

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
Regular Meeting - Mar 06 2023 of Council
Monday, March 6, 2023
Council Chambers

Regular Meeting – 7:00 pm

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MINUTES

- 2.1. Accept Minutes of February 6, 2023 regular meeting

3. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

None

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- | | | |
|------|---|--------|
| 4.1. | Application for funding update on ICIP- EQ
Project #IG0547
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.pdf  | 3 |
| 4.2 | Response from Ministry of Municipal Affairs
BC Building stonger communities with \$1-billion Growing Communities Fund.pdf  | 4 - 5 |
| 4.3 | Letter of support to the province - to approve Bulkley Valley
District Hospital Master Plan
NW Regional Hospital Request for support letter.pdf  | 6 - 8 |
| 4.4 | Invitation to participate in Fairness by Design Webinar
Ombudsperson Fairness by Design guide webinar.pdf  | 9 - 10 |

5. REPORTS

None

6. BYLAWS

Adopt Bylaw No. 371, 2023

11 - 14

[BL 371 2023-2027 Financial Plan.pdf](#) 

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

9. INFO PACKAGE

15 - 23

[INFO PACK Mar 6 2023.pdf](#) 



February 7, 2023

Ref: 271530

Wendy Hunt
Chief Administrative Officer
District of New Hazelton
Box 340
New Hazelton, BC V0J 2J0

**Re: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Environmental Quality (ICIP-EQ)
Project # IG0547 - New Hazelton Wastewater Lagoon Desludging**

Dear Wendy Hunt,

Thank you for your application for funding under the ICIP Environmental Quality Program. We would like to advise that, after careful consideration, your above-noted project was not selected for funding.

All applications were equitably reviewed and given consideration for funding. While funding is competitive, to be eligible, projects must also align with program criteria. Additional program information can be found on the ICIP website at: gov.bc.ca/Investing-in-Canada-Infrastructure-Program.

If you would like feedback on your application, please contact us at infra@gov.bc.ca and refer to your ICIP-EQ project number (IG0xxx). Should a future program intake become available, staff would be pleased to provide advice on preparing an application. Program staff can also be a resource on available infrastructure funding that may be a good fit for your projects.

I understand the importance of this project for your community, and the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program, which has an open intake, is available for assistance in preparing for capital projects. Additional information can be found on the website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/grants-transfers/grants/infrastructure-planning-grant-program>.

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Quality Program and we wish you every success with your project.

Best regards,

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch
BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs



February 10, 2023

Ref: 272022

Dear Mayors and Regional Chairs:

I am pleased to let you know of the significant investment our government has made to support all our municipalities and regional districts around the province. This is in direct response to my mandate letter to support growing municipalities and regional districts with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.

Today Premier David Eby and I announced the B.C. building stronger communities with \$1-billion Growing Communities Fund | BC Gov News. The fund will provide a one-time total of \$1 billion in direct grants to all 188 of B.C.'s municipalities and regional districts. Your local government can use it to address your community's unique infrastructure and amenities demands, such as recreation facilities, parks and water treatment plants, as well as other community infrastructure. It will help communities prepare for future growth and build the amenities needed to support new home construction, especially with the *Housing Supply Act* where targets are set.

These grants will complement existing infrastructure funding programs for projects such as sewer, water and recreation facilities. The province will distribute them to B.C.'s 188 municipalities and regional districts by the end of March 2023. The Growing Communities Fund arises from the surplus shown in the Second Quarter Financial Report. The province is putting this year's surplus to work for people to support them now and for the long term.

The province has heard from local governments about the need for infrastructure and amenities to support their growth. Infrastructure funding programs are routinely significantly oversubscribed. For example, there were six times more requests for funding through the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Community Culture and Recreation" stream than what was available. This one-time fund also supports priorities identified by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The Ministry will issue a direction letter to each local government in March 2023 including further details on this one-time direct grant. This will include information on the formula used to allocate the funds, the amount your local government will be receiving and the province's expectations for the use and reporting of the funds.

As this is a direct grant from the province to each municipality and regional district in B.C., your local government will not have to apply for the funds. Your council or board will be required to make decisions on the use of the funds in compliance with this second letter coming in March 2023. Projects that support neighboring First Nations communities are strongly encouraged.

.../2

I trust you will join me in acknowledging the importance and value that this fund will have to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, a city, or in an Indigenous community. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

I look forward to connecting with you again soon in person or virtually as I continue to tour and meet with local elected officials. In the interim, any questions can be directed to myself at: Minister.MUNI@gov.bc.ca. Staff are available at: LGIF.Infra@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Anne Kang
Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

pc: The Honourable David Eby, Premier
 The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
 Chief Administrative Officers
 Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
 Jen Ford, President UBCM
 Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM

Wendy Hunt

From: info
Sent: February 22, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Wendy Hunt
Subject: FW: Replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital
Attachments: BVDH replacement (February 2023).pdf; BVDH replacement sample letter.docx

From: Alisa Thompson <northwestrhd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 2:30 PM
Subject: Replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital

The North West Regional Hospital District has written to the Minister of Health regarding the replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital in Smithers. A copy of this correspondence is attached to this email.

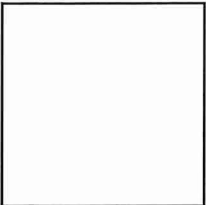
In 2019, Northern Health submitted a master plan to the province, which is the first step towards the replacement of the hospital. The master plan must be approved by the province if the project is to proceed to the next step, the development of a concept plan. This concept plan is developed and submitted to the province for approval before the business plan can be prepared and then hopefully approved by the Treasury board. This process takes years before an approval can be reached, and then the construction phase commences but will also take several years.

The replacement of Bulkley Valley District Hospital has been identified as a priority and with the time needed to develop the plans and obtain the necessary approvals, the board would like to see this hospital replacement master plan proceed so the project can move forward.

We ask that your board or council consider writing a letter to the province in support of this request to approve the master plan. Your voice adds strength to our position. For your convenience, I have attached a template to use.

Sincerely,

Alisa Thompson
Executive Director
North West Regional Hospital District
300-4545 Lazelle Avenue
Terrace, BC V8G 4E1
Phone: 250-615-6125
<https://www.rdks.bc.ca/government/north-west-regional-hospital-district>



February 21, 2023

Honourable Minister Dix
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9050
Stn. Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Dix;

At the February 10, 2023 meeting of the North West Regional Hospital District board it was resolved to write a letter to the Province regarding the replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital in Smithers. A master plan was submitted to the Province in 2019 but it has not yet received approval to move forward.

The Bulkley Valley District Hospital officially opened its doors in 1920 and has been in its current location since 1933. This 18-bed acute care facility provides services for the community of Smithers and the surrounding rural and First Nations communities. It currently has a Facility Condition Index of .68 and needs replacement.

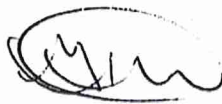
Given the time required for concept plan and business plan development and approval we ask you to look at this master plan and provide direction to move this project forward so our health care infrastructure can meet the needs of the communities they serve into the future.

Yours truly,

The North West Regional Hospital District Executive and Board



Barry Pages
NWRHD Chair
NCRD



Gladys Atrill
NWRHD Vice Chair
RDBN



Cyra Yunkws
NWRHD Vice Chair
RDKS

/AT

cc. North Coast Regional District
Village of Daajing Giids

Suite 300 – 4545 Lazelle Avenue ▪ Terrace, BC ▪ V8G 4E1 ▪ Toll Free: 1-800-663-3208

<Date>

Honourable Minister Dix
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9050
Stn. Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Dix;

On behalf of <Local Government> I am writing to you regarding the replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital in Smithers. A master plan for this project was submitted to the province in 2019 but it has not received approval to move forward at this time.

The Bulkley Valley District Hospital currently has a Facility Condition Index of .68. It is an 18-bed acute care facility which also integrates home and community care services. The Bulkley Valley District Hospital provides services for Smithers and the surrounding rural areas and First Nations communities. Given the time required for the development and approval of a concept plan and a business plan we ask you to look at this master plan and provide direction to move this project forward. By approving the master plan the replacement of this vital facility will be moved closer to reality.

Yours truly,

<name>

cc. North West Regional Hospital District

February 14, 2023

Delivered via email

Mayor Gail Lowry
District of New Hazelton
4670 10th Avenue
New Hazelton BC V0J 2J0

Dear Mayor Lowry:

With many new municipal mayors and council members elected and now sworn in across the province, I wanted to reach out and let you know how the Office of the Ombudsperson can work with, and help, local governments in British Columbia.

If you are continuing in your elected position, thank you for your service to British Columbians. And if you are newly elected, welcome to your very important role.

My office takes complaints from the public about all of the local governments in BC. We are an oversight body, one of the independent offices of the Legislature, and our mandate is to be BC's independent voice for fairness and accountability of the public sector. When we receive people's concerns about public services, we conduct impartial investigations and address the fairness problems that we find. For local governments, that means you may hear from us when we have received a complaint about your municipality and are investigating to determine whether the standard of fair and reasonable service set out in the *Ombudsperson Act* has been met. Where fairness issues are identified, we can consult with you to find a way to address the issues in order to ensure fairness moving forward.

We are also available to help. Our [Public Authority Consultation and Training team](#) can assist you with any questions about fairness you may have. A number of [useful resources](#) are also available on our website, including:

- A [Complaint Handling Guide](#), which contains a [Model Complaints Policy](#);
- Our Quick Tip resource [On Complaint Handling for Local Governments](#);
- [Bylaw Enforcement: Best Practices Guide for Local Governments](#);
- [Open Meetings: Best Practices Guide for Local Governments](#);
- Our 1-hour online [Fairness 101 course](#); and
- Educational [webinars](#).

Our office is also offering a [webinar](#) for public bodies on our recently released [Fairness by Design guide](#). In the webinar, we'll outline the fairness standards found in the guide and how they can be used to ensure your programs are delivered fairly. We will also answer your questions. Webinar details are below:

- **Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 am**
- [Register here](#)

Please share this invitation with anyone in your organization who may be interested.

Once again, thank you for the important local government role you took on. We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Chalke', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jay Chalke
Ombudsperson
Province of British Columbia



**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
BYLAW NO. 371, 2023**

A bylaw to adopt the 2023-2027 Financial Plan

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 165 of the Community Charter, being Chapter 26 of the Statutes of British Columbia, 2003, a Municipality must have a Financial Plan that is adopted annually, by Bylaw, before the Annual Property Tax Bylaw is adopted;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the District of New Hazelton in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Financial Plan for the 5 years ending December 31, 2027;
2. Schedule "B", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Statement of Objectives and Policies; and
3. This Bylaw may be cited as "**District of New Hazelton 2023-2027 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 371, 2023.**"

Read a first time this 09 TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023

Read a second time this 09 TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023

Read a third time this 06 TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Adopted this DAY OF MARCH, 2023

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

SCHEDULE 'B'

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the Community Charter, the District of New Hazelton is required to include in the Five Year Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the Community Charter;
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes; and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

FUNDING SOURCES

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2022. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult or undesirable to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, and street lighting.

Many services can be measured and charged on a user-pay basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

Table 1

Revenue Source	% of Total Revenue	Dollar Value
Taxation	14.151%	\$ 593,000
User Fees & Charges	10.514%	\$ 440,600
Other Sources	9.999%	\$ 419,000
Grants	55.505%	\$ 2,326,000
Borrowing	0%	-
Reserves & Surplus	9.832%	\$ 412,000
TOTAL	100%	\$ 4,190,600

OBJECTIVE

The District will annually review the portion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges.

POLICY

The District will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential and business property classes provide the largest portions of property tax revenue. This is primarily due to no industrial classes within the District.

Table 2

PROPERTY CLASS	% of Property Taxation	Dollar Value
Residential	55.89%	\$ 331,417
Utilities	16.11%	\$ 95,541
Major Industrial	0.00%	-
Light Industrial	0.00%	-
Business & Other	19.10%	\$ 113,285
Recreation/Non-Profit	0.08%	\$ 487
Farmland	0.05%	\$ 271
Grants In Lieu	8.77%	\$ 52,000
TOTAL	100.00%	\$ 593,000

OBJECTIVES

The District wishes to maintain the property tax levy percentages for 2023 at the prior levels plus 2%, adjusted for the impact of non-market changes to assessments. Utility class will be less than the maximum allowable by Provincial statute (BC Reg. 329/96).

POLICIES

The District will continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail, commercial and industrial businesses to invest in the community.

The District will regularly review and compare the District's distributions of property tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

The District will review annually, with a view of lowering both the residential and business property tax rates using new, non-market industrial assessment.

PERMISSION TAX EXEMPTIONS

The District has an existing permissive tax exemption policy which guides the administration and approval of permissive tax exemptions.

OBJECTIVES

The District will continue to provide permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies and churches pursuant to District policy.

POLICY

The District will accept Permissive Tax Exemption applications from non-profits, charitable organizations, and churches. Permissive tax exemptions will run on a three-year cycle. Applications for exemption must be resubmitted at the end of each cycle.

Permissive Tax Exemption

Value of Permissive Exemptions granted by the District under Section 220, 224, or 225 of the Community Charter

	2023 (est)	2024 (est)	2025 (est)	2026 (est)	2027 (est)
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	\$ 754.19	\$ 769.27	\$ 784.66	\$ 800.35	\$ 816.36
BC Conf Mennonite Brethren Churches	\$ 441.09	\$ 449.91	\$ 458.91	\$ 468.09	\$ 477.45
New Hazelton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	\$ 70.64	\$ 72.05	\$ 73.49	\$ 74.96	\$ 76.46

Note: Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw expires in 2024. Applicants will need to reapply for further years. Numbers are based on the assumption that an application will occur.

LIDSTONE & COMPANY

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clients
FROM: Recky Lai
DATE: February 15, 2023
RE: Decriminalization
FILE: 99999 - 044

The aim of this bulletin is to provide an overview of the federal exemption granted to the Province of BC to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs. We also flag some impacts and risks this exemption may create for local governments.

1. Overview of the Exemption

In response to a request from the Province of British Columbia and pursuant to subsection 56(1) of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)*, the Federal Government has issued a “class exemption” from the prohibition on possession of certain controlled substances in subsection 4(1) of the *CDSA*. The exemption is in effect from January 31, 2023 to January 31, 2026 and enables adults (18 years of age and older) in BC to possess up to a cumulative total of 2.5 grams of opioids (such as heroin, morphine, or fentanyl), cocaine, methamphetamine, or MDMA for personal use (the “Exemption”). Under the Exemption, adults found in possession of the listed substances will not be subject to criminal charges but will be provided with information on available local health and social services. The Exemption is only applicable if the possession of the illegal substance is for personal use with no intention to traffic.

The Exemption does not apply in respect to childcare facilities, K-12 school premises, airports, or a motor vehicle or watercraft operated by a minor regardless of whether the motor vehicle or watercraft is in motion. Further, if the illegal substance is possessed on rail transportation, in a motor vehicle or on watercraft, the illegal substance must not be readily accessible to the driver or operator. The Exemption also does not apply to a Canadian Armed Forces member who is subject to the Code of Service Discipline.

2. Impacts on Local Government

Local governments have no “direct” jurisdiction over illicit drugs. The federal government has sole jurisdiction to regulate in relation to criminal law and legislation with respect to the possession and use of illicit drugs falls under the

VANCOUVER OFFICE:
#1300 - SUN TOWER - 128 PENDER STREET WEST
VANCOUVER, BC V6B 1R8

CALGARY OFFICE:
BOW VALLEY SQUARE 2, #3300 - 205 5TH AVENUE, SW
CALGARY, AB T2P 2V7

TOLL FREE 1.877.339.2199 - TELEPHONE 604.899.2269 - FACSIMILE 604.899.2281

criminal law power. In other words, the federal government has sole authority over what conduct with respect to illicit drugs is criminal.

Although the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over criminal law, local governments do have powers to create bylaws regarding matters that may have incidental effects on federal criminal law power if those bylaws have a valid municipal purpose and do not make it impossible for a citizen to comply with the federal law. This would include regulating businesses, prohibiting sales of the drugs, regulating smoking, and regulating nuisances and littering in public places. Section 8(3) of the *Community Charter* is authority for these regulatory bylaws. The bylaws must be crafted with care to ensure they do not frustrate the purpose of the federal law.

3. Risks to Local Governments related to Legislating Illegal Substances.

a. *Paramountcy*

Paramountcy is a constitutional doctrine that is invoked in cases where there is a conflict between federal and provincial (which includes local government) law. Where a qualifying conflict exists, the federal law prevails and can trump a municipal bylaw to the extent of the inconsistency. There are two types of conflicts that could trigger the paramountcy doctrine: 1) where it is impossible to comply with both the federal and provincial/municipal enactments and 2) where compliance with both enactments is possible but compliance with the provincial/municipal law undermines the federal law.

Arguably, where the federal government has given express permission to possess certain types and quantities of illicit drugs, but a local government bylaw precludes that very activity, it is arguable that the bylaw would frustrate the purpose of the federal law, such that the bylaw would not apply.

b. *Human Rights Code/Charter of Rights and Freedom*

Bylaws that limit the consumption, sale, or possession of illegal substances could create challenges under the *Human Rights Code* (the "*Code*") or the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom* (the "*Charter*"). Bylaws related to illegal substances could be seen to have disproportionate impacts on people experiencing homelessness or certain racial groups, which could lead to challenges under the *Code* or the *Charter*.

Enforcement of bylaws related to illegal substances could also result in challenges under the *Code* or the *Charter*. While local governments have discretion over how bylaws are enforced, they cannot exercise that discretion in a manner that is inconsistent with the *Code*. As a result, it is possible that an individual or group could challenge a municipality's bylaw enforcement action on the basis that it discriminates against people with addiction (which is a disability under the *Code*). Further, without authority to seize the substance an individual is consuming, bylaw enforcement officers will have difficulty determining whether the substance is one that is included under the Exemption. This could result in claims of unreasonable search and seizure under section 8 of the *Charter*.

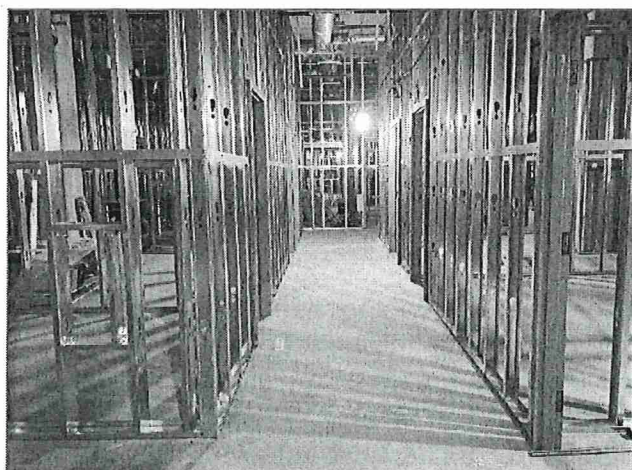
Enforcement of the federal criminal and drug laws is expected to be under the purview of peace officers.

In sum, despite the Exemption, local governments could still regulate illicit substances; however, there may be constitutional, human rights or *Charter* concerns. We think that regulation and enforcement would be least risky under bylaws of general application, and if it remains focused on matters that squarely fall within municipal jurisdiction.

WHERE WE'RE AT

Celebrating exciting construction milestones

- Construction of new hospital has surpassed 50% completion. Project is on schedule, on budget and continues to pass regular inspections with no issues.
- All Level 1 and the majority of Level 2 & 3 exterior panels are installed.
- A total 194 multi trade racks (MTR's) have been installed inside the new hospital. MTRs are structural steel frames located in the ceiling space above the drywall. They hide and protect and allow for the flow of mechanisms such as gas lines, and mechanical and electrical wires, throughout the facility. The MTRs were designed and fabricated off site to decrease the chance of defects and save time and money.
- The structural steel framing and exterior walls for the 'penthouse' (Level 5) are complete. Level 5 is where the majority of the new hospital's mechanical and electrical components are located, such as the heating and cooling system.
- Discussions and negotiations regarding equipment and furniture suppliers continue. Equipment continues to be delivered and installed throughout the building.



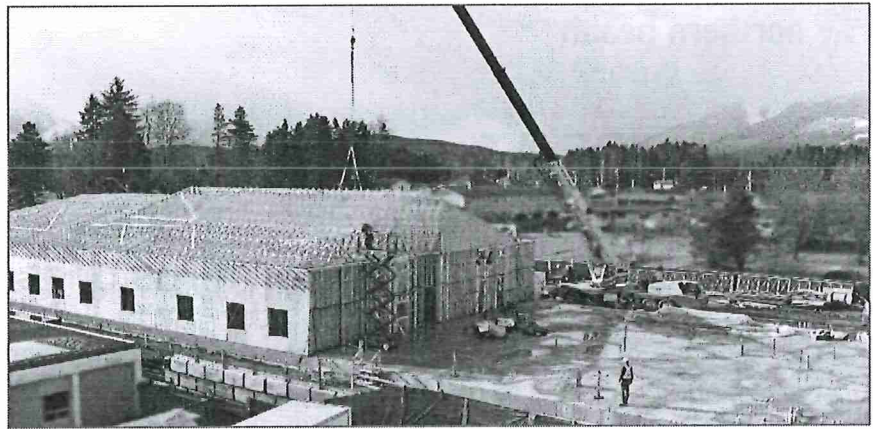
Pictured here is one of two medical surgical inpatient units framed in on Level 3 of the new hospital. You are looking down a hallway flanked by single patient rooms.

- On Level 0 (the basement), framing, and the installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing lines, as well as pre-painting is happening in the following areas:
 - biomedical
 - facilities and maintenance
 - food services
- On Level 1 (the main floor), drywalling and taping for the following areas continues:
 - lab services
 - renal services
 - cancer Care
 - intensive care unit (ICU)



New Seven Sisters taking shape

Drive along Haugland Avenue and you can see for yourself that the new Seven Sisters is taking shape quickly. With construction of the new facility expected to be complete by the end of 2023, all the foundation walls and roof frames are being installed.



A worker installs the last of the new Seven Sisters roof frames with the help of a crane on February 13, 2023.

The new Seven Sisters is being built on the southwest corner of the Mills Memorial Hospital site, to the left of the current hospital's main entrance. The new facility, which is part of the Mills Memorial Hospital project, will have 25 beds – an increase from the current 20.

Seven Sisters is a regional mental health facility that provides long-term rehabilitation and recovery programs for adults living with serious and persistent mental illness.

At almost double the size of the current facility on Tetrault Street, and with new amenities, including a multi-sensory room, the new Seven Sisters will greatly benefit those who live and work there.

Stay tuned! We will release plans and renderings of the new Seven Sisters soon!

Planning for inclusivity, cultural safety, comfort and more

The project's Indigenous and Community Advisory Working Groups (IAWG & CAWG) met in early 2023. Members continue to provide valuable feedback on how to ensure the new hospital is welcoming, inclusive, locally relevant, and culturally safe.

The most recent discussion included a variety of topics such as landscaping, naming, art and artifacts, increased patient support, the inclusion of various languages throughout the new facility including Sm'algayax, and many other topics.

Input from the CAWG and IAWG is filtered upwards to the MMH Project Steering Committee who, in collaboration with the Project Board, balances the complexities of a capital building project with the needs and wants of the local and regional communities and residents.

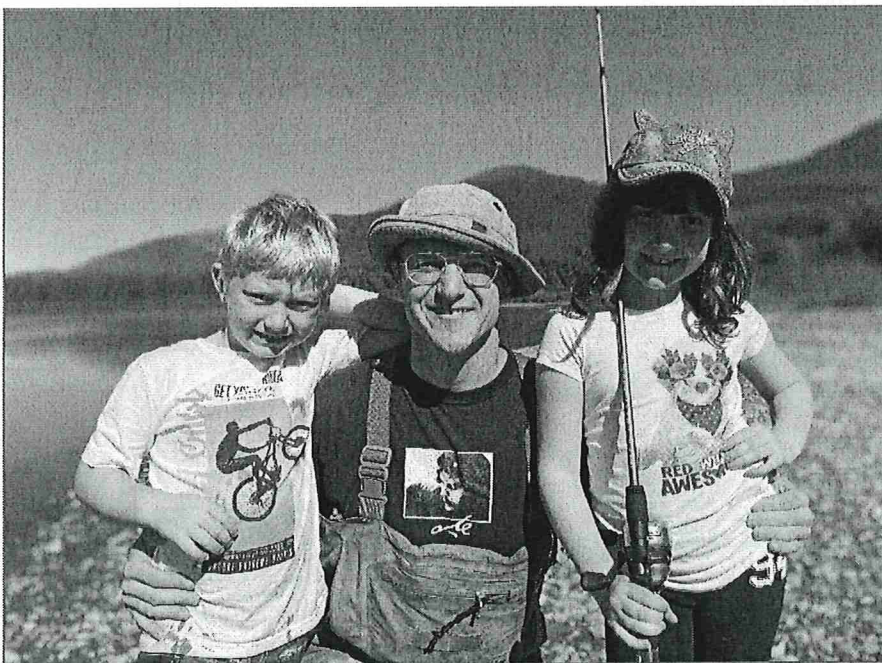


WHERE WE'RE GOING

Recruiting and retaining staff

Last year, Northern Health created a new position, a Recruitment and Retention Ambassador for Northwest BC, to assist with staff recruitment and retention initiatives for facilities throughout the region. Brad Leier was hired into the position in November 2022 and a big part of his role is focused on recruitment for the new facilities planned for Terrace: the new Mills Memorial Hospital and Seven Sisters.

The recruitment aspect of Brad's role is centered around building recruitment capacity in the Northwest through establishing and maintaining partnerships with community partners including the local schools and school districts, Indigenous employment and training offices, community service groups, WorkBC centres, and post-secondary institutions. Brad's day-to-day work includes conducting school visits, recruitment presentations, helping prospective staff navigate the application process, participating in career fairs, as well as working with career and employment councillors to increase their awareness of the many careers available with Northern Health.



Brad Leier, NH's new NW Recruitment and Retention Ambassador, lives in Terrace on a farm with his wife Dena and their two kids Jackson and Melanie.

The other aspect of Brad's role – retention – sees him supporting initiatives aimed at creating the best work environments possible across the Northwest.

Brad lives in Terrace with his wife Dena and their two children, Jackson and Melanie. Moving from Alberta 12 years ago, he now calls BC home. Brad has over a decade of experience in healthcare and has worked in a variety of positions within both the health and post-secondary sectors. When he's not working, you will find Brad on his small farm – Graham Acres Homestead – where he and his wife are in the process of launching a creamery, thanks to their growing herd of dairy goats.



Preparing for the big moves and future operations

The new Seven Sisters is set to open less than a year from now, and the new hospital should be in operations in 2025, in little more than two years. That may seem like lots of time but there's a significant amount of work to do to prepare to move into and operate both new facilities.

In her new role as Transition Coordinator, Anne Chisholm is tasked with coordinating and supporting staff, physicians, and managers, to become ready to provide care, services and supports in the new hospital and Seven Sisters. She will also support community partners and patients in getting to know the new facilities.

LEARN MORE

Go to letstalk.northernhealth.ca/MMH

Let's Talk MMH is our one-stop shop for everything related to the Mills Memorial Hospital Replacement project. The site has regular project updates, a link to the construction camera and much more. It's also where you can provide feedback and ask questions about the project.

Check out our two construction cameras

Check out what the construction site looks like in real time on our two [construction cameras](#). One camera is aimed at the new Mills Memorial Hospital and the other shows the new Seven Sisters site.

The link to the cameras is on [Let's Talk MMH](#). You can download photos, videos and do all kinds of other cool stuff.

Email us

letstalkMMH@northernhealth.ca



An image from the Mills Memorial Hospital construction cam from February 15, 2023

Send us an email if you've got questions or feedback, or if want to receive email updates like this.

Debra Lamash
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor
333 Dunsmuir Street, 15th Floor
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5R3

Date: February 16, 2023

Attention: Mayor Gail Lowry and Council
District of New Hazelton
4670 10th Avenue, Box 340
New Hazelton, BC V0J 2J0

Email: glowry@newhazelton.ca

By: Email

Re: North Coast BC Electrification

Dear Mayor Lowry and Council,

As noted in my September 16, 2022 letter regarding electrification, industrial customers are increasingly seeking to electrify their operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Meeting the needs of potential large scale industrial developments in this region will require new 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and associated infrastructure to be developed from Prince George to Terrace.

We're planning now for these additions to our system due to the long lead time to develop large infrastructure projects. They include:

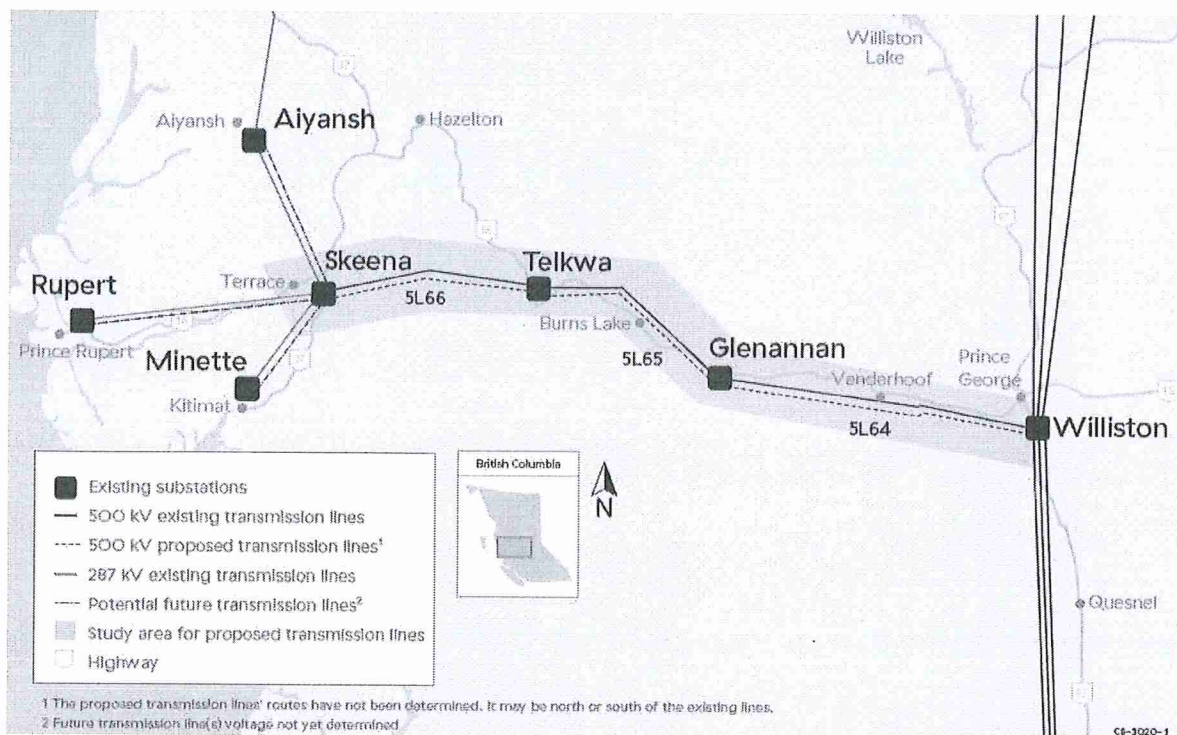
- Three new 500kV transmission lines generally along the same route as the existing lines:
 - 5L064: approximately 170 km between Williston Substation near Prince George and Glenannan Substation near Fraser Lake.
 - 5L065: approximately 130 km between Glenannan Substation and Telkwa Substation near Telkwa
 - 5L066: approximately 140 km between Telkwa Substation and Skeena Substation near Terrace
- Expansion of existing substations.
- Three new capacitor stations or station expansions along the new lines at locations to be determined.

The figure on the next page shows the general location of the existing 500 kV transmission lines and identifies the new lines by number.

We have been reviewing preliminary studies that were completed when these lines were previously considered to determine what additional work is needed. We're also working to determine the regulatory and environmental requirements for these new lines and the associated infrastructure.

We expect the system additions will take around 8 to 10 years to plan, consult on, permit, design, and build. Our current schedule is as follows; however, we're still working to refine it.

Fall 2022 to Summer 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desktop and field studies (i.e., environmental, archaeological, traditional use) and assessment to support route and capacitor station site selection
2023 to 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete studies and design work; seek permits and approvals
2026 to 2033	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct transmission lines



As noted in my earlier letter, other system expansion including new transmission lines beyond Terrace may also be required. We will keep you apprised as our work on electrification advances.

To help us refine our planning, we issued the "North Coast Expression of Interest" (NCEOI) on February 15, 2023. The NCEOI will help us determine whether existing and potential industrial customers in the North Coast region are interested in electrifying their operations, the potential demand for electricity in the area, and where potential customers could be located. If you have questions about the NCEOI, please contact admin_NCEOI@bchydro.com. Information on the NCEOI is also available on the NCEOI website at www.bchydro.com/northcoast.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the transmission system expansion projects or would like to meet to discuss.

Kind regards,

Original signed by

Debra Lamash
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

cc:

Wendy Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer, District of New Hazelton
Mike Kellett, Community Relations Manager, BC Hydro