



REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD CHAIR CELEBRATES BIG WINS FOR THE REGION

With a national award winning Resource Recovery Centre, Installation of fully-grant funded EV Chargers, a new Community Centre under construction, and a new regional park, the qRD has a lot to celebrate!

qathet: Working Together

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



Clay Brander, Chair & Electoral
Area C Director, qathet
Regional District

Imagine most people would agree that saying that we're living through interesting times right now would be a bit of an understatement. Elections, wars, tariffs, climate change, the widespread use of Artificial Intelligence – all these things effect our daily lives, and not always in positive ways. Luckily, the qathet Regional District (qRD) is continuously keeping an eye on these influences and is adapting our strategy so that our residents are best equipped to weather the challenges that are thrown our way. In fact, even with so many difficult scenarios playing out in front of us, the past twelve months included many successes that we can be proud of. There's not nearly enough space to include all the good things that have happened recently, so I've whittled it down to a few events and projects that we can celebrate.

First off, the long-anticipated Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) is up and running! The largest project that the qRD has ever taken on has been operating for months and the services that the RRC offers are increasing regularly. When it is 100% operational it will accept a wide variety of materials and be a part of a multitude of specialized recycling programs. The aim of the RRC is to offer as many ways to recycle or reuse as possible so that the volume of waste leaving the qRD can be kept to a minimum. Shipping our waste to Washington isn't just expensive, it's bad for the planet, so the more we can reduce, the better.

Just recently, the qRD was awarded the 2025 CAMA (Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators) Environmental Leadership & Sustainability Award in the 20,001-100,000 Population Category. This is a very prestigious award given to just one local government across the entire nation, and is something that we should be very proud of. There were fifty-four projects considered so coming out on top is extremely impressive! Good job to our staff for bringing this positive recognition to our community. These sorts of awards pay dividends in the long run because they make the qRD a desirable organization to work with and for, and good staff are the backbone of a good organization.

After lobbying BC Hydro to install EV charging stations in some of our more remote communities and seeing no success, the staff turned their attention to other sources of grant funding and were successful in being awarded 100% funding from Aviva Canada, in partnership with Earth Day Canada and through their Charged for Change program, for EV chargers to be installed at Shelter Point Park on Texada Island and at Klah Ah Men Lund Gazebo Park. These charging stations give visitors the confidence that when they visit these remote areas, they'll be able to get back home again.

The Province leased the qRD a section of undeveloped Crown land at the end of Spring Bay Road on Lasqueti Island which is now being called Spring Bay Park. This 2.2 hectare park is home to a magnificent forest of mature Coastal Douglas-fir and Western Red Cedar and will feature a rough trail along the waterfront, which, with minor improvements, will provide access to the scenic areas within the park. We're always excited to bring more park land into the fold – you can never have enough green space.

As part of our ongoing focus and provincial mandate to make qRD facilities more accessible, in 2024 the qRD expanded into new offices, which included a new Boardroom that can accommodate individuals with all levels of accessibility who would like to serve as a Director, or attend a meeting. The new Boardroom is much more spacious, has an accessible bathroom adjacent to it, and has much improved ventilation. This is a big step in the right direction as accessibility should not hinder anyone from taking part in local government discussions.

Finally, the qRD recently broke ground on the new Northside Community Recreation Centre in Lund. This facility, which is being built alongside the former Lund School, will prove to be an asset to the community for generations to come. The facility offers, among other things, a commercial kitchen, a stage, accessible universal washrooms and a half-court gymnasium large enough to accommodate two pickle ball courts, which I'm sure will be very popular.

Have a great summer!

Learn more about the
great work the qRD
is doing at:
qathet.ca/projects

Sustainable Service Delivery is an Investment in our Community's Shared Future



Al Radke, BSBA, CLGM, Chief Administrative Officer

At the qathet Regional District, our staff take a practical, long-term approach to service delivery and community development. We understand that thoughtful planning, responsible spending, and a focus on sustainability are not just lofty goals—they are the foundations of a strong and resilient region. When we work together to support our communities, we're not only protecting the common good, we're also ensuring that individual households and businesses can continue to thrive and prosper in our region.

We recognize that costs are rising every year. Expectations are increasing at all levels, and so are regulations and legislative requirements. In addition, downloading from higher levels of government forces staff to react and absorb new priorities into our work plans unexpectedly; nobody is happy about this and we know that this adds to costs to provide services to our community. This is also the same community that our workers call home, and also pay taxes in. We feel the pinch too, and are not immune to, or exempt from these same rising costs.

Our staff continue to work diligently, stretching resources, delivering essential services, and planning carefully to avoid burdening future generations as much as possible for the decisions made today.

We do not take this responsibility lightly, and as staff, we understand that at times our ability to balance still comes at a cost, and someone leaves the table unhappy with our prioritization. This is the ongoing struggle of local government, but as public servants, and highly experienced and educated ones at that, we still have made several remarkable achievements this year that are worth celebrating.

Solid waste management is one area where we are making important progress. The development of the qathet Regional District Resource Recovery Centre will allow us to manage our waste more efficiently, support provincial recycling goals, and reduce the pressure on local taxpayers. As an example, our recent organics pilot move has the potential to save residents up to \$40,000 annually for the service, and it is proving well used by the community. We are also working to expand access to Extended Producer Responsibility programs, so producers of these materials, not local governments - bear the cost of recycling certain materials. Furthermore, we continue to advocate for the return of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional recycling in rural areas. This gap, which the Province has acknowledged in a recent report, remains a major contributor to the waste stream, and adds costs and negatively impacts our surrounding environment. Rural communities like ours deserve equal access to recycling infrastructure, and together with the support of our elected officials, staff continue to push for a strategy that includes us.

Community infrastructure is another area where long-term planning is paying off. After years of work and community engagement, the Northside Community Recreation Centre is moving ahead. In 2021, the qathet Regional District secured a \$4.2 million grant to cover more than 70 percent of eligible project costs. The remainder is being funded through borrowing—approved by local voters in a 2023 referendum—alongside an astoundingly generous \$115,000 in donations from local community members. When completed, this new facility will provide space for sports, arts, gatherings, and local day-care programs. It will be fully accessible, designed to serve residents of all ages, and will stand as a testament to what can be achieved when communities support each other, and work together.

In support of environmental sustainability, two new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will

soon be installed at no cost to local taxpayers at Shelter Point Park on Texada Island and at the Klah Ah Men Lund Gazebo Park. This project is fully funded through the Charged for Change program with Aviva, and Earth Day Canada, and was secured through the hard work of staff and the strong advocacy of Texada residents and the Regional Board. We have made it clear through regional advocacy that a province-wide EV strategy must include rural and remote communities. Supporting clean transportation options in places like Texada and Lund is not only good for the environment, but also essential to tourism, and rural economic development.

We are also working hard to protect the most basic service of all: clean drinking water. Many rural residents in our community rely on drinking water provision through Improvement Districts, which face growing challenges due to outdated provincial policies that prevent them from accessing grants for critical infrastructure upgrades. The qathet Regional District is calling on the Province to honour its commitments and open the doors to once again allow Improvement Districts access grant funding to support those offering such important community services. Safe, sustainable water systems benefit everyone, and addressing the issue now will prevent far greater costs down the road.

In the end, our region is only as strong as the people who live here and the partnerships we build together. When we support our local communities, we are also protecting our own homes, our local businesses, and our shared quality of life. It is through mutual respect, careful planning, and collective effort that we will continue to build a resilient qathet region—for today, and for many years to come.

Staff have prepared a detailed breakdown of where each Electoral Area and City tax dollar goes to make it easier for residents to understand what you are actually paying for.

These breakdowns are available by visiting:
gathet.ca/2025-budget

How Does the qRD Assess and Manage Risk?

Caleb Allen, ASCT, Manager of Information Technology

The qathet Regional District (qRD) is continually improving its Asset Management Program. The latest improvement helps us understand the risk to, and criticality of, qRD Assets. Risk is defined as the probability of an asset failing, multiplied by the consequences of the failure. Criticality is a measure of the consequence of asset failure.

In 2024, the qRD engaged the services of PSD Citywide as a consultant to begin formal risk assessments of select assets and facilities within the Regional District. The assets were chosen to be a cross section of the diverse types of assets within the qRD. Staff members from multiple departments collaborated to understand and document risks at a high level; for example, the kind of risk from large events such as natural disasters. They also took a more detailed look at risks that are more specific to

individual asset types; for example, the risk to a roof is different from the risk to a vehicle.

After working with staff to understand and document risks to assets, PSD Citywide provided an initial risk assessment report. They also provided training and tools to enable qRD staff to take the learnings and apply the same process to the rest of the capital assets owned by the Regional District. Information Technology Department staff are updating the risk levels and the asset criticality across all the affected regional services throughout 2025 and recording these in the Asset Management database. This will enhance future State of Asset Reports. Understanding criticality and risk is a powerful decision-making tool which supports long range capital planning within the qRD and protects valuable assets.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2025 INCLUDE:

- Fire protection at the Savary Island Wharf.
- Replacement of a fire engine for Northside Fire Protection service.
- Northside Recreation Centre expansion.
- Shelter Point Park shower, and washroom building renewal.
- Palm Beach Park concession roof, and doors replacement.
- Myrtle Pond Water System chlorine system analyzer replacement.
- Savary Island Official Community Plan.
- Growth modelling study for Electoral Areas A, B, C and D (grant funded).
- Powell River Cemetery mausoleum window replacement (grant funded).

Northside Community Recreation Centre Expansion

Mikhael Drosdovech, ASCT, EIT, Manager of Assets and Capital Projects



The Northside Community Recreation Centre (NCRC) in Lund is set for a significant upgrade! The upgraded facility has been designed to serve as an enhanced hub for community activities and to provide a gathering space supporting community, culture and recreation for Northside residents, and visitors alike.

The current building, constructed in 1948, has served the community for many years as an elementary school, day care, and recreation hub for Lund and the surrounding area.

In 2021, the qRD secured a grant of up to \$4,199,082 through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream. This grant contributes 73.33% of the eligible project cost, with the qRD providing the balance and absorbing

project overruns and scope changes through donations, additional grants, borrowing, and/or reserves. The borrowing and reserves are funded through the Northside Recreation Service.

The qRD received support of the electors within the Northside Community Recreation Service Area to borrow the balance of the project funding (\$1.1 million) to construct the new Community Centre in Lund through a referendum in 2023. In addition to the grant and borrowing, local residents have donated \$115,000 towards project costs.

The new NCRC building will house a half-court basketball gymnasium/dance floor, a stage for theatrical performances and musical productions, a commercial grade kitchen, universal washrooms and lots of space for storage. The new building will be wheelchair accessible, incorporating a connecting, welcoming foyer and will provide ample space for community events and gatherings. The parking lot surrounding the facility will be reconfigured to allow for more parking spaces and to provide accessible parking near the main entrance.

On April 25, 2025, the qathet Regional District (qRD) hosted a ground breaking ceremony at the future site of the new NCRC. The qRD would like to thank our honoured guests, dignitaries, speakers, and Lund Community Society members for their kind words, and support.

Construction has now begun, with the goal of completing the project by March 2026.

WorkSafeBC Certificate of Recognition (COR) Maintenance Audit

In April 2025, the qRD successfully completed its first WorkSafeBC COR maintenance audit, following its initial COR certification in 2024. COR recognizes employers who exceed legal safety standards. Benefits include a safer workplace, stronger employee retention, and potential financial savings through reduced premiums and WorkSafeBC incentive payments.

Planning Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow on Savary Island

Laura Roddan, MA, RPP, MCIP, General Manager of Planning Services

The qathet Regional District is undertaking a comprehensive review and update of the Savary Island Official Community Plan (OCP), nearly 20 years after its initial adoption. This process is a vital opportunity to renew the community's long-term vision, values, and goals, and to ensure land use policies reflect both current realities of the land and future aspirations of the community.

An OCP is a high-level planning document that guides local decision-making on land use, development, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship. While it doesn't regulate specific property activities, it does provide a foundation for coordinated, community-informed decisions by the regional district, other government agencies, and landowners.

A cornerstone of the update is the 2024

Groundwater Assessment, which provides new insights into the island's most critical resource—fresh water. This study confirms that while groundwater quality is generally good, the island's aquifers are vulnerable.

The study included a 3D model of the

deficits in recharge, increasing water demand, and risks like seawater intrusion and contamination from septic systems present long-term challenges that the OCP will aim to address to maintain sustainable water sources into the future.



aquifer system, a water balance analysis, and well condition surveys. It identified six groundwater management areas, allowing for region-specific recommendations. Key strategies going forward include education on septic system maintenance, support for sustainable water use, and long-term monitoring of aquifer health. Seasonal

In response to frequently asked questions, it's important to clarify that the OCP does not create new regulations or bylaws—it sets the vision and policy framework. Based on public feedback to date, the qathet Regional District will be pursuing non-regulatory approaches wherever possible, focusing on education, stewardship, and voluntary compliance.

We invite all residents, landowners, and stakeholders to engage in this important

process by visiting qathet.ca/savaryocp and continuing to participate in public meetings and engagements relating to the OCP.

Working together, we can shape a resilient future for q'wən —Savary Island—that respects its natural systems and the values of its diverse community.

Operational Services Update

Patrick Devereaux, General Manager of Operational Services

Cemeteries

Green or natural burials align with the values of those seeking to reduce environmental impact, offering an alternative to traditional methods. This practice returns the body to the earth to decompose naturally, supporting new life. Though seen as an alternative to Western burial customs, it is a long-standing tradition in many cultures and religions, including Indigenous, Islamic, Jewish, and Christian communities. Green burials have been available at the Powell River Regional Cemetery since 2016 and is growing in popularity. Of 100 available plots, 72 are sold and 15 interments completed. The area will expand as needed, and once full, will return to its natural forested state. More information at: qathet.ca/powell-river-regional-cemetery or email: cemetery@qathet.ca.

Parks and Recreation

The Regional Parks service includes 11 parks (2 with campgrounds), 22 beach access trails, and 7 community parks. Spring Bay Park on Lasqueti Island became the newest Regional Park in 2024 through a provincial licence.

Special Event Permits are available for events in parks. Palm Beach Regional Park is the most popular venue for weddings, parties, and school activities. A new waterfront gazebo donated by Rotary International has increased its functionality for events.

The qRD is pursuing an expansion of Emily Lake Community Park near Van Andra on Texada Island. A crown land lease application is in the provincial referral stage, with a decision expected in 12–36 months.

Utilities

In 2024, the Myrtle Pond Water System was significantly upgraded by reconnecting the Centennial Drive and Butler Road sides. This restored a looped

system, which improves water quality by preventing stagnation. The project was 85% funded by federal Community Works funding, with the remainder from system reserves.

Marine Services

Savary Island and Van Anda docks underwent their scheduled detailed inspections in February 2025. Conducted every four years, these inspections guide necessary maintenance and ensure long-term functionality.

Transportation

The Province and BC Transit are expected to approve an expansion of Route 13 on Texada Island from once to twice weekly, requiring a second bus. If approved, this will also enable potential expansions to Routes 12 (Stillwater) and 14 (Lund).

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