



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District wraps up 2016 budget

Sechelt, BC – March 29, 2016 – The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) budget for 2016 was adopted at the March 24 Board Meeting.

The preliminary overall tax increase over the 2015 budget year is 1.50%. In 2016, the average residential tax rates decreased by 1.00%. The residential impact in each electoral area varies depending on the services provided and changes in assessment (market) values relative to other areas.

This year, projects were prioritized based on four key criteria: mandatory / asset preservation / business continuity; direct link to the SCRD's Strategic Plan; identified in the SCRD's Integrated 5-Year Plan; Low Cost / High Value.

Projects approved during the final round of budget discussions include improvements in the Regional, North and South Pender water systems, solid waste management, ports, recreation facilities, community parks, and the Gibsons Public Library Building.

The SCRD continues to focus on improving internal processes including further development of the Asset Management Plan which provides a framework for analyzing and planning for infrastructure and other assets. Implementing an Enterprise Asset Management System will be a priority this year. The SCRD is also in the process of updating corporate software which will improve customer service and the public's ability to do business with the SCRD.

"The Board is committed to delivering programs and services that are efficient, effective, and aligned with the priorities of residents and as captured within the Strategic Plan while keeping taxation as low as possible," says Garry Nohr, SCRD Board Chair.

Major projects that have received funding include a hot tub replacement project at the Gibsons and District Aquatic Facility, a waste reduction initiatives program, funding for a Regional Economic Development memorandum of understanding, facility upgrades at the Gibsons Library, as well as projects within the various volunteer fire departments.

For more information, visit www.scrd.ca/Budget.

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