



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA  
Thursday, February 10, 2022**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**



## **REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison

**DATE:** February 10, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Skeena Roundtable Design Workshop

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**RECOMMENDATION:** (all/directors/majority)

That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board appoints \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the Skeena Roundtable Design Workshop on their behalf.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In early 2021, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRORD) and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) had reached out to local government representatives and stakeholders in the Skeena region to gain an understanding of regional concerns regarding Indigenous reconciliation and natural resource management initiatives. Based on their findings, Two Worlds Consulting Ltd. (TWC) has been contracted to work with a regional Inter-Ministry Team to:

- Develop a collaborative communication process with participants that can be a model for future and ongoing dialogue with local government and stakeholders; and
- Facilitate an initial virtual Roundtable meeting in March 2022 consisting of local governments and a cross-section of representatives from organizations in the Skeena Region to discuss a proposed process and identify steps moving forward.

At the January Natural Resources Committee meeting, staff brought forward a memo requesting input on six proposed questions. Based on the discussion, a response to the input request was sent (see attachment 1), and TWC responded to the questions posed (see attachment 2).

On February 9, 2022, the RDBN received a save the date email (see attachment 3) for the Skeena Regional Roundtable Design Workshop that will be occurring on March 10, 2022, from 8:45 am till noon, via Zoom. As this workshop intends to build the structure for future Roundtables, TWC asks that participating organizations nominate only one representative. The purpose of this memo is for

the Board to nominate either a staff person or Board Director to attend this workshop on behalf of the RDBN. Given that member municipalities within the Skeena Region have likely received this invite, should the Board wish to appoint an elected official to represent the RDBN, they consider a rural Director to attend on their behalf.

**Attachments:**

1. Submitted Skeena Roundtable Design Input – Document
2. TWC Response – Received email
3. Save the Date: Skeena Roundtable Design – Received email

**1. What are the main objectives for the overall Roundtable process that are important to your organization?**

The main objectives for this roundtable process should be reconciliation and capacity building. Every municipality and First Nations government across our region is dealing with different things in a variety of different manners, building understanding surrounding the reconciliation efforts ongoing in the region and how local governments can support their implementation. This Roundtable should work on informing and engaging everyone in the processes and ensure that everyone is at the discussion tables. As reconciliation is a process that requires dedicated staff capacity for local governments and First Nation governments, finding ways to support capacity building for meaningful engagement is needed.

**2. What should be the focus of the initial meeting to ensure a successful process going forward?**

The focus of the initial meeting should be on finding consensus on the overarching objectives that will be guiding the roundtables moving forward. As well as providing rationale and data on recent provincial decisions to help build a base-level of understanding and determining how the table will process information and materials from the provincial government. This initial meeting will require a significant amount of time to ensure that all participants are at the same level of understanding. Participants will need to understand how the table will process and deliver information and how their input could inform negotiations and implementation.

**3. How often should the Roundtable meet and for how long?**

As many reconciliation initiatives have natural resource components in the area, it would be pertinent for the roundtable to meet once every month to six weeks, with meetings occurring preferably not in the evenings.

**4. What are some key topics your organization would like to discuss at the initial meeting?**

The first meeting needs to start from a ground floor and help participants build up awareness and insight, providing background on the various reconciliation initiatives that have natural resource components in the area will allow for fulsome discussions to proceed. This meeting should set the parameters on information sharing and how local government and stakeholders will be engaged in these processes. It should also discuss ways to support partnership opportunities between First Nations and local governments in this sector.

**5. What is your organization's preference for receiving material related to the meeting (e.g., by email, shared document site)?**

If all materials related to the meeting can be saved into a shared document site.

**6. Any other information or comments you would like to provide?**

Currently, relationships between First Nations and governments are siloed. While all orders of government must take the time to build their own relationships with First Nations, the siloed nature of the current structure hinders a collective relationship-building experience and needs to be rectified. If this

table could look at ways to strengthen, build, and support the development of relationships that would help advance reconciliation within the region that has further reach.

The Regional District had a few questions regarding the Skeena Roundtable:

- Aside from the identified local governments and stakeholders that participated in the Skeena needs assessment, who else would be invited to participate at these Roundtables?
- Will First Nation governments and organizations also be involved?
- What would come to the table when discussing Natural Resources? Will it extend beyond forestry? And include other projects, such as environmental stewardship?
- As our Regional District spans across both the Skeena and Omineca regions, will a similar table be created for the Omineca region?

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]: Design of Skeena Region Roundtable  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:24:44 PM

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**From:** Jessica Lansfield <jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** January 24, 2022 1:12 PM  
**To:** Taddea Kunkel <taddea.kunkel@rdbn.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Robertson, Linda G FLNR:EX <Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca>; Terry Pratt <tpratt@twoworldsconsulting.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]: Design of Skeena Region Roundtable

Hi Taddea,

Thank you again for providing the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako's insights into the Design of the Skeena Roundtable. Linda Robertson provided the following responses to the questions posed by the board in the word document you sent us.

Aside from the identified local governments and stakeholders that participated in the Skeena needs assessment, who else would be invited to participate at these Roundtables?

- The initial design meeting for the Skeena Roundtable on March 9<sup>th</sup> will be with the organizations and local governments that participated in the Needs Assessment process last spring. Participants of subsequent Roundtable meetings moving forward will be decided in discussion with the initial design meeting participants. It will be important to have a cross-section of participants geographically and by sector in the Roundtable sessions moving forward.

Will First Nation governments and organizations also be involved?

- First Nations governments and organizations are being asked for feedback on the process and will be invited to participate in future Roundtable sessions to discuss and provide context on land and resource initiatives underway with the province in Skeena Region.

What would come to the table when discussing Natural Resources? Will it extend beyond forestry? And include other projects, such as environmental stewardship?

- A range of topics on lands and resource initiatives related to reconciliation will be discussed at the Roundtable. It is anticipated that these would include mining, forestry, environmental stewardship, and other sectors. Topics and agendas for the Roundtable sessions will be developed by the Roundtable Participants and the province to ensure they are meaningful and a productive use of everyone's time.

As our Regional District spans across both the Skeena and Omineca regions, will a similar table be created for the Omineca region?

- At this time there is not a plan to launch a Roundtable process in Omineca Region

but that could change in future.

Best wishes,

Jessica



**From:** [Robertson, Linda G FLNR:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Jessica Lansfield](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Save the Date: Skeena Roundtable Design - March 10th - 8:45am-12pm - Virtual Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 10:43:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.**

## SAVE THE DATE

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**8:45am-12pm via ZOOM**

## Skeena Regional Roundtable Design Workshop

*We want to share information, answer questions, and learn from you.*

At this initial session, we will:

1. Provide an overview of the Province's approach to reconciliation.
2. Provide information on reconciliation work underway with First Nations in the Skeena Region.
3. Discuss what we heard through the Regional Needs Assessment.
4. Share ideas about the Skeena Roundtable design and next steps to co-create a forum.
5. Identify topics of interest to participants for future sessions.

**If this event interests your organization, please confirm by providing a name and contact information ASAP to Jessica Lansfield: [jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com).**

Linda Robertson  
 Director, Strategic Initiatives | Skeena Region  
 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development  
 Cell: 250-877-2540 [Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** Robertson, Linda G FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** January 24, 2022 10:47 AM  
**Cc:** 'Jessica Lansfield' <[jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Design of Skeena Region Roundtable

Hello All,

This is a follow-up to my email below requesting your feedback to assist us in creating a Skeena Roundtable to provide a platform for sharing information on reconciliation and related lands and resource initiatives in the Skeena Region. As was stated in the original email, the intent of the proposed Skeena Roundtable is to provide an overarching venue to communicate and build general awareness about the suite of land and resource initiatives underway across the region, how they're connected, and how they are advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. In addition, we are suggesting the Roundtable could be a venue to:

- complement existing and emerging public engagement processes supporting individual Nation-specific reconciliation efforts
- raise awareness and deeper understanding of the breadth of reconciliation and stewardship work happening across the region
- build regional relationships and communication processes that can provide a solid foundation for moving reconciliation efforts forward.

Initially, we are inviting your organization's participation in a preliminary planning meeting **tentatively scheduled for March 9th**.

**Next steps:**

1. To help inform the design of this initial meeting we are asking interested organizations to provide responses to the questions highlighted in the original email below. Thank you to everyone who has provided responses to date. If you still wish to provide comments, please send your responses directly to Jessica Lansfield, Senior Engagement Facilitator with Two Worlds Consulting Ltd., at (778) 401-4572 or by email: [jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com) by **January 28, 2022**.
2. We are requesting that each interested organization nominate and provide contact information for one individual and an alternate to take part in a preliminary virtual meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> to assist us in determining what the focus of the Roundtable should be and how it should operate. Please send contact information to Jessica Lansfield: [jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:jlansfield@twoworldsconsulting.com).

Following the meeting, Two Worlds Consulting will develop a report with recommendations to guide us on next steps required to launch the Roundtable.

Thank you for your continued interest in this initiative. We look forward to continuing to collaborate on shaping this process together.

Linda Robertson  
 Director, Strategic Initiatives | Skeena Region  
 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development  
 Cell: 250-877-2540 [Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** Robertson, Linda G FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** December 23, 2021 9:48 AM  
**Cc:** Emma Wilson <[ewilson@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:ewilson@twoworldsconsulting.com)>  
**Subject:** Design of Skeena Region Roundtable

Dear Participants in the Skeena Region Stakeholder Needs Assessment,

On behalf of the Skeena Region—Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, I would like to share the Skeena Region Stakeholder Needs Assessment that your organization took part in last winter, advise you of the steps we are taking in response, and invite your involvement in the new year.

The assessment confirmed that local governments and interest groups would like better information and engagement by the Province on Indigenous reconciliation and related natural resource management initiatives in the region. To improve communications and build relationships, the assessment recommended that the Province provide local governments and interest groups with a "one window stop" for information on reconciliation and related lands and resource initiatives in the region. The complete findings and recommendations are detailed in the attached report.



In response to the report's findings, plans are now underway to design and launch a Skeena 'Roundtable' on land & resource initiatives in the region. The intent of the Skeena Roundtable is to provide an overarching venue to communicate and build general awareness about the suite of land and resource initiatives underway across the region, how they're connected, and how they are advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. It is not intended to replace existing engagement processes for specific initiatives. We have contracted Two Worlds Consulting Ltd. (TWC) to work with a regional Inter-Ministry Team on the following:

- Development of a collaborative communication process with participants that can be a model for future and ongoing dialogue with local government and stakeholders; and
- Facilitation of an initial virtual Roundtable meeting in March 2022 consisting of local governments and a cross-section of representatives from organizations in the Skeena Region including forest tenure holders, backcountry associations, and environmental and other organizations, to discuss a proposed process and identify steps moving forward.

In preparation for the March 2022 initial Roundtable meeting, we are seeking any input your organization would like to share regarding the proposed Roundtable process. Your responses to the following questions will help us plan the initial meeting and process.

- What are the main objectives for the overall Roundtable process that are important to your organization?
- What should be the focus of the initial meeting to ensure a successful process going forward?
- How often should the Roundtable meet and for how long?
- What are some key topics your organization would like to discuss at the initial meeting?
- What is your organization's preference for receiving material related to the meeting (e.g., by email, shared document site)?
- Any other information or comments you would like to provide?

We would like to receive comments by January 21, 2022; however, please let us know if you require more time to provide feedback. Please direct any feedback to Emma Wilson, Community Relations Specialist with TWC, at (778) 400-3508 or by email: [ewilson@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:ewilson@twoworldsconsulting.com).

We wish you all a peaceful holiday and look forward to working with you in 2022 to design and build a Roundtable process that meets our collective needs in the Skeena region.

Happy Holidays!

Linda Robertson

Director, Strategic Initiatives | Skeena Region

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development

Cell: 250-877-2540 [Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Linda.Robertson@gov.bc.ca)