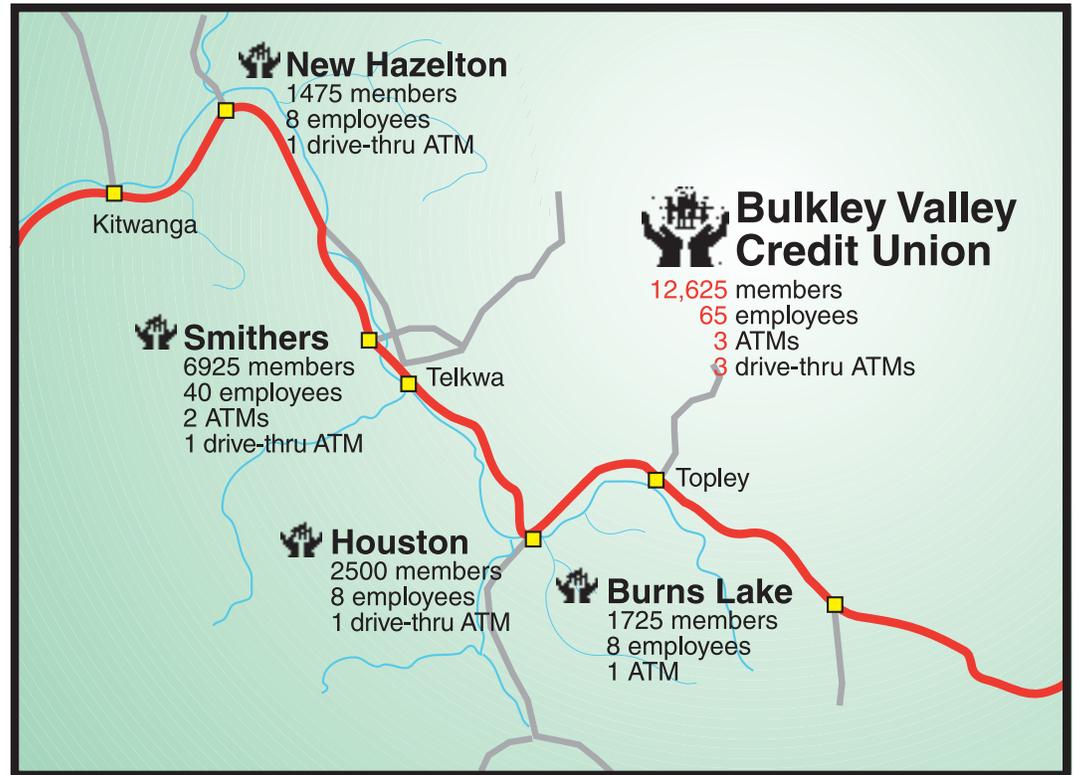


# BVCU *News* Winter 2000

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BULKLEY VALLEY CREDIT UNION

## Credit Unions in Houston and Burns Lake Merge with BVCU



**W**ith the recent decision by the membership of the Houston and District Credit Union to merge with the Bulkley Valley Credit Union, the BVCU now comprises four branches in the Northwest with branches in Smithers, Hazelton, Burns Lake and Houston. Houston's effective merger date was Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> after a vote by the membership on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

With the most recent merger, BVCU now serves over 12,000 members in the Bulkley/Lakes area, employs 65 people and has assets of \$130 million.

Houston and District Credit Union joins

the Lakes District Credit Union in merging with the BVCU. The Lakes District Credit Union joined forces with BVCU effective September 30<sup>th</sup>.

A new name for the four-branch group is planned for 2001 that will better reflect the trading area served by the credit union. Over the next few months management will be consulting with the membership to determine an appropriate name.

"These recent mergers went ahead only after a detailed analysis and business plan were prepared and approval was obtained from the Financial Institution Commission," said BVCU general manager **Ernie Pow**.

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### INSIDE:

- Election of Directors Coming Soon!
- New Building in Hazelton
- Expanded Services

...And More!



## Houston Joins BVCU

“Both mergers have the approval of local board members and the members of each credit union. We are now a stronger and more competitive organization and can offer more and better services for our combined membership.”

Members will also have the advantage of being able to transact business on their accounts from Burns Lake, Houston, Smithers or New Hazelton. “We also believe our staff members will benefit due to the further opportunities available for career enhancement in a larger organization,” said Ernie.

According to BVCU Board of Directors Chair **Diane Macaulay**, the recent merger is good news for all involved. “This merger means new products and increased borrowing power for our members in Houston; we have more ability to service commercial loans and mortgages can now be arranged with longer terms.” Diane emphasizes that it is important that the local identity and character of each branch be preserved. “The pioneers are, after all, the ones who put in the groundwork for these credit unions,” she said.

As part of the merger process, two directors from each of Houston and Burns Lake were elected to the 13-member board of the Bulkley Valley Credit Union. Houston resident **Arnold Amonson** was elected to the BVCU Board of Directors as a Houston representative.

“We see this as a positive move,” said Arnold. “With so much competition in the financial services field these days, we felt the merger would put us in a better position for the future. More assets and more members means we get an economy of scale that in the end provides local members with more products and services, especially in the areas of commercial loans and longer-term mortgages.”

## On The Move

### New Location for Hazelton's Branch

The Hazelton's branch of the Bulkley Valley Credit Union has relocated into new larger premises to keep up with demand for services.

The branch is still located at the Copperside Mall on Highway 16 but has moved a few doors down into their recently-constructed location, which also features a drive-thru ATM for members on the go. “Our new location is 2500 square feet—or more than three times the size of our previous location,” said branch manager **Eric**

**Johnstone**. “We needed to make this move in order to keep up with the growth of our operations,” he added. “We are now offering a wider range of services throughout the branch, including financial planning and a larger lending department.” According to Eric, the larger space also provides more privacy for members when discussing their financial matters with branch staff.

Over the past year and a half, the Hazelton's Branch has also added four employees to keep up with member demand.



**Moving Day—** Ruth McAfee and Andrea Alton of the Hazelton's Branch take a break on a busy day of moving to the new building at the Copperside Mall.

### Financial Planning Expands

Tim Veenstra, who offers financial planning services through Northline Financial Services Agency Ltd. at the Smithers branch of BVCU, will now be offering financial planning services to the Hazelton's branch as well. Tim plans to begin offering services at the recently-constructed Hazelton's branch beginning January, 2000. Northline Financial Services is a partially-owned subsidiary of Bulkley Valley Credit Union.



Starting early in 2000, financial planning services will also be offered in Houston and Burns Lake as well. Plans are underway to hire a financial planner to be shared between Burns Lake and Houston.

**Members should be aware that a full and comprehensive financial plan will be prepared at NO COST.**

# Call For Nomination of BVCU Directors

The Nominating Committee wishes to notify all members of the Bulkley Valley Credit Union that **an election will take place to fill three positions on the Board of Directors.** To be eligible to vote, you must be a member in good standing as of January 1, 2000. Junior members do not have voting privileges.

The Nominating Committee invites members to submit written submissions for proposed candidates. Each candidate must be nominated by at least three members of the age of majority who are members in good standing with the BVCU. One nominee per member only.

**Submissions must be received by February 15, 2000.**

The Nominating Committee will examine each nomination received and determine whether the nomination complies with the Financial Institutions Act and the Bulkley Valley Credit Union Rules. Those rejected will be notified accordingly. After nominations close, the Committee will place in nomination the names of all qualified candidates at least equal to the number of vacancies. The Committee will inform each candidate of the provisions with respect to the conduct of the election and provide each candidate with a copy of the Rules of the Bulkley Valley Credit Union. Candidates must complete a personal information return, a requirement of the superintendent of the Financial Institutions Commission.

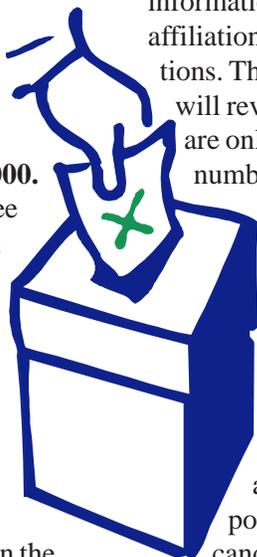
Before a person is deemed a candidate for election as director, that person must deliver to the Nominating Committee in writing that he/she is willing to stand for election, and if elected, to serve as a director. Further,

he/she must agree to:

- observe the provisions of the Credit Union Incorporation Act, the Financial Institutions Act and the Company Act, as applicable;
- comply with the directors' conflict of interest guidelines adopted by the directors from time to time; and,
- observe the Rules of the Credit Union and procedures relating to the election.

A candidate may submit a photograph, a resume and a statement (250 words or less) with biographical information, occupation, Credit Union affiliation, experience and qualifications. The Nominating Committee will review this statement. If there are only nominations equal to the number of vacancies, the nominees are declared to be elected by acclamation.

In the case of an election, at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Nominating Committee will forward to all eligible voting members a photograph, resume and policy statement by each candidate (if submitted) along with clear and precise voting instructions. Voting may be done at either the Smithers or Hazelton's branch of the Bulkley Valley Credit Union. Election results will be announced at the AGM and posted for a minimum of three days at both branches.



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### Navy League of Canada

BVCU donated \$500 to the local chapter of the Navy League of Canada, which operates a cabin on Babine Lake for Sea Cadets.

### B.V. Historical and Museum Society

A donation of \$1000 was made to the BV Historical and Museum Society in its efforts to purchase a new microfilm reader/printer used for local historical research.

### B.V. Cross Country Ski Club

BVCU helped with the purchase of relay racing bibs for the BV Cross Country Ski Club by donating \$500 to the club for this purpose.



## Did You Know...

the Bulkley Valley Credit Union will be paying a dividend to their members in the first quarter of the year 2000?



## Credit Union MasterCard

Choose the  
**Card**  
That Meets  
Your Needs



### 1. Credit Union Low Fee MasterCard

The Credit Union Low Fee MasterCard gives you select features and benefits with a low annual fee. Enjoy the security of Purchase Protection and Extended Warranty on most items purchased with your MasterCard. Travel worry-free with Master *RoadAssist*, Travel Accident Insurance, emergency cards and cash, and Trip Cancellation Insurance. The "Take 5" Travel Rebate program saves you 5% on travel arrangements made through Canadian Travel Co-op. *Annual Fee: \$12.*

### 2. Credit Union No Fee MasterCard

The No Fee MasterCard is perfect for you if you are not interested in a value-added credit card. You will automatically accumulate CHOICE Rewards points with this card, but at half the rate of other Credit Union MasterCard credit cards (1 point for every \$2 spent on the card). You are covered for up to \$100,000 by Common Carrier Travel Accident Insurance, and can participate in the "Take 5" 5% Travel Rebate Program. *No annual fee.*

### 3. Credit Union Gold MasterCard

The Gold MasterCard offers you an outstanding set of features, such as MasterRental, MasterTrip, MasterLegal and MasterPurchase. This is the perfect card for those of you who require a higher credit limit and the added security of an extensive travel package. *Annual fee: \$96*

### 4. Credit Union Student MasterCard

If you are a student between 18 and 25 years old enrolled in a post-secondary institution, this MasterCard has everything you need to make the grade. Receive a credit limit up to \$1,000, and start building a credit history-before you graduate. The Student MasterCard features Purchase Protection and Extended Warranty insurances on most purchases you make with the card. The core features of Credit Union MasterCards are automatically yours with this card. Flexible and convenient, the Student MasterCard is a great credit card for you. *No annual fee.*

### 5. Credit Union Platinum Class MasterCard

Platinum Class offers you a very attractive points acceleration program all its own. The Platinum Class Travel Rewards program rewards you with a 2% return towards the travel of your choice. This travel rewards program is more flexible and provides greater value than other airline-affiliated programs because you have the opportunity to select any airline, any travel time, and no black out periods apply. Enjoy full coverage offered by MasterRental, MasterTrip, Out-of-Country Medical insurance, MasterLegal, MasterPurchase (Purchase Assurance and Extended Warranty), Accidental Death coverage, Trip Cancellation Insurance, Master *RoadAssist*, and access to emergency cash and cards. *Annual fee: \$150.*

### 6. Credit Union Business Card MasterCard

The Credit Union Business Card MasterCard offers small businesses and corporate members added functionality by providing expanded features for convenience and financial control. This card can carry any number of names on the account. Credit limits can be set at the card level, and statements are sent directly to each cardholder and to the person administering the account for your business. *Annual fee: \$50, plus \$10 per card per year.*

Discover the Difference

The Special\*  
**MULTIPLIER RRSP**

Keep Your Money in Our Community

When you invest in an RRSP with Bulkley Valley Credit Union, your money doesn't leave town. It stays right here in the North to help your friends and neighbors purchase their homes, finance their businesses and support their families. Your credit union is also a local employer and purchaser of local goods and services.

The Multiplier  
**Flexible. Competitive. Secure.**

\* Available January 1st to February 29th



# Bulkley Valley Credit Union



#### Main Branch

3984 1st Avenue,  
P.O. Box 3729  
Smithers, B.C.  
V0J 2N0  
Tel: 847-3255 Fax: 847-2818

#### HOURS:

9:30 am – 3:30 pm Mon. to Thurs.  
9:30 am – 6:00 pm Fri.  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Sat.

#### The Hazeltons' Branch

Hwy 16, P.O. Box 159  
New Hazelton, B.C.  
V0J 2J0  
Tel: 842-2255 Fax: 842-2121

#### HOURS:

10:00 am – 4:30 pm Mon. to Thurs.  
10:00 am – 5:30 pm Fri.  
9:30 am – 1:30 pm Sat.

#### Houston & District Credit Union

Box 1480  
2365 Copeland Avenue  
Houston, B.C.  
V0J 1Z0  
Tel: 845-7117 Fax: 845-2783

#### HOURS:

10:00 am – 5:00 pm Tues to Thurs.  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm Fri.  
Box 1029 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Sat.

#### Lakes District Credit Union

Box 1029  
117 Highway 16  
Burns Lake, B.C.  
V0J 1E0  
Tel: 692-7761 Fax: 692-3661

#### HOURS:

9:30 am – 5:00 pm Mon. to Thurs.  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm Fri.  
Closed Saturdays