

Message from the Chair

The Cowichan Valley Regional District stretches from the Nanaimo Airport in the north to the Malahat in the south, and from the west coast of Vancouver Island to Valdes Island off the east coast of the island. The area has amazing diversity, from forest lands to farms, from lakes and rivers running to the ocean, from rural properties to unique small scale towns and cities. All of this is divided up into 9 Electoral Areas and 4 Municipalities. Elected representatives from the 13 jurisdictions come together at the CVRD Board to work with CVRD staff to provide 179 local and regional services to the over 83,000 people in our region.

Our Board and staff have been dedicated to managing the changing landscape of service delivery in this challenging and unparalleled COVID-19 pandemic. We continue our keen focus on the issues presented during this global crisis, and advocate on behalf of our region to ensure residents do not face increased financial hardship as a result of local and regional taxation.

Regional Districts are quite limited in terms of flexibility to provide near-term financial relief, in contrast to municipal governments. Budgets for regional districts must be completed by March 31. Unfortunately, without an extension of this deadline by the provincial government, it is not possible for the CVRD to amend the 2020 Budget now to reduce the tax requisition for residents this year. As the province collects taxes on behalf of the Regional District, it is also not possible to change payment penalty dates.

Most of the provisions to date for local governments have allowed us to borrow from our reserves to compensate for lost revenues resulting from program cancellations, facility closures and other reductions to non-tax revenue sources. However, with the legislation governing regional districts, none of the provisions to date have made providing further tax relief for 2020 possible at this time.

I want to assure you that the CVRD Board, and myself as Chair, will continue to advocate on behalf of all businesses and residents in the CVRD for more support where required.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at: chairperson@cvrld.bc.ca

Aaron Stone, Chair

Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital District

The Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital District (CVRHD) provides capital funding to Island Health for the following facilities within its boundaries:

- Cowichan District Hospital
- Cairnsmore Place
- Ladysmith Community Health
- Chemainus Health Care Centre

Capital funding is cost-shared with the province on a 60/40 basis, with the CVRHDs portion being 40%.

The CVRHDs 2020 Budget is almost \$28 million and the impact to a residential property is \$51.84 per \$100,000 of residential assessed property value.

Included in the 2020 Hospital Budget is \$5.8 million for the CVRHDs share of a new hospice facility.

The Cowichan District Hospital is 50 years old and its replacement is Island Health's number one capital priority on Vancouver Island. Starting in 2010, the CVRHD has been putting funds aside to raise the Regional Hospital District's 40% share. At this point in time, \$55.9 million has been accumulated for the CDH replacement with another \$11.4 million to be added in 2020.

The proposed new hospital is in the planning phase. The Concept Plan has been completed and approved by the provincial government. The next step was the Business Plan phase, which was just completed and is waiting for approval by the Ministry of Health. If approved it is expected that the new hospital would be operational within five years. During 2016, the Regional Hospital District purchased land where the new hospital will be built. The site is on Bell McKinnon Road just south of Herd Road.

2020



CVRD

**Cowichan Valley
Regional District
Property Taxes**

Collected by the
Town of Ladysmith

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Financial Reporting Award

The CVRD received the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting for the past three years of Annual Financial Reports. This award was established to encourage local governments to publish high-quality financial reports and to provide peer recognition and technical guidance for officials preparing these reports. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

2019 Major Project Highlights

A regional Official Community Plan was drafted and presented to the public, harmonizing the existing electoral area OCPs and zoning bylaws. The resulting single document provides clarity and consistency through standardized language and policies, enabling better planning decisions and saving an estimated 45 staff years and \$4.5 million in OCP work over the next 15 years.

A Regional Recreation Strategic Plan was completed, providing a roadmap that captures the collective desire, need and vision for recreation in the Cowichan region. The CVRD is now in the process of exploring a usage-based funding model for the significant recreation facilities in the region, with the goal of creating a more equitable funding structure.

The CVRD established a soil deposit bylaw to regulate the movement of earth and natural soils in the region. The bylaw establishes a permitting process for the deposit of soil, and is intended to protect streams and other environmentally sensitive areas, while ensuring soils are deposited in a safe and appropriate manner.

The CVRD was the successful recipient of a significant federal grant to support the detailed engineering design of a new weir for Cowichan Lake to better manage flows and protect fish stocks and other values in the Cowichan River.

A 4.3 km section of the Cowichan Valley Trail was completed, connecting the communities of Ladysmith, Saltair and Chemainus, and bringing the region one step closer to a continuous 120-kilometre non-motorized multi-use trail.

Where do my local Regional District taxes go?

The CVRD provides 179 services to over 83,000 residents within its boundaries. Not every municipality or electoral area participates in the same services. The following table shows the services that are included in your Regional District tax levy for 2020.

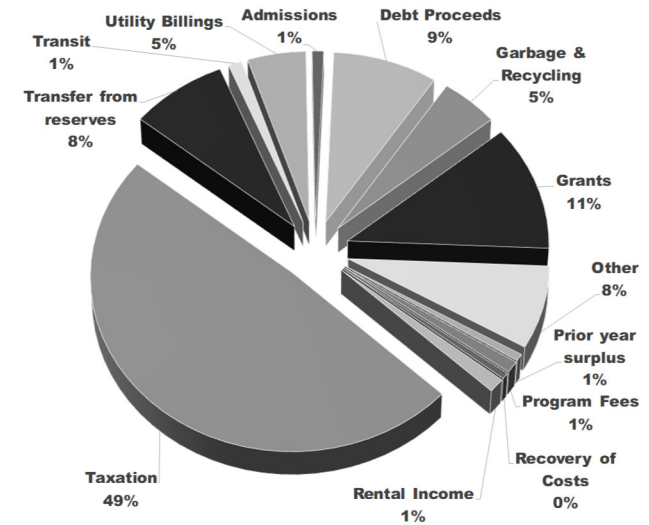
These taxes are billed on your municipal tax notice, and your municipality in turn forwards the funds to the Regional District to be used for the delivery of these services.

CVRD taxes paid by the property owners within the Town of Ladysmith per \$100,000 assessed residential value:

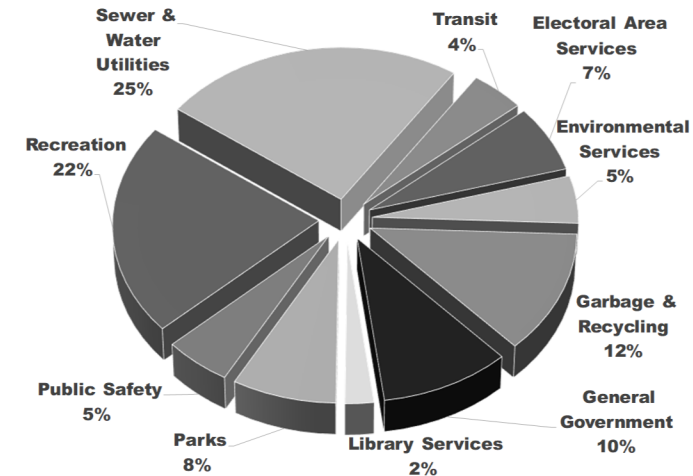
SERVICES	2020	2019
General Government	10.07	10.36
Commuter Transit	1.41	1.32
Transit	12.49	12.21
Emergency 911	4.39	4.57
Economic Development	2.32	2.09
Regional Tourism	0.51	0.54
Environmental Initiatives	2.64	2.73
Emergency Planning	3.63	3.74
Regional Parks	5.01	5.68
Kinsol Trestle	0.45	0.47
Regional Parkland Acquisition	1.05	0.67
Arts and Culture	0.55	0.58
Cowichan Performing Arts Centre	2.87	3.05
Safer Futures	0.14	0.15
Social Planning	0.26	0.27
Cowichan Valley Hospice Society	0.26	0.27
Cowichan Housing Association	3.17	3.37
Drinking Water & Watershed Protection	2.91	2.25
Solid Waste Complex	23.62	23.07
	77.73	77.41

This is an estimate calculated on the 2020 financial plan adopted on December 11, 2019. It will vary slightly from your actual tax notice.

Where does the money come from?*



Where does the money go?*



*These graphs are representative of the CVRD as a whole. Your local areas participation will vary slightly.