



Photo: Edward Witwicki



SLRD

Serving Constituents Since 1968

INTRODUCTION

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) covers an area of southwestern British Columbia spanning 16,354 km², from Porteau Cove in the south to the Yalakom Valley and Pavilion in the north-east; exists on the traditional territory of the Squamish, St'át'imc and Lil'wat Nations; and in a world challenged by a changing climate.

The SLRD Board, in an effort to solidify its goals with the intent to build stronger relationships, improve community engagement and address the climate crisis, has developed a strategic plan focused on collaboration, advocacy, budget and decision making that will help deliver the Board's mission to "enhance the quality of life of constituents through the facilitation of regional and community services for the benefit of present and future generations".

The SLRD consists of four municipalities (District of Lillooet, Village of Pemberton, Resort Municipality of Whistler and District of Squamish) and four unincorporated Electoral Areas (A, B, C and D) with diverse populations and needs. Collaboration is key to ensure that we deliver projects in the most cost-effective manner for our constituents. As a regional government with limited resources, we must continually source alternative means of funding our work, including the utilization of grant opportunities and the potential for sourcing contributions from developers in the region.

Government-to-government relations is key to moving our regional initiatives forward and support from the Provincial Government is imperative. We are constantly in touch with the Provincial Government either directly or through organizations like the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and we will continue to work with all levels of government, and especially our First Nations neighbours, to advocate on behalf of our communities and to ensure we are maximizing these efforts and their potential impact.

We recognize that our decision making should be consistent and that it should be grounded in our values, while always keeping our priorities top of mind. To be able to achieve this, we need quality information from our staff and we have to accept that it is our responsibility to ensure that the SLRD is adequately staffed and that our budgets reflect our priorities.

As well, recognizing that effective, two-way engagement is a cornerstone of the democratic process, the SLRD is committed to investing in new ways to meaningfully engage the public in order to meet the expectations of community members and to be able to shape the future of the regional district.

Like our region, the SLRD's goals and objectives are complex and interconnected. By identifying them in the 2019 - 2022 strategic plan, we can ensure that our priorities remain consistent and that our work is driven by the guiding principles that we have established.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES: PEOPLE



The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District exists on the traditional territory of the Squamish, St'át'imc and Lil'wat Nations in a world challenged by a changing climate.

The implementation of this Strategic Plan will be undertaken with the intent of building stronger relationships, community engagement and addressing the climate emergency.

GOAL

Diversity of our communities is our strength. We are responsive to the short and long-term needs of the people that live here.

OBJECTIVES

Coordinate the various **regional evacuation plans** by January 1, 2021, including a discussion regarding the implementation of a regional recovery plan(s).



COMPLETE

Develop/ update the SLRD **Community Amenity Contributions Policy** to capture funds for affordable housing in all new developments and to reflect the priorities of the Strategic Plan by March 31, 2020:



COMPLETE

Develop a policy and **invest in the technology** to enable remote work for SLRD staff for the 2021 budget.



IN PROGRESS

Complete: The majority of staff are working remotely. Meetings are being livestreamed. Technology improvements were made to support remote work and virtual meetings in response to COVID-19. **Outstanding:** Policy needs to be developed to support continued remote work in alignment with organizational requirements as a tool for recruitment and retention across the region and beyond. Further technology considerations to make further improvements for both remote work and virtual meetings.

Improve equity and access to the Board by streamlining meetings and enabling citizen participation by electronic means. Date: TBA



IN PROGRESS

Complete: Meetings are now streamed live and available 'on demand' after meeting date. **Outstanding:** Work remains around equitable access to virtual participation and increased public engagement/ participation.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: LAND



GOAL

Preserve and protect the air, lands and waters for the use and benefit of existing and future generations.

OBJECTIVES

Aggressively implement the SLRD's **Solid Waste Management and Resource Plan**.



IN PROGRESS

Complete: Solid Waste Management Plan guides work. Additional actions planned in 2021.

In Progress: Sea to Sky Soils/ SLRD Partnering Agreement (providing access to grant funding under the Organic Infrastructure Program to expand processing capacity at their facility). **Outstanding:** Further clarify scope of desired actions and link actions to results-oriented objectives. Lillooet Organics Feasibility study expected to be complete in spring 2021. Further subsequent plans for Area A and Area B. Pemberton Transfer Station project and Squamish Landfill project in progress.

Develop a **Community Energy and Climate Action Plan** in line with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change science-based targets and including water conservation and food sustainability as guiding principles. Date: ASAP



IN PROGRESS

Complete: The Board considered this topic at meetings in September and December of 2020 and approved the hiring of a Climate Action and Resiliency Coordinator to move this priority forward. Climate Action has been incorporated into key SLRD legislation, policies and projects, including the Regional Growth Strategy. **Outstanding:** In 2021, hiring for the Climate Action and Resiliency Coordinator will be completed and this person will be tasked with identification and prioritization of Climate Action initiatives and regional collaboration.

Undertake advocacy with the Province regarding the provision of funding for fuel mitigation strategies and the reduction of barriers to **provide a regional approach to fuel management/ FireSmarting**.



IN PROGRESS

Complete: Advocacy with the Province and regional collaboration with member municipalities and First Nations has resulted in projects being initiated. Grant applications have been submitted to further identified priorities. **Outstanding:** Awaiting funding announcements to action priorities; continue to apply and make further progress; continue to collaborate with municipalities and First Nations.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: REGIONAL COOPERATION & COORDINATION



GOAL

Our challenges and opportunities are diverse and our solutions are shared. We collaboratively take strategic, measurable action for the benefit of the whole region.

OBJECTIVES

Develop a **procurement sharing framework** and **funds transfer template** for the region. Date: TBA



IN PROGRESS

Complete: A draft has been developed and is under review. **Outstanding:** Completion of framework and template.

Develop a **policy sharing framework** (signed by the SLRD and each member municipality). Date: TBA



IN PROGRESS

Complete: Preliminary work on a policy sharing framework has been done. Informal sharing is occurring regularly between the SLRD and member municipalities. **Outstanding:** Formalize policy sharing framework.

Implement **regional transit**. Date: TBA



IN PROGRESS

Complete: Ongoing advocacy regarding the service. **Outstanding:** Reconvene Regional Transit Committee; discuss Provincial mandate letters and plan for next steps.

NEW: MID-TERM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES SET FOR 2021-2022

CURRENT

All of these priorities support People, Land and Regional Cooperation and Coordination. Actions will be taken in 2021-2022 as outlined below:

#1. TRANSIT

There will be safe, sustainable transit service connecting communities throughout the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

Activities planned for 2021 and 2022:

- Reconvene the Regional Transit Committee.
- Identify governance model and project lead.
- Establish dedicated staff support to focus on project.
- Set goals for 'backbone' service (routes, schedules and fares).
- Stay alert for funding opportunities.
- Conduct study for connecting rural areas to 'backbone service'.

Outcomes/ Success Measures:

- Functional regional transit decision-making framework.
- Data collection implemented and goals for shifting behaviour.
- Rural study completed.

#2. CLIMATE ACTION

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District is committed to evidence-based action through collaborative actions.

Activities planned for 2021 and 2022:

- Hire a Climate Action and Resiliency Coordinator
- Review the current climate action plans across the region.
- Develop an evidence-based regional Climate Action Plan that identifies which actions can be taken to achieve the greatest impact.

Outcomes/ Success Measures:

- Climate Action and Resiliency Coordinator hired and support SLRD and region to take action.
- Regional Climate Action Plan developed.
- Subsequent actions will be identified and actioned based on Climate Action Plan.

#3. PARKS, TRAILS and RECREATION

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District provides clean, well-maintained and accessible parks, trails and recreation opportunities throughout the region.

Activities planned for 2021 and 2022:

- Strike a sub-committee for Parks, Trails and Recreation
- Engage with First Nations and seek their input.
- Commence pre-planning for Regional Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan..
- Continued advocacy for Regional parks, trails and recreation.
- Continue development of Sea to Sky Trail and other assets concurrently.
- Apply for grant funding when available.

Outcomes/ Success Measures:

- Communication with neighbours established.
- Scope of Regional Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan understood in partnership with First Nations, community groups and other stakeholders.
- Funding sources identified.

NEW: MID-TERM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES SET FOR 2021-2022

UPCOMING FOCUS

Priority areas will be considered and actions planned during 2021-2022 for the additional items listed below. Estimated dates for consideration in 2022 are below:

- **Member Municipalities** - **April**
- **First Nations Reconciliation and Relationship Building** - **May**
- **Solid Waste Management** - **June**
- **Agriculture** - **July**
- **Northern Economic Development and Initiatives** - **July** (NEDIC)
- **Housing** - **August**
- **Staff** - **September**



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