



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District Wraps up Preliminary Budget Discussions

Sechelt, BC – December 23, 2019 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has wrapped up the first round of public budget meetings, which were held on December 4, 5 and 6.

All budget meetings are open for the public to attend. Round 1 considered a wide range of projects and cost based priorities including those from community partners and stakeholders, such as libraries, museums, youth services and economic development entities.

On October 24, 2019 pre-budget reviews took place at the Corporate and Administrative Services Committee meeting, including the key items impacting preliminary taxation for 2020, such as:

- Operational increases for contract renewals throughout the organization;
- Ongoing increase to meet future landfill closure/post-closure liability;
- Increase for Ports funding for operational maintenance and debt servicing costs related to the Vaucroft dock capital repairs.

The current four year collective agreement with UNIFOR expires at the end of 2019. An allowance for wage increases has been factored into the draft 2020 budget based on the increase in the final year of the current agreement.

For Round 1, there were 133 new projects/proposals presented for consideration, with over 45 items coming forward for water related initiatives. Proposals brought forward for consideration focused on implementing the Board's new 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, maintaining SCR D assets and critical infrastructure; support for fire and emergency planning; sustainable funding for ports capital needs; improving operations and addressing critical needs in the rural areas wastewater facilities; expanding and supplementing water supply, and ensuring sufficient resources for the water services.

Proposals are prioritized based on a set criteria such as preserving assets, maintaining existing service levels, as well as Board and community based initiatives.

The preliminary draft overall taxation after Round 1 of the 2020 Budget deliberations is as follows:

	Area A	Area B*	Area D	Area E	Area F*	SIGD	DoS	ToG	Overall
Overall	6.91%	8.44%	8.16%	7.94%	9.12%	6.45%	6.66%	7.49%	7.80%
% Change									

Taxation values are draft and will be further refined pending Board approval of the Round 1 recommendations, additional decisions made during Round 2 budget deliberations, and the 2019 year-end has been completed.

New for this year is the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award granted by the Government Finance Officers Association for the 2019-2023 budget document, which includes comprehensive budget information on each of the SCR D's services, community profiles on each of the rural areas and member

municipalities, including property tax and user rate information. For more information on the Budget, please visit www.scrd.ca/Budget.

Round 2 Budget meetings are scheduled to take place on February 10 and 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the SCRD Board Room, 1975 Field Road in Sechelt. Final adoption of the budget is scheduled for February 27, 2020.

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