



## News Release

### Sunshine Coast Regional District Wraps up Round 1 Budget Discussions

Sechelt, BC – February 15, 2016 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has wrapped up round one of budget meetings with a preliminary overall tax increase over the 2015 budget year of 0.81%. The average residential tax increase over the 2015 Budget Year, is –1.04%. The residential impact in each electoral area varies depending on the services provided and changes in assessment (market) values relative to other areas.

“The round one numbers are very preliminary,” says Tina Perreault, SCR D Treasurer. “Year-end values and budget decisions have not yet been finalized.”

The SCR D has two rounds of budget review, with the first round considering a wide range of projects and costs based on priorities. This year, projects were prioritized based on four key criteria: mandatory / Asset Preservation / Business Continuity; direct link to the SCR D’s Strategic Plan; identified in the SCR D’s Integrated 5-Year Plan; Low Cost / High Value. New expenditures totaling \$129,000 were approved from Taxation during round one.

Projects approved during round one include improvements in the Regional, North and South Pender water systems, solid waste management, ports, recreation facilities, community parks, and the Gibsons Public Library Building.

The SCR D continues to focus on improving internal processes and plans such as further development of the Asset Management Plan which provides a framework for analyzing and planning for infrastructure and other assets. Implementing an Enterprise Asset Management System will be a priority this year. The SCR D is also in the process of updating corporate software which will improve customer service and the public’s ability to do business with the SCR D.

“The Board is committed to delivering programs and services that are efficient, effective, and aligned with the priorities of residents and as captured within the Strategic Plan while keeping taxation as low as possible,” says Garry Nohr, SCR D Board Chair.

Major projects that are still awaiting decision by the Board include a hot tub replacement project at the Gibsons and District Aquatic Facility, funding for a Regional Economic Development memorandum of understanding, facility upgrades at the Gibsons Library, as well as projects within the various fire departments. These items will be brought forward to the Round 2 budget meeting which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the SCR D Board Room, 1975 Field Road in Sechelt. For more information, visit [www.scrd.ca/Budget](http://www.scrd.ca/Budget).

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