

Why Do We Have Regional Governments?

Regional districts arose out of a need for greater regional cooperation and equitable cost-sharing between municipal areas and rural areas. Regional districts help achieve regional economies of scale, and provide flexible service arrangements in which residents only pay for the services they receive.

A regional district is made up of municipalities, electoral areas, and in some cases, Treaty First Nations, each of which have representation on the Regional District Board. Regional governments provide services to both electoral areas and municipalities in the region. This includes solid waste management, emergency planning, economic development and regional parks. Services are also provided exclusively to Electoral Areas; land use planning, bylaw enforcement, fire protection as well as water and wastewater systems.

What is an Electoral Area?

Electoral areas are the communities located outside municipal boundaries, often referred to as rural or unincorporated areas. Each electoral area is represented by a director, who is elected directly to the regional district Board of Directors.

CVRD Electoral Areas:

Area A- Mill Bay/Malahat **Area B-** Shawnigan Lake **Area C-** Cobble Hill

Area D- Cowichan Bay **Area E –** Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora **Area F-** Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls

Area G- Saltair/Gulf Islands **Area H-** North Oyster/Diamond **Area I-** Youbou/Meade Creek

What is a Municipality?

Municipalities can be classified as either a town, village, district or city depending on the size of their population and geographic area. The B.C. government sets out legislation that provides municipalities with the authority for things like, planning parks, community water systems, local police, roadways and parking, and flexibility to respond to the varying needs and changing circumstances of each community. The province regards municipalities as autonomous, responsible and accountable government directed by democratically elected councils.

Municipalities:

City of Duncan - District of North Cowichan - Town of Ladysmith - Town of Lake Cowichan

How Regional CVRD Services are Financed

Every service has its own group of participants and only those participants pay for the service. Each service has its own separate budget – revenues and costs cannot be shifted from one service to another and no service is permitted to run an operating deficit.

The main revenue source for regional district services is the property value tax, which is based on assessed value. Parcel taxes (i.e. a flat rate for each lot in the service area) and fees are other minor revenue sources. Property value and parcel taxes are collected on behalf of the regional district by other governments. In participating electoral areas, taxes are collected for the regional district by the province's Surveyor of Taxes. In participating municipalities, regional district taxes are collected by the municipal governments.

Who Does What?

Federal Government

- Income Tax
- Child Tax Benefits
- Employment Insurance
- Fisheries and Oceans Management
- Military
- Criminal Law
- International Affairs
- National Parks • National Heritage
- RCMP, Rural Policing
- Environmental Protection
- International Travel

The logo for Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag to the right of the letter 'a'.

Canada

Provincial Government

- Healthcare
- Highway & Rural Road Maintenance & Repair
- Public Education
- Provincial Income Tax, Sales Taxes
- Social Services & Housing
- Provincial Parks, Lakes & Rivers
- WorkSafeBC
- Crown Corporations, Land Management & Resource Extraction
- Courthouse, Provincial Statues & Laws
- Environmental Protection
- Archaeological Site Protection

The logo for British Columbia, featuring a stylized sun rising over mountains and water, with the words "BRITISH COLUMBIA" below it.

BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Regional Government

- Economic Development
- Solid Waste Management
- Water and Wastewater Management
- Fire Services
- Emergency Preparedness & Management
- Land Use Planning
- Bylaws & Bylaw Enforcement
- Recreation Facilities
- Arts & Culture
- Regional Parks & Trails, Community Parks
- Environment & Air Quality
- Transit Management (with BC Transit)

The logo for CVRD, featuring a stylized sun rising over water, with the letters "CVRD" below it.

CVRD

Municipal Government

- Fire Services
- Policing - North Cowichan / Duncan RCMP
- Recreation Facilities
- Municipal Street Maintenance & Repair
- Solid Waste Collection within Municipal Boundaries
- Municipal Property Tax • Municipal Parks, Trails & Playgrounds
- Municipal Land Use Planning
- Municipal Economic Development
- Municipal Water & Sewer Service
- Business Licenses • Cemetery Services



- District of North Cowichan
- Town of Ladysmith
- City of Duncan
- Town of Lake Cowichan