



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

2023 - 2027 Strategic Plan

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



*Clay Brander
Regional Board Chair*

The Board of Directors is committed to creating a thriving region for residents and visitors alike. We recognize the importance of collaboration between citizens, businesses, and government to create an equitable and sustainable region.

Working together, we will foster strong connections with our First Nation Governments, extensive volunteer networks, and vibrant arts and culture community. We are committed to creating the necessary infrastructure to support our local business community, and to offering our residents the necessary social supports to balance family needs and financial health.

We will continue to protect our environment through sustainable service delivery, balanced and disciplined land-use planning, and by improving our regional green spaces. We will promote healthy lifestyles by prioritizing regional active transportation networks, regional trail systems, and recreation. We will champion organizational excellence by engaging in two-way communications with the public, practicing fact-based decision making, and maintaining the longevity of our assets using industry-leading asset management strategies.

These shared goals create a unified vision and direction for our organization and region. We look forward to leading the implementation of the Strategic Plan over these next four years!



Our Vision

We are progressive and work collaboratively for the common good to support a thriving, inclusive and sustainable community.



Our Mission

Provide our community with a voice and leadership in the delivery of sustainable local government services.



Our Values

Service Excellence: Consistent high-quality service that is honest, ethical, respectful and professional.

Community Support: Supporting a sustainable, inclusive community through respectful cooperation, communication, collaboration and engagement.

Accountability: Decisions and actions which are open, transparent, responsive and accessible.

QATHET REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Clay Brander



Jason Lennox



Mark Gisborne



Sandy McCormick



Andrew Fall



Cindy Elliott



George Doubt

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



**Organizational
Excellence**



**Environment +
Climate**



**Community
Connections**



Social Supports

Quality of life is at the centre of each and every priority of this strategic plan.



These sustainability principles govern each decision the Board makes:



Environmental Sustainability - Ensure the resiliency, conservation and protection of the natural environment



Economic Sustainability - Provide and support ongoing economic benefits for the community



Cultural Sustainability - Provide and promote respect for diversity and heritage



Social Sustainability - Provide access, support and advocacy for a safe, secure and inclusive community.



Organizational Excellence

AREAS OF FOCUS

- We ensure our assets are proactively funded and maintained to support our region.
- Our decisions are based on facts, and balance the needs of the region with uniqueness of our electoral area and municipal residents.
- We continue to focus on two way communication with residents in our region on matters that affect them.
- We focus on the safety and resilience of our residents and our region.



Environment & Climate

AREAS OF FOCUS

- We focus on conserving our natural environment and enhancing our parks infrastructure.
- We are disciplined in how we manage the region to minimize our impact on the environment and climate.
- We proactively plan for growth in our region to ensure our land use is responsible and sustainable.
- We provide services and supports to sustainably support our region.



Community Connections

AREAS OF FOCUS

- We honour and respect the First Nations on whose land we operate.
- We enable the extraordinary volunteer networks in our region.
- We fund and support active transportation, both through built infrastructure as well as trail systems.
- We enable economic health in the region by advocating for the infrastructure businesses need to survive and thrive.
- We support community connection through recreation, arts and culture in the region.



Social Supports

AREAS OF FOCUS

- We focus on diversity of housing throughout our region, encouraging density in our municipal areas.
- We support our rural areas in water governance to ensure safe and sustainable water access that meets the needs of their unique areas.
- We facilitate the supports our residents need to balance their family responsibilities and economic and financial health.
- We support the diversity of our residents through a focus on accessibility.
- We facilitate resident and regional emergency preparedness.



Top Advocacy

- ✓ Modernized housing policies to support sustainable densification, affordability and tenant protections in the region.
- ✓ Extended Community Works Funding program by federal and provincial governments with increased allocations.
- ✓ Responsive transit schedules and funding to meet the needs of rural-paratransit and residential users to support increased ridership.
- ✓ Improved road maintenance through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure residents can safely travel throughout the region.
- ✓ Restored BC Ferries service levels to provide the region with reliable, responsive, and affordable travel connections to and from the region.
- ✓ Enhanced cycling connectivity to support healthy and active alternative transportation options throughout the region.
- ✓ Updated internet connectivity to ensure equal access to health services, education and economic development opportunities.
- ✓ Increased federal and provincial grant access to improvement districts to support the health and safety of rural residents.

qathet Regional District

Executing the Plan



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Allan Radke
Chief Administrative Officer

How our team will execute the Executive's strategy

On February 7 and 8, 2023, the Board of Directors and employees convened for a shirtsleeve strategic planning workshop facilitated by an award-winning consultant.

I applaud the Board of Directors for beginning on this term's adventure. Because, as the saying goes, "if you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there."

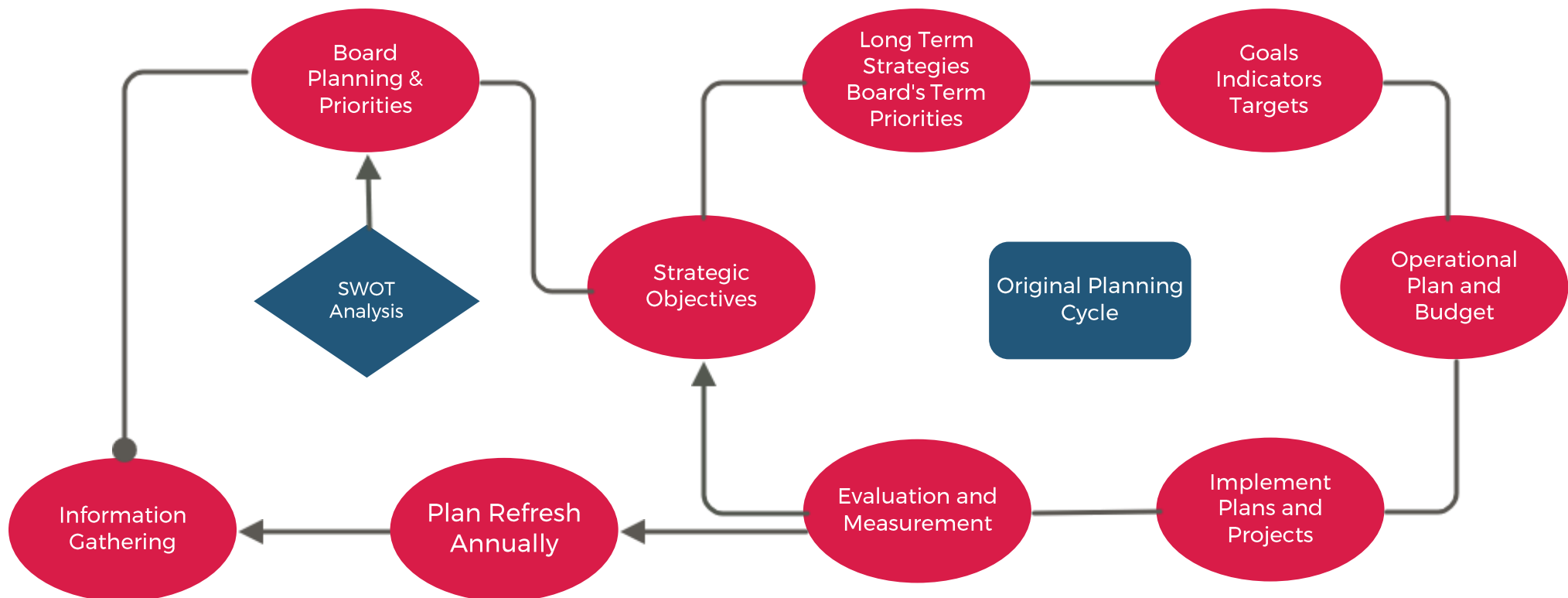
The Strategic Plan is an ever-evolving document. It is a declaration of expectation in connection to foreseen conditions, however it is not an absolute. The Strategic Plan roadmap is a useful tool since it directs personnel to the areas on which the Board want to focus. Staff must direct their work plans and projects in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

The benefits of applying the Strategic Plan are working collectively toward a thriving and sustainable qathet Regional District.

FRAMEWORK & PROCESS

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to articulate strategic choices and provide information on how the organization intends to achieve its priorities. The Strategic plan outlines priorities to be achieved over the next several years and addresses four questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?
- How do we measure our progress?



ABOUT qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT



qathet Regional District (qRD) is a local government authority in British Columbia, and includes five electoral areas and one municipality (City of Powell River) in the traditional territory of the Tla'amin, shíshálh, Klahoose, Nanoose, and K'ómoks First Nations. Our services include, but are not limited to, land use planning, emergency preparedness, solid waste management, regional parks, and fire protection.

qRD's jurisdiction covers approximately 5,000 square kilometers of land including Texada, Savary, and Lasqueti islands, north to Toba Inlet and south to Saltery Bay. The population of approximately 20,000 residents live in the City of Powell River, Electoral Areas A, B, C, D and E, and on First Nations' lands.