

Directors Report March 2025

I would like to thank all those that came out this weekend for the Town hall Meeting.

I enjoyed the opportunity to answer your questions and it was very valuable for me to hear your concerns and comments.

Taxes 2025

Its getting closer to tax time and today the Regional Board voted on the 2025 Budget just before the Provincial deadline of March 31 2025.

This year , The City of Campbell River voiced concerns at the Feb 2025 Regional Board meeting how they thought that they were paying an unfair amount for Regional Admin Support Services. This service requires a budget of \$2.9 million and the City of Campbell River felt that to have them pay \$1.6 million of that budget was very unfair given that they felt the Electoral Area's used this service far more than the City.

At the March 26th Regional Board Meeting a new method of allocating costs for this service was discussed and the Board did agree to changes. These changes did create a further tax increase for area d.

I last reported that Area D would see a tax increase \$2.83 per 100k of property assessment. As of today and seeing the revised budget, Area D is looking at \$11.52 per 100k increase for all the Strathcona Services which includes the Strathcona Gardens and the recently approved additional construction for the Ice Rink.

Strathcona Gardens

I know many have expressed concerns over the approval to proceed with the Ice Rink construction. As explained in my Town hall meeting, construction costs have increased dramatically and this is happening across the country. This facility has been waiting 15 years for this much needed update in order to continue serving the Regional District well into the future.

This facility is not just a swimming pool and ice rink. It serves the entire Regional District with special pools for physio therapy and it has long standing contracts with Island Health for cardiac patients. This facility does add considerable value to the entire Regional District.

There will be an Alternate Approval Process and I would expect that the Board will be discussing that at the next Gardens board meeting in April.

I encourage all those that disagree with this additional construction to participate in the Alternate Approval Process when it happens.

Campbell River Fire Service

At the March 26th Regional Board Meeting I did have a Directors Report that contained three new motions which were all supported by the Board. I was expecting that the updated Fire Service Review which was just discussed at the Electoral Area Meeting earlier this month would be on this agenda, however as this was a very long agenda it was not.

This updated report does have some basic costing for a Firehall and Service that will be most helpful when staff start exploring potential grants and other funding streams that might be available.

The first motion will be exploring a First Nations partnership and the second motion will be exploring a partnership with the Oyster River Fire Department.

The third motion that was supported by the Board directed SRD staff to work with the City of Campbell River to **update** the **existing Fire Protection Service Agreement** with the City of Campbell River. During the board discussion on this motion I did express the need to have a more fixed price contract as this will provide greater stability in the costs of the service from one year to the next.

I encourage everyone if you have questions or concerns to contact me. Email or phone is the best and I will gladly arrange face to face meetings as needed.