AREA C GOVERNANCE & SERVICES OVERVIEW

➤ What is Area C?

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) is one of 28 regional districts in BC. It is made up of 6 electoral areas (unincorporated areas) and 4 municipalities. Area C is one of the six electoral areas. Area C encompasses approximately 506 km2 and is home to about 7,662 residents (2011 Census), or 7,737 including First Nations reserves that are within the Area C boundaries.

➤ What services does Area C receive?

Area C receives services from a combination of providers, including the CSRD, the provincial government, and some private companies that provide infrastructure services (water and sewer) to specific areas.

The Provincial government provides roads, policing and is the approval authority for subdivisions within unincorporated areas of BC.

As noted in the Regional District Governance backgrounder, regional districts can provide a broad range of services. With the exception of a few provincially mandated services, the services are determined by the regional board, with the support of residents. Because the board only provides services that their members, or residents, agree the regional district should provide, the menu of services varies by regional district, and can be different within each electoral area or community. Therefore, just because the CSRD offers a service in one area of the region, does not mean the service is provided to Area C.

The box on the following page lists the services the CSRD provides to Area C residents. Some of the services are provided to the entire electoral area, while others are specific to certain areas or neighbourhoods within Area C.

➤ Who makes decisions?

As an unincorporated electoral area within the CSRD, the residents of Area C elect one director to the regional district's Board of Directors. The Area C Director is one of 11 directors on the Board. The Board includes one electoral area director from each of the six electoral areas, one municipal director from the municipalities of Sicamous, Golden and Revelstoke, and two municipal directors from Salmon Arm.

CSRD AREA C SERVICES

Administration
- General government
- Electoral area administration
- Feasibility studies
- Grants-in-aid

Bylaw Enforcement/Regulatory Services
- Bylaw enforcement
- Fireworks regulation
- Milfoil control
- Mosquito control
- Noxious weed control
- Animal control
- Shuswap SPCA

Development & Planning
- Development services
- GIS/mapping
- Special projects
- House numbering

Economic Development
- Economic development
- Film commission
- Shuswap tourism
- Tourism information for Area C

Emergency Services
- Emergency preparedness
- 911 communications
- Search and rescue
- First responders
- Fire protection

Library

Parks & Recreation
- Shuswap recreation complex
- Area C community parks

Solid Waste & Recycling

Street Lighting

Transportation
- Transit
- Shuswap regional airport
- Elson Rd crossing

Water & Wastewater
- Waterworks
  - Cedar Heights
  - Eagle Bay
  - MacArthur/Reedman Estates
  - Sorrento
  - Sunnybrae
  - Waverly Park water users loan
- South Shuswap liquid waste mgmt. plan
- Shuswap Watershed Council

Each municipality or electoral area has a voting strength on the Board based on population. In the CSRD, each jurisdiction has one vote for every 2,500 residents. The population of Area C was 7,737 in 2011, including First Nations reserve areas, resulting in a voting strength of 4 votes – more than any of the other electoral areas or municipalities, with the exception of Salmon Arm, which has a total of 8 votes.

Decision-making for each service is done differently. Some decisions are made by the entire Board of Directors, regardless of whether the service is delivered to the entire region, or just a few electoral areas. Voting by the entire Board is required for establishing new services, or regulatory bylaws, as well as the financial plan, borrowing or buying property. Operational decisions, however, are typically made by the directors of the areas that participate in that service. For instance, operational decisions on Shuswap economic development are made by the areas participating in the service (C, D, E, F and Sicamous). If there is only one participating area, the entire Board will vote on the service.

In addition to the decisions made by the Board, there are a variety of committees and commissions that play a role in decision making for different services. Some committees have a purely advisory role, and make recommendations to the Board, while others can be delegated some decision-making powers or authority on operational issues. Some of the committees and commissions that impact Area C services include:

- Electoral Area Services Committee
- Milfoil Control Planning Committee
- Shuswap Economic Development Commission
- Shuswap Tourism Committee
- Salmon Arm Economic Development Society
- Area C Parks Advisory Committee
- Shuswap Watershed Council
- Shuswap Regional Airport Commission
- Area C Advisory Planning Commission

➤ **How do Area C residents pay for services?**

As noted in the Regional District Governance backgrounder, each service provided by the regional

district is budgeted separately. Costs are recovered by billing those who benefit from the service. The expense of providing a service must be covered by revenue generated for that same service; one service cannot subsidize another.

In Area C, the costs of most services are recovered through property taxes levied on assessed values of land and improvements. Parcel taxes are used to recover the costs of some services, such as water services, the liquid waste management plan and the Shuswap Watershed Council.