



Regional District of Central Kootenay

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To the Residents of Central Kootenay

A Regional District budget is truly its people's budget.

With exceptions you can count on the fingers of one hand, all of our 200 services have only been established at your request, with either your approval, your Director's approval in accordance with provisions contained in the *Local Government Act* or (if you live in a municipality) the approval of your municipal Council.

You, the voter, said how much each service was worth to you when you set and approved the maximum tax rates for those services. Those rates can't be exceeded. District staff and Directors must manage affairs within those limits. No other level of government in Canada (federal, provincial or municipal) lets taxpayers create their own services and set their own taxation caps like we do.

Budgets for these services are developed at the community level by our staff working with hundreds of citizen volunteers who donate their time to run our parks and recreation commissions, fire departments, water commissions, economic development commissions, libraries, community halls, and the list goes on. You publicly review them. They come to the Board only on the recommendation of your own rural and/or municipal Directors. These sub-regional services make up most of our budget – and the lion's share of your District tax bill.


What about compulsory services? Provincial legislation requires rural areas to provide for land use planning, emergency services planning and rural administration, It also requires a regulated waste management service (in our case, we have three).

The one service that applies to everyone in the District is called General Administration. In 2010, taxation for General Administration will again be less than 4% of our \$50 million budget. We are a very cost-effective delivery vehicle for public services.

You and your neighbours have selected a "designer package" from the District's list of services. They are unique to your neighbourhood and community. The details are itemized on your annual property tax requisition. For example, this year residential property owners in Area I will receive and support 18 basic services, plus additional local services like Tarrys and Pass Creek Fire Protection, Slocan Valley Fire Protection, animal control in Brilliant, Castlegar Transit, etc.; Nelson residents get a package of nine; Nakusp 15; Area A between 15-22, depending on where you live and what you want.

They are all *your* services. They are provided at your request by a great team of professional staff and community volunteers. Our budget is a reflection of your vision.

Sincerely,



Gary Wright, Chair

Our budget is a reflection of your vision

