



News Release

Pre-Budget Meetings Wrap Up at the SCRD

Sechelt, BC – November 4, 2021 – It is budget time again at the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) with the adoption of this year's budget due to take place in late February.

On Monday, November 1, SCRD Directors and staff took part in a one-day pre-budget meeting that included presentations from staff with an outlook on proposed projects and potential taxation impacts for this year's budget. Results from a recent budget survey were also presented to the Board.

The SCRD's budget process involves four public meetings.

1. **Pre-budget meeting.** At this meeting, SCRD staff provide information on new budget proposals for projects and initiatives for the coming year. The SCRD Board give feedback on these proposals, including areas where they would like further information to assist with decision making for the next round of budget meetings. The SCRD Board also contemplate projects that are yet to be completed from prior years (known as carry forward projects) so that they can factor workload on staff into their decision making.
2. **Round one budget meetings.** At this meeting new budget proposals which are now accompanied by further information including a business case summary for the proposed project / initiative are brought forward to the SCRD Board. The SCRD Board also receive presentations from community partners and stakeholders that get funding from the SCRD. During this meeting, budget proposals are either deferred to another year, denied or moved ahead to round two budget discussions. At this point, projected implications around taxation for the community are also presented to the Board.
3. **Round two budget meetings.** Budget proposals that were not fully approved at round one are brought forward and a final decision is made as to whether or not they are to be incorporated into the financial plan for the upcoming year. Projected implications for taxation are again presented to the Board.
4. **Adoption of financial plan.** Following budget meetings, the financial plan – incorporating all projects and initiatives that have been moved through and discussed at the budget meetings is adopted by the SCRD Board.

Pre-Budget Meeting

You can watch Monday's pre-budget meeting [here on YouTube](#) and an agenda for the meeting can [be found here](#). At the meeting, 82 new proposals for projects and initiatives for the coming

year were presented for consideration with many focusing on water and solid waste initiatives for the Region. Of the 82 proposals, 24 were approved for inclusion in the 2022 draft budget as they are considered 'mandatory.' Many of these 'mandatory' proposals are for infrastructure and equipment that could fail, causing significant issues to service delivery in the Region. Others are proposals required for regulatory or health and safety reasons.

Included as mandatory are proposals such as;

- Just under \$2 million for safety improvements for dams at Chapman, McNeil and Edwards lakes.
- Repairs at wastewater facilities in the Region
- Replacement of vital equipment including a garage hoist to assist with Transit and Emergency vehicle maintenance and repairs

In order to maintain services and to move forward proposed projects in the Region, 15 staffing positions will be discussed at the next round of Budget in mid-December. Some of these are temporary positions and others will be funded through future budget cycles.

Budget Community Check-In Survey

The Budget Community Check-In Survey ran from September 27 to October 22. There were 584 responses to the survey and over 600 comments. Many of the comments were focused on the need for further work in the areas of water and solid waste management on the Sunshine Coast.

A common thread throughout the survey were requests for increases to SCRD services. There were also over 200 comments related to communications and how the SCRD can better reach residents to help inform them about the budget. You can read the full survey, including comments [here on the SCRD's Let's Talk Budget Page](#).

What's Next

Public information sessions will take place on November 16 and 23 with SCRD Directors and staff available to answer any questions the public may have about projects and initiatives that are moving forward to the next round of budget. Further information on these sessions will be available at letstalk.scrd.ca/budget.

Round one budget discussions take place from December 13 to 15 and the SCRD Board will receive presentations from community partners and stakeholders during this meeting. Further information such as agendas and how you can take part will be shared on the SCRD's Budget Engagement page and on the [SCRD's Facebook Page](#).

Learn more about the SCRD's budget process in [this two-minute video](#) and SCRD staff are available to answer any questions you may have at letstalk.scrd.ca/budget

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Media Enquiries:

Aidan Buckley
Manager, Communications and Engagement
Sunshine Coast Regional District
604-885-8052
aidan.buckley@scrd.ca