

Electoral Area C Governance Study



Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Getting to know Area C

Governance and local service delivery in the South Shuswap

Getting to know Electoral Area C

Do you live or own property in Sunnybrae, Tappen, White Lake, Blind Bay, Sorrento, Eagle Bay, Notch Hill or another Area C community? Have you ever wondered who provides your local services, how these services are paid for, how decisions are made, or how you can express your views?

This overview has been prepared as part of the Area C Governance Study to help you find answers to these questions and discover how regional governance works in your community. The overview will prepare you to share your perspectives with the Area C Governance Study Committee about what's working and what's not.

What is the Area C Governance Study and why is it important?

Electoral Area C (South Shuswap) is one of six unincorporated areas that, along with four municipalities, makes up the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). With close to 8,000 residents, Area C is larger than 3 of the 4 CSRD municipalities (i.e., Revelstoke, Golden and Sicamous) and is one of the largest electoral areas in all of BC.

As electoral areas grow and develop, expectations and needs related to services and decision-making often change as well. It is important to step back from time to time to consider if the current system of local government is well-suited to the unique character and changing needs of local communities. The Area C Governance Study is an opportunity to assess the local government structure in Area C today.

The Area C Governance Study Committee invites local residents to review the overview and to participate in the study survey and open house events in May and June 2017. Please refer to the last page of the see below for survey and event details and contact information. **A more comprehensive review of the information highlighted in this overview can be found in the *Area C (South Shuswap) Governance Study Interim Report* at www.csr.bc.ca/area-c-governance-study.**

Attend one of the upcoming 2017 Governance Study Open Houses:

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm – Drop-In

Discussion Groups: 6:00 pm start

- Monday, May 15 - Sorrento Memorial Hall, 1150 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento
- Tuesday, May 16 – Sunnybrae Community Hall – 3595 Sunnybrae Canoe Point Road, Tappen
- Thursday, June 8 – White Lake Community Hall – 3617 Parri Road, Sorrento
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- Tuesday, June 13 – Notch Hill Town Hall – 1639 Notch Hill Road, Sorrento
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Complete a Survey www.csr.bc.ca/area-c-governance-study



Who is your local government?

Electoral Area C is an unincorporated area, which means that it is not a municipality and does not have a Mayor and Council. Area C is an electoral area within the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). The CSRD serves as the primary local government and is responsible for providing most of the local services that are in place today, including parks and recreation, fire protection, local planning, local government administration and, for most residents, water.

The CSRD is made up of:

- 6 electoral areas - A, B, C, D, E, F
- 4 municipalities - Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Golden, Revelstoke

What is the Regional Board of Directors?

Every regional district is governed by its own Board of Directors, made up of representatives (directors) from the electoral areas and municipalities that belong to the regional district. The CSRD's Board has 11 directors in total, including 6 from the electoral areas, and 5 from the municipalities. Each electoral area is represented by 1 director who is elected to the position by the voters in that area. Municipal directors are not directly elected to the Board, but are instead appointed by their respective municipal councils. Each municipality in the CSRD appoints 1 director, with the exception of the City of Salmon Arm, which, because of its size, appoints 2 directors.



How does Area C have a voice in CSRD decisions?

In regional districts, special voting rules reflect the fact that regional district services benefit (and are funded by) different combinations of jurisdictions. Not all directors have the right to vote on all matters, or have the same number of votes in all situations.

- Most decisions are voted on by the full Board of Directors, where each director gets one vote (e.g. regulatory bylaws). Decisions to establish new services for Area C are made in this manner.
- Other decisions are voted on by the full Board using weighted votes (e.g., budget decisions, borrowing). Each director gets 1 vote for every 2,500 people in their municipality or electoral area. In these decisions, the Area C director has 4 votes of a total of 27 votes.

Decisions related to services delivered to only certain parts of the region are made by weighted votes and involve only those directors who represent areas that participate in that service. The total number of votes will vary based on the range of jurisdictions that participate. Decisions cannot be made by one director alone — thus, where a service is provided to all or part of one electoral area only, all Board members are required to vote.

In the case of Area C, the regional district voting rules mean that every decision made by the Board on an Area C service involves directors from other jurisdictions.

Number of Directors & Number of Weighted Votes

	Population 2016	No. of Directors	Weighted Votes
Revelstoke	7,547	1	4
Salmon Arm	17,904	2	8
Sicamous	2,429	1	1
Golden	3,708	1	2
Area A	3,148	1	2
Area B	598	1	1
Area C	7,972	1	4
Area D	4,158	1	2
Area E	1,185	1	1
Area F	2,717	1	2
	51,366	11	27

How do I have a voice in CSRD decisions?

In addition to your voice through your Electoral Area C Director, you can participate in decision-making by being appointed to an Area C commission or committee, or by proposing services to CSRD staff to meet local community needs. Some of the committees and commissions are:

- Area C Advisory Planning Commission
- Area C Parks Advisory Committee
- Regional Water System Advisory Committee
- Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Shuswap Tourism Advisory Committee

What other opportunities are there to be involved?

You can also express your views on specific topics through a variety of other opportunities, including:

- attending Regional Board meetings
- attending committee and commission meetings
- attending public meetings and public hearings
- submitting letters or speaking directly with CSRD staff
- talking with your Area C Director
- contacting your local community or residents' association

Area C Services

What services does Area C receive from the CSRD?

The services you receive from the regional district depend on where you live. There are services that everyone in Area C receives and there are other services that are only provided to certain specific areas.

How are local services in Area C paid for?

Each service provided by the regional district is budgeted separately. Costs are recovered by billing those who benefit from the service. Regional districts raise funds primarily through property taxation – more specifically, through property value taxes (based on the assessed value of land and improvements combined), or parcel taxes (based on a set amount per parcel). Some regional district services also generate revenues from user fees and charges. A further source of revenue is senior government grants; however, these are not significant as they were in the past.

Who else delivers local government services to Area C?

The provincial government provides certain services to all rural areas of BC, including the communities of Area C. Local roads, policing and public schools are key examples of such services. Library and healthcare services are also provided by agencies other than the CSRD. Library is provided by the Okanagan Regional Library, and healthcare is provided by Interior Health.

Service Highlights – Area C

The full list of regional district and electoral areas services received by Area C communities is considerable. The following sections provide some highlights of key services, including:

- General and Electoral Area Administration
- Development Services, Planning and Special Projects
- Area C Community Parks and Recreation
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Economic Development
- Water
- Emergency Services
- Regional Transit
- Regional Airport
- Street Lighting

Information about how the above services are paid for is highlighted at the end of the section (see Tax Bill - What do my Area C services cost?)

General and Electoral Area Administration

General administration services consist of a variety of functions that support the elected officials of the CSRD and their work, as well as the overall management of the organization. Some examples of general administration functions include board and committee meetings, elections and referenda, and financial, legislative, and personnel services.

Decisions regarding general government and administrative services are made by the CSRD Board. Decisions related to electoral areas administration (that are not financial or budget decisions) are made only by the six electoral area directors. Administrative services are funded through property taxes, but also through charges that are allocated to each of the other individual services. Similar to every other regional district, the CSRD receives a grant from the provincial government each year to assist in administration costs.

Development Services, Planning and Special Projects

The CSRD provides development services, planning services, special projects, house numbering and GIS mapping on behalf of Area C. The special projects service is a separate function that supports larger projects such as updates to zoning bylaws, official community plans, and studies that are not strictly planning-related, such as the Electoral Area C Governance Study. All electoral areas benefit from and help to fund this service.

Two CSRD bylaw enforcement officers enforce multiple bylaws in all of the electoral areas, including Area C. Area C accounts for the majority of the region's bylaw enforcement complaints due in part to the population, size, and density of the South Shuswap area, as well as the absence of a building inspection service. Bylaw enforcement is heavily relied upon throughout the electoral areas to ensure compliance with zoning and land use bylaws.

Many development and planning related decisions include a role for the local Advisory Planning Commissions (APC) in each electoral area. In Area C (like some other electoral areas) commissioners are appointed to the APC from the local community to work together in making recommendations to the CSRD Board and staff on planning and land use related matters (community planning, zoning bylaw amendments, Agricultural Land Reserve applications, Development Variance Permits, etc.).

Decisions on the operations of all of the planning-related services are made by the electoral area directors only, not by the full Board. These directors are the ones who represent the parts of the CSRD that participate in the services and fund them. Financial and budget decisions for planning-related services are made by the full Board.

The development service budget is recovered through a combination of application and permit fees as well as property taxes. All other planning and bylaw related services are funded primarily from property taxes.

Area C Community Parks and Recreation

The Area C community parks service is delivered by the CSRD Parks and Recreation Department and includes parkland acquisition, development (e.g., playgrounds, trails) and maintenance. Community parks are acquired through land development, direct purchases, donations, or a license of occupation on provincial land. The Area C community parks program is paid for through property taxes, with some contributions from grants such as the community works fund. Decisions regarding community parks are made by the Board based on the advice of the Area C Parks Advisory Committee. Area C has a parks master plan that was completed in 2003 and is currently undergoing an update. The update itself follows on the heels of a recreational needs assessment for Area C that was conducted in 2014.

Taxpayers in Area C also contribute to the Shaw Centre in Salmon Arm. Area C's annual contribution recognizes the usage of the facility by Area C residents and replaces the need to provide South Shuswap residents with their own facility.

Solid Waste and Recycling

The CSRD receives and disposes of both garbage and recycling for the entire region through a system of landfills, transfer stations and recycling depots. Curbside recycling is not available as a government service in electoral areas (it is available through contractors). Area C has one solid waste transfer station (2281 Skimikin Road). Garbage from the area is transferred to a landfill located in Salmon Arm. The CSRD also undertakes a required solid waste management planning function.

Economic Development

Area C participates in several services that, taken together, address Area C's economic development interests, including: Shuswap Tourism, Shuswap Economic Development, Area C Tourism Promotion (i.e., Area C Chamber of Commerce) and the Film Commission. Each service has a different combination of funding partners.

Water

The CSRSD currently owns and operates nine community water systems across the regional district. Five of these systems constitute separate water service areas within Area C, including: Cedar Heights, Eagle Bay, MacArthur/Reedman, Sorrento and Sunnybrae. There is also an overarching regional waterworks function that funds the coordination and operations of all nine CSRSD water services and the utilities staff. The regional waterworks function is funded through contributions from each individual system and has traditionally been subsidized by the electoral area administration service. A transition plan is in place to phase in the recovery of these costs from the water systems, beginning in 2017. The costs will be fully recovered from water systems by 2024.

The Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Service (Watershed Council) was established in 2015 and is in place primarily to coordinate water quality monitoring and to promote enhancement and protection.

Emergency Services

The CSRSD provides a number of emergency services within Area C, either directly or through other organizations that the CSRSD helps to fund. Emergency services include: fire protection, first responders, 911 call service, search and rescue, marine rescue and emergency preparedness.

Regional Transit

The Shuswap regional transit service for Areas C and D is delivered by BC Transit. The service is funded by BC Transit (recovered in part through bus fares) and property taxes on assessed values in Area C and D.

Regional Airport

The Shuswap Regional Airport is a small facility located in Salmon Arm for charter flights. The airport is governed by the Shuswap Regional Airport Commission. The annual cost of running the airport is recovered through a property tax that is collected in Areas C, D, E and F, and the District of Sicamous.

Street Lighting

The CSRSD has two service areas to install and maintain streetlights for pedestrian and traffic safety. The service areas are created through a formal assent process initiated by property owners living within those service areas.

Tax Bill - What do my Area C services cost?

1. Local services for all of Area “C” (2017)

Administration	Property tax per average home ¹	Total property tax collected in area C ²
General Government & Administration	\$58.20	\$405,186
Electoral Area Administration	\$20.06	\$181,437
Electoral Area Grants in Aid	\$26.46	\$184,188
Feasibility Studies	\$0.86	\$5,979
Planning		
Development Services	\$58.66	\$408,418
GIS/Mapping	\$20.01	\$139,343
Bylaw Enforcement	\$23.88	\$166,248
Planning Special Projects	\$4.22	\$29,384
House Numbering	\$1.57	\$10,947
Parks Recreation and Library		
Area C Community Parks	\$85.29	\$593,811
Shaw Centre	\$9.25	\$64,413
Okanagan Regional Library	\$60.80	\$413,880
Solid and Liquid Waste Management		
Solid Waste and Recycling	\$25.96	\$180,720
Liquid Waste - South Shuswap LWMP	\$7.02	\$39,932
Emergency Services		
Emergency Preparedness	\$10.75	\$74,834
Area C First Responders	\$9.22	\$64,203
911 Emergency Communications	\$4.41	\$30,677
Shuswap Search and Rescue	\$4.13	\$28,776
Economic Development		
Economic Development	\$21.06	\$146,623
Tourism Shuswap	\$8.00	\$55,701
Tourism Information – Area C	\$3.10	\$21,576
Film Commission	\$0.94	\$6,519
Other		
Shuswap Watershed Council	\$11.94	\$69,405
Shuswap Regional Airport	\$10.96	\$76,298
Millfoil Control Program	\$10.31	\$71,784
Area C – Dog Control	\$5.10	\$35,537
Transit Area C Service	\$4.19	\$29,173
Weed Control and Enforcement	\$3.59	\$25,012
Shuswap SPCA	\$0.66	\$4,584
Subtotal for area-wide charges	\$516.60	\$3,564,588

2. Local area specific services (2017) (portions of Area “C” only)

Elson Road Crossing – Anti-Whistling	\$24.01	\$663.00
Fire Protection – Area C Sub regional	\$210.37	\$1,303,429
Kault Hill – Fire Protection	\$159.40	\$9,197
Blind Bay – Street Lighting	\$15.58	\$24,324
Sorrento – Street Lighting	\$32.26	\$3,105
Sorrento Water	\$169.84	\$69,465
Cedar Heights Water	\$141.16	\$65,781
Eagle Bay Water	\$328.91	\$31,904
McArthur/Reedman Water	\$189.23	\$27,628
Sunnybrae Waterworks	\$315.75	\$24,944
Waverly Park Water Users Loan	\$949.31	\$23,733
Subtotal	N/A	\$1,584,173

3. Provincial Taxes (all of Area “C”)

School Tax	\$807.27	\$5,152,244
Rural Tax (Roads/Subdivision)	\$195.96	\$1,314,565
Police Tax	\$45.70	\$287,814
Subtotal	\$1048.93	\$6,754,623

4. Other Agency Taxes (all of Area “C”)

North Okanagan Columbia Shuswap Regional Hospital District	\$98.61	\$621,024
BC Assessment Authority	\$19.00	\$124,771
Municipal Finance Authority	\$0.07	\$441.00
Subtotal	\$117.68	\$746,236

¹ Average residential home value \$350,000

² Total Property Taxes collected in Area C - \$12,649,620

Stay Involved!

The Area C Governance Study Committee has prepared this overview of how your local government works in Area C. Area C residents look to the CSRD to provide services that respond to their needs and wishes. Local taxpayers and users pay for the services, and can participate in decision-making for them through their Electoral Area Director, or directly through committees, commissions, public meetings or other communication with the CSRD. Area C is also home to a range of other service providers. The provincial government, for example, provides certain services to all rural areas of BC (e.g. local roads, policing and public schools).

The Governance Study Committee is hopeful the overview document has helped to inform you about the various facets of local government in Area C and that this knowledge will help to inform your input and feedback on the issues of greatest concern to you and your community.

How can you stay informed and provide feedback?

Attend one of the upcoming 2017 Governance Study Open Houses:

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Sign-up for email updates at: www.csr.bc.ca/area-c-governance-study

Talk with your Governance Study Committee contact person – there's one in your area!

Call 250.832.8194 to find the contact in your community.

Attend the next Governance Study Committee Meeting - Check the project website at www.csr.bc.ca/area-c-governance-study for meeting details.

Questions?

Contact: Steve Wills, Governance Study Committee Chair - E-mail: sbwills@telus.net

Paul Demenok, Area C Director – Call: 250.517.0810 | E-mail: pdemenok@csr.bc.ca

Lynda Shykora, CSRD Deputy Manager, Corporate Administration Services

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