



## MEDIA RELEASE

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February 9, 2017

### **Regional Board adopts 2017-2021 Financial Plan**

**Campbell River, BC** – The Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors has adopted the 2017-2021 Financial Plan following several months of development. The budget has gone through several iterations and was presented to the Board for final approval at its February 8 meeting, one month earlier than ever before. The financial plan provides the framework for the regional district's work for the next five years and will drive the Board's strategic priorities and key work projects forward in a fiscally responsible way.

The regional district's 2017-2021 Financial Plan invests in several large projects designed to build community, including ongoing participation in the Strathcona Community Health Network, planning for a major redevelopment of the Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex, extension of the Quathiaski Cove sewer system on Quadra Island, and a new booster pump station to improve water service delivery in Northern Electoral Area D. While some property owners may see a small increase over last year's taxes, the regional district will continue to capitalize on grant opportunities to help keep taxes low while improving services.

"This is a first for our regional district," says Regional Board Chair John MacDonald. "We have never adopted a new budget so quickly, which speaks volumes to the efforts of our finance team and all the staff who worked tirelessly to support the process. I would also like to thank directors for working together to advance a more efficient approval process. Now that we have the budget in place, we can get to work on all the projects earmarked for completion this year."

The regional district's budget process begins in the fall, when the finance team starts working with all departments to review work plans and projects, and to ensure budgets have been planned accordingly. "That process is slow, tedious and demanding, and requires cooperation across all departments within the organization," says Dave Leitch, Chief Administrative Officer for the regional district. "We have an incredibly talented team of people, and between them, they have produced a budget document that will see the regional district continue to thrive and provide the best, most cost-effective services and programs to the communities we serve."

The 2017-2021 Financial Plan is available on the regional district website at [www.strathconard.ca](http://www.strathconard.ca).

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing approximately 43,000 residents with 55 services including parks, liquid and solid waste systems, fire protection, emergency preparedness programs and a full-service sports facility.

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