



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2024

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District adopts 2024-2028 Financial Plan

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors, at the regular meeting on March 27, 2024, adopted the 2024-2028 Financial Plan.

The plan is the result of significant discussion and includes financial increases targeted towards improved service levels offered by the ACRD. The updated five-year plan reflects that the ACRD is a growing organization that continues to increase the service levels of the many functions it provides, as well as explore new services that respond to changing regional needs. The service level changes have been a result of both regulation and legislative changes, as well as the implementation of the ACRD's Strategic Plan.

The 2024 budget is approximately \$29.5 million. This plan has been challenging to develop as inflation rates increase both the cost of operations and construction costs. The financial plan includes a tax increase of 10.55 percent, including the Regional Hospital District Annual Budget. Approximately \$10.7 million is budgeted for capital projects, and the Regional District anticipates 53 percent of the funds for these projects will come from grant funding.

"It is particularly difficult to bring forward a financial plan that includes a tax increase knowing we all face increasing expenses from all directions. We don't take this decision lightly, and we have had extensive discussions on how we could minimize the impact on our taxpayers and still meet the needs of our region," explains ACRD Board Chair John Jack. "This increase is reflective of the changes we see in our region. It is growing and with that comes much-needed improvements and several shifts in focus. We live in a time when we must invest in infrastructure, while we consider how to fund such things as emergency management, transportation needs, and vital planning processes for each community within the region. Our goal is always to bring forward a financial plan that benefits and supports the whole region, and we believe we have done that this year."

Some of the key drivers that been included in this five-year financial plan include:

- New 2024-2027 Strategic Plan adopted by the Board of Directors.
- New Provincial Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing legislation to support housing initiatives.
- New Provincial Emergency and Disaster Management Act that expands local government focus to all four phases of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Implementation of the West Coast Transit service on April 2, 2024, provide service between Ucluelet and Tofino with service to the First Nation communities of hitaču and Ty-Histanis.
- Advocate to the provincial government regarding the development of alternative and/or emergency routes including but not limited to Highway 4.



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- Solid Waste Management Plan Update to set new goals for reducing in-region waste disposal by increasing diversion.
- Planning activities related to the anticipated growth in Bamfield including a proposed Liquid Waste Management service, a development plan, and the replacement of the West Bamfield submarine water line.
- Feasibility study of an alternate water supply for Beaver Creek.
- Discussion with the Cherry Creek Waterworks District regarding a potential referendum on the conversion of the improvement district service to the ACRD.

The estimated impact of the ACRD component of property taxation on the average household in each area is as follows:

Jurisdiction	Estimated Increase on Average Household from Prior Year	Estimated ACRD Portion of Property Tax 2024
Area A - Bamfield	\$146.86	\$1,209.68
Area B - Beaufort	\$68.30	\$544.19
Area C - Long Beach (not including Salmon Beach)	\$174.73	\$586.15
Area C – Salmon Beach area of Long Beach	\$165.55	\$1,590.24
Area D - Sproat Lake	\$99.80	\$1,174.67
Area E - Beaver Creek	\$114.10	\$1,213.63
Area F - Cherry Creek	\$50.40	\$519.74
City of Port Alberni	\$25.91	\$249.77
District of Tofino	\$306.09	\$894.90
District of Ucluelet	\$142.84	\$476.17

The Financial Plan document summarizes each area, including potential increases in costs and taxation. The summary identifies the cost to each jurisdiction according to the services provided and the total overall requisition changes from the prior year. It also includes details on each of the service budgets. You can view this at: [2024-2028 Financial Plan](#). If you have any questions, please email budget@acrd.bc.ca.

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