



The Region of BC's Best

# The Current



## Highlights from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Board of Directors' Meeting of February 8, 2018

### Wildfire Recovery Initiative Report Released

Myles Bruns, Regional Manager from the Community Wildfire Recovery Branch, gave a presentation to the Board addressing the final report about the Wildfire Recovery Initiative for businesses affected by the summer's wildfires. The report contains several recommendations for helping businesses, including:

- Marketing and promotion of the area to help the tourism sector recover
- Development of a one-on-one direct assistance program to help businesses recover by providing services
- Investigating the idea of providing support to assist businesses with the creation of an emergency response and business continuity plan.

The full report can be seen at [tnrd.ca](http://tnrd.ca).

### Formal Process Established for Fire Departments

Staff was authorized to commence the formal process of establishing TNRD-administered fire protection services in Little Fort, Loon Lake, South Green Lake and Tobiano by holding public information meetings to determine if there is general support for service establishment.

Since the implementation by the Province of the fire department *Playbook* some of these independent fire departments are concerned with the liability of fire department operations and maintenance, as well as increased workload, and have requested that the TNRD take over the fire departments and operate them in a manner similar to the three TNRD-

administered fire departments (Blackpool, Pritchard and Vavenby).

*Playbook* is the retrofit for the Fire Services Act via the Fire Safety Act and a more pointed overhaul of legislation related to fire departments through Workman's Compensation Act.

As well, and also related to the implementation of *Playbook*, annual tax requisitions for financial contribution fire departments will be discontinued effective December 31, 2022 and discretionary funding for fire brigades that have not been established through a public assent process will be discontinued immediately.

### Policy Changes in China Could Impact Recycling Programs

The Board heard from Director Bill Kershaw, chair of the Solid Waste Management Committee, about recent policy changes in China, which has recently announced new extremely stringent limits on the quality of recyclable material they will accept.

China, which has historically received two-thirds of North America recyclables, is now banning the import of all but the cleanest, most tidily separated and organized bales of recyclable material, and is completely banning some types altogether.

The impact is being felt across North America as local governments and the private companies that process our recycled materials seek ways to address the near unachievable low limits of contaminants permitted in separated recycle material such as plastics and paper.

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### Board of Directors

**Chair: John Ranta**

Village of Cache Creek

### Directors

**Carol Schaffer**

Electoral Area "A"

(Wells Gray Country)

**Willow Macdonald**

Electoral Area "B"

(Thompson Headwaters)

**Sally Watson**

Electoral Area "E"

(Bonaparte Plateau)

**Steven Rice**

Electoral Area "I"

(Blue Sky Country)

**Ronaye Elliott**

Electoral Area "J"

(Copper Desert Country)

**Ken Gillis**

Electoral Area "L"

(Grasslands)

**Randy Murray**

Electoral Area "M"

(Beautiful Nicola Valley — North)

**Herb Graham**

Electoral Area "N"

(Beautiful Nicola Valley — South)

**Bill Kershaw**

Electoral Area "O"

(Lower North Thompson)

**Mel Rothenburger**

Electoral Area "P"

(Rivers and the Peaks)

**Jack Jeyes**

Village of Ashcroft

**Virginia Smith**

District of Barriere

**Rick Berrigan**

Village of Chase

**John Harwood**

District of Clearwater

**Jim Rivett**

Village of Clinton

**Ken Christian**

City of Kamloops

**Dieter Dudy**

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**Tina Lange**

City of Kamloops

**Arjun Singh**

City of Kamloops

**Pat Wallace**

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**Dennis Walsh**

City of Kamloops

**Robin Smith**

District of Logan Lake

**Jessoa Lightfoot**

Village of Lytton

**Neil Menard**

City of Merritt

**Al Raine**

Sun Peaks Mountain Resort

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 1:30 p.m.

Invasive Plant Management Committee: Wednesday, March 7, 1:30 p.m.

Electoral Area Directors: Thursday, March 15, 10 a.m.



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As a result, the recycling chain is experiencing major challenges and many processors are being forced to stockpile material because they cannot separate or market the product to meet China's stringent requirements.

Additionally, the rate the TNRD pays per tonne to deliver recycle material to a processor has increased 130 per cent in the past eight months.

In the wake of these policy changes, the TNRD is currently examining possible options and changes to its recycling programs, and Director Kershaw said a report to the Board will be forthcoming.

### Elections Officers Named

Approval was given to the appointment of Carolyn Black, Director of Legislative Services, to Chief Election Officer for conducting all 2018 TNRD General Local Elections and assent voting opportunities with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of voting.

Also appointed was Andrea Leite, Legislative Services Co-ordinator, to the position of Deputy Chief Election Officer.

General elections in the Regional District will take place on Oct. 20, 2018.

### Funding Approved for Western Canada Theatre

The Board agreed to provide funding in the amount of \$4,000 to the Western Canada Theatre. Artistic Director James McDonald had appeared at the Jan. 18 meeting with the funding request, which was deferred until a subsequent meeting as is Board practice.

### Gas Tax Funds Approved for Barriere Curling Club, Walthachin Water System

The Board approved the expenditure to a maximum of \$40,000 from Federal Gas Tax Revenues – Community Works Fund component, allocated to Electoral Area "O" (Lower North Thompson), to fund electrical energy efficiency upgrades at the Barriere Curling Club building.

Also approved was the expenditure to a maximum of \$88,300 in Federal Gas Tax – Community Works Fund revenue, allocated to Electoral Area "I" (Blue Sky Country), to fund improvements to install a self-cleaning screen system to remove heavy sand/sediment from the Walthachin Community Water System.

As well, the Board approved an amendment to the Federal Gas Tax – Community Works Fund revenues allocated for the installation of a concrete vault toilet at Ferry Road Park in Blackpool to reflect a maximum contribution of \$22,000.

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