

AGENDA

MEETING NO. 6

May 18, 2023

P.O. BOX 820
BURNS LAKE, BC V0J 1E0
PHONE: (250) 692-3195 OR 1-800-320-3339
FAX: (250) 692-3305
www.rdbn.bc.ca

VISION

“A World of Opportunities
Within Our Region”

MISSION

“We Will Foster Social,
Environmental, and
Economic Opportunities
Within Our Diverse Region Through
Effective Leadership”



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

AGENDA

Thursday, May 18, 2023

First Nations Acknowledgement

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA – May 18, 2023</u>	Approve
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
7-15	Board Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2023	Approve
16-29	Board Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2023	Approve
30-34	Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes - May 4, 2023	Receive
	<u>ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING</u>	
	<u>Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading</u>	
35-57	Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner Rezoning Application RZ B-01-22 1 st and 2 nd Reading Report, Bylaw 2005, 2023 Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)	Recommendation
	<u>Bylaw for 3rd Reading</u>	
58-76	Maria Sandberg, Planning and Parks Coordinator Rezoning Application RDBN 04-21, 3 rd Reading Report, Bylaws 1996, 2023, 1997, 2023, 1998, 2023 and 1999, 2023 - Electoral Areas A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural), G (Houston/Granisle Rural), B (Burns Lake Rural)	Recommendation

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<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>OTHER ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
77	Advisory Planning Commission Minutes Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)	Receive
	<u>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</u>	
	<u>ALR Application</u>	
78-104	Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Cameron Kral, Planning Technician ALR Application 1257 Non-Farm Use / Subdivision for a BC Hydro Capacitor Station Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)	Recommendation
	<u>Referral</u>	
105-110	Cameron Kral, Planning Technician BC Hydro Capacitor Station Referral Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)	Recommendation
	<u>Other</u>	
111-120	Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning Community Investment and the Environmental Assessment Process	Receive
	<u>REGIONAL TRANSIT</u>	
121-135	Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning 2023/2024 Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit	Recommendation
136-144	Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning Transit Service Bylaw Amendment	Recommendation

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<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATION REPORTS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
145-153	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer -RDBN 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan	Recommendation
154	Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services – Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2023 – September 18-22, 2023 – Vancouver, B.C. -Attendance Authorization, Resolution Deadline, Minister/Ministry Staff Meetings	Recommendation
155-162	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Grant in Aid for Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) -St. Luke’s on the Lake	Recommendation
163-170	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Grant in Aid for Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) – Nechako Environment Stewardship Society	Recommendation
171-174	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund Request – Eagle Creek Recreation Commission Centennial Event	Recommendation
175	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development- Canada Community Building Fund BC – Telkwa Museum Society Application to Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)	Recommendation
176	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development- Canada Community Building Fund BC – Community Arts Council of Fort St. James Application to Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)	Recommendation
177	Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development- Canada Community Building Fund BC – Francois-Tchesinkut Recreation Commission Application to Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)	Recommendation

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<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
178	Shari Janzen, Economic Development Assistant -Francois Ootsa Sportsman Association – NDI Resolution of Support	Recommendation
179	Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison - Cultural Awareness Learning Session	Receive
180-201	Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison - RDBN Reference Guide to First Nations in the Region	Receive

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

IN-CAMERA MOTION

That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(a), (c) and (k) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Appointment
- Labour relations
- Request for Quote

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKOMEETING NO. 5Thursday, May 4, 2023

PRESENT: Chair Mark Parker

Directors Gladys Atrill
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Director Absent Shane Brienen, District of Houston

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
– arrived at 11:30 a.m., left at 11:50 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 1:27 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Taylor Turkington, CPA, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund Chartered
Professional Accountants – via Zoom – arrived at 1:00 p.m.,
left at 1:35 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDAMoved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway2023-5-1"That the Board Meeting Agenda of May 4, 2023 be approved;
and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at
this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

Rezoning Application
RZ A-01-23, 1st & 2nd Reading
Report Bylaw No. 2004, 2023
Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-2

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2004, 2023 be given first and second reading this 4th day of May, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2004, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Items

Advisory Planning
Commission Minutes
Electoral Area A (Smithers/
Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-3

"That the Board receive Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Agricultural Land Reserve

Memorandum of
Understanding between the
Ministry of Energy, Mines, and
Low Carbon Innovation and the
Agricultural Land Commission

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-5-4

"That the Board receive the Senior Planner's Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and the Agricultural Land Commission memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agricultural Land Reserve (Cont'd)

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided an overview of the memorandum and the Agricultural Land Commission's consideration of the RDBN Advisory Commission and Board's comments and decision-making process. He also spoke of the Notice of Intent and Non-Farm Use application process.

ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) Application No. 1248 Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-5

1. "That the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Referral Comments – ALR Application 1248 Non-Farm Use-Soil Removal on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
2. That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1248 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.
3. That the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation be requested to consult with the owners of 24014 Highway 16 regarding the impact of the proposed gravel pit prior to the issuance of a permit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) Application No. 1250 Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-5-6

1. "That the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Referral Comments – ALR Application 1250 Non-Farm Use-Soil Removal on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
2. "That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1250 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval and that the ALC ensure appropriate phased remediation throughout the life of the gravel pit.
3. That the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation be requested to ensure that the proposed reclamation plans and gravel pit operations consider potential impacts on the water bodies on the subject properties."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral

Crown Land Referral Moved by Director Greenaway
No. 7410291 – Electoral Area Seconded by Director Newell
C (Fort St. James Rural)

2023-5-7

“That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District’s comments on Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410291.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Addition to Park Referral

BC Parks Mount Pope Park Moved by Director Greenaway
Additions Referral Seconded by Director Elphee
Electoral Area C (Fort St. James
Rural)

2023-5-8

1. “That the Board receive the written comments regarding BC Parks Mount Pope Park Additions Referral on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That the comment sheet be provided to BC Parks as the Regional District’s comments on the referral regarding BC Parks Mount Pope Park additions .”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Growing Communities Fund Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-5-11

“That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officers Growing Communities Fund memorandum including the Supplementary Agenda Growing Communities Fund memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Future consideration of funding allocation
- Completion of the RDBN Strategic Plan to guide funding.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT (CONT'D)

CN Vegetation Control
 Activities 2023

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-12

"That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture
 Coordinators' CN Vegetation Control Activities 2023
 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

BC Hydro – Prince George to
 Glenannan Transmission
 Project Open House

Moved by Director Greenaway
 Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-5-13

"That the Board receive the correspondence from BC Hydro
 regarding the Prince George to Glenannan Transmission
 Project Open House."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Hydro – North Coast
 Electrification Information
 Session

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-14

"That the Board receive the correspondence from BC Hydro
 regarding North Coast Electrification Information Session."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Emergency
 Management and Climate
 Readiness-Emergency
 Preparedness and Resources

Moved by Director Greenaway
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-5-15

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the
 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness –
 Emergency Preparedness and Resources."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will follow-up regarding the Community Emergency
 Preparedness Fund for Public Notification and Evacuation
 Route Planning regarding the RDBN Evacuation Route
 Planning and Ulkatcho First Nation's efforts for an evacuation
 Route north of Anahim Lake.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Ministry of Health – Response to RDBN Letter-Provincial Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Professionals Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-16

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Health – Response to RDBN Letter – Provincial Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Professionals.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness-Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide released in December 2022 Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-5-15

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide released in December 2022.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills -StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan Moved by Director Storey
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-16

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills – StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Office of the Seniors Advocate BC - Visit to the Region Discussion took place regarding Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors Advocate's visit to Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake and Smithers. The following was brought forward:

- Significant cost of home care for one hour per day support
- Due to the high-cost for support seniors are not applying for care and are having to enter into acute care or long term care facilities
- Majority of seniors are living below poverty rates
- Alberta and Ontario Governments provide funding for home support services
- Office of the Seniors Advocate BC is lobbying the BC Government for change
- Need for northern communities to advocate
- Workforce challenges for homecare workers due to wages
- Possible solutions – building seniors living complex's to assist with the ability for seniors to remain in their homes longer
- Potential options to operate the Better at Home Program
- Waiting lists for long-term care facilities
 - o Town of Smithers survey regarding accessibility asked "What are 2 issues?"
 - Infrastructure
 - Attitude – are seniors and those with disabilities welcome
- UBCM Resolutions regarding home care
- Inviting Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors Advocate as a delegation to the Board.

Sawmill Curtailments

Director Moutray brought forward concerns regarding sawmill curtailments taking place.

Town of Smithers Advanced Screening of *The Mother*

Director Atrill commented that the Town of Smithers has been provided the opportunity to have an advanced screening of the movie *The Mother*, which was filmed in Smithers.

Break for lunch at 12:16 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

**DELEGATION BESWICK HILDEBRANDT LUND CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL
 ACCOUNTANTS - 1:00 pm Taylor Turkington, CPA RE: 2022 Audit**

Chair Parker welcomed Taylor Turkington, CPA, Beswick Hildebrant Lund.

Mr. Turkington provided an overview of the RDBN Financial Statements for December 31, 2022.

- Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements
- Independent Auditor's Report
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Schedule 1 – Schedule of Expenses by Object
- Schedule 2 – Schedule of Continuity of Reserve Funds
- Schedule 3 – Statement of Tangible Capital Assets
- Schedule 4 – Segmented Disclosure

The following was discussed:

- Unfunded landfill liability - Landfill closure accruals – strategically allocating funds for future closure works
- Tangible Capital Assets
 - o Environmental Services capital projects and Cycle 16 Trail Works
- Directors' remuneration
- Bad debts.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

2022 Financial Statements
 and Audit Report

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Storey

2023-5-10

"That the Board accept and authorize the Chair and the Chief Financial Officer to sign the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2022.

And, that the Year End Audit Findings Report to the Board be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- o Sick leave and vacation paid
- o Retirement accrual
- o Submitting the Financial Reports to the Province
 - Review of the Northern Capital Planning Grant and COVID-19 Grant funding
- o GICs (Guaranteed Investment Certificates).

NEW BUSINESS

Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed Regulation and Licencing Requirements

Director Lambert brought forward the March 9th Rural/ Agriculture Committee Meeting discussion regarding the veterinary drug and medicated feed regulation and licencing requirements. Director Moon noted that she has been researching the issue and mentioned that Four Rivers Co-op in Vanderhoof does have licencing for BC but it is extremely restricted. Comments were made regarding the danger to farm animals that can't be treated for various illnesses due to the lack of access to veterinarians and medication. Discussion took place regarding advocating the Province at the 2023 UBCM Conference and bringing forward the issue to the BC SPCA.

Chair Parker and CAO Helgesen are meeting with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Cariboo Regional District and will bring forward the issue.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Moon
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-5-25

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c), (1)(l), and (2)(b) and of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour relations
- Strategic Planning
- Tenas Coal Project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-5-26

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKOMEETING NO. 4Thursday, April 20, 2023

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill – arrived at 10:05 a.m. Shane Brienen Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Henry Wiebe
	Director Absent	Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake
	Alternate Director	Audrey Fennema, Village of Fraser Lake
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – left at 12:06 p.m. Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – via Zoom – arrived at 10:06 a.m., left at 12:06 p.m. Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison – left at 10:27 a.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 12:06 p.m., returned at 1:13 p.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services Will Roberts, Safety and Training Supervisor – left at 10:27 a.m.
	Others	Quinten Beach, Nechako Operations Coordinator, Rio Tinto– left at 10:27 a.m. Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Watershed Region, Rio Tinto – left at 10:27 a.m.
	Media	Frank Peebles, LD News – via Zoom– arrived at 10:22 a.m., left at 1:05 p.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-4-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of April 20, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director McGuire
 Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-4-2

"That the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES**

Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Moon

2023-4-3

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes-April 6, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-4-4

"That the Board receive the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural/Agriculture Committee
Meeting Minutes-April 6, 2023

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Moon

2023-4-5

"That the Board receive the Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**STAFF INTRODUCTION**

Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor introduced Will Roberts, Safety and Training Supervisor.

DELEGATION

RIO TINTO – Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Watershed Region and Quinten Beach, Nechako Operations Coordinator RE: Update/Collaboration with First Nations

Chair Parker welcomed Aman Parhar, Advisor, Communities and Social Performance, Watershed Region and Quinten Beach, Nechako Operations Coordinator, Rio Tinto.

Ms. Parhar and Mr. Beach provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Rio Tinto Business Update

- BC Works Update
- Making Water Management Clearer
- Flow Facts
- Our Communication Tools
- Community investment: Cash contributions 2022.

The following was discussed:

- Power generation
 - o Ms. Parhar will follow-up
- Construction of the T2 (Tunnel) Project
 - o Both tunnels are currently active
- Turbine upgrades
- Tours of the Kemano Project
 - o Working with Kemano Team to determine best time to conduct tour
 - o Ms. Parhar will follow-up once a tour date is determine
- Website and Flow Facts page
 - o Including the entire 14 feet of storage on the graph
 - o Website currently under review and being updated
- Lands along the reservoir with high recreational values and Rio Tinto's possible interest in funding development of recreational sites
 - o Rio Tinto Aluminum Canada Fund provides funding to groups
 - National fund
 - Organizations/societies can apply
 - Health and well being and environmental stewardship
 - Board meets twice a year
 - o Support for recreation
 - o Ms. Parhar will follow-up.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Parhar and Mr. Beach for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

Rezoning Application
RZ RDBN 04-21, 1st & 2nd
Reading for Rezoning Bylaws
No. 1996, 2023, 1997, 2023,
1998, 2023 and 1999, 2023

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-4-6

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023 be given first and second reading this 20th day of April, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area B."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Building Bylaw Amendment
for Energy Conservation Step
Code Prescriptive Option
for Adoption Report Building
Bylaw Amendment No. 1995, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-4-7

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Building Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 1995, 2023 be adopted this 20th day of April, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Items

Advisory Planning
 Commission Minutes
 Electoral Area A (Smithers
 Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-4-8

"That the Board receive the following Advisory Planning
 Commission Minutes

- Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
- Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)
- Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
- Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Land Referral

Crown Land Referral
 No. 6409430 – Electoral Area
 E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-4-9

"That the Comment Sheet be provided to the Province as the
 Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application
 Referral No. 6409430 for a Licence of Occupation."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Items

Agricultural Land Reserve
 Applications Brochure

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-4-10

"That the Board receive the Agricultural Land Reserve
 Applications Brochure."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- The previous 2 zone ALR system and the current system where the ALC's consideration of non-agricultural issues is limited by legislation.
- Soil and Fill Notice of Intent (NOI) Applications and Non-Farm Use applications for soil removal or deposit.
- The RDBN application process and staff time involved.
- ALR Exclusion Applications may be made only by a local government or First Nations government

Other Items (Cont'd)

- Past Board lobbying concerning the Provinces removal of the 2 zone ALR system
- Outlining the ALC decision making processes to applicants
- Home Occupation within the ALR e.g. logging operations
- Invitation to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, ministry staff and ALC Chair to visit the region
- Bring forward ALR concerns to the 2023 NCLGA Conference and with other local governments in the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Update: Metal Salvage

-Pilot Program for Burns Lake Transfer Station

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-4-11

"That the Board direct staff not to proceed with further metal salvaging programs and maintain the metal salvage ban at all sites within the Regional District."

(All/Directors/Majority)

DEFEATED

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- June 2022 commitment to proceed with the pilot program for the Burns Lake Transfer Station
 - Pilot program was to assist in identifying issues that may arise
 - Determining a balance between small-scale salvage, revenue and risk management
- Outsourcing metal recycling vs. options to transport/recycle metal utilizing in house operations
 - Bid process for non-salvaged and salvaged proposed rates from metal recycling contractors
 - Commodity pricing and potential impacts
 - High value and low value metals
 - Prince George – collection and bailing location only
- Finding options to allow individuals to utilize metal recycling for small scale salvage such as: bicycles, lawnmowers, etc.
- Possibly charge for steal that is salvaged

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (CONT'D)

- The potential need for resources to provide service and staff capacity
 - Determining the necessary resources to ensure the pilot program can be functional and safe for staff
- Prioritizing salvage vs. revenue – responsibility to all taxpayers.
- Solid Waste Management Plan
 - Implemented sorting bays for small scale salvaging – windows/doors/bicycles/lawn mowers, etc.
 - Recently included additional items
- Future implementation User Pay System
- Education of the public
- Extending the pilot program and potential additional staffing and infrastructure.

Metal Salvage -Pilot Program for Burns Lake Transfer Station

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
 Seconded by Director Newell

2023-4-12

“That the Board direct staff to proceed with the metal salvage pilot program at the Burns Lake Transfer Station as originally outlined; and further, that the program be implemented prior to the end of the 2023 fiscal year .”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will bring forward a reevaluated and updated plan to provide for resource allocation for a one-year pilot program in the 2024 budget.

Break for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Committee Meeting
Recommendations
-April 6, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-4-13

"That the Board approve the April 6, 2023 Committee Meeting Recommendations 1 through 3 as written:

Committee of the Whole – April 6, 2023

Recommendation 1:

Re: Code of Conduct

"That the Board adopt the revised Code of Conduct."

Recommendation 2:

Re: Accessibility Act Timeline

"That the Board direct staff to pursue Joint-Committee establishment with interested partners within the region; and further, that Section 10 of the Draft Terms of Reference be amended replacing Committee Chair with Board Chair."

Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting – April 6, 2023

Recommendation 3:

Re: Rural Bursary Policy Discussion

"That the Board direct staff to draft a Rural Bursary Policy and budget options to be brought forward for the Committee's consideration."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Updating Chinook Community Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Forest Partnership Agreement Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-4-14

"That the Board approve the third amended and restated shareholders agreement for Chinook Community Limited Partnership Agreement and the Shareholder Resolution for Chinook Comfor Limited."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Pool Filter Replacement
-BV Regional Pool &
Recreation Centre

Moved by Director Atrill
 Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-4-15

"That the Board approves the removal and replacement of the sand filters by DB Perks & Associates Ltd. for the BV Regional Pool & Recreation Centre in the amount of \$183,529."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant in Aid for Areas B
(Burns Lake Rural) and E
(Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
-Burns Lake Youth Soccer
Association

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-4-16

"That the Board approve allocating \$4,500 in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies (\$2,250 each) to the Burns Lake Youth Soccer Association for equipment for the 2023 season."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canada Community-Building
Fund BC – Area C (Fort St.
James Rural) Charge North
Level 2 Charging Network
Project

Moved by Director Greenaway
 Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-4-17

1) "That the Board authorize contributing up to \$5,000 of Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Community Energy Systems project, and further,

(Participants/Weighted/Majority)

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$5,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Community Futures Nadina Moved by Director Atrill
-Letter of Support Request Seconded by Director Brienen

2023-4-18 "That the Board provide a Letter of Support to Community Futures Nadina to be used for its funding application to the Rural Business and Community Recovery Regional Business Liaison program through Northern Development."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lakes Resiliency Project Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-4-19 "That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Lakes Resiliency Project memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Departmental Quarterly Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Reports – 1st Quarter Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-4-20 "That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services Departmental Quarterly Reports – 1st Quarter memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

BC Cattlemen's Association Moved by Director Stoltenberg
-Economic Impact Assessment Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson
of Veterinary Medicine in BC

2023-4-21 "That the Board receive the following correspondence:

- BC Cattlemen's Association – Economic Impact Assessment of Veterinary Medicine in BC
- Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills – Permanently Subsidized Seats for BC Students at the Western Collage of Veterinary Medicine

Supplementary Agenda:

- News Release *Diversification of BC Economy Requires More Veterinarians to be Trained in BC.*"

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

BC Cattlemen's Association Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
-Economic Impact Assessment Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
of Veterinary Medicine in BC
and News Release

2023-4-22

"That the *Economic Impact Assessment of Veterinary Medicine in BC* and News Release - *Diversification of BC Economy Requires More Veterinarians to be Trained in BC* be forwarded to the Union of B.C. Municipalities membership."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill indicated the homelessness and housing issues continue to be a priority for the Town of Smithers.

Electoral Area E (Francois/
Ootsa Lake Rural) – Update

Director Lambert provided the following update:

- Meeting with Skin Tyee First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band and Cheslatta Carrier Nation on April 18th
- Continuing to work on helicopter pads for air ambulance service on the Southside of Francois Lake.

District of Fort St. James
- Update

Director Elphee noted the construction progress of the new RCMP building, new Seniors Complex and new Hospital.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof
Rural) - Update

Director Moon commented that the Vanderhoof Livestock Auction sales continue to be high. She also noted the employee shortage in Vanderhoof. The Artemis Gold Blackwater Project construction is moving forward.

Director Moon brought forward constituent engagement. Staff will include the topic in a future Rural/Agriculture Committee Agenda for discussion.

Village of Telkwa – Update

Director Dekens mentioned that a meeting was held regarding the need for a new Telkwa bridge.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake
Rural) – Update

Director Riis-Christianson provided the following update:

- Teleconference with Carley Zenner, Strategy Manager, Telus Government Relations and Rural Connectivity, Western Canada
 - o Provided an update regarding connectivity in the RDBN
 - o Requested staff forward the RDBN connectivity priorities
 - o Discussed forging a relationship.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Village of Fraser Lake
- Update

Alternate Director Fennema reported the Village of Fraser Lake received the following:

- New Village of Fraser Lake Fire Truck
- Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure (REDIP) Funding for Phase 2 of the Arena and Community Hall Project.

Village of Granisle - Update

Director McGuire spoke of the following:

- Budget process
- Babine Community Forest Funding
 - o Granisle is utilizing some of the funding to install a Columbarium
- Real estate price increases in Granisle
- RCMP have furnished one of the houses in the community and two Members were in the community last week
- Received REDIP funding for \$1 million for Granisle Marina Project.

Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) - Update

Director Stoltenberg commented that he is working with three community halls to continue to have them as viable community gathering locations.

District of Vanderhoof
-Update

Director Moutray provided the following update:

- Budge process is complete
- Over 250 jobs openings are listed in Vanderhoof
- Housing availability is a challenge.

Electoral Area G (Houston/ Granisle Rural) -Update

Director Newell spoke of the following:

- Job Fair in Houston on April 15th
- Town Hall Meeting regarding the Canfor sawmill closure followed the Job Fair
 - o Expressed appreciation to Director Brienens
 - o Canfor and other representatives were at the meeting.

Village of Burns Lake - Update

Director Wiebe noted that the Village of Burns Lake also received REDIP funding to renovate a building into a new fire hall and to construct an intersection at Highway 16 and Richmond loop.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) – Update

Director Greenaway mentioned the following:

- Attendance at the following meetings:
 - o Northern Health's Joint Spring Meeting – will provide additional information at a future Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Meeting
 - o UBCM Old Growth Review for Local Governments Session
 - o Harm Reduction Committee
- Fort St. James Forest Products owned by Hampton Lumber shipped the first load of lumber on April 10th from its newly built sawmill
- Three families from the Ukraine have settled in the community.

District of Houston – Update

Director Brienien provided the following update:

- Attended the COFI Convention April 12-14, 2023 in Prince George
- Job Fair in Houston April 15th was good
 - o Approximately 360 people from the Canfor sawmill closure will be unemployed
- Town Hall Meeting following the Job Fair to address the Canfor sawmill closure.

Chair Parker – Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) – Update

Chair Parker spoke of the following:

- Took part in a Ministry of Forests flyover, along with Director Moutray of the fire damage from the 2018 Shovel Lake and Binta wildfires
 - o Saw the scope and depth of the fire and burnt timber
 - o Good take away was the health of the 20-30 year plantations
 - Risk management of healthy timber stands
- Met with the new Fraser Lake RCMP Staff Sergeant.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director McGuire
 Seconded by Director Newell

2023-4-23

"That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-4-24

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c), (l), and (2)(b) and of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Labour relations
- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance
- Strategic Planning."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Brienon
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-4-25

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:31 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

 Mark Parker, Chair

 Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKONATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGThursday, May 4, 2023

PRESENT: Acting Chair Mark Parker

 Directors Gladys Atrill
 Leroy Dekens
 Martin Elphee
 Judy Greenaway
 Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:12 a.m.
 Linda McGuire
 Shirley Moon
 Kevin Moutray
 Chris Newell
 Michael Riis-Christianson
 Stoney Stoltenberg
 Henry Wiebe

 Director Shane Brienen, District of Houston
 Absent

 Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
 Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
 John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
 Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 10:40 a.m.
 Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

 Others Val Anderson, Deputy Corporate Officer, Village of Burns Lake – via
 Zoom – left at 10:45 a.m.
 Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District,
 Ministry of Forests – left at 10:45 a.m.
 Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest
 Landscape Planning, Ministry of Forests – left at 10:45 a.m.
 Gord Pratt, Senior Manager, Forest Enhancement Society of BC – via
 Zoom – arrived at 10:10 a.m.
 Peter Tweedle, General Manager, Babine Lake Community Forest and
 Tyhee Forestry Consultants via Zoom – arrived at 10:14 a.m.
 Kristy Bjarnason, Councillor, Village of Burns Lake – left at 10:45 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER Acting Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
 Seconded by Director Storey

NRC.2023-1-1

"That the Natural Resources Committee Agenda for May 4, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES**Natural Resources**

Moved by Director Storey

Committee Meeting Minutes

Seconded by Director Elphee

-September 8, 2022

NRC.2023-1-2

"That the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS-Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District RE: Lakes Resiliency Project Current Condition Report

Acting Chair Parker welcomed Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District, Ministry of Forests.

Mses. Howard-Stratton and Eagles provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Lake Resiliency Project

- Purpose
 - o To Understand
- What is a current condition report?
- Why do a current condition report?
- List of resource values currently managed for under legislation, policy, or agreements
- Example from report
 - o current condition landbase (context)
 - o current condition of forest ages across landbase
 - o soils
 - o current condition – from SSAF (Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum) data
- How current condition information will be used – Next Steps
- Demo of Current Condition Report Questionnaire
 - o Lakes Resiliency Project website.

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF FORESTS-Steffy Howard-Stratton, Section Head, Strategic Initiatives and Forest Landscape Planning and Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resources District RE: Lakes Resiliency Project Current Condition Report (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Grim picture for forest dependent communities
- Utilizing normative language important for all community members
- Biodiversity targets written in 1995
 - o Detailed review of 1995 guidebook has not been completed
 - o Biodiversity groups capture new information as it becomes available
 - o Forest Landscape Plan
 - 10-year plans
 - Revisited every 5 years to determine if meeting objectives
- Acting Chair Parker's fly-over of the 2018 Shovel Lake and Binta Lake wildfire areas
 - o Protecting new growth stands
- Ministry of Forests assessment of the likely increase in fires, climate change and risk management of healthy stands
 - o Reviewing future models with increased fires and management of those potential risks
- Lakes Resiliency Pilot Project as a guide for potential future projects
 - o Lessons learned
 - A number of different working tables
 - Capacity challenges for groups at the working tables
 - Future improvements.
- Report doesn't include potential positives from climate change and higher CO₂ levels
 - o Potential for faster growth of stands
 - o Less snow damage/better growth
 - o Potential benefits
 - o Potential shifts in biodiversity zones and species of trees
 - o Requires science to back up information
- Benefit of Forest Service Roads to fight wildfires
 - o Being discussed at the Planning Table
 - o FSR's provide benefits for agriculture and cattle grazing – provides fire suppression
- Final Report timeline for comment and feedback
- Independently filling out survey.

Acting Chair Parker thanked Mses. Howard-Stratton and Eagles for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

FOREST ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY OF BC – Gord Pratt, Senior Manager and Peter Tweedle, General Manager, Babine Lake Community Forest and Tyhee Forestry Consultants RE: Granisle Wildfire Risk Reduction Project and 2023 Funding Programs – via Zoom

Acting Chair Parker welcomed Gord Pratt, Senior Manager, Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Peter Tweedle, General Manager, Babine Lake Community Forest and Tyhee Forestry Consultants.

Mr. Pratt and Mr. Tweedle provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC

- Funded Projects since 2016
- FESBC Approved Projects Across the Bulkley-Nechako
- Recent Approvals
 - o 2 wildfire risk reduction projects approved summer 2022
- Wildfire Risk Reduction & Fibre Utilization at Granisle
 - o Treatment Phases
 - o Fibre Utilized by Pinnacle
 - o Resulting in only small piles to burn
- Current Funding Opportunities
 - o \$50 Million to be allocated over 2 years.

The following was discussed:

- Granisle project included the students at the Babine Elementary Secondary school and taught the students about planting seedlings
 - o Approximately 1500 seedlings were planted
- Project was very beneficial for the community and is used as an example for other communities
- Funding to utilize burnt fibre
 - o FESBC worked with Chinook Community Forest and Cheslatta Carrier Nation on projects on the Southside of Francois Lake to utilize burnt fibre from past wildfire events
- Director Atrill requested a similar presentation for the Town of Smithers Council
 - o Granisle Project showcased the following:
 - Utilization of fibre
 - minimal burning of fibre
- Fort St. James Community Forest
 - o Harvested burnt fibre from the 2018 Shovel Lake wildfire
 - o Reforested area with fir and pine stands.

Acting Chair Parker thanked Messrs. Pratt and Tweedle for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

NRC.2023-1-3

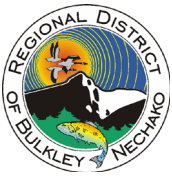
"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:12 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Acting Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: Rezoning Application RZ B-01-22
First and Second Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023

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

1. That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023" be given first and second reading and subsequently taken to Public Hearing.
 2. That the Public Hearing for "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023" be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area B.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This application requests a rezoning of the subject property from the Small Holdings Zone (H1) to the Civic/Institutional Zone (P1) to facilitate the construction of a church. There is some concern that a large church in the proposed location at the end of a rural residential road may have a negative impact on rural residents living along the road. To address this concern the applicant has offered to register a covenant on title of the subject property limiting the use of the property to a church and single family dwelling, restricting the size of the church building to an occupant capacity of 100-persons, and restricting the future subdivision of the property.

Planning Department staff recommend Bylaw No. 2005 receive first and second readings.

APPLICATION SUMMARY

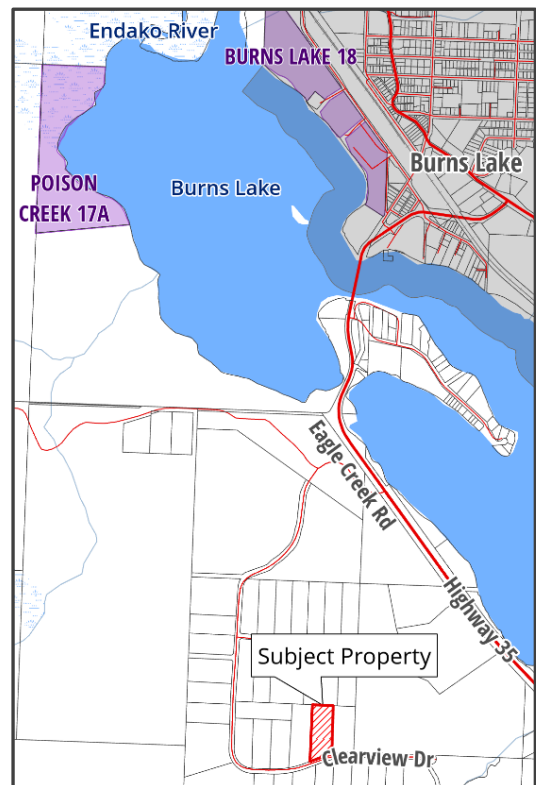
Name of Agent/Owner:	Jeannette Sholander, agent for Seventh-Day Adventist Church, DBA Lakes District SDA Company
Electoral Area:	B
Subject Property:	Lot 12, District Lots 1890 and 1898, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 10853 (PID 005-079-501)
Property Size:	2.52 ha (6.23 ac)
OCP Designation:	Rural Residential Designation in the "Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan"
Zoning:	Small Holdings Zone (H1) in RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 (the Zoning Bylaw)
ALR Status:	Not in the ALR
Existing Land Use:	Vacant Land
Location:	Clearview Drive, about 2 km from the Village of Burns Lake, Poison Creek 17A Reserve, and Burns Lake Band 18 Reserve

Proposal:

The applicant is proposing to rezone the subject property from Small Holdings Zone (H1) to the Civic/Institutional Zone (P1) to allow the construction of a church (see Attachments for Applicant submission). The application includes a proposal to register a covenant on title of the subject property limiting its use to a church/place of worship and single family dwelling; restricting the size of the church building to an occupant capacity of 100-persons; and prohibiting subdivision of the subject property.

DISCUSSION

The local Seventh-Day Adventist Church and its members are renting space from a small church with limited parking in the Village of Burns Lake. The applicant stated they want to develop their own building to have adequate space for parking, church programming, and worship for their members.



Official Community Plan (OCP)

The subject property and the lands that surround it are designated Rural Residential in the OCP. The Rural Residential designation is intended to provide opportunities for people to live a rural setting in a sustainable and responsible manner, while protecting and preserving the rural character of the area.

While the Rural Residential designation does not contain policies supporting civic or institutional uses such as a church, the Civic Institutional Designation Policy 3.6.2(2) states *“the Regional Board will permit additional Civic institutional uses by way of re-zoning, without the requirement for an OCP amendment subject to the following criteria:*

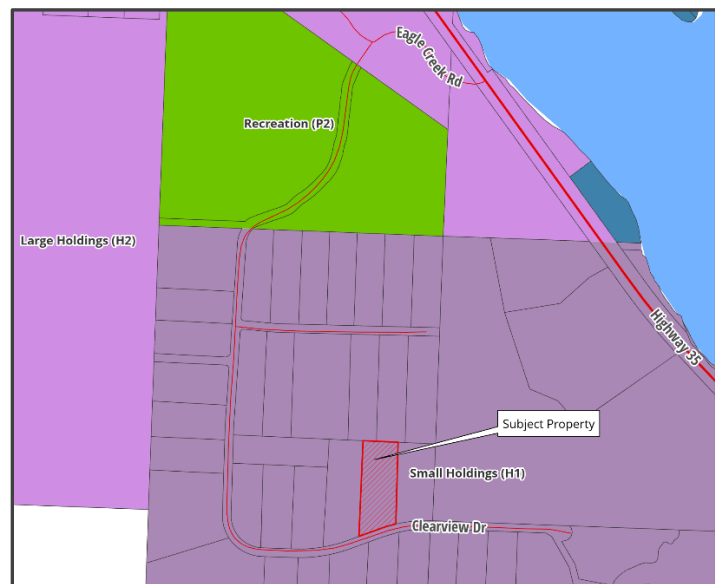
- (a) there is a demonstrated need for the proposed service;*
- (b) the proposed civic institutional use will not create an amount of traffic that will adversely affect the rural character of the area;*
- (c) the proposed civic institutional development will minimize negative impacts on the environment;*
- (d) the proposed civic institutional use will minimize negative impacts on neighbouring land uses or property owners; and,*
- (e) the proposed civic institutional use has the support of the Agricultural Land Commission if the land is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).”*

Should the Regional District Board determine the rezoning application is inconsistent with the above OCP policy, the application should not be supported without an OCP amendment. Given the limited scale and scope of the proposed development staff are of the opinion that the rezoning is consistent with the OCP.

Zoning

The existing H1 Zone allows agriculture, a single family dwelling, a two family dwelling, and a kennel (on parcels greater than 2 ha) as principal uses.

The proposed P1 Zone would allow the proposed church, as well as several other uses such as a clubhouse, a community care facility, community recreation, a farmers' market, and other institutional uses, including school, cemetery, and visitor information centre (see



Attachments - Zoning Bylaw definitions for Principal Uses in the P1 Zone - for details). The permitted secondary uses in the P1 Zone are a single-family dwelling or dwelling unit in a building containing a principal use.

The minimum parcel area in the P1 Zone is 1 ha (2.47 ac) without a community water system, which would allow the subject property to be potentially subdivided into two parcels.

Neighbourhood impact and covenant on title

The applicant's submission states they believe the traffic from the church would not be a concern, noting that Eagle Creek Fairgrounds is nearby. Churches within the rural area are typically located at the intersection of collector roads. The proposed location is within a rural residential subdivision near the end of Clearview Drive which is a dead end road with steep sections, accessed via Eagle Creek Road and Highway 35 (see Attachments for site visit photos).

Given the nature of the access and location of the subject property within an established rural residential area, the Planning Department has some concerns regarding the impact of the proposal. In response to these noted concerns, the applicant has offered to voluntarily register a covenant on title of the subject property to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning, prior to the adoption of Rezoning Bylaw 2005. The covenant language would:

- Restrict the use of the property to a church/place of worship, a single family dwelling, and related accessory structures/uses.
- Restrict the size of the church/place of worship to a size which restricts the maximum occupant load to 100-persons.
- Prohibit the subject property from being subdivided.

Without the above noted covenant, staff would evaluate the proposed rezoning based on the uses and scale of development permitted in the P1 Zone. Staff would have notable concerns with such an application. Should Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005 be given third reading, staff will recommend a covenant be registered on title, to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning, prior to the Board's consideration of adoption of the bylaw.

REFERRAL RESPONSES

At the February 28, 2023, **Electoral Area B Advisory Planning Commission** (APC) meeting, the APC stated, as follows:

"The APC recommends the Board support the application subject to confirmation that use is limited to a 60-person capacity church through a restrictive covenant. The APC also recommends the applicant engage with the community."

Since the APC meeting, the applicant modified their original proposal from a 60-person church to a 100-person church. In response to the APC's suggestion for engagement with the community, the applicant informed staff that they have surveyed neighbouring residents (see applicant submission for details).

The Regional District's Protective Services Department provided the following comment;

"It is recommended that FireSmart standards are in place in the development of the property and is maintained at the FireSmart standard. It is noted that the property is within fire protection, but according to the Wildland Urban Interface the area is at a Risk Class of one (highest class) for the Burns Lake and surrounding area."

The **Village of Burns Lake** has no concerns regarding the proposal and the Burns Lake Fire Department stated, *"Concerns from the Burns Lake Fire Department would be that they conform to the BC Building Code, specifically sections 3.2.5.6 which addresses fire department access, and 3.2.5.7 which addresses adequate water supply for firefighting."*

No response was received by **Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation** or **Stellat'en First Nation** as of the writing of this report.

No response was received by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) regarding potential traffic implications. As the subject property is more than 800 m from an intersection with Highway 35, approval of MoTI is not required. MoTI confirmed the proposed church would require a Commercial Access Permit.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Applicant submission
2. Site visit photos
3. Zoning Bylaw definitions for Principal Uses in the P1 Zone
4. Bylaw No. 2005, 2023

Lakes District SDA Company

April 11, 2023

Applicant:

Lakes District Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Church
 [REDACTED]

Attention: RDBN Board of Directors
 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN)
 37 3rd Ave, PO Box 820
 Burns Lake, BC, V0J 1E0

Re: Addendum to Rezoning application for Lot 12 Clearview Dr, Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0, dated March 29, 2023.

Property Information

Civic Address: Lot 12 Clearview Dr, Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Legal Description: Lot 12 DISTRICT LOTS 1890 AND 1898 RANGE 5 COAST
 DISTRICT PLAN 10853

PID: 005079501 Legal Plan: PRP10853 JUROL: 2675512249000

Property Owner: Lakes District SDA Church/British Columbia Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.

Zoning Information

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020

Current Zoning: Section 14.0 - Small Holdings (H1)

Requested Zoning: Section 25.0 - Civic/Institutional (P1)

ADDENDUM to REZONING APPLICATION

When I, along with my father (a long time, 66 years, owner of property on Francois Lake), personally met with RDBN planning department members at its Burns Lake office on, our about, September 9, 2021, to discuss a proposed rezoning of a property, and prior to the Lakes District SDA church acquiring the said property on Clearview Dr, I was given physical copies of both the property's current zoning designation, that of Small Holdings Zone (H1), as well as the zoning designation the church would need in order to build a church facility, that of Civic/Institutional Zone (P1). Based on that meeting, and the original copies of such two zonings I still have possession of, the March 29, 2023 rezoning proposal was submitted based on such recommendation. However, and for the benefit of the RDBN, I wish to formally state that the sole purpose of the said rezoning application is for the express intent of building a church facility and that there exists no other intent-of-use for the said Clearview Dr. property.

Further, I wish to include the more specific zoning designation, as per the "Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan" Bylaw No. 1785, 2017 - Schedule A, Section 3.6, and answer criteria as related to, Subsection 3.6.2, Paragraph (2), subparagraphs (a-e).

Note: For clarification purposes, may the following designation [Civic Institutional (CI)], and associated comments, be accepted as part of the ultimate zoning designation, that is, to be combined with and/or eclipse the CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL ZONE (P1) designation:

3.6 Civic Institutional (CI) Designation

The Civic Institutional designation is intended to provide a range of public, government, and community related uses within the Plan area. Such uses may include schools, fire halls, community halls, churches and cemeteries.

3.6.2 Policies

(2) (a) *there is a demonstrated need for the proposed service;*

It is believed that, a minimum, there is a demonstrable need for such a church facility as proposed, in that first and foremost, there is a group of residence that are looking for a church place of worship. Secondly, traditionally, this church denomination is internationally known for its meeting the various needs of a community through outreach and humanitarian related activities. Such activities include, but not limited to, health and nutrition educational classes, wellness courses such as dealing with depression and other mental health issues, addiction recovery, stop smoking courses, etc. It is also well known for its disaster relief centers through its internationally known disaster relief agency ADRA. Local churches set up to become the hub of organization in the event of a natural disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, etc. and have access to funds through both ADRA as well as the federal government of Canada to carry on such activities. Its churches also make themselves available for use by non-members for events such as weddings, funerals, social functions, such as family reunions, etc. and because of this outreach orientation, they are often rightly referred to as "Centers of Influence."

(b) *the proposed civic institutional use will not create an amount of traffic that will adversely affect the rural character of the area;*

The said proposed church facility will have a primary use of church activity which means a weekly, weekend church service as well as, generally, a mid week evening meeting, so will inherently have a limited use, in terms of frequency. It then plans on conducting outreach and humanitarian activities but those, again, are on a periodic basis, so certainly not continuous use. Further, the neighborhood and road system is fully paved and quite adequate for much larger surges of traffic as exemplified by the fact that the Burns Lake fairgrounds are located on the same street.

(c) *the proposed civic institutional development will minimize negative impacts on the environment;*

The said proposed facility sits on 5.735 acres of full wooded forest with most properties in the area maintaining all treed area, or at a minimum, treed buffer zones to afford itself privacy. It is the intention of the members of the

proposed facility to maintain as much treed buffering as possible to protect the privacy of its neighbors. Since the facility will be located as close to the road as possible, its environmental impact will be limited to only its footprint of building, parking and a bit of lawn around it. In terms of building space and associated adequate parking, there will be not much more impact to the land than would be typical of all neighbors, most of which have a house, a yard and outbuildings.

(d) *the proposed civic institutional use will minimize negative impacts on neighboring land uses or property owners;*

The said proposed facility has property that gently slopes away from the road through its entire 275 meter length thus issues such as precipitation run-off, septic, etc. are inherently absent, plus, as mentioned above, there will be an effort to shield the facility from the permanent views of the, only two immediate neighbors.

As part of its preparatory work, a designated group of people visited the nearest neighbors to the said property to get a feeling of whether or not they would accept such rezoning and subsequent construction of a facility. As already mentioned in the rezoning application and as relevant to this heading, I quote as follows:

" Six families visited with - three having no objection to the building of a church with 100 capacity, one, no objection to a church building of 60 capacity - two, opposed to a church being built. Of the two opposed, one was at a location before the proposed church facility and one was beyond the said facility."

(e) *the proposed civic institutional use has the support of the Agricultural Land Commission if the land is within the Agricultural Land Commission (ALR).*

Not Applicable.

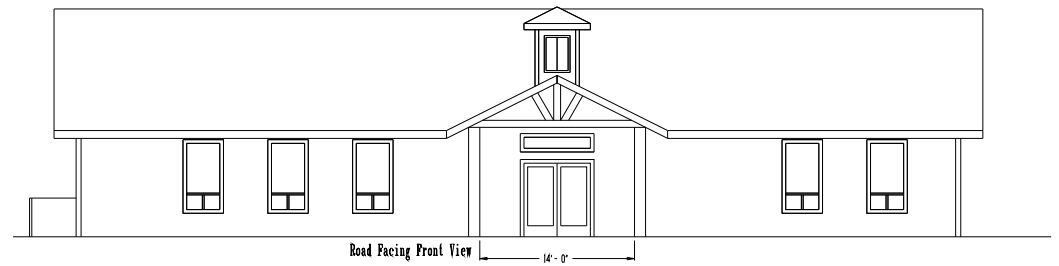
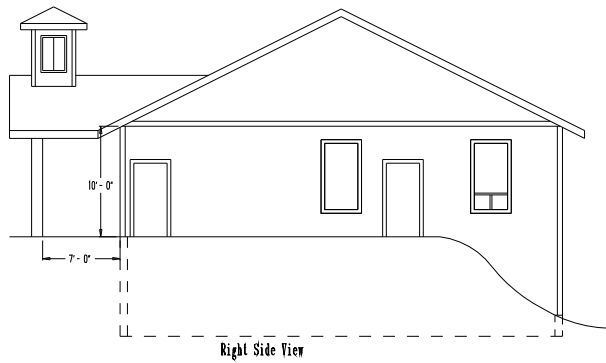
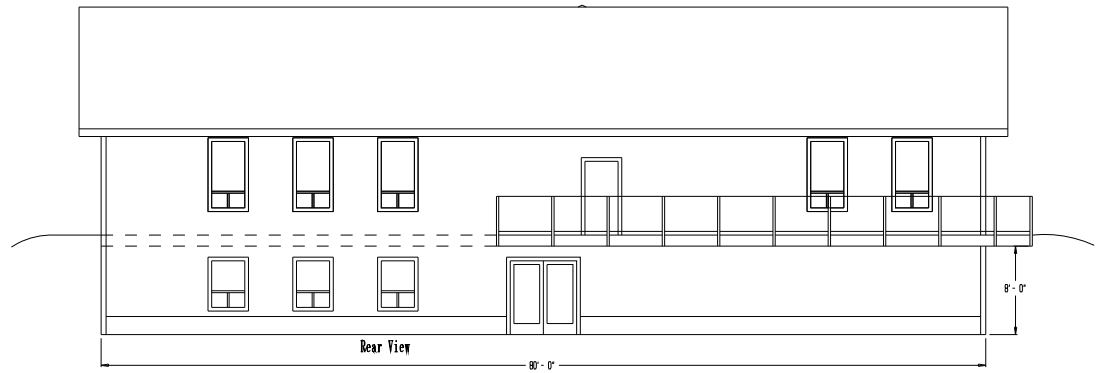
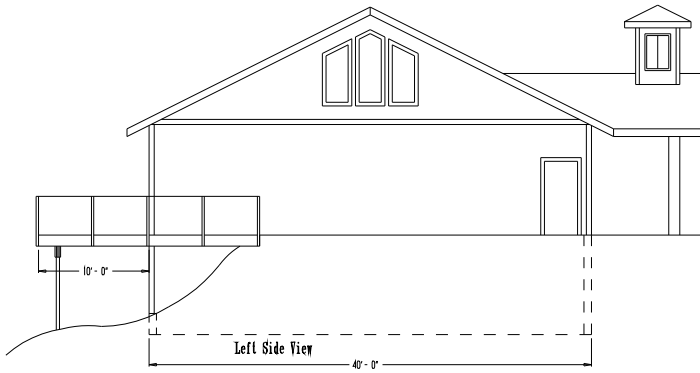
Thank you kindly for your acceptance of this addendum to the March 29, 2023 rezoning application.

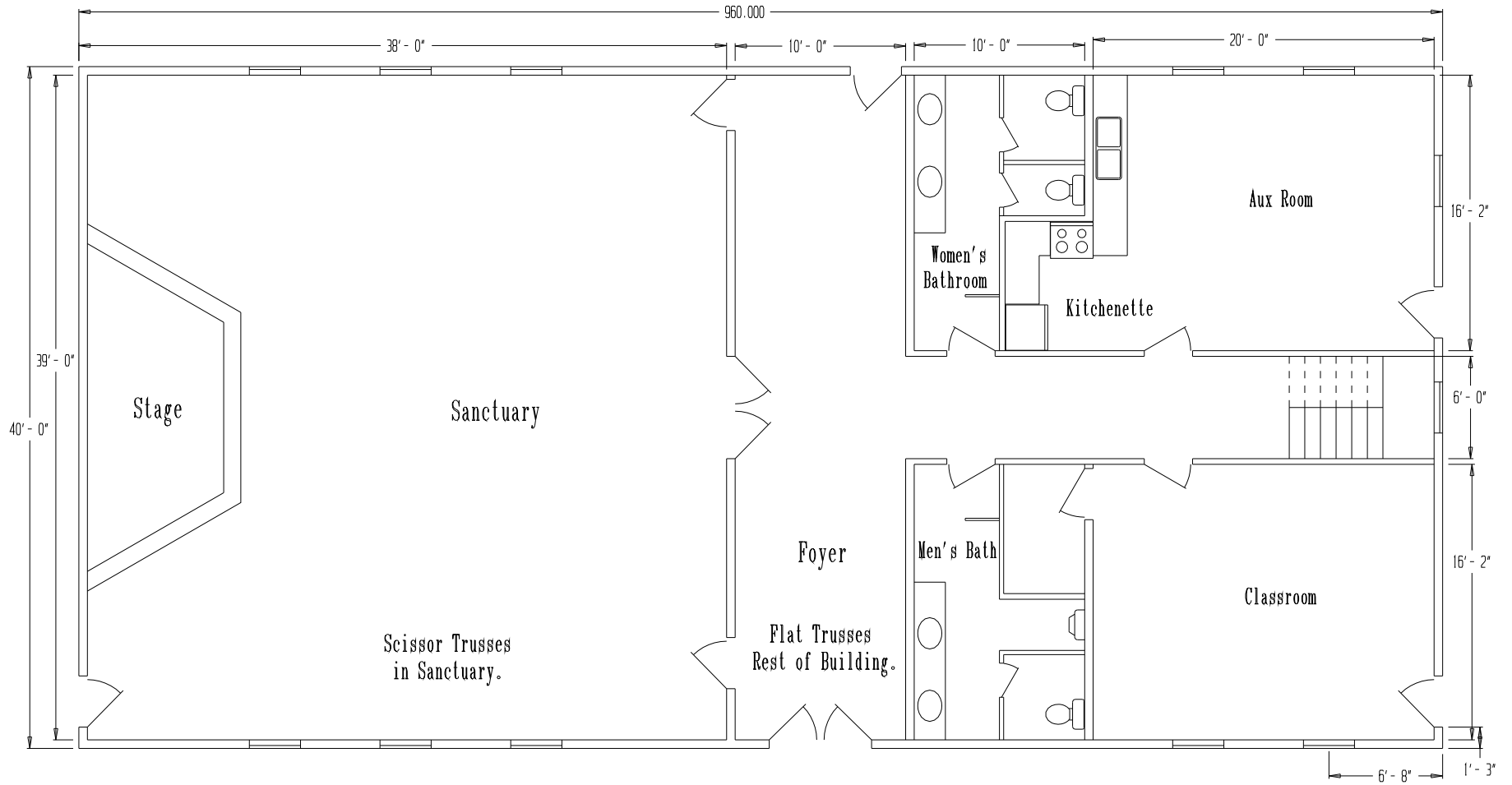
Signed this 11th day of April, 2023 by:

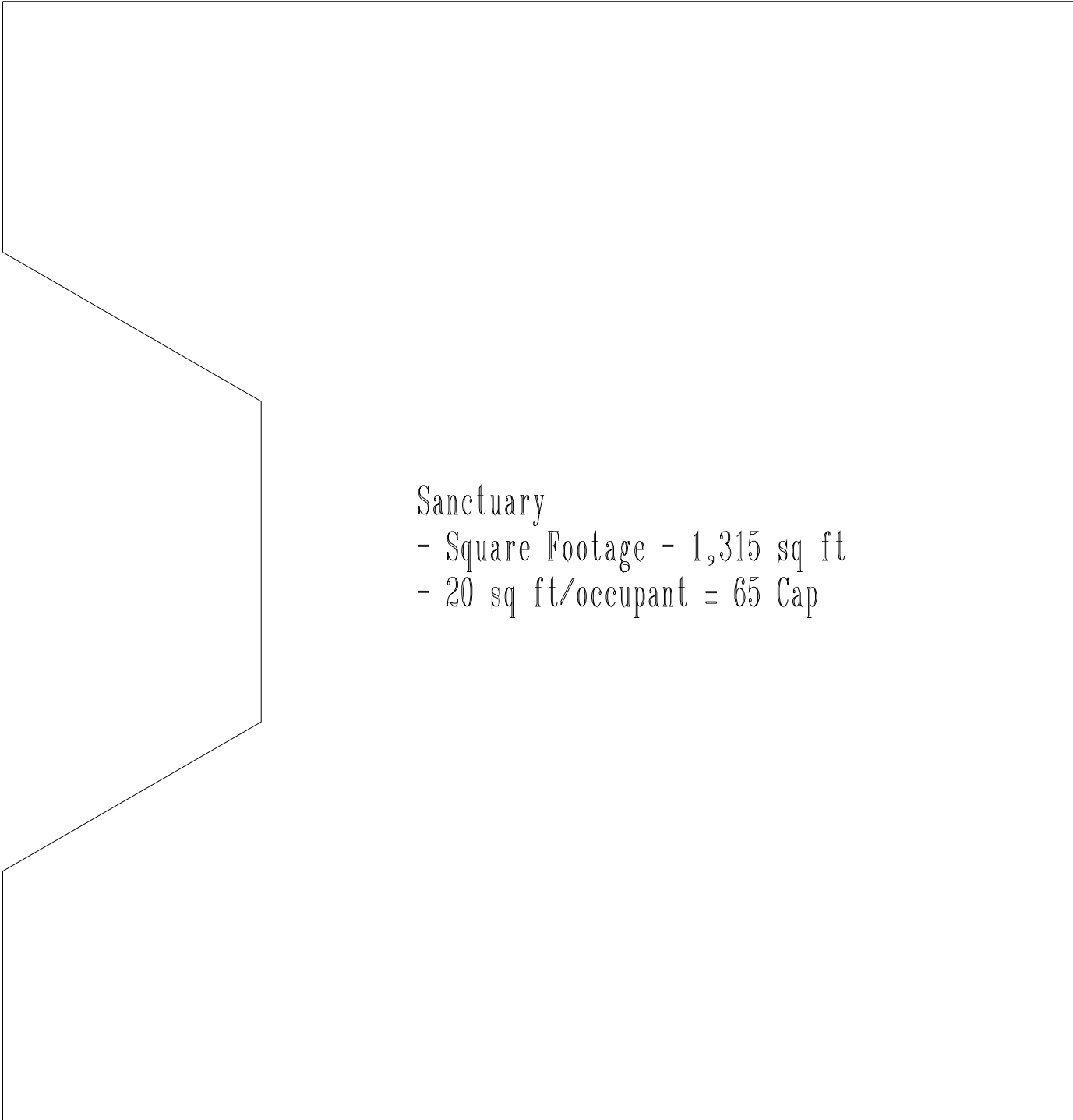
Herb Larsen

President: TASH Industrial Design Inc
and a Designated representative of the Lakes District SDA Church.

Burns Lake SDA Church/Centre of Influence







46.000

275.207

Lot 12
5.735 Acres

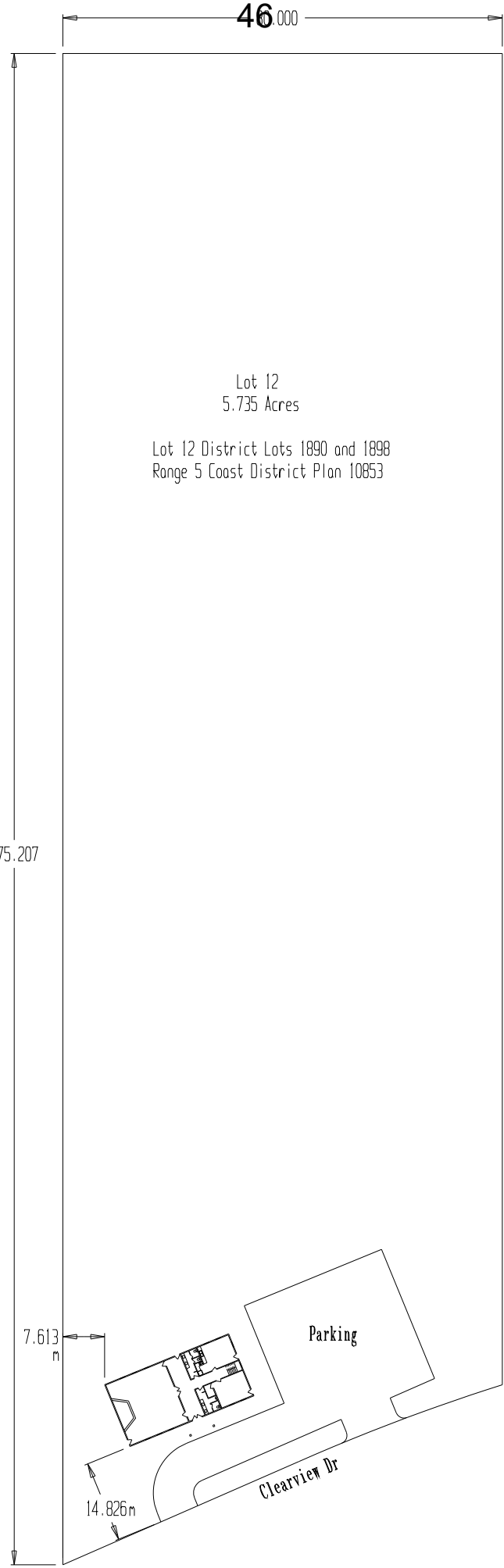
Lot 12 District Lots 1890 and 1898
Range 5 Coast District Plan 10853

7.613
m

14.826m

Parking

Clearview Dr





47

NJ Francis Hwy

Fairgrounds

Traffic Comparison

Church Site

- Legend**
- Burns Lake
 - Church S
 - Eagle Cre

The proposed service for this property is to build a Church. A meeting place for our company. Also to be of service to the Community.

There won't be a lot of traffic on a weekly basis and will not impact any neighboring land. It is not in the A/R land.

Jeannette Sholander



June 27, 2022


Granite Excavating Ltd.
 10680 Bald Hill Road
 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E2

To Whom it may concern,

I Joshua Carpenter, Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner OW 0612 am familiar with the standard practice manual for sewerage as required by the BC ministry of Health for septic system design and install. I have attended Lot #12 on Clearview Drive in Burns lake with Jeff Palm and evaluated the parcel.

With reference to the client (Lakes District Seventh Day Adventist Company) I have viewed the clients preliminary site drawing and occupancy plans and I am confident that a septic system can be designed for this location and constructed to accommodate the client's septic system needs. This letter is not a formal Septic Suitability Report and does not attempt to address the soil characteristics, design specifications, covenants, easements or any hydrogeological issues the site may or may not have.

Sincerely,
 Joshua Carpenter


 250 692 0817



jush@granite-excavating.ca

Attachment: Site Visit Photos

Photo #1: Subject property - Treed



Photo Series Driving from Subject Property to Clearview Drive Dead End (Driving West to East)

East: Clearview Dr. from Subject Property



East: Clearview Dr.



Eastbound view along Clearview Dr.



Eastbound view along Clearview Dr.



View Approaching Dead End



View of Dead-End Road Sign



Photo Series Driving from Dead End (Driving West to East)

View of Clearview Drive from Dead End



Clearview Drive West Bound



Photo Series Driving from Subject Property to Clearview Drive - Eagle Creek Road Intersection

Subject Property – West on Clearview Dr.



Subject Property – West on Clearview Dr.



Subject Property – North on Clearview Dr.



Subject Property – North on Clearview Dr.



Intersection of Clearview Drive and McNeil Dr.



Clearview Dr. between McNeil Dr. & Eagle Creek Rd. (northwards)



Clearview Between McNeil Dr. and Eagle creek Rd. (northwards)



Clearview Between McNeil Dr. and Eagle creek Rd. (northwards)



Photo #: Clearview Drive-Eagle Creek Road intersection



DEFINITIONS: PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES IN THE CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL (P1) ZONE

Clubhouse means a Building maintained for non-commercial meeting and recreation use by and for members of a social, athletic, recreational, fraternal, benevolent, patriotic, or veteran's organization, but is not to be operated primarily for pecuniary gain. A Clubhouse may include accessory food or beverage service.

Community Care Facility means a Building which is designated as such under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act**.

Farmers' Market means the use of land, Building or other Structure for the sale of local food products and locally made arts and crafts for a period not exceeding 10 consecutive days of operation and 100 days of operation per year in any given year. This use may also include the incidental and subordinate sale of food and beverages for consumption on site.

Institutional means the use of land, Building or other Structure for one or more of the following uses:

- school; church; **Cemetery; Visitor Information Centre**
 - **Cemetery** means the use of land, Building or other Structure for the interment of human or animal remains and includes one or more of the following:
 - burial grounds; columbarium; mausoleum; ash garden; memorial park.

This use does not include a Crematorium.

- **Visitor Information Centre** means the use of land, Building or other Structure for the provision of information, materials, direction to tourists and visitors; and the Office uses associated with tourism promotion and community development.

Recreation, Community means the use of land, Building or other Structure for community gatherings or community events and recreation activities. This includes uses such as:

- community halls; theatres; baseball diamonds; soccer fields; horseshoe pits; tennis courts; swimming pools; skating rinks; horse riding arenas.

This use does not include any Outdoor Recreation or Special Recreation Use.

Utility means the infrastructure and facilities providing sewage disposal, water electricity, natural gas, solid waste disposal, telecommunications, and other services to the public, and may include one or more of the following:

- sewage treatment plants; water treatment plants; major pump houses; water towers or tanks; sewage lagoons; sludge disposal beds; power terminal and distributing stations; liquid natural gas pipeline compressor station; power generating stations; cooling plants; district heating plants; incinerators.

This use does not include Waste Disposal.

*The *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (current to March 29, 2023) defines a **"community care facility"** and **"care"**, as follows:

"community care facility" means a premises or part of a premises

(a) in which a person provides care to 3 or more persons who are not related by blood or marriage to the person and includes any other premises or part of a premises that, in the opinion of the medical health officer, is used in conjunction with the community care facility for the purpose of providing care, or

(b) designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to be a community care facility;

"care" means supervision that is provided to

(a) a child through a prescribed program,

(b) a child or youth through a prescribed residential program, or

(c) an adult who is

(i) vulnerable because of family circumstances, age, disability, illness or frailty, and

(ii) dependent on caregivers for continuing assistance or direction;



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
BYLAW NO. 2005

A Bylaw to Amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020"

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in open meeting enacts as follows:

That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" be amended such that the following lands are rezoned from the Small Holdings Zone (H1) to the Civic/Institutional Zone (P1):

Lot 12, District Lots 1890 and 1898, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 10853, as shown on Schedule "A", which is incorporated in and forms part of this bylaw.

This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023".

READ A FIRST TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

READ A SECOND TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD this _____ day of _____, 2023.

READ A THIRD TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2005, 2023".

DATED AT BURNS LAKE this _____ day of _____, 2023.

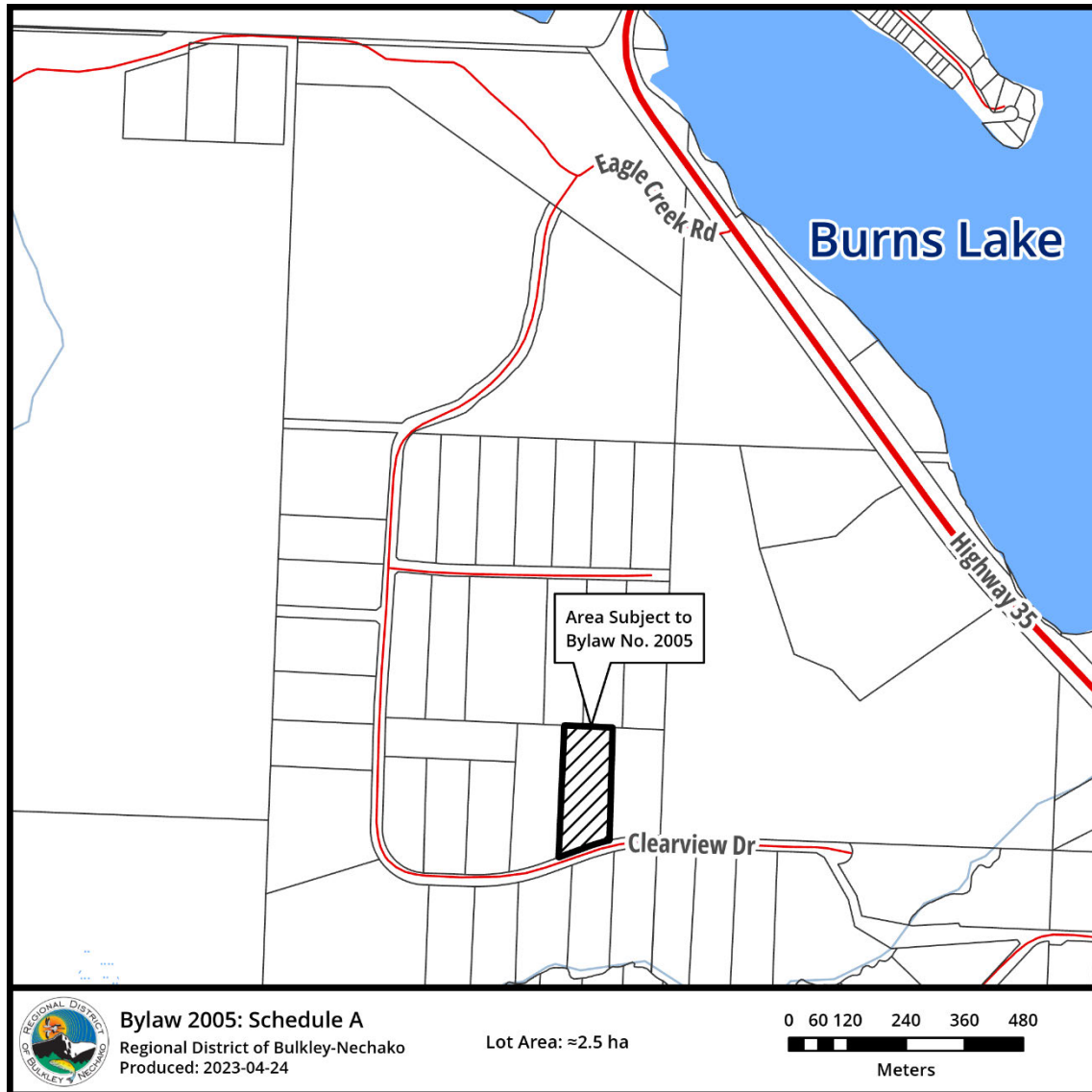
Corporate Administrator

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chairperson

Corporate Administrator

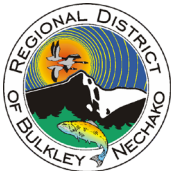
SCHEDULE "A" BYLAW NO. 2005



Lot 12, District Lots 1890 and 1898, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 10853, being rezoned from the Small Holdings Zone (H1) to the Civic/Institutional Zone (P1).

I hereby certify that this is Schedule "A" of Bylaw No. 2005, 2023.

Corporate Administrator



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board

From: Maria Sandberg, Planning and Parks Coordinator

Date: May 18, 2023

Subject: Rezoning Application RZ RDBN 04-21, Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaws 1996, 2023, 1997, 2023, 1998, 2023, and 1999, 2023

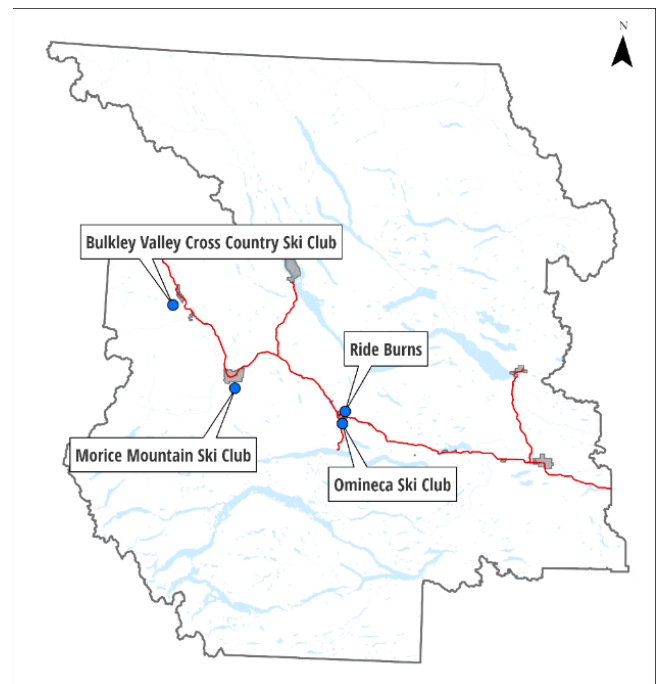
RECOMMENDATIONS: (all/directors/majority)

1. That the Regional District Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023", "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023", "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023" and "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023".
2. That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023", "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023", "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023" and "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023" be given third reading.

BACKGROUND

Staff have reviewed outdoor recreation facilities in the region to ensure that the lands are appropriately zoned to accommodate existing and anticipated future facilities and services. The RDBN Zoning Bylaw allows parks and trails in all zones; however, facilities such as clubhouses and fairgrounds are only allowed in the Recreation Zone (P2). Firing ranges are only allowed in the Special Recreation Zone (P2A).

Staff have worked with the following four recreation clubs whose lands require rezoning to P2 or P2A to accommodate existing or proposed future outdoor recreation facilities.



- Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club, Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

- Omineca Ski Club, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)
- Ride Burns, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)
- Morice Mountain Ski Club, Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

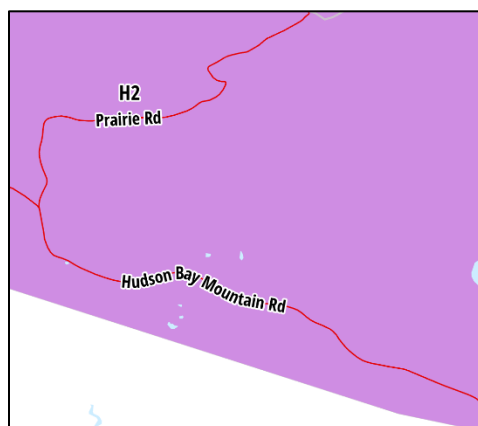
The Planning Department recommends that Bylaws No. 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 receive third reading.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

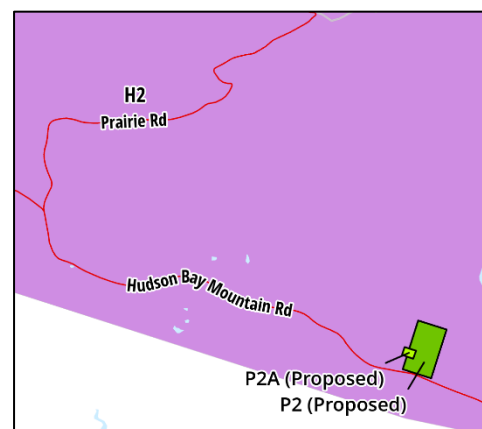
ELECTORAL AREA A

Name:	Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club
Subject Property:	Unsurveyed Crown Land
OCP Designation:	Resource (RE) Designation in the Smithers Telkwa Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1704, 2014 (the OCP)
Zoning:	Large Holdings Zone (H2) in RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 (the Zoning Bylaw)
ALR Status:	Not in the ALR
Existing Land Use:	Recreation
Location:	8767 and 8779 Hudson Bay Mountain Rd, about 5 km southwest of the Town of Smithers

Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club (BVCCSC) has a Partnership Agreement with the Province through Recreation Sites and Trails BC to maintain ski trails on Crown land. Their club facility “Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre” includes a clubhouse, parking lot, caretaker cabin, a wax hut, maintenance buildings, a concrete underpass beneath Hudson Bay Mountain Road and a timing hut. In addition, there is a biathlon range with an adjacent biathlon cabin located west of the main facility. The application area is in the building inspection service area. The proposed zoning amendment from H2 to P2 includes the club facilities and is 13.2 ha in size. The proposed zoning amendment from H2 to P2A includes the biathlon range and cabin and is 0.9 ha in size.



Current zoning



Proposed zoning

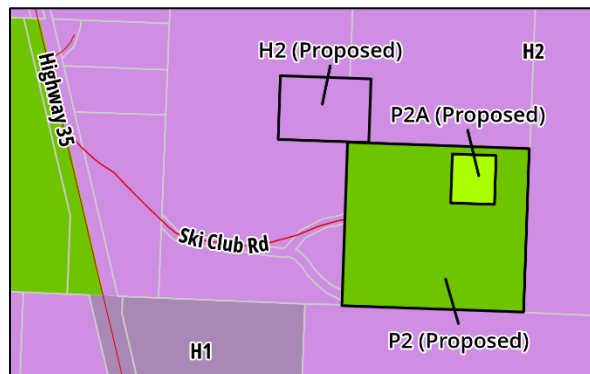
ELECTORAL AREA B

Name:	Omineca Ski Club
Subject Property:	District Lot 1884, Range 5, Coast District
OCP Designation:	Parks and Recreation Designation (P) in Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1785, 2017 (the OCP)
Zoning:	Large Holdings Zone (H2) and Recreation Zone (P2) in RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020
ALR Status:	Not in the ALR
Existing Land Use:	Recreation
Location:	3242 Ski Club Rd, about 4 km south of the Village of Burns Lake

The Omineca Ski Club (OSC) facilities include a clubhouse/lodge, parking lot, wax cabin and maintenance buildings as well as a biathlon range. The application area is within the building inspection area.

The existing P2 zoning meant for the clubhouse and structures was incorrectly placed during the digitization process of Zoning Bylaw No. 700 in the early 2000s and this error was carried forward into Zoning Bylaw No. 1800.

The proposed zoning amendment from H2 to P2 includes the club facilities and is 13.7 ha in size. The proposed zoning amendment from H2 to P2A includes the biathlon range and is 0.8 ha in size.

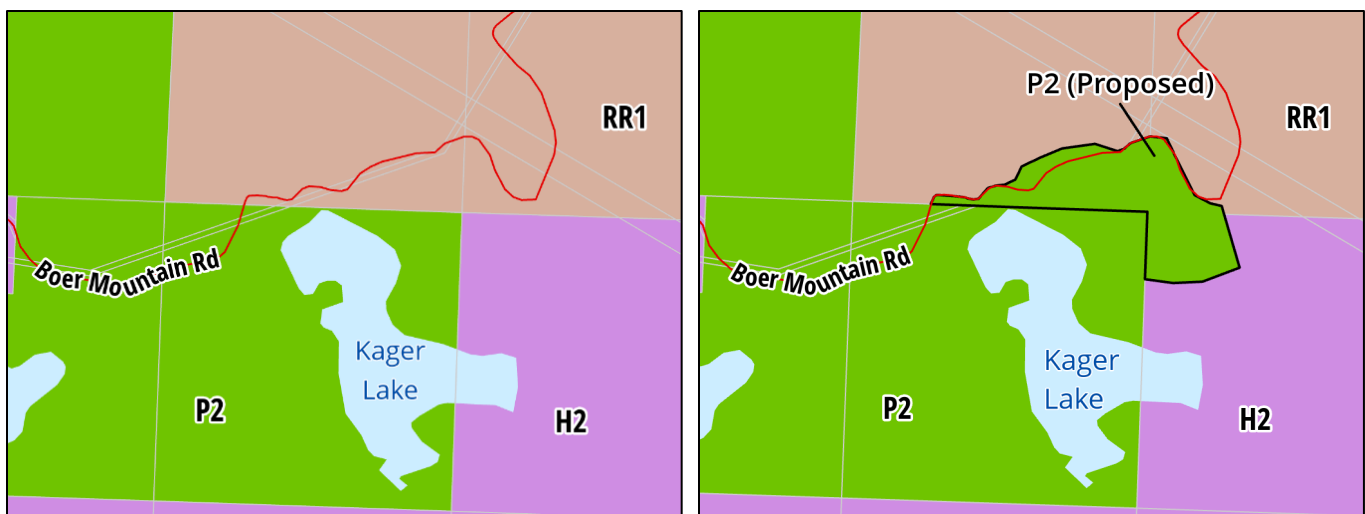
**Current zoning****Proposed zoning**

ELECTORAL AREA B

Name:	Ride Burns
Subject Properties:	SE1/4 District Lot 4172, Range 5, Coast District, W1/2 District Lot 4176, Range 5, Coast District and NW1/4 District Lot 4168, Range 5 Coast District
OCP Designation:	Resource (RE) and Parks and Recreation (P) Designation in the Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1785, 2017 (the OCP)
Zoning:	Large Holdings Zone (H2) and Rural Resource Zone (RR1) in RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 (the Zoning Bylaw)
ALR Status:	Not in the ALR
Existing Land Use:	Recreation
Location:	3845 Boer Mountain Rd, about 3 km east of the Village of Burns Lake

The Burns Lake Mountain Biking Association (Ride Burns) operate and maintain a mountain bike trail system within Recreation Reserves REC32077 (Boer Mountain) and REC0574 (Kager Lake), approximately 4,000 ha in size. In addition to the trail system, the facilities include a campground at Kager Lake and several shipping containers at the top of Boer Mountain. The application area is in the building inspection service area.

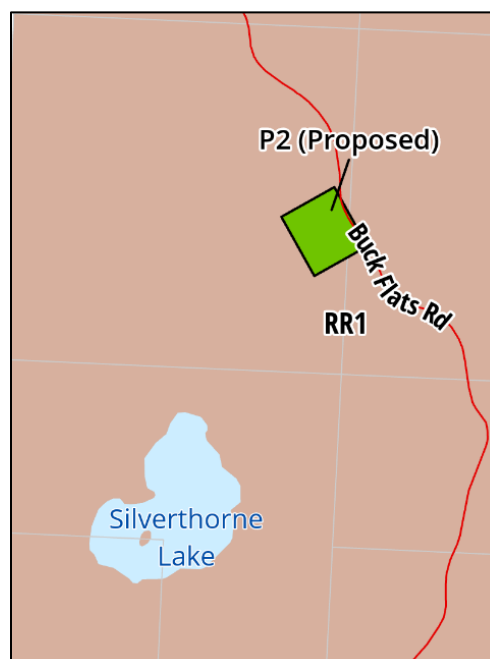
The proposed zoning amendment from RR1 and H2 extends the P2 zoning to cover the campsite and potential future facilities is 13.1 ha in size.

**Current zoning****Proposed zoning**

ELECTORAL AREA G

Name:	Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club
Subject Properties:	District Lot 4244, Range 5, Coast District and W1/2 District Lot 4247, Range 5, Coast District
OCP Designation:	Resource Designation (RE) in the Houston, Topley, Granisle Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1622, 2011 (the OCP)
Zoning:	Rural Resource Zone (RR1) in RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 (the Zoning Bylaw)
ALR Status:	Not in the ALR
Existing Land Use:	Recreation
Location:	9119 Buck Flats Rd, about 3 km south of the District of Houston

The Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club operates the Morice Mountain Ski Trail/ Silverthorne Lake Rec Site. The club has a partnership agreement with the Province to manage, construct and maintain the trails within this recreation area, specifically for non-motorized use. The facilities include a clubhouse, accessory structures and a parking lot near Buck Flats Rd. and a nine-site campground with a boat launch and picnic shelter on Silverthorne Lake, as well as a remote alpine cabin located on the east slope of Morice Mountain. The application area is in the building inspection service area. The proposed zoning amendment from RR1 to P2 includes the club facilities and is 8.9 ha in size.

**Current zoning****Proposed zoning**

DISCUSSION

Official Community Plans (OCPs)

The Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club application area is designated Resource (RE) in the “Smithers Telkwa Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1704, 2014”, which contains the following policy:

- 3.9.2(9) *Rezoning applications to allow outdoor and community recreation activities such as firing ranges, fairgrounds, race tracks, and golf courses, may be approved where it can be demonstrated that the uses will not have an unacceptable negative impact on a residential area or the natural environment.*

Omineca Ski Club and Ride Burns application areas are both designated Resource (RE) and Parks and Recreation (P) in in the “Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1785, 2017. The applicable OCP policies are outlined below:

Parks and Recreation (P) Designation

- 3.7.2(8) *Rezoning applications to allow active use community and outdoor recreation uses such as golf courses, archery ranges, fair grounds, rodeo grounds, community halls, theatres, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, swimming pools, skating rinks, and riding arenas may be considered on lands designated Parks and Recreation subject to the following criteria.*

(a) sufficient on-site parking is provided.

(b) the proposed use will not create an amount of traffic, noise or other impact that will adversely affect the rural character of the area.

(c) traffic management issues will be considered and addressed appropriately.

(d) the proposed development will have no notable impact on the natural environment.

(e) the proposed use will have no notable impact on neighbouring land uses or property owners.

(f) the proposed use has the support of the Agricultural Land Commission if the land is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

(g) it is clear that the community interest is not better met by keeping the land in its natural state and for limiting its use to passive types of recreation.

Resource Designation (RE):

- 3.8.2(1) *Only uses directly associated with agriculture and grazing, mineral or aggregate extraction, fish and wildlife management, wilderness oriented recreation, and necessary*

institutional, public, utility or transportation services use will be permitted in the Resource (RE) designation.

The Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club application area is designated Resource (RE) in the “Houston, Topley, Granisle Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1622, 2011” which contains the following policy:

3.8.2(7) *Rezoning application to allow outdoor and community recreation activities such as firing ranges, fairgrounds, race tracks, and golf courses, shall be considered on Resource designated lands where it can be demonstrated that the uses will not have an unacceptable environmental impact.*

Zoning

The permitted uses in the P2 and P2A Zones are as follows:

Permitted Uses in P2 Zone		Permitted Uses in P2A Zone	
Principal	Secondary	Principal	Secondary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>clubhouse</i> • <i>community recreation</i> • <i>outdoor recreation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>agriculture</i> • <i>campground</i> • <i>convenience retail store</i> • <i>dwelling unit in a principal building</i> • <i>farmers' market</i> • <i>primitive campground</i> • <i>restaurant</i> • <i>single family dwelling</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>clubhouse</i> • <i>community recreation</i> • <i>outdoor recreation</i> • <i>special recreation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>agriculture</i> • <i>campground</i> • <i>convenience retail store</i> • <i>dwelling unit in a principal building</i> • <i>farmers' market</i> • <i>primitive campground</i> • <i>restaurant</i> • <i>single family dwelling</i>

REFERRAL COMMENTS

Electoral Area A Advisory Planning Commission: recommends approval and acceptance of the amendments.

Electoral Area B Advisory Planning Commission: supports the rezoning proposal.

Electoral Area G Advisory Planning Commission: recommend the Board approve the proposed rezoning.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure:

“Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Ministry sees no impact to our infrastructure. Pursuant to section 52 of the Transportation Act, the Ministry of is prepared to endorse the Bylaw after its third reading.”

Recreation Sites and Trails BC:

“Based on a meeting with Jason and Maria on March 1st, in review of attached referral document, I am understanding of the following:

1. *BVCCSC, OSC, MMNSC and Ride Burns targeted given existing, applicable infrastructure in place and plans to add more in the near future, which was based on conversations between the club and RDBN. I asked the question why not similar type recreation sites such as Canyon Creek, Bulkley River, Lunan Road, and Hankin-Evelyn, where buildings exist. The reasons include either too remote, not nearby to private land, and/or no or few applicable buildings in place currently.*
2. *The proposed amendments to include the targeted areas as either P2 or P2A zones would allow for adding infrastructure. The current zoning does not.*
3. *RDBN has received confirmed support from each club for the proposed re-zoning.*

Suggested Conditions:

1. *For future applications from any club / proponent that overlaps with a recreation site, recreation reserve, or recreation trail, RDBN sends a formal referral to RSTBC, where the key point of contact is the District Recreation Officer (me) at Brandy.Hughes@gov.bc.ca.*
2. *The clubs are made aware of the following:*
 - a. *Building permits can be processed / approved as early as two weeks from receipt of application if application completed in full.*
 - b. *The building permit fee is 6% of the estimated value at construction.*
 - c. *Not every building requires a building permit.*
3. *RDBN includes in the building permit process a checkbox that indicates the proponent (club) has applied to RSTBC for section 57 authorization for the proposed infrastructure. RDBN is understanding that each BVCCSC, OSC, MMNSC and Ride Burns have legal agreements with the Province for the maintenance of these facilities. The agreement does not provide authority for construction, maintenance or rehabilitation of a trail or other recreation facility on Crown land. This is authorized under Section 57 of the Forest and Range Practices Act and authority delegated to the Recreation Officer (me). More information found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sitestrails/program/authorizations>*

I believe it was agreed that RSTBC and RDBN would work collaboratively on any file that involves an established recreation site or trail.”

Staff comments

The proposed rezonings are in accordance with applicable OCP policy.

The Recreation Zone (P2) is appropriate for community recreation uses such as community halls, horse riding arenas, baseball diamonds and outdoor recreation uses that require larger land holdings such as golf courses, fairgrounds, and skiing facilities.

The Special Recreation Zone (P2A) is intended to accommodate recreational uses with the potential to have a notable negative impact on adjacent residential development. Special recreational uses include the use of motorized vehicles, racetracks for motorized vehicles, drive-in theatres and firing ranges. Both application areas proposed for rezoning to the P2A Zone (Omineca Ski Club and Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre), involve small scale biathlon ranges that are located close to clubhouses and away from any residential development.

Staff recommend that Bylaws No. 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 receive third reading.

Pursuant to Section 52(3)(a) of the *Transportation Act*, Bylaw 1997 requires endorsement by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure after third reading and before adoption, as the subject property is within 800 metres of Highway 35.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing for Bylaws No. 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 was held on Monday, May 8, 2023 (see Attachments for Report of the Public Hearing and Public Hearing documents). There were no comments during the Public Hearing or written submissions related to the bylaws.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report of the Public Hearing for Bylaws No. 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999
- Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023
- Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023
- Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023
- Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR BYLAW NOS. 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
May 8, 2023

Report of the Public Hearing held at 7:00 pm, Monday, May 8, 2023 by Zoom video/conference call regarding "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw Nos. 1996, 2023; 1997, 2023; 1998, 2023; 1999, 2023.

ATTENDANCE:

Registered Attendees: None

Public Hearing Chair: Michael Riis-Christianson, Director, EA B (Burns Lake Rural)

RDBN Staff: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning (Recording Secretary)

CORRESPONDENCE: No written submissions to this Public Hearing were received.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Riis-Christianson at 7:00 pm.

BUSINESS: No public attended the Public Hearing and no comments were received. Chair Riis-Christianson closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 pm.

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chairperson

Jason Llewellyn, Recording Secretary



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
BYLAW NO. 1996

A Bylaw to Amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020"

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in open meeting enacts as follows:

That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" be amended such that portions of the following lands totalling ±14.1 ha are rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2) and the Special Recreation Zone (P2A):

Unsurveyed Crown Land as shown on Schedule "A", which is incorporated in and forms part of this bylaw.

This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023".

READ A FIRST TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

READ A SECOND TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD this 8th day of May, 2023.

READ A THIRD TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1996, 2023".

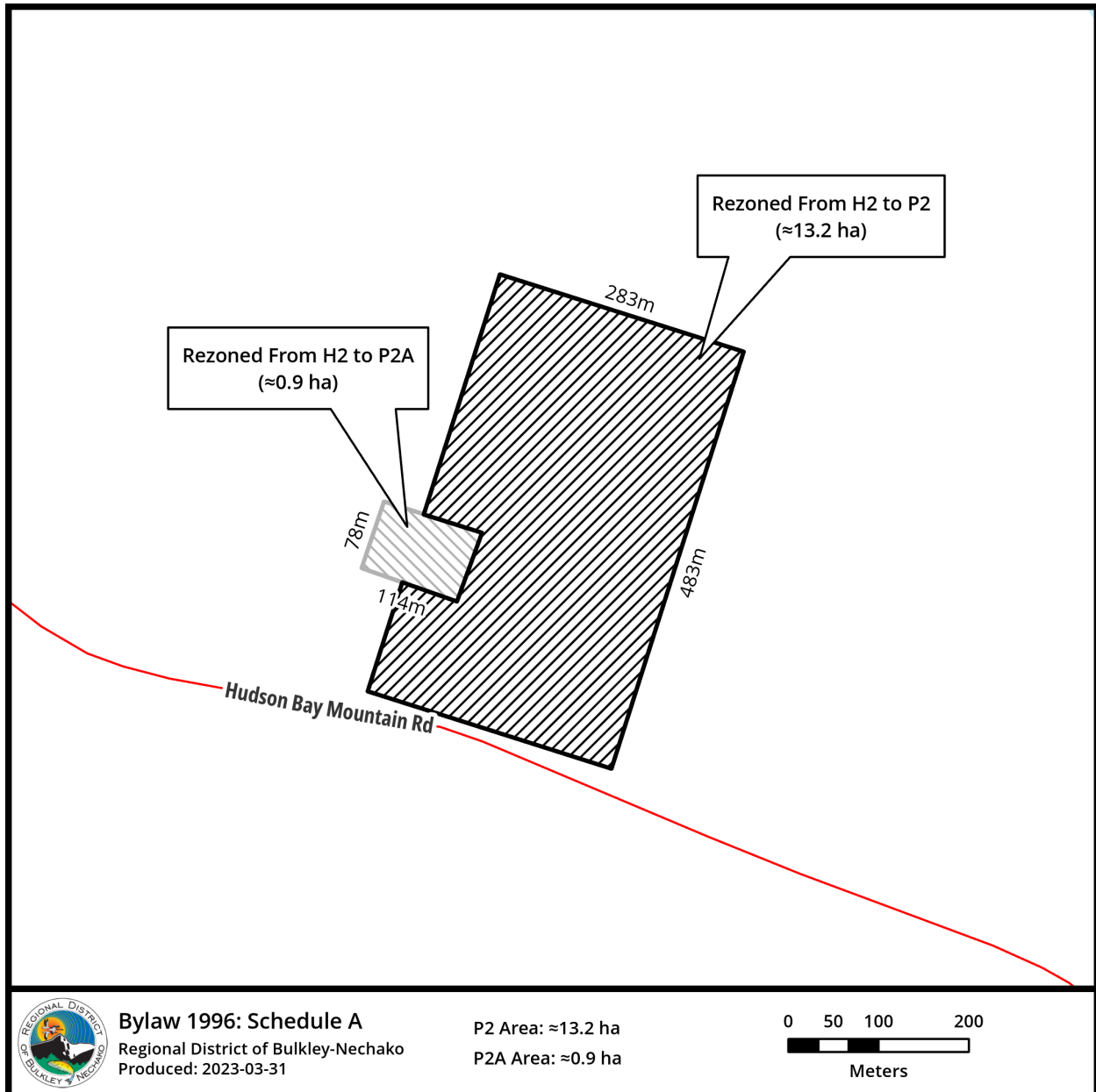
DATED AT BURNS LAKE this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Corporate Administrator

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chairperson

Corporate Administrator

SCHEDULE "A" BYLAW NO. 1996

The ±13.2 ha portion of unsurveyed Crown Land being rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2); the ±0.9 ha portion of unsurveyed Crown Land being rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Special Recreation Zone (P2A), as shown.

I hereby certify that this is Schedule "A" of Bylaw No. 1996, 2023.

Corporate Administrator



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
BYLAW NO. 1997

A Bylaw to Amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020"

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in open meeting enacts as follows:

That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" be amended such that portions of the following lands totalling ± 14.5 ha are rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2) and the Special Recreation Zone (P2A) and that a ± 2.8 ha portion of the following lands are rezoned from the Recreation Zone (P2) to the Large Holdings Zone (H2):

District Lot 1884, Range 5, Coast District as shown on Schedule "A", which is incorporated in and forms part of this bylaw.

This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023".

READ A FIRST TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

READ A SECOND TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD this 8th day of May, 2023.

READ A THIRD TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1997, 2023".

DATED AT BURNS LAKE this _____ day of _____, 2023.

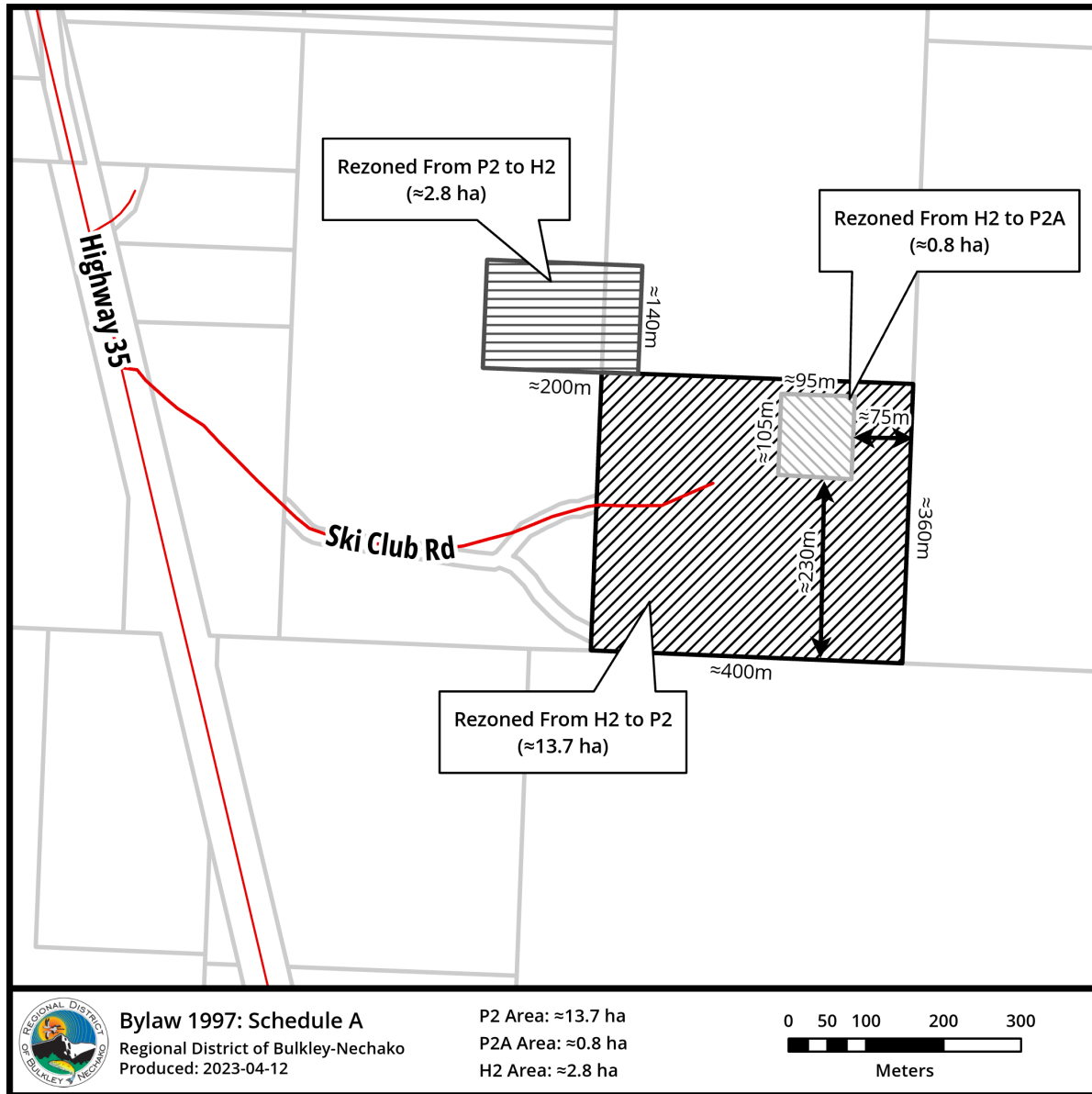
Corporate Administrator

Approved pursuant to section 52(3)(a) of the <i>Transportation Act</i> this _____ day of _____, 20____ _____ for Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chairperson

Corporate Administrator

SCHEDULE "A" BYLAW NO. 1997

A ±13.7 ha portion of District Lot 1884, Range 5, Coast District being rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2); a ±0.8 ha portion of District Lot 1884, Range 5, Coast District being rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Special Recreation Zone (P2A) and a ± 2.8 ha portion of District Lot 1884, Range 5, Coast District being rezoned from the Recreation Zone (P2) to the Large Holdings Zone (H2), as shown.

I hereby certify that this is Schedule "A" of Bylaw No. 1997, 2023.

Corporate Administrator



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
BYLAW NO. 1998

A Bylaw to Amend "Regional District of
Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020"

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in open meeting enacts as follows:

1. That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" be amended such that a ± 6.7 ha portion of the following lands is rezoned from the Rural Resource Zone (RR1) to the Recreation Zone (P2):

The Southeast 1/4, District Lot 4172, Range 5, Coast District as shown on Schedule "A", which is incorporated in and forms part of this bylaw.

2. That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" be amended such that portions of the following lands totalling +6.5 ha are rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2):

The West 1/2, District Lot 4176, Range 5, Coast District and the Northwest 1/4, District Lot 4168, Range 5, Coast District, as shown on Schedule "A", which is incorporated in and forms part of this bylaw.

This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023".

READ A FIRST TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

READ A SECOND TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD this 8th day of May, 2023.

READ A THIRD TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1998, 2023".

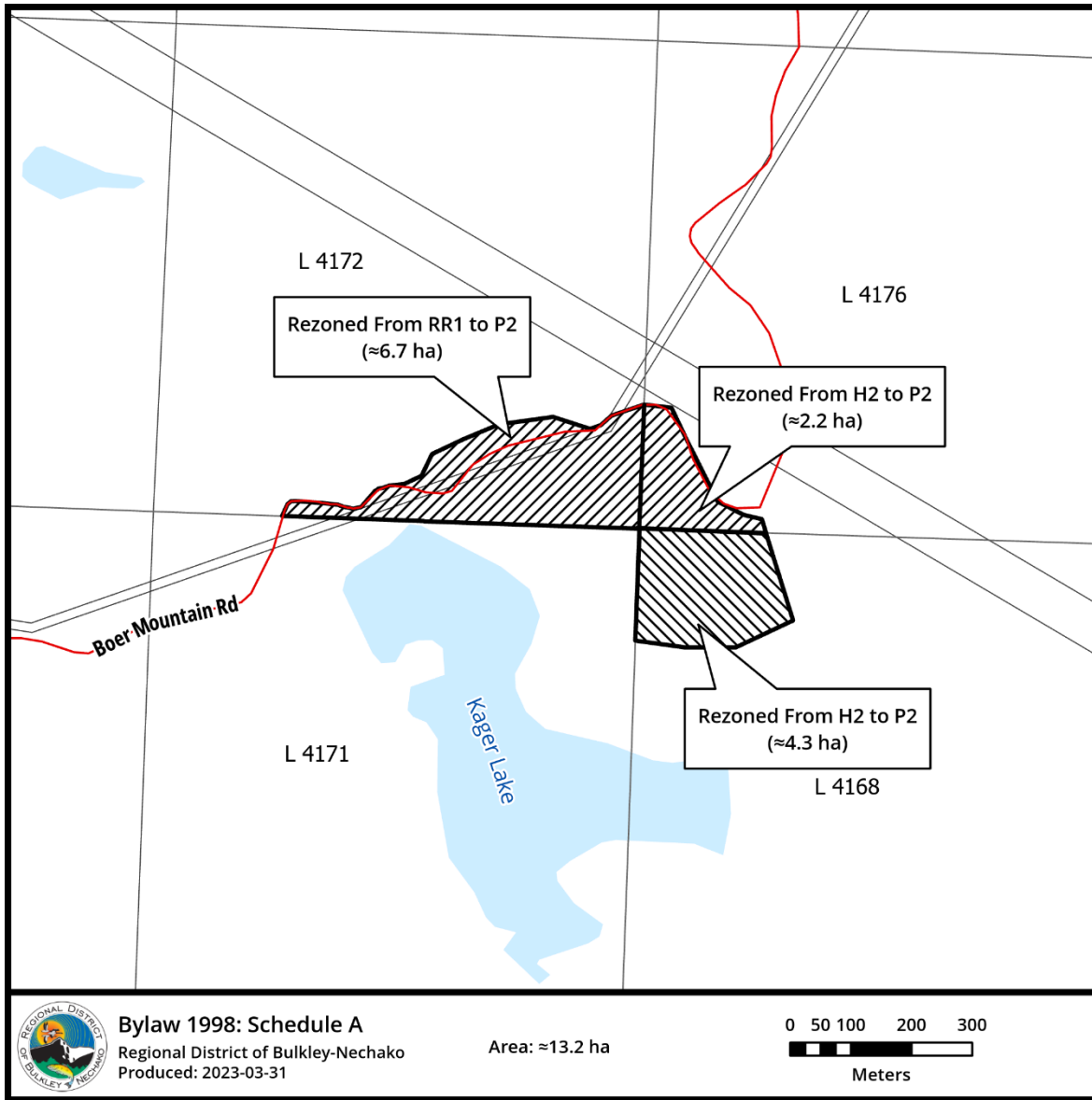
DATED AT BURNS LAKE this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Corporate Administrator

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chairperson

Corporate Administrator

SCHEDULE "A" BYLAW NO. 1998

A ± 6.7 ha portion of the Southeast 1/4, District Lot 4172, Range 5, Coast District being rezoned from the Rural Resource Zone (RR1) to the Recreation Zone (P2); the ± 2.2 ha portion of the West 1/2, District Lot 4176, Range 5, Coast District being rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2); and a ± 4.3 ha portion of the Northwest 1/4, District Lot 4168, Range 5, Coast District being rezoned from the Large Holdings Zone (H2) to the Recreation Zone (P2), as shown.

I hereby certify that this is Schedule "A" of Bylaw No. 1998, 2023.

Corporate Administrator



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
BYLAW NO. 1999

A Bylaw to Amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020"

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in open meeting enacts as follows:

That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" be amended such that an ±8.9 ha portion of the following lands is rezoned from the Rural Resource Zone (RR1) to the Recreation Zone (P2):

District Lot 4244, Range 5, Coast District and the West 1/2, District Lot 4247, Range 5, Coast District, as shown on Schedule "A", which is incorporated in and forms part of this bylaw.

This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023".

READ A FIRST TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

READ A SECOND TIME this 20th day of April, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD this 8th day of May, 2023.

READ A THIRD TIME this _____ day of _____, 2023.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1999, 2023".

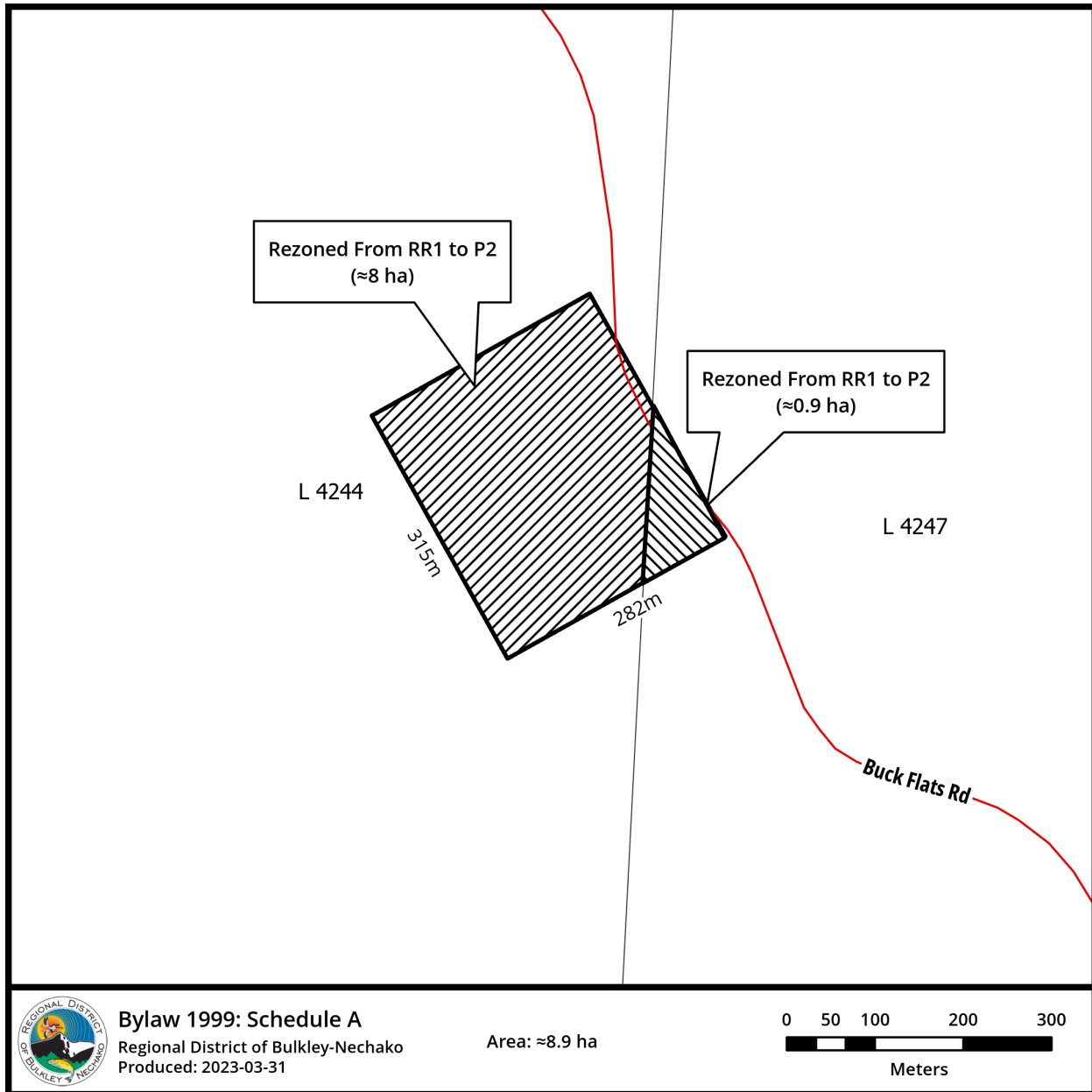
DATED AT BURNS LAKE this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Corporate Administrator

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chairperson

Corporate Administrator

SCHEDULE "A" BYLAW NO. 1999

An ±8 ha portion of District Lot 4244, Range 5 Coast District being rezoned from the Rural Resource Zone (RR1) to the Recreation Zone (P2); a ±0.9 ha portion of the West 1/2, District Lot 4247, Range 5 Coast District being rezoned from the Rural Resource Zone (RR1) to the Recreation Zone (P2), as shown.

I hereby certify that this is Schedule "A" of Bylaw No. 1999, 2023.

Corporate Administrator

**Advisory Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Electoral Area A	Meeting Date: May 1, 2023, 7:00 pm	Meeting Location: Virtually via Zoom
Attendance		
<u>APC Members</u>		<u>Electoral Area Director</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natalie Trueit-MacDonald		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director Stoney Stoltenberg
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Posthuma		<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Trevor Krisher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandra Hinchliffe		<u>Other Attendees</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Watson		<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Koopman		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cameron Kral, Planning Technician
		<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Chairperson: Sandra Hinchliffe		Secretary: Natalie T-Mac
Call to Order: 7:02pm		
Agenda		
7:00 ALR 1257 Ellis		
7:20 ALR 1251 Burns		
7:20 ALR 1253 West Fraser		
Applications (Include application number, comments, and resolution)		
ALR 1257 Ellis – APC recommends approval		
ALR 1251 Burns / GnR – APC recommends approval. Comments regarding there always being some concern about crushing disturbing neighbours.		
ALR 1253 West Fraser – APC recommends approval.		
Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm	Secretary Signature <i>NCT-Mac</i>	



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Cameron Kral, Planning Technician
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: ALR Non-Farm Use and Subdivision Application No. 1257

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

1. That Agricultural Land Reserve Application 1257 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.
 2. That BC Hydro be required to make a financial contribution to a local cattleman's association equal to the market value of the agricultural land removed from agricultural use for the capacitor station.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

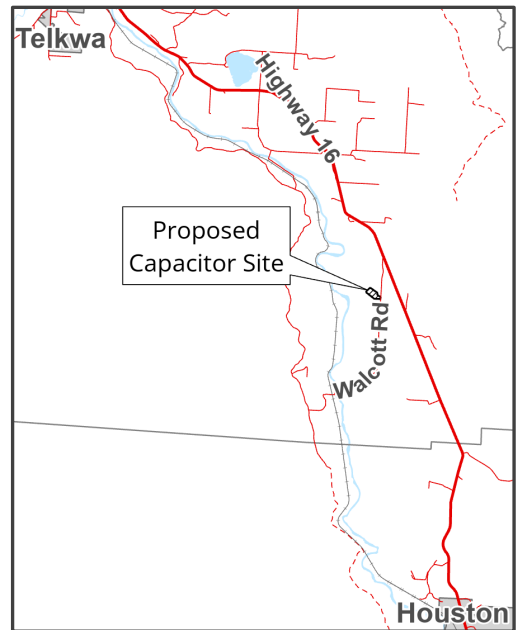
BC Hydro is requesting Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) approval for non-farm use and subdivision to accommodate a BC Hydro capacitor station on 20.19 ha of farmland. The subject property is a cattle ranch that contains a dwelling and various farm buildings.

The proposal will result in the long-term loss of a significant area of very good quality farmland. The Planning Department recognizes BC Hydro's operational needs, and the potential benefits to the region. Therefore, it is recommended that the application be supported provided that BC Hydro make a financial contribution to the Smithers Farmers Institute equal to the market value of the agricultural land removed from agricultural use for the capacitor station. This contribution will help mitigate the impact on agriculture associated with the application.

The ALC is not able to consider factors other than the impact on agriculture; therefore, based on anticipated consistency with recent ALC decisions, staff expect the application cannot be supported by the ALC without some form of appropriate mitigation by BC Hydro.

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Name of Agent/Owner:	Leslie Ellis, BC Hydro [Applicant] Betty Lui, BC Hydro [Agent]
Electoral Area:	A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
Subject Property:	The Northeast ¼ of Section 8, Township 9, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plan 8572 (PID: 015-697-690)
Property Size:	63.9 ha (157.9 ac)
OCP Designation:	Agriculture (AG) in "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Smithers Telkwa Rural OCP Bylaw No. 1704, 2014" (the OCP)
Zoning:	Agricultural (Ag1) Zone in the "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020" (the Zoning Bylaw)
Existing Land Uses:	Agriculture
Location:	About 18 km southeast of the Village of Telkwa and 15 km northwest of the District of Houston, on Walcott Road. The subject property contains a dwelling, accessory buildings, and a cattle ranch. The subject property is an active farm (pasture/hay storage) located within an agricultural area. The application area is closely tied to the existing hydro right-of-way, which limits it for other uses. The application area is 100% class 4 soils and mostly in the forested part of the subject property but part of it appears to be cleared and currently used for pasture.
NFU/Subdivision Area:	20.19 ha (49.9 ac).

**Location Map**

PROPOSAL

BC Hydro is applying for a joint non-farm use and subdivision to accommodate the development of a capacitor station on land that is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The capacitor station is proposed to boost the capacity of the existing 500 kV transmission line between Prince George and Terrace to meet anticipated future demand.

The application area for both the non-farm use and subdivision area is 20.19 ha (49.9 ac). The proposed capacitor site is 5 ha (12.4 ac), and the right-of-way area is 5.7 ha (14 ac). The proposed use will include the construction of a new access driveway from Walcott Road into the capacitor station. The capacitor station will be fenced for safety and security purposes. A portion of the site is reserved for future expansion. The capacitor station will include a control building, a storage building, and a 125 kW diesel generator to be used for emergency backup. The surface area will be covered in crushed rock. Once in operation, the capacitor station will be unattended except for periodic maintenance and inspections.

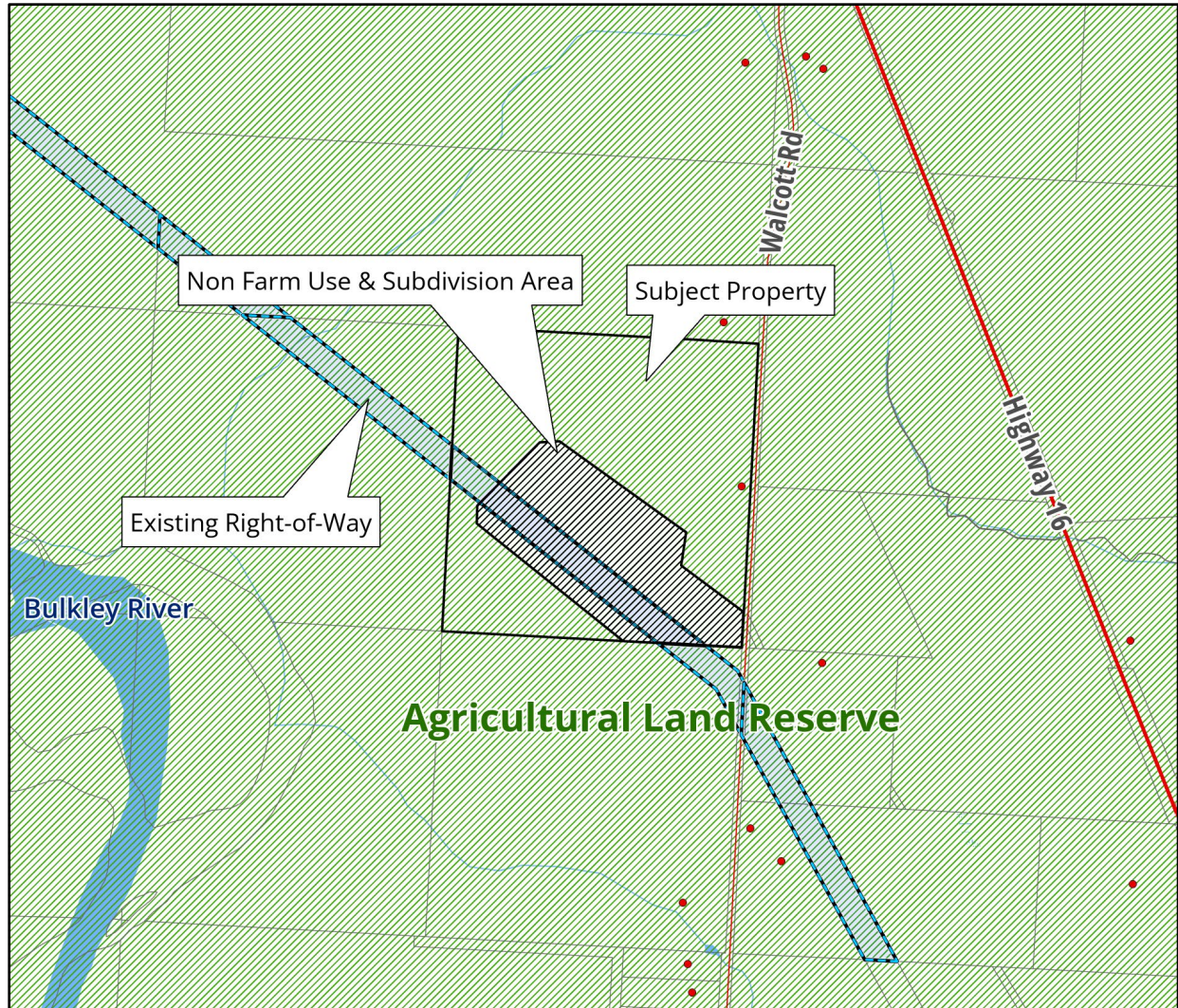


Typical Capacitor Station – BC Hydro

The applicant indicates that the proposed non-farm use area boundary, shown on the site plan on the next page, is also the proposed subdivision boundary.



Subject property – looking northwest



Site Plan

DISCUSSION

Official Community Plan (OCP)

The subject property is designated Agriculture (AG) under the OCP. The intent of the designation is to protect and preserve farmland and soil with agricultural capacity, and facilitate the appropriate utilization of that land for agricultural purposes. OCP Policy 3.1.2(5) states *"New roads, utility and communication corridors should be located to minimize the negative impact on existing and potential agricultural operations"*. Additionally, OCP policy 3.1.2(6) states:

"6) Non-farm use of agricultural land shall be avoided. Applications for exclusions, subdivisions, and non-farm uses within the Agricultural Land Reserve may only be considered under the following circumstances:

- (a) There is limited agricultural potential within the proposed area.*
- (b) Soil conditions are not suitable for agriculture.*
- (c) Neighbouring uses will not be compromised.*
- (d) Adequate provisions for fencing are provided, where a proposed development is adjacent to an existing agricultural use.*
- (e) The application is in the best interest of the community.*
- (f) The proposed development considers and addresses potential impacts and improvements to recreational features and the environment, including wildlife habitat.*
- (g) And, traffic management issues will be considered and addressed appropriately."*

A strong argument could be made that this application does not adequately meet the OCP requirements for consideration. Therefore, the Board would have justification for not forwarding the application on to the APC for consideration, should this be the Board's wish.

Zoning

The property is zoned Agricultural (Ag1) and unattended utilities are a permitted use in all zones. The minimum parcel size in the Ag1 Zone is 16 ha (39.5 ac); therefore, the proposed area of the new parcel (20.19 ha) is in accordance with the Ag1 Zone minimum parcel size. Further, it is noted that the minimum parcel area regulation does not apply to the creation of parcels created solely for unattended equipment necessary for the operation of an unattended utility.

Planning Department Comments

ALC Mandate and Considerations

Staff recommend that the application be supported provided that BC Hydro be required to make a financial contribution to the Smithers Farmers Institute equal to the market value of the agricultural land removed from agricultural use for the capacitor station. The proposal will result in the long-term loss of a significant area of good quality farmland. The proposal will clearly have a notable negative impact on agricultural use, and this impact should be mitigated.

The ALC is not able to consider factors other than the impact on agriculture; therefore, based on anticipated consistency with recent ALC decisions, staff expect the application should not be supported by the ALC without impact mitigation. The following is an example of a similar application where notable non-agricultural factors (housing need) would not be considered by the ALC even where the agricultural impacts were relatively inconsequential.

RDBN Application ALR 1234 (ALC File 63144) involved a non-farm use application to allow the use of the subject property for stormwater overflow from a proposed 77 lot residential subdivision within the Village of Telkwa. The application also requested to subdivide the property into two ~8.3 ha lots. The application was denied by the ALC on the following basis as described in the ALC's written decision:

"the Commission must give priority to protecting and enhancing the size, integrity, and continuity of the land base of the agricultural land reserve, and for use of the ALR for farm use. The Panel finds that facilitating non-ALR residential development within the ALR does not meet these priorities as the proposal will negatively impact the Property's potential for agricultural activity in the future."

Previous Capacitor Station Application

In 2015 when dealing with a similar proposal for a capacitor station in Electoral Area B (RDBN Application ALR 1165 & 1166 and ALC File 53768 & 53695) the Board recommended to the ALC that BC Hydro be required to make a financial contribution to a local cattleman's association equal to the market value of the agricultural land removed from agricultural use for the capacitor station.

The ALC supported the application without requiring the recommended contribution to a local cattleman's association. At the time the ALC was able to consider economic, cultural, and social values; and regional and community planning objectives as secondary factors when considering applications in Zone 2. The ALC's decision to allow the Palling capacitor station was based on these Zone 2 non-agricultural considerations as explained below in an excerpt from the ALC's written decision.

"The Panel has approached this application recognizing that first priority must be given to the purposes of the Commission in section 6, and that the other "zone 2" factors listed in ss. 4.3(b)-(d) of the ALCA are to have lesser priority than the section 6 purposes. This means that we should only approve an application if we find that one or more of the lower priority values is so strong on the facts of the application that they outweigh the purposes of section 6 despite their first priority.

In this case, we find that test is met.

We do not take lightly that granting the Application will remove capable and suitable agricultural land suitable from this lot and from the Applicant's control, and dedicate it to a non-farm use. Nor do we minimize the fact that construction, even though time-limited, could be disruptive to neighbouring properties and operations. However, having seriously considered that impact and having given it first priority, we are nonetheless satisfied that the Applications should be granted. We are satisfied that the project is real and significant, that it will have a

significant regional economic impact, that it will be integrated with other BC Hydro projects.”

The “Zone 2 factors” which allowed the ALC to support the Palling capacitor station in 2015 can no longer be considered; therefore, the application should not be supported without some meaningful contribution by BC Hydro to mitigate the negative agricultural impacts associated with their proposal.

Referral Comments

The **Electoral Area A Advisory Planning Commission** recommended that the Board support the proposed application.

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Food** indicate agricultural interests were not included, and the Ministry was not consulted, during the site selection process. The Ministry believes there are potential sites outside the ALR and encourage the applicant to find an alternative location outside the ALR (Please see attached referral response with more details).

Referral responses from the **Village of Telkwa**, the **District of Houston**, and the **RDBN Agriculture Coordinator (West)** were not yet received at the time of writing this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A – Agriculture Capability
- Appendix B – Surrounding ALR Applications
- Submitted ALR Application
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Referral Response

Appendix A

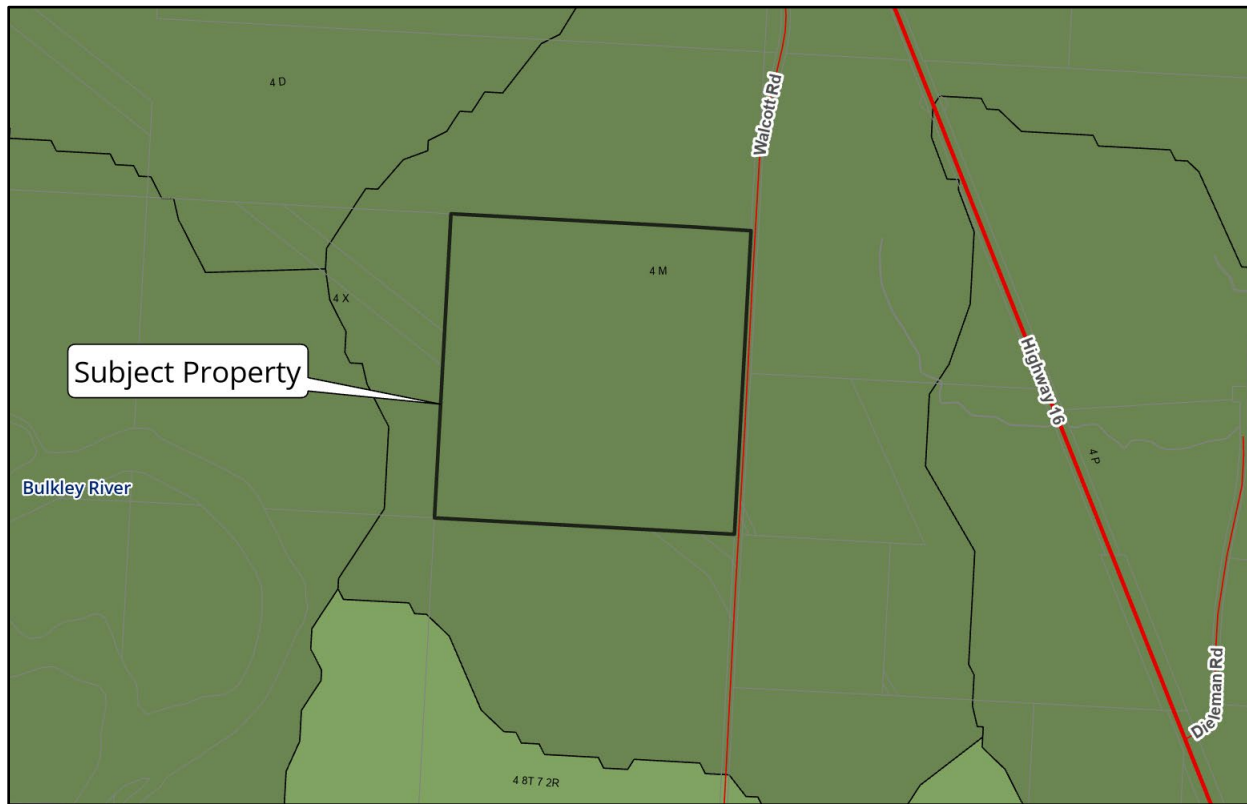
Agricultural Capability based on Canada Land Inventory Mapping

100% of the subject lands are:

Class 4M (limited by soil moisture deficiency).

Class 4 Land in this class has limitations that require special management practises or severely restrict the range of crops, or both.

Agricultural Capability Map



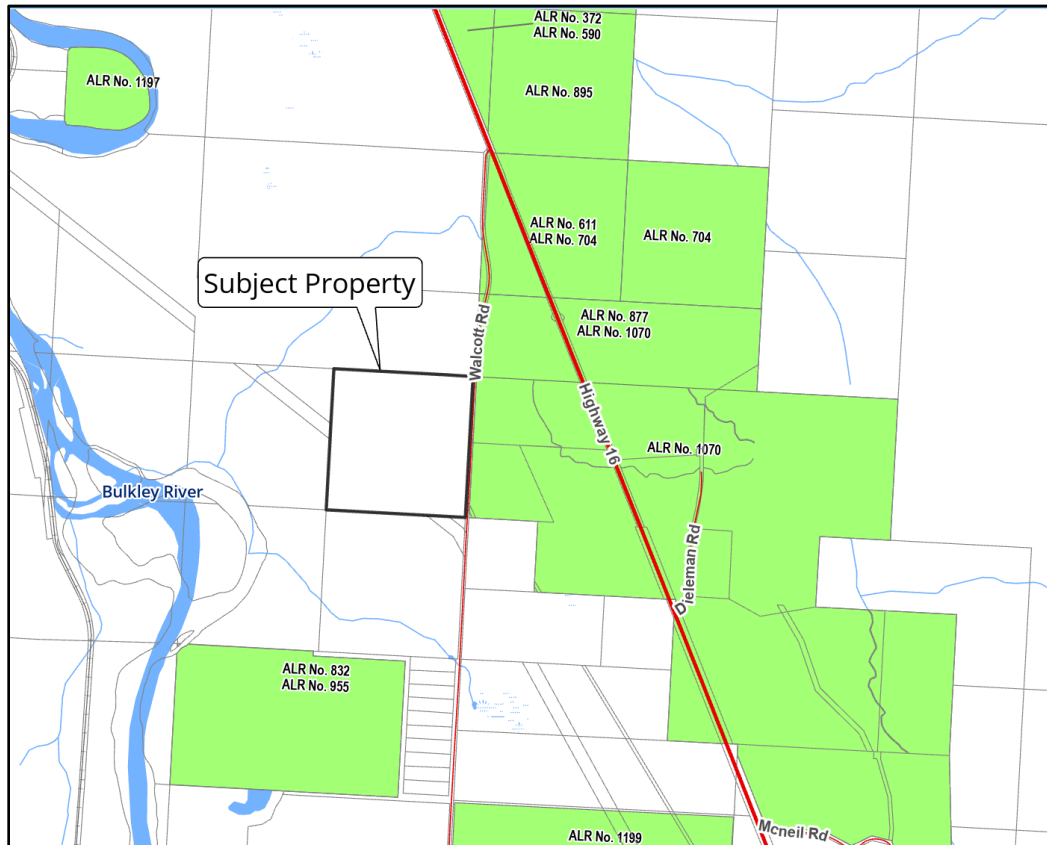
APPENDIX B:

Surrounding Applications

ALR Application	Legal Description	Summary	Recommendation Staff Board ALC
372	Parcel A (see A8018), District Lot 748, Range 5, Coast District	Application to subdivide 12.02 ha into either three parcels of ±4 ha or two parcels of ±6 ha.	Denial
			Approval
			Denied
590	Parcel A (see A8018), District Lot 748, Range 5, Coast District	Application to subdivide 12.02 ha into two parcels of ±6 ha.	Denial
			Approval
			Denied
611	District Lot 1148, Range 5, Coast District, Except Dom. Tele. Line 100 ft wide	Application to subdivide ±61.93 ha into two parcels as divided by Hwy 16.	Approval
			Approval
			Denied
704	District Lot 1148 and District Lot 1150, Range 5, Coast District	Application to subdivide ±14.6 ha parcel from the west side of DL 1148 and divided by Hwy 16.	Approval (Conditional)
			Approval
			Approved
832	Part of the North 1/2 of Section 5, Township 9, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plan 7058	Application to subdivide 108 ha into two parcels of 64 and 44 ha.	Denial
			Denial
			Denied
877	District Lot 1149, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plan 8572	Application to subdivide a 2 ha lot.	Denial
			Denial
			Denied
895	The West 1/2 of District Lot 746, Range 5, Coast District	Application to construct a 209 m ² building for the manufacturing draperies and horse blankets.	Approval
			Approval
			Approved
955	Part of the N 1/2 of Section 5, Township 9, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plan 7058	Application to allow main residence, two guest cabins and a mobile home. Mobile home and one cabin currently exist.	Denial
			Approval
			Approved
1070	DL 1149, R5, CD, Ex. 8572 & 4757	Application to subdivide six of the seven	Approval
			Approval

	DL 258, R5, CD, Ex. 8572 & 4757 DL 210, R5, CD, Ex. 4757 W 1/2 DL 208, R5, CD, Ex. 4757 Block B, S3, Tp 9, R5, CD DL 209, R5, CD E 1/2 DL 208, R5, CD, Ex. 4757	properties into eight lots. Seventh property to remain the same except for a right-of-way to access Lot 3. The proposed parcels have been laid out to reflect the farm access and improve access.	Approved
1197	Lot 1, Section 19, Township 9 District Lots 178 and 179A, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP58563	Application to exclude a portion of the subject property lying west of the Bulkley River.	Denial
			Approval
			Denied (Approval overturned by Board Reconsideration)
1199	Bloc C, Section 4, Township 9, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 7461	Application to subdivide 64.3 ha into one 16 ha parcel and one 48.3 ha parcel.	Denial
			Denial
			Denied

Surrounding Applications Map





Provincial Agricultural Land Commission - Applicant Submission

Application ID: 68040

Application Status: Under LG Review

Applicant: Leslie Ellis

Agent: BC Hydro

Local Government: Bulkley-Nechako Regional District

Local Government Date of Receipt: 03/31/2023

ALC Date of Receipt: This application has not been submitted to ALC yet.

Proposal Type: Non-Farm Use

Proposal: BC Hydro is applying for non-farm use in order to construct a capacitor station adjacent to our existing 500 kV transmission line to boost the capacity of the existing transmission line between Prince George and Terrace. Please see attached Additional Information package for more information.

Agent Information

Agent : BC Hydro

Mailing Address :

[REDACTED]

Primary Phone : [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

Parcel Information

Parcel(s) Under Application

1. **Ownership Type :** Fee Simple

Parcel Identifier : 015-697-690

Legal Description : THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 8 TOWNSHIP 9 RANGE 5 COAST DISTRICT EXCEPT PLAN 8572

Parcel Area : 63.9 ha

Civic Address : 22539 Walcott Road

Date of Purchase : 06/02/2011

Farm Classification : Yes

Owners

1. **Name :** Leslie Ellis

Address :

[REDACTED]

Applicant: Leslie Ellis

Phone : [REDACTED]

Current Use of Parcels Under Application

1. Quantify and describe in detail all agriculture that currently takes place on the parcel(s).

Approximately 26 ha of grazing for 110 cattle and 4 horses.

2. Quantify and describe in detail all agricultural improvements made to the parcel(s).

Farm fencing and hay bale storage.

3. Quantify and describe all non-agricultural uses that currently take place on the parcel(s).

BC Hydros right-of-way for 138kV and 500kV transmission lines and PNG pipeline currently travels through the parcel.

Adjacent Land Uses

North

Land Use Type: Agricultural/Farm

Specify Activity : Livestock grazing

East

Land Use Type: Agricultural/Farm

Specify Activity : PNG pipeline, livestock grazing, poultry farm

South

Land Use Type: Agricultural/Farm

Specify Activity : BC Hydros right of way, livestock grazing, dairy farm

West

Land Use Type: Agricultural/Farm

Specify Activity : BC Hydros right of way, livestock grazing

Proposal

1. How many hectares are proposed for non-farm use?

20.19 ha

2. What is the purpose of the proposal?

BC Hydro is applying for non-farm use in order to construct a capacitor station adjacent to our existing 500 kV transmission line to boost the capacity of the existing transmission line between Prince George and Terrace. Please see attached Additional Information package for more information.

Applicant: Leslie Ellis

3. Could this proposal be accommodated on lands outside of the ALR? Please justify why the proposal cannot be carried out on lands outside the ALR.

The capacitor station needs to be installed adjacent to the existing 500kV transmission line to be able to connect the station to the line to increase capacity. BC Hydro considered properties within and outside the ALR and went through a structured decision making process along with consultation with First Nations and local government prior to selecting the proposed site. Please refer to the Additional Information package for more details.

4. Does the proposal support agriculture in the short or long term? Please explain.

While the proposal is to construct a capacitor station that would be operated for the long term, we expect there will be opportunities to support agriculture activities post construction. Where feasible, BC Hydro will lease portion of land to adjacent landowner for agriculture activity, such as grazing.

5. Do you need to import any fill to construct or conduct the proposed Non-farm use?

Yes

Proposal dimensions

Total fill placement area (0.01 ha is 100 m²) *3.7 ha*

Maximum depth of material to be placed as fill *6.2 m*

Volume of material to be placed as fill *47650 m³*

Estimated duration of the project. *4 Years 9 Months*

Describe the type and amount of fill proposed to be placed.

Proposed fill for the capacitor station will be BC Hydros Granular A material (6 minus gravel and sand with fine content less than 8%). See table attached showing Granular A gradation.

Proposed fill for the access roads and laydown areas will be a combination of granular A pit run, 3 minus crush aggregate and ¾ minus crush aggregate as per BC Hydro Standards.

Briefly describe the origin and quality of fill.

All fills will be supplied by a local vendor sourced from a quarry or commercial aggregate pit once contractors have been selected by BC Hydro. During the construction tender, BC Hydro will provide the contractor with an opportunity to propose utilization of the native soil as Granular A fill for site grading purpose. If approved, up to 16,000 m³ of native soil from removal will be used as fill material for site grading, instead of using import Granular A fill.

Imported Non-Native Subbase Material - (3 / 75 mm minus crush)

Minimum 50% fracture content. Unless otherwise approved by Hydros Representative, imported subbase material shall meet the following specifications:

- (i) A minimum of 50% by mass of particles between 5 mm (No. 4 Standard U.S. sieve) and 75 mm diameter.*
- (ii) A maximum of 15% by mass of particles less than .08 mm (No. 200 Standard U.S. sieve) diameter.*
- (iii) A maximum particle size of 75 mm diameter; and*

Imported Non-Native Surfacing Material (3/4 / 20 mm minus crush)

Minimum 50% fractured content. Unless otherwise approved by Hydros Representative, imported surfacing material shall meet the following specifications:

- (i) A minimum of 50% by mass of particles between 5 mm (No. 4 Standard U.S. sieve) and 20 mm diameter.*
- (ii) A maximum of 10% by mass of particles less than .08 mm (No. 200 Standard U.S. sieve) diameter; and*
- (iii) A maximum particle size of 20 mm diameter.*

Applicant Attachments

- Agent Agreement -
- Proposal Sketch - 68040
- Site Photo - Site Photos
- Other correspondence or file information - Additional Information Package
- Other correspondence or file information - Quality of Fill
- Other correspondence or file information - Cover Letter
- Certificate of Title - 015-697-690

ALC Attachments

None.

Decisions

None.

**Prince George to Terrace Capacitors Project
Non-Farm Use Application with Subdivision**

Additional Information

Submitted by:

**Betty Lui
BC Hydro**

1.0 Introduction

BC Hydro is planning to build a new capacitor station in the region to meet anticipated new industrial power needs. The capacitor station is proposed on privately owned land along an existing BC Hydro right of way.

BC Hydro is applying to the Agricultural Land Commission for a non-farm use application with a subdivision component, together with the intention to remove soil and place fill. An offer to purchase the subdivided parcel was made by BC Hydro and accepted by the landowner.

2.0 Background

BC Hydro's northwest service area is supplied with electricity through a single radial 500 kV transmission line that runs from the Williston Substation in Prince George to the Skeena Substation in Terrace. The Prince George Terrace Capacitors (PGTC) project will enable BC Hydro to supply area customers such as LNG facilities and area mines in time to meet their in-service dates.

PGTC project will increase the capacity of the existing 500 kV transmission system by building three new series capacitor stations along the transmission line between Skeena substation and Williston substation and installing an additional transformer at the Skeena substation. By increasing the capacity of the transmission system, PGTC project will enable an additional 500 MW of clean and renewable electricity to be supplied to the North Coast. BC Hydro acquired two private properties for capacitor stations in 2015. This application pertains to the third capacitor station southeast of Smithers.

3.0 Capacitor Station

A capacitor station looks similar to a substation and will “boost” the capacity of the system to counteract the losses associated with a long transmission line.



Photo 1: Typical capacitor station

Construction of the capacitor station will require removal of trees and construction of a new access road from Walcott Road into the capacitor station. The capacitor station will be fenced for safety and security purposes. A portion of the site is reserved for future expansion.

Facilities

The capacitor station will be equipped with a control building which contains the station control and communication equipment, storage building, as well as a separate building to house a 125kW diesel generator to be used for emergency backup. General surface area will be covered in crushed rock surfacing.

Once in operation, the capacitor station will be unmanned and our operations and maintenance staff will visit the site several times a year to perform routine maintenance, inspections, vegetation maintenance, and equipment repairs as required.

The main electrical equipment within the station fence will include:

- 1-500kV 381MVAR Series Capacitor bank;
- Bypass breakers, disconnect switches, and surge arrestors;
- Ground grid system; and
- Energized platform supporting the capacitor bank system.



Photo 2 - Typical capacitor bank equipment

There will also be room to expand the station to include one additional 500kV 477MVAR Series Capacitor bank.

4.0 Site Selection

Since spring 2019, multiple private and crown lands between Terrace and Telkwa were reviewed, investigated, and consulted with First Nations and stakeholders. The proposed location was selected as the preferred site upon completion of investigative studies and structured decision making process. This site rated lower in geotechnical, archaeological, and environmental risks, lower safety and reliability risks and lower in overall capital cost. The property has less impacts to Aboriginal rights and title than other sites considered.

The selection of the site for the capacitor station followed a rigorous two stage process:

Stage 1

All feasible sites were identified through a desktop exercise using Google Earth and available mapping. Sites were identified and screened using the following criteria:

- The site should be adjacent to the existing transmission line right of way;
- The site should be as flat as possible;
- The site should not contain any obvious water ways / lakes / pond; and
- Areas close to towns / villages / settlements should be avoided.

In order not to limit the site selection too strictly at this early stage, potential sites that did not meet all the above criteria, but which showed strong potential on other aspects were included.

Analysis of the area using the above criteria generated a list of potential sites. Each of these sites was then evaluated using more detailed criteria as follows:

- General engineering assessment
- Distance from existing substations and 500kV circuit
- All-season road access
- Site slope (<10% slope)
- Access to BC Hydro telecommunications network
- Reasonable soil resistivity grounding capabilities
- Environmental risk
- Community relations risk
- Acceptable geotechnical and geohazards conditions
- Possible contaminants
- Hydrology & flooding risk
- Fish and wildlife risks
- Wetlands
- Vegetation
- Archaeological potential
- Land use and visual aesthetics
- Aboriginal land interests

This analysis reduced the list of identified possible sites down to a shortlist of three suitable sites. These shortlisted sites were then evaluated further in stage two of the site selection process.

Stage 2

The evaluation process for stage two moved from a desk-top based approach to a field based approach. Site visits were conducted to verify the criteria evaluated in stage one and to better assess the overall suitability of the sites. An environmental consultant was engaged to provide an environmental overview of each shortlisted site. A geotechnical consultant was also procured to conduct geotechnical and geohazard risk identification and assessment. Several test holes were excavated on each site to determine the geotechnical suitability for construction. Consultation meetings were held with First Nations to discuss the project and potential sites. Periodic updates were provided to local governments and stakeholders to discuss the project and site selections.

All of the information gathered in this work then supported the Structured Decision Making (SDM) process to identify the preferred site. The main groups of criteria used in the SDM process were:

- Technical assessment,
- Environmental assessment,
- First Nation inputs and considerations,
- Overall project cost, and
- Stakeholder inputs and considerations.

The SDM process produced a ranking of the two shortlisted sites and identified the preferred site.

5.0 Property

The property is a square shaped parcel bounded by agricultural and forested land to the north; Walcott Road and PNG pipeline to the east; BC Hydro's transmission lines, agricultural and forested lands to the south and west.

The Smithers/ Telkwa Rural electoral area zones the property as agricultural (Ag1). Surrounding land use is primarily agricultural. A house and a shed are located on the property along with a gazebo and RV storage. The owner had installed barb wire fencing to contain his herd and there is a dedicated area for hay bails storage. About 20 ha (50 acres) within the north central area is cultivated to improved pasture. The existing BC Hydro transmission line right of way contains about 5.7 ha (14 acres) and runs diagonally across the property. Adjacent lands along the right of way, particularly to the southwest, are mostly treed.

The proposed non-farm use area is approximately 20.19 ha (49.9 acres) in size and includes land that is currently located in the transmission line right of way. The new capacitor station will feature a new access road off Walcott Road into the station. The station footprint is approximately 5 hectares, this does not include the relocation of a short section of the existing 138kV transmission line to the southwest to ensure a safe distance between the line and the new capacitor station fence. The station will be fenced and covered in crushed rock surfacing as stated above.

6.0 Construction

Current project schedule anticipates the earliest start for construction to be early 2024, with an in-service date by the end of 2027.

There would be a time limited disruption to neighbouring properties with the increase traffic on Walcott Road during construction, but BC Hydro will post signage where necessary and implement an access management plan and provide notifications of project activities to stakeholders who are near the site.

Dust suppression practices in relation to vehicle traffic will be applied when necessary to minimize air-borne dust from traffic on the access road. PGTC project will also follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) developed for the project for noise and fugitive dust management.

7.0 Soil disturbance

Site clearing and access development work will result in localized soil disturbance, but no soil contamination is anticipated.

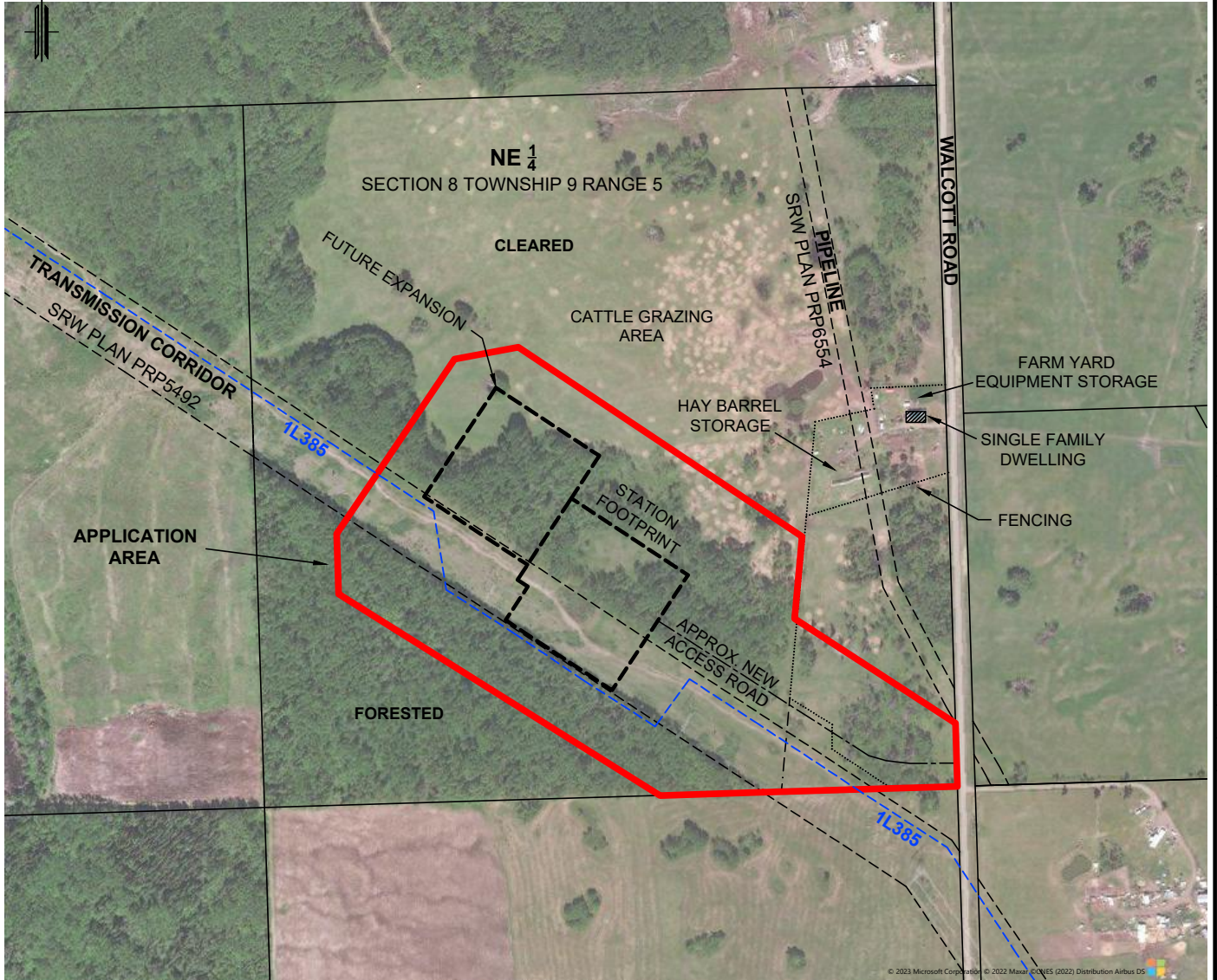
Pesticides and herbicides will not be used as part of the proposed work. Mitigation strategies to minimize the disturbance to soils will include:

- Temporary work locations will be restored, including seeding with a regionally appropriate, weed free, seed mix;
- Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff;
- Control measures will be monitored, as required, particularly during rainfall events; and
- Limit the stripping of vegetation and soils to the areas required for Project activities.

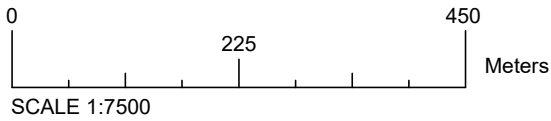
COAST DISTRICT




APPLICATION AREA	
EXISTING TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR	4.55 HA±
ADDITIONAL LAND	15.64 HA±
TOTAL AREA	20.19 HA±



This sketch plan shows approximate locations based on a compilation of existing office records of varying accuracy. All boundaries, distances and areas are unreliable for establishing land tenure unless verified by a field survey conducted by a British Columbia Land Surveyor.



NO	DRAWING NUMBER	DRAWING TITLE	NO	REMARKS
		REFERENCE DRAWINGS	REVISIONS	

DSGN		 PROPOSED AREA OF INTEREST OVER PART OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 9, RANGE 5 COAST DISTRICT					
INDEF							
CHK							
DFTG	JM						
DFTG	JT						
CHK							
INSP		DATE	DIST	DWG NO	REPORT FIGURE NUMBER	SIZE	REVISION
REV		2023-03-23		803-S23-00032		A	2
ACPT							

J:\Engineering\Trans\SPD\Survey\LOB\JOBS-2019\19-04\3zu CAP3E - Sketch plan and quote for legal survey\dwg\803-S23-00032.dwg
 Drawing Unit = Metric (6)
 MONTEGRO, JOAQUIN
 3/28/2023 1:31 PM

Granular A Pit Run

Granular A Fill		
ASTM Sieve	ISO Metric Sieve (mm)	Percent by Weight Passing
6"	150.00	100
3"	75.00	80 - 100
1.5"	37.50	60 - 100
3/4"	19.00	35 - 100
3/8"	4.75	25 - 85
#4	4.75	15 - 75
#50	0.297	3 - 37
#200	0.075	0 - 10

Site Photos



Figure 1 - Walcott Road looking north



Figure 2 - Walcott Road looking northwest



Figure 3 - Right of Way corridor looking northwest



Figure 4 - Right of Way corridor looking southeast



Figure 5 - Looking west within fence line



Figure 6 - Looking south of fence line



Figure 7 - Looking south of hay bale storage



May 9, 2023

Local government file: ALR 1257
ALC ID: 68040

Deneve Vanderwolf
Planning Technician
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
VIA EMAIL: Deneve.Vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca

Re: Agricultural Land Commission Non-Farm Use Application at 22539 Walcott Road (PID: 015-697-690) – The Subject Property

Dear Deneve,

Thank you for providing Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry) staff with the opportunity to comment on the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Non-Farm Use (NFU) application that proposes to construct a capacitor station over a 20.2 ha portion of the 63.9 ha Subject Property. From an agricultural planning perspective, Ministry staff offer the following comments:

- BC Hydro is proposing to construct a capacitor station to boost the capacity of the existing 500 kV transmission line between Prince George and Terrace to meet anticipated future demand.
- The Subject Property contains a beef cattle and pasture operation and Ministry staff note that portions of the 20.2 ha proposed NFU area appear to be actively farmed.
- A detailed list of criteria was employed to determine potential sites for the proposed capacitor station. Ministry staff are disappointed to see that agricultural interests were not included in the lengthy list of criteria. Ministry staff were equally disappointed that BC Hydro did not consult with Ministry staff on the site selection process. Including agricultural interests in the list of criteria and consulting with Ministry staff during the site selection process may have resulted in selecting an alternative property not located within the ALR that is being actively farmed.

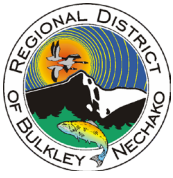
- Although Ministry staff have not conducted a thorough analysis of site feasibility, staff note that the majority of the existing 500 kV transmission line between Prince George and Terrace does not pass through land in the ALR which suggests that an alternative site outside of the ALR may have been possible.
- If the NFU application is approved and the capacitor station is constructed, the disturbed site may become a source of noxious/invasive weeds. To prevent weeds from spreading onto adjacent land within the ALR, Ministry staff suggest that noxious weed inspections and treatments occur regularly both within the access road and the construction areas.
- The application package discusses a potential subdivision of the Subject Property but Ministry staff note that only a NFU application has been submitted to the ALC.
- Ultimately, the proposed NFU project impacts a significant amount of land in the ALR as well as an existing agricultural operation. Ministry staff encourage BC Hydro to find an alternative location on a property outside of the ALR. Further, Ministry staff would be happy and available to assist BC Hydro with an alternative site selection.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at the phone number or email address below.

Sincerely,

Reed Bailey, Land Use Planner
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Phone: (778) 695-3455
Email: Reed.Bailey@gov.bc.ca

Email copy: Agricultural Land Commission – ALC.Referrals@gov.bc.ca



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Cameron Kral, Planning Technician
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: BC Hydro Capacitor Station Referral

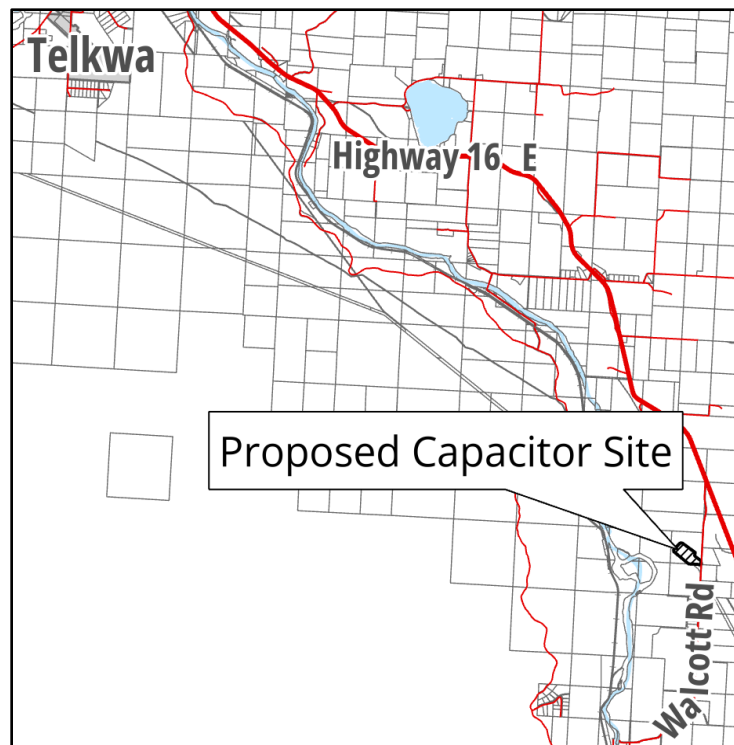
RECOMMENDATION:**(all/directors/majority)**

That the attached comment sheet be provided to BC Hydro as the Regional District's comments to the referral regarding BC Hydro's Capacitor Station on Walcott Road.

BACKGROUND

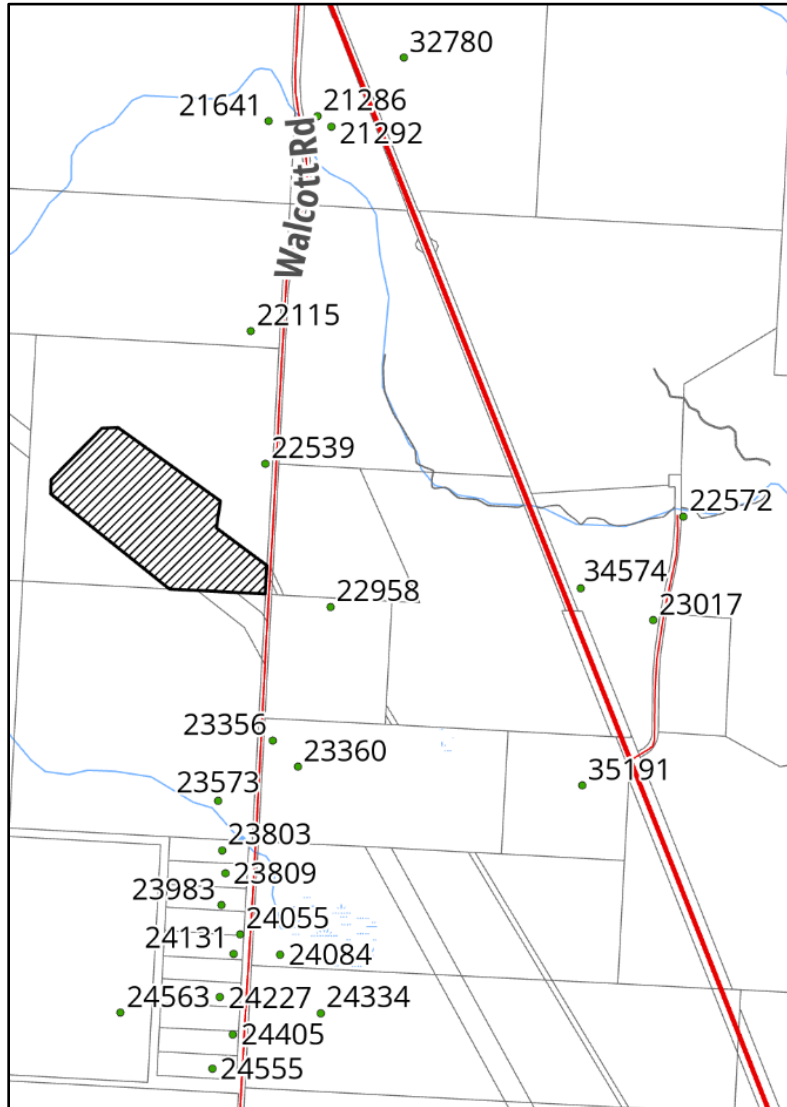
BC Hydro is evaluating the subject property to be the site of a new capacitor station. The property is accessed off Walcott Road, approximately 18 km southeast of the Village of Telkwa. The application area is 20.19 ha (49.90 ac).

The subject property is zoned Agricultural (Ag1) and is surrounded by agricultural lands. The capacitor station is a permitted use in all zones but will require ALC approval. Staff are currently processing a joint Non-Farm Use and Subdivision application for this proposal.



The capacitor station is part of a project to boost the capacity of the existing 500kV transmission line between Prince George and Terrace to meet anticipated future demand. Two other stations are already under construction as part of this project.

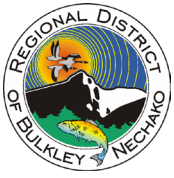
The nearest dwelling is approximately 200 m from the application area (see map of nearby dwellings on next page).



Nearby Dwellings

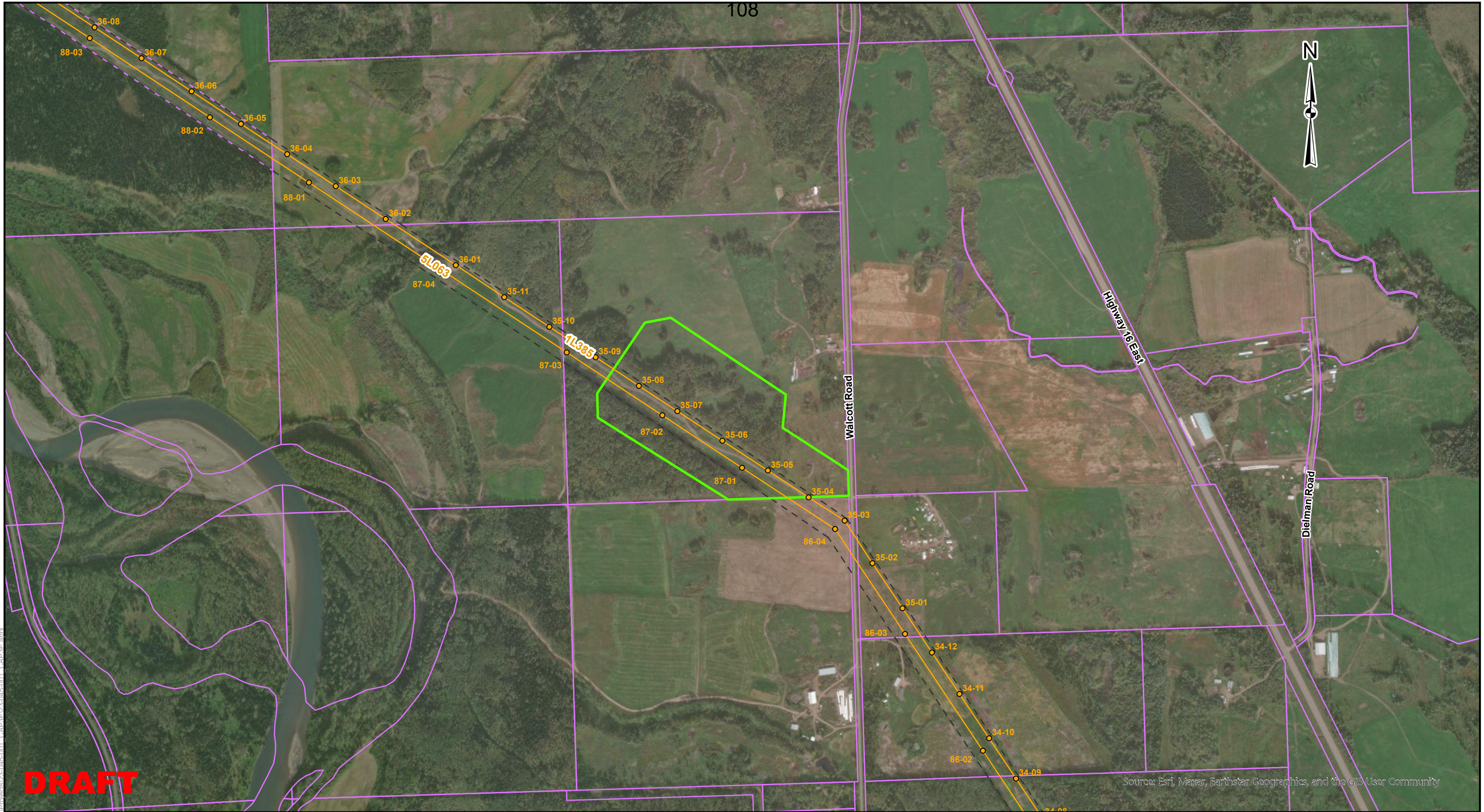
ATTACHMENTS

- Comment Sheet
- Referral Submission



Comment Sheet on BC Hydro Capacitor Station Referral

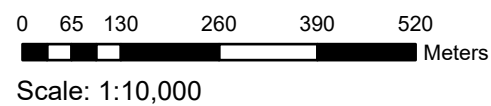
Electoral Area:	Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)
Applicant:	BC Hydro
Existing Land Use:	Forested/Agriculture
Zoning:	Agricultural (Ag1)
OCP Designation:	Agriculture (Ag)
Proposed Use Comply with Zoning:	Yes
If not, why?	N/A
Agricultural Land Reserve:	No
Access:	Stones Bay Road
Building Inspection:	Yes
Fire Protection:	Outside the Fire Protection Area
Other comments:	The RDBN recommends that BC Hydro consult with adjacent residents as part of the site evaluation process.



DRAFT

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

- Legend
- Transmission Structure
 - Transmission Circuit
 - Proposed Capacitor Site
 - Property Lines



DSGN	BL	 Power smart	GEOMATICS SERVICES	
DFTG	SC			
PRJ	UTM ZONE 9	PRINCE GEORGE TO TERRACE CAPACITORS PROPOSED CAPACITOR SITE CAP3		
DATUM	NAD 83			
SCALE	1:10,000			
SHEET				
DATE	2023-03-28	DWG#	803-S11-00013	REV.A

C:\Users\cromer\Documents\ArcGIS\Projects\23_04\5_001_CAP3\23_04\5_001_CAP3.aprx

April 12, 2023

Chair Mark Parker
 Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
 37 3rd Avenue, PO Box 820
 Burns Lake, BC
 V0J 1E0

Dear Chair Parker and Directors,

Re: Input requested -- Prince George to Terrace Capacitors Project, Capacitor Station 3 site

We're looking to power future industrial development near the North Coast of B.C with clean and reliable electricity. As a result, we're constructing capacitor stations in three locations near the existing 500 kV transmission lines between Prince George and Terrace. The Prince George to Terrace Capacitors (PGTC) project will cost-effectively boost the capacity of these existing major transmission lines by over 50%.

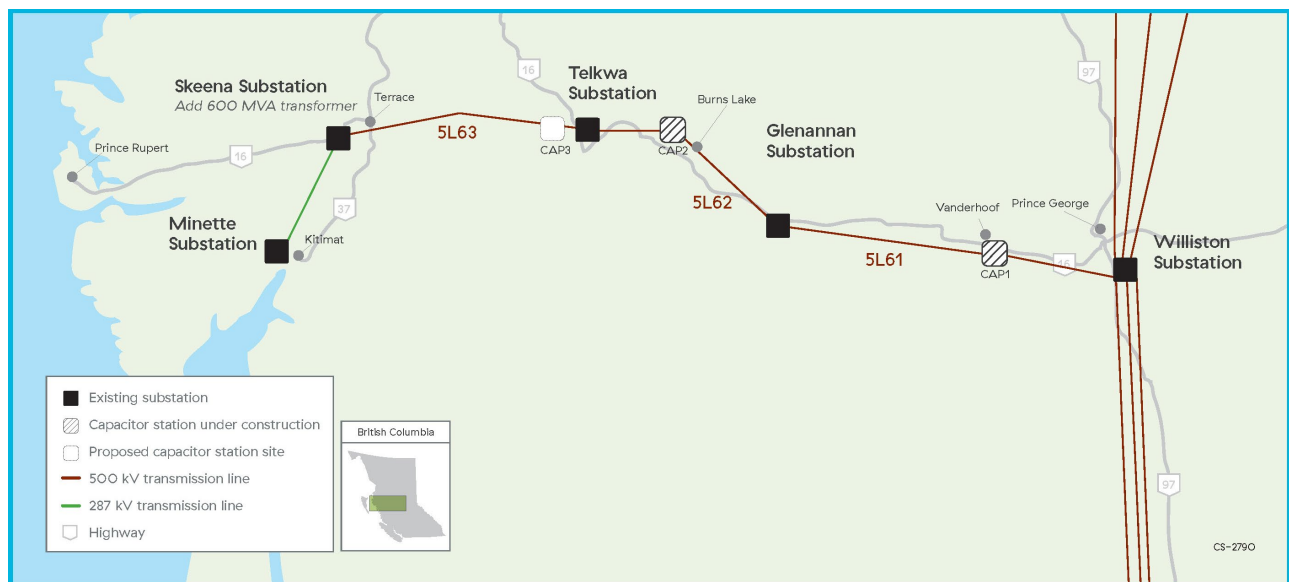


Figure 1. Prince George to Terrace Capacitors Project Map

Construction at the first two capacitor sites is presently underway. We've been exploring a variety of sites for the new CAP 3 capacitor station and have identified a suitable parcel of land located approximately 8 kilometres southeast of the town of Quick, south of Highway 16 and along Walcott Road (please refer to the enclosed map). We've completed some geotechnical studies and will be undertaking environmental and archaeological studies in coming months.

What is a capacitor station?

Capacitor stations contain equipment to boost the amount of electricity that a transmission line can carry. These stations are fenced, outdoor facilities about 200 x 200 square meters that need to be constructed on flat land, adjacent to or near the existing transmission line. Each capacitor station will also contain a tower with equipment allowing the station to communicate with the rest of the BC Hydro system.



Figure 2. Example of a capacitor station - Guichon Capacitor Station near Logan Lake, B.C.

Your input is requested

As this site is located within the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, we would like your feedback on the proposed use of this site for a capacitor station. Your input will be considered, along with the environmental, archaeological and geotechnical study results, in our decision to proceed with the purchase and subsequent development of this site.

Please provide comments, in writing or by email, by May 15. If you have any questions about the sites, our evaluation process, or the planned Prince George to Terrace Capacitors project, please contact me by email at projects@bchydro.com or call 1 866 647 3334.

Sincerely,

Johnson Lee
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

c.c.: Anne Pulford, Project Manager
Encl. Site map



Community Investment and the Environmental Assessment Process:

Pipelines, Mines and Work Camps in the
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

May 2023

-A Discussion Paper-

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INTRODUCTION

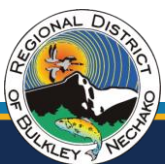
Resource Extraction and Community Development

Most communities in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) experienced significant community development and population growth following the Second World War. This growth was facilitated by significant provincial government and industry investment in developing community infrastructure and services. This was necessary for industry to recruit and retain workers and their families to live and work in the resource extraction sector that has sustained the provincial economy. Following this initial period of investment, which occurred into the 1970's, communities in the RDBN have enjoyed a relatively stable existence subject to periodic boom and bust cycles associated with fluctuating commodity prices. However, there has not been significant re-investment in RDBN communities by senior government or industry in the last 40 years.

In recent decades there has been a progressive decline in the role of the forest products industry in the region's economy. Investment continues in the region in mining, exploration, and natural gas extraction; however, relatively little of this investment is being directed towards community development. A significant portion of the workforce associated with this new industrial activity is supported by work camps. The incentive for industry to invest in local communities is reduced as they are not reliant on the region's ability to attract workers. This compounds the long-standing inequity related to resources, profits, and revenues being generated in the region with limited return to the local community.

This situation presents a significant challenge for RDBN communities struggling with aging infrastructure, an aging homogenous housing stock, and land values that are too low in relation to the cost of development. This challenge is compounded by the social and economic implications related to the reliance on work camps to accommodate transient workers in the region. These workers use local infrastructure, resources, and services without bringing adequate new revenue to the service providers or adequately contributing to the local tax base.

As the workforce in the north becomes increasingly mobile, community growth and vitality are dependent upon a community's ability to attract residents. The ability to attract residents depends on many factors related to amenities and services, housing, and other quality of life factors. Unfortunately, improving quality of life to better compete with other areas of the province for new residents is challenging given limited financial resources and reduced community investment by the Province and industry.



The efforts of the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) to negotiate a funding agreement with the Province to ensure that an adequate portion of the financial benefits from resource development stay in the region is an important part of the solution to this situation.

The Environmental Assessment Process and Community Investment

Major industrial projects in BC must undergo an Environmental Assessment (EA) process managed by the Provincial Government. The intent of this process is to evaluate and mitigate the environmental, infrastructure, economic, social, heritage and health effects that may occur during the lifetime of a project. The challenge for the RDBN is to mitigate the potential negative impacts associated with industrial projects and increase the community investment and benefits associated with new industrial activity.

The EA process represents an opportunity to increase the community investment and legacy funding provided by industry establishing operations in the RDBN; however, efforts to obtain this investment and legacy have had limited success. This purpose of this discussion paper is to the following:

- outline the EA process, and discusses the RDBN's experience attempting to mitigate impacts and gain increased community benefit;
- outline the RDBN's land use approval process and experience using these approvals to mitigate impacts and gain increased community benefit; and
- propose new strategies to increase the RDBN's ability to minimize the negative impacts associated with future industrial development and maximize industry investment in the communities upon which they rely.

THE PROVINCIAL APPROVAL PROCESSES

Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment process is managed by the Environmental Assessment (EA) Office which is a neutral regulatory agency within the provincial government that works with scientific professionals, Indigenous groups, proponents, the public, local governments, and federal and provincial agencies to evaluate and address adverse effects associated with major project development. The EA Office follows a clearly defined process in the *Environmental Assessment Act* to conduct the assessment of a project, and then produces a detailed Assessment Report. That report is then given to provincial Ministers to decide on the issuance of an EA Certificate to allow the project to proceed.

The RDBN has been involved in the EA Process for three natural gas pipelines and three mines over the last 15 years. Each project involves hundreds of hours of staff and Board time as outlined below.



- Staff review many hundreds of pages of EA application documents and attend numerous working group meetings as necessary to identify, evaluate, and comment on the information provided. Staff focus on infrastructure, economic, and social impacts, and on the identification of opportunities for increased community benefit.
- Staff undertake research to understand the potential for impact and work with the EA Office and proponents to obtain additional information necessary to properly evaluate impacts.
- Staff report to, and obtain direction from, the Board approximately five times during the EA process for each project.

Permitting Process

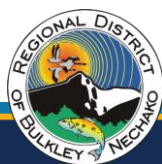
Following the EA process the project must typically receive permits from the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) or Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (MoM). These permitting agencies issue permits based strictly on provincial regulations and conditions contained in the EA Certificate. The permitting agencies do not impose permit conditions to address local government concerns unless required to do so as a condition of the EA Certificate. This is the reason for the RDBN's focus on obtaining meaningful commitments from proponents as conditions of the EA Certificate.

The RDBN has worked to obtain BCER and MoM agreement to refer permit application to the RDBN for comment. The RDBN responds to these referrals with comment regarding the RDBN's outstanding concerns and requests not adequately addressed through the EA process. This input does not typically impact the permitting process; however, it does periodically spark discussions with industry regarding their willingness to work proactively with the RDBN to address outstanding issues.

The RDBN Experience- Impact Mitigation Efforts

The biggest challenge the RDBN faces in addressing the potential negative impacts of a major project on the region during the EA process is the lack of specific information regarding the proposed mitigation efforts. EA applications commonly conclude that there will be limited negative community impacts because plans will be developed to mitigate those impacts during the permitting stage, after the EA Certificate is issued. The EA Office commonly accepts the proponent's position that addressing issues which are important to the RDBN can be deferred to the permitting stage. This approach excludes the RDBN from having any role in evaluating and commenting on mitigation measures and it allows the proponent to avoid committing to specific mitigation measures.

When the plans are developed as part of the BCER or MoM permitting process the RDBN is largely excluded from that process and has little or no ability to impact the content of those plans. The plans that the proponent develops are typically accepted by the permitting authority if they meet regulatory requirements regardless of RDBN concerns.



The RDBN Experience- Benefit and Legacy Enhancement Efforts

The RDBN's efforts to obtain increased community investment and benefit, as part of the EA process, has had limited success. The EA process focuses on mitigating specific negative impacts to the satisfaction of the EA Office. The process is not designed to allow local governments to negotiate community benefits or investment. Also, the process does not allow the RDBN to develop its positions based on any type of community engagement. The following are examples of attempts to obtain community benefits or investment as part of the EA process.

- Selection of Work Camp Locations in Support of Long Term Future Use

The RDBN has proposed that pipeline proponents work with the RDBN to locate work camps in locations which may subsequently be re-purposed for a future use such as a campground or recreation site when the project is completed. This idea was not entertained by the proponent.

- Work Camp Housing Re-purposed for Non-Market Housing

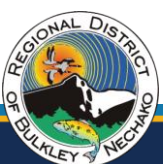
The RDBN has proposed that pipeline proponents use work camp housing that could be relocated and re-purposed as non-market housing. The RDBN was told that local governments can work directly with work camp contractors to identify the additional cost to be covered by the local government. Local governments would then be required to commit to the purchase of those buildings for an agreed upon price once the work camp was shut down.

- Work Camp Location to Facilitate Municipal Subdivision Servicing

A municipality proposed that proponents locate a work camp at the location of a future municipal subdivision so that the site development and servicing work could serve to reduce the future development costs of subdivision. The proponents provided the municipality with an estimate of the additional cost that would be passed on to the municipality for the proponent to participate in the project.

- Employee Training, Apprenticeships and Use of Local Business

The RDBN typically asks that project proponents identify strategies to facilitate the training of workers in the region and scale the size of contracts in a manner which allows local business to take advantage of the opportunity. However, there tends to be limited specific commitments regarding the steps that in support of local employment and apprenticeships, or opportunity for local business.



Proponent Engagement Outside of the EA Application Process

During the EA Application review process proponents may initiate a parallel engagement process between public relations staff and local governments which is separate from the EA process. If the RDBN and member municipalities engage in these parallel processes, it is important to ensure that this informal process does not replace participation in the EA Application review process. Any promises, commitment, or solution proposed by a proponent to address a concern during this informal process should be captured as a condition of the EA Certificate issued. Any promise, commitment, or solution proposed by a proponent outside of the EA process is not secured and follow through is entirely at the discretion of the proponent.

RDBN LAND USE APPROVALS FOR EA PROJECTS

Zoning

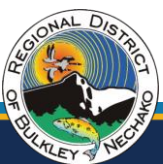
Zoning is the regulation of the use of land through the application of a specific zone which specifies the permitted uses on the land; the density of those uses; and the number, size, and siting of buildings and structures on the land. Zoning also includes regulations regarding subdivision, parking requirements, setbacks, etc. Activities under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Provincial or Federal Governments may not be regulated by zoning; however, uses associated with the activity may be regulated. For example, a mine is not subject to RDBN zoning but a facility processing the materials may be subject to zoning. A pipeline is not subject to zoning but a work camp for employees is subject to zoning.

In the RDBN work camps, construction equipment storage, compressor stations and other facilities associated with mines and pipelines are not typically permitted in any zone. Therefore, if a facility is proposed to occur on land which is zoned, the property owner must either apply for a rezoning or a Temporary Use Permit (discussed further below) to allow the use. A rezoning application would likely only be proposed for a permanent facility.

Most lands in the RDBN which are near developed areas, or which have development potential, are subject to zoning. The exception to this is Electoral Area E which does not have zoning in areas which are within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Remote areas of Crown land are typically un-zoned and the RDBN has no land use control in these areas. Facilities are commonly located outside of zoned areas and no RDBN approval is required.

Temporary Use Permits (TUPs)

TUPs allow the RDBN Board to approve a use which is not permitted by zoning for up to three years, with a three year extension. TUPs may only be issued in accordance with the Official Community Plan (OCP), which may specify general conditions regarding the issuance of TUPs. Facilities commonly associated with construction projects such as work



camp and storage areas are typically considered by the RDBN as TUP applications. As noted, the Board's approval of TUPs is only required in areas subject to RDBN zoning. Many areas of the region are not zoned and proponents commonly locate facilities in these areas, avoiding the need for RDBN approvals.

The Regional District may require an undertaking and financial security to ensure that a temporary use is removed, and a site is reclaimed following the expiry of a permit. Also, a TUP may contain conditions or terms at the discretion of the Board to address any land use issues or concerns regarding the proposed work camp. Also, as with rezoning applications, the Regional District Board has the discretion to allow, or not allow the proposed use.

In association with the issuance of a TUP, the RDBN may require the payment of any reasonable costs associated with the proposed use. For example, if a work camp were expected to result in increased RDBN operational or administrative costs they could be passed on to the applicant. Consideration of such cost recovery as part of the TUP process would require the RDBN to clearly identify the increased costs resulting from the proposed work camp to justify the fees charged. These costs would be best identified through a formal cost identification study undertaken by an independent consultant. These costs could then be applied to all applications for work camp TUP's.

Temporary Use Permit Considerations

The RDBN's review of TUP applications for uses associated with EA scale projects typically focus on issues relating to the impact of the proposed facility (noise, aesthetics, traffic, etc.) on the specific location proposed. RDBN concerns regarding issues associated with the larger project, which may not have been addressed to the satisfaction of the RDBN during the EA Application review can be challenging to deal with as part of the TUP process, even though the Board has the discretion to refuse to issue a TUP or rezone land to accommodate any use associated with a project. Proponents avoid locating facilities where RDBN approval is required, and where RDBN approvals are necessary proponents tend to delay making application to the RDBN until just prior to construction. This creates the situation where Board refusal to issue an approval will potentially delay a project which may have political implications. This is discussed further below.

Timing of Applications to the RDBN

The RDBN has spent much effort to convince proponents to make the necessary applications for required RDBN approval well in advance of construction. The RDBN has also tried to convince the EA Office require proponents to address the outstanding land use issues during the EA Application process. The Province has declined to do this, but have instead, in one case, required proponents to make the necessary TUP applications at least three months prior to the start of construction.



The concern with applications being made this close to construction is that it does not provide adequate opportunity for meaningful public consultation, and the evaluation and resolution of any outstanding public or Board concerns that may arise. Also, the application timelines do not provide the proponents adequate opportunity to identify alternative facility locations, and obtain BCER approvals, should the Board not approve the applications. This places pressure on staff and the Board to review and approve the applications quickly.

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE ACTION

This section identifies a number of actions the Board may take to increase the RDBN's ability to mitigate potential negative impacts and increase community investment and legacy associated with large scale resource development projects.

Securing Meaningful Commitments during the EA Review Process

1. Work with the Province to not accept “future plan development” as a legitimate impact mitigation measure. Mitigation requirements should be meaningful and be identified as an enforceable condition of the EA Certificate.
2. Work with the Province to ensure that the EA process considers and secures community investment and community benefit beyond the promise of employment and business opportunity.
3. Coordinate input into the EA process with member municipalities. Municipal participation and formal input into the EA process varies from project to project. The region's position on EA applications would be strengthened if all RDBN member municipalities and the RDBN Board responded independently with the same positions regarding EA applications.
4. Coordinate input into the EA process with First Nations. First Nations play an important role in the EA process and their input carries much weight with the Province and industry. Many of the RDBN's issues and concerns may be shared by First Nations, and our positions would be strengthened if the RDBN Board and First Nations coordinated input.
5. Ensure commitments made by industry outside of the EA process are captured as conditions of the EA Certificate. Without this measure commitments made outside of the EA process are implemented at the proponent's discretion.



Increase the Effectiveness of the RDBN's approval authority.

1. Work with the Province to ensure that the location of notable facilities are identified during the EA process so that the associated impacts can be evaluated and mitigated as part of the EA process.
2. Amend the Zoning Bylaw so that facilities (such as work camps over a specific size) are not permitted anywhere in the RDBN without the Board's approval through a rezoning or TUP.
3. Consider larger scale project concerns, and not just issues associated with the proposed facility, when evaluating rezoning and TUP applications for a facility associated with a project.
4. Undertake the study necessary to establish a fee to be charged as a condition of the issuance of a TUP for work camps. This fee could be based on the number of beds in a work camp. A preliminary estimate of the cost of this study is \$30,000.00.





Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: 2023/2024 Annual Operating Agreement with BC Transit

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

That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors receive the 2023/2024 Annual Operating Agreement and that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve entering into the Agreement with BC Transit.

DISCUSSION

Attached is the 2023-2024 Annual Operating Agreement (AOA) that formalizes the partnership with BC Transit to operate the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service. The table below shows the historical Local Government share of the costs indicated in Schedule "C" of the Annual Operating Agreements. In 2022 the operating costs for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service were provided by the 8 municipalities in the RDBN, the City of Prince George, and 2 First Nation partners.

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
AOA Schedule "C"	\$100,410	\$92,259	\$109,981	\$102,077	\$139,609

ATTACHMENTS:

Cover Letter from BC Transit
2023/2024 Annual Operating Agreement



March 31, 2023

BY EMAIL: deneve.vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca

Deneve Vanderwolf
Regional Transit Coordinator
Regional District Bulkley Nechako
37 3rd Avenue Burns Lake V0J 1E0

Dear Deneve Vanderwolf,

Re: FY2024 Annual Operating Agreement - Regional District Bulkley Nechako

As we provide you with your 2023-2024 Annual Operating Agreement (AOA), we want to take the opportunity to update you on changes reflected in your agreement and highlight key pieces of information for your consideration.

Our primary focus continues to be on building back transit ridership to pre-pandemic levels and supporting communities across B.C. through their ongoing recovery. As of January 2023, our total ridership has recovered to more than 90 per cent compared to 2019/20 levels. While this is positive news, it comes at a time where labour shortages still present a critical challenge and continue to impact BC Transit's recruitment and retention of transit operators and maintenance staff throughout the province.

In the meantime, we are seeing a number of exciting and innovative projects underway with plans for initial implementation this year. They include the delivery of our first 10 battery electric buses which will enter service in Victoria, as well as a province wide implementation of our new electronic fare collection system. In addition, improvements are being planned for operations and maintenance facilities and transit exchanges around the province, which are contributing to the reliability and sustainability of transit service well into the future.

While we anticipate further economic uncertainty in the months and years ahead, the \$150.6 million operating grant announced by the Province in the recently tabled provincial budget will enable BC Transit to maintain existing service levels for 2023/24. However, we continue to face challenges with fuel price volatility and a higher price per litre is reflected in the operating budget for your system. This once again reinforces the importance of adopting a low carbon fleet and continuing to reduce our overall reliance on diesel fuel.

Our service strategy for the coming year will focus on promoting and stimulating ridership growth where possible, and highlighting public transit as the more sustainable transportation option through marketing and promotion. We will begin to implement actions outlined in our Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation strategy, and take steps to fulfill requirements outlined in the Accessible BC Act. We will continue to optimize the design of our transit services, and support transit oriented

development. We will make further investments in both customer-facing technology and infrastructure, with an overall focus on operational excellence.

The language contained in the Annual Operating Agreement is regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any material changes to our funding model or other special circumstances. You will note a minor change in your 2023-2024 agreement that reflects the additional Safe Restart and Recovery funding contribution that was allocated to your system(s) in March 2022.

Finally, a reminder that the information contained in the your Detailed Schedule C budget includes commercially confidential information from our operating company and is subject to protection afforded by the *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act*. Any reports to Council or Regional Boards, or any discussions which may be made within the public realm must be limited to four line items showing Revenues, Total Operating Costs, Total Costs and Total Local Government's Share of Costs. The schedules attached your Annual Operating Agreement have been modified accordingly.

As required by the Provincial Operating Contribution Agreement, all AOA's must be signed and returned to BC Transit no later than June 30, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding your agreement or the associated budget, please contact me at ltaylor@bctransit.com at your earliest convenience so I can provide you with any additional information that you require.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Taylor
Manager, Government Relations

Enclosed: FY2024 Annual Operating Agreement

ANNUAL OPERATING AGREEMENT

between

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

and

British Columbia Transit

Effective
April 1, 2023

Information contained in Schedule 'C' Budget is subject to the *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act*. Consult with BC Transit prior to releasing information in these schedules to individuals or companies other than those who are party to this agreement.

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ANNUAL OPERATING AGREEMENT

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

BETWEEN: **Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**
(the "Municipality")

AND: **British Columbia Transit**
(the "Authority")

WHEREAS the Authority is authorized to contract for transit services for the purpose of providing and maintaining those services and facilities necessary for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a public passenger transportation system in the Transit Service Area;

WHEREAS the Municipality is authorized to enter into one or more agreements with the Authority for transit services in the Transit Service Area;

WHEREAS the parties hereto have entered into a Transit Service Agreement which sets out the general rights and responsibilities of the parties hereto;

WHEREAS the Municipality and the Authority are authorized to share in the costs for the provision of a Public Passenger Transportation System pursuant to the *British Columbia Transit Act*;

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto wish to enter into an Annual Operating Agreement which sets out, together with the Transit Service Agreement, the specific terms and conditions for the Public Passenger Transportation System for the upcoming term.

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH that in consideration of the premises and of the covenants hereinafter contained, the parties covenant and agree with each other as follows:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Unless agreed to otherwise in the Annual Operating Agreement, the definitions set out in the Transit Service Agreement shall apply to this Annual Operating Agreement including:

- a) *"Annual Operating Agreement"* shall mean this Annual Operating Agreement and any Annual Operating Agreement Amendments negotiated and entered into by the parties subsequent hereto;
- b) *"Transit Service Agreement"* shall mean the Transit Service Agreement between the parties to this Annual Operating Agreement, including any amendments made thereto;
- c) *"Incurred"* means an event or transaction has taken place for which an obligation to pay exists, even if an invoice has not been received, such that the underlying evidence indicates there is little or no discretion to avoid the obligation. The value of the obligation is to be calculated in accordance with recognized Canadian accounting standards.

SECTION 2: INCORPORATION OF SCHEDULES

All schedules to this agreement are incorporated into the agreement, and form part of the agreement.

SECTION 3: INCORPORATION OF TRANSIT SERVICE AGREEMENT

Upon execution, this Annual Operating Agreement shall be deemed integrated into the Transit Service Agreement and thereafter, the Transit Service Agreement and Annual Operating Agreement shall be read together as a single integrated document and shall be deemed to be the Annual Operating Agreement for the purposes of the *British Columbia Transit Act*, as amended from time to time.

SECTION 4: TERM AND RENEWAL

- a) The parties agree that the effective date of this agreement is to be April 1, 2023, whether or not the agreements have been fully executed by the necessary parties. Once this agreement and the associated Transit Service Agreement are duly executed, this agreement will replace all provisions in the existing Transit Service Agreement and Master Operating Agreement with respect to the rights and obligations as between the Authority and the Municipality.
- b) Upon commencement in accordance with Section 4(a) of this agreement, the term of this agreement shall be to March 31, 2024, except as otherwise provided herein. It is acknowledged by the parties that in the event of termination or non-renewal of the Annual Operating Agreement, the Transit Service Agreement shall likewise be so terminated or not renewed, as the case may be.
- c) Either party may terminate this agreement as follows:
 - i. Cancellation by the Authority: In the event that the Authority decides to terminate this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, the Authority shall provide at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior written notice. Such notice to be provided in accordance with Section 12.
 - ii. Cancellation by the Municipality: In the event that the Municipality decides to terminate this Transit Service Agreement for any reason whatsoever, and by extension, the Annual Operating Agreement, the Municipality shall provide at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior written notice. Such notice to be provided in accordance with Section 12.

SECTION 5: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

This Agreement and the parties hereto are subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA). Any information developed in the performance of this Agreement, or any personal information obtained, collected, or stored pursuant to this Agreement, including database information, shall be deemed confidential and subject to the provisions of FOIPPA, including the handling, storage, access and security of such information. Confidential information shall not be disclosed to any third party except as expressly permitted by the Authority or pursuant to the requirements of FOIPPA.

SECTION 6: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

In the event of any dispute arising between or among the parties as to their respective rights and obligations under this Agreement, or in the event of a breach of this Agreement, the parties agree to use their best efforts to find resolution through a mediated settlement. However, in the event that mediation is not successful in finding a resolution satisfactory to all parties involved, any party shall be entitled to give to the other notice of such dispute and to request arbitration thereof; and the parties may, with respect to the particular matter then in dispute, agree to submit the same to a single arbitrator in accordance with the applicable statutes of the Province of British Columbia.

SECTION 7: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- a) Amendment: This agreement may only be amended in writing as signed by the Municipality and the Authority and specifying the effective date of the amendment.
- b) Assignment: This Agreement shall not be assignable without prior written consent of the parties.
- c) Enurement: This Agreement shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors.
- d) The parties agree that this agreement is in substantial compliance with all relevant legislative requirements to establish the rights and obligations of the parties as set out in the *British Columbia Transit Act*.

SECTION 8: LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESERVES

British Columbia Transit service is provided using a cost-sharing model. Where any transit-related contributions are received and/or third-party revenues are earned that are in excess of expenses, the Authority is required to hold these excess funds in a reserve account for use against transit-related expenditures in future years. When unanticipated expenditures occur that were not included in the budget and cannot be covered by reserves, the Authority will seek to recover these based on the cost-sharing ratios between the Municipality and the Authority.

Eligible Operating Expenses

The Authority will invoice the Municipality and collect on monthly invoices based on incurred eligible operating expenses to provide Transit Service. Eligible operating expenses are comprised of the following costs of providing Public Passenger Transportation Systems:

- a) For *Conventional Transit Service*:
 - i. the operating costs for providing Conventional Transit Service excluding interest and amortization;
 - ii. the amount of any operating lease costs of BC Transit for Conventional Transit Services;
 - iii. the amount of the municipal administration charge not exceeding 2% of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement;
 - iv. an amount of the Annual Operating Costs of the Authority not exceeding 8% of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement.
- b) For *Custom and Paratransit Transit Service*:
 - i. the operating costs for providing Custom Transit Service excluding interest and amortization, but including the amount paid by the Authority to redeem taxi saver coupons issued under the Taxi Saver Program after deducting from that amount the amount realized from the sale of those coupons;
 - ii. the amount of any operating lease costs of the Authority for Custom Transit Service;
 - iii. the amount of the municipal administration charge not exceeding 2% of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement; and
 - iv. an amount of the Annual Operating Costs of the Authority not exceeding 8% of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement.
- c) Eligible operating expenses exclude the costs of providing third-party 100%-funded services.
- d) Annual operating costs of the Authority are operations, maintenance and administration costs that are for the shared benefit of all transit systems operated by the Authority. These costs are allocated to each transit system on a pro rata basis, based on the nature of the costs.

Lease Fees

The Authority will invoice the Municipality and collect on monthly invoices for lease fees on tangible capital assets owned by the Authority that are used in the provision of transit service. Lease fees are comprised of the following:

- a) The Municipality's fee for use of the asset, including for the costs of acquisition, construction, development and betterment of the asset and the costs of installing the asset at the location and condition necessary for its intended use;
- b) Debt financing and risk-related charges or costs payable on assets;
- c) Payment into a reserve fund for preventative maintenance and major repair of assets owned or leased by the authority;
- d) Amounts sufficient for the Authority to recover all other costs relating to the asset, including, but not limited to taxes and administrative charges.

Where lease fees are received that exceed actual asset-related expenses in any given period, these will be placed in a pooled reserve. This reserve will be used to offset against future lease fees as outlined above.

Reserve Funds

The Authority will establish the following for each transit system to record the contributions that have been received but not yet earned as follows:

- a) **Local Transit Fund:** Contributions by the Municipality towards eligible operating expenses that have been received but not matched with a Provincial share contribution will be deferred in the Local Transit Fund.
 - i. Any expenditure of monies from the Local Transit Fund will:
 1. only be credited towards the Municipality's share of expenses for the transit system for which it was collected.
 2. be applied to reduce Municipal invoices at the discretion of the Municipality as agreed to under the Annual Operating Agreement or amendments as required.
 - ii. The Local Transit Fund may be used towards lease fees.
 - iii. The Authority will provide a quarterly statement of account of the Local Transit Fund balance including contributions, amounts utilized and interest earned.

SECTION 9: SAFE RESTART CONTRIBUTION

Under the Safe Restart Program, the federal and provincial governments provided joint, non-recurring contributions to transit systems in British Columbia (the "Safe Restart Contribution") in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The Authority applied the Safe Restart Contributions as follows:

- a) As an allocation towards the Municipality's share of eligible operating expenses in the fiscal year of the contribution;
- b) After applying the allocation of Safe Restart Contribution, any excess contributions received from the Municipality were deferred to the Local Transit Fund;
- c) The Authority will apply the remaining Local Transit Fund balance to reduce 2022/23 and future municipal invoices at the discretion of the Municipality as agreed to under an Annual Operating Agreement or amendments as required.

It is expected that by receiving the Safe Restart contribution, the Municipality will work with the Authority to maintain targeted essential transit service levels by not reducing transit service below existing planned service levels and maintain affordability by limiting annual fare increases to an average of 2.3% from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2025.

SECTION 10: GOVERNING LAW

This agreement is governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, the laws of the Province of British Columbia, with respect to those matters within provincial jurisdiction, and in accordance with the laws of Canada with respect to those matters within the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada.

SECTION 11: COUNTERPARTS

This contract and any amendment hereto may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which shall be considered to be one and the same contract. A signed facsimile or PDF copy of this contract, or any amendment, shall be effective and valid proof of execution and delivery.

SECTION 12: NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

All notices, claims and communications required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently given if personally delivered to a designated officer of the parties hereto to whom it is addressed where an electronic signed document is emailed to the parties or if mailed by prepaid registered mail to the Authority at:

British Columbia Transit
c/o Executive Assistant, Strategy and Public Affairs
PO Box 9861
520 Gorge Road East
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

and to the Municipality at:

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
37 3rd Avenue
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

and, if so mailed, shall be deemed to have been received five (5) days following the date of such mailing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hand this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

British Columbia Transit

Vice President, Strategy and Public Affairs

Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer

SCHEDULE A: TARIFF AND FARES**APPENDIX 1: TARIFF NOTES**

Passenger Categories: There shall be the following passenger categories:

- a) Child - a person who is under six (6) years of age.
- b) Student - a person, other than a child, who is:
 - a) under the age of 21 years; and
 - i. regularly attending classes at a public or private school at or below the level of Grade 12; and
 - ii. the holder of a current Student I.D. Card or other identification approved by the Municipality.
- c) Senior - a person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or over and the holder of valid identification.
- d) Adult - a person not defined as a child, student or senior.

Mode of Payment: There shall be the following modes of payment:

- a) Fare - an entitlement to ride upon the services of the Public Passenger Transportation System, as defined in terms of the Passenger Category, time and Zones of travel.
- b) Cash - legal tender issued by the authority of the Government of Canada for use as money, or the equivalent in legal tender issued by the authority of the Government of the United States of America for use as money
- c) Ticket - a prepaid form of fare, issued by the Municipality, for use in lieu of cash, for payment of a single fare.
- d) Single Fare - payment of a fare by means of cash or ticket, for individual travel within designated zones, and within a specified period of time.
- e) BC Bus Pass - a Pass available to BC residents who receive:
 - Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement with the Old Age Security Pension or Spouse's Allowance (60 years and older); or
 - Disability allowance under BC Benefits (18-64 years of age)
- f) Canadian National Institute of the Blind Pass – a pass available to those who are certified by the Institute and are residents of B.C.

Terms and Conditions: There shall be the following terms and conditions:

- a) Young Children - Not more than four children under five years of age who board a vehicle with, and who are at all times accompanied by an Adult, Student or Senior, shall be carried free.
- b) Proof of fare when boarding - Each passenger boarding a transit vehicle must present proof of a valid fare by means of either:
 - i) deposit of correct Fare in the farebox, plus presentation of any entitlement to a reduced fare; or
- c) BC Bus Pass - A Provincial Pass honoured only upon compliance with all of the following conditions:
 - i) valid only for year indicated;
 - ii) valid only when presented face-up and unfolded; void if mutilated or altered;
 - iii) valid only when presented with signature of bearer.
- d) CNIB Pass - A Canadian National Institute of the Blind pass will be honoured only upon compliance of the following conditions:
 - i) valid only for year indicated;
 - ii) valid only when presented face-up and unfolded; void if mutilated or altered;
 - iii) valid only when presented with signature of bearer.

Fares: For each one-way passenger trip

Effective as of September, 2021

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| a) | Cash Fares | |
| | Adult/Students/Seniors | \$5.00 |
| | Child (12 or under) | Free |
| b) | Tickets (sheet of 10): | |
| | Adult/Students/Seniors | \$45.00 |
| c) | BC Bus Pass valid for the current calendar year and available through the Government of British Columbia BC Bus Pass Program. | |
| d) | CNIB Identification Card available from the local office of the CNIB. | |
| f) | BC Transit Employee Bus Pass | |

Fares valid on Regional Service only.

SCHEDULE B: SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

The Local Transit Service Area for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit service shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Town of Smithers, the Village of Telkwa, the District of Houston, the Village of Granisle, the Village of Burns Lake, the Village of Fraser Lake, the District of Fort St. James, and the District of Vanderhoof, as per Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Bylaw No. 1790.

The Annual Service Level for Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service shall be **2,700** Revenue Service Hours.

The Exception Days recognized annually for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service are:

Exception Day	Service Level
Good Friday	No Service
Easter Monday	Regular Service
Victoria Day	No Service
Canada Day	No Service
BC Day	No Service
Labour Day	No Service
Truth and Reconciliation Day	Regular Service
Thanksgiving Day	No Service
Remembrance Day	No Service
Christmas Day	No Service
Boxing Day	No Service
New Year's Day	No Service
Family Day	No Service

SCHEDULE C: BUDGET**BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

	OFFICIAL AOA 2023/24
TOTAL REVENUE	25,802
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	513,819
TOTAL COSTS (including Local Government Share of Lease Fees)	514,889
NET LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF COSTS	139,609



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: Transit Service Bylaw Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

(all/directors/majority)

That the Board direct staff to initiate the process to amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" to increase the requisition limit to \$200,000 and include interested Electoral Areas as identified at the June 8, 2023 Rural / Agricultural Committee Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bulkley Nechako Transit Service (BNTS) started operations in June of 2017 to provide transit service along the Highway 16 corridor from Burns Lake to Smithers and Burns Lake to Prince George. The BNTS service participants are the RDBN's member municipalities.

In 2024 the RDBN's operational costs for the service are predicted to exceed the maximum requisition amount of \$90,000 established in Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790. Therefore, staff are recommending that the bylaw be amended to increase the maximum taxation requisition to \$200,000. Staff also recommend that the bylaw be amended to include all Electoral Areas as the BNTS best functions as a regional service and ridership by rural residents appears to be equal to that of municipal residents.

OVERVIEW OF TRANSIT SYSTEM OPERATIONS

The BNTS started operations in June of 2017. A component of the Province's Highway 16 Action Plan, the service was established by the RDBN at the Province's request, to address the lack of public transportation along Highway 16 and to reduce hitchhiking along the Highway 16 corridor. Since its establishment, the BNTS has seen consistent ridership and has proven itself to be a valuable service to the region.

The service includes two routes that are based out of Burns Lake. Route 161 travels on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday making a round trip to Prince George. Route 162 travels on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday making a round trip to Smithers, with an additional midday run to Houston and back to Smithers before returning to Burns Lake. The cost of a one-way ride is \$5 and there is an option for riders to purchase a sheet of 10 tickets for \$45.

Bus Stop Locations	Bus Stop Numbers
Vanderhoof	4 locations / 1 shelter
Fraser Lake	3 locations / 1 shelter
Burns Lake	9 locations / 2 shelters
Houston	10 locations / 2 shelter
Telkwa	2 locations / 1 shelter
Smithers	6 locations / 2 shelters
Electoral Area A	Laidlaw Road / shelter Quick Road West / sign
Electoral Area B	Duncan Lake Rd. / sign Decker Lake / sign Tintagel rest stop / sign Palling Reserve / shelter
Electoral Area D	Endako Pub /sign Fort Fraser / sign Nautley Reserve / sign Stellaquo Reserve / shelter
Electoral Area F	Cluculz Lake rest stop / sign
Electoral Area G	Topley / shelter

Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016

["Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit \(Highway 16\) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016"](#) was established for the purpose of providing the transit service along the Highway 16 corridor. Electoral Areas are not part of the service and do not contribute taxation to the operation of the service. However, grant in aid support from Electoral Areas has been provided in past years.

The Bylaw authorizes a maximum annual requisition of \$90,000 for the cost of the service. The cost is apportioned between municipalities based on their population with a benefit

factor for on-corridor participants of 5 and for off-corridor participants of 1. This means that off-corridor residents (Fort St. James and Granisle) are taxed at 1/5 the rate of residents along Hwy. 16.

Transit Service Agreement and Annual Operating Agreement

The service is a partnership between the RDBN and BC Transit. The terms of the partnership are outlined in the [Transit Service Agreement \(TSA\)](#) entered into in 2017, and Annual Operating Agreements (AOAs) entered into annually.

The TSA outlines the respective RDBN and BC Transit responsibilities as follows:

- The RDBN is responsible for reviewing and approving service and performance standards based on operating and capital budgets set by BC Transit, establishing and collecting the fares and other revenues, and recommending the annual operating budget for BC Transit approval.
- BC Transit is responsible for setting the annual budget, leasing transit vehicles to the transit service operator, managing the contract with the transit service operator, marketing, and conducting service audits and recommending standards of service to the RDBN.

The TSA and AOA do not contain any agreement regarding the cost sharing formula between the RDBN and BC Transit. The agreement is by [letter from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure \(MoTI\)](#). The Ministry has agreed to maintain their funding of 66.7% of costs for the BNTS until March 31, 2025 for operational costs only. A conventional transit system is funded by BC Transit at 46.69%. There is no agreement for cost sharing for future capital costs.

Bus Stops and Transit Shelters

When the transit service was established in 2017 MoTI entered into written agreements with municipalities and First Nations (Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake, Houston, and Wet'suwet'en First Nation) that MoTI would build the Bus Stops and Transit Shelters and that the municipality and First Nation would be responsible for maintenance and any associated liability for the shelters.

MoTI built the bus stops and transit shelters in the rural area. The RDBN has not agreed to be responsible for replacement or maintenance of any of the infrastructure in the rural area as it is outside of the service area. However, BC Transit staff have indicated a desire for the RDBN to take responsibility for the infrastructure in the rural area. This is an area for

future negotiation under the AOA process as the RDBN and BC Transit must agree on any new bus stop or transit shelter related costs. Snow clearing around bus stops in the rural area is undertaken by MoTI contractors, and the Town of Smithers empties the garbage at the Laidlaw Road bus stop.

Requests for all new bus shelters or bus stops in the rural area, in municipalities and on First Nations reserves must be made by the RDBN according to Provincial policy, and only the RDBN can access grant funding annually for 80% of new shelters through BC Transit's Shelter Program. Under the grant program 20% of shelter construction and installation costs and cost overruns is the responsibility of the RDBN unless a different funding arrangement is negotiated in the AOA. This includes new infrastructure on reserve.

Inclusion of Electoral Areas within the service establishment bylaw would allow the RDBN to formalize the RDBN's role regarding transit infrastructure in the rural area and allow for improved rural infrastructure.

Bus Replacement

In a conventional system lease fees are a cost share between the local government partner and BC Transit. The total monthly lease cost for each of the light duty buses that are in service for the BNTS would be \$3,092. This is the standard lease fee rate charged for all light duty buses, then depending on the funding agreement with BC Transit, the Local Government would pay their share. If the BNTS was a conventionally funded system this would translate to an annual cost to the RDBN of \$24,488 per bus and if lease payments were funded under the current funding formula the annual cost to the RDBN would be \$12,244 per bus.

When the transit service was established in 2017 BC Transit supplied the 3 buses required to operate the service. The buses have a 30 passenger capacity and are equipped with wheelchair lifts. These buses are scheduled for replacement in 2023. Staff have received a verbal indication from BC Transit that the busses will be replaced in 2023 with Provincial and Federal funding, however, this has not been confirmed in writing.

Ridership

The following table provides 2022 ridership numbers. The BNTS was one of the few systems in the province where Covid-19 had little effect on ridership numbers.

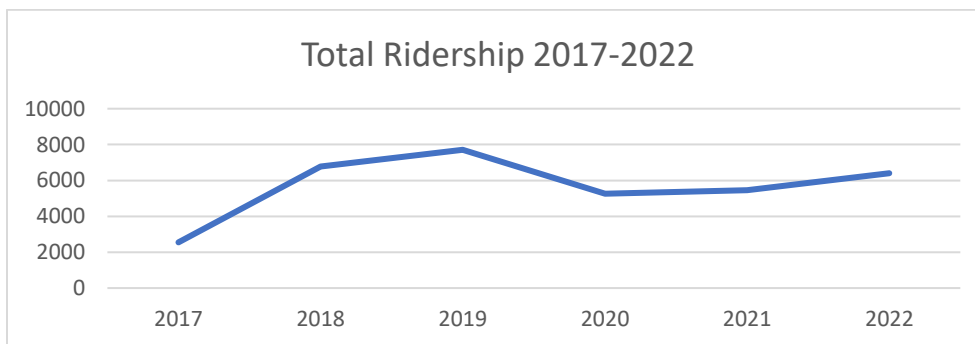
Monthly Ridership 2017-2022

Route 161 – Burns Lake to Prince George

YR	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	318	306	427	290	310	368	293	446	319	440	399	402	4318
2021	227	249	353	253	295	301	364	357	285	324	249	312	3569
2020	423	430	328	112	198	275	258	170	268	326	228	273	3289
2019	443	272	451	432	420	395	496	249	413	503	554	512	5140
2018	361	299	394	306	491	410	433	368	364	460	473	374	4733
2017							261	316	288	339	275	362	1841

Route 162 – Burns Lake to Smithers

YR	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	130	110	204	182	186	164	173	241	144	175	174	195	2078
2021	125	118	164	158	136	242	176	163	118	150	161	135	1846
2020	166	239	158	114	107	190	194	97	192	189	182	144	1972
2019	216	161	210	266	228	226	232	86	206	185	325	227	2568
2018	230	95	121	160	211	195	166	189	166	175	190	148	2046
2017							153	123	90	131	90	120	707



A survey of riders was conducted in 2017 (November), 2018 (March, July, and December), and 2019 (May and November) to better understand where transit riders live. A total of 23% of riders filled out the survey. Results indicate that rural ridership was slightly higher than municipal ridership. The survey report was presented at the [October 2020 Regional Transit Committee meeting](#) (link).

Operating Costs

A breakdown of the budget for the transit service in 2023 is outlined below.

Revenue	
Municipal Taxation	\$89,500
City of PG / First Nations Partners	\$52,500
BC Transit Grant	\$9,000
User Fees	\$24,000
2022 surplus	\$36,500
Total	\$211,500
Expenses	
BC Transit AOA	\$170,000 (net \$140,000 after revenue)
Salary and Benefits	\$22,000
Other	\$24,000
Total	\$211,500

The surplus from 2022 was due to Covid Grant Funding of \$37,572

First Nations Contribution

First Nations participation in the service is limited. Of the six on-route First Nation communities 4 do not contribute consistently. First Nation funding for the last two years has totalled \$2,500 annually. None of the off-route communities contribute. First Nations participation is on an annual basis and is not secured by agreement.

Staff have initiated preliminary discussions with BC Transit's Manager of Indigenous Relations regarding First Nations participation in the service that is consistent, equitable, and manageable for the RDBN.

Transit Service Future Plan

BC Transit has recently completed a draft Transit Service Future Plan based on a review of the performance of the system and customer's input. The plan identifies measures that may be taken to further support and improve the service moving forward. BC Transit will be presenting this draft plan at the June 8, 2023, Transit Committee meeting.

THE PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND TAXATION

The RDBN is expected to reach the taxation limit established under "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" in 2024. The bylaw must be amended in 2023 for the service to continue as structured.

At the June 4, 2020 Rural / Agriculture Committee Meeting staff recommended that Bylaw No. 1970 be amended to include Electoral Areas and increase the maximum requisition amount to \$150,000. Consideration of this recommendation was deferred. A memo was brought back to the November 5th 2020 Rural / Agriculture Committee Meeting regarding Electoral Area participation in the BNTS. The Committee received the memo and provided no further direction to staff.

The issue was again raised with the Board at their January 2022 Board meeting. At this meeting staff were directed to discuss the report back to the Board with recommendations regarding amendments to "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" to include Electoral Areas and increase the requisition limit following further discussions at the Rural / Agriculture Committee.

Taxation Breakdown Scenarios for 2024

The table below shows the projected taxation options for the BNTS in 2024, compared to 2023 taxation. The increased costs in 2024 results from the end of BC Transit's funding of 25% of the cost of the RDBN's Transit Coordinator position in 2023, and an overall general increase in operating costs.

Contributor	\$90,000 Taxation In 2023	\$135,000 Taxation Projected 2024	%	\$135,000 Taxation Projected 2024	%
Smithers	\$28,111	\$42,166	31%	\$23,400	17.3%
Telkwa	\$7,704	\$11,557	8.5%	\$6,413	4.8%
Houston	\$15,953	\$23,929	17.5%	\$13,279	9.8%
Granisle	\$352	\$528	0.5%	\$293	0.2%
Burns Lake	\$8,671	\$13,007	9.5%	\$7,218	5.3%
Fraser Lake	\$5,044	\$7,566	5.5%	\$4,199	3.1%
Fort St. James	\$1,449	\$2,173	1.6	\$1,206	0.9%
Vanderhoof	\$22,716	\$34,074	25%	\$18,910	14.0%
Electoral Area "A"				\$24,309	18.0%
Electoral Area "B"				\$7,423	5.5%
Electoral Area "C" (1/5 cost				\$1,102	0.8%
Electoral Area "D"				\$6,992	5.2%
Electoral Area "E" (1/5 cost)				\$1,316	1.0%
Electoral Area "F"				\$15,303	11.3%
Electoral Area "G"				\$3,637	2.7%
TOTAL	\$90,000	\$135,000	100%	\$135,000	100%

Staff's opinion is that the BNTS functions as a regional service and is important to the rural residents and the region's First Nations. Therefore, it is reasonable for the Electoral Areas to participate in support of the service - if it is to continue. Electoral Area participation would also help resolve infrastructure funding challenges associated with maintaining infrastructure (capital cost-bus replacement) and improving service outside of municipalities.

THE BYLAW AMENDMENT PROCESS

The process to amend "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" to include Electoral Areas and increase the requisition limit includes the following steps.

Step 1 - Confirmation of Bylaw amendment (May 18, 2023)

Step 2 - Rural / Agriculture Committee regarding Electoral Area participation (June 8, 2023)

Step 3 - Board 1st, 2nd, 3rd readings of Bylaw 1790 amendment bylaw (June, 22, 2023)

Step 4 - Municipal Council's authorization of Bylaw 1790 amendment bylaw (August 2023)

Step 5 - Submission of Bylaw 1790 amendment bylaw to Province (September, 2023)

Step 6 - Provincial approval of Bylaw 1790 amendments 60 day estimate (November, 2023)

Step 7 - Board adoption of Bylaw 1790 amendment bylaw (December, 2023)

The bylaw can be amended with the consent of at least 2/3 of the participants. This includes 2/3 of the eight current participating areas plus the proposed participating areas. The Electoral Area directors of the proposed participating areas must provide their consent in writing.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ["Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit \(Highway 16\) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" \(link\)](#)
2. [Transit Service Agreement \(TSA\) \(link\)](#)
3. [October 2020 Regional Transit Committee meeting \(link\)](#).



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Curtis Helgesen, CAO
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: RDBN 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan

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

That the Board adopt the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan as presented.

DISCUSSION

The Board completed a strategic planning session on April 20th and 21st with BD Carruthers and Associates. The consultant, Brian Carruthers, led the session with the Board and senior staff to discuss the Board's vision for the future, strategic focus areas, along with goals and objectives.

Following the sessions, a draft 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan was completed and was presented to the Board at the In-Camera meeting on May 4, 2023. The Plan is now ready for adoption.

Once adopted, staff will commence implementation of the Plan and report quarterly to the Board. Some aspects of the Plan will require the Board to provide further direction on the options and prioritization as presented by staff during the implementation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. RDBN 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

2022-2026 Strategic Plan



WWW.RDBN.BC.CA

INFO@RDBN.BC.CA

1-250-692-3195

1-800-320-3339

37 3RD AVE, PO BOX 820 BURNS LAKE, BC V0J 1E0

VISION

“A World of Opportunities Within Our Region”

MISSION

“We Will Foster Social,
Environmental, and
Economic Opportunities
Within Our Diverse Region
Through Effective Leadership”

INTRODUCTION

BD Carruthers and Associates was engaged by the RDBN to facilitate the development of a corporate strategic plan for the 2022-26 term of office. The following strategic plan framework reflects the input and perspectives provided by Directors and staff in workshops on April 21 & 22. The participants engaged in thoughtful and strategic discussions on the various elements of the strategic plan and the information received was sorted, analyzed, and prioritized, and has informed the structure and content contained in this report.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Bulkley - Nechako region is defined by its quality of life, with a slower pace, a safe and affordable environment to raise a family, diverse opportunities to make a good living, communities that are friendly and welcoming, and a sense of freedom not found in urban centres. The region is primarily rural in nature with an abundance of outdoor recreation amenities and opportunities, which contribute to the quality of life for residents and attracts visitors from around the world. First Nations communities have occupied the lands and waters of the region since time immemorial and have a great influence on the culture and economy of the region. Other cultures are increasingly calling the region home due to affordability of housing and opportunities for employment. The forestry sector continues to play an important role in the region's economy. However, change is anticipated which will result in an increased reliance on the mining and agriculture sectors and a shift to a more diverse economy. Highway 16, the CN Rail corridor, the Port of Prince Rupert and gas pipeline development contribute significantly to the region's economic future. While remote work is enabling a shift in the workforce and demographics, the lack of connectivity in the region is limiting those opportunities.

As we look to the future, there is growth in our population as people are drawn to the north in search of affordable real estate and a quality of life, resulting in younger, more vibrant communities. We are able to strike a balance between preserving our values and accommodating growth and we maintain our sense of community. We practice responsible planning and development to ensure the desirable attributes of our region are preserved and we manage the impacts of growth and development on our environment. We have adequate housing opportunities, and our communities have access to high-speed internet service. The region has a more diversified, stable economy and our local governments have a reliable and sustainable funding source to support services and infrastructure development.

OUR ROLE

As a regional government, we provide quality services that contribute to the liveability of our region and we advocate on behalf of our residents, businesses and industry on important issues that impact our communities. As elected officials, we are conduits of information between our citizens and the Board and we lead through challenging or uncomfortable situations and make difficult decisions. We foster trust from our citizens through our decisions and actions, which are focused on the common good and we develop partnerships and collaborate with other local governments, First Nations, and community organizations to effectively address needs and challenges in our communities and the region.

OUR COMMITMENTS

As a Board and as individual Directors, we will strive to:

- be fair and consistent in our decisions and our application of our policies and bylaws;
- be transparent and open in our decision-making;
- have an open mind and consider all the information that comes before us; and
- be patient, respectful and supportive of our colleagues, staff and others.

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan was developed by the Board of Directors to establish a collective direction for the regional district and ensure that our decisions, activities and policies are connected, and in alignment with the Board's goals and objectives. The plan will help focus and prioritize the use of our resources, while considering the capacity of our staff. It will also serve as a communication tool to inform our citizens and help advance our goals with external partners. The plan will inform the development of our annual budgets and departmental work plans. Quarterly reports to the Board and the Annual Report will allow us to review, communicate, and celebrate progress in achieving our goals and update the plan as necessary.



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS:

1. Relationships with First Nations

Goal

To enhance relationships with First Nations in the region and explore opportunities to collaborate and work in partnership for the benefit of our communities.

Why is it important?

As a Board, we embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation. Conversations and dialogue will help to build awareness, understanding and trust and enable us to work together on important issues and achieve better outcomes for our communities.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.1** Extend invitations for informal meetings/meals with each First Nations government in the region.
- 1.2** Share and discuss respective strategic goals and objectives to identify opportunities for cooperation and collaboration on areas of mutual interest.
- 1.3** Investigate and identify opportunities for the RDBN to provide specific services to First Nations Communities.



2. *Advocacy with the Province*

Goal

To advocate and build relationships with provincial ministries to ensure the needs of the region are represented, impacts on our communities from their decisions and policies are understood, and adequate resources are made available to support new and increasing expectations of local government.

Why is it important?

The needs and aspirations of our region are often misunderstood or overlooked and we are increasingly faced with the costs of responding to new requirements and regulations imposed by the provincial government. It is important that we communicate our issues effectively and ensure that an appropriate share of resource revenues flow back to the region.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Support efforts to secure an agreement under the Resource Benefits Alliance by engaging with our communities and consistently messaging our expectations to the Province.
- 2.2 Identify and prioritize topics and issues for provincial advocacy and advance our interests by developing strategic and consistent messaging, and offering solutions that are aligned with mutual goals.
- 2.3 Extend invitations to ministers or senior ministry staff to visit our region so they can observe and discuss our issues and interests in-person.



3. Housing Supply

Goal

To ensure there is an adequate supply and variety of housing options for our citizens.

Why is it important?

There is currently a lack of housing options in the region which impacts availability and affordability and our ability to attract and retain residents.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1** Provide support to the non-profit sector in their pursuit of affordable housing projects and initiatives.
- 3.2** Advocate with the Province for appropriate rules and regulations to reduce impediments to housing development and better-reflect the needs of northern residents.
- 3.3** Investigate opportunities for the regional district to plan for and/or support the development of workforce housing.



4. Community and Economic Sustainability

Goal

To identify and pursue opportunities to support and diversify our economy.

Why is it important?

A strong economy is essential to grow the region, maintain our quality of life, retain our workforce and ensure our communities are healthy and resilient.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Convene a tourism summit to better-understand the needs of the tourism sector and explore how the regional district can support and advance tourism in the region.
- 4.2 Revisit, prioritize and advance recommendations of the RDBN Food and Agriculture Plan and the work of the Agriculture Coordinator.
- 4.3 Continue advocacy efforts with the Federal and Provincial governments, First Nations communities and industry for high-speed internet service and explore innovative solutions for high-speed internet service in partnership with the Connectivity Committee and other partners.





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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board

From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services

Date: May 18, 2023

Subject: Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2023 – September 18-22, 2023 – Vancouver, B.C.
- Attendance Authorization
- Resolution Deadline
- Minister/Ministry Staff Meetings

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the UBCM Convention from September 18-22, 2023 in Vancouver, B.C.

BACKGROUND

This year's UBCM Convention is being held in Vancouver, B.C. from September 18-22, 2023. At this time, as per RDBN policy, formal authorization is being requested for Rural Directors to attend. The CAO and Deputy CAO will also be attending this event as per past practice.

The UBCM resolution deadline is June 30, 2023. The June 8th Committee of the Whole Agenda will include a discussion item in this regard. If the Board wishes to submit any resolutions, the topic and background information should be submitted to staff by June 12th for staff to draft and include on the June 22nd Board Agenda for approval.

The June 8th Committee of the Whole Agenda will also include a discussion item in regard to Minister/Ministry Staff Meeting requests. We have not yet received information in regard to the deadline for submitting these requests.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Grant in Aid for Areas B (Burns Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) – St. Luke’s on the Lake**

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

That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) and Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies (\$2,500 each) to the St. Luke’s on the Lake Society for the construction of a lawn shed.

BACKGROUND

Please see the attached application for further detail.

The Grant in Aid Balance for Area B is \$21,278

The Grant in Aid Balance for Area E is \$13,740

Directors Michael Riis-Christianson and Clint Lambert are supportive of the application.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Grant in Aid Application Form

From: website@rdbn.bc.ca
To: [Nellie Davis](#); andy@abcweblink.ca
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: [POSSIBLE SPAM] Website Form Submission – Online Grant in Aid Application Form
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:59:25 PM
Importance: Low

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

There has been a submission of the form Online Grant in Aid Application Form through your concrete5 website.

Organization Legal Name:

St Luke's on the Lake Society

Organization Mailing Address:

731 Francois Lake East Rd Francois Lake BC

Contact Name:

Donna Fowler - Society chair person

Contact Email Address:

donna.fowler52@yahoo.ca

Contact Phone Number:

12506956385

Contact Name:

Donna Fowler

Contact Phone Number:

12506956385

Contact Email Address:

donna.fowler52@yahoo.ca

Project or purpose for which you require assistance:

Our heritage project focus has moved from the building to the grounds. We hope to make the grounds much more accessible to the beach area as well to focus on the historic old cemetery. We will be attempting to purchase a new lawn mower this year. We will require a safe place to store this as well as some of our maintenance tools. So we are making it our goal, for this year, to build a proper sustainable shed.

Amount of Grant Requested:

5000

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information that is provided in this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I hereby certify that this application for assistance is NOT being made on behalf of an individual, industry, commercial or business:

Yes

Please describe the services/benefits that your organization provides to the community. Are these services/benefits available to the community from another organization or agency?:

Our Society offers the following community services:

1. Annual Art and Quilt shows
2. Community picnic opportunities
- 3 Music services
4. Armchair Travel presentations
5. Historical presentations - ie History of the Cheslatta Nations
6. Weddings
7. Memorials
8. Cemetery visits

Which RDBN electoral area(s) receive services or benefits from your organization?:

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Is your organization voluntary and non-profit?:

Yes

Please detail any remuneration paid, or funds otherwise made available to members, officers, etc. of your organization.:

n/a

Please comment on the number of members/volunteers in your organization and how long your organization has been in operation.:

Four executive members and three directors

Our Non Profit Society was established in 2012

Assistance is being requested for::

Capital project and/or equipment

Other Purpose:

We wish to also clear a trail to the lake so would require help to do this as we are all Seniors

Please describe the project/event for which you are requesting assistance. If you are applying for an exemption from fees and/or charges or other consideration, please provide details of your request here. Attach additional information if required.:

NB: see above please

We are hoping also to assemble a local small history book that outlines the rich history of this property in the future

Describe how this proposal will benefit the community.:

-Strengthens our community

-Provides for a Senior friendly venue

-Promotes tourism (we receive numerous visits to this site)

-Respects and promotes local history

-Works in partnership with the nearby community hall

Attach supporting financial information, ie: budget/financial report. Ensure all information is clearly itemized, including: total cost of project, grants/funding from other sources, funding contributed by applicant, total expenses for the fiscal year.:

Have you applied for a grant/funding from other source(s)?:

Yes - please provide information below

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Chinook Community Forest

Amount applied for:

5000

Status of application:

Pending

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Amount applied for:

Status of application:

Name of Grant or Funding Agency:

Amount applied for:

Status of application:

Has the organization received assistance (grant in aid/waiving of fees, etc.), from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in previous years?:

Yes

If yes, please provide the year, the amount, and the purpose for the assistance.:

We received \$5000.00 from RDBN in 2015 towards a new roof and foundation.

Does your Organization: (Please check all that apply):

Provide an opportunity for individuals to make direct contributions?

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/view/2315>



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Grant in Aid for Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)
Nechako Environment Stewardship Society**

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

That the Board approve allocating \$5,000 in Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Nechako Watershed Stewardship Society for the Living Lakes Monitoring Project on Fraser Lake.

BACKGROUND

Please see the attached application for further detail.

The Grant in Aid Balance for Area D is \$26,808
Director Mark Parker is supportive of the application.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Grant in Aid Application Form
- 2) Project Budget



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Grant in Aid Policy and Application**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE FORM PROVIDED

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

37-3rd Avenue

Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0

or via email to: info@rdbn.bc.ca

NOTE TO APPLICANTS:

- Industrial, commercial, individuals, and business undertakings ARE NOT eligible for assistance under this program;
- Please use the attached RDBN Board policies and Application Completion instructions as a guideline and be advised that the Regional Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako reserves the right to amend the said policies from time to time as it deems appropriate;
- Please make sure that your application is clearly legible and will photocopy with good results.
- Personal information requested on this form is collected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act section 26(c) and will be used for the purpose of processing your application. Any information submitted with the application or provided to the RDBN for consideration and in support of the application may be made available for review by any member of the public. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, please contact the RDBN Information and Privacy Coordinator at 1-800-320-3339.
- If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the Economic Development Department of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako at the above address, or:
Phone: (250) 692-3195 or toll free at 1-800-320-3339
Fax: (250) 692-3305 email: economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
ELECTORAL AREA GRANT IN AID ASSISTANCE POLICY**

PURPOSE

To provide grants to community groups, non-profit registered societies, organizations, and Recreation Commissions, for cultural, charitable, sporting, recreational, service activities and special events for the purpose of benefiting the community.

APPLICATION

This policy shall apply to all electoral area Grant In Aid requests being considered for funding from the individual Grant In Aid budgets.

AUTHORITY

Local Government Act Sec. 263(1)(c): The Regional District may provide assistance for the purpose of benefiting the community or any aspect of the community.

Local Government Act Sec. 380(2)(g): A grant may be charged to the electoral area benefiting from the assistance.

PROCEDURE

1. Applications will be referred to the applicable Electoral Area Director to conduct a preliminary review. The RDBN has both statutory and budgetary limitations on Rural Grant in Aid and wishes to ensure that these funds are disbursed as fairly and equitably as possible. The Board delegates the authority to approve grant in aid applications of \$2,500 or less to the Chief Administrative Officer or designate in consultation with the Electoral Area Director. Applications in excess of \$2,500 will be referred to the Board.
 - a) Applications must be submitted on the form provided by the Regional District, with all supporting documentation attached. Applicants must clearly indicate the amount of assistance requested; provide evidence of how the applicant benefits the community generally and how the assistance being requested from the Regional District would benefit the community specifically; and, provide financial information sufficient to identify all other funding sources and to justify the need for financial assistance.
 - b) Applications that are not submitted on the required form will be returned to the applicant.

2. The following factors shall be used in evaluation and prioritizing the Applications for Assistance under Section 263(1)(c) of the Local Government Act.
 - a) Purpose for which the funding is required.
 - b) What funding opportunities have been considered, (ie. fundraising, grants from senior levels of government, etc.).
 - c) Benefits to the community as a whole.
 - d) Amount of grant requested.
 - e) Whether or not the applicant has previously received assistance from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.
 - f) Whether or not there is an opportunity for individuals to make direct contributions.

3. If a grant in aid is approved the following will apply:
 - a) A cheque will be issued to the requesting organization. A letter documenting the grant approval will be sent under the signature of the Electoral Area Director.
 - b) If the grant exceeds \$1,000, a report must be submitted to the Regional District inclusive of satisfactory evidence that the goods or services have been obtained (ie. a report from the organization inclusive of receipts and/or a report of the expenditures).

4. The Chief Administrative Officer and/or Electoral Area Director may at the time of grant approval:
 - a) Impose additional requirements to be met by an organization prior to receipt of grant funds;
 - b) Reduce or modify the requirements to be met for an organization prior to receipt of grant funds.

5. Applications for Assistance under Section 263(1)(c) of the Local Government Act will NOT be approved for:
 - a) Purposes identified as potentially exposing the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to risk of unacceptable liability;
 - b) Purposes disallowed by the Local Government Act:
Section 273 – As a limitation on section 263(1)(c), a Board must not provide assistance to an industrial, commercial or business undertaking.
 - c) No grants shall be approved for individuals or for privately-owned businesses.

ELECTORAL AREA REQUEST FOR GRANT IN AID APPLICATION FORM

Organization Legal Name: _____

Organization Mailing Address:

Contact Person 1:

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Contact Person 2:

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Application Summary

Project or purpose for which you require assistance:

Amount of Grant Requested \$ _____

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information that is provided in this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I hereby certify that this application for assistance is NOT being made on behalf of an individual, industry, commercial or business undertaking.

Name (organization signing authority)

(Title)

REVENUES				
	Estimated Cash - CONFIRMED	Estimated Cash - UNCONFIRMED	In-kind Amount - CONFIRMED	Total Budget
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako		5,000		5,000
Province of BC	112,500			112,500
CN Rail	12,500			12,500
Living Lakes Canada			30,000	30,000
Nechako Watershed Roundtable			5,000	5,000
Fraser Basin Council			5,000	5,000
Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society			5,000	5,000
Total REVENUE	125,000	5,000	45,000	175,000
TOTAL EXPENSES				
Expense items	Total Budget			Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Project Manager \$260/day for 40 days (leading and overseeing all aspects of the project including review, revision, reconnaissance and field programs and travel costs)	15,400			
Project Coordinator \$235/day for 10 days (communications, outreach, education, general project support)	7,350			
Project Director \$675/day for 10 days (leading and overseeing technical aspects of project including review, revision, reconnaissance, field programs)	11,750			
Environmental Consultants: (professional fees for conducting FIMP surveys, writing FIMP Reports)	69,000			
Environmental Consultants (professional fees for writing Foreshore Development Guidance Document)	35,000			
First Nation Consultants: (oversight and guidance on prioritization of Indigenous Knowledge and travel costs)	20,000			
Data Inventory and Management Support	8,700			1,800
Boat Rental	3,000			3,000
LiDAR Mapping and Orthophotography	200			200
Mileage	1,000			
Per Diems (\$52/person/day for 2.5 days)	400			
Accommodations (2 nights for 3 people)	700			
Project Administration Costs 10% of project total	1,500			
GST (5%)	1,000			
Total EXPENSES	175,000			5,000



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund Request – Eagle Creek Recreation Commission Centennial Event**

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

That the Eagle Creek Recreation Commission be given \$5,000 in Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund monies for the Western Days Centennial Celebration Event.

BACKGROUND

Please see the attached application for further detail.

The Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund currently has a balance of \$25,894

Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural), E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) and the Village of Burns Lake participate in this service.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund Application Letter
- 2) Centennial Event Budget

P.O. Box 1172
Burns Lake, B.C.
V0J 1E0
April 13, 2023

Lakes District Arts and Cu1ture Fund

P.O. Box 820

Burns Lake, B.C.

V0J 1E0

Dear Members:

Eagle Creek Recreation Committee is a Registered non profit Society located in Burns Lake. Our mission is to enhance existing and create new recreational opportunities for the residents of Burns Lake and surrounding areas. On an annual basis we host activities such as: The Lakes District Fall Fair, Canadian Kennel Club show, Southside 4H Achievement Days and Auction, Saddle Club activities, Trail Riders roping practices and events, Ball Team practices, games and tournaments, as well as various wild berry harvesting.

As 2023 is Burns Lake Centennial, we are planning a western/ranch/farm themed, family oriented two day event over the weekend of July 29-30. Events shall include various farm and ranch activities, horse shoe tournament, chain saw carving demonstration and various "cook off" events. We shall also be providing live country and western entertainment.

As your organization is an integral part of the community, we would like to ask you for your financial support in the amount of \$5,000.

Should you feel that you would like to support this event, please mail cheques to: EAGLE CREEK RECREATION COMMITTEE at the above-noted address.

Thank you for your time and consideration;


Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at:

Phone/text (250) 845-8866

Email Dancmetcalf@gmail.com

Sincerely

EAGLE CREEK RECREATION COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel C. Metcalf', written in a cursive style.

Daniel C. Metcalf

President

EAGLE CREEK RECREATION COMMISSION WESTERN DAYS BUDGET

Rental of concession, washrooms, stage and dance floor			Lakes District Fair Association	\$ 500.00
Good Vibrations Productions	MC and music	2 days	\$500/day	\$ 1,000.00
Arcade Party Rentals	Bouncy House and Arcade	2 days	\$350 /day	\$ 700.00
Moto Cross demonstration and show				\$ 300.00
KLB Garbage Collection	Garbage collection and disposal		1 day	\$ 350.00
Angela Ettinger	Live Entertainment	2 hours	\$400/hr	\$ 800.00
Event Judges	2 for 2 days at \$175/day each			\$ 700.00
Advertising and promotion	Newspaper and posters			\$ 950.00
sub total				\$ 5,300.00
FUNDING				
Available from ECRC				\$ 5,650.00
Grant Application				\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST				\$ 10,650.00



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Canada Community Building Fund BC – Telkwa Museum Society application to Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

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

- 1) That the Board authorize contributing up to \$30,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Cultural Infrastructure project at the Telkwa Museum, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

- 2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$30,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND

This project will replace the existing roofing, which is currently leaking, and install a new sheet metal roof and ice guards.

Total uncommitted Canada Community-Building Fund BC funds remaining in the Electoral Area A allocation is \$591,876.

Director Stoney Stoltenberg is supportive of this project and of accessing Canada Community-Building BC funds in the amount of up to \$30,000 from Area A for this Cultural Infrastructure project.

A Board resolution is required to contribute Canada Community-Building BC Funds to this project.



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Canada Community Building Fund BC – Community Arts Council of Fort St. James application to Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)**

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

- 1) That the Board authorize contributing up to \$8,000 of Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Cultural Infrastructure project at the Pope Mountain Arts Building, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

- 2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$8,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND

This project will see the replacement of old, costly fluorescent lighting on the main floor of the building with LED lights. This will reduce both energy use and maintenance of the lights.

Total uncommitted Canada Community-Building Fund BC funds remaining in the Electoral Area C allocation is \$284,614.

Director Judy Greenaway is supportive of this project and of accessing Canada Community-Building BC funds in the amount of up to \$8,000 from Area C for this Cultural Infrastructure project.

A Board resolution is required to contribute Canada Community-Building BC Funds to this project.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Canada Community Building Fund BC – Francois-Tchesinkut Recreation Commission application to Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)**

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

- 1) That the Board authorize contributing up to \$57,350 of Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to a Recreation Infrastructure project at the Francois Lake Hall, and further,

(participants/weighted/majority)

- 2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$57,350 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.
-

BACKGROUND

This project will include eligible expenses for replacing the existing roof, which is passed its end of life, and installing new shingles, as well as replacing old windows in the Hall.

Total uncommitted Canada Community-Building Fund BC funds remaining in the Electoral Area E allocation is \$486,231.

Director Clint Lambert is supportive of this project and of accessing Canada Community-Building BC funds in the amount of up to \$57,350 from Area E for this Recreation Infrastructure project.

A Board resolution is required to contribute Canada Community-Building BC Funds to this project.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Shari Janzen, Economic Development Assistant
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Francois Ootsa Sportsman Association – NDIT Resolution of Support**

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

That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Francois Ootsa Sportsman's Association for the Range Cabin Renovation project.

BACKGROUND

The Francois Ootsa Sportsman's Association (FOSA) is applying to Northern Development Initiative Trust's (NDIT) Community Spaces fund for its Range Cabin Renovation project.

The club has worked diligently for many years to acquire, upgrade, and improve the range property and receive the approval needed for the shooting range. Now that they have received approval, FOSA wants to start major improvements to the range and its buildings.

The Range Cabin Renovation project will see improvements to the existing cabin on the property. This building will not only provide a safe space for those waiting to use the shooting range, but also a place for meetings, social gatherings, awards presentations, youth activities and more.

Funding Organization	Amount	Status
NDIT	\$12,227	Pending
Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund	\$12,227	Pending
Total	\$24,454	

A copy of the application with attachments is available to the Board should Directors wish to review the information in greater detail.



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **Cultural Awareness Learning Session**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

BACKGROUND

The second cultural awareness learning session will take place in the boardroom on June 15, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All Directors and inside staff are invited and encouraged to attend.

This session will build on the first cultural awareness session held in May last year. It offers an opportunity to learn about the distinct cultures and values of the Indigenous peoples in the region. Cultural awareness training is an ongoing endeavour through which there are always new perspectives to be gained. The outcome of this session will be to gain an improved understanding of several issues relating specifically to First Nations in the region. Learning opportunities like this one are a key step towards building stronger relationships with our neighbouring First Nations governments.

The session will be co-facilitated by:

Corinne George from the Gidimt'en Clan (Bear) of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Regional Principal for the Burns Lake campus of CNC, and

Birdy Markert from the Liksilyhu Clan (Small Frog/Caribou), District Principal of Indigenous Education, SD 54.



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Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **RDBN Reference Guide to First Nations in the Region**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

BACKGROUND

The RDBN Reference Guide to First Nations in the Region was created to support the RDBN's strategic focus on enhancing relationships with First Nations in the Region. The Guide is a reference tool for staff and Directors that contains resources and information relevant to working with First Nations in the Region.

The Reference Guide (attached below) contains general information on the fourteen First Nations communities in the RDBN. It also provides a summary of relevant government legislation and some resources that may help guide work on First Nations files. It is a working document that will continue to be expanded and updated regularly.

ATTACHMENTS:

RDBN Reference Guide to First Nations in the Region



RDBN Reference Guide to First Nations in the Region

DRAFT

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First Nations in the RDBN

There are 14 First Nations communities in the Regional District.

Binche Whut'en

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Lake Babine Nation

Nadleh Whut'en

Nak'azdli Whut'en

Nee-Tahi-Buhn

Saik'uz First Nation

Skin Tyee

Stellat'en First Nation

Takla Nation

Tl'azt'en Nation

Ts'il Kaz Koh

Wet'suwet'en First Nation

Yekooche First Nation



Binche Whut'en

Binche Whut'en's main community is 35 kilometers northwest of Fort St. James on Stuart Lake. They are a Dakelh people (also known as Carrier) and have a total registered population of 213. Binche Whut'en separated from its amalgamation with Tl'azt'en Nation in 2019.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	TOM	JARROD	04/15/2023	04/15/2026
Councillor	HALLMAN	JOSHUA	04/15/2023	04/15/2026
Councillor	TOM	CORBIN	04/15/2023	04/15/2026
Councillor	TOM	JEAN	04/15/2023	04/15/2026
Councillor	TOM	STANLEY	04/15/2023	04/15/2026

Website: <https://binche.ca/>

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Cheslatta Carrier Nation is located on the southside of Francois Lake. The total registered population is 383.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	LEWEEN	CORRINA	06/01/2021	05/31/2025
Councillor	BURT	HAZEL	06/01/2021	05/31/2025
Councillor	WHITFORD	JANET MARIE	06/01/2021	05/31/2025

Website: <https://www.cheslatta.com/>

Lake Babine Nation

Lake Babine Nation is one of the largest in BC with 27 reserve lands, three communities which are inhabited year-round, and a total registered population of 2,574. The largest community is Woyenne 27, located adjacent to the Village of Burns Lake.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	ABRAHAM	MURPHY	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	CHARLIE	JASON J.	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	GEORGE	MILDRED M.	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	JOHNSON	WAYNE	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	MACDONALD	DEREK	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	MELVIN	JOSEPH	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	POWER	VERNA	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	REID	ROBBIE	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	WEST	BESSIE	07/07/2021	07/06/2024
Councillor	WEST	DEBBIE	07/07/2021	07/06/2024

Website: <https://www.lakebabine.com/>

Notes:

In 2020, the Province of British Columbia, Lake Babine Nation, and the Government of Canada signed a reconciliation agreement called the Foundation Agreement. The Foundation Agreement outlines a shared 20-year vision that establishes a step-by-step pathway to self-government, shared decision-making, and a predictable path to implement Lake Babine Nation Aboriginal title.

In 2023, the Province and Lake Babine Nation signed the Land Transfer Agreement, the bases of which was set out in the Foundation Agreement. The Agreement will enable Lake Babine

Nation to take back control of 20,000 hectares of waterfront and forestry lands in their territory.

Nadleh Whut'en

Nadleh Whut'en's main community is at the east end of Fraser Lake where the Nautley River meets the Nechako. The total registered population is 606. Nadleh Whut'en together with Saik'uz First Nation and Stelat'en First Nation are collectively referred to as the Nechako First Nations. Nadleh Whut'en is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	LOUIE	MARTIN	04/01/2022	03/31/2024
Councillor	HEATHCLIFF	ASHLEY	04/01/2022	03/31/2024
Councillor	KETLO	DAMIEN	04/01/2022	03/31/2024
Councillor	LACERTE	MARK	04/01/2022	03/31/2024
Councillor	NOOSKI	ELEANOR	04/01/2022	03/31/2024
Councillor	NOOSKI	ROY	04/01/2022	03/31/2024

Website: <https://www.nadleh.com/>

Notes:

The RDBN and Nadleh Whut'en are entered into the Sunset Beach Service Agreement. The Agreement is for RDBN to provide fire protection and other services to the subdivided section of the Nautley Reserve commonly known as the Sunset Beach lease lots. The Agreement in full can be provided upon request.

Nak'azdli Whut'en

Nak'azdli Whut'en is located adjacent to Fort St. James and is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. The total registered population is 2,007.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	PRINCE	AILEEN	08/27/2020	08/31/2024
Councillor	LEPKA	ALYSSA	08/27/2020	08/31/2024
Councillor	SAM	ELIZABETH	08/27/2020	08/31/2024
Councillor	SAM	FRED	08/27/2020	08/31/2024
Councillor	SAM	MURIAL	08/27/2020	08/31/2024

Website: <https://nakazdli.wpcomstaging.com/>

Nee-Tahi-Buhn

Nee-Tahi-Buhn is located on the southside of Francois Lake. The band split from amalgamation under the Omineca Band in 2000. The total registered population is 140.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	MORRIS	MARCELLA	12/12/2022	12/06/2026
Deputy Chief	MORRIS	MARK	12/12/2022	12/06/2026
Councillor	HOPKINS	BERTHA (BERTIE)	12/12/2022	12/06/2026
Councillor	MORTENSEN	PATRICIA (PAT)	12/12/2022	12/06/2026

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/first-nations-a-z-listing/nee-tahi-buhn-band>

Saik'uz First Nation

Saik'uz First Nation's main community is located on Tachick Lake 14 kilometers south of Vanderhoof. The total registered population is 998. Saik'uz First Nation is one of the three Nechako First Nations and is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	MUELLER	PRISCILLA	04/06/2023	04/06/2027
Councillor	TEED	RODNEY	04/06/2023	04/06/2027
Councillor	ALEXIS	JASON	04/06/2023	04/06/2027
Councillor	JOHNNY	ALISON AGATHA	03/25/2021	03/24/2025
Councillor	THOMAS	JASMINE	03/25/2021	03/24/2025

Website: <https://www.saikuz.com/>

Skin Tyee

Skin Tyee is located on the southside of Francois Lake. The band split from amalgamation under the Omineca Band in 2000. The total registered population is 193.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	SKIN	ROSEMARIE	03/08/2019	03/07/2024
Councillor	SKIN	ROBERT	03/08/2019	03/07/2024
Councillor	WISSLER	WILLIAM	03/08/2019	03/07/2024

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/first-nations-a-z-listing/skin-tyee-band>

Stellat'en First Nation

The main community and administration office of Stellat'en First Nation is located at Stellako, just off Highway 16 at the west end of Fraser Lake. The total registered population is 609. Stellat'en is one of the three Nechako First Nations and is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	MICHELL	ROBERT	07/29/2022	07/28/2024
Councillor	GEORGE	YVONNE	07/29/2022	07/28/2024
Councillor	LOUIE	CLIFFORD	07/29/2022	07/28/2024
Councillor	SCHMIDT	KENNETH	07/29/2022	07/28/2024
Councillor	WARD	WALTER	07/29/2022	07/28/2024

Website: <https://www.stellaten.ca/>

Takla Nation

Takla Nation's main community is at Takla Landing, which is about 200 kilometers north of Fort St. James. Approximately 200 members of the total registered population of 921 live in Takla year-round. The main office of administration is located in Prince George at 510 Carney Street. Takla is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	FRENCH	JOHN	05/18/2019	05/17/2023
Councillor	FRENCH	CHRIS	05/18/2019	05/17/2023

Deputy Chief	TEEGEE	SANDRA	05/18/2019	05/17/2023
Councillor	ABRAHAM	SMITHY	06/08/2021	06/07/2025
Councillor	ABRAHAM	WILMA	06/08/2021	06/07/2025

Website: <https://www.taklafn.ca/>

Tl'azt'en Nation

There are two main communities of Tl'azt'en Nation: Tache and Middle River (Dzit'lain'li). Tache, situated 65 kilometers north of Fort St. James at the mouth of the Tache River on Stuart Lake, is the largest community and the location of the main administrative offices. The total registered population is 1,558. Tl'azt'en is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	ASLIN	LESLIE	06/07/2022	12/01/2025
Councillor	JOSEPH	ANITA	09/09/2020	09/08/2024
Councillor	TOM	FABIAN	09/09/2020	09/08/2024
Councillor	ASLIN	CHASITY	12/02/2021	12/01/2025
Councillor	JOHN	BEVERLY	12/02/2021	12/01/2025
Councillor	JOHN	VINCENT	12/02/2021	12/01/2025
Councillor	ROBERT	OLIVIA	12/02/2021	12/01/2025
Councillor	JOHNNIE	KIRBY	08/12/2022	09/08/2024

Website: <https://tlaztennation.ca/>

Ts'il Kaz Koh (formerly Burns Lake Band)

Ts'il Kaz Koh's main community is located adjacent to Burns Lake, and the main administrative office is within the municipality of Burns Lake. The total registered population is 183. Ts'il Kaz Koh is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	SAM	WESLEY	12/19/2022	11/03/2024
Councillor	SAM	CECELIA	11/04/2020	11/03/2024
Councillor	LORENZ	ELLEN	11/04/2020	11/03/2024

Website: <https://www.tsilkazkoh.ca/>

Wet'suwet'en First Nation

Wet'suwet'en First Nation's main community is located off Highway 16 at Decker Lake. The total registered population is 248, and the Nation is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	LUGGI	MAUREEN	06/01/2022	05/31/2025
Councillor	JOSEPH	TRACEY	06/01/2022	05/31/2025
Councillor	NOOSKI	HEATHER	06/01/2022	05/31/2025

Website: <https://www.wetsuweten.net/>

Yekooche First Nation

The main community of Yekooche is located 85 kilometers northwest of Fort St. James, where Nancut Creek drains into Stuart Lake. The band administration office is located at 1890 3rd avenue in Prince George. Yekooche separated from amalgamation with Tl'azt'en to form its own band in 1994. The total registered population is 226.

Chief and Council:

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	JOSEPH	MITCHELL	12/21/2021	12/20/2025
Councillor	SCHIELKE	PARTNER	01/21/2020	01/21/2024
Councillor	TOM	ANDREA	09/09/2021	01/21/2024
Councillor	SCHIELKE	CHRYSTAL	12/21/2021	12/20/2025

Website: <http://www.yekooche.com/index.htm>

Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

Acknowledging territory is a long-standing practice among many First Nations and signifies the importance of their ancestral ties to the land. Traditional territory acknowledgements have become commonplace at the start of meetings and events. This recognition of land title and rights is an important component of reconciliation and relationship-building with First Nations.¹

In February 2021, the RDBN Board adopted the practice of opening Board and Committee of the Whole meeting days with a traditional territory acknowledgment. The Chair has the liberty to amend the land acknowledgement to provide a personal perspective, but is to incorporate general wording as follows: “I respectfully acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territories of the region’s First Nations.”

The *RDBN Corporate Operations Communications Guide* contains the following guidance on Land Acknowledgements:

Land acknowledgements are a small step in learning about the history of this land, and for those of settler descent it recognizes the shared responsibility of Canadians to work on addressing past colonial wrongs and the lingering systemic socio-economic disparities faced by Indigenous Peoples. It shows respect and recognition to the Nation and their relationship, since time immemorial, to the land. It is recommended to refer to a particular First Nations group by their chosen name for identification.

It is increasingly customary practice for meeting participants to introduce themselves and name the traditional territory from which they are participating in the meeting. First Nation traditional territories should not be considered through a western perspective. Multiple Nations live in and around the same region and may have shared or individual cultural significance to specific areas. Nations moved across the land-base prior to colonialism and residential schools, with the seasons, interacting with other Nations, clans, and families.

The RDBN Office in Burns Lake is located on the unceded traditional territory of Ts’il Kaz Koh, Wet’suwet’en First Nation, Nee-Tahi-Buhn, Stelat’en First Nation, and Witset First Nation.

While the office is in Burns Lake, the work of the RDBN extends much further. The RDBN is located within the traditional territory of nearly 30 First Nations. These communities represent Dakelh, Nedut’en, Tse’khene, and Wet’suwet’en people.

¹ For an in-depth guide on territory acknowledgements see First Nations Health Authority, “Territory Acknowledgments Information Booklet,” <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Territory-Acknowledgements-Information-Booklet.pdf>, 2022.

UNDRIP and Government Legislation

UNDRIP

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP or UN Declaration) became part of international law when it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.

The UN Declaration consists of 46 articles that recognize and affirm that Indigenous peoples, as a collective or as individuals, are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law. The articles constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world.²

The UN Declaration does not create new or special rights for Indigenous peoples. Instead, it elaborates upon existing international human rights instruments and clarifies how those rights apply to Indigenous peoples given their specific cultural, historical, social, and economic circumstances.³

In Canada, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act received Royal Assent and came into force in June 2021. Under the Act, the Government of Canada will work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to:

- Take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of Canada are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration).
- Prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.
- Develop annual reports on progress and submit them to Parliament.

In March 2023, Canada published a draft version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. It contains 101 actions for implementing the Act and the UN Declaration more generally.

DRIPA

British Columbia passed legislation on implementing the UN Declaration in 2019 – before the federal government. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA or the Declaration Act) establishes the UN Declaration as the Province’s framework for reconciliation. Four key areas of the legislation are:

² UNDRIP. https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf.

³ Brenda Gunn, *Understanding and Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: An Introductory Handbook* (Winnipeg: Indigenous Bar Association, 2011): https://chrr.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/UNDRIP_Handbook_WEB.pdf.

- Section 3 mandates the government to bring provincial laws into alignment with the UN Declaration.
- Section 4 requires the Province to develop and implement an action plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration.
- Section 5 requires regular reporting to the legislature to monitor progress on the alignment of laws and implementation of the action plan, including tabling annual reports by June 30 of each year.
- Sections 6 and 7 allow for flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broader range of Indigenous governments and to exercise statutory decision-making authority together.

To support the implementation of Section 3, the Province created the Declaration Act Secretariat – a body dedicated to assist cross-government actions to ensure provincial laws align with the UN Declaration.

Some Key Legislation Changes in BC:

Emergency Program Act

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is in the process of modernizing emergency management legislation through the Emergency Program Act (EPA), expected to be introduced in Fall 2023. The new legislation contains Indigenous engagement requirements and cultural safety obligations that will impact the emergency management work of local governments.

Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project

The Province has a mandate to undertake Phase 1 of the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) Transformation Project, which includes broad engagement with modern treaty nations, First Nations, and key stakeholders. The project commits the Province to work with First Nations to reform the Heritage Conservation Act to align with the UN Declaration, including shared decision-making and the protection of First Nations' cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites, and objects.

Forests Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 23)

Passed into law on November 23, 2021, the bill amended the Forests Act, the Forest and Range Practices Act, and the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act. These amendments establish the framework for an approach that is more focused on ecological and cultural values. A key part of this will be replacing forest stewardship plans, which are currently developed by industry, with forest landscape plans developed by the Province with First Nations, local communities, and stakeholders, which will create new opportunities for shared decision-making between the Province and First Nations.

Relevant Terminology

Aboriginal: “Aboriginal” is a general or umbrella term that collectively refers to First Nations, Métis, and the Inuit in Canada. Given it is found in the Canadian constitution, it is a term often used in legal circles, e.g., “Aboriginal rights.” Though until recently a preferred term, it does, for many Indigenous people in Canada, by the very fact of its use in government policy, carry a negative association, though not nearly as strong a one as its predecessor, “Indian.”

Aboriginal Rights: Aboriginal rights are collective rights which flow from Aboriginal peoples continued use and occupation of certain areas. They are inherent rights which Aboriginal peoples have practiced and enjoyed since before European contact. Because each First Nation has historically functioned as a distinct society, there is no one official overarching definition of what these rights are. Although these specific rights may vary between Aboriginal groups, in general they include rights to the land, rights to subsistence resources and activities, the right to self-determination and self-government, and the right to practice one’s own culture and customs including language and religion. Aboriginal rights have not been granted from external sources but are a result of Aboriginal peoples own occupation of their home territories as well as their ongoing social structures and political and legal systems.

Band Councils: An elected form of government under the Indian Act made up of a chief and councillors. Their authority is set out in the Act and is restricted to relevant Indian reserves.

Carrier Sekani First Nations (CSFN): Different from the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. Refers to the seven First Nations who entered into partnership with the Province to sign the Pathway Forward 2.0 Agreement. The seven First Nations that make up the CSFN are: Stelat’en First Nation, Nadleh Whut’en, Ts’il Kaz Koh, Saik’uz First Nation, Nak’azdli Whut’en, Takla Nation, and Tl’azt’en Nation.

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC): A First Nations society and organization that provides program, financial, and technical support to six member First Nations. CSTC also coordinates Government to Government (G2G) negotiations between member nations and the Provincial and Federal Governments. CSTC signed the Pathway Forward 2.0 Agreement with Carrier Sekani First Nations (CSFN) and the Province of BC in 2019.

Core Advisory Council: An advisory body created to support the MOU between the Province of BC, Canada, and the Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en Nation. The MOU

was signed in May 2020 to negotiate agreements to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title in their traditional territory. The CAO sits on the Core Advisory Council.

Delgamuukw: *Delgamuukw v British Columbia* (1997) has to date been the most comprehensive decision about Aboriginal title. The *Delgamuukw* case deals with the definition, the content, and the extent of Aboriginal title (i.e., ownership of traditional lands). The Supreme Court of Canada observed that Aboriginal title constituted an ancestral right protected by section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Doctrine of Discovery & Terra Nullius: The Doctrine of Discovery is a legal and religious concept that has been used to justify colonial conquest. It advanced the idea that European peoples, culture, and religion were superior to all others. *Terra Nullius* means “vacant land” which could be claimed under the doctrine of discovery. On March 30th, 2023, the Catholic church, by way of a Vatican press release, officially repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery.

DRIPA: The provincial government passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act or DRIPA) into law in November 2019. The Declaration Act establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

First Nation: A term that refers to those who have Indian status under Canadian law as part of a recognized community.

Hereditary Chiefs: While every culture is different, there are two types of chiefs in modern First Nations governance systems: hereditary and elected. Hereditary chiefs have governing power that is vested in their ancestry, much like monarchs. Elected chiefs are more like politicians, who receive governing power through their peoples' votes.

Indian Act: Is a Canadian act of Parliament that concerns registered Indians, their bands, and the system of Indian reserves. Since its creation in 1876, it has controlled many aspects of economic, cultural, educational and personal lives of First Nations people. The main goal of the Act was to force First Nations peoples to lose their culture and become like Euro-Canadians.

Indigenous: The original people of a territory or region. In Canada, Indigenous is the preferred term and may be used interchangeably with “First Peoples” or “Aboriginal.”

Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement: Signed between Lake Babine Nation, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada in September 2020, the Foundation

Agreement sets out a step-by-step vision for Lake Babine Nation to implement their rights and title. It contains a series of commitments that the Nation and the provincial and federal governments intend to meet through collaboration and partnership.

Lake Babine Nation Land Transfer Agreement: Part of the commitments made by the Province in the Foundation Agreement, the Land Transfer Agreement will enable Lake Babine Nation to take back control of 20,000 hectares of waterfront and prime forestry lands in their territory.

Nechako First Nations: Refers to Nadleh Whut'en, Saik'uz First Nation, and Stellat'en First Nation. The RDBN signed an MOU with the Nechako First Nations in September 2021 to demonstrate mutual interest in implementing a new flow regime in the Nechako River and its affected tributaries to restore the health of the river.

Pathways Forward 2.0 Agreement: Signed in 2019 between the Province, Carrier Sekani First Nations, and the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. The agreement provides the CSFNs with a path to self-government, meaningful opportunities for shared decision-making over their territories and a revenue-sharing structure that will strengthen their communities and boost economic development for the entire region.

Reserve: An Indian Reserve, as defined by the Indian Act, is "a tract of land, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty, that has been set apart by Her Majesty for the use and benefit of a band."

Residential School System: Residential schools were government-sponsored religious schools that were established to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture. The residential school system officially operated from the 1880s into the closing decades of the 20th century. The system forcibly separated children from their families for extended periods of time and forbade them to acknowledge their Indigenous heritage and culture or to speak their own languages. The devastating effects of the residential schools are far-reaching and continue to have a significant impact on Indigenous communities.

Section 35 - Constitution Act, 1982: Section 35 of the Constitution Act states: "The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed." It recognizes and affirms Aboriginal rights; however, it does not define them. What constitutes Aboriginal rights has been the topic of much debate and discussion, and they have been defined over time through Supreme Court cases.

Skeena Roundtable: The Roundtable is a forum for the Province of BC, Indigenous Nations, local governments, and interest groups to connect, share and receive information,

and provide input on BC's efforts to advance reconciliation through land and resource initiatives in the Skeena Region.

Traditional Territory: A traditional territory is the geographic area identified by a First Nation as the land they and/or their ancestors traditionally occupied and used. Unceded means that First Nations people never ceded or legally signed away their lands to the Crown or to Canada. Importantly, Nations with historic and modern treaties have not 'ceded' territory, but are in a Nation-to-Nation relationship with Canada.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement in 2008. Thousands of survivors, their families and others across Canada made statements to document memories of the schools and their impacts. An Interim Report was released in 2012. The Final Report was delivered in 2015 including 94 recommendations for future action. From October 2021 through to September 2022, the RDBN Board and Committee of the Whole received the 94 Calls to Action – five at a time on each agenda – for discussion.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act: Received Royal Assent and passed into law in Canada on June 21, 2021. The Act commits the Government of Canada to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of Canada are consistent with the UNDRIP. A draft action plan was released in early 2023.

UNDRIP: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a human rights instrument that sets out the rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. The Declaration contains 46 articles describing a variety of collective and individual rights. It identifies states and governments as responsible for protecting and upholding these rights. Its goal is to defend the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous people.

Water Engagement Initiative: The Water Engagement Initiative is an inclusive public process, where interests are shared to improve water management in the Nechako River. The Water Engagement Initiative (WEI) is led by independent facilitators and supported by technical specialists to identify opportunities to better address multiple interests related to Rio Tinto's operations. Since June of 2019, through broad based engagement, approximately 40 individuals have been actively participating in the WEI, sharing a wide range of interests, issues and concerns spanning three geographic areas: the Nechako Reservoir, Skins-Cheslatta-Murray Lake system, and the Nechako River.

Further Reading & Resources

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

BC database of First Nations: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/first-nations-a-z-listing>

DRIPA: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>

DRIPA Fact Sheet (UBCM): <https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2022-12/29%20DRIPA.pdf>

First Nations Consultation Areas Contact Database: <https://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/cadb/>

Government of Canada database of First Nations: <https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/SearchFN.aspx?lang=eng>

Indian Act: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/i-5/>

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy:
<https://council.vancouver.ca/20221025/documents/p1.pdf>

Indigenous Relations Framework (City of Grande Prairie):
<https://cityofgp.com/sites/default/files/docs/communications/Indigenous%20Relations%20Framework%202023.pdf>

Service Agreement Toolkit (Federation of Canadian Municipalities):
<https://fcm.ca/en/resources/fnmcp/service-agreement-toolkit>

EDUCATION & TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (Government of Canada): <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524494530110/1557511412801>

First Peoples Map of BC: <https://maps.fpcc.ca/languages>

Historical Timeline (Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs):
<https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/timeline>

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:
<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

Territory Acknowledgements Information Booklet – (First Nations Health Authority):
<https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Territory-Acknowledgements-Information-Booklet.pdf>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada - Calls to Action:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf

Truth and Reconciliation Resources for Local Governments (Local Government Management Association of BC): <https://www.lgma.ca/truth-and-reconciliation-resources>

University of BC Indigenous Foundations: <https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/home/>
ORGANIZATIONS

Assembly of First Nations: <https://www.afn.ca/Home/>

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council: <https://carriersekani.ca/>

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: <https://fcm.ca/en>

First Nations Health Authority: <https://www.fnha.ca/>

First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council: <https://www.fnhic.ca/>

First Nations Major Projects Coalition: <https://fnmpc.ca/>

Indigenous Services Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>

Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group: <https://izwtag.com/>

Local Government Management Association of British Columbia: <https://www.lgma.ca/>

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/indigenous-relations-and-reconciliation>

Northern BC Climate Action Network: <https://www.communityenergy.ca/northcan/>

Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance: <https://www.nwresourcebenefits.ca/>

Office of the Wet'suwet'en: <http://www.wetsuweten.com/>

Union of British Columbia Municipalities: <https://www.ubcm.ca/>

Water Engagement Initiative: <https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/water-engagement-initiative/>

Yellowhead Institute: <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/>