



## News Release

### Sunshine Coast Regional District Wraps up Preliminary Budget Discussions

Sechelt, BC – February 12, 2019 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has wrapped up the first round of public budget meetings.

On November 30 and December 1, 2018 preliminary pre-budget reviews took place, which are followed by two rounds of budget meetings in February and March. All budget meetings are open for the public to attend. Round 1 considers 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.

Key items impacting preliminary taxation for 2019 are:

- Changes in property assessments;
- Operational increases such as contract costs, salaries and benefits;
- New Employer Health Tax;
- Increase in landfill post-closure liability funding;
- “One time” projects funded through taxation in 2018 will fall off in the 2019 Budget.

Projects carried forward from 2018 do not have any financial impact to the 2019 Budget.

Amendments to the 2019 Regional, North and South Pender Water services parcel taxes and user rates have now been approved through the various bylaws, with increases ranging from 3.5% to 4.9%. Rural Areas Refuse Collection rates and Wastewater user rates and frontage charges are still under consideration.

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

For 2019, over 50 new proposals were presented to the Board for consideration, with 16 mandatory projects included from pre-budget (*mandatory-imminent asset failure, safety, regulatory compliance*). Proposals brought forward for consideration during Round 1 focused on maintaining SCR D assets and critical infrastructure; support for fire and emergency planning; sustainable funding for ports capital needs; improve operations and address critical needs in the rural areas wastewater facilities; expanding and supplementing water supply, and ensuring sufficient resources for the water services.

The preliminary draft overall taxation after Round 1 of the 2019 Budget deliberations is as follows:

Overall Change in Taxation - All Property Classes									
	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	69,609	236,869	185,838	121,074	159,722	666	214,528	102,136	\$ 1,090,442
% Change	3.06%	7.48%	7.73%	6.38%	5.27%	0.21%	5.95%	4.45%	5.74%

Taxation values are draft and will be further refined pending approval of Round 1 recommendations and 2018 year-end has been completed.

New for this year is the release of the 2019-2023 Financial Planning Book, which includes comprehensive budget information on each of the SCRD's services, community profiles on each of the rural areas and member municipalities, including property tax and user rate information. For this and more information on the Budget, please visit [www.scrd.ca/Budget](http://www.scrd.ca/Budget).

The Round 2 Budget meeting is scheduled to take place on March 4 and 5 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 March 28, 2019.

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