

# Electoral Area A:

## Where do your taxes go?

Regional districts help communities by providing important services like clean water, parks, and fire protection, but they do not manage roads or policing.

Each regional district is different because it offers services based on what the people in the area determine they need. Certain services, including Regional Hospital District Financing, General Administration, Planning Services, Emergency Planning, and Solid Waste Management, are mandated services that all regional districts must provide.

All budget decisions and direction to staff are made by the Board of Directors through voting. See how your tax dollars support services in your area:

### Regional Services (Services Shared between Electoral Areas, and the City of Powell River):

#### General Administration Service:

Provides general support to all regional district services. This includes finance, supporting the Board of Directors, the operation of meetings, purchasing, risk management, public engagement, human resources, elections, referendums, communications, and bylaw and policy management, Telecommunications and computer system management, and records management.

#### Grants-in-Aid Service:

Provides grant funding for initiatives that provide programs and facilities for residents of the qathet Regional District inclusive of all Electoral Areas, the City of Powell River, and Tla'amin Nation.

#### Regional Parks Service:

Provides for the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of land, buildings and other facilities for regional parks. The qathet Regional District manages 10 regional parks, 22 beach access sites, and a few small recreation facilities. These parks and facilities are located on

lands that are owned by the regional district, or leased from the Province.

#### Cemeteries Service:

Provides for the operation and maintenance of the Powell River Regional Cemetery (Cranberry) and the Woodland Cemetery (Texada Island). Both cemeteries are open to the public and have no denominational restrictions.

#### Regional Animal Shelter Service:

Provides for an annual contribution towards the operation of an animal shelter that cares for abused and abandoned animals.

#### Regional Emergency Preparedness:

Provides emergency planning, preparedness, training, response, and recovery for all areas within the qathet Regional District, including the City of Powell River and in collaboration with the Tla'amin Nation. The program works with emergency responders, government staff, volunteers, partner agencies, and the public.

#### Heritage Conservation Service:

Provides heritage conservation mainly to support the operation of museums and heritage attractions.

#### Emergency Telephone 911 Service:

Provides emergency 9-1-1 telephone dispatch service to supported service areas.

#### Waste Management Service:

Provides long-term planning and management of solid waste for the entire regional district, and includes the operation of the Resource Recovery Centre. Waste collection is an separate service that the Regional District does not provide.

Each regional district service has its own budget, and only the participants of that service pay for it.

The main revenue source is property value tax, supplemented by parcel taxes and fees, with collection handled by provincial or municipal governments.

The qathet Regional District applies a standard 9% charge on the net operating budget of all services.



### Electoral Area Services (Shared Services between other Electoral Areas):

#### Electoral Area Administration Service:

Provides Directors' remuneration and costs related to electoral area governance; Costs associated with the local government elections and Electoral Area portion of shared wages and overhead. Funds are set aside annually into a reserve to fund the local government election every four years. This prevents a large tax increase during the election year.

#### Electoral Area Feasibility Studies:

Provides funds for the establishment of new services as well funds for grant-funded studies that do not fit under already established services. The costs that are expended to establish a new service become part of costs allocated to the new service.

#### Planning Service:

Funded by taxpayers within Electoral Areas A, B, C, and D, the Planning Service provides land use planning services to Electoral Areas A, B, C and D. The City of Powell River and Tla'amin Nation each have their own planning service. Electoral Area E (Lasqueti Island) receives its planning service from the Islands Trust.

#### Development Services:

The Development (Referrals) service is funded by taxpayers within Electoral Areas A, B, C, and D. The service supports the processing of provincial land use and development referrals in order to determine whether proposed applications received comply with qathet Regional District bylaws and policies. Development referrals are received from a range of provincial agencies.

#### Powell River Public Library Service:

The service provides an annual contribution to the Powell River and Texada Island Library service to support their operations.

#### House Numbering Service:

The service supports the issuance of new or revised civic addresses.

#### Paratransit Service:

Provides rural transit to select routes within the region. The qathet Regional District pays 60% of the service through a combination of fares and property taxes with BC Transit paying the remainder.

#### Septage Disposal Service:

The service provides a contribution to the City of Powell River toward the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the septage facility. This allows all residents to utilize this service.

#### Economic Development Service:

The service supports initiatives that enhance economic development in the region.

#### Social Planning Service:

The service supports the cost of hiring a social planner through a contribution agreement with the City of Powell River.

#### Sub-Regional Recreation (Partial participation)

The Sub-Regional Recreation service is funded by taxpayers within Electoral Area A (exclusive of Savary Island), B, and C. The service was established in 2019 to contribute to the operation of the City of Powell River Recreation complex.

### Electoral Area Services (Individual Area Services):

#### Lund Sewer (Partial Area Participation)

The Lund Sewer service is funded by taxpayers within the Lund Sewer service area (a subset in Electoral Area A) and service fees are collected based on service use. The service funds the ownership and operation of the Lund Sewer system providing sewage and wastewater disposal to approximately 100 properties.

#### Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department (Partial Area Participation)

The Savary Island Fire Protection service is funded by taxpayers within the Savary

Fire service area (a subset of Electoral Area A). The service provides fire protection and emergency response to Savary Island and 200 meters beyond the island's high water mark.

#### Savary Island Marine Service (Partial Area Participation)

The Savary Island Marine service is funded by taxpayers within the Savary Island service area (a subsection of Electoral Area A). The service supports the operation and maintenance of the Savary Island dock - divested to the Regional District from Transport Canada - and other public marine transportation facilities on the Island. Savary Island's dock and barge sites are leased from the Province of B.C. to the qathet Regional District. The qathet Regional District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dock, barge site, and newly leased west island boat launch.

#### Northside Fire Protection Service:

Funded by taxpayers within the Northside Fire service area, this service provides fire protection and emergency response for Lund and the surrounding area to Wilde Road, covering properties on the west side of Okeover Inlet up to Penrose Bay. The Northside Fire Protection Service supports the management and operation of the Northside Fire Department.