



# The Regional News

## 2017 Meeting

### Dates:

### Board Meetings:

- November 23rd
- December 14th

### Committee Meetings:

- December 14th

## Questions & Comments:

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Burns Lake, B.C.

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VOJ 1E0

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Email: inquiries  
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[www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)

[opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca](http://opportunities.rdbn.bc.ca)

[www.visitbulkleynechako.com](http://www.visitbulkleynechako.com)



## Message from the Chair

Once again, I have been given the privilege to serve as Chair of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and would like to share some of the highlights of 2017.

It has been a busy year at the Regional District. It is the third of a four year term for the elected board. We have a number of projects and initiatives that are in the works. The solid waste management plan review is well underway with Waste Management Committee Chair Mark Fisher coordinating with staff to make sure the process is on time and on track. Mark Parker, Chair of the Agriculture Committee welcomed the new Agriculture Coordinator at the last Agriculture Committee meeting, a position that is a first in BC and that has attracted attention from as far away as Ontario. Northern Development Initiative Trust has partnered with the RD to fill this position which will truly be a great asset for the agricultural community. The Rural Directors Committee, Chaired by Eileen Benedict, is working on mapping internet and cell services in order to access funding from upper levels of government to extend high speed internet and cell services in the region. At our November Forestry Committee Meeting, we had a presentation from a team from the Prince George Timber Supply Area, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development that helped us understand the Allowable Annual Cut decision that was recently announced. Forestry Chair Gerry Thiessen facilitated a good discussion with the Board around the rationale behind the decision of the Chief Forester. This year has brought some significant forward momentum with the Northwest B.C. Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA). The election gave the alliance the opportunity to focus attention on the necessity of negotiating this agreement expediently. Following the Provincial election, and at the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) Convention this year, a commitment was made to start negotiations (continued on Page 2)

## Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance(RBA) Update

This past September, RBA representatives met with Premier John Horgan, and the four MLAs who represent the northwest BC region, during the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention in Vancouver. The UBCM is the main forum for UBCM policy-making and meetings between local government and provincial government officials. The RBA briefed the Premier and his senior staff on the significant need for a resource benefits sharing agreement for northwest BC, and Premier Horgan confirmed that he and his senior government officials would begin to collaborate immediately with the RBA.

“After many years of petitioning the previous government with little to no results, this is a

(cont'd on Page 2)



**The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Office will be closed Monday, December 25th to Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018**

(Cont'd from Page 1)

this fall by the new government. It is worthwhile noting that all the local MLAs, regardless of political stripes, supported the RBA. The challenges of meeting and building relations with the new provincial government was, of course, one of the bigger assignments for this year at UBCM and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of those meetings. This year was one of significant distress due to wildfires for local government and residents in other regional districts such as the Cariboo and Thompson Nicola. Our Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteers were called upon to help out with the evacuees. The lightning storm of early July traveled just south of our boundaries and we were lucky to have only minimal interface fires of note in our region. This, however, does make us all aware of how important it is to be prepared for these events, and our emergency staff has been working hard to streamline and hone those preparations.

*Bill Miller*  
Chair RDBN

### Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance Update

(Cont'd from Page 1)

very positive step for the RBA,” says Chair Bill Miller. “We are confident that the NDP government and senior government officials understand this type of agreement will not only benefit the northwest but also the province as a whole. It seems clear that the Horgan government understands the need for resources to address the significant social and infrastructure needs.”

A revenue sharing model fit for the northwest is a critical piece needed to enable the region to reach its true potential and contribute to the province’s economic future in a very positive way. The monies generated from such an agreement would provide a way to improve infrastructure and meet the needs of our communities, as well as strengthen relationships between the communities, thereby making the northwest region vibrant and viable to attract future development projects. The northwest is the backbone of the province and if we can improve our region it will not only benefit us, but all British Columbians.

Since the meetings at UBCM in September, the RBA Chairs have been working with the NDP government and discussions are ongoing.

Your support is still needed. Now is the time to reach out to your local MLA and express how important it is for the northwest to see that a resource benefit sharing agreement is reached between the northwest and the provincial government. We encourage you to use your voice to let policy makers and provincial government officials know you are behind the RBA and that you want to see the northwest benefit from future resource development.

#### Background

The Northwest BC Regional Benefits Alliance (RBA) is made up of a collective of 21 local governments in the Northwest from Vanderhoof to Masset, seeking a share of the revenues that will flow to the provincial government from future development projects. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako joined the RBA in 2015 and is involved in negotiating with the government to see a portion of the profits of resource development projects flow back to the northwest in order to improve the region and address the infrastructure and social development needs.

To stay up-to-date on the RBA or to read about the efforts to date, visit the website [www.nwresourcebenefitsalliance.com](http://www.nwresourcebenefitsalliance.com).



**NORTHWEST BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE**

## Bulkley-Nechako Transit Service Changes

A winter schedule is in effect for the 161 route from Burns Lake to Prince George and for the 162 route from Burns Lake to Smithers. **For route 161**, all trips between Prince George and Burns Lake will continue to leave at the current scheduled times, but arrival times at each destination will be scheduled for a little later, building in extra travel time to ensure the safety of drivers and passengers during the winter.

**For route 162**, morning and late afternoon trips between Burns Lake and Smithers will keep their current departure times, but will be scheduled for later arrival at their destinations.

There will be no changes to the midday trip between Smithers and Houston.

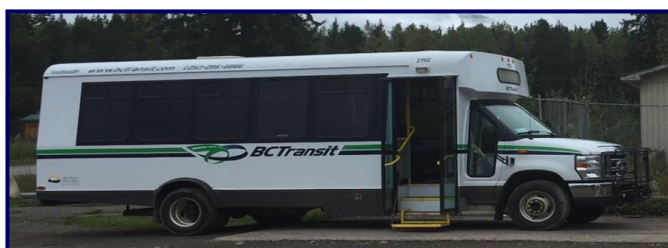
For more information, service updates and alerts on the Burns Lake to Prince George and Burns Lake to Smithers routes, please visit:

[BCTransit.com/Bulkley-Nechako](http://BCTransit.com/Bulkley-Nechako).



162 Smithers		To Smithers	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday			
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	6:46 am	—	
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	7:00	—	
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	7:14	—	
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	7:24	—	
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	7:30	—	
Decker Lake: Trading Post	7:38	—	
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	7:58	—	
Topley: Rest Area	8:10	—	
Houston: Leisure Facility	8:33 <b>Ar</b>	—	
Houston: Leisure Facility	8:48 <b>Lv</b>	1:00 pm	—
Telkwa: Post Office	9:33	1:45	—
Smithers: 8th Ave at Columbia Dr	9:49	—	
Smithers: Roi Theatre	9:53 am	2:00 pm	—

162 Burns Lake		To Burns Lake	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday			
Smithers: Roi Theatre	11:30 am	3:00 pm	—
Smithers: 8th Ave at Columbia Dr	—	3:04	—
Telkwa: Post Office	11:45	3:20	—
Houston: Leisure Facility	12:30 pm	4:05 <b>Ar</b>	—
Houston: Leisure Facility	—	4:15 <b>Lv</b>	—
Topley: Rest Area	—	4:38	—
Broman/Duncan: Hwy 16 at Duncan Lk Rd	—	4:50	—
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Drive at Hwy 16	—	5:07	—
Decker Lake: Trading Post	—	5:12	—
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	5:20 <b>Ar</b>	—
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	5:25 <b>Lv</b>	—
Burns Lake: 3rd Ave at Kerr	—	5:35	—
Burns Lake: Centre St at 10th Ave	—	5:41	—
Decker Lake: Trading Post	—	5:49	—
Wet'suwet'en: Tom Dr at Hwy 16	—	5:54	—
Burns Lake: Government at Gilgan	—	6:08 pm	—



**(Transit schedules cont'd on Page 4)**

**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.



# Winter Storms

## Preparing for Winter

Winter storms can bring dangers of high winds, extremely low temperatures, heavy snowfall, or freezing rain. Periods of extreme cold cannot be predicted in advance, but weather forecasts can sometimes provide you with some notice. Listen to weather forecasts regularly and check your emergency supplies whenever a period of extreme cold is predicted.

- Insulate walls and attic.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Insulate any water lines that run along outer walls.

- Install an easy-to-read outdoor thermometer.
- Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that may fall on your home or other structure during a storm.
- Keep your vehicle fueled up to minimize risk of the fuel line freezing.
- If you go away, leave the heat on in your home to keep the temperature above 13°C.
- Check your 72-hr emergency kit for any items which need to be replaced.



## Preparing for a Winter Storm

When preparing for a winter storm, make sure to have:

- A working flashlight;
- A charged cell phone;
- Battery powered radio or television;

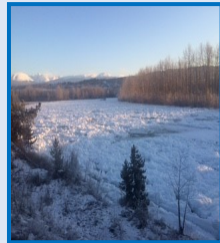
- Extra food, water and medicine;
- First Aid Supplies;
- Heating fuel;
- Emergency Heating source;
- Fire extinguishers;
- Carbon Monoxide and smoke detectors.



## Ice Jams

River ice jams can happen at any time. Ice jam floods can be unpredictable and potentially more destructive than open water flooding.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) continuously monitors ice jam situations as they occur. The RDBN issues public notices to residences who may be at risk of being affected by an ice jam.



Sand and sandbags may be issued by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to residents whose homes are under imminent threat of ice jam flooding.

In winter and spring months, residents in low-lying areas are at a higher risk for ice jam flooding. Ice jams occur most frequently in spring, when ice melts and begins to break up; and early winter when freeze-up begins.

## During a Winter Storm

During winter storm and blizzard conditions, the following tips will help keep your family safe:

- Stay Indoors if possible.
- Select a location where heat can best be conserved, such as the side of the house that receives the most sunlight and is away from cold winds.
- Avoid heat loss by closing off unneeded rooms and stuffing towels or rags in cracks underneath doors to conserve heat.
- Cover the windows at night.
- Keep your water running at a trickle to prevent your pipes from freezing.
- Keep kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors open to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, light weight and warm clothing.
- Eat and drink to prevent dehydration.
- If caught in a blizzard, seek shelter and wait out the storm.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.

## Tips to Prepare for an Ice Jam

Follow information on weather advisories from the River Forecast Center:

- Have a plan and educate others;
- Have access to a sump pump;
- Know where to access and how to use sand and sandbags;
- Know the risks associated with living in a flood plain;
- Have a 72 Hour Emergency Kit ready and easily accessible.

## Sandbagging Information

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

1-800-320-3339 or visit

[www.rdbn.bc.ca/protectiveservices/](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/protectiveservices/)



## Emergency Support Services (ESS)

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, for up to 72 hrs, to residents who must evacuate their homes as a result of an emergency such as a fire or a flood. ESS assistance includes:

- ⇒ Arranging for emergency accommodations or shelter. The provision of food and other necessities such as clothing, incidentals and medication.
- ⇒ Helping facilitate reunification, through registration services at reception centres.

If you do not have insurance to cover your immediate essential needs, the Province of BC will cover the cost for up to 72 hours. You are responsible for any items that are not considered essential, such as long distance phone calls, tobacco and alcohol.

Other services facilitated by ESS:

- ⇒ Emotional Support
- ⇒ Communications
- ⇒ First Aid
- ⇒ Health Services
- ⇒ Child Care
- ⇒ Transportation Services
- ⇒ Pet Care



ESS is provided by the RDBN through trained staff and volunteers. ESS volunteers will help determine your family's immediate needs in a practical, sensitive and timely manner. If family members have been separated, ESS volunteers can check their registry data to help with family reunification.



## Become an ESS 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!

You will be part of a team that provides shelter, food and a shoulder to lean on when disaster forces people from their homes. ESS volunteer training is offered through the Justice Institute of BC and your local government. All ESS volunteers receive WorkSafe BC and liability insurance coverage while on assignments. For more information or to become an Emergency Support Services Volunteer,

call the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako at (250) 692-3195 or email [haley.jeffrey@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:haley.jeffrey@rdbn.bc.ca).

## Have a 72 hour Emergency Kit

Disasters and emergencies happen; your best strategy in dealing with a disaster is to be as prepared as possible. You should be able to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. During an emergency, you may have to stay in your home without electricity or water, or you may have to evacuate your home for a period of



time. A 72 hour Emergency Kit is a collection of basic items your family may need in the event of an emergency. 72 hour kits should be easily accessible. Ideally, your kit should be stored in a waterproof and wheeled container. To learn more about emergency preparedness and what to put in your 72 hour emergency kit, go to:

[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit)

## The RDBN's Solid Waste Management Plan Review

The RDBN is entering into a new solid waste management planning process to review and update its current plan that was put together in 1996. A solid waste management plan is a legally binding document that is mandated by the province for all Regional Districts. This plan provides structure in waste management in the region. This includes the infrastructure and financial means to support residual management, recycling, reuse and organics composting throughout the RDBN. We are looking for input from our residents by means of an advisory committee! From January to June of 2018, there will be op-

portunities to learn more about garbage and recycling and offer your thoughts on the subject, through public surveys and newsletters. Please contact the Environmental Services Department if this is something you would be interested in.



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee**  
**Expression of Interest Application is on Page 8.**

### Knockholt Western Sub-Regional Landfill Phase 3A



The RDBN completed the development of the next phase of the landfill to allow for future garbage disposal in June 2017. An area of 7,500 m<sup>2</sup> was cleared and excavated as part of this project. The clay and topsoil was used as cover for the existing landfill or stockpiled and saved for future use. A new section of leachate collection system was installed and connected to the existing system.

The project was completed on time and under budget. By managing the project ourselves, we were able to reduce spending to 83% of the planned budget within our region and keep costs down.



*(The leachate collection system)*

*(Equipment working on covering the landfill)*

### Laidlaw Street Lighting Alternative Approval Process

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako recently held an Alternative Approval Process to determine if voters in a portion of Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) were in favour of establishing a service to operate three street lights on Laidlaw Road.

Electors within the service area were provided 30 days to indicate their opposition to the service by submitting an Elector Response Form to the Regional

District. Nineteen forms were required in order for the service to fail, and only four were received.

As a result, elector assent has been obtained and "Laidlaw Street Lighting Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1809, 2017" will be presented to the RDBN Board of Directors on November 23,



### Braeside Community Hall Alternative Approval Process

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako recently held an Alternative Approval Process to determine if voters in a portion of Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) were in favour of establishing a service to provide funds to the Braeside Community Recreation commission for the operation of the Braeside Community Hall.

Electors within the service area were provided 30 days to indicate their opposition to the service by submitting an Elector Response Form to the Regional District. Twenty-three forms were required in order for the service to fail, and only six were received.

As a result, elector assent has been obtained and "Braeside Community Hall Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1808, 2017" will be presented to the RDBN Board of Directors on November 23, 2017 for adoption.



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee  
Expression of Interest Application**

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is entering into a new Solid Waste Management Plan. The Regional District would like to invite those who are interested in the process to submit an application to sit on the Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee. The form must be submitted by December 15, 2017. All committee meetings will be held in Burns Lake. Responsibilities of the committee are as follows:

Five to six 3 hour workshops between the dates of January-June 2018

Review of reports sent in preparation for workshops

\*For each workshop, meals will be provided and a travel allowance will be considered for those traveling from out of town.

**Personal Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location:       Municipal                       Rural

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Participation:**

- Participate by input (i.e. writing a letter or email)
- Participate by sitting on the advisory committee

**Explain Why:**

Please explain the reasons on why you are interested in sitting on the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee:

Please explain any experience or qualifications you have regarding solid waste management:

**Questions/Concerns:**

If you have any questions or concerns, or require additional information, please contact Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services or Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services, at (250)692-3195 (TF 1-800-320-3339) or email [wastewatchers@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:wastewatchers@rdbn.bc.ca)



As the Regional Agriculture Coordinator I officially began work on November 1<sup>st</sup> and am located in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) office. I have over 30 years experience in agriculture from Ministry of Agriculture, non-profit and private-sector farming. My first goal over the next few months is to meet producers and stakeholders throughout the region.

The role of the Regional Agriculture Coordinator is to support and advance the agriculture sector in the RDBN. The vision of the RDBN “A World of Opportunities Within Our Region” applies to agri-

culture. During this two year pilot-project, it will be exciting to enhance the agriculture economic growth, support existing and new farmers, and increase food security in the region.

The pilot-project of the Regional Agriculture Coordinator is an initiative for positive impact of agriculture in the RDBN. Funding for the project has been supplied by the Northern Development Initiative Trust and the RDBN. The RDBN Agriculture Committee is having a strategic planning session where an agriculture work plan will be formulated. When the agriculture work plan is finalized it will be lo-

cated on the RDBN website under Economic Development/ Agriculture. The website, [www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca) will be updated on a regular basis to increase the information to producers.

To assist in my goal to meet producers and stakeholders, please contact me at the RDBN office, 37 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Burns Lake, phone 250-692-3195 or email:

[debbie.evans@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:debbie.evans@rdbn.bc.ca). I look forward to working with the agriculture community.



### Fort Fraser Water Project

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako received \$3.1 million in federal-provincial funding through the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. This will be for the design plan and replacement of the majority of Fort Fraser’s water distribution system. The awarded funds are a major contribution to the Fort Fraser Infrastructure Improvement Project, a project that is vital to the community due to the fact that the current infrastructure has reached its end of useful life, creating the potential to disrupt essential water service, as well as create health and safety concerns for the community.

The RDBN is currently working with an engineer and final design and cost estimation. Project tender will be awarded late March to begin construction in April or early May of 2018 depending on weather.

### RDBN’S Federal Gas Tax Program

As is typical in the Fall, a number of projects are being worked on in anticipation of our northern winters. Energy Efficiency projects such as roofing, insulation, exterior doors and windows are very common projects to be funded in whole or in part with the help of the RDBN’s Federal Gas Tax program. In the Fall and Winter of 2017, Gas Tax projects include:

**Electoral Area “A”, Smithers Rural** – Village of Telkwa’s Community Hall Upgrades; Doors and Windows Project at the BV Child Development Centre; Replacement of the Glacier Gulch Water Diversion system at Lake Kathlyn; Purchase and Installation of Styrofoam Densifier (Smithers & Area Recycling)

**Electoral Area “C”, Fort St. James Rural** – Upgrades to the Cottonwood Marina (District of Fort St. James); Renovations at the Pope Mountain Arts Building (FSJ Community Arts Council).

**Electoral Area “D”, Fraser Lake Rural** – Purchase of a New Transit Bus (Village of Fraser Lake).

**Electoral Areas “F”, Vanderhoof Rural and “D”, Fraser Lake Rural (combined)** – Contribution to Vanderhoof Pool.

For more information on the RDBN’s Federal Gas Tax program, please check out our website at [www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca) under Finance.

Before



After



Topley Fire Hall-Federal Gas Tax Funds  
Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)

**Bylaw Enforcement – Notice against Title**

Building without required permits and using property contrary to Zoning, Building and other Regional District Bylaws can result in significant costs and consequences for property owners and occupants, including from mortgage and insurance companies. This **LEGAL LEARN SERIES** article highlights different enforcement options, and specifically reviews the **Notice Against Title** of your property that can be imposed by the Regional District under section 57 of the *Community Charter*.

The RDBN's Building Bylaw requires a building permit for "any work related to the construction, erection, replacement, reconstruction, alteration, repair, moving or demolition of a building or changed the occupancy of any building or structure" (*subject to a few exceptions not discussed here*). If no permit is received, RD Staff usually attempt to seek voluntary compliance from the property owner, and failing that, the RD has several enforcement options, including:

1. Registration of a Notice Against Title;
2. Initiation of Civil Court proceedings seeking injunctive relief to remedy or remove work;
3. Prosecution (long-form information) that can subject a person, if found guilty, of a maximum fine up to \$2,000 (plus an order to remedy or remove work); and/or
4. "Remedial Action" by the RD Board (including orders to remedy, remove and clean up, *and* the RD can do the work itself and claim as property taxes against the land).

For the first of these options, the Building Inspector can recommend to the RD Board that a Notice be registered against the title to property, if *either*:

- ⇒ Construction is discovered in breach of the Building Bylaw or the Building Code and a building or other structure is unsafe or is unlikely to be usable for its expected purpose during its normal lifetime; **or**
- ⇒ A Building Bylaw requires a building permit or inspection and the permit or inspection is not obtained or is not satisfactorily completed.

This means something as simple as construction without a building permit can result in a Notice Against Title being legally registered, even against the property owner's wishes. Before this happens, the property owner is notified by RD Staff and given a chance to speak to the Board.

**So what, you say?** Once the Notice is registered, it can be a costly process to remove, involving additional applications to the Board or even to Court. It is on title for all to see, including insurance companies, mortgage providers and potential purchasers. This means:

- Insurance coverage could be compromised or denied;
- Lending could be compromised, including possibly triggering the mortgage company to remedy the problem at the cost of the property owner;
- Selling the property could be delayed or stopped, as property owners will need to be careful about what are often standard conditions of sale, which could dissuade potential purchasers and/or increase legal costs.

Future articles will explore other bylaw enforcement options and legal issues. **No legal advice is given. Carvello Law works for local governments only, including the Regional District. The privilege over advice to the RDBN is not waived, and it is recommended you receive independent legal advice if you are in breach of Regional District Bylaws.** (Contact RD Staff if you are not sure or want to avoid a breach).

Lui Carvello, MCIP, RPP

Lawyer & Registered Professional Planner November 7, 2017



What's your internet like? Do you wish you had faster internet? The Regional District Board of Directors has identified improving connectivity as a strategic priority for the Region. What are we going to do about it? The staff at the RDBN are undertaking a connectivity study to better understand the current ser-

vice levels in the Region. The information collected from the study will allow the RDBN to engage in meaningful conversation with residents and Internet Service Providers. Make sure to check back in the New Year for more information regarding connectivity in the RDBN

and what you can do to ensure your voice is heard.



## Does Your Non-Profit Organization Need Assistance?

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako provides **free** grant writing assistance to non-profit organizations located within the region. Non-profit organizations are required to fill out a "Request for Assistance" form to access the service. The form is located on the RDBN website - [www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://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 the Economic Development Department of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. ([here](#))

## Do You Have A Fire Escape Plan?

**You and your family are fast asleep when the smoke alarm sounds: Do you know what to do?**

Consider this scenario: it's 2am, you and your family are fast asleep when you wake to the sound of the smoke alarm and the smell of smoke. What do you do? If you are not prepared for this situation, it could jeopardize your safety or worse, possibly prove deadly.

In a typical residential fire with working smoke alarms, you may only have a few minutes to escape safely once the alarm goes off. This is one of the reasons home escape plans are so crucial, and why they must be practiced. It helps ensure that all members of the household know what to do in the event of a fire.

The theme for this year's fire prevention week was, "Every second counts, Plan 2 ways out". It is meant to educate the public on not only the importance of developing a home escape plan, but also practicing that plan, as it can truly make a difference when seconds count.



The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako encourages all residents to develop a plan and practice it. It consists of working smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. It also includes 2 ways out of every room, usually a door or window, and an outside meeting place a safe distance from the home. A good rule of thumb is to practice your escape plan at least twice a year, as well as change the batteries in all your smoke detectors. Some residents may not be aware that smoke alarms do not last forever, and need to be replaced every ten years. Check the manufacturers date on the back of your alarm to ensure it has not expired. For more information and to download a home escape plan template visit <http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Safety-in-the-home/Escape-planning/Basic-fire-escape-planning>

## 2017 Business Contest A Success

The RDBN 2017 RDBN Startup Business Contest was very successful. Entrants provided a business plan introducing their new business or business idea. The entries were judged on the strength of their business planning. The winner of the contest is Ryan Coltura and Amelia Mallson, Pitter Patter Boutique.

The five finalists included:

- Happy Jacks Restaurant and Pub, Jordan and Sherri Porth (Houston)
- Honeysuckle Farm, Leanne Miranda (Burns Lake)
- Just Boer'd N Dreamin, Donna Davidson (Houston)
- Pitter Patter Boutique, Amelia Mattson and Ryan Coltura (Smithers)
- Vet to Pet Mobile, Kim Hunter (Telkwa)

The five finalists each received a prize package with donated services and supplies. The winner's package, won by Amelia Mattson and Ryan Coltura of Pitter Patter Boutique located in Smithers, was valued at over \$15,000 in service and supplies, including \$8,750 in cash. The RDBN wishes to thank the Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association along with many businesses and organizations that have made this contest possible through their generous sponsorship. A full list of sponsors is available at [www.rdbn.bc.ca/startupbusinesscontest](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/startupbusinesscontest).

*"We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 RDBN Startup Business Contest and Regional Business Forum. It's great to see how much support there is in our region for small business startups and would like to express our thanks to all of the event organizers and sponsors..."*

**Amelia Mattson and Ryan Coltura, Pitter Patter Boutique.**



*"Allen Stroet, BVEDA; Ryan Coltura and Amelia Mallson, Pitter Patter Boutique"*

## 2017 Regional Business Forum

On Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Burns Lake Band co-hosted the 2017 Regional Business Forum at the Tsil Kaz Koh Gathering Place. With 191 registered attendees, the 2017 Regional Business Forum was the highest registered and attended forum to date.

The forum was a jam-packed two days of networking, key note speakers, RDBN Start-Up Business Contest finalists, presentations, panels, workshops, individual meetings with presenters, door prizes, tradeshow and gala dinner.

Panel topics included Regional Tourism, Opportunities in Our Region, Energy, Community Forests, Forestry, Mining and Agriculture. The trade show attracted over ten vendors, who provided positive feedback and interest for attendance at the 2019 Forum; and the Gala dinner also proved to be a success with Top of the Line Catering providing a fantastic meal, including local food sources such as Lake Babine Salmon.

We would like to thank our sponsors, co-host Burns

Lake Band, the Business Forum Advisory Committee, key note speakers Art Napoleon and Renée Wasylyk, panelists, trade show vendors, caterers, attendees and volunteers who made this amazing event possible.



# Three Winners of the GoPro Session 5 Announced!

**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**

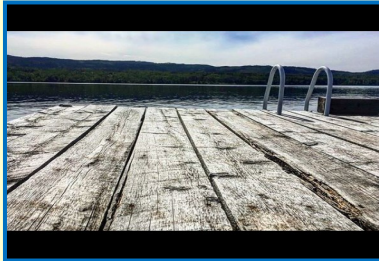
- A - Smithers Rural**  
- Director Mark Fisher
- B - Burns Lake Rural**  
- Director Bill Miller
- C - Fort St. James Rural**  
- Director Tom Greenaway
- D - Fraser Lake Rural**  
- Director Mark Parker
- E - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural**  
- Director Eileen Benedict
- F - Vanderhoof Rural**  
- Director Jerry Petersen
- G - Houston Rural**  
- Director Rob Newell

**Find us On Facebook**

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

To date, the #visitbulkleynechako GoPro Hero Session 5 Instagram contest has accumulated over 1400 photo submissions of our beautiful Bulkley-Nechako. The winners were randomly chosen by a Hashtag Contest generator and promoted on our Instagram and Visit Bulkley Nechako Facebook pages.

Andre Dube of Burns Lake, Christina Becker of Smithers and Trevor Sowers of Houston B.C. were our first three winners of the season with these fantastic shots:



*André Dubé, Burns Lake, B.C.*



*Christina Becker—Mountain Ranges Outside Smithers, B.C.*



*Trevor Sowers, Houston, B.C.*

## Does Your Roof Need Shovelling

Keep an eye on your roof for excessive snow load this winter. Test your generator before you need it. Refer to your generator's manual for helpful web sites and instruction.



## Winter Driving Survival Kit

- ⇒ Having essential supplies in your vehicle can provide some comfort and safety in the event you become stranded on the highway. Items to include in a winter driving kit are:
- ⇒ Ice scraper / snowbrush
- ⇒ shovel;
- ⇒ sand or traction aid;
- ⇒ tow rope or chain;
- ⇒ booster cables;
- ⇒ road flares or warning lights;
- ⇒ gas line antifreeze;
- ⇒ flashlight and batteries;
- ⇒ first aid kit;
- ⇒ fire extinguisher;
- ⇒ small tool kit;
- ⇒ extra clothing and footwear;
- ⇒ blankets;
- ⇒ non-perishable energy foods and bottled water;
- ⇒ candle and a small tin can;
- ⇒ matches or lighter.

Did you know? A candle and small tin can help with lighting, as well as generate heat while waiting for help.

## Be Winter Wise

There are a number of things you can do to keep your family safe throughout the winter:

- ensure smoke alarms are installed on every floor of your home and are working properly;
- keep all heating equipment in good working order;
- when using space heaters, always follow manufacturer's instructions;
- consider installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home;
- when outdoors, dress accordingly to prevent hypothermia;
- ice should be at least 15cm on lakes and ponds for safe walking. Beware of quick thaws, which can weaken the ice surface;
- avoid over-exertion while shovelling snow;
- use precautions when performing outdoor activities;
- drive according to winter road conditions;
- discuss emergency preparedness with your family;
- make an emergency plan and practice it.

When it comes to your family **SAFETY COMES FIRST!**



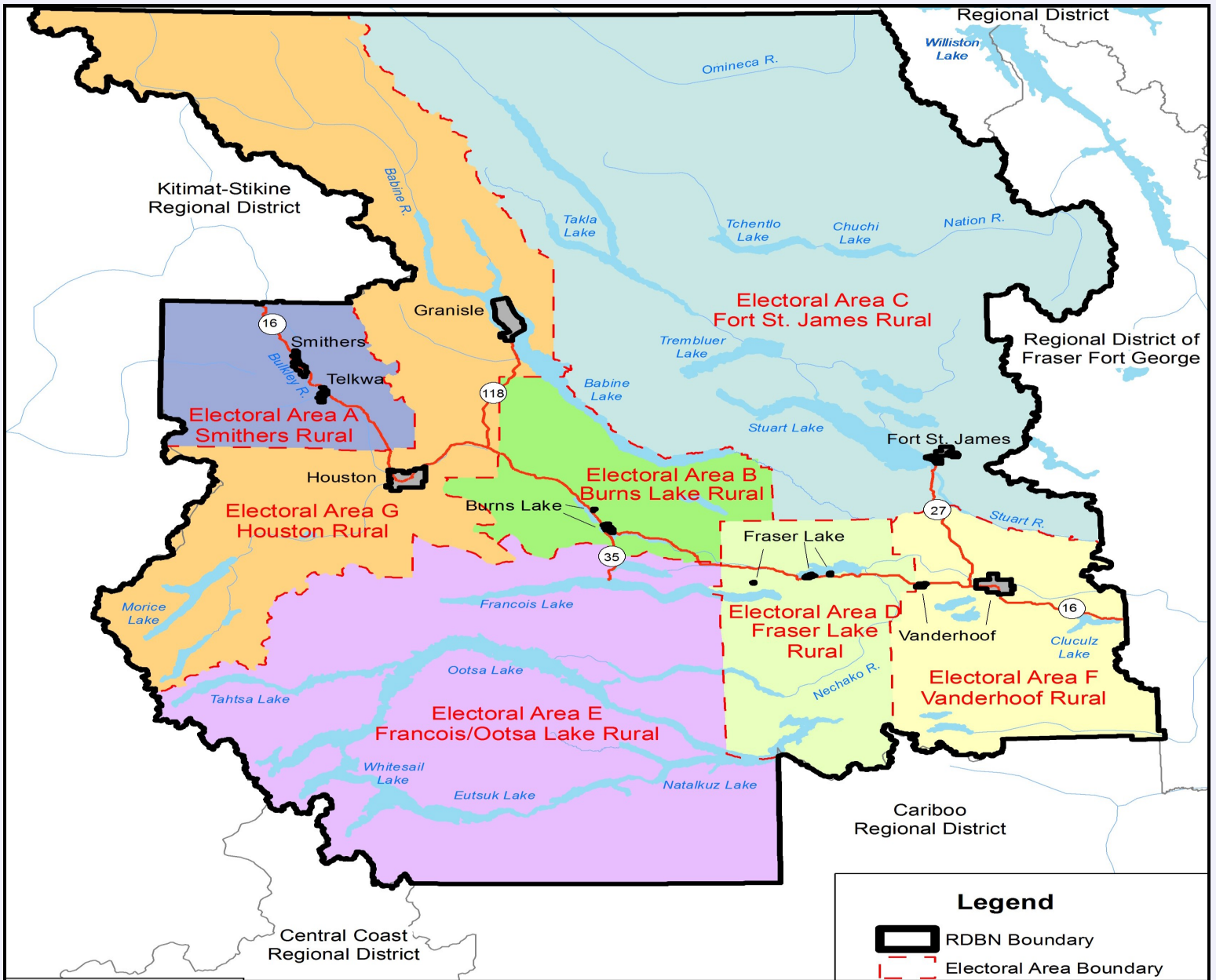
Remember to check your batteries in your smoke detector.



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

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

# Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako



## 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](#)

[District of Vanderhoof](#)

## 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*

*Electoral Area "G" Houston Rural*