



## News Release

### Round 2 SCRD Budget Discussions Wrap Up

Sechelt, BC – March 18, 2021 – After two weeks of public information sessions and two days of Round 2 budget deliberations, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board is moving forward with a budget to address key infrastructure challenges that the Board is confident will build a foundation that allows for growth and improved service delivery for the future of the region.

“Over the last few weeks, Directors have been hosting information sessions for residents on the Sunshine Coast and the Islands. We have heard concerns about tax increases but also that residents do not want any reduction to current service delivery,” says SCRD Board Chair Lori Pratt. “Whether it’s investments in our volunteer fire departments or investment in key infrastructure such as the Chapman Creek Water Treatment Plant, this budget will allow us the opportunity to build for the future of our region.”

The Board is moving ahead with 213 projects in 2021. Of these, 117 are new projects and 96 are projects that have been carried forward from 2020. In order to ensure the successful completion and ongoing supervision of these projects, in 2021 the SCRD will be adding 12.65 full time equivalent positions. This includes the 3.96 full time positions that were brought forward from 2020.

Included in these projects are eight that are deemed mandatory due to the potential for the service of a facility to fail in the near future. These include:

- \$125,000 on a new generator for the Sechelt Landfill
- \$108,000 on engineering and construction at the Dogwood reservoir
- Over \$60,000 in upgrades at three wastewater facilities

In addition to the above, 15 projects were deemed mandatory due to the need to bring a number of facilities and assets into Provincial and Federal regulatory compliance. These include:

- \$2.5 million to be spent on safely closing off a section of the Sechelt Landfill which has reached capacity
- \$69,000 on a new well to monitor groundwater conditions in and around the Sechelt Landfill
- Over \$400,000 on initial upgrades of the McNeil Lake Dam, Chapman Lake Dam and the Edwards Dam

In 2021, eight projects will be completed that are deemed mandatory due to safety concerns. These include:

- \$180,000 on the repair or potential replacement of the fire sprinkler system at the Sechelt Aquatic Centre
- \$150,000 on a backup generator for the Gibsons and District Volunteer Fire Department
- \$125,000 on expenses to ensure thorough cleaning of public transit buses. As per COVID guidelines, each bus requires disinfection daily which is being done by two temporary staff members. This cost also includes the cost of materials and supplies

In addition to the above, a number of other significant infrastructure projects will be proceeding in 2021 including:

- \$1.37 million for the next phase of groundwater investigations at Maryanne West Park and the Langdale Ferry Terminal
- \$1 million to replace the chlorination system at Chapman Creek Water Treatment Plant
- \$213,000 on an updated Regional Water Supply Plan
- \$350,000 on the development of additional water supply wells at Eastbourne Water System
- \$220,000 for upgrades to breathing apparatus for Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- \$180,000 for benefits for volunteer firefighters along the Coast.
- Over \$3 million to replace Coopers Green Hall in Halfmoon Bay. Over two million dollars of this funding will be coming from a grant in addition to over \$350,000 raised by the community.

At last Thursday's Board meeting, the SCRD Board ratified a four-year collective agreement for unionized staff and also implemented a new updated salary grid for exempt staff which has been incorporated into the 2021 Financial Plan. Further information on this can be found in the [minutes of this Board meeting](#).

### Property Tax Increases

As per the [news release](#) issued after Round 1 Budget, the SCRD is providing information for residents on the average increases per area per \$100,000 of assessed value of homes. These figures are not final and **only cover the SCRD portion** of your tax bill.

| SCRD Electoral Area                | 2020 SCRD Rate | 2021 SCRD Rate (Preliminary) | Difference (Preliminary) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Area A                             | \$218.64       | \$271.84                     | + \$53.20                |
| Area B                             | \$244.73       | \$274.79                     | + \$30.06                |
| Area B (Islands)                   | \$95.30        | \$103.74                     | + \$8.44                 |
| Area D                             | \$251.52       | \$273.64                     | + \$22.12                |
| Area E                             | \$244.33       | \$267.95                     | + \$23.62                |
| Area F                             | \$255.16       | \$277.58                     | + \$22.42                |
| Area F (Islands)                   | \$124.20       | \$130.16                     | + \$5.96                 |
| District of Sechelt                | \$153.81       | \$169.67                     | + \$15.86                |
| Sechelt Indian Government District | \$156.45       | \$173.38                     | + \$16.93                |
| Town of Gibsons                    | \$195.77       | \$217.37                     | + \$21.60                |

### Utility Rates

The rates listed above do not include increases on your utility bills. For further information on these rates please visit [www.scrd.ca/utility-billing](http://www.scrd.ca/utility-billing)

## Calculating your tax bill

To calculate the proposed 2021 SCR D increases of your tax bill.

- Take the 2021 assessed value of your home which can be found at [BC Assessment](#).
- Divide the assessed value of your home by \$100,000.
- Multiply that figure by the amounts outlined above based off of your Electoral Area.

For example: If your home is worth \$700,000 and the preliminary 2021 SCR D increase over last year is \$20 then the increase would be  $7 \times \$20 = \$140$ .

The following are examples of the overall preliminary SCR D portion of a tax bill based on a home with a \$500,000 valuation. This is based off of an assumption that you participate in every SCR D service offered in the area.

| SCR D Electoral Area               | 2020 SCR D Rate per \$500k valuation | 2021 SCR D Rate (Preliminary) per \$500k valuation | Difference (Preliminary) per \$500k valuation |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Area A                             | \$1,093.20                           | \$1,359.20                                         | + \$266                                       |
| Area B                             | \$1,223.65                           | \$1,373.95                                         | + \$150.30                                    |
| Area B (Islands)                   | \$476.50                             | \$518.7                                            | + \$42.20                                     |
| Area D                             | \$1,257.60                           | \$1,368.20                                         | + \$110.60                                    |
| Area E                             | \$1,221.65                           | \$1,339.75                                         | + \$118.10                                    |
| Area F                             | \$1,275.80                           | \$1,387.90                                         | + \$112.10                                    |
| Area F (Islands)                   | \$621                                | \$650.80                                           | + \$29.80                                     |
| District of Sechelt                | \$769.05                             | \$848.35                                           | + \$79.30                                     |
| Sechelt Indian Government District | \$782.25                             | \$866.90                                           | + \$84.65                                     |
| Town of Gibsons                    | \$978.85                             | \$1,086.85                                         | + \$108                                       |

The budget bylaw will be presented to the Board on March 25.

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