



## 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 budget covers the regular day-to-day operations of the 46 local government services provided annually in individual Electoral Areas and across the qathet Regional District.

Below are key initiatives being instituted in 2023 to enhance some of these services. The cost of these initiatives will be borne by the taxpayers and users benefitting from these projects.

### Regional Services

- Waste Management – Construction of the Resource Recovery Centre and Waste Transfer Facility
- Regional Emergency Preparedness – Continuation of the Regional FireSmart program
- Regional Parks:
  - Completion of the Regional Parks and Trails Strategy
  - Accessibility improvements
- Palm Beach Park – installation of covered gazebo.

### Electoral Area Services

- Lund Sewer – Installation of a wastewater monitoring system
- Savary Island Fire Protection – Replacement of a fire engine
- Malaspina Fire Protection – Installation of water refill station at the Community Services office
- Northside Fire Protection – Installation of water tanks at the Lund Fire Hall
- Myrtle Pond Water – Upgrades to the existing infrastructure
- Texada Island:
  - Tennis court resurfacing
  - Van Anda Ball Field covered gazebo
  - Emily Lake Trail resurfacing
  - Gillies Bay Community Hall new stove and flooring repairs

## ABOUT THE qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT

The qathet Regional District (qRD) stretches from Jervis Inlet to Toba Inlet and includes the City of Powell River and five Electoral Areas.

**Area A** extends north from city boundary and includes Lund, Savary and Hernando Islands.

**Area B** extends south from city boundary and includes Nootka, Covey and Tanner Streets, Paradise Valley, and properties along Highway 101 up to Whalen Road (west side).

**Area C** extends from Whalen Road (east side) to Jervis Inlet including Black Point, Kelly Creek, Lang Bay, Stillwater and Saltery Bay.

**Area D** Texada Island.

**Area E** Lasqueti Island.

(Boundaries exclude Tla'amin Nation lands).

## POWELL RIVER REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Regional Hospital Districts (RHDs) were established throughout the province as a means of financing a local contribution to the costs of constructing or renovating major health care facilities such as acute care hospitals. With a few exceptions, RHD boundaries are the same as regional district boundaries.

RHDs originally financed a 40 percent share of the costs of construction and renovations and the province paid 60%. Subsequent legislative changes allow for different cost-sharing formulas, i.e., RHDs may pay more or less than 40 percent, and there is a broadened scope of projects that RHDs may help to finance.

The RHD funds debt payments of the Willingdon Creek Village complex care facility. The RHD owns the facility and leases it to Vancouver Coastal Health and it is operated by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

The Regional Hospital Board is composed of the same members as the qRD's Regional Board as well as one representative from Tla'amin Nation.

## 2023 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

The BC Assessment Authority classifies all properties according to one of eight Property Tax Classes:

- Residential (includes non-zoned vacantland)
- Utilities
- Major Industry
- Light Industry
- Business/Other
- Managed Forest
- Recreation/Non-Profit
- Farm

The Utilities, Industry, Business, and Managed Forest classes are taxed at higher rates than other classes, thus relieving the residential tax burden. For regional districts, the tax ratios among the different classes are set by the province. Municipalities, which include cities, can set their own ratios.

**Total** assessed values for the qRD as a whole increased by 17.3 percent over 2022.

**Residential** class assessed values increased by 18.3% overall. The greatest residential increases were seen in Electoral Area D at 27.7 percent and in Electoral Area B at 22.8 percent.

**Light Industry** class assessed values increased by 12.7 percent overall. The greatest light industry assessment increases were seen at 25.1% in Electoral Area D and at 12.3 percent in Electoral Area B.

**Business/Other** class assessed values increased by 13.1 percent across the region. Electoral Area C saw the greatest increase at 15.8 percent and business class assessments increased by 13.4 percent in the City of Powell River.

**Recreation/Non-Profit** class assessed values increased by 33.1 percent overall. The greatest increase to the recreation/non-profit assessments was in the City of Powell River at 90.9%. Electoral Area C saw an increase of 42.7 percent, and Electoral Area D saw a decrease of 58.3 percent.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAX NOTICE

You have just received your 2023 tax notice from the Province. The Province collects taxes for schools, roads, policing and regional district services. The qRD receives a lump sum payment from the Province in August of each year for the qRD service portion. The following will explain each line on your property tax notice.

**Provincial School Tax** The Province collects this tax for education services and school facilities.

**Provincial Rural Tax and Police Tax** This provincial tax is for rural road maintenance and police protection services.

**BC Assessment Authority** BC Assessment Authority is a Crown corporation that sets all property assessment values in the province. Its costs are recovered by this tax.

**Municipal Finance Authority** The Municipal Finance Authority coordinates money borrowing for all local governments in the province.

**Local Services Area A** This is your Electoral Area tax for services provided by the qRD. The qRD provides common services to residents of the entire region (City and Electoral Areas) and some services which are specific only to the Electoral Areas, to your area alone, or to a part of your area.

**Powell River Regional Hospital District** This is your tax for services provided by the Regional Hospital District (RHD). The RHD provides services to residents of the entire region (City and Electoral Areas).

**Other Regional Services** Included in this brochure is a breakdown of taxation for the services provided only to parts of your Electoral Area either by assessed value or through a parcel tax. Services provided only to Savary Island and only to the mainland are shown separately.

**Improvement District Services** You may receive services administered by an Improvement District and these will be identified on your property tax notice as a separate item. Improvement Districts are not part of the qRD system.