



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District wraps up 2019 budget

Sechelt, BC – April 2, 2019 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) budget for 2019 was adopted at the March 28 Board Meeting.

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. Overall assessments in the region increased by 12.30% over 2018 with 1.51% related to growth. Residential assessments increased by 10.97% on average.

Some key items impacting the 2019 figures, prior to budget deliberations, are contracted increases for salaries and benefits, changes as a result of the New Employer Health Tax, increase in funding our future landfill closure and post-closure responsibilities, and increases to ongoing operating contracts to maintain services.

The overall increase in each area is as follows:

	<u>Overall Change in Taxation - All Property Classes</u>									
	Area A	Area B	Area D	Area E	Area F	SIGD	DoS	ToG	Total	
2018 Taxation by area	2,278,123	3,165,387	2,404,904	1,899,006	3,029,290	311,521	3,606,416	2,296,098	\$ 18,990,745	
\$ Change	84,699	290,207	203,707	135,312	181,648	1,047	222,935	108,298	\$ 1,227,853	
% Change	3.72%	9.17%	8.47%	7.13%	6.00%	0.34%	6.18%	4.72%	6.47%	

Over 53 new proposals came forward for the SCRD Board's consideration, totaling over \$2.7 million.

Many projects approved for the 2019-2023 Financial Plan focused on maintaining current assets in order to ensure ongoing service delivery. Some of these approvals include video streaming of committee and Board meetings, upgrade to infiltration system at the Sechelt Landfill, increased bylaw enforcement, Ocean Beach Esplanade connector trail concept design, increased support to Fire Services and the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program, and maintenance funds for parks and recreation facilities. The largest taxation funded project approved for 2019 was for the Ports facilities, to ensure ongoing capital maintenance in the amount of \$333,000.

Water projects focused on conservation and supply initiatives such as system upgrades and maintenance to water and wastewater treatment plants, development of a water sourcing policy, and funding for Phase 3 of the groundwater investigation and raw water reservoir projects.

Funding for community partners and stakeholders such as museums, youth programs and libraries were also approved, with the most notable change for increased funding for the Sechelt Public Library, where contributions from Halfmoon Bay and Pender Harbour went up over 36% over 2018 in support of more sustainable funding and increased services. The SCRD Board also approved ongoing commitments for rural grants-in-aid for community groups benefiting the region as a whole.

The SCRD also revised user rates and parcel taxes for 2019. For North and South Pender water, rates and parcel taxes increased by a little over \$28, Regional Water increased by over \$18, and refuse collection went up by a little over \$7 per household. Rates for the waste water facilities were increased by 25% to support the need for more operational maintenance for those services. The SCRD is currently working to establish detailed asset management plans for these services and plan to engage with the various communities impacted this spring.

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

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