



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District wraps up 2018 budget

Sechelt, BC – April 9, 2018 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) budget for 2018 was adopted at the March 22 Board Meeting.

The overall tax increase for 2018 is 4.35% over the 2017 budget year. The impact in each electoral area varies depending on the services provided and changes in assessment (market) values relative to other areas, and changes in assessment values relative to other property taxes. The overall increase in each area is as follows:

Area A	Area B	Area D	Area E	Area F	SIGD	DoS	ToG
2,198,012	2,921,451	2,292,186	1,820,992	3,119,507	313,362	3,358,533	2,175,396
80,901	243,778	111,846	77,169	(91,335)	(1,648)	249,390	121,204
3.68%	8.34%	4.88%	4.24%	-2.93%	-0.53%	7.43%	5.57%

Over 70 new proposals came forward for the SCRD Board's consideration, totaling over \$9.5 million and an additional \$390,000 from community groups. Projects were prioritized based on four key criteria – mandatory/business continuity; direct link to the SCRD's Strategic Plan; identified in the SCRD's integrated five-year plan; and low cost and high value.

There are several items impacting the 2018 budget in addition to new proposals coming forward. These are changes in property assessments which increased by over 16%, full cost impact of the transit expansion, regional economic development funding, base budget increases such as utility rates, and wages from collective bargaining increases. The SCRD also realized cost savings of over \$150,000 from WCB and benefit premium costs. Impacts to the landfill closure and post closure costs and 2017 deficits that need to be recovered in 2018 also impacted the budget.

Many projects approved for the 2018-2022 Financial Plan focused on maintaining current assets to ensure ongoing service delivery, such as replacement of fitness equipment at the Gibsons and Sechelt recreation facilities, ongoing maintenance funds for ports with a major upgrade to the Vaucroft dock on North Thormanby Island, roof replacement at the Roberts Creek Fire Department hall, funding for critical information technology infrastructure, and increased maintenance funds for parks and facilities.

Water projects focused on conservation initiatives such as rainwater harvesting rebates and universal metering in the District of Sechelt and the shíshálh Nation, expanding and supplementing water supply, as well as improving safety and reducing risk to the delivery of water services. These projects accounted for over \$7.7 million dollars in new operating and capital funding for the 2018 Budget.

The SCRD Board also approved ongoing and additional funding totaling over \$100,000 to many of its community stakeholders such as community schools, Pender Harbour Health Clinic, economic development initiatives, increases to museum and public library funding, as well as ongoing commitments for rural grants-in-aid for community groups benefiting the region as a whole.

For more information, visit www.scrd.ca/Budget.

Media contact:

Tina Perreault, Chief Financial Officer

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Phone: 604-885-6800

Email: tina.perreault@scrd.ca