Officer from carrying out their duties with respect to the administration and enforcement of this bylaw.**
- (2) A Bylaw Enforcement Officer may enter onto any parcel to which this bylaw is applicable at all reasonable times to ascertain whether a requirement under this bylaw is being met or whether the regulations under this bylaw are being observed.**
- (3) Nothing in this bylaw relieves a person discharging waste from complying with the Waste Management Act, the Special Waste Regulation, the Spill Reporting Regulation, or other applicable enactments or orders made under such enactments.**
- (4) When the Board has authority to direct that a matter or thing be done by a person, the Board may also direct that, if the person fails to take the required action, the matter or thing shall be done at the expense of the person in default in accordance with Section 299 (2) of the Municipal Act. If action in default is taken, the Board may recover the expense from the person, together with costs and interests at the rate prescribed under Section 11(3) of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act, in the same manner as municipal taxes.**
- (5) In this bylaw, words referring to the male gender include the female gender and either include the neuter and vice versa, and words referring to the singular number include the plural number and vice versa.**
- (6) The schedules annexed hereto are an integral part of this bylaw.**
- (7) If any provision of this bylaw is found to be invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, it is to be severed from the bylaw.**
- (8) The headings are inserted for convenience of reference only.**

Page 6 of Bylaw No. 1086

9. Citation

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Liquid Waste Disposal Bylaw No. 1086, 1999".

READ A FIRST TIME this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1999

READ A SECOND TIME this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1999

READ A THIRD TIME this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1999

THIRD READING RESCINDED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000

AMENDED AND GIVEN THIRD READING this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000

Certified a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 1086

*Gail Chapman*  
Deputy Corporate Administrator

RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000

*H.L. Keil*  
Chairperson

*J. J. Smith*  
Corporate Administrator

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****BYLAW NO. 1553****A bylaw to establish user fees for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Liquid Waste Disposal Facilities**

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**WHEREAS** the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has enacted "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Liquid Waste Disposal Bylaw No. 1086, 1999" which regulates the discharge of trucked liquid waste into septage disposal facilities operated by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;

**AND WHEREAS** the Regional District may, by bylaw, adopted under Section 363 of the Local Government Act impose fees or charges for the provision of services or for the use of Regional District Property;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Regional Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The rates set out in Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this bylaw, are applicable for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Liquid Waste Disposal.
2. The liquid waste haulers hauling to the Septage Disposal Facilities as outlined in Schedule "B" of the bylaw shall be billed annually as defined in Schedule "A", during the first quarter of each year, and shall be payable upon receipt.
3. In the case of a new hauler utilizing a Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako septage disposal facility during any year, the charge for the balance of the said year shall be prorated.
3. The "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 1506, 2009" is hereby repealed.
4. This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Liquid Waste Disposal User Fee Bylaw No. 1553, 2010."

READ A FIRST TIME this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010

READ A SECOND TIME this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010

READ A THIRD TIME this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010

ADOPTED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010

*Allen Benedict*  
Chairperson

*Gail Chapman*  
Corporate Administrator

Certified a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 1553 as adopted.

*Gail Chapman*  
Corporate Administrator



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
SCHEDULE "A"****Region-Wide User Fees**

<u>Location</u>	<u>User Fee</u>
I. Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station Lagoon	\$1000
II. Knockholt Sub-regional Landfill Septage Receiving Facility	\$1000
III. Burns Lake Transfer Station Septage Receiving Facility	\$1000
IV. Ft. Fraser Septage Receiving Facility	\$1000

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

### SCHEDULE "B"

#### Septage Disposal Facilities

		<u>Legal</u>	<u>Physical</u>
1.	<b>Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station Lagoon</b>	Portion of southeast ¼ of Section 4, Range 5, Coast District	Southeast corner of site
2.	<b>Knockholt Sub-Regional Landfill</b>	District Lot 8044, Range 5, Coast District	Adjacent to Leachate Collection Lagoon
3.	<b>Burns Lake Transfer Station</b>	91.3 metres east and 60.9 metres south of the northeast corner of Block A of the southeast ¼ of Lot 4185, Range 5, Coast District, thence 201.2 metres south thence 201.2 metres west, thence 201.2 metres north to the point of commencement	Northeast corner of site
4.	<b>Fort Fraser Septage Receiving Facility</b>	Blocks 113, 114, 128 and 130 within the southeast quarter of Section 27, Township 15, Range 5, Coast District	Southeast corner of site