

Directors Report Jan 2025

January is the month that all local governments prepare their budgets for the up and coming fiscal year and of course January is the month where we start getting a look at what will be the possible tax increase for property owners.

I want to stress that Area D is unique in that some services are shared with the City of Campbell River and the Comox Valley Regional District.

I have not seen the budget numbers yet for the Black Creek Oyster Bay Water System or the numbers for the Oyster River Fire Department.

Our taxes are a combination of the following

1. What gets paid to the province
2. What gets paid to the Strathcona Regional District for Corporate Services
3. What gets paid to the Strathcona Regional District for Electoral Services
4. What gets paid to Comox/Strathcona Regional Regional District for Solid Waste and Hospitals
5. What gets paid for 911 Services
6. What gets paid Vancouver Island Library Service
7. What gets paid to schools
8. What is the costs for the Strathcona Gardens
9. What is the cost of Water and Fire for those in the South End of Area D
10. And finally what is the costs for services in the community and those shared with the City of Campbell River.

I would also like to remind the community that the residential tax base has only increased by 1.1% over 2024.

Current Tax Pressures for 2025

1. **Comox/Strathcona Solid Waste Management** – this service will see increases for property owners throughout the Strathcona Regional District for 2025. With the Province continuing to create additional regulation to regulate the admission of green house gasses from landfills, and with the newly added landfills to accommodate the growing needs for the Comox Valley and the Strathcona Regional District the yearly budget for this service requires continues to grow.
2. **911 Service** – this service will see an increase throughout the Strathcona Regional District. This years tax requisition increased by **0.40 cents** per 100k of property assessment.
3. **Strathcona Emergency Program** – The cost for this service continues to **decline**. This year the tax requisition is **0.32 cents** per 100k of property assessment **less** than 2024. The Strathcona Regional District continues to be very successful obtaining grants for this important service.
4. **Vancouver Island Regional Library Service** - this service will see an increase throughout the Strathcona Regional District.

5. **Strathcona Corporate Admin and General Government** – this function will see an increase throughout the Regional District. Compared to 2024 the cost increase is **0.12** cents per 100k of property assessment.
6. **Electoral Area Administration** – this function has increased by **0.76** cents per 100k of property assessment.
7. **Electoral Area Planning** – this function has increased by **\$1.43** per 100k of property assessment when compared to 2024.
8. **Strathcona Gardens** - continues to create considerable pressure on Area D taxes. I recognize that as **Area D** is the only **Electoral Area** paying into this facility that services the entire **Regional District** it is time to see other **Electoral Area's** contribute when it is known that they have used the facility for years without contributing anything to the costs that are required to keep the doors open. There is **growing support** at the **Regional Board** to see **significant changes** when it comes to **supporting** Recreational Facilities like the Strathcona Gardens and I do expect those changes coming this year. ***For 2025 the requisition has increased from \$61.99 per 100k in 2024 to \$85.00 per 100k.***
9. **Grants and Aids** – I have continued to reduce the budget for this service and this year is no different. The tax requisition has been **reduced** from **\$1.02** per 100k of property assessment for 2024 to **0.25** cents per 100k of property assessment for 2025. While I recognize the need to support nonprofits I am mindful that this is tax payers money and it needs to be spend carefully.
10. **Community Parks** – The parks in the community continue to be important not only to the community but to those from other communities that come here daily to enjoy our trails or parks like Hagel. This service now has a healthy reserve and over the past two years a number of capitol projects have been completed. This has allowed that for 2025 the tax requisition has been **reduced** by **\$11.25** per 100k of property assessment.
11. **Campbell River Fire Service** – After the **32% increase** for this service in **2024** the tax requisition for **2025** has been **reduced** by **\$6.07** per 100k of property assessment. While this reduction in costs are welcome in 2025 the need for a New Fire Service Agreement with the City of Campbell River is of the highest priority for 2025.
12. **Building Inspection Service** – this service has seen an **increase** of **0.60** cents per 100k of property assessment for 2025.
13. **Area D Animal Control** – this service has seen an **increase** of **0.35** cents per 100k of property assessment for 2025.
14. **Area D Water Taxation** – there is a slight **decrease 0.8** cents per 100k of property assessment for 2025.
15. **Area D Transit** – this service will see an **increase** for 2025. In 2024 the service cost was **\$11.31** per 100k of property assessment and for 2025 the cost per 100k of property assessment will **increase** by **\$2.68** per 100k of property assessment.

BC Assessments are down for many in 2025 and that should help many property owners here in Area D.