

# Electoral Area B:

## 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 a 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.

#### 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 Service:

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.

#### Malaspina Volunteer Fire Protection Service (Partial Area Participation):

The Malaspina Fire Protection Service is funded by taxpayers within the Malaspina Fire service area (Electoral Area B, and C) and supports the operation of the Malaspina Fire Department. The service provides protection to all private properties from the City of Powell River's east boundary south to 1.3 km past Roberts Road.

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

#### Myrtle Pond Water Service:

Funded through a combination of parcel taxes and user fees by taxpayers within the Myrtle Pond Water service area, this service funds the ownership and operation of the Myrtle Pond residential water system providing water to 83 properties.

