

Dashboard Facts

Population:
SCRD: 32,170
Area F: 2,407

Size:
SCRD: 3,768 km²
Area F: 381 km²

Property Values:
SCRD: \$18.7 billion
Area F: \$2.1 billion

Solid Waste:
421 kg per person/per year landfilled

Water Usage:
485 litres per person/per day

GHG Emissions (2019):
SCRD: 352,491 tCO₂e
Per person: 11.1 tCO₂e

SCRD Water Systems in Area F:
Eastbourne, Langdale, Soames, Granthams, Chapman

SCRD Ports in Area F:
Hopkings, Keats Landing, Eastbourne, Gambier Harbour, West Bay, Port Graves, Halkett Bay

2022
West Howe Sound
Newsletter

Welcome West Howe Sounders. With gratitude, I acknowledge that our region is within the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw / Squamish Nation traditional territory spanning the watersheds of Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound, Burrard Inlet, and English Bay since time immemorial.

With only months left before the election on October 15, 2022, it's time to answer questions people asked me way back in 2018. I will not be seeking re-election so better late than never.

Why does the Sunshine Coast Regional District exist?
Regional districts (RDs) were created by the Province to give residents control over local services and decisions. On January 4, 1967 the SCRD was formed and today includes eight political units: five rural electoral areas, and three municipal areas.

What do we get for our taxes?
Rural property taxes and fees pay for services that make our communities liveable. Forty five services, such as parks, recreational facilities, water systems, libraries and fire departments are delivered by the SCRD. The Province requires RDs to provide only administration, solid waste management and emergency planning. All other services were created in response to specific community needs.

Taxes are based on our property location, not on how much we use a service. Each service has its own tax rate, group of participating properties and financial account. Budget deficits are not allowed, so revenues and expenses must be balanced; money cannot be moved between service accounts.

The total SCRD tax paid by you is the sum of all local services in which your property participates. Mainland properties participate in about 35 services and island properties participate in about 26 services. Non-SCRD property taxes also help fund police service (RCMP), schools (SD46), Islands Trust, and provincial roads.

The provincial Ministry of Transportation delivers road service NOT the SCRD.



Photo by Captain Kathryn Taylor

oversees SCRD service delivery.

For more information:

Go to www.scrd.ca (Tip: use the search box at top of the page to find annual reports, five year financial plan, and media releases.) You can stay informed and provide feedback at the “Let’s talk SCRD” webpage: <https://letstalk.scrd.ca>

What do property values have to do with taxes?

Property value is one factor in the tax calculation equation: tax revenue = property value X tax rate. The greater the property value, the greater the share of taxation charged. Each year property values are determined independently by the BC Assessment Authority. Each year taxes are calculated using property values from July 1 of the previous year. In 2022, property values increased an average of 33% while our tax bills (SCRD portion only) increased by an average of 8%.


Plan before the emergency.

The past few years with threats from flooding, wildfire, heat domes, drought, and global pandemic have highlighted the need for SCEP (Sunshine Coast Emergency Planning). SCEP maintains and implements a comprehensive plan for response and recovery from disasters. Part of the planning includes evacuation routes, “firesmart” coordinating, emergency operation centre, communication equipment and applying for provincial government grants.

NOTE: SCEP does not include fire departments.

The 2022 SCEP budget totals \$818,000 with \$400,000 from property taxation and \$418,000 from provincial grants. Every property participates paying at the tax rate of \$2.14 per \$100,000 property value which means a \$1,000,000 property paid \$21.



See annual report  page 25 for more details on 2021 emergencies.

How does the Board make decisions?

The primary job of the nine Board directors is to make informed decisions on behalf of the SCRD constituents. Decisions happen at public meetings and involve discretion about spending community resources. Decisions range from adopting a meeting agenda to approving the \$95 million budget. Decisions are informed by SCRD staff reports, plans and public input. Public input to the Board and directors happens through public hearings, surveys, letters and delegations, phone calls and so on. All decisions are made collectively by voting; no decision is made by a single director. The Board’s decisions are actioned by the employees. The employees are led by the CAO (chief administrative officer), who is the Board’s only employee. The Board evaluates the CAO’s performance and

Also, look for the weekly SCRD bulletin published in the Coast Report newspaper. If you are not sure where to look then email info@scrd.ca or phone 604-885-6800. If you need assistance navigating the SCRD, then email mark.hiltz@scrd.ca or phone 604-741-2078.

Report roads conditions to Capilano Highways at: info@capilanohighways.ca or 1-800-665-3135

Federal government assistance: see MP Weiler’s webpage www.patrickweiler.libparl.ca/

Provincial government assistance: see MLA Simons’ webpage www.nicholassimonsmla.ca/

Special thanks to Area F alternate directors: Camilla Berry (2019-present) and Doug Marteinson (2018-2019)



Photo by Gerry Devost