Strathcona Regional District 2023-2027

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strathcona Regional District respectfully acknowledges that our corporate office and the Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex are located on the traditional unceded territory of the Lig^{w}iłdax^{w} people.

We also recognize that we operate within the traditional, treaty and Unceded territories of the Ehattesaht, Homalco, Ka:'yu:'k't'h' / Che:k'tles7et'h,' Klahoose, K'omoks, Kwiakah, Mowachaht / Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla'amin, Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum First Nations.

STRATHCONA REGIONAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW

GOVERNANCE - The SRD is governed by a 14-member Board of elected officials from five municipalities, four electoral areas and a treaty First Nation. The SRD exists to serve the entire region with all its diversity.

HISTORY – The SRD was established in 2008 as a result of provincial restructuring of the Comox Strathcona Regional District. The SRD is in its 16th year of operation.

GEOGRAPHY - The SRD's boundaries include approximately 22,000 square kilometers (8,517 square miles).

The borders extend from the Oyster River in the south to Gold River, Sayward, Tahsis, Zeballos and Kyuquot-Nootka in the north and west, and east to Cortes Island, Quadra Island and the Discovery Islands as well as a portion of the adjacent mainland north of Powell River.

The administrative boundaries lie within the traditional territories of many First Nations. The SRD respectfully acknowledges these nations and commits to strengthen and grow relationships with them.

SERVICES - The SRD provides approximately 48,000 residents with a diverse range of services, including water & sewage systems, fire protection, land use planning, parks, bylaw enforcement, recreation, broadband, emergency planning and response.

STRATHCONA REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD

Mark Baker

SRD Board Chair/
Village of Sayward

Susan Sinnott

SRD Board Vice Chair/
City of Campbell River

Doug Chapman

City of Campbell River

Julie Colborne

Village of Zeballos

Kermit Dahl

City of Campbell River

Martin Davis

Village of Tahsis

Matthew Jack

Ka:'yu:'k't'h/Che:k'tles7et'h'
First Nations

STRATHCONA REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD

Ron Kerr

City of Campbell River

Ben Layon

City of Campbell River

Michael Lott

Village of Gold River

Robyn Mawhinney

Discovery Islands- Mainland Inlets (Area C)

John Rice

Oyster Bay-Buttle Lake (Area D)

Mark Vonesch

Cortes Island (Area B)

Gerald Whalley

Kyuquot/Nootka-Sayward (Area A)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Chair of our Regional District Board, I'm pleased to share the board's strategic focus for the next few years.

The plan is built upon 3 strategic themes, Community Well-Being, Climate Resiliency and Good Governance.

Our commitment to Community Well-Being is evident by the board's aspiration to work with community partners to support affordability and housing initiatives, ensuring our communities are places where residents can thrive. Our focus includes identifying and considering transportation strategies that safely facilitates movement throughout the region.

In facing the challenge of Climate Resiliency, our commitment is to proactively equip our communities to navigate emergency events. We look to mitigate the impacts of climate change, through support of local and subregional initiatives. Minimizing our carbon footprint in the provision of services is a priority, and we're exploring opportunities to make this a reality.

Our dedication to Good Governance remains steadfast, we will focus on a style of governance that values our region's diversity and centres on shared interests. We are committed to deepening our relationships with First Nations communities, finding common ground and mutual interests.

Projects aligned with these strategic themes will undergo board approval and be resourced through the Board's financial planning process. I look forward working with the board and staff to make meaningful progress on this strategic plan.

Sincerely,
Mark Baker,
SRD Board Chair

Vision

The Board's vision is to create a connected, resilient, self-sufficient region that honours and values diversity, seeks collaboration and partnership opportunities, promotes reconciliation with First Nations communities and actively stewards our natural environment.

Values

In fulfilling our vision, we are guided at all levels by the core values of teamwork, respect, integrity, effectiveness and accountability. We adhere to the following principles:

We work as a committed team in a spirit of collaboration and community.

We are caring and respectful in all our interactions and relationships.

We are open and honest. We adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

We deliver effective public service through professionalism and creativity.

We are accountable to the region as a whole, as well as our individual constituents.

PROCESS TO BUILD OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Step 1 - Collecting individual thoughts and ideas

In building this plan, Board members were individually asked to identify opportunities and challenges and provide feedback on where the community and organization were performing well and/or needed assistance. Previous strategic priorities were reviewed as well as comments gathered from public meetings.

Step 2 - Get together

Board members and senior management attended a workshop with an external facilitator. The results of the previous step were shared. Board members discussed the emerging themes as well as the need to maintain priorities that are currently well in hand.

Step 3 - Draft plan

Notes were compiled and used to develop a preliminary plan that was reviewed by senior management and presented to the Board.

Step 4 – Approval and implementation

Once the Board has considered and approved the plan, management will identify current activities that support the Board's focus areas and recommend steps to make progress against new themes.

Step 5 – Reporting

Management will provide an annual report to the Board and public on progress against focus areas.

2023 - 2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our primary focus for the period of 2023 -2027 is to foster stronger connections within our communities and environment, provide sustainable service delivery, and fortify both internal and external relationships.

Community Well-Being

Climate Resiliency

Good Governance

Community Well-Being

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Support affordability and housing diversity so that our residents, young and old can grow and stay in our communities.
- Identify and consider transportation initiatives that safely move people, goods and services between our communities and beyond.
- Explore initiatives that develop robust and diverse economic conditions for our communities with income-generating opportunities for our residents.
- Identify and support initiatives that improve health and well-being in our communities.

Climate Resiliency

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Proactively prepare our communities and residents to adapt and respond to emergency events and climate change impacts.
- Support climate resiliency efforts and mitigation of climate change through local and subregional initiatives.
- Explore opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint in the delivery of services.

Good Governance

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Proactively communicate and engage with our communities.
- Continue to build relationships with First Nations communities and provide opportunities to explore areas of shared focus and interest.
- Build sound and efficient systems to protect the region's assets and deliver services in a reliable, and fiscally responsible way.
- Prioritize good governance that recognizes the diversity of our region and focuses on areas of common interests.

2023 - 2027 ADVOCACY

Advocacy is an important tool the board can use to collectively voice the interests of the region to Federal, Provincial governments and other government agencies.

The board will proactively identify the key advocacy issues and priorities that will shape the advocacy efforts for the upcoming year.