

RDKS Newsletter



Regional District of
Kitimat-Stikine

Provincial Funding Announcement

On February 10th, 2023, the Provincial Government announced the Growing Communities Fund. The RDKS received \$2,064,000, this funding is to be used to accelerate the delivery of planned capital projects. This can include water supply, treatment, and distribution, regional capital projects that service neighbouring First Nations communities, wastewater conveyance and treatment, solid waste infrastructure, public safety/emergency management equipment and facilities, park additions and recreation-related amenities.

The RDKS board will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss how to divide the funding between the different electoral areas and services offered by the RDKS.

On March 16th 2023, Minister of Municipal Affairs Anne Kang was in Terrace to announce \$3 million for cell expansion and future planning at the Forceman Ridge Waste Management facility. This funding is critical as the RDKS will be completing construction of Cell 1B in summer 2023.



Minister Kang and Chair Germuth

Dease Lake Fire Dept.

After the suspension of fire service in the Fall of 2022 the RDKS hired Rick Mroch as Dease Lake Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief. Recruitment took place over the Fall and Winter and in January 2023 firefighter training began with a dedicated group of volunteers.

The RDKS is committed to providing the necessary resources to get the team ready for emergency response later this year.



Emergency Preparedness

It's that time of year to change batteries and test your smoke, carbon Monoxide detectors. Plan your escape practice as a family.



Register For the RDKS's Alerting System, Voyent Alert!

Voyent Alert! allows residents, businesses or visitors to receive messages through an app, text message, voice call or email for critical events such as floods or wildfires.

Registration for the service is FREE, simple and totally anonymous. Residents can choose how they would like to receive alerts—either through a mobile app, email, text message or phone call. If you already have the app, you can register online to receive the alert type that suits you.

If further assistance is needed to register, call 250-638-1466 or email rboehm@rdks.bc.ca.



Thornhill Multiuse Path

In Spring 2022, the Regional District engaged Urban Systems Ltd. to undertake a feasibility study for the construction of a multi-use pathway in Thornhill. This project seeks to advance policy direction in the 2020 Thornhill Official Community Plan and the 2014 Thornhill Active Transportation Plan. The study has been directed by the RDKS board and funded by a grant through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund. The study area for this project was chosen as the logical starting point for an active transportation network that will connect important destinations in both Thornhill and Terrace. A multi-use pathway in this area would enhance the gateway experience into Thornhill and builds on the momentum of the new roundabout and other recent improvements to the community.



Phase 1 of the feasibility study completed in January. Phase 2, ongoing, will develop the preferred concept design and includes community engagement this spring. Keep an eye out for social media posts and check out Get Involved RDKS for more information.

Strategic Plan

On December 16 and 17, 2022, the RDKS Board and staff participated in a strategic planning session. A Strategic Plan is a document that helps foster a common understanding of issues facing the region and to establish a strategic approach to addressing the Boards most important opportunities and challenges. The Strategic Plan helps guide the allocation of financial and human resources by providing a clear direction for staff and aligns decisions and policies of the Board with their vision of the future. It also allows the RDKS to track and measure progress and success over time.

The Board identified four Strategic Focus Areas that include: Organizational Effectiveness, Sustainable Service Delivery, Governance and Partnerships with First Nations and Advocacy. There are 14 priorities spread between these four Focus Areas. Each Focus area has a goal and purpose statement to help guide staff and the Board.

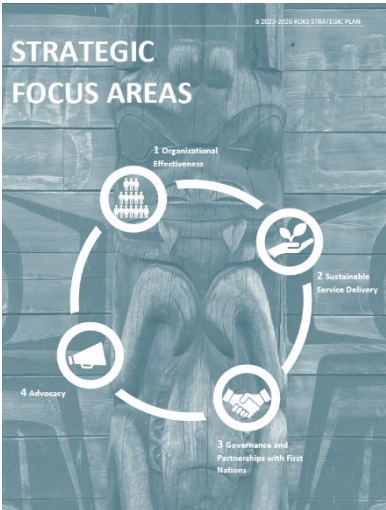
On March 1, 2023, the Board was presented with a draft of the plan. Discussion was had and small amendments and comments were included in the final version. The Board approved the Strategic Plan on March 24th, 2023. The Plan can be found on the RDKS website.

Forceman Cell expansion

Forceman Ridge is an engineered landfill, located between Terrace and Kitimat on Highway 37, consisting of an engineered and composite-lined landfill, a state-of-the-art compost facility, septage facility and a five-step leachate treatment system. The cell expansion project started in 2022 and reached approximately 50% completion before being put on hold for the winter due to needing drier weather for the liner construction. The project will be restarting in April 2023 with a target completion of Summer/ Fall 2023.



Early construction photo - August 18, 2022



Corporate

RDKS Board Procedure Bylaw No. 778, 2022

The Kitimat-Stikine Board Procedure Bylaw was adopted at the February 17, 2023 Board meeting after a public notice period. The Bylaw can be found on the RDKS website.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (RDKS and other Municipalities and Organizations)

The RDKS and other municipalities and organizations are forming a Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee. This committee is being formed in response to and support of the Accessible BC Act. To review the Terms of Reference please go to www.terrace.ca/portal and navigate to the Board/Committee Application tab.

Grant Writer Services

The RDKS's Grant Writer Services are available for Stewart, Hazelton, New Hazelton, and all Electoral Areas and is partially funded by the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

The RDKS works with grant writers to provide grant writing services to non-profit and community groups. If you are looking for grant writing support and are a non-profit, society, charity, or even small business, visit the RDKS website.

Finance

The RDKS' 2023-2026 Financial Plan was adopted at the end of March. The RDKS is holding taxation constant in 2023 with no overall increase for requisition and parcel taxes.

This is for the regional district as a whole and is not indicative of how individual property owners will be impacted. Individual assessment changes and the specific compliment of services each property receives will determine their 2023 property tax level.

As the regional district has a service based taxation model, individuals will see increases to certain services. Those services seeing increases in 2023 include:

- General Government
- South Hazelton Fire Protection
- Preparation for Emergencies
- Thornhill Dog Control
- Hazeltons' Area Transit
- South Hazelton Parks and Recreation
- Terrace Area Recreation & Cemetery

Full details are available on the RDKS website. Or contact the RDKS for more information.

Dangerous Dog- Area C Pilot

On September 1, 2022, the new Area C Dangerous Dog Policy came into effect. This creative policy has enabled Regional District Animal Control Officers to accept and investigate reports of alleged "***dangerous dogs***" within a specified portion of Area C without accruing the cost of establishing the service by bylaw and developing a regulatory bylaw. A ***dangerous dog*** is defined in [Section 49 of the Community Charter](#) as one that:

- (a) has killed or seriously injured a person,
- (b) has killed or seriously injured a domestic animal, while in a public place or while on private property, other than property owned or occupied by the person responsible for the dog, or
- (c) an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person.

As previous attempts to establish a dog control service in Area C were unsuccessful following significant public opposition, this policy has empowered staff to respond to the most pressing dog-related issues facing some rural customers in an efficient and cost-effective way, without imposing further regulations. For more information, please email dogcontrol@rdks.bc.ca



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New Firehalls Coming

Residents at Lakelse Lake and North Terrace will soon be seeing signs indicating future building sites for a Fire Hall.

You will see a sign placed near the intersection of Hwy 37 South and Waterlily Bay once the snow melts. The sign in North Terrace will be placed along Kalum Lake Dr. The RDKS is working on Engineering Design Request for Proposal for both Fire Halls which will be going live in the coming weeks.

We are excited to grow with our communities and meet the future needs of Emergency Response.



Upper Skeena Recreation Centre

In February 2023 the RDKS hired Binnie to undertake community engagement for the demolition and redevelopment of the old Ken Trombley Arena. Over 100 people provided written feedback into what they would like to see at the old Arena site.

Binnie will be presenting their final findings in April 2023. Preliminary reports show the community wanted to see a space where community events and celebrations could take place. There was also a strong desire for passive space for people to enjoy the views, gather with friends and families and children play area.

Next steps include a final report from Binnie to the Economic Development Commission, funding applications to undertake the proposed works and a phased approach to demolition and redevelopment.

Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Committee

The Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Committee elected Electoral Area B Director Cyra Yunkw as Chair. Committee meetings take place quarterly and there are still available committee member spots available. Contact info@rdks.bc.ca for more information.

Are You Building?

We require property owners obtain a Building Declaration and Siting Approvals Permit prior to construction of any addition, principal structure or ancillary structure over 10 m².

The purpose of this permit is to ensure all proposed new construction will meet the building requirements of the applicable zoning bylaw.

We do not provide building inspection services so the Permit does not confirm that the building you intend to construct (under the Permit) will meet BC Building or Fire Codes. This does not excuse the property owner from the responsibility of building according to these codes.

Visit our website for the permit and more information or contact planning@rdks.bc.ca.

Contact Us



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www.rdks.bc.ca



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am to 4:30 pm