

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **TRASH TALK AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT; Launching a review of the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is in the process of reviewing its Solid Waste Management Plan, the plan that determines how we will recycle, compost and dispose of our garbage for the next 5 – 10 years.

Earlier this year, the Regional District surveyed the community to get an idea of what was important in regards to handling solid waste for the future. Petra Wildauer, General Manager for Environmental Services says the Regional District has taken the input from that survey and along with other stakeholder consultation, has developed a first draft of a new Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. "A lot of people have had a chance to give input which means that this plan should be reflection of what the residents in this region want to see when it comes to handling waste, recycling and composting, says Wildauer"

The initial consultation process included meeting with stakeholders, public surveys, site visits, and the creation of an advisory committee comprised of Regional District, local first nations, the City of Prince George and other municipal governments and Ministry of Environment staff.

The emphasis of the draft plan is to increase recycling levels and yard waste composting, encourage waste reduction and reuse, and promote existing opportunities to properly dispose of household hazardous wastes such as paint, used motor oil and old medication.

Highlights of the draft plan include

- Curbside collection of recyclables for households in Prince George receiving curbside garbage collection.
- Seasonal curbside collection of yard waste will be offered twice in the spring and twice in the fall for residents in the District of MacKenzie.
- The number of transfer stations will be reduced but the remaining transfer stations will become full-service waste management facilities offering a range of garbage disposal, recycling and composting opportunities. All sites will be staffed to ensure a high level of service.
- There will be one regional landfill (Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill) that will be a modern, sanitary landfill servicing the disposal needs of the whole Regional District. All other landfills receiving municipal solid waste (garbage) have been closed or will be closed in the near future.
- MacKenzie Landfill will continue to be used for the composting of yard waste and, along with Legrand Select Waste landfill, will be used for disposal of inert waste such as construction waste (wood, concrete, soil, etc.)

Wildauer says the next step is to get public feedback on the draft plan, and the Regional District is providing a number of ways for residents to give their input.

Two public events and a web-based survey have been set up by the Regional District to get feedback from the public on the draft plan. The first event will be an open house in McBride on July 22 from 1 – 4pm. The second public meeting will be in Prince George on July 24 from 5 – 8pm. Copies of the draft plan and a short online survey are available on the Regional District website at [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca). Hard copies of the plan and survey are available at local libraries, the Regional District office and District and Village offices in the Region. The survey will be available until August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

“We had great response to the initial survey in the first phase, so we know this is an issue that’s important to everyone in the Region,” says Wildauer. We want to be sure everyone has an opportunity to give us their thoughts as we move forward with this critical issue.” Wildauer concludes.

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