

## Strait Talk December 2009

Recently the SCRD Board completed its 2009-11 Strategic Plan which is developed during the first year of each term to set the direction for the rest of that term. This year, the Board included the other local governments in the initial brainstorming to set the framework for the Plan. That approach is consistent with the thread of collaborative leadership which is woven throughout the Board's Vision as well as the plan. To achieve its goals for 2009–2011, the SCRD will model and facilitate collaborative leadership with all the local communities and local governments and will work cooperatively in achieving our strategic directions to reflect the diversity of values of the various communities in which we all live.

The Plan outlines 5 strategic objectives each of which is broken down into several manageable and measurable components. The first is to develop a Regional Long Term Sustainability Plan with specific targets for the next 5, 10 and 25 years. It starts with a definition of sustainability, an overall vision and guiding principles that integrate economic, social, environmental and cultural components. The Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan for the SCRD's own operations begins to be implemented in 2010. The project "Our Coast, Our Future" has begun the process of developing a plan for community energy and emissions reductions throughout the Regional District area.

The second set of objectives involves protecting our water, aquifers and watersheds. The approach is multi-pronged including conservation, source protection, risk planning, and continuing to lobby the province for authority over the Chapman and Grey watersheds, our main source of drinking water. It also includes completing and beginning implementation of a 10 year comprehensive regional water plan and working with the Sechelt Indian Band on our Joint Watershed Management Agreement.

The third element is about managing solid waste, the cornerstone of which is to reduce the tonnage of solid waste disposed in our landfills by 5% per capita per year. To do that we need to complete and adopt the update of our Solid Waste Management Plan, address curbside collection of recyclables, make a decision about the Pender Harbour Landfill and begin considering how we will get organics out of the waste stream.

Our next goal is to achieve financial sustainability so residents and businesses can continue to receive high quality service and so we can provide a legacy for future generations. This includes making changes to our budgeting process, looking at diversifying our revenue sources and adopting financial sustainability policies to guide our decision making.

Finally, we hope to identify regional projects on which we can collaborate with other local governments to make our work more coordinated and effective.

It's an ambitious program! This set of clear and measurable objectives will help us focus the work of the SCRD over the next couple of years.

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