

# Regional Economic Development

## Pre-Workshop Survey

1. Given your understanding of economic conditions and opportunities on the Sunshine Coast, what do you think are the economic development activities we as local government should be trying to achieve? (Select all that apply).

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand the number and quality of local job opportunities.		83.3%	10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand the property tax base.		50.0%	6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve the range of goods and services available locally.		75.0%	9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revitalize commercial areas.		50.0%	6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support industrial development.		75.0%	9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance recreation, arts and other amenities to attract new residents.		66.7%	8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance health care and other public services		33.3%	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve educational opportunities, particularly post-secondary.		66.7%	8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attract more tourists and/or seasonal residents.		83.3%	10
Other, please specify...		41.7%	5
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>12</b>

**(Other, please specify...):**

#	Response
1.	I believe that educational opportunities (particularly post secondary should be enhanced but that is not the role of local government. We should be improving our cycling and transit infrastructure to attract more visitors. We should be focusing on ensuring that the ambiance of our quite community is retained to continue to attract people to live and visit here. We should be doing what we can to support the development of amenities to attract and retain younger people such as affordable family and worker housing and quality childcare.
2.	Expand the airport so we have another regional transportation option

3.	support diversity of small scale economic development initiatives such as social enterprises, co-operatives & local entrepreneur start ups.rt ups
4.	Agriculture/food production
5.	emphasis on the first nations cultural tourism....eco tourism...shishalh has a rich history to share and attract tourism with the right resources!

## Comments:

#	Response
1.	We should have policies that support most of the above activities but would be foolish to put too many eggs in one basket, better have more baskets and eggs from ducks and geese as well as chickens.
2.	We have a variety of pristine water related locations that aren't exploited for attracting the Northwest recreational boaters. We have a totally untapped mega-attraction with the Skookumchuck. This location is ideal for an intergovernmental partnership. Construct a gondola crossing of the active part of the rapids using the Capilano Suspension Bridge ( <a href="http://www.capbridge.com">www.capbridge.com</a> ) Company as the operator. This location lends all the same potential as the North Vancouver visitor-tourist attraction as far as a clear glass walkway over the rapids, night lighting, restaurant overlooking the rapids, gift shop,etc. The advertised tour bus traffic off of the cruise ship season traffic alone would provide the peak revenue income to support this conjoint venture.
3.	There should be a discussion on why all governments need to work together. How should we separate regional economic development from local and what that would look like. Would be good if we listed project ideas and broke down which should be local. Would be interesting to see the priority.
4.	Difficult to disagree with any if the above. In reality , what physically can be done is the issue for discussion. Look forward to attending. Mike Shanks

2. Listed below are some common economic development programs. If these programs were to be implemented on the Sunshine Coast, please indicate whether you think each program would be most effectively conducted at a regional (Sunshine Coast-wide) or local (municipal or electoral area) level.

(Note that not all of these programs would necessarily be part of an economic development initiative on the Sunshine Coast).

	100% Regional	Mostly Regional	Evenly Split	Mostly Local	100% Local	Total Responses
Business & investment attraction	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (58.3%)	4 (33.3%)	1 (8.3%)	12
Business retention & expansion	0 (0.0%)	1 (8.3%)	8 (66.7%)	3 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	12
Export development	2 (20.0%)	2 (20.0%)	6 (60.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10
Entrepreneurial support	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.7%)	5 (41.7%)	3 (25.0%)	1 (8.3%)	12
Downtown or special area revitalization	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (16.7%)	6 (50.0%)	4 (33.3%)	12
Workforce development	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.7%)	5 (41.7%)	4 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	12
Targeted industry support	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	5 (45.5%)	2 (18.2%)	0 (0.0%)	11
Tourism promotion	3 (25.0%)	3 (25.0%)	5 (41.7%)	1 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	12
Economic profile & marketing	1 (8.3%)	3 (25.0%)	6 (50.0%)	1 (8.3%)	1 (8.3%)	12
Information collection & dissemination	2 (16.7%)	1 (8.3%)	9 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	12
Commercial/Industrial land inventory	2 (16.7%)	2 (16.7%)	8 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	12
Lobbying (e.g., transportation, telecom improvements)	2 (16.7%)	4 (33.3%)	4 (33.3%)	2 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	12
Developing key regional facilities (e.g., airport, post-secondary, health facilities, industrial park)	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.7%)	9 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	12

## Other(s), please specify

#	Response
1.	Evenly split to me means that all will jointly focus on those topics. They may develop their own information/ideas locally but the thrust to the world outside the Sunshine Coast should appear as a joint effort.
2.	The future viable development of the Southern Sunshine Coast will ultimately hinge on either a drastic change to our ferry service or with a highway linkage to Squamish. The highway linkage will facilitate employment opportunities to the proposed LNG Port, the Metro Waste Energy Plant and the alternate CN Rail Coal Export location in Woodfibre. This alternate access to our coast will provide a boom to RV vacationers that won't be needing the ferry and it will open up the possibility for an economic corridor with Squamish & Whistler.
3.	Agricultural/food production. mostly shared

## Comments:

#	Response
1.	The Sechelt Community Forest should be considered a regional, not local, entity because the Province will not provide tenure for another community forest on the Coast. Instead it benefits Sechelt overwhelmingly.
2.	There is a geographical separation amongst the various communities comprising the Southern Sunshine Coast that cannot be ignored. These independent jewels makeup the necklace and each one likes to stand alone....that's why the residents chose to live there. Trying to push a collective economic purpose will not work unless each community feels they have something to gain in the investment.

### 3. In your view, what are the potential benefits of a regional economic development initiative on the Sunshine Coast that would complement and support local initiatives?

#	Response
1.	We are in many ways one community in the sense that people move freely between areas to shop, work, live and recreate. The citizens do not have necessarily recognize the jurisdictional boundaries in the way they live their lives.
2.	Leverage of information, organizations outside of government, dollars and reach of all.
3.	Bigger bang for buck, greater \$ support from Prov & Fed, stronger potential for diversity in ec dev projects.
4.	Drawing more permanent residents of a variety of ages will expand the diversity of economic opportunities but it ALL hinges on drastically improving the access to the lower mainland. If there's not to be hourly access by ferry, and no possibility of a bridge linkage via Gambier to the Sea-to-Sky, then we need the Hwy.99-West up the northwest side of Howe Sound from Squamish. If none of the above: This exercise in economic development is a complete waste of time and money.
5.	No comment
6.	Attracting and retaining young people to/on the coast. improve the quality of everyone's life and opportunities to flourish
7.	Residential property expansion and associated construction.
8.	From the point of view that we need to market the area as a location for life style and specific investment opportunities that would be a good fit for the investor and the Sunshine Coast.
9.	If the right group could come together in terms of numbers there could be substantial, overall savings instead of individual governments doing their own thing.
10.	Regional economic development would be to promote eco tourism throughout the winter and summer. The skookumchuck as a destination location. Or holding more golf tournaments on the three pristine golf courses.
11.	Support initiatives in each others areas, + able to work closely together

#### 4. In your view, what are the potential barriers or challenges of a regional economic development initiative on the Sunshine Coast?

#	Response
1.	Parochialism. But the flip side of that is that each community has its own flavour and what may be acceptable economic activity in one area might not be appropriate in another. Each area is represented by a different person elected by a specific set of constituents. Unless there is representation on a board from each area, it will never work. For example, the representative from one area is not necessarily able to speak for the constituents of another.
2.	Micro focus by some individuals in government where they don't see the benefit to their area or municipality of investment in another area. Creating a flexible, proactive and reactive vehicle that has oversight but not control by government so that it is nimble and can go after opportunities much quicker than what government allows.
3.	Division of power and control issues; Sechelt or SCRCD as centre of universe.
4.	Improved transportation access to the Southern Sunshine Coast via hourly ferry runs, bridge or Hwy. 99 West from Port Mellon to Squamish. This is and will always be the barrier to regional economic development.
5.	Chilliwack
6.	the biggest challenges are transportation of goods on and off the coast (BC ferries) and the fact that employers are not all willing to pay a Fair wage to the workers.
7.	Diverse interests and priorities. Common goals difficult to identify. Resistance to change. Available workforce may not be suitable for some initiatives.
8.	I feel that politically we do not all share the same philosophy for what is acceptable. Therefore economic development needs to be removed from the political arena. Another challenge is the need to use a Ferry to move people and goods from the greater market area.
9.	Ensuring that all jurisdictions are appropriately represented and no favouritism is given any one jurisdiction over the other. Make all information available to the target markets.
10.	Barriers, are the ferry...the committed provincial funding to expose the Sunshine Coast. Often companies, are left with doing their own lobbying to attract and expand their economic initiatives. Because we are on a peninsula this creates barriers..especially with the recent decision to cut down ferry routes.
11.	Too long to make decisions Making time available to do these things

**5. In your experience, are there other communities or regions with economic development models that you think could be emulated, in whole or in part, on the Sunshine Coast? If so, what are they?**

#	Response
1.	Chilliwack, Southeast Alberta
2.	Agricultural developments in Comox Valley, medical services recruitment in Cranbrook, tourism marketing in resort communities (Whistler, Sun Peaks, etc)
3.	We have one of the last untapped tourism markets that is close to both Vancouver and Seattle. We are limited by our lack of initiative in capitalizing on what foreigners take advantage of and take action. The Northern Sunshine Coast also has proponents of a highway access to Squamish and we should be exploring their desire as we could link to this route. The seasonal Skyway Hwy. ( North Cascade Hwy.) from western Washington to Winthrop in central Washington is an excellent example of tourism generation that opened what was becoming a ghost town like Winthrop and benefitted all the communities in the American Okanogan Valley.
4.	there are always examples, I understand that communities like Maple Ridge, Chilliwack and Squamish have some very good workable plans in their communities.
5.	Chilliwack
6.	I particularly like the Chilliwack model.
7.	No specific jurisdictions bu I am sure some must exist.
8.	The SIB model

## 6. Are you in favour of a local government supported regional economic development initiative which may lead to the creation of an independent governing body?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		40.0%	4
No		0.0%	0
Not sure, "the devil is in the details"		60.0%	6
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>10</b>

### Comments:

#	Response
1.	It depends upon the governance structure and the set of values and principles that are established to provide the direction to the activity of such a group.
2.	Difficult to manage with swings in political values from election results. Last attempt ended with SCRD control of proposed Board - power equity must be outlined from beginning.
3.	The last venture into this bureaucratic nightmare had way too many players. In my opinion, the makeup of a Southern Sunshine Coast Economic Development Group should be comprised up of Mayor Henderson, Mayor Rowe, SCRD Chair Nohr and shishalh Chief Craigan and a recording secretary.
4.	Only if it works,+ we move at the speed of business

## 7. If you have any other comments or input you wish to provide prior to the first workshop, please enter it here.

#	Response
1.	Elected reps need orientation and training in local government jurisdictional differences at beginning of term - all of us, not just newbies! An Ec Dev entity would also need to do training for same reason. Ec Dev needs stability in order to work over extended time. It doesn't and won't happen within a single term of office! It is an ongoing activity that requires reliability as well. It should not be dominated by the private sector but should have representation in proportion to financial contributions of private and non-profit sectors. It will require careful collaboration among porcupines.
2.	If we want to really think out of the box throw this on the table: Construct a pedestrian only gondola link from Gibsons to Horseshoe Bay similar to Whistler's Peak to Peak system. The tower support distances are compatible across to Keats, Bowen into the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal area. Coast commuters could then bus into Vancouver. This would also be a mega- tourism draw to improve the day & weekend visitors to the Southern Sunshine Coast who would not need a car and also the cycling crowd. The Howe Sound Skyway a constructed P.3.
3.	I want this effort to not be changed at the 11th hour by the rural areas which was done the last time and thus likely to fail. We need to keep the big picture in mind and not vie for control.
4.	We really do spend too much time talking about these things without a good action plan resulting. This is time consuming.
5.	Is there an appetite to actually do this,+ not just a photo op

## 8. What jurisdiction do you represent?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
District of Sechelt		40.0%	4
SCRD Electoral Area		30.0%	3
Sechelt Indian Government District		10.0%	1
Town of Gibsons		20.0%	2
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>10</b>