



News Release

SCRD receives over 3.9 million for capital projects

Sechelt, BC— April 4, 2016 —The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has been approved for \$3,917,615 from provincial and federal grant programs to make improvements in community and infrastructure services.

“Every year, the SCRD applies for grants to undertake various programs and projects that affect the community,” says Tina Perreault, SCRD Treasurer. “In 2015 and 2016 nine projects were approved for funding representing a total of almost four million dollars to assist in off-setting taxation.”

In 2015 the SCRD received funding from the Union of BC Municipalities Local Government Program Services for improvements in recreation facilities, the Public Works Yard, fire halls, public libraries, water infrastructure, and numerous community halls totalling over \$32,000. In August, 2015, the SCRD also received \$3.4 million from Infrastructure Canada’s New Build Canada Fund to implement the Universal Metering Program in the rural areas. An additional \$25,000 came from Employment and Social Development Enabling Accessibility Grant for accessibility upgrades at the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre in July 2015.

“Staff are diligent in seeking new grant opportunities and aligning them where possible with the Board’s strategic plan,” says Perreault. “Depending on the type of grant applied for, the application process can touch on various strategic priorities, including ensuring fiscal sustainability, facilitating community development, and supporting sustainable economic development.”

In January, 2016, the SCRD received \$412,831 from a Federal Gas Tax Fund Contribution for Enterprise Asset Management Software. The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

A number of grant proposals were denied in 2015 and may be re-submitted in the future for projects such as infrastructure improvements in Community Parks, Recreation facilities, the Transit building, and bicycle/walking paths.

“Dependence on grants is never a reliable form of financing for local governments,” says Garry Nohr, SCRD Board Chair. “Understanding this, we at the SCRD remain thankful to the provincial and federal governments for their commitment in assisting those communities with smaller tax bases to maintain our critical infrastructure.”

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