



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

492 YELLOWHEAD HIGHWAY 16
P.O. Box 820
BURNS LAKE, B.C. V0J 1E0

PHONE: (250) 692-3195
TOLL FREE: (800) 320-3339
FAX: (250) 692-3305
E-MAIL: rdbn@futurenet.bc.ca

April 15, 2005

Union of BC Municipalities
#60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

APR 21 2005

Re: Community to Community Forum
Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, District of Fort St. James
Yekooche First Nation and Nak'azdli Band

FINAL REPORT

Forum Objectives

The primary objective of the forum was to establish open communications between the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (RDBN) and the First Nations community leaders in the Fort St. James area. We wanted an opportunity to explain how the RDBN operates and what local government functions we undertake as well as gain an understanding of how the First Nations operate. We also hoped to visit the idea of establishing a waste recycling program in the Fort St. James area. Throughout the meeting, all the goals stated above were achieved successfully. As you will see from the attached minutes, the meeting began with Chairperson Murray from the RDBN explaining the structure of the Regional District and the type of services we provide. The meeting continued with our Department Heads elaborating on their specific areas of expertise and the services their departments provide. Throughout the meeting there was round table discussion between the RDBN staff, District of Fort St. James staff, The Yekooche First Nation and Nakazdli Band.

Participants

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

Rosanne Murray, Chairperson – Director Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake)
Jerry Petersen, Vice-Chairperson – Director Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof)
Orville Koette, Chair, Planning Committee – Director Electoral Area “C” (FSJ)
Cress Farrow, Chair, Environmental Services Committee – Director, Smithers
Staff: Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Bourdon, Director of Planning
Janine Foisy, Director of Environmental Services

District of Fort St. James

Jim Togyi, Mayor – RDBN Director (FSJ)
Barbara Robin, Councilor
Byron Goerz, Councilor

MUNICIPALITIES:

SMITHERS
VANDERHOOF
HOUSTON
BURNS LAKE

FT. ST. JAMES
FRASER LAKE
TELKWA
GRANISLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A - SMITHERS RURAL
B - BURNS LAKE RURAL
C - FORT ST. JAMES RURAL
D - FRASER LAKE RURAL

E - FRANCOIS & OOTSA LAKES
F - VANDERHOOF RURAL
G - HOUSTON RURAL



Kathy Bessette, Councilor
Staff: Daniel Zabinsky, Chief Administrative Officer
Brenda Lukenium, Deputy Treasurer

Yekooche First Nation

Allen Joseph, Chief

Art Erickson

Mathew Joseph

Treaty Negotiators

Catherine Blackstock, Communications and Consultation Officer, Canada

Pamela Millar, Asst. Negotiator, BC

Ben Clermon, Negotiator, BC

Paul Paterson, Negotiator, BC

John Paul Rankin, Analyst, BC

Nakazdli Band

Sara Sam

Elona Ewing

Issues Discussed

Attached is a copy of the agenda and minutes from the Community to Community Forum. The minutes detail all issues discussed.

Recommendations/Outcomes

As a result of the meeting, an open line of communication was established between the First Nations groups and the RDBN. By having the opportunity to discuss the goals and objectives of each of the groups in attendance, a better understanding of future progress was gained by all in attendance. This meeting laid the groundwork for future meetings with the First Nations, providing an opportunity to work more closely on issues affecting us all.

Financial Summary

Sunflower Steak & Seafood Restaurant			\$490.00
Directors Fees:	Remuneration	Travel	
Rosanne Murray	\$50.00		\$50.00
Jerry Peterson	\$100.00	\$35.72	\$ 135.72
Cress Farrow	\$100.00	\$141.00	<u>\$ 241.00</u>
Total Directors Fees			\$ 426.72
Staff Hours:			
Gail Chapman, CAO	7 hours @ \$47.04		\$ 329.28
Janine Foisy, Director Env. Services	7 hours @ \$38.64		<u>\$ 270.48</u>
Total Staff Costs			\$ 599.76
Total Expenses			\$1,516.48


Gail Chapman, CAO



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NAK'AZDLI/YEKOOCHE FIRST NATIONS
DINNER MEETING**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004
6:00 P.M.

Sunflower Steak and Seafood Restaurant, 449 Stuart Drive West,
FORT ST. JAMES, B.C.

Agenda

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (Chairperson Rosanne Murray)
 - a) Roundtable introduction
 - b) Welcoming Remarks
2. **PRAYER – Local Government
First Nations**
3. **DINNER**
4. **REGIONAL DISTRICT – OVERVIEW**
(Chairperson Murray and Regional District Staff)
5. **FORT ST. JAMES – GOVERNANCE (power point presentation)**
(Mayor Jim Togyi)
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
- NAK'AZDLI BAND/YEKOOCHE FIRST NATIONS
 - between municipality, regional district and first nations
 - projects, ideas, thoughts and suggestions
7. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**
 - how can local government assist
8. **OTHER/NEW BUSINESS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NAK'AZDLI/YEKOOCHE FIRST NATIONS
COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004
Fort St. James, B.C.**

ATTENDEES:

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Rosanne Murray, Chairperson – Director, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake)
Jerry Petersen, Vice-Chairperson – Director, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof)
Orville Koette, Chair, Planning Committee-Director, Electoral Area “C” (FSJ)
Cress Farrow, Chair, Environmental Services Committee – Director, Smithers
Staff: Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Bourdon, Director of Planning
Janine Foisy, Director of Environmental Services

District of Fort St. James

Jim Togyi, Mayor – RDBN Director (FSJ)
Barbara Robin, Councillor
Byron Goerz, Councillor
Kathy Bessette, Councillor
Staff: Daniel Zabinsky, Chief Administrative Officer
Brenda Lukenium, Deputy Treasurer

Yekooche First Nation

Allen Joseph, Chief
Art Erickson
Mathew Joseph
Treaty Negotiators -
Catherine Blackstock, Communications and Consultation Officer, Canada
Pamela Millar, Asst. Negotiator, BC
Ben Clermont, Negotiator, BC
Paul Paterson, Negotiator, Canada
John Paul Rankin, Analyst, BC

Nak'azdli Band

Sara Sam
Elona Ewing

Regional District Chairperson Rosanne Murray called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions took place, followed by a prayer by RDBN Vice-Chairperson Petersen and Art Erickson, Yekootche First Nation.

After the opening prayers, a delicious meal was enjoyed by all. During the course of the dinner, various conversations took place regarding local government structure, treaty negotiations and 1st Nations culture.

Chairperson Murray spoke to the group about the structure of Regional Districts, Electoral Areas, municipalities, bylaws and the types of services offered.

Bruce Bourdon, Director of Planning, explained the Land Use Planning program and the difference between private land and Crown Land. Also, Mr. Bourdon spoke of the jurisdiction that the Regional District has and uses of zoning, mapping, building inspection and emergency preparedness.

Questions were asked about the interplay between communities and Official Community Plans. A question was also asked about the interplay between Regional Districts and municipalities and how we envision 1st Nations? Mr. Bourdon replied that consultation with 1st Nations is a good opportunity to meet and build better relations. A further question was asked about the exchange of documentation, as to whether that would be face to face? In answer to the question, it was indicated that paperwork could be the starting point of communications.

Chairperson Murray said that how future relationships will evolve hasn't yet been discussed at the Board level.

It was asked if the Regional District has been speaking with other local governments about this? It was noted that the Yekooche Agreement in Principle is confidential at this time. Councillor Goerz advised that Chairperson Murray sits on the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee and is not a direct contact. It was agreed that it would be helpful to meet with the Regional Board once the Agreement in Principle is not confidential.

Chairperson Murray indicated that the Regional District has completed a house numbering system through GIS mapping and also offers a building inspection service.

Janine Foisy, Director of Environmental Services provided an overview of the Regional District's Solid Waste Management Plan. Ms. Foisy also elaborated on the transfer stations and landfill sites and implementation of a liquid waste management plan. Discussion took place in regard to the RDBN weed function and the West Nile Virus within this province.

Cress Farrow, Chairperson of the Environmental Services Committee stressed that recycling is becoming an important part of the Regional District's Solid Waste Management Plan.

It was mentioned that because of the fact that Fort Fraser is unincorporated, the Regional District manages its water and sewer operations.

At this time, Mayor Jim Togyi, Fort St. James, presented a very interesting power point presentation regarding Fort St. James. The presentation was most informative and well received.

Councillor Goertz talked about the Yekooche Agreement in Principle and the need to work together. A consultation concern was brought forward by Director Orville Koette wherein he requested that the AIP be made public. He indicated that it would be a positive first step.

Chairperson Murray stressed that she hoped that everyone would work together toward a final agreement.

Paul Paterson, Treaty Negotiator, said that more could be done, but there is a lot of travel involved and the negotiators have been going flat out. He thought that more contact could be made and the process is very open. He stressed that he is happy to participate in a meeting such as this one.

Chairperson Murray expressed that it is very exciting to see this moving forward.

Councillor Goertz indicated that he had a meeting recently regarding the development of a question and answer document regarding the Lheidli T'enneh. He hopes that the document will aid in the consultation process. Also, a film has been developed regarding 1st Nations treaty issues. The film will be transmitted on the local television station. Paul Paterson agreed that the question and answer document is a good idea. The video regarding 1st Nations Treaty issues is called "Sharing the Experience", also an activity guide goes with it for the public.

Community to Community Forum
Fort St. James - October 25, 2004
Page 4

Mayor Jim Togyi said that local governments are struggling with funding. Treaty Advisory Committee funding is shared. Directors are questioning what we are getting for our money, but always fund the function for another year. Why doesn't the provincial/federal governments fund treaty negotiations? It should not be a struggle for local governments.

Councillor Goertz said that the provincial government withdrew funding years ago.

Discussion took place surrounding circulation of the Frequently Asked Questions document and the level of interest. Apparently, there is interest at the table which is good to see.

Each group will report back to the larger group.

Closing comments and reflections were made.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Gail Chapman
Chief Administrative Officer