

The Regional News

2018 Meeting Dates:

Board Meetings:

- May 24th
- June 21st
- July 19th
- August 16th
- September 27th
- October 18th
- November 29th
- December 13th

Committee Meetings:

- May 3rd
- June 7th
- July 19th
- August 16th
- September 6th
- October 18th
- November 15th
- December 13th

Questions & Comments:

37 3rd Avenue
Burns Lake, B.C

Mail: P.O. Box 820
Burns Lake, B.C.
VOJ 1E0

Phone:
250-692-3195

Toll Free:
1-800-320-3339

Fax: 250-692-3305

Email: inquiries
@rdbn.bc.ca

Websites:
www.rdbn.bc.ca

opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca

www.visitbulkleynechako.com

Message from the Chair

It has been my honour to be elected Chair of the RDBN again this year and I look forward to another exciting year for the Board and staff.



Spring is on its way, slowly, but it is coming. Weather has certainly been the topic of conversation for the last few months. Our snowfall this year and temperatures throughout the winter have been trying at times but it will certainly replenish our aquifers and

hopefully give a better start to fire season. Regardless of spring we must be sure we are all applying fire smart principles, making sure we are mitigating and preparing for the fire season.

The Regional District has been busy these past few months of 2018. Staff, along with an appointed advisory committee, has been working diligently on the Solid Waste Management Plan, looking for innovative and cost effective ways of dealing with waste. Already some things are changing in our region. The RDBN has signed an agreement with Recycle BC to provide services at the Vanderhoof and Smithers/Telkwa transfer stations. This provision of

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Mark Fisher, Director - Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)

Being the Area A (Smithers/Telkwa) Rural Director on the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Board is an honour. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you, and for you on a variety of issues.

One of the most important parts of being an elected official is engaging with you, the public. The photo is me at the Smithers Trade Show, chatting about all kinds of RD issues. The information we get from you is put together with our own research, and the recommendations from our great staff. All sides, opinions, and perspectives are essential for relevant and accurate budgeting, and key when negotiating diverse



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cost effective services is a part of the move toward diverting the waste stream from landfills.

The new Agriculture Coordinator Debbie Evans, hired under a joint project between the RD and NDIT, has really hit the ground running. The obvious need for this facilitation in our area has been shown by the demand on Debbie's time and the uptake of the service.

There also is some great news on the connectivity front: City West was successful in receiving a Connect to Innovate Grant of \$4 million from the Federal Government and \$1.9 million from the Provincial Government for an \$8 million project, which is going to help provide fiber backbone in a large piece of our region. The Regional District Board of Directors is still lobbying hard to make sure we have the high speed connectivity that will make us able to attract and retain residents and business. The RDBN is completing a Connectivity Study for the region to identify gaps and make recommendations for high speed affordable internet access.

The work on the Fort Fraser water system is about to start, it is great to be able to upgrade infrastructure before it fails.

The Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance has also been gaining great traction with the new Provincial government. The negotiation process has been initiated and talks have been happening between our negotiators and provincial staff. This agreement, if reached, will significantly benefit all in

our region by supporting those infrastructure upgrades and investing in strengthening and renewing services.

The Regional District also continues to market our region for all sectors, from affordability to livability, and as a place to visit. Check out our websites (opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca and visitbulkleynechako.ca) and the marketing material we have.

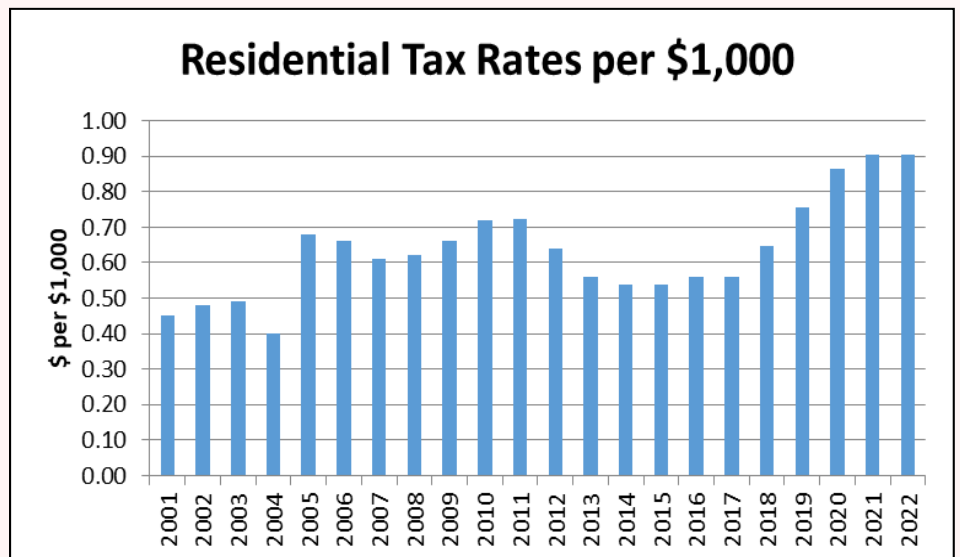
Following are only a few of the many issues we are taking forward to higher levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders:

- CN Rail - safety, derailments, weed control, and crossing issues
- Forestry - full use of fiber, wildfire issues, wildlife issues, soft wood lumber agreement
- Emergency Management - preventative costs, road rescue costs
- BC Safety Authority - building codes, new regulations for home builders

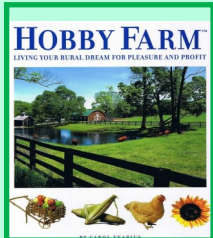
It is the last year of a four-year term for local government, so this fall we will all be going to the polls to elect our representatives. Local government is where the rubber hits the road, lobbying other levels of government and stakeholders, as well as the provision of services to the region. If you're interested in the work of community service check out board or council meetings in your community. You may find yourself on the other side of the ballot.

2018 Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Budget

Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District's primary focus is providing funding for new healthcare infrastructure. The Hospital District includes all municipalities from Vanderhoof to Granisle including Ft. St. James as well as the Rural Areas Burns Lake, Ft. St. James, Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof. The Hospital District is currently in the process of planning for the funding of a new hospital in Ft. St. James. Tax rates are expected to increase to \$0.90 per \$1000 of property assessments in 2021 in order to provide the necessary funds for this project. The last major infrastructure project was the Burns Lake Hospital.

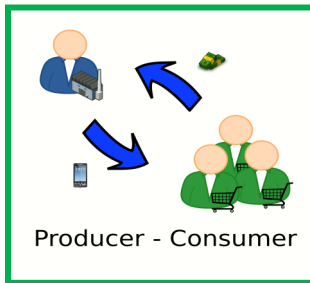


“**A World of Agriculture Opportunities**” will be the theme of the Regional Agriculture Forum to be held on Thursday, September 20 – 21, 2018 in Burns Lake BC. The event will start in the late afternoon of Thursday September 20th with a Keynote Speaker and a Feast of the Fields, showcasing local food! Friday will have concurrent workshops and a panel discussion and the forum will end at 3:00 p.m. The full event package and registration details will be available on the RDBN website by the end of June.



Are you a hobby farmer? A three-hour workshop on Emergency Preparedness for Small Mixed Farms will be held throughout the region. Event times and locations will be advertised in local newspapers, flyers and on the RDBN website. The timeline for the workshops are from the end of April to mid-June.

The 2018 **Connecting Consumers and Producers** brochure will be available in August. Are you a producer who markets your product(s) locally? If you are in the current guide, you will be contacted to confirm your details. Not in the 2017 guide and you want your farm to be included in the 2018 brochure! Please contact Debbie Evans at 250-692-3195 or email debbie.evans@rdbn.bc.ca by June 30th, 2018.



At the beginning of March, the Region hosted a **Beef Workshop** in Burns Lake. There were 30 producers and two guest speakers. The first guest speaker was Andrew Petersen, Water Management Specialist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and he discussed water regulations, farm irrigation systems and forage irrigation systems in the North. The other guest speaker was Kevin Boon, General Manager, British Columbia Cattlemen’s Association, (BCCA). Kevin gave an overview of the BCCA, current initiatives of the BCCA and the future of the beef industry with the proposed Prince George Beef Processing Plant. A set of the meeting minutes with attachments are available on the RDBN website.



Thanks, Mark Fisher

(Continued from page 1)

Mark Fisher, Director - Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

opinions on things like land use planning, waste management, economic development, fire protection, recreation, forestry and agriculture issues, and how to best implement other regional district services (please see the website for a complete overview). For this reason I invite you to continually keep informed and give any thoughts or feedback you may have by contacting me at mark.fisher@rdbn.bc.ca, 250-877-8434, or www.facebook.com/markfisherpolitical.

There truly are unlimited opportunities in the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. Our history, resources, creative thinking, committed RDBN staff, and informed and motivated residents all work together to adapt and strengthen the role of local government, and how it serves us. Again, please contact me if I may be of assistance in this or any other way.

161 Prince George/To Prince George

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:00 am
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:05
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:13
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:23
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:29
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:33
Tintagel: Rest Area Hwy 16 at Tintagel	7:44
Endako: Endako Pub	8:14
Stellaquo: Slenyah Store	8:21
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	8:27 Ar
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	8:37 Lv
Nautley: Nadleh Whut'en Store	8:54
Fort Fraser: Community Hall	9:01
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:31 Ar
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:41 Lv
Hospital Rd at Health Care Ave	9:46
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	9:50
Beverly: Petro Canada	10:48
Prince George: Westgate Mall	10:58
Prince George: Pine Centre	11:06
Prince George: Edmonton at 13th Ave (Hospital)	11:15
Prince George: Downtown 7th at Dominion	11:22 am

161 Burns Lake To Burns Lake

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Prince George: Downtown 7th at Dominion	3:00 pm
Prince George: Edmonton at 13th Ave (Hospital)	3:04
Prince George: Pine Centre	3:16
Prince George: Westgate Mall	3:26
Beverly: Petro Canada	3:36
Beverly: Petro Canada	3:41
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:39 Ar
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:49 Lv
Hospital Rd at Health Care Ave	4:54
Vanderhoof: Co-Op	4:58
Fort Fraser: Community Hall	5:28
Nautley: Nadleh Whut'en Store	5:35
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	5:52 Ar
Fraser Lake: Fraser Lake Mall	6:02 Lv
Stellaquo: Slenyah Store	6:08
Endako: Endako Pub	6:15
Tintagel: Rest Area Hwy 16 at Tintagel	6:45
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	6:56
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:06
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:12
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:20
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:25 pm

Riding The Bus:

Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early; seats are for customers, hold your bag on your lap or on the floor where it will not obstruct aisles or other customers. Please allow others to make use of the seats; have correct fare; take a seat as soon as possible; hold on while the bus is in motion; keep head, hands and arms inside bus at all times; assist your chil-

dren on and off the bus; never allow your children to stand or kneel on the seat while riding the bus; be considerate of others e.g. loud music, offensive language; remind your driver if you have to get your bike off the bike rack; never enter the street in front of or directly behind a stopped bus. Make sure traffic can see you; take your garbage with you when you leave. Rural residents requir-

ing information in regard to flagging the bus please contact the Regional District at 1-800-320-3339 or 250-692-3195.



Are you eligible for a BC Bus Pass?



Low-income seniors and Elders or Persons with Disabilities have access to the BC Bus Pass Program. The pass is valid in communities

served by BC Transit including the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit System.

To Apply for a BC Bus Pass

Persons with Disabilities:

If you are receiving disability assistance and would like to apply for a bus pass, contact the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction at:

1-866-866-0800.

For more information [click here](#).

Low-income seniors and Elders

Eligibility:

- 60-64 years old and someone in your family unit is a Person with Disabilities receiving disability assistance from the Province of British Columbia
- 60-64 years old and on income assistance from the Province of British Columbia

- 60-64 years old, living on a First Nations reserve and getting assistance from the band office
- Over 65 years old and would qualify for the GIS but do not meet the Canadian 10-year residency rule
- Getting Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Getting the Federal Spousal Allowance
- Getting the Allowance for the Survivor

The cost is \$45 per year for the bus pass and it's valid from January 1st – December 31st of the calendar year.

To Apply for a BC Bus Pass

- Call 1-866-866-0800
- Press option 2
- Enter your 10-digit phone number
- Press option 2
- Press option 1

To apply or for more information [click here](#).

About the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit System

Funding for this transit service on Highway 16 is provided through a partnership between the government of British Columbia, BC Transit, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and with the assistance of funding partners: City of Prince George, Cheslatta Carrier Nation and Stellat'en First Nation. We would like to thank the following who assisted in establishing the service: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Electoral Area C / Chilako River-Nechako, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Electoral Areas "A" (Smithers Rural), "B" (Burns Lake Rural),

"D" (Fraser Lake Rural), "G" (Houston Rural). In the future we hope to have additional partners "On-Board."

Decisions on fares, routes and service levels are made by the Regional Transit Committee at the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and are based on public feedback and information provided by BC Transit.

Buses are operated by Pacific Western Transportation located at 1041 Great St. Prince George, BC V2N 2K8

Operating costs are met by a combination of fare box revenues and joint local government and provincial funding.

Transit Information 1-855-499-1119

Suggestions or Comments?

If you have comments about service in general or suggestions for improvements, contact:



Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Transit Coordinator
Toll Free 1-800-320-3339 or deneve.vanderwolf@rdbn.bc.ca

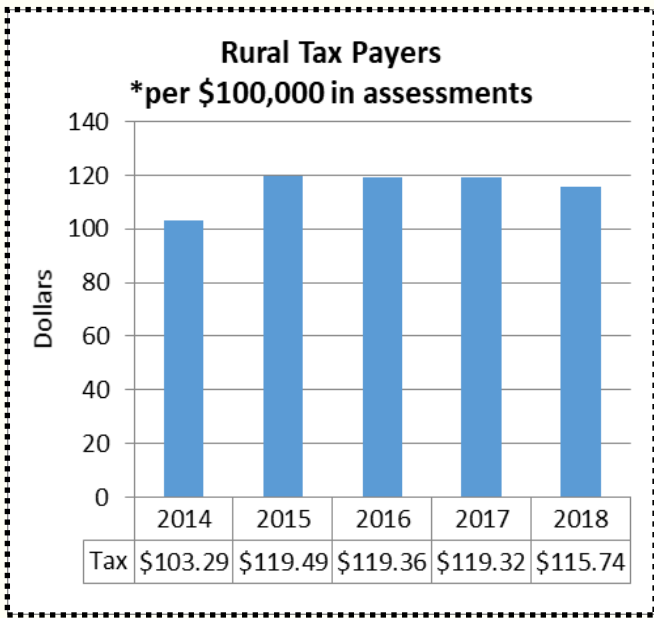
Newsletter

If you wish to be included in the distribution list to receive the "Regional News" please send an email to:

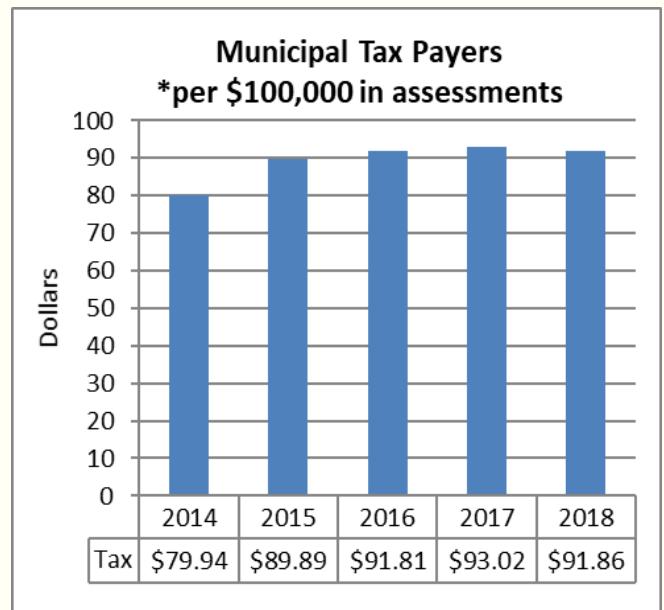
inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca and ask to be added to the email or mail list. You can read past issues [here](#).



The Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Board of Directors recently approved the Five Year Financial Plan for 2018-2022. The plan includes a reduced tax rate for both municipal and rural residents. This reduction is due to the value of property tax assessments, which have increased beyond the costs required to provide services. The tables below show the changes in tax rates from 2014-2018.



Each property owner pays taxes based on the assessed value of their home and which services are provided through taxation in their Electoral Area or Municipality.



Examples of services provided through taxation include Libraries, Museums, Arts and Culture organizations, TV Re-broadcasting Societies and Rural Fire Departments. New for this year is the Agricultural Service, which promotes the development of Agriculture in the Region.

With your 2018 tax notice you will receive an information slip from the RDBN Finance department describing all the services subscribed to by your Rural Area or Municipality, along with the associated tax rates. I encourage you to keep this great source of information and to please contact us if you have any questions.



On March 23, 2018, the Board of the North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD) approved its 2018 budget. The total amount of taxes raised will be \$9,258,968, the same amount as 2017. The residential tax rate on a \$100,000 property will be approximately \$66 in 2018. The 2018 budget includes grants for minor and major equipment and Building Integrity funds.

Highlights of projects in planning include:

- \$360,000 towards the Radiography Room for BVDH
- \$85,600 towards the Ultrasound Machine for BVDH
- \$48,800 towards the new phone systems for Houston and Stikine clinics
- \$1,152,000 towards the BV Health Foundations CT Scanner Project at BVDH

The next priority project for the NWRHD is the Mills Memorial Replacement, that is at the Business Plan stage. NWRHD committed in February 2018 to contributing 30% to this project or a maximum of \$113.7 million. The total residential tax increase related to this replacement project is estimated to be \$31.15 per \$100,000 of assessed value when construction is complete.

In 2018, the NWRHD plans to contribute \$1.5 million to a capital infrastructure reserve bringing the balance to \$14.5 million by the end of 2018. The NWRHD shares the same boundaries as the entire Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, and North Coast Regional District (formerly Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District), and the western portion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako including Houston, Telkwa, and Smithers, and the Nisga'a Nation. For more information please visit <http://www.rdks.bc.ca/content/north-west-regional-hospital-district> or email nwrhd@rdks.bc.ca

General Voting Day for the 2018 General Local Election is Saturday, October 20, 2018.

For the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, this includes the election of seven Electoral Area Directors to the RDBN Board of Directors and four Commissioners to the Fort Fraser Local Community Commission. The Directors of the RDBN represent Electoral Areas A (Smithers Rural), B (Burns Lake Rural), C (Fort St. James Rural), D (Fraser Lake Rural), E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural), F (Vanderhoof Rural), and G (Houston Rural).

More details about where to vote, voter eligibility, and voting rules will be added to the RDBN website and posted in local newspapers as the election draws near.

Who is eligible to run for office?

You are qualified to be nominated, elected and to hold office as a member of local government if you meet the following criteria:

- ◇ Canadian citizen
- ◇ 18 years of age or older on election day
- ◇ Resident of BC for at least six months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed; and
- ◇ Have not been disqualified by the *Local Government*

Act or any other enactment from voting in an election in BC or from being nominated for, being elected to, or holding office.

When is the nomination period?

Nominations will be accepted by the Chief Election Officer from 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018 until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 14, 2018.

In order to run as a candidate, you must be nominated by two (2) people who are qualified to vote either as resident or non-resident property electors in the jurisdiction in which you are running for.

When will nomination packages be available?

Nomination packages will be available in August, 2018.

Mail Ballot Voting

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako **does not** allow for mail ballot voting for local government elections.

Additional Questions?

Please contact Cheryl Anderson, Chief Election Officer at (250) 692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339 with any questions you may have.

Voting Day Registration

There is no need to pre-register to vote as the registration of all electors will take place at the time of voting. You will be required to make a declaration **that** you meet the qualifications to vote.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION!!!

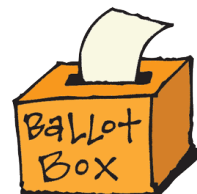
Election Officials Wanted:

If you are interested in working as an Election Official in the 2018 Local Government Elections, please contact Geraldine Craven at the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

Watch for additional information regarding 2018 elections in your local newspaper and on the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako website at www.rdbn.bc.ca

Thinking About Running for Local Office?

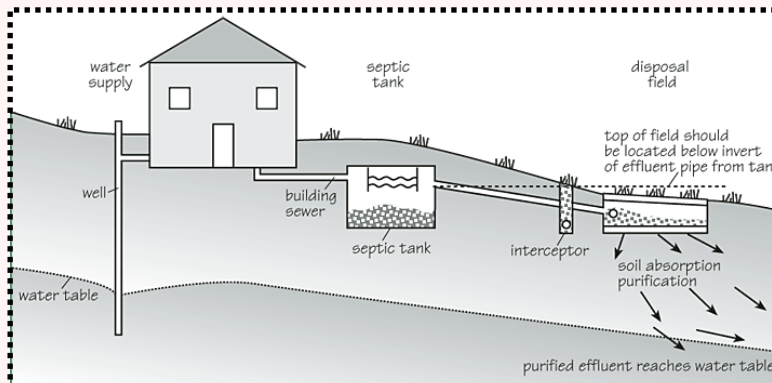
The province has released a set of [resources](#) for anyone considering running in the 2018 local government general election. The new resources include a series of videos with a number of local elected officials discussing their roles and responsibilities.



Attention rural home owners,

Spring is a good time to think about the health of your on-site sewage disposal system. Septic tanks should be inspected every year and may need servicing every two to five years. The servicing schedule depends on the number of people using the system and the volume of daily sewage flow. A properly maintained system will function better and last longer. The following are signs that a sewage disposal system may be failing:

- Backed up or slowly draining sinks and toilets;
- gurgling sounds in the plumbing;
- sewage odours in the house or yard;
- wet or mushy ground near the disposal field;
- grass growing faster or greener near the disposal field; and
- tests showing the presence of bacteria in nearby wells.



If your septic system was installed after May 30, 2005, there should be a maintenance plan for the system. Owners of systems built before 2005

should contact an Authorized Person (AP) to develop a maintenance plan. For more information about septic system requirements, how to find an AP, or how to search for a sewerage system filing on a property, please contact your local Northern Health - Environmental Health office or visit their website at:

<https://www.northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/EnvironmentalHealth/SewerageandSubdivision.aspx.aspx#12629412-onsite-sewage>



Waterfront Development

Owners of waterfront properties have a unique opportunity to serve as environmental stewards. The RDBN brochure titled "General Guidelines for Responsible Waterfront Development" is available from the RDBN office, or on line at www.rdbn.bc.ca where. This brochure provides detailed information on using waterfront property in a manner that is sensitive to the health of the natural environment. You may also be interested in reading the RDBN's "Shore land Development Strategy". The strategy was adopted in 2009 and discusses the health of the region's lakes, the recommended approach to the regulation of subdivision and development of waterfront property.



Summer Grilling

This is the time of year for being outside, enjoying the sunshine and outdoor grilling. Use caution and follow these tips for a summer of safe grilling:

- place your grill in a safe location away from trees or tall grass;
- never grill in a garage or tent as carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas and silent killer;
- have a 1 metre 'safe zone' where kids and pets aren't playing;
- never wear loose clothing that could catch fire;
- use long handled utensils to prevent burns;
- keep a fire extinguisher close by, remember water from a garden hose can spread a grease fire, and;
- never leave your grill unattended.



Emergency Alert System

Alert Ready is a service designed to deliver critical and potentially life-saving alerts to Canadians in the event of an emergency or disaster. All Canadian wireless service providers will be required to broadcast emergency alerts received from authorities **directly** to consumers through WPA compatible wireless devices. Wireless service providers will only receive and broadcast alerts issued for threat-to-life situations. At this time, the Province of BC will only issue alerts for a potential tsunami. Additional testing will be scheduled as the system is expanded to include other types of hazards. For more information, visit <https://www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca/alert-ready-wireless-public-alerting>



BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN BACKYARD BURNING

With spring upon us, everyone is looking forward to getting outside and starting spring cleanup activities. Please keep in mind that backyard burning is one of the leading causes of forest fires at this time of year. An unattended grass or shrub fire can quickly get out of control. Wildfires threaten lives of people, livestock and wildlife. It destroys timber, and other forest resources costing millions of dollars to extinguish.

Important tips to consider when planning a backyard burn or a grass fire:

- Ensure adequate hand tools, water, and personnel are available on site to keep the fire under control
- Be aware of weather conditions, do not light or burn when the wind is strong enough to carry sparks onto combustible material
- Keep informed regarding the burning bans, restrictions, and municipal bylaws in your area.



Lighting or fueling an open fire within one kilometer of forest or grassland, must comply with the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations. It is your responsibility to phone the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to check the venting index and make sure there are no bans or restrictions in place at **1-888-336-7378 or 1-888-797-1717 to register for a burn permit if required.**

REMEMBER ALWAYS BURN RESPONSIBLY!

Free Grant Writing

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako provides **free** grant writing assistance to non-profit organizations located within the region. Non-profit organizations can fill out a "Request for Assistance" form to access the service. The form is located on the RDBN website - www.rdbn.bc.ca

Once approved of, the RDBN will:

- Identify funding source(s)
- Write funding proposal(s)
- Submit the proposal to the non-profit group to review and approve
- Submit the proposal to the funding organization

For more information contact Nellie Davis at:

Nellie.davis@rdbn.bc.ca

Fort Fraser's Community Water Project

As most of you are aware, the RDBN received a grant for the Fort Fraser water distribution system. Currently staff are working with True Consulting with the tender documents for construction. The award for the construction will be April 17th. The project will be starting, weather dependent, on May 10th. More information can be found on the RDBN Website as the project moves forward.



Emergencies and disasters happen, and can leave you without basic services such as water, gas, electricity or a working telephone. You might have to evacuate your home or neighborhood, or you may be confined to your home for safety. Roads may be closed or important supplies unavailable. Your best strategy in dealing with a disaster is to be as prepared as possible.

- ✓ Build Grab'n'Go Bag in case of evacuation;
- ✓ Make an emergency plan for your children and teach them what to do:
- ✓ Make an emergency plan for your pets:
- ✓ Make an emergency plan for your livestock.

Ensure your family is prepared to care for yourselves for a minimum of 72 hours. Here are some projects you can work on:

- ✓ Develop a Family Emergency Plan;
- ✓ Prepare a 72-hour emergency kit;
- ✓ Talk to your neighbours;



Become an Emergency Support Services Volunteer!

Volunteering as an ESS Responder is a Rewarding experience

Would you like to help people in your community during a crisis or emergency? Would you like to work with a team of other dedicated volunteers? Can you be available on short notice to respond to an emergency event? We need your help!

Making a Difference: You will be part of a team that provides shelter, food and a shoulder to lean on when disaster forces people from their homes.

Training: Offered through the Justice Institute and your local government.

Recognition: Volunteers form the backbone of Emergency Support Services. Recognition of their efforts may take many forms, including volunteer appreciation events, certificates and awards.

Protection: All ESS volunteers receive WorkSafe BC and liability insurance coverage while on assignments.



Emergency Services

Spring is Upon us! - Please Ensure You Are Prepared Should Flooding Occur

Flooding can occur during seasonal Freshet. Low-lying areas are especially susceptible to flooding. There is higher risk of flooding:

- during spring melt;
- after extreme weather events;
- when there is rapid change in climate condition.

Tips to Prepare you for Flooding:

- Follow information on Flood Advisories from the River Forecast Center;
- Have a plan and educate others;
- Have access to a Sump Pump;
- Know where to access sand and sandbags;
- Know the risks associated with living in a flood plain;
- Have a 72 Hour Emergency Kit available that is easily accessible.



Sandbagging Information:

The Regional District of Bulkley–Nechako (RDBN) may provide sand and sandbags to residents whose homes are under imminent threat from overland flooding.

For more information on how to request sand and sandbags, call:

1-800-320-3339 or visit www.rdbn.bc.ca/protectiveservices/

Additional Information:

For more information on advisories visit the River Forecast Center at: www.bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/.

For more information on how to protect your home

visit:
www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery.

Emergency Support Services

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a service provided by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) in accordance with the Province of BC to provide temporary support to residents who must evacuate their homes as a result of an emergency such as a house fire or a flood.

ESS is provided by the RDBN through trained staff and volunteers. If you become displaced from your home and don't have insurance to take care of your immediate needs, ESS will provide you with accommodations, food, clothing and incidentals for 72 hours.

Please call 250-692-3195 or 250-251-0515 as soon as possible as ESS support starts from the time of the incident.

Northern Emergency Support Services Training Conference

The 2018 Northern Emergency Support Services Training (NESST) Conference organizing committee has been working hard to ensure that a variety of training and networking opportunities will be available for ESS volunteers attending the 2018 NESST Conference. Friday, April 13 – Sunday, April 15 2018, NESST attendees will network, train and participate in a functional exercise to better prepare themselves to help those who need it most. NESST 2018 will be held in Terrace. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/protectiveservices>



- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors Municipalities**
- Town of Smithers**
- Mayor Taylor Bachrach
 - Village of Telkwa**
- Mayor Darcy Repen
 - District of Houston**
- Mayor Shane Brienen
 - Village of Granisle**
- Councillor Thomas Liversidge
 - Village of Burns Lake**
- Mayor Chris Beach
 - Village of Fraser Lake**
- Mayor Dwayne Lindstrom
 - District of Fort St. James**
- Mayor Rob MacDougall
 - District of Vanderhoof**
- Mayor Gerry Thiessen
- Electoral Areas**
- A - Smithers Rural**
- Director Mark Fisher
 - B - Burns Lake Rural**
- Director Bill Miller
 - C - Fort St. James Rural**
- Director Tom Greenaway
 - D - Fraser Lake Rural**
- Director Mark Parker
 - E - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural**
- Director Eileen Benedict
 - F - Vanderhoof Rural**
- Director Jerry Petersen
 - G - Houston Rural**
- Director Rob Newell

Solid Waste Management Plan

The RDBN is currently working on updating our Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Every Regional District in the province is required to have an updated plan, approved by the Ministry of Environment. The plan sets our direction for dealing with garbage and recycling in our region. A survey has been completed, looking at what residents think of our current system. A Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee has been formed and these wonderful volunteers (along with a consulting team)



are looking at not only what we currently have in place for our region, but also what we could do in the coming years to manage the region's garbage and its recycling. We've met twice in person and virtually once for an options webinar. The Advisory Committee is currently in Stage 3 of 5. There will be a public consultation period in the late spring of 2018. Local residents will be asked to provide feedback through open houses, surveys and other means. Please keep an eye on our "Waste Watcher" website at <http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmentalservices/solid-waste-management/waste-watchers> or like "Sustainable RDBN" on Facebook for further updates.

Regional Invasive Plant Management

Land Owner Weed Removal Rebate -The Environmental Services Department is responsible for administering the funding for the Regional District's Invasive Plant Management Program, the goals of which are to provide public education and assistance in the control of invasive plant species through the Northwest Invasive



Plant Council (NWIPC). The RDBN seasonally likes to pass along an option of some assistance for home owners in the region who are planning to manage invasive weeds on their property. This Program allows for the home owner to have 50% of the cost of the work reimbursed up to \$500 to manage invasive weeds. To utilize this rebate, the home owner can fill out the designated form and submit it to NWIPC. The RDBN can assist you with sending you this form or visit www.nwipc.org to download a copy. For more information on RDBN's involvement in invasive plant management please see our website.



NWIPC Geocaches - The NWIPC has begun establishing Invasive Plant geocaches. What better way to learn about invasive plants than by getting outdoors and challenging yourself at the same time?!! If you're not sure what I'm talking about, watch the quick video online <https://youtu.be/1YTqitVK-Ts>.

Three caches have been established to date, [blueweed](#), [hoary alyssum](#) and [mountain bluet](#). Look for more in the future. If you're an invasive plant professional, note that these caches are not always directly within the IAPP site. As always, use caution around parking areas and road crossings. Good luck!

Find us On Facebook

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- * [Connecting Consumers & Producers](#)
- * [Visit Bulkley Nechako](#)
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- * [Bulkley-Nechako Emergency Information.](#)

Recycling Centres

The RDBN is working together with Recycle BC to start two new recycling centers in our Region. One will be at the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station on Donaldson Road and the other at the Vanderhoof Transfer Station on Dump Road. Potentially, the Smithers/Telkwa facility could be open mid-April, with the Vanderhoof facility to follow in early May. There will be two attendants hired for each site.

Both depots will be accepting all materials in Recycle BC's residential packaging and printed paper recycling program, including non-deposit glass bottles and jars, plastic bags and plastic foam packaging, along with curbside recycling materials such as newsprint,

cardboard, metal containers, plastic containers, spiral wound cans and paper packaging that held liquid when sold, such as coffee cups and soup cartons.

Recycle BC is a non-profit organization responsible for residential packaging and printed paper recycling throughout British Columbia. Recycle BC ensures packaging and printed paper is collected from households and recycling depots, sorted and recycled responsibly. The Recycle BC program is funded by over 1,200 businesses, like retailers, manufacturers and restaurants, that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents, to shift recycling costs away from homeowners.



RECYCLEBC



LOCAL PRODUCERS!

THE RDBN IS
LOOKING TO
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FOR COMMUNITY
EVENTS

Contact
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- Municipalities**
- Town of Smithers
 - Village of Telkwa
 - District of Houston
 - Village of Granisle
 - Village of Burns Lake
 - Village of Fraser Lake
 - District of Fort St. James

- Electoral Areas**
- Electoral Area "A" Smithers Rural
 - Electoral Area "B" Burns Lake Rural
 - Electoral Area "C" Fort St. James Rural
 - Electoral Area "D" Fraser Lake Rural
 - Electoral Area "E" Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural
 - Electoral Area "F" Vanderhoof Rural