



Message from the Chair

The Board continues to work toward completing our strategic goals, with our fundamental priority centred on providing good governance to facilitate sustainable service delivery.



It has been my great pleasure to serve as the qathet Regional District (qRD) Board Chair for the last seven years and to serve on the Regional District Board for over 15 years.

The Regional Board plays a critical role in guiding the organization based on the desires of our taxpayers. While Director's represent individual electoral areas, and the Powell River municipality, at the Board table, we must work together to make sound decisions as a singular, collective body.

The Board continues to work toward completing our strategic goals, with our fundamental priority centred on providing good governance to facilitate sustainable service delivery. The qRD currently provides 43 services to the residents of the region. Those services are broken down as 10 regional services, 12 sub-regional or shared services and 21 local services.

The qRD also has several initiatives and capital projects underway for 2021. These include the continuation and expansion of the Regional FireSmart program; facility

construction of the Resource Recovery Centre; completion of the Northside Fire Hall; construction of a covered gathering structure at Shelter Point Park; and the development of a nine-hole disc golf course at Shelter Point Park.

We have worked hard to maintain strong working relationships with Tla'amin Nation and the City of Powell River. Our intergovernmental partnerships have greatly contributed to the success of our Regional Social Planning service as well as our Regional Emergency Assistance service, just to name a couple. On many occasions, the City of Powell River and Tla'amin Nation have assisted the qRD to support largescale grant applications like the Resource Recovery Centre, now entering its final project phase.

The qRD has made great strides in our level of transparency since our earlier years and continues to highlight our collaborative achievements through increased communications and engagement. This has been most notable with our engagement efforts for the Texada Island Official Community Plan update as well as our Community Emergency Evacuation Planning sessions.

Of course, none of our achievements would be possible without our hardworking staff and volunteers. Thanks to their efforts, even amidst a global pandemic, our service levels have been maintained. Our organization has adapted our practices but we have done so creatively with considerable success.

The Regional Board is in place to represent our diverse community at the Board table and to advocate on behalf of our region to provincial and federal levels of government.

qathet: *Working Together*

A name gifted to the
Regional District by
Tla'amin Nation Elders.

With this in mind, we want to hear from you.

The qRD has launched a Regional Resident Satisfaction Survey to gauge citizen's perspectives on quality of life, satisfaction with qRD services, preferred communications channels and community priorities.

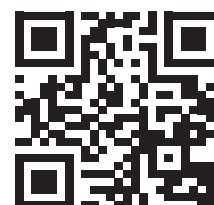
The survey will run through the summer, closing August 31, 2021. The results will support this year's strategic planning sessions. The Regional Resident Satisfaction Survey will be one of the tools used to review services and identify opportunities for service improvement.

I encourage you to connect with your elected representatives and share your opinions and participate in the Regional Resident Satisfaction Survey.

Regional Board Chair, Patrick Brabazon

**PARTICIPATE
IN THE
REGIONAL
RESIDENT
SATISFACTION
SURVEY**

What do you
think?



Survey link
available
here:
<https://bit.ly/3yD69aO>.

For more information
visit us at qathet.ca 

Message from the CAO



The qathet Regional District (qRD) remains committed to implementing the goals and priorities outlined in our Board approved Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan helps provide key deliverables for each service the qRD provides. The Strategic Plan helps to keep the qRD focused and committed to good governance and administration of these services. To learn more about the qRD's Strategic Plan, please visit qathet.ca/strategic-plan.

Although our overall public profile may be low, we are a very industrious and busy organization. The qRD continues to experience increased demands from the Federal and Provincial governments as well as the local public and must

continually adapt to meet these demands in addition to maintaining day-to-day operations. Compounding that this year, was a global pandemic that has ruthlessly affected everyone, disrupting everyday routines, social activities, family traditions and basically everything that you can think of. Faced with these challenges, our organization persevered and adapted effectively to continue under this 'new normal'.

Thanks to our dedicated team, capital projects continued as planned, on budget and on schedule. We have now completed Phase II of the Resource Recovery Centre and are beginning Phase III that will result in the completion of our state-of-the-art facility to locally sort and divert organic and recyclable materials from the landfill destination, creating substantial environmental and economic benefit for our region.

We are also nearing completion of the new Northside Volunteer Fire Department Hall No. 2. The new Fire Hall will offer improved service delivery for those residents in the Northside Fire Service Area and will be able to facilitate on site training for all our volunteer fire departments.

Not to be excluded are our Operations staff who have worked tirelessly in public facing positions throughout the pandemic to ensure our regional parks and facilities have remained safe for public use. Most importantly though, they achieved this through new working conditions and adhering to Provincial Health Officer Orders and WorkSafeBC COVID-19 safety plan protocols.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had an exceptional Regional Emergency Operations Centre in action demonstrating tremendous leadership and collaboration between the three local governments; qRD, Tla'amin Nation and the City of Powell River. This collaboration was never more evident than when we came together to share staff, resources and messaging during the fall Tla'amin COVID-19 outbreak.

I am incredibly proud of the work our staff have accomplished and continue to be impressed by our commitment to excellent service provision for our community. I strongly believe that our team exemplifies our organization's vision of working collaboratively for the common good to support a thriving, inclusive and sustainable community.

Chief Administrative Officer, Al Radke

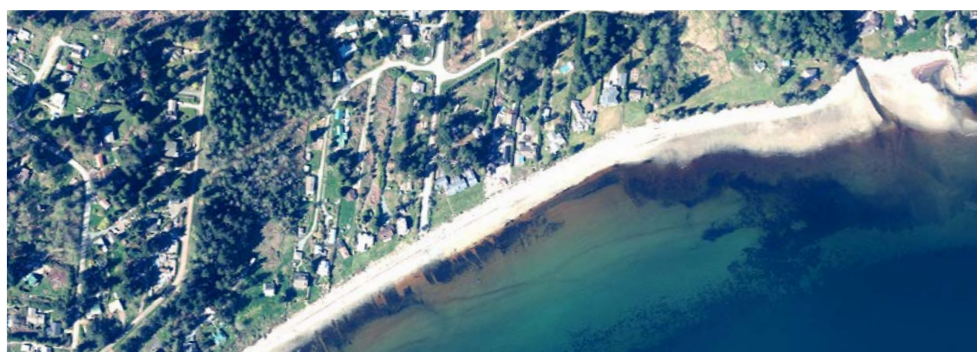
PLANNING SERVICE: OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS AND ZONING BYLAWS

Official Community Plan (OCP) bylaws establish a long-term community vision for land use. The Regional Board has adopted OCP bylaws for Electoral Areas A, B, C, D (Texada Island) and Savary Island.

OCP bylaws provide policies to guide decisions on land use, housing, infrastructure and servicing, transportation, economic development, and environmental protection.

Community engagement is the foundation for developing an OCP.

Recently, Planning staff worked with residents and stakeholders of Texada Island to complete a review and update of their OCP. The new Texada OCP is the outcome of a two and a half year planning process and reflects a balance of community and stakeholder interests.



The Texada Island OCP Bylaw is part way through the bylaw adoption process with a Public Hearing held in June.

Zoning bylaws establish land use regulations to ensure that new development complies with land use policies outlined in an OCP.

Currently, Planning staff are working with residents of the Douglas Bay neighbourhood and the Random Road neighbourhood in Electoral C. These two

neighbourhoods petitioned the Regional District to request zoning bylaws for their neighbourhoods. Community engagement to date has included introductory meetings and community surveys. Resident feedback indicates a strong desire to protect their rural low-density residential neighbourhoods and groundwater sources from encroaching industrial and commercial activities.

To learn more, contact the Planning Department at planning@qathet.ca.

qathet Regional District Launches Meeting Transparency Portal

In May, 2021, the qathet Regional District launched the CivicWeb Transparency Portal in order to improve public access to regional district meetings and records.

The portal increases transparency by enabling our citizens to easily access current meeting agendas and minutes, search for documents, and view reports from any electronic device.

Within our Portal, you will be able to search for documents in our online library; view upcoming and past meetings using the Calendar; and review agendas and minutes within the meeting area. Individuals can subscribe by meeting type and be notified any time an agenda is released or updated. As an additional feature, the public can track the way Directors voted on specific resolutions.

The Portal will also help streamline applications from the public to sit on one of our Advisory Committees. Interested individuals can easily submit a form and supporting documentation to open positions on Advisory Committees. The Portal system will track the status of their application while referring necessary information to the appropriate staff to execute.

We pride ourselves on being accessible to all our citizens and providing information as easily as possible.

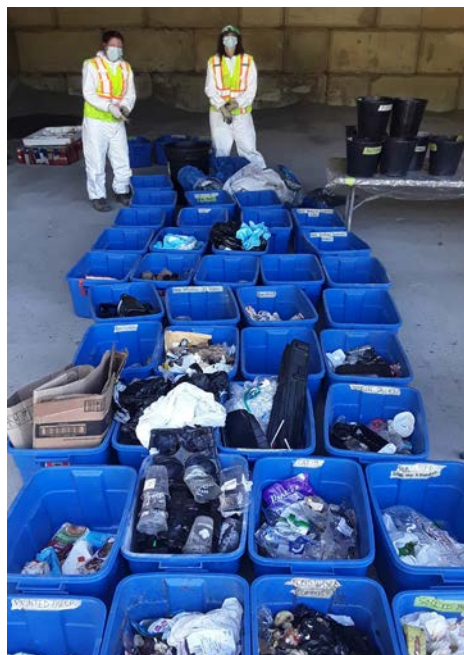
To access the CivicWeb Portal, visit
qathetrd.civicweb.net/Portal/

Zero Waste in Action

Let's Talk Trash

WHAT IS WASTE?

Moving the qathet Regional District (qRD) towards Zero Waste is the Let's Talk Trash team's (LTT) passion, and there are several initiatives making great strides in this direction in the region.



In late May, LTT got their hands right into the so-called garbage, conducting a waste audit of the entire region to establish a baseline of what residents and businesses are throwing in the trash. Not surprisingly, they found a large volume of compostable materials - primarily food waste, paper towels and tissues, along with a significant volume of plastic packaging. A report is being created for the Regional Board and will be referred to as the qRD expands its waste diversion options for the community.

The implementation of the region's 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan, approved by the Ministry in 2018, is well underway. Included in this Plan is the creation of a local composting facility which will redirect up to 40 per cent of the materials currently sent to a landfill in Washington.

Removing shoreline plastic, primarily consisting of materials from the aquaculture industry and ghost fishing gear, has been a priority for the qRD for several years with many volunteers

offering their time to clean-up areas with heavy concentrations of these materials. This year, in collaboration with the Ocean Legacy Foundation, LTT and the Lasqueti Shoreline Debris Initiative accessed considerable additional grant funding and seven large scale clean-ups are currently taking place that aim to remove at least 80 tonnes of marine debris from around the region.

If you would like to access the qRD Ocean Plastic Depot to dispose of marine debris, please contact LTT for the required orientation at info@letstalktrash.ca.

The Resource Recovery Centre (RRC), located across the street from the Willingdon Beach campground, is nearing its final phase. As a decommissioned garbage incinerator, landfill and transfer site, remediation and encapsulation of materials left on site was required prior to building. This project was facilitated by a \$6 million-dollar Strategic Priorities Fund grant awarded in 2017. The final phase will include the construction of a one-stop-drop reuse and recycling centre, a free store, upcycling and repair workshop, state-of-the-art enclosed transfer station with diversion opportunities for marine plastic debris, clean wood waste, metal, tires, and an outdoor compost education centre.

The RRC will be surrounded by reforested landscapes, bike trails, three ponds, riparian streams, upcycled functional art from left behind materials, and an educational zone including the deactivated incinerator. Visit the qRD website to view video footage of the project so far.

For more informaton, contact Let's Talk Trash at info@LetsTalkTrash.ca, 604-485-2260, or to visit their website at LetsTalkTrash.ca for a list of online resources.

Ingalisa Burns, Let's Talk Trash Team

Participate in the Rural Curbside Collection Survey, open until July 30, 2021



For more information visit us at qathet.ca

Fire Services Update

qathet Regional District (qRD) operates four volunteer fire departments delivered by a committed group of volunteers who give their time and energy to help protect our communities.

Our Regional District Fire Departments have a long history in the qathet Region. The Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department (SIVFD) has been operational since 1978. The Lasqueti Island Volunteer Fire Department (LIVFD) has been providing fire and emergency response services since 1976. The Northside Volunteer Fire Department (NVFD) was established in 1968 and the Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) has been providing fire and emergency response services for our southern region since its founding in 1967.

There are a total of 131 individuals volunteering in their communities as fire fighters, medical first responders, and other critical supporting roles in their Volunteer Fire Departments. These volunteers are paged from their regular work and family lives to respond to emergencies on a 24/7 basis.

In the last ten years, the qRD has conducted three regional fire services reviews. Each review showcased that the Volunteer Fire Chiefs required greater administrative support. Recognizing this need, the Regional Board has introduced an Office Clerk - Regional Fire Services position.

The Office Clerk - Regional Fire Services will aid the qRD's four fire departments by assisting with record keeping, purchasing supports, and other day to day clerical needs. The shared Office Clerk - Regional Fire Services will provide the qRD with the opportunity to leverage economies of scale while reducing redundancies and duplications in each fire service. The end product will be enhanced regional collaboration and improved service delivery.

Safety stewardship continues to be a strategic priority for the qRD. With the dedication of our volunteers, we are continually improving our fire and emergency response services throughout the region.

Many of our VFD volunteers have provided considerable years to their respective Volunteer Fire Departments. In acknowledgement of their efforts, the qRD would like to recognize our volunteers who have put in 15 years or more of volunteer service.

Dave Keiver, MVFD Fire Chief, 43 years served.

Jim Brown, NVFD Fire Chief, 24 years served.

Richard Carlson, LIVFD Fire Chief, 17 years served.

Jan van Dok, MVFD Deputy Chief, 15 years served.

Norm Penner, NVFD Deputy Chief, 29 years served.

Richard Glover, SIVFD Deputy Chief, 18 years served.

Brian Fahey, NVFD Captain, 33 years served.

Eric Ferreira, SIVFD Captain, 21 years served.

Yves Perreault, NVFD Captain, 16 years served.

Ann Snow, NVFD Lieutenant, 18 years served.

Eugene Zago, MVFD Lieutenant, 36 years served.

Raymond Hogan, MVFD Lieutenant, 15 years served.

Ron Cochrane, NVFD Lieutenant, 18 years served.

Jorg Lutz, SIVFD Fire Fighter, 24 years served.

Mike Burge, NVFD Fire Fighter, 42 years served.

Paul Franske, NVFD Fire Fighter, 16 years served.

Richard Hughes, NVFD Fire Fighter, 19 years served.

Marilynn Bergen, LIVFD Fire Fighter, 18 years served.

Ginette De La Chevrotiere, NVFD Fire Fighter, 20 years served.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM UPGRADES

The qathet Regional District (qRD) has upgraded the Regional Community Notification System. The Community Notification System can rapidly circulate critical safety information to help our community stay up-to-date in the event of an emergency.

The upgraded Community Notification System allows the Regional Emergency Operations Centre to send voice messages to phones as well as text messages and emails.

To register for the Community Notification System, visit qathet.ca/emergency-preparedness, and click the "Enroll here" button. You will be directed to fill out a registration form.

Please contact emergency@qathet.ca for more information.

Contact Us

qathet Regional District
#202 - 4675 Marine Avenue
Powell River, BC V8A 2L2

Hours of Operation

8:30am – 4:30pm
Closed 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Monday to Friday

Contact

Tel: 604-485-2260
Fax: 604-485-2216
Email: administration@qathet.ca