

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**MEETING NO. 10**

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

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

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Jennifer Dyson, Chair, Agricultural Land Commission – via Zoom – left at 11:23 a.m.  
Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Land Commission – via Zoom  
Janice Tapp, North Panel Chair, Agricultural Land Commission – via Zoom – arrived at 10:28 a.m., left at 11:23 a.m.

Media Saddman Zaman, LD News – arrived at 10:03 a.m.

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

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA** Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-10-1 “That the Board Meeting Agenda of September 28, 2023 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

### Board Meeting Minutes August 10, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-10-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2023 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-10-3

"That the Board receive the following Committee Meeting Minutes:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
  - September 7, 2023
- Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes
  - July 13, 2023
- Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes
  - September 7, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION – Jennifer Dyson, Chair, Janice Tapp, North Panel Chair and Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer – via Zoom**

Chair Parker welcomed Jennifer Dyson, Chair, Janice Tapp, North Panel Chair and Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Land Commission.

Ms. Dyson provided a PowerPoint presentation.

#### **Agricultural Land Commission**

- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- 4.9% of the Province is ALR
- Private vs. Crown Ownership
- North Administrative Region
  - o 48% of BC's ALR is in the North Region
  - o 3.6% of Region in the ALR
- Governance Structure: ALC & Local Government
- Decision Making Structure
- ALC Mandate – Section 6 *Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)*
- Application Process
- Soil and Fill Regulation.

**DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION – Jennifer Dyson, Chair, Janice Tapp, North Panel Chair and Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer – via Zoom (Cont'd)**

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning provided a PowerPoint presentation.

**The ALR and the RDBN**

- Presentation Overview
- 2014 – Bill 24
- 2019 – Bill 52 and 15
- 2021 – Regulation Changes
- Local Government Responsibilities
- Local Government Implementation
- Accessory Buildings
- Fill Deposit and Soil Removal 1/2
- Fill Deposit and Soil Removal 2/2
- Dwelling Size Total Floor Area (TFA) Definitions
- Local Government Considerations
- ALC Considerations.

The following was discussed:

- Soil removals
- ALC Zones
  - o Recommendations are more successfully in the hands of the Panel that understands agriculture
- Challenges regarding ALC Information Bulletins and amendment changes
- Workshop with regional local government planning staff to discuss challenges and developing guidelines
- ALC recognizes local government challenges
- Accessory buildings and farm building debate
  - o ALC appreciation of comments and work with the RDBN to achieve clarity
- Subdivision in Telkwa and ALC process
  - o ALC will follow up with Village of Telkwa staff
- Administration Tribunal and role independent of government influence
- Intensive farming options within the region
  - o Options to lease
- Members of the ALC North Administrative Region
  - o Janice Tapp, Vice-Chair & Panel Chair – Fraser Lake
- Understanding the ALC
- Requests for subdivision
- Challenging to access Crown land for farming
- Are there plans to resurvey ALR lands?
  - o Boundary reviews were started in the Kootneys but due to time and costs haven't continued
- Has the ALR increased in recent years?
  - o Has decreased due to government's removal of lands for large projects such as Site C
- ALC keeps statistics regarding ALR lands

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

### **AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION – Jennifer Dyson, Chair, Janice Tapp, North Panel Chair and Kim Grout, Chief Executive Officer – via Zoom (Cont'd)**

- Logged ALR Land within a grazing licence
  - o Reduce number of stems planted per hectare to allow for grazing within that grazing lease
    - Intense replanting makes it challenging for livestock to graze
  - o BC Cattlemen’s Association also working on issue
  - o Fire suppression and grazing
  - o Discussed with Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship staff
  - o Two of the ALC Panel Members actively work on the issue
  - o Benefits when livestock are introduced to the lands
- Working together to ensure the best management of agriculture land values
- Relationship between the ALC and other Provincial Ministries
  - o Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.

Chair Parker thanked Mses. Dyson, Tapp and Grout for attending the meeting.

## **ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING**

### **Bylaw for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Rezoning Application RZ  
B-01-23 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Report Rezoning Bylaw  
No. 2019 – Electoral  
Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-10-4

1. “That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2019, 2023 be given first and second reading this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2019, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area B.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (CONT'D)**

**Bylaw for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (Cont'd)**

Rezoning Application RZ  
A-02-23 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Report Rezoning Bylaw  
No. 2020 – Electoral  
Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

2023-10-5

1. "That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2020, 2023 be given first and second reading this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2020, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OCP Amendment Application  
RDBN-02-22 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Reading Report Bylaw Nos.  
2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Storey

2023-10-6

1. "That the Board consider and approve the consultation identified in the consultation checklist.

2. That Smithers and Telkwa Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2000, 2023, Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2001, 2023, Endako, Fraser Lake and Fort Fraser Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2002, 2023 and Houston, Topley, Granisle Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2003, 2023 be given first and second reading this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.

3. That the Public Hearing for Smithers and Telkwa Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2000, 2023, Burns Lake Rural and Francois Lake (North Shore) OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2001, 2023, Endako, Fraser Lake and Fort Fraser Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2002, 2023 and Houston, Topley, Granisle Rural OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2003, 2023 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area B."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Bylaw for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading and Adoption**

Rezoning Application  
RZ D-01-23 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading  
& Adoption Report  
Rezoning Bylaw Nos. 2006,  
& 2007 -Electoral Area D  
(Fraser Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Storey  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-10-7

1. "That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Endako, Fraser Lake and Fort Fraser Rural Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2006, 2023 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2007, 2023 on the Supplementary Agenda.

2. That Endako, Fraser Lake and Fort Fraser Rural Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2006, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

3. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2007, 2023 be given third reading and adoption this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT**

Development Variance  
Permit A-01-23 – Electoral  
Area A (Smithers Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-10-8

"That the Board approve Development Variance Permit A-01-23 for the property located at 25055 Highway 16 to allow the following variances to Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 for the purpose of constructing a vault privy:

- vary Section 16.0.4.1 by reducing the setback of a structure from any Parcel Line from 7.5 m to 4.5 m,
- vary Section 3.0.8.1(b) by reducing the setback of a building or other structure from the Natural Boundary of the Bulkley River from 30 m to 15 m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**TEMPORARY USE PERMIT**

Temporary Use Permit  
A-03-20 Renewal Request

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-10-9

“That the Board approve the renewal of Temporary Use Permit A-03-20 for aggregate processing on the property legally described as the Northeast 1/4 of Section 5, Township 4, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plans 8393 and PRP14394 for a three-year duration.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**OTHER**

Advisory Planning  
Commission Minutes  
-Electoral Area B (Burns Lake  
Rural)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Storey

2023-10-10

“That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning  
Commission Minutes  
-Electoral Area E (Francois/  
Ootsa Lake Rural)

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2023-10-11

“That the Board receive the Advisory Planning Commission Minutes for Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **ALR Applications**

ALR Application 1258  
ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal  
of Soil) – Electoral Area A  
(Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

2023-10-12

1. "That Agricultural Land Reserve Application No. 1258 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for approval.

2. That the ALC and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (MoEMLCI) be requested to ensure adequate invasive plant management and phased remediation plans on the subject property.

3. That the ALC and the MoEMLCI be requested to ensure the appropriate maintenance of the 20 m tree buffer abutting the Highway 16 right of way."

Opposed: Director Greenaway CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

### **Municipal Referral**

District of Fort St. James  
Official Community Plan and  
Zoning Bylaw Amendments  
-Proposed Stones Bay Road  
Subdivision

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-10-13

"That staff inform the District of Fort St. James that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no concerns with Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 872, 2010, and Zoning Bylaw No. 738, 2001."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



### **Telecommunications Referrals**

Rogers Communications  
Telecommunications  
Installation (W6823) Referral  
Request for Concurrence

Moved by Director Moon  
Seconded by Director Moutray

2023-10-14

"That the Board direct staff to send a letter to Rogers Communications stating that the RDBN has no objection to the proposed communication tower."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **PARKS AND TRAILS**

#### **Bylaw for Adoption**

Parks and Trails Bylaw  
Adoption

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-10-15

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Parks Use Regulations Bylaw No. 1989, 2023 be adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Committee Meeting  
Recommendations  
September 7, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-10-16

"That the Board approve recommendations 1 through 3 as written:

#### **Committee of the Whole – September 7, 2023**

##### **Recommendation 1: Re: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: September 30, 2023**

"That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Monday, October 2, 2023."

##### **Recommendation 2: Re: Late Resolution to UBCM – RE: 2023 Wildfire Season – Economic Impacts to the Forestry Sector – Request for Inventory**

"That the Board submit the following late resolution to the 2023 Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention:  
Whereas 2023 has been the worst wildfire season in BC's history with over 2.2 million hectares burnt, and close to

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

\$1 billion spent to combat the wildfires; And whereas in April 2018 the Province received the Abbott/Chapman report titled Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia whereby recommendation 104 states: "Following wildfire events, promptly undertake timber supply reviews to enable industry response and adaptation to a new allowable annual cut, and to allow BC to better understand and respond to impacts on habitat, fibre availability and community stability."

And whereas there has not been a provincial inventory of land base assets since the 2007 fire season; however, within the last 2 years the Province has undertaken several new forest and land based initiatives such as the Old Growth Strategic Review, Forest Landscape Plans, and B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework proposals that are being conducted in the absence of accurate inventory data;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC immediately defer its current land base initiatives until a comprehensive inventory is conducted after the 2023 wildfire season recognizing that the impacts of wildfire to wildlife habitat, timber, fish, water, First Nations Reconciliation, and community stability need to be examined and prioritized to understand if the current land base initiatives remain in the best interest of the Province."

**Rural/Agriculture Committee Meeting – September 7, 2023**

**Recommendation 3: Re: Canada Community – Building Fund BC – Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Smithers Curling Club – Ice Plant Replacement Project 1**

"That the Board approve an additional \$75,000 of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Canada Community-Building Fund BC allocation monies to an Ice Plant Replacement project at the Smithers Curling Club, and further,

2) That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$75,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)**

North Central Local  
Government Association  
2024 AGM & Convention  
Organizing Committee  
Appointment

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-10-17

"That the Board enter into the North Central Local Government Association 2024 AGM & Convention Memorandum of Understanding; and further, that the Board authorize Director Stoltenberg's appointment to the NCLGA 2024 AGM & Convention Organizing Committee."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Natural Resources Forum  
-January 16-18, 2024, Prince  
George, B.C.

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-10-18

"That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors at the BC Natural Resources Forum, January 16-18, 2024 in Prince George, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of BC Municipalities  
Regional Community to  
Community Program

Moved by Director Atrill  
Seconded by Director Elphee

2023-10-19

"That the Board approve the RDBN to apply for, receive, and manage grant funding from the Union of BC Municipalities Regional Community to Community Program Fund to host a forum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HVAC System Tender

Moved by Director Elphee  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2023-10-20

"That the Board ratify the award of the contract for the HVAC Upgrades for the Administrative Office to BV Jet Controls for \$245,115.63."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE**

Ministry of Citizens' Services    Moved by Director Dekens  
-Northern B.C. Connectivity    Seconded by Director Atrill  
Benefits Study

2023-10-21

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Citizens' Services – Northern B.C. Connectivity Benefits Study."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ministry of Forests - Decision    Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Rationale for Lakes Timber    Seconded by Director Dekens  
Supply Area

2023-10-22

"That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Forests – Decision Rationale for Lakes Timber Supply Area."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

2023-10-23

"That the Board invite the Ministry of Forests to a future Board Meeting to discuss the Decision Rationale for the Lakes Timber Supply Area."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- No discussion with communities included in the three scenarios under Major Forest Companies
- Two Community Forests within the Lakes TSA
  - What are the impacts to the Community Forests and local government partners
- Impacts to communities that lose sawmills
  - More sawmills in the Province will potentially close
- Impacts from the loss of appurtenancy – wood for mills was tied to local communities from which that wood was harvested
- RBA Agreement to help diversify economy
- Houston's challenges expanding its Community Forest over the past nine years

## **ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)**

- Apportionment decision establishes the Minister's direction to ministry staff for allocating the allowable annual cuts (AAC) to different forms of forest tenure in the Timber Supply Area (TSA)
  - Houston requested that the apportionment be allocated from the large forest companies and not from First Nations or BC Timber Sales (BCTS) AACs
- Omineca Beetle Action Coalition is no longer in place but is missed
- Frustrations regarding communities' roles in forestry
- Clarity regarding companies' roles during changes to apportionment and how licenses work
- No longer having community sawmills but super mills that are a significant distance apart from one another and timber being moved from communities
- Minister decision made regarding tenure and supply with the Timber Supply Area released afterwards
- Additional challenges in the future due to wildfires
- Follow up from meeting at Minister of Forests meeting at UBCM
- Need mechanism to impact sustainable forestry with local jobs.

### **Break for lunch at 12:18 p.m.**

### **Reconvened 12:54 p.m.**

Discussion continued regarding Ministry of Forests – Decision Rationale for Lakes Timber Supply Area:

- Village of Fraser Lake challenges with Community Forest expansion
- Importance of woodlots to communities
- Community Forests contribution to local economies
- Total TSA should be divided between First Nations, Community Forests and community companies
- Concerns regarding connector between the Quesnel and Vanderhoof area
- Emissions to transport timber out of communities to be processed
- Minister of Forests was not in attendance for District of Fort St. James meeting at UBCM
- Impact to community tax base when mills close
- Consideration that if fibre leaves a community stumpage should increase for every mill it passes.

## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### 2023 UBCM Conference -Update

The Board provided the following comments:

- Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance
  - Province set a timeframe for steps towards finalizing an agreement
  - Thank you to Director Brienen for his work with the RBA
- Directors attending their first UBCM
- Village of Granisle requested a mental health outreach counselor return more frequently to the community
- Director McGuire presented at the Small Talk Community Panel regarding the Granisle Marina upgrades
- Director Storey elected to the UBCM Board of Directors
- Mental Health Issues
- Homeless camp in the Town of Smithers
- Director Atrill participated on the Decriminalization Panel
- Wildfire discussions and focus on southern B.C.
  - Frustrations regarding the value lost in the forest industry
  - Advocate for northern B.C.
- Appreciation for Municipal Directors' support
- Meeting with Ministers and the Premier outside of the UBCM Conference may be more beneficial
  - Send delegates to Victoria
  - Directly contact Ministers
- Due to meeting schedules it is challenging to attend any of the learning sessions provided or support resolutions being brought forward.

### District of Houston – Update

Director Brienen provided the following update:

- Canfor announced it will rebuild its mill in Houston
  - Determining flow of timber to ensure contractors continue moving forward during the rebuild phase
  - Barbeque planned for October 3, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Canfor Site – Board is welcome to attend.

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

Director Greenaway noted the following:

- Private property issues in her area
- Assisting with Emergency Support Services (ESS) due to the wildfires.

### Village of Burns Lake -Update

Director Wiebe provided the following update:

- Attended Coastal GasLink's (CGL) Community Barbeque to thank the community for hosting the company while they built the pipeline
- New CN Rail Crossing on Highway 35 will be complete by end of day today.

## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Electoral Area G (Houston Rural) – Update

Director Newell spoke of the following:

- Met with CGL at the UBCM Conference
  - Productive meeting regarding internet for the Buck Flats area
  - Planning a trip to visit a compressor station in October
  - Community Barbeque Celebration October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Peacock Wildfire continues to burn near the Buck Flats
- Upcoming meeting planned with CityWest.

### District of Vanderhoof -Update

Director Moutray provided the following update:

- CGL Community Barbeque Celebration October 20<sup>th</sup>
- September 12<sup>th</sup> was the second Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Discussed illegal dumping and suggested service levels at RDBN Transfer Stations.

### Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) – Update

Director Stoltenberg commented that he looks forward to working on the NCLGA Organizing Committee for the 2024 NCLGA AGM and Conference in Smithers with Director Atrill.

### Village of Granisle – Update

Director McGuire mentioned the following:

- Granisle received funding from the Federal and Provincial Government to bring fibre to all homes in Granisle
  - Will discuss with Director Newell and RDBN staff about providing current service to rural residents.

### Village of Fraser Lake – Update

Director Storey provided the following update:

- Meeting with CN regarding fires in the Fraser Lake area being caused by lack of maintenance along the railway
- Coastal GasLink Community Barbeque Celebration Event planned for October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Nadleh Whut'en is hosting National Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Arena Upgrade
  - Phase 1 to be completed in October
  - Phase 2 to move forward
- Fraser Lake Medical Clinic is fully staffed.

### Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) – Update

Director Riis-Christianson spoke of emergency rooms in the region being closed recently due to staffing levels as well as a lack of ambulances.

### Village of Telkwa – Update

Director Dekens provided the following update:

- Telkwa Coal has been purchased by another company and is changing its name
- Water main project nearing completion
- Tyee Lake Road has been repaired.

## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) – Update

Director Moon noted the following:

- Increased number of cattle being sold at auction and being shipped to other areas
- Concerns regarding the potential loss of cattle breeding stock in the region
- Vanderhoof Children's Choir registrants rivalling Minor Hockey's registrants
- Blackwater Mine Project continues to move forward with construction.

### District of Fort St. James -Update

Director Elphee provided the following update:

- CAO Posting has closed
- Nak'azdli Whut'en held a candlelight vigil for the Wildland Fire Fighters killed in a motor vehicle accident returning home from fighting fires in the Fort St. James Area
- Fort St. James Arena
  - Hack to Hack system to install lines for ice – good system
  - Investigating a similar water upgrades system being installed in the Fraser Lake arena.

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

Director Lambert noted the following:

- Increased fire activity at the beginning of September
  - Chinook Emergency Response Society (CERS) responded and provided security checkpoint coverage
  - Thanked Chair Parker for his recognition of CERS
  - BC Wildfire Services recognition of CERS.

### Town of Smithers – Update

Director Atrill mentioned the following:

- Town of Smithers has increased its paving budget
- North Central Local Government Association AGM and Conference will be hosted in Smithers in 2024
  - Organizing Committee is meeting and planning the event
  - Will elevate the profile of the area
- Smithers Civic Centre Arena has a delayed opening due to a chiller issue
  - The New Arena is operational
- Commercial angling season was able to take place
- Kalum Kabs Taxi Service has begun Operation in Smithers
- Reconnecting the Perimeter Trail due to a landslide that occurred a number of years ago
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day – Walnut Park Pole Raising Ceremony will take place September 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Thanked Director Stoltenberg for his grant funding support for the Totem Pole.



## **VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Letters were sent to the First Nations Communities in the region to meet and discuss the RDBN Strategic Plan and initiatives
  - Met with Nak'azdli Whut'en on September 8<sup>th</sup> with Director Greenaway, Justin Greer, First Nations Liaison and CAO Helgesen
  - Very productive meeting
  - Opportunities to follow up and work together
- Veterinarian Shortages
  - Continuing to work on advocacy
  - Western College of Veterinarian Medicine
    - Met with Chair Parker, Lara Beckett, Chair, RDBN and veterinarians throughout the north
    - BC has 40 student seats available in the Veterinarian Program and over 100 students are denied a seat per year
    - Indicated they would like to come to the area and are planning to meet in Prince George in October 2023
- 2023 Wildfire Event
  - Chinook Emergency Response Society
    - Promoting CERS
    - Proven success rate – stopped fires and saved money and forests
    - Residents taking responsibility
  - Lack of resources in northern B.C. when fires in southern B.C. become a priority
  - Advocacy with Ministry of Forests and BC Wildfire Services
  - RDBN will be hosting a debrief with Ministry of Forests and BC Wildfire Services staff in attendance
- AgriRecovery
  - Drought recovery
    - assist with transportation
    - slow process
  - Province advocating – don't want to lose breeding stock in the region.

### Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2023-10-24

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

National Truth and Reconciliation Event September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in Smithers

Director Stoltenberg extended an invitation to the Board to attend the National Truth and Reconciliation Event in Smithers, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Northwest Invasive Plant Council

Director Moon requested staff follow up with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council regarding weed control in the region.

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Brien  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2023-10-25

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

- Committee appointment
- Contract negotiations
- Labour Relations."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Newell

2023-10-26

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:55 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Mark Parker, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services