



## News Release

### Over \$73,000 in bylaw fines issued in 2022

Sechelt, BC—January 13, 2023— This past year saw a significant increase in the number of tickets issued by Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Bylaw Officers.

In 2022, 163 tickets were issued resulting in a total of \$73,350 in fines. The majority; \$32,150 worth of these tickets were issued for zoning violations such as unauthorized land clearing and tree cutting.

Other violations included residents not following water conservation regulations with fines totalling \$11,400 and \$9,500 worth of fines for building violations.

The SCRD's bylaw department continue to deal with a high volume of ongoing complaints, many of which are categorized as 'nuisance' complaints and include burning and noise complaints. Many of these files are complex and also involve other agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Vancouver Coastal Health, Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, Provincial Agricultural Land Commission and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

"The numbers say a lot, this has been the busiest twelve months yet for our bylaw department with a significant increase in tickets and fines issued year over year," says Matt Treit, Manager of Protective Services at the SCRD. "Despite extended outreach and communication around the importance of following zoning bylaws and water conservation regulations, some people are still not getting the message."

The bulk of tickets issued were in relation to zoning violations. To avoid fines and enforcement action including stop work orders, the SCRD is asking those who are planning to do any development work to please ensure you have first spoken with SCRD staff before you dig, build or demolish. The SCRD's planning, bylaw and building departments are available to answer questions you may have and can advise you on permits and applications that are required for the work you want to do. Property reports can be downloaded for free via <https://maps.scrd.ca/PropertyReports/>

In addition, contractors who are carrying out work such as tree cutting or land clearing are also subject to enforcement, so the SCRD advises anyone being asked to do such work to ensure the property owner has the correct permits in place before doing so.

Further information on bylaw complaints and compliance can be found [here](#).

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