



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District Begins Preliminary Budget Discussions

Sechelt, BC – November 7, 2019 – At the October 24 Corporate and Administrative Services Committee meeting the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board began preliminary budget reviews that will be followed by Round 1 and Round 2 budget meetings in December and February.

“Each year the SCRD brings forward projects that are either in-progress or delayed, as well as proposed new projects for consideration at upcoming budget deliberations,” says Lori Pratt, SCRD Board Chair.

For 2020, 123 new proposals were presented to the Board for consideration, and an estimated 68 projects are being carried forward from 2019. Carry-forward projects and the associated funding must be included in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan.

The *Local Government Act* stipulates that a Regional District must adopt a Financial Plan Bylaw annually and institute a public participation process to present the plan. The Financial Plan in the form of a bylaw must be adopted by March 31 of each year.

In the spring of 2019, SCRD staff participated in Financial Plan debriefing sessions where it was proposed to move toward adopting a draft Financial Plan by December 31 of each year using an incremental approach toward this new adoption timeline for the 2020-2024 Financial Plan and have proposed new dates for consideration. This year the plan is scheduled to be adopted before February 27.

“The development of the plan includes several different stakeholders, such as community partners, member municipalities, and the public,” says Chair Pratt. “This requires coordination with all the various groups in moving toward the adoption of the Financial Plan.”

Round 1 budget deliberations consider 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. Budget meetings are open to the public and are scheduled to take place on December 4, 5 and 6, 2019 in the SCRD Board Room, 1975 Field Road in Sechelt. Round 2 Budget meetings are scheduled for February 10 and 11, 2020.

“The Board focuses on bringing projects forward that align with the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan and other main policy documents,” says Chair Pratt. “This helps all those involved in the budget process to remain focused on what is truly important for our communities, while striving to keep taxation as low as possible.”

The full 2019 Carry-Forwards and 2020 Proposed Initiatives Report is contained within the October 24 Corporate and Administrative Services Committee Agenda Package (Annex C - pages 191 to 216) at www.scrd.ca/agendas-2019

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