

WHAT WE HEARD

2026-2035 Financial Plan: Public Feedback

Public engagement on the 2026-2035 10-Year Financial Plan began in late April 2025 with a Citizen Satisfaction Survey centred on understanding community priorities and residents' levels of satisfaction with a variety of District services and programs. This campaign primarily featured a mailed survey to gather statistically valid results from a random sample of 1,800 residents. The Citizen Satisfaction Survey [Detailed Report](#) on Findings was presented to Council on June 24, 2024. An overview of findings is provided on pages 12 and 13 of this report.

In October 2025, a fall budget public engagement campaign was launched to coincide with Council budget workshops throughout November and December to raise awareness of and seek feedback about the proposed 10-Year Financial Plan. Feedback will continue to be compiled through the readings of the Financial Plan bylaw.

During the budget engagement period, various communications and engagement techniques were used to share information and collect feedback from members of the public. The primary home for engagement was [Let'sTalkSquamish.ca](#), the District's online public engagement hub. This provided budget information and opportunities for input, including [Budget Book](#), an online budget visualization tool. In-person events included three Coffee with Council events, a Mayor's Drop in, and the Budget Information Night. Further details are provided under the Summary of Engagement Tools later in the report.

Feedback Themes

The community priorities identified through the input received are summarized below.

The full list of comments, emails and letters received are included in the Appendix.

Recreation and Culture Services and Facilities

- Calls for expanded recreation centre; second ice rink; larger aquatic facility; additional amenities such as fitness centre, indoor track, multipurpose rooms, reduced program waitlists.
- Request by Squamish Arts for mural repair, arts equipment storage at Junction Park, and an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy update.

Comments received on recreation facilities comprised most of the feedback received. Other themes are listed below with brief highlights, in no specific order.

Financial Planning & Taxation

- Some residents willing to pay more for recreation upgrades; others suggest increases should be aligned with inflation as household affordability is a concern.
- Suggestions to explore public-private partnerships and grants for major projects.
- Recreation Centre Task Force timelines and consultant costs are a concern.
- Appreciation for budget tools and continued financial transparency.

Amenities & Infrastructure

- Comments referenced improved streetscapes, sidewalks to support mobility, and community design; amenities and infrastructure are needed before additional population growth.

Public Safety

- Concern about increased vandalism and theft in parts of Downtown; request for additional fire fighters to respond to taller buildings; request to invest more in emergency management, firesmart work, and increased access to neighbourhoods with one access road.
- Request from RCM-SAR, SSAR and Squamish Paddling Club for a water safety facility in the blind channel.

Parking & Transportation

- Frustration with lack of Downtown parking and winter parking regulations; interest in Downtown parking infrastructure; appreciation for investment in multi-use paths and request for continued investment at bus shelters; request for stanchions at Braemar and Skyline.

Housing Affordability & Cost of Living

- General affordability concerns relating to food, housing, cost of living; need for more affordable and diverse housing options.

Environment

- Concern about wildlife at Smoke Bluffs Park and suggestion for bear-proof food lockers; comment supporting net zero future builds.

Tourism, Economic Development, SORCA

- Tourism Squamish letter requesting Tourism Master Plan; programming to support small business and outdoor rec economy; and other items.
- Requests to revisit SORCA funding level.

By the Numbers Marketing Highlights

- Budget posts and advertisements had a reach of **74.2k views** across social media channels resulting in **2,786 individual engagements**, including reactions, clicks, comments, and shares.
- The Let's Talk Squamish project page had **2,078 visits** and **2,464 views** from **1,260 visitors**, and **301 document downloads**.
- An email was sent to **2,169 Let's Talk Squamish subscribers** to promote engagement.
- A total of **14 letters and emails** were received from residents and community groups.
- **58 residents submitted other input** through Let's Talk Squamish.
- The Budget Banter wall received **12 comments**, and **4 comment cards** were filled out.

Summary of Engagement Tools

Below is a summary of the different communications channels used:

Let'sTalkSquamish.ca

- The Let's Talk Budget 2026 page on Let's Talk Squamish housed budget information and encouraged public input through a short survey asking: *Do you have a question, concern, constructive feedback, or insight on the budget and/or your community priorities to share with Council? Weigh in and tell us what you would prioritize, and what you would de-prioritize. Municipal budgets must be balanced and can't run a deficit. Increases to one area of the budget must therefore be balanced with either new revenue streams or decreased spending in another area. Add your input this year while Council is still discussing the 2026-2025 Financial Plan!*
- All comments received can be found in the Appendix.

Online Budget Tool

- Last year the District introduced more functionality into its online budget tool and introduced *BudgetBook*, which is a visualization platform that is part of the District's budgeting software system. *BudgetBook* has enabled the public to drill down into the Capital Plan and Special Operating Projects lists.
- The online budget tool received 35,114 views from 919 users during the budget engagement period.

Social Media (non-paid/organic)

- Social media was used to promote budget events, share information, and drive traffic towards Let's Talk Squamish and the interactive online budget tool.
- Budget content on Facebook and Instagram had a reach of 31.5K users.
- Facebook had the largest reach with 20.1K users seeing budget content, while Instagram had a reach of 11.3K.
- Average age of respondents on social media was within the 35-44 category with 21.3% women and 11.4% men (as per Meta statistics).

Sponsored Advertisements on Social Media

- Sponsored (paid) social media ads on Facebook and Instagram drove people to Let's Talk Squamish and promoted the Budget Information Night and other in-person engagement events.
- The ads reached 2.8K users, resulting in 27 clicks and 43 event responses.

Newspaper Advertising

- Advertisements for budget engagement were published in The Squamish Chief for 12 weeks, beginning September 11, 2025.
- The budget ads in The Squamish Chief were used to promote the Let's Talk Squamish engagement platform and the in-person events: Coffee with Council and the Budget Information Night.
- The Squamish Chief has a circulation of 6,500 readers.

District E-Newsletter

- Eight email newsletters featuring budget information were sent during the budget engagement period to the District's subscriber list of roughly 2K email addresses.

Printed Budget Packages and Information Displays

- Posters in 14 bus shelters were displayed since November.
- Budget information boards, directing residents to information on the 2026-2035 Financial Plan and ways to weigh in, were made available at Brennan Park Recreation Centre, the Squamish Public Library, and The 55 Activity Centre before and following the Budget Information Night.

- Boards from the Budget Information Night will be displayed at Brennan Park Recreation Centre from mid- December until January 2026.

Public Viewing of Council Meetings

- At the December 9, 2025, *Tying It All Together* Special Business Meeting, the Finance Department presented an outline of the expense requirements of the District, and a long-term view of the District's operating costs, tax rates, and utility impacts.
- The public was encouraged to tune in to budget workshops throughout fall 2025. The meetings were also available to stream online afterwards.
- An average of 90 people streamed the live Council meetings online for approximately one hour throughout fall 2025.

Coffee with Councils and Mayor's Drop In

- Coffee with Council events were held at Backyard Pub, Caffe Garibaldi, and Brackendale Bean on October 9, 2025.
- The Mayor's Drop-In was held at Municipal Hall on November 17, 2025.

Budget Information Night

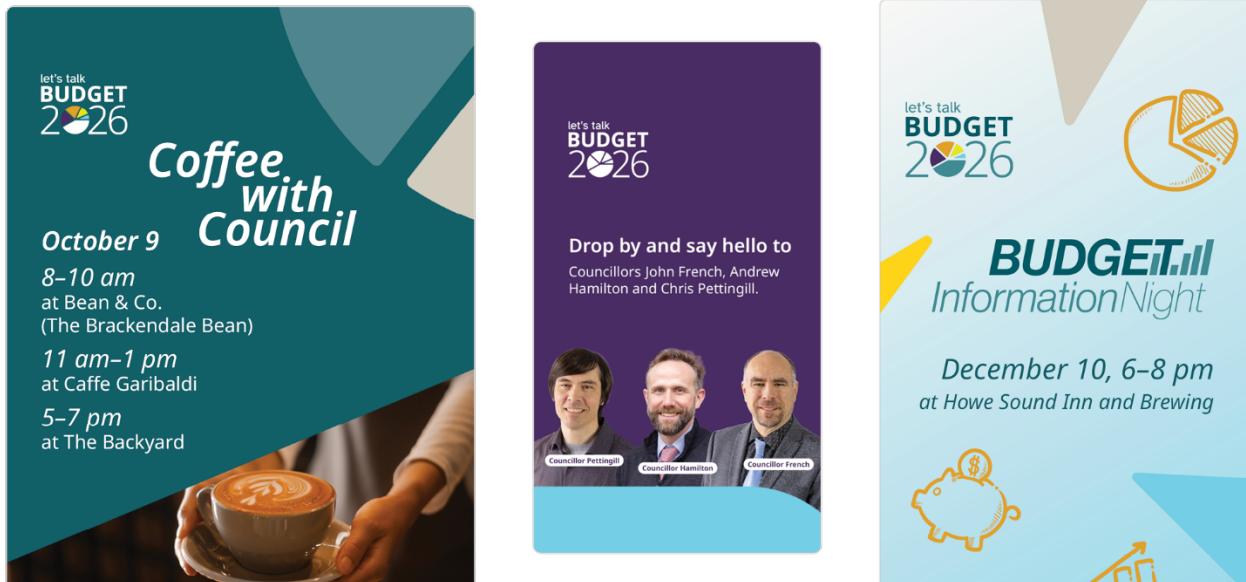
- The Budget Information Night engagement event took place on December 10, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. at Howe Sound Inn and Brewing to discuss all aspects of the 2026-2035 Financial Plan. An estimated 50 people attended the event.
- This year's event featured mingling with Council members and key staff, complimentary snacks and refreshments, a public viewing of information boards, a presentation by Mayor Hurford, and a facilitated panel discussion with Council members.
- Questions and comments were encouraged from event attendees, both during the Q&A part of the panel discussion, and before and after (while residents explored the boards). Council and Staff were available to answer questions and respond to concerns.
- A summary of all comments received at this event can be found in the Appendix.
- From event attendees who marked the 'Where do you live' map, most residents lived in Brackendale.

Council Mail and Budget-Specific Emails

- Council emails and letters received on budget feedback during this engagement period have been included in the Appendix.
- Emails sent to budgetfeedback@squamish.ca have also been included.

Engagement Examples

Instagram and eNews



Facebook

District of Squamish Published by - 8 October - 8

HAPPENING TOMORROW!

Stop by for a conversation about your budget and community priorities as Council is in the midst of reviewing our first ten year financial plan.

Coffee/tea or soft drinks are on us for select locations and times:

- Bean & Co. (The Brackendale Bean) from 8 to 10 a.m.
- Caffe Garibaldi from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- The Backyard from 5 to 7 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!

let's talk BUDGET 2026

Coffee with Council

October 9
8-10 am
at Bean & Co.
(The Brackendale Bean)

11 am-1 pm
at Caffe Garibaldi

District of Squamish Published by - December 4 at 2:58PM - 8

Utility rates change over time. Learn how the District is managing its three Utility Funds... See more

let's talk BUDGET 2026 Budget 101

What's planned for utilities?

The District has three Utility Funds: Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste.

Water	Turn on the tap, water comes out. Easy right?
Wastewater	There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that the water in your pipes is clean and safe. All drinking water in the District is sourced from the Ring Creek Aquifer (with some surface sources as backups).
Solid Waste	Water utilities pay for this water to be extracted from the aquifer, treated and pumped into homes and businesses around town.

District of Squamish Published by - 21 November at 16:18 - 8

Curious to learn more about the District's 10-Year Financial Plan but don't know where to start? Check out our list of common terms and frequently asked questions about the District's budget, what it includes and how it impacts you.

LetsTalkSquamish.ca/budget-2026#faq

let's talk BUDGET 2026

Curious to learn more about the District's 10-Year Financial Plan but don't know where to start?

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LetsTalkSquamish.ca/budget-2026#faq

District of Squamish Published by - 21 November at 10:31 - 8

Tune in to Council's conversation about Brennan Park Recreation Centre Funding and an introduction of the new Rec Centre Task Force on Tuesday November 25 at 9 a.m.! Watch live at squamish.civicweb.net/Portal/Video.aspx and visit letstalksquamish.ca/budget-2026 to learn more, weigh in, and explore our budget tool.

let's talk BUDGET 2026

Tune in to Council's conversation about Brennan Park Recreation Centre funding and the new Rec Centre Task Force.

9 AM, Tuesday, November 25
During the Special Business Meeting

District of Squamish Published by - December 2 at 4:20PM - 8

The District's Financial Plan is informed by a series of documents including Master Plans, a Strategic Plan, and guided by an Official Community Plan. It reflects key principles to achieve fiscal responsibility, financial stability, and ensures that taxes do not fluctuate greatly. Visit letstalksquamish.ca/budget-2026 to learn more, weigh in, and explore our budget tool.

let's talk BUDGET 2026 Budget 101

How does the District make the financial plan?

The District's Financial Plan is informed by a series of documents including Master Plans, a Strategic Plan, and guided by an Official Community Plan.

The Official Community Plan is the long term, big-picture vision for the future of Squamish. It provides direction for change and development in the community over time. The current Squamish2040 Official Community Plan was adopted in 2018.

District of Squamish Published by - 20 November at 09:00 - 8

The Financial Plan impacts us all, everyday. Each time you turn on a tap, visit a District park, or walk down a street, you are seeing the budget at work. Visit letstalksquamish.ca/budget-2026 to learn more, weigh in, and explore our budget tool.

let's talk BUDGET 2026

How the financial plan impacts us all

Each time you turn on a tap,	visit a District park,
or walk down a street	you are seeing the budget at work.

Visit LetsTalkSquamish.ca/budget-2026 to learn more, weigh in, and explore our budget tool.

Facebook

District of Squamish Published by Nov 26 at 12:34 PM Reserves help us plan for the future by putting aside money today for significant expenses we know will be needed down the road. 

let's talk BUDGET 2026 Budget 101

What are reserves?

Reserves are money that is set aside for future expenses, such as capital projects, equipment replacement, or unforeseen shortfalls.

What will they be used for?

Over the life of the 10 Year Financial Plan, the following upgrades and replacements are scheduled to be funded by reserves:

- \$19M Facilities Maintenance
- \$20.7M Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement
- \$37.6M Annual Water System Repair and Replacements
- \$14M Annual Flood Protection Upgrades
- \$28M Annual Transportation Upgrades
- \$21M Road and Bridge Infrastructure Maintenance

District of Squamish Published by Nov 26 at 12:34 PM Help us shape the future of Squamish over the next 10 years 

Join us for a brief presentation by Mayor Hurford and panel discussion on the proposed District's 10-Year Financial Plan and how your tax dollars will be spent over the next decade.

Dec 10 6 to 8 p.m. presentation at 6:30 p.m. Howe Sound Inn & Brewery

Apries and refreshments will be served to fuel conversation: alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. 

Why attend? Budget decisions directly impact you! Bring your questions and share your priorities with members of Council and staff—all are welcome!

Learn more at letstalksquamish.ca/budget-2026

District of Squamish Published by Nov 28 at 4:09 PM There are four major components that make up a municipal budget: the general operating fund, capital plan utilities, and reserves.

Balancing the needs of a growing community requires making difficult decisions. Learn more about these four major components and how you can get involved. Visit letstalksquamish.ca/budget-2026 to learn more, weigh in, and explore our budget tool 

let's talk BUDGET 2026 Budget 101

What makes up a municipal budget?

General Operating Fund

The General Operating Fund is the anticipated revenue received and spending that will be undertaken by all municipal departments throughout the year.

Capital Plan

The Capital Plan defines where the District will invest for the long term on infrastructure, equipment and facilities.

Utilities

The three utilities: Sewer, Water, and Solid Waste, are funded in part by utility fees (collected separately from property taxes), and address operational and capital expenses for each area.

Reserves

Reserve contributions are funds set aside for future expenses, such as capital projects, equipment replacement, or unforeseen shortfalls.

District of Squamish Published by Nov 28 at 4:09 PM The District would like to thank all members of the public who attended last night's Budget Information Night! 

Public engagement is how we understand each other's values, and these values help us identify needs within the community.

There's still time to weigh in on the proposed 10-Year Financial Plan! Budget feedback will be shared with Council in our We Heard Report on Tuesday, December 17 in the Special Business Meeting.

Contribute to the budget discussion here  letstalksquamish.ca/budget-2026

District of Squamish Published by Nov 28 at 4:09 PM Panel Discussion This Way 



District of Squamish Published by Instagram 16h Happening now! Join us to chat about the proposed 10-Year Financial Plan at Howe Sound Brewing through 8pm tonight. A brief presentation followed by panel discussion will begin at 6:30.



Wed, Dec 10 **Budget Information Night** Howe Sound Brewing 17 Went 84 Interested

See insights and ads **Boost post** 2 comments

Let's Talk Squamish Website

 **SQUAMISH**

[Home](#) [Projects](#) [English](#) [Log In / Join](#) [Search](#)

Budget 2026
District's 10-Year Financial Plan is available for public review.
Community feedback is invited!

[+ Follow](#)



[Home](#) / [Let's Talk Budget 2026](#)

 **Click here to dive into the budget!**

Explore what's proposed in the 10-Year Financial Plan with our online tool, Budget Book.

When you walk down a street, turn on your tap, or visit a District park – you are seeing the results of our budget process.

There are few communities that have experienced the growth pressures we have in Squamish. Since 2016 our population has jumped 45%. Squamish is a highly desirable place to live, work and play, and we are balancing the challenges that come along with this reality.

What we are working to solve:

How can we continue to manage future growth, upgrade our facilities and infrastructure, and create complete neighbourhoods that meet our community needs, all while ensuring that tax increases to residents and businesses are manageable?

The District of Squamish is among just a few B.C. municipalities to newly adopt a 10-year Financial Plan, using long-term projections of revenue, expenses, reserve balances and debt requirements, to meet short-term needs and address long-term financial sustainability.

Principles of the Financial Plan

			
Stable and Sufficient	Sustainable and Equitable	Prudent and Flexible	Efficient and Measurable

Understanding the Budget

Four major components of the budget



[Watch on YouTube](#)

Ways to Engage

We invite you to learn how tax dollars are spent and how we are working to create a healthy, vibrant, livable and accessible community for all. There are various ways to engage and weigh in:

- [+ Explore the Financial Plan](#)
- [+ Give Feedback](#)
- [+ Watch Council Meetings](#)
- [+ Follow this Page](#)

[Open](#)

In Person Events

Information Night
Dec 10, 2025 6:00 PM - Dec 10, 2025 8:00 PM
Howe Sound Inn & Brewery, 37801 Cleveland Ave, Squamish, British Columbia V8B 0A7, Canada

Join us to explore and discuss the 2026-2035 Financial Plan through materials and conversation, over snacks and refreshments - followed by a short pre...

Timeline

2026-2035 Financial Planning Workshop Schedule

- September 16: Budget Kick Off (Council Meeting)
- October 7: General Operating Fund, Cheekeye, Library (Council Meeting)
- October 9: Coffee with Council, various times/locations
- October 28: Utilities Fund Operating Budget (Council Meeting)
- November 17: Mayor's Drop In, Council Chambers, 11:30-12:30 pm "new date"
- November 25: Special Operating Projects and Capital Plan (Council Meeting)
- December 2: Utilities Fees and Charges Bylaw, Three Readings (Council Meeting)
- December 9: Tying It All Together (Council Meeting)
- December 10: Information Night, Howe Sound Inn and Brewery
- December 16: What We Heard Report Presentation (Council Meeting)

[See less](#)

Budget 2026 FAQ

- [? What is a Financial Plan?](#)
- [? Why is the District introducing a 10-year Financial Plan?](#)
- [? What is included in the 10-year Financial Plan?](#)
- [? What informs the Financial Plan?](#)
- [? What are Reserves and how are they used?](#)
- [? What are Service Level Changes?](#)

[See more](#)

Posters



Chief Newspaper Ads

Coffee with Council

October 9
8-10 am
at Bean & Co.
(The Brackendale Bean)

11 am-1 pm
at Caffe Garibaldi

5-7 pm
at The Backyard

October 2



let's talk BUDGET 2026

Community Events

BUDGET BINGO

October 20, 5-7 pm
at The 55 Activity Centre

Information Night
November 12, 6-8 pm
at Howe Sound Inn & Brewing

Fiscal Civic SHOWDOWN TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted by Shane Fry
October 23, 6:30 pm
at Peak Provisions

Drop-In Chat with the Mayor
November 19, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
at Municipal Hall (Council Chambers)

For more information check out:
LetsTalkSquamish.ca/budget-2026

October 16

let's talk BUDGET 2026

Community Events

BUDGET BINGO

October 20, 5-7 pm
at The 55 Activity Centre

let's talk BUDGET 2026

Fiscal Civic SHOWDOWN TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted by Shane Fry
October 23, 6:30 pm
at Peak Provisions

December 10, 6-8 pm
at Howe Sound Inn and Brewing

For more information, check out:
LetsTalkSquamish.ca/budget-2026

POSTPONED

November 17, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
at Municipal Hall (Council Chambers)

DROP-IN CHAT WITH THE MAYOR

November 17, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
at Municipal Hall (Council Chambers)

NEW DATE

For more information check out:
LetsTalkSquamish.ca/budget-2026

November 13

let's talk BUDGET 2026

Community Events

DROP-IN CHAT WITH THE MAYOR

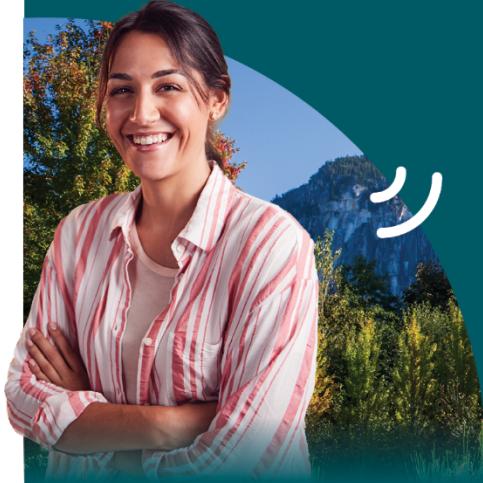
November 17, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
at Municipal Hall (Council Chambers)

NEW DATE (MONDAY)

BUDGET Information Night

December 10, 6-8 pm
at Howe Sound Inn and Brewing

Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results



Most important issue facing District of Squamish: Keeping up with growth

Q: In your opinion, what is the single MOST important issue facing the District of Squamish that you feel should receive the greatest attention from local leaders?

38% said

Amenities, infrastructure and services need to keep pace with growth.

22% said

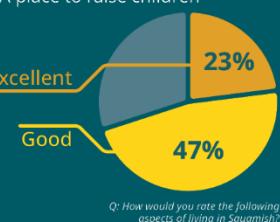
Cost of living and housing affordability.



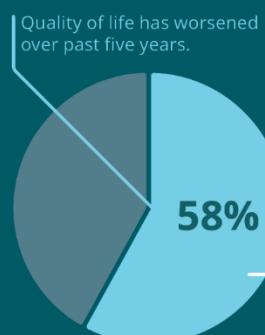
Quality of life in Squamish meets expectations



A place to raise children



Majority feel the quality of life has worsened, compared to 5 years ago



Among the respondents who felt the quality of life worsened, 44% cited lacking amenities and infrastructure.

Q: Compared to 5 years ago, how do you feel the overall quality of life in Squamish has changed?

Majority feel it is important for the District to focus on local housing affordability

88%
feel

It is important for the District to work with partners to address the local housing affordability crisis.

Q: How important are the following for the District of Squamish to focus on?

A: Work with partners to address the local housing affordability crisis: Important and Very Important.



Majority have housing security in Squamish

79%
feel

That they have housing security in Squamish.



However,

38%
feel

That there are not enough affordable homes for sale.

Q: Do you feel you have housing security?
Q: Which of the following housing needs impact you directly?

Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results cont.

Residents were mixed on how to balance rising costs while maintaining service delivery

43% were supportive of maintaining current service and investment with increasing taxes.



18% would like to see Council cut or reduce services to achieve less tax increase.

Q: Given that Council must balance rising costs to maintain delivery of current municipal services, maintain & upgrade infrastructure, & service debt on new facilities, which of the following would you most like the District of Squamish to pursue?

Top housing issue is not having enough affordable homes for sale

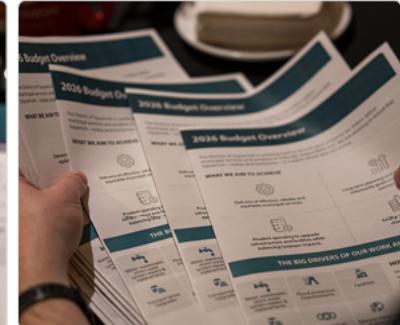
38% feel that not having enough affordable homes for sale impacts them directly.

Q: Which of the following housing needs impact you directly?

28% cannot afford to upgrade to a larger home for their growing family.

26% stated there aren't enough affordable rentals available.

Budget Information Night



Investment in Recreation and Culture Services and Facilities

A new rink/rec centre the town needs it

We need a second rink in this town, that's about 20 years due. We pay top dollar to live in this community with nothing to do. It's absurd at this point and you are loosing the trust of the community with broken promises and kids out of sports.

We need to upgrade and add new recreation facilities

Recreation facilities: affordable gym, a better pool, and a second rink at Brennan park. Leverage developers, build relationships.

We need to prioritize the recreation facilities as our next major project. We don't need it in 5 years or 10 years. It needs to have shovels in the ground asap.

We need leadership to accept this is a must have and not let the few who say they'd not use it or don't want to pay influence the decision. Every year we wait kids are left behind and it becomes more expensive. We need to work together with public and private funding to make it happen asap

Our community is in dire need of improved

Recreation facilities to meet the demands of a constantly growing population. Its time to place focus on a second sheet of ice and a larger pool facility to ensure no child has to go without the ability to participate in exercise in a recreation capital like ours

It's time to make meaningful progress on the long-awaited Brennan Park expansion. For years, local sport and recreation groups have been expressing their frustration with the lack of available space and outdated facilities. The recent shutdowns have made it clearer than ever—Squamish has outgrown its current amenities.

Our community needs more ice time, more pool access, and more opportunities for kids and families to stay active. Towns across Canada of similar size typically have two to four ice sheets and host junior teams; Squamish, by comparison, is falling behind. We're not just a town of mountain bikers and climbers—we're also home to a thriving community of hockey players, figure skaters, and recreational users who simply don't have enough room to play.

Children are being turned away from programs, and girls are dropping out of hockey altogether because there's no dedicated space for them. An expanded and modernized facility wouldn't just meet local demand—it would strengthen community connection and drive economic growth through tournaments, events, and regional competitions.

If we build the infrastructure our residents deserve, they will use it, they will benefit from it, and the entire community will thrive. Please make the Brennan Park expansion a top funding priority for Squamish's future.

Our family is struggling with driving both kids to all over the lower mainland to just do a hockey practice. The one sheet of ice is not enough for our expanding community. I have been to many smaller communities than Squamish who have twice the size of rec centres (pools, ice, and workout facilities)

My kids have only been in two 6 session swimming lessons in their life as swim lessons open at 8:00am and it is all full by 8:03am. Our pool is too small. When the weather is rainy, it's as if every kid in town goes to the pool. It is extremely overcrowded during public swims.

This community is long overdue for a full recreational facility. There are funding options available including funds from developers per recent regulations allowing communities to tax the developer, provincial funding etc. Counsel needs to reflect on the true needs of this youthful community and prioritize the kids and their needs.

This town is in desperation for a new rec centre - a bigger, better pool, a splash park and a couple more ice rinks. The pool needs to be FUN and have space for more swim classes (we haven't been able to get our kids in swim lessons FOR YEARS) - learning to swim is a LIFE skill that should be mandatory. None of our friends with kids ever want to come to Squamish to visit because there is NOTHING TO DO. We travel to friends all over the lower mainland where there are better swimming pools, rec centres, splash parks, and extracurricular activities at kid focused businesses that can SURVIVE. The ice rink here is a complete embarrassment. Actually. To begin, the bleachers aren't even accessible - there is no ramp or elevator which I believe actually goes against all building codes now. Grandparents have a really hard time climbing the stairs to the stands, not to mention any parents or kids who have accessibility issues. The hockey and figure skate kids have little to no ice time, at horrible times. We can't even host hockey tournaments here which would be a big revenue boost in local hotel stays, restaurants and retail shops. How do we not already have this???? Such a missed opportunity. People in this town are getting really fed up - it's pathetic. A splash park is also a necessity for something to do in the Summer - again, it would be a draw for tourists to visit, stop over and increase general community morale. PLEASE DO SOMETHING - this town is budding with young families and this community is so burnt out and frustrated.

Prioritize sourcing funds for the Brennan Park expansion project. User groups have been frustrated for years about the lack of progress on this long overdue facility upgrade. The recent closures have highlighted just how over capacity we are and how necessary it is for our youth and our community to have access to sport. Specifically the lack of ice. Any town this size in Canada has 2-4 sheets of ice, junior hockey teams. Squamish is not just an outdoor recreation town, it's a community with a large and passionate group of hockey players, figure skaters, public skaters, and swimmers. There are many kids being turned away due to lack of space and girls are basically forced to quit at 10-12 years old because there's no girls hockey. A new expanded facility or one significantly upgraded acts as not only a community hub but also serves as an economic arm from inevitable hosting of tournaments, competitions and events. If you build it, they will come! Please consider redirecting your efforts to investing in our residents and our youth! Thank you.

The district should prioritize applying for all available grants to fund a new recreation centre. Rather than continuing with less essential developments, resources should be redirected toward building a recreation facility that will both generate revenue and provide a valuable gathering space for our community.

We also need to stop wasting taxpayer money on inflated upper management wages and instead invest those funds into projects and services that directly benefit residents.

Additionally, the district should hire more firefighters to ensure compliance with WCB requirements — maintaining a minimum of four firefighters per truck at each end of town for safety and efficiency.

Finally, investing in youth sports facilities and amenities will foster community pride, encourage healthy lifestyles, and support the next generation.

As Squamish continues to grow, I think our budget priorities need to focus more on supporting the existing community — especially when it comes to recreation and youth development. We need to invest in amenities that bring people together and keep our kids active close to home.

A key priority should be expanding our Recreation Centre and adding at least one more sheet of ice to meet the demand for hockey, skating, and other community programs. Ice time is incredibly limited, and our families are often traveling elsewhere to find opportunities.

We also need an all-weather training facility that can serve multiple sports — soccer, baseball, hockey, softball, and others — so that youth can train year-round without relying on good weather. It's an investment in health, community connection, and long-term sustainability.

Our existing community deserves accessible, quality facilities that match the incredible talent, energy, and growth of Squamish.

As you are all aware the need for a new rec center and 2nd ice sheet is and should be priority #1 for all future planning

More than anything, I would like to see a new and upgraded/updated recreation centre be built for our community with a second swimming pool and ice rink

Recreation and arts expansion

Are we adequately planning ahead for growth? Concerned that there isn't any new planning for new recreation facilities beyond Brennan Park, are we exploring new locations and the possibilities of working towards a second community centre (pool, ice rink, etc.).

Additionally, are any considerations being given to an equity/accessiblity audit of current sidewalks throughout the district, including adequate lighting and sufficient space for movement with strollers, wheelchairs, walking mobility devices, etc. Also, an audit of bike lanes to see if they are connected throughout - as they randomly appear and disappear, even if you're trying to follow bike maps.

Please do something about kiteboarding access in the town. Squamish is a world class kiteboarding destination and the primary reason I moved here. A few years ago road access to the spit was removed with the promise of a new dedicated kite beach. Despite warnings from the community that the location was unsafe, the beach was opened and then closed after a fatal incident. This now leaves us with no legal way to kite in Squamish when the Windsports Society's shuttle boat is not running. There are days during the off season which historically we could access legally however the only options now involve breaking by-laws. The new beach could be made safe with some investment and/or the counsel could revisit the proposed realign not remove plans or look to provide other legal water access. (Or rebuild the road to the spit).

Additionally, the proposed development of the oceanfront area would remove a lot of the parking the windsports community use along with many other members of the public.

Squamish is growing fast and we are struggling to keep up in many respects. Having been a resident here for 20 yrs now and raising our family here does provide some perspective.

I agree with council upgrading all our critical infrastructure including water, waste water and even figuring out our landfill. All more important than our nice to haves.

But the nice to haves need to be higher up the priority list in the next 10 year plan. Brennan Park with its pool, a second (and third?) sheet of ice and a second soccer turf with proper bathrooms and facilities. All important to our current community and increasing population.

Please budget for a new community centre. It needs to have a fitness centre included.

Recreation facilities need to be at the top of the agenda. These basic community amenities have been ignored for decades. With the unnecessary push for densification in the name of "green" the story goes we need to be more carbon neutral and the residents need to ride bikes instead of park their cars; is there any advantage when we need to travel out of town to play hockey or swim?

Brennan park upgrades are an embarrassing waste of millions of dollars.

Better find a way to fund the lawsuit too, my taxes rise an exorbitant amount per annum. I'm ok with a tax bump to fund recreation. I am not into any other tax increases to pay for the folly of council or for when you can't budget.

Tax the developers. Make them pay for the utility upgrades needed, the sidewalks, the pools and skateparks. Stop doing what you've done for 40 years and make a change.

Cut the CAO wage, what a waste of money, the lockout should come out of her wages.

Find a planner than can plan. How is there nothing in the table for the next 5 years related to pools and ice? Based on the performance of the current one, it's time for something new.

I would really love to see the leadership of the DOS to start prioritizing its youngest members by upgrading the recreation facilities. Children should be able to access swimming lessons and hockey programs if they wish. We are letting the future of our community down and in my role with Sea to Sky Community services, we are seeing our young families making the very hard choice to relocate due to limitations for their children it's really sad

I believe that it is crucial for our community and children to have access to an aquatic facility that can handle the population size of Squamish. The pool should not have to be closed to the public during swimming lessons and it should not be impossible to get your children into the lessons either. Swimming and water safety is a vital life skill that keeps young and old people safer around water, which we have lots of in Squamish. Pools and recreation centres build a healthy community. Pools are inclusive and accessed by a wide range of community members. This needs to be something that is prioritized.

The community is severely lacking in indoor recreation. As the "outdoor recreation capital of Canada", council must recognize that it also rains here for about 8 months every year. We need better facilities, and we're already years behind.

There are countless young families who are being neglected and unable to utilize any of our current facilities, which are outdated and far too small for a community of 30000 ppl.

Enough talk, get some thing done and start the process. It's already too late but it can't be pushed back any longer.

Grew up in this town, a lot has changed and a lot has stayed the same. We're still skating and swimming in the old decrepit rec center, with the growth of this town over the past 15 years it is NECESSARY for the rec center and community centers to grow as well. My now 7 year old is playing on the same ice, getting changed in the same small dressing rooms and swimming in the small sought after pool. Your community that uses these facilities are saying enough is enough. Time for bigger and better. Please put a new rink/rec center at the top of your budget list and let's get building.

We need a reliable aquatic and recreational facility. The District of Squamish needs to prioritize this in the budget and start finding sponsorship, grants and any other funding sources to get this happening now. It has been well over 20 years that this town has been discussing this issue. There has been little action toward it. Many communities similar to ours, or smaller, have better, newer aquatic/rec centres. With a 50m pool we could hold international sanctioned events which is also an economic driver for the town. We don't need to reinvent it, we just use the design from an existing facility and move forward. All the development in this town is happening way too fast and infrastructure can't keep up. Why do we need to explode in housing? Do we need to become a city? Put money towards a new aquatic/rec centre, find the money. That should be priority. The youth especially need this in our town. A aquatic/rec centre provides a safe, affordable environment for youth to congregate. We could really create something special and positive if done correctly.

The current upgrades to Brennan Park are not addressing any real issues. It's ridiculous, that money could have been used better. Let's focus on a new facility complete with competitive training pool, leisure pool, water slide, hot tub, sauna, steam room, climbing wall, etc, a workout gym, ice rinks, indoor running track, gymnasiums and so on. Give this town an opportunity to provide a facility that can be really meaningful. We could offer so much more.

I strongly feel that the budget need to focus on actually making the new rec centre and new pool a priority. By that I mean actual 1 year plan of how the district plans to apply for federal grants, tax developers and go after private funding. Good communities have strong community centres. I have heard council members talk about how important it is but not actually map out who and how. There are community members who want to be involved but there needs to be guidance from the district of how we are allowed to do that and if the funds we collect will be used directly for new rec center planning/creation. Listening in on council meetings it seems very uncertain who is responsible for this task. We need less talking and more action. I see it in the budget but I don't see the actual road map

The community and recreation center has been put on the back burner for too long. Growing up in Squamish and still using the same 1 sheet of ice is not manageable anymore and hasn't been for many years. We are turning away 5 year old's from playing hockey and can't even offer any female development or teams. Our kids are in elementary school and having to wake up at 5 am to practice and our older players are having to play at 9/9:30 pm how is this affecting their education? Also many have to miss school to attend any outside development as that is the only time it is offered because of only 1 sheet of ice. You the council need to put building a new recreation center for our community and we need at least 2 more sheets of ice

I would be willing to pay more in taxes for an upgrade in our rec center, specifically the pool.

It is no secret that the recreation amenities and hospital capacity have not kept up pace with the demand created by our population growth. I am concerned about our hospital - what plans are in place to work with the province to increase capacity as our population continues to grow? With regards to our recreation facilities - the outdated, too small pool, single turf field and ice sheet - we are long overdue for a significant overhaul to accommodate the community needs. Why can we not make use of a public/private partnership for the funds needed to make this happen? Having travelled to other communities for swim meets and soccer games and tournaments - why do we not take advantage of private sponsorship to bring the amenities to fruition? Our community needs a public gym as well as a proper track. I am curious if the BP upgrades will increase user capacity of the pool and ice sheet or create revenue in any way?

This community has outgrown every service that the District should be providing: recreation services, housing, healthcare, equitable access to basics like groceries. The district continues to fail community members on all of these fronts. The budget has not and continues to not reflect the true priorities of the community, the size of the community, or our needs. People aren't able to afford living here any longer due to rising cost of living, less and less opportunities for everything from school, work, recreation program for kids. The way this community is growing is not sustainable. We need more than 1 pool, 1 recreation centre, 1 ice rink, 1 soccer field. There are so many other communities that are smaller but better managed, allowing for more amenities and services. Every time a recreation program is offered through the District, you are fighting for 1 of 10 or less spots, and if you're not online registering right when it opens, you cannot get any of these limited spots, be it gymnastics, afterschool care, swimming, all of it. This is ridiculous.

The rec center, specifically the ice rink. Like many others, I have watched this town grow as many young families choose Squamish as a place to put down their roots. With such an influx of young families, the last decade especially, the need for another sheet of ice is at the forefront of concern for many in the community. There should never be a wait list of kids wanting to play hockey, with the only obstacle being not enough ice to go around. Right now SMHA has a waitlist of a few dozen children across all age groups that are dying for the opportunity to play hockey but are denied, simply because we lack enough ice for the demand. Squamish is well overdue for a rec center upgrade and more sheets of ice to service this fast growing community and ensure the youth have equal opportunities and access to sports and activities that encourage physical exercise, team camaraderie etc. PLEASE listen to the voices in the community and put a new rec center/ more sheets of ice as a top priority for the town.

I think the budget should focus resources on community projects that benefit the whole community and those that are less privileged. Development of paths, community spaces, careful development planning to maintain a vibrant community, not overload infrastructure costs, protect greens spaces and the environment are all important. Community amenities like Brennan Park should prioritize spaces that are fundamental. Swimming is a fundamental skill for kids. The pool provides an inclusive space for the community and supports struggling parents. It is a place where families struggling to juggle life can drop their kids for a couple of hours. I do not mind paying tax dollars to support projects that benefit the community as a whole. Hockey parents can pay for their child's activity as this is not a benefit to the community as a whole just as I pay for my child's dance and skiing. I do not support my tax dollars funding privileges like swimming teams, figure skating, or hockey. Those programs are not whole community amenities and should be run in a financially self sufficient way not funded by tax payer dollars.

Letter from Sea to Sky Dance Collective:

Issue:

Squamish's performing arts and cultural organizations are operating within aging, inadequately maintained spaces and under outdated agreements, while long-term cultural facilities planning continues to be deferred in the District's 2026–2035 Financial Plan. This places growing strain on non-profits, educators, and community groups and limits Council's ability to make informed infrastructure and investment decisions.

Why This Matters Now

Peer municipalities with populations similar to Squamish (20,000–40,000) are demonstrating that arts and cultural facilities are treated as essential civic infrastructure — planned, budgeted, and governed with the same seriousness as recreation facilities.

What Peer Communities Are Doing

Courtenay (Comox Valley)

Adopted a 10-year Strategic Cultural Plan that explicitly links cultural facilities, community need, and municipal investment. This provides Council with a clear roadmap to guide budgets, land use decisions, and partnerships.

Campbell River

Integrated culture into Parks, Recreation & Culture master planning and established long-term operating and lease agreements for key performing arts facilities. This approach ensures operational stability and planned maintenance rather than crisis response.

Penticton

Embedded arts and culture objectives into Official Community Plan processes and approved multi-year funding agreements for cultural organizations, recognizing culture as a contributor to economic vitality, tourism, and community wellbeing.

Nelson

Maintains a standing Cultural Development Committee that advises Council and has consistently supported major cultural infrastructure such as the Capitol Theatre, integrating cultural decision-making into regular governance processes.

These communities demonstrate that planning + budgeting + governance are addressed together — not postponed indefinitely.

Current Gap in Squamish

- No dedicated cultural facilities plan or cultural space targets, despite direction in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy (2020).
- Cultural facilities planning is deferred beyond 2027 in the 2026–2035 Financial Plan.
- No framework for assessing facilities not owned by the District (e.g., Eagle Eye Theatre, Brackendale Art Gallery, faith-based or non-profit spaces).
- No scheduled review of the operating agreement with School District 48 for Eagle Eye Theatre, despite documented maintenance and operational challenges.
- Lack of an updated roadmap to evaluate developer proposals for future galleries or performing arts spaces.

Key Impacts

- Increased operational strain and risk for arts organizations and educators.
- Deferred maintenance costs and safety concerns.
- Missed opportunities for partnerships, development contributions, and long-term planning.
- A growing mismatch between population size (~30,000) and available cultural infrastructure.

Recommended Council Actions (Specific & Achievable)

- Direct staff to scope Cultural Facilities Planning
- Include "Cultural Space Targets / Cultural Facilities Planning" explicitly within the 2026–2035 Financial Plan, aligned with the Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy.
- Initiate a review of the School District 48 agreement for Eagle Eye Theatre
- Request a staff report outlining maintenance responsibilities, operational risks, and options for short- and long-term improvements.
- Adopt a comprehensive view of cultural infrastructure
- Ensure future planning considers both District-owned and non-District-owned cultural facilities, creating a realistic picture of community needs.

Bottom Line

Other BC communities of similar size are planning, funding, and safeguarding their cultural infrastructure today. Squamish has the policy groundwork already in place — what is needed now is Council direction to turn strategy into action.

Letter from Act Alive Academy

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Jessica Kelly, and I am the Founder and Artistic Director of Act Alive Academy. I have been offering arts programming in the Squamish community since 2010, and I have been actively involved in the arts for most of my life. Now working full time as a performer, director, choreographer, and instructor working with humans from 1.5 years old through adulthood.

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the 2026–2035 Financial Plan and the continued postponement of meaningful investment in arts and cultural facilities in Squamish. As it stands, the current plan leaves arts and culture effectively invisible—pushed further into the future at a time when existing facilities are already in a state of serious disrepair and local arts organizations are being forced out of our community. I say this as someone who ran all the youth arts programming for the Squamish District for a number of years, but after being pushed out of multiple facilities, was finally given no choice but to go off on my own and create a community arts space.

Arts and culture in Squamish are not merely underfunded; they are at risk of collapse.

Our only theatre is aging rapidly and, nearing unusable conditions. Missing cords, faulty connections, dangerous conditions, broken equipment and more leaves the theatre rental experience feeling stressful and frustrating, especially as there is no theatre manager to help problem solve or run the theatre in any professional capacity. The current theatre infrastructure is in such urgent need of repair and restoration that it actively limits what can be programmed, who can access it, and whether groups can safely and professionally operate at all, the lack of anyone running the theatre makes renting it a mixed bag of mystery problems to be solved in high stakes situations. This is not a future problem—it is a present-day crisis that directly impacts my livelihood, my students, and the broader arts community.

The lack of usable arts facilities greatly impacts my life and the lives of every individual working in arts and culture in Squamish. Over the past year alone, members of Act Alive Academy, Step Out!, Squamish Dance Centre, Squamish Academy of Music, Sea to Sky Dance Collective, Between Shifts Theatre, Squamish Arts, and many others have been in ongoing conversations about how to improve theatre and arts infrastructure in our community. Despite sustained effort, collaboration, and goodwill, these concerns have largely fallen on deaf ears or been repeatedly pushed aside. This group would be happy to put forward a list of recommendations to council.

While I cannot formally speak on behalf of these organizations at this time, I would confidently say that every member of the Squamish arts community would be willing to sign off on this plea for immediate and serious attention to arts and cultural infrastructure.

At the same time, the Financial Plan proposes delaying cultural facilities planning even beyond the already-concerning 2027–2028 window. This delay directly contradicts both the Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy (2020) and Council's own Strategic Plan, which commits to increasing inclusive and accessible arts, cultural, heritage, and multi-use programmable spaces by Q3 2026. Without facilities planning, these commitments simply cannot be met.

A town of over 30,000 people currently has:

- * No adequate exhibit gallery
- * No long-term plan for performance, rehearsal, or creative production space
- * No roadmap for evaluating cultural facilities proposed through development
- * No strategy for supporting non-District-owned but essential cultural venues
- * An overdue agreement review for Eagle Eye Theatre
- * Aging infrastructure that is deteriorating faster than it is being addressed

The absence of a comprehensive cultural facilities plan has real and immediate consequences. Arts organizations are struggling to find affordable, functional, and safe spaces to operate. As a result, companies are downsizing, limiting programming, or leaving Squamish altogether. Once lost, these organizations—and the mentorship, education, and community connection they provide—do not easily return.

While recreation facilities, particularly ice infrastructure, have benefited from strong advocacy and clear prioritization at a time of severe crisis, arts and culture have not received the same urgency. Understandably, artists are not staging protest performances on the steps of Municipal Hall, but the absence of spectacle should not be mistaken for an absence of need. If any member of Council attended Act Alive's sold out production of Legally Blonde last year, you may have noticed a recurring and unfortunate issue: despite countless hours of rehearsal, extraordinary effort, and boundless energy from the performers, many audience members left with the same comment—the performers could not be heard. This is the stark reality of our current theatre infrastructure. Even with the involvement of professional sound technicians and significant preparation, the limitations of the space could not be overcome. No amount of passion or expertise can compensate for a facility that is no longer able to adequately support live performance.

Letter from Act Alive Academy

Arts and culture are not optional amenities. They are essential infrastructure. They support youth development, mental health, tourism, economic vitality, and social connection. A connected and liveable community cannot exist without them.

Further, the Financial Plan fails to meaningfully consider cultural facilities that are not owned by the District, despite their critical role in sustaining arts programming. Excluding these spaces from planning ignores the reality of how arts and culture currently function in Squamish and shows a lack of understanding for the needs of our growing community.

Delaying cultural facilities planning also undermines future tools such as Community Amenity Contributions (CACs), Development Cost Charges (DCCs), and Amenity Cost Charges. Without defined cultural space targets, the District lacks the framework required to negotiate, assess, and secure cultural amenities as growth continues.

In short: without immediate action, Squamish risks becoming a community that encourages creativity in theory, but makes it impossible in practice.

I urge Council to:

1. Explicitly include cultural facilities planning in the 2026–2035 Financial Plan
2. Commit to developing Cultural Space Targets as outlined in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy
3. Address the urgent repair and restoration needs of existing cultural infrastructure
4. Integrate culture into Parks, Recreation, and Real Estate master planning rather than deferring it
5. Recognize and support both District-owned and non-District cultural facilities
6. Treat arts and culture as essential community infrastructure

The arts community in Squamish is resilient, collaborative, and deeply invested in this place. But resilience should not be mistaken for sustainability. Without action now, we will continue to lose the very people and organizations that make Squamish vibrant, creative, and liveable.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge Council to act decisively and ensure that arts and culture are no longer left behind.

Respectfully,
Jessica Kelly
Founder & Artistic Director
Act Alive Academy

Hi Mayor & Council,

I hope this finds you all well. Unfortunately due to a full calendar, I will not be able to attend any of the budget discussions. On behalf of my family, I'd like to say that we appreciate the difficulty you're facing with keeping our upcoming tax hike to a minimum, but as for our household; we'd like to see more of a focus on expanding our rec centre's availability and services. We are willing to pay a higher than already anticipated (12% was the last number I heard) increase. Our community's youth need to be a higher focus.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding the proposed three-year, \$1 million task force process for Brennan Park Recreation Centre. I hope you will consider an approach that both accelerates this work and embraces the strengths already present within our community.

While I appreciate the intent to thoroughly understand Brennan Park's needs, it is difficult to reconcile that this work will cost \$1 mil and take 3 years to complete. The 2019 Real Estate and Facilities Master Plan already identified the expansion of Brennan Park as a core priority to meet community growth. The report before you now proposes another \$100,000 to update that plan, along with several more years of internal study—work that will almost certainly confirm what has long been known: Brennan Park requires expansion and upgrades.

Given this, I strongly encourage Council to request an expedited timeline and to look for ways to streamline the process so that action can begin sooner. Our community has been advocating for this project for nearly two decades, and we are eager to see momentum.

Just as importantly, I encourage you to consider a collaborative model that involves community volunteers and user groups early and often. Across Canada, municipalities have successfully advanced complex recreation projects by working alongside their residents. I ask that you consider encouraging staff to not just consult community groups, but to embed them in the planning process. Volunteer expertise reduces both time and cost by supporting feasibility work, design feedback, and operational planning.

Municipality staff and resident group partnerships not only accelerate progress, but will undoubtedly unlock additional fundraising and grant opportunities and ensure the final result truly meets community needs.

In Squamish, countless hours of research, organizing, and advocacy have already been contributed by local groups committed to seeing Brennan Park improved. Tapping into this existing wealth of knowledge and passion is one of the most effective ways to build a project that is both financially responsible and broadly supported.

I respectfully urge Council to champion a faster, more collaborative path forward—one that recognizes the urgency of this long overdue expansion and the incredible value of genuine community partnership. Our volunteers, user groups, and residents stand ready to support the District in making meaningful progress.

Thank you for your leadership, and for considering an approach that brings our community into the process in a meaningful, proactive way.

Sincerely,



SQUAMISH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to the development of hockey players and citizens of the community.

Squamish Minor Hockey Association (SMHA)

Brennan Park Arena Expansion – Council Presentation (October 21, 2025)

Who We Are

- Volunteer-run association serving over 300 local youth.
- Programs build athletic skills, teamwork, leadership, and resilience.
- Community partner fostering equity, inclusion, and lifelong sport participation.

Relevant Background Information

SMHA now serves over 300 youth and depends on Brennan Park Arena for virtually all programming.

On September 2, 2025, the rink closed due to renovation-related issues, forcing SMHA to secure non-subsidized ice outside the community at a cost of nearly \$9,500 in just two weeks. Families were driving long distances, adding financial strain, lost school time, scheduling challenges, and significant greenhouse gas emissions.

The recent closure highlights the lack of reliable and sufficient local ice, a situation that is unsustainable for our growing association and for other community users including figure skating, public programs, adult leagues, and seniors. To support our existing and growing community, expansion of recreation services must be a top priority.

Our Ask

1. Include the arena expansion in this year's budget so it can begin immediately following the retrofit.
2. Prioritize the second rink ahead of other lower-impact components, to:
 - Provide capacity for more youth to join SMHA.
 - Enable dedicated female hockey programming.
 - Prevent costly displacement and inequitable access.
 - Support hosting of local tournaments that generate meaningful economic benefit.

The Benefit to Squamish

- Safe, reliable, equitable access to sport.
- Reduced emissions and travel burden.
- Stronger community programs.
- Economic impact from tournaments and events.

Squamish Minor Hockey Association
PO Box 44, Squamish, BC
V8B 0A1

www.squamishminorhockey.com

S Q U A M I S H A R T S

December 11, 2025
Re: Draft 2026-2035 Financial Plan
UPDATED LETTER

Dear Mayor & Council,

Squamish Arts is pleased to see the building in Junction Park included for upkeep in the Arts & Culture line item of the draft budget. One concern we have is that without a larger space (i.e. a more extensive renovation/rebuild in accordance to what is envisioned in our future needs study [for that location](#)), one that encompasses space to store festival equipment and supplies (sound system, tents, tables, signage) used by community groups year round for events downtown, a renovation of the current space won't render it usable in the way stated in the Draft Financial Plan. Recently there was discussion about the possibility of placing a shipping container in the park close to the building where supplies could be stored, making the building itself usable for more than storage. We are curious if this might still be an option, in which case a smaller scale building renovation would suffice for now. If not, we would like the opportunity to work with District staff to apply to Canadian Heritage's Cultural Spaces Fund and the BC Arts Council's Arts Infrastructure Grant for funding (in addition to what is being budgeted for) toward a more extensive rebuild in tandem with the Junction Park washroom renovation.

Squamish Arts is also curious if there are plans to update the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. While many of the actions are still relevant, it would be prudent to update them in a post-Covid era and in light of our growing community, the changing economy, and to ensure that arts and culture does not fall too far behind recreation.

We are also keen to establish partnership funding for Squamish Arts beyond just one year so that we can more effectively strategize and plan for the organization. We understand all District partnerships are soon to be evaluated through a new Community Partnership Agreement Policy and are eager to learn more about this.

UPDATE: Recently the Aaron Nelson Moody mural in the O'Siyam Pavilion was damaged from fire. We would like to suggest that the remediation of this mural fall under the District's insurance rather than being funded out of Squamish Arts' Public Art funds, which are intended for art experiences for the community. The mural was updated in May 2024 using Public Art funds because the original surface was not holding up to the elements. It's unfortunate that another update is required so soon as a result of our unhoused trying to keep warm. We hope Council will consider an insurance claim **or find the resources** for this next repair to the mural that makes the pavilion so colourful.

Thank you for your time and attention,



Clea Young, Executive Director

Squamish Arts

PO Box 2670 • Squamish, BC V8B 0B8



Hi there,

Thanks to councillors Stoner, Pettingill, and Andersen for the great conversations at Brackendale Bean's Coffee with Council the other week. We spoke extensively about the need for additional ice surfaces in Squamish, and the challenges associated with actually making that happen.

I mentioned that we had received close to 650 submissions on our [Second Rink Squamish](#) website supporting this initiative. Council encouraged me to send the list of submissions here. Please find them attached. There have been 645 submissions on our site, representing a significant number of families in Squamish who feel underserved by our existing facility.

I highly encourage Council to read through the submissions and listen to the voices of our community. Hopefully it becomes clear from the emotion and the sheer magnitude of responses that our community is hungry for change.

Thanks,

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Share your support
2 rinks would better serve the community as there is a high volume of people eager to get out on the ice. There simply isn't enough room or time to allow everyone to do so with only 1 rink in Squamish. Make it happen!
28,000 people and 1 rink - for god sakes support your population. This is absurd to disregard the children like this
9 year olds should not have to practice at 5:45am.
A 2nd rink was needed years ago. 9 year olds shouldn't be practicing at 5:45 am on a school day, sharing ice with more than 1 team for practices is unacceptable. Denying youth from playing sports due to lack of facilities is also unacceptable. Our town has growth substantially and nothing has been done to accommodate this.
A growing community requires a growing infrastructure. Period.
A place that my kids and husband can enjoy sport and keep their health in tact. I want them to keep active in all stages in their lives to stay healthy and strong. Anything to keep residents happy and healthy should be considered by planners, council and decisions makers.
A second ice rink in Squamish would give my kid (and other kids) more fair, age-appropriate ice time instead of competing with the whole town for limited slots.
A second rink in our community is decades overdue. The upgrades to the current facility will do nothing to address capacity issues. Our community and council is constantly proclaiming their Commitment to being a recreation capital, and we are sorely lacking in the facilities for foundational sports for our youth.
A second rink would allow more children within the community for Squamish have access and an opportunity to learn to skate, figure skate and/or hockey. It would decrease the congestion and demand on the current rink and also allow more diverse programs to be accessible to the community.
A second rink would INCREASE business and visitors to the Brennan Park Ice Arena. With the pressure release of a second ice rink, programs that get pushed to undesirable times, such as adult hockey leagues, could and would expand. The second rink could manage the development sports which would allow Brennan Park to manage the recreation leagues and public ice programs. A second rink would not take away jobs or business from the district it would bring in more users, Those that currently do not use the rink because there is simply not enough space.
A second sheet of ice is long overdue! We want our future kids to have an opportunity to play hockey
Absolutely pathetic our town has one very outdated sheet of ice. Also one of the worst facility around.
Accessible sport is beneficial not only to the community / economy but for individuals mental, social and physical health.
Active kids are healthy kids Gives them another social outlet away from school social circle Not enough ice for our growing community both hockey and all other sports
Allow students to feel supported not only in their studies but in their personal hobbies and passions.
An additional sheet of ice is way past due, for many, many reasons! As a local parent and coach, I have seen the positive effect that sports has on the lives of kids. The current situation not only has us turning away kids because of lack of ice, but also has our kids starting as early as 545 in the morning, and having to show up late for school on other days. This leads to a high dropout rate and hurts the kids enjoyment of the sport, as well as putting a lot of work on the parents and caregivers.
I'm happy that we promote such an active lifestyle in Squamish, but realistically, kids can't be outside playing sports for the rainy winter months. We have to provide them an opportunity to have indoor recreation. It would be a huge benefit to the community to offer programs for kids, and for people of all ages.
Our town has grown from a small hamlet to a busy corridor. Yet we have the same rec facilities that the town had in 1960. It's totally unacceptable.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

As a longtime men's hockey player and parent of two hockey players who have grown up playing in this town we have been affected by multiple ice scheduling issues over the last 15 years. We've had to deal with multiple teams forced to share congested ice at the same time and have also seen our senior men's times continually get later. We've also seen many families leave the community due to the congestion and have had numerous players quit our men's league due to the extremely late ice times. That being said, there still appears to be a wait list of people (all ages) that want to play but can't get on a team due to scheduling space. As a long time tax payer in this town I have and continue to support any initiative to better sport of all types in this town for everyone. We have been let down numerous times by our local government when it comes to spending money on a facility that is used by most people in this town, especially during the winter months. This doesn't need to be gold plated, there are reasonable options available that have been researched and passed on to the district by frustrated families trying to get some movement on this in recent history. Let's do the right thing and quit wasting money trying to upgrade an almost 50 year old building that was built for 10,000 people and get an additional cost effective rink that would serve the over 30,000 people we have here now.

As a mother of three boys who LOVE hockey it is very important to me that they have adequate access to ice.

As a parent in this community I don't want my children or any children to be turned away from sport because of facility shortages.

As a squamish born and raised [REDACTED] hockey player and coach at Squamish Minor Hockey, there has been a need for a new and second sheet of ice for 20+ years. Our town population is growing rapidly and we have to turn kids away from hockey and skating due to lack of ice time and ice closures.

As both a hockey coach and a parent here in Squamish, I've seen firsthand the impact that the closure of the Brennan Park Arena has had on our players, families, and the community.

The facility is aging, and the current renovation work has created high humidity levels that have made the ice unsafe for use. This has forced teams, including mine, to travel down the Sea-to-Sky and into the

Lower Mainland for ice times. While we're committed to giving our athletes every opportunity to develop, this extra travel adds financial strain, time away from family, and increased risk on the highway—especially during winter months.

The demand for ice in Squamish has outgrown what one rink can provide, and the current closure highlights how vulnerable our community is without additional capacity. A second rink isn't just about hockey, it's about investing in a safe, sustainable space for all ice sports, recreation, and community gatherings. It's about supporting youth development, keeping families active close to home, and building a stronger community for years to come. I fully support the petition for a new second rink at Brennan Park and encourage others to add their voice so we can provide the facilities our growing community deserves.

As someone who works with youth in our community, I know how much Squamish needs a new rink. Make it happen

As the community grows we need to upgrade our recreation facilities trying to get ice time with one sheet of ice is almost impossible and the constant closures are unbearable

Because as we all know our town is growing so should all our facilities

Because I play hockey there, my kids play and there isn't enough ice time. I

Because it is very needed and kids need to be able to experience sports and have the proper facilities to do so

Because it's incredibly overdue, and our current situation is very poor

Plain and simple, I've lived here for 46 years and we needed another sheet of ice years and years ago. It's also time our District gets their priorities straight and stop putting the tourists before the people who pay taxes here.

Because my nephews want to play hockey and they can't.

Because no one should ever have to worry about being left out/missing out This town is only going to get bigger

Because our community needs more amenities and a second ice rink is a start

Because our growing town NEEDS it!!!! Our kids are in hockey and it's not possible for them/us to go as far as Langley for practices (which happened this past weekend). We also see other teams such as North Van building out more skilled players as they have way more ice time, practices and camps. Our youth are falling behind in their sport.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Because the kids of Squamish deserve to behave something other than just outdoor activities these days. This would allow more rink time for hockey and figure skating, tournaments and events and also extra ice time for older residents of Squamish.

Because the youth need it desperately. Our population can fully support THREE rinks.

Because the youth of this town deserve it! It's been needed for way too long. That rink brings our youth, families and this community together!!

RISE UP AND BE THE CHNAGE THIS TOWN NEEDS FOR THE KIDS!!!!

Because there are some many kids missing out on activities, and the one that we have can not accommodate the growth of the community

Because we are growing at a rapid rate and the kids deserve it!

Because we aren't the southern United States! People here like to play some puck for our 9 months of rain

Best years of my life playing hockey in squamish. Others should have that same experience. Growing up and playing hockey in a beautiful town. The Canadian kids dream

Both kids and husband play hockey. My daughter has been commuting to whistler for years because squamish won't host female hockey due to no ice time for a female team. I think it's outrageous at this point in time for a community in heart of sea to sky to not promote female sports. Unacceptable that another facility hasn't been built yet. Likely with my daughter in grade 11 and my son in grade 9, even if a new rink gets built it wont benefit us. However DOS has a lot to answer for spending large amounts of money on insignificant infrastructure when it's own youth suffer.

Both my sons play hockey as well as myself.

This is simple, a second rink isn't a luxury it's a necessity for our community, period.

Both of my children played hockey and never experienced consistent ice times. Now my son only has two years left and sadly won't see the new rink. His practices are late on a school night. My daughter would have continued playing had there been a girls team but there was never enough ice to make it possible. It's such a missed opportunity and poor planning the recreation centre wasn't rebuilt many years ago when the option was presented. DOS needs to listen to its community and take action and accountability.

Brennan park is under sized and outdated for the rate this town is growing. It should have been rebuilt already

Brennan park old and outdated. Bring a new pool and more ice rinks/ indoor soccer fields.

Build a place that can have concerts, and other events Encana centre in Dawson Creek is an example.

Cause it is the worst in BC! Squamish's tax payer dollars need to go into proper infrastructure for this town.

Children and adults should have a place to play, skate, and get active!

Children need to be a priority! We have needed additional ice for the past 20 years at least.

Community growth is outpacing infrastructure investment. We need a second rink, a second pool and another library branch

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Current demand is simply not being met.
A second rink could provide a number of Community Benefits.
Consider how a second rink could benefit residents by:
* Expanding programs: Offering more ice time for skating, hockey, figure skating, and other ice sports.
* Reducing waitlists: Allowing more people to join local teams and learn to skate. There are families currently on SMHA waitlist who are commuting to Whistler and Vancouver to start or keep their child in hockey.
* Increasing accessibility: Providing more opportunities for exercise and recreation for all ages. Our youth have very little options to do in the evenings. Imagine if we were able to offer more evening public skates. Let's keep our youth active and connected.
* It would also allow training programs to be offered before and after school so that children do not have to miss their education for further ice sport development.
* Private and Public School and Sport Academy access during school hours.
* Economic growth: Attracting visitors for tournaments, events, and training facilities ; potentially boosting local businesses.
* Further Jon opportunities.

Current rink is outdated and community is growing a second rink is necessary

Early ice time for my husband men's league, more skating options for my daughter's!!

Every Canadian kid needs access to a rink! We need more community spaces in Squamish and I think another ice sheet would be a great addition!

Everyone is struggling for ice time, the rec leagues are having to play as late as 11pm most nights and there are so many people that just give up on playing hockey as a result of the poor ice times. Kids slots are overcrowded and there's a lack of opportunity for new programs. This is Canada, easy access to hockey and other ice sports should be a certainty!

Everyone should have the opportunity to try hockey. Fewer rinks means less opportunities for developing young athletes

Exactly the reason that has been presented. Squamish has grown substantially in the time since we have been here (2009) and the competition to share the one rink with various sports and maintenance closures is unreasonable. I've seen smaller towns with more services than Squamish

Exercise is very important for growing children's, it would bring the community together, there would be more life time for people to train for their sport.

First of all, we need A rink, and a second rink is also needed for our growing community. 5:45 am practice for a 6 year old is not acceptable. More public skate to keep teens active and out of trouble is also needed.

For hockey and ice skating activities for our kids

For more public skates

For my community

For my kids to learn to skate

For our families., the children and youth of Squamish. Our town has grown so much in my 23 year's here, and it's not stopping..

For the kids!!

Girls need equal access to playing hockey

Give adults and kids the opportunity to skate. Figure skate, public skate or play hockey.

Growing population and love for the sport of hockey - one rink isn't enough anymore.

Growing population in Squamish, kids need more space to play

Growing up in a small town in Ontario, we even had 2x rinks! Hope that we can get a second for future generations to get on the ice.

Growing up in Squamish playing hockey in town to then leave for junior hockey and then to come back years later with little to no growth to an arena that I and our whole community love. Instead of building micro breweries and vegan coffee shops that have no interest in supporting our youths dreams that could be exceeded with another rink and an opportunity in a town that has out grown itself in many ways a hockey rink a safe place for many is much needed

Growing up, and playing in smaller towns than Squamish, everywhere had multiple arenas, and multiple arenas. Allowed everyone to play and progress. Feels restrictive for kids and adults who want to play

Have 2 kids keen to play hockey but there are no spots for them

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Having grown up in Squamish and played all my minor hockey here, I know the need is great for a second rink. It was needed 20+ years ago and the town has grown substantially in that time.
Hockey has been such a huge part of my life. It is sad that kids are being turned away for this incredible game, life long friends and community. I would love to see a girls hockey team. I played my whole life and would love for my girls to have this opportunity.
Hockey is a big community sport that my nieces and nephews play. Sports are so important to children
Hockey is a large part of Canadian culture and everyone should have the opportunity to play
Hockey is the core sport that binds our country and creates a sense of community. With an ever growing population the opportunity to play hockey is lost on the people of Squamish because we only have one seasonal ice sheet.
Hockey/Ice sports are constantly growing in the community and one sheet isn't enough to be sustainable with the amount of players programs going on. The minor hockey is an important piece of the community and is due for an upgrade!
I am interested in the adult recreational skating and do not want to go late in the evening.
I believe a second rink would give more opportunities for kids, families, and the community to stay active and connected year-round.
I can't even get my son who is eager to play hockey a spot on the Squamish hockey team as there is not enough ice time as it is. He was wait listed before registration even opened, and the only way he can get a spot is if a current player either moves or drops out. This is not good enough for the youth of this town that is growing at an exponential rate.
I coach [REDACTED] play [REDACTED]. I'm from Alberta & played in most of Western Canada. Worst rink I've ever played in & only getting worse. Squamish needs better!
I don't want to play anymore hockey games at 1045PM.
I don't want to play in the middle of the night and my kid also wants to play hockey. The town is growing way too fast for one ice rink.
I grew up playing for Squamish eagles. I am 33 now and we have needed a new rink since I was 10. It's embarrassing for the town at this point that this is all we have. It's also very tough for adult leagues to happen here since so many people can't play at 10 or 11pm at night. Another sheet of ice would be put to great use for many groups, and I honestly believe in no time at all that 2 sheets wont even be enough.
I grew up playing hockey in Squamish and want to see more of it in my hometown
I grew up playing in Squamish, and we needed a 2nd rink then and that was 25 years ago. Since then the towns population has doubled and it's nothing has been done. Enough is enough.
I have 2 young kids and a community this size , growing at a fast pace requires more than 1 old rink.
I have 3 children in hockey and they don't have enough ice to develop to their full potential because we don't have the ice for all teams.
I have been a referee in the Sea to Sky for 10 years, playing in Ontario, AB and BC for 30. Squamish conditions are by far the worst in the corridor, or perhaps all of Canada. The rec centre for the population of the recreational capital of Canada is an embarrassment. We should have one of the best facilities in the country, not the worst. A proper hospital, recreation centre, proper boat launch and traffic artery from downtown should undoubtedly all have been completed 3-5 years ago based on population growth.
I have been playing hockey in this rink for over 25 years.. it's done
I have kids in hockey and skating. A second rink would help with ice times and open up possibilities to skating competitions and hockey tournaments that bring revenue to this town.
I have played hockey in Squamish my whole life, born and raised i am 31 years old and the ice times have always been a problem. I have a 9 year old son that can't even have ice time at the moment after 4 years of hockey. Even when it was open it was was tough getting time. Complete joke, Squamish is failing with our arena. Change is needed, and change is needed now. Second rink was needed 20 years ago!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I have played in the mens ice hockey league for 5 years now and year after year I am shocked that no real significant upgrades have happened to the existing ice rink. Squamish not only needs a second rink at minimum but the existing facilities are just plain sad when compared to many other towns, some three times smaller than Squamish! Its time money goes toward a second sheet and actual, meaningful improvements to the existing one.
I have two children, seven years old and two years old. Ice time has always been an issue.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

I moved out west 7 years ago and [REDACTED]... population 5000 growing up there but definitely increased since I was there maybe close to Squamish population now... They have a full on aquatic centre and 2 sheets of ice - this shouldn't be such a big ask for this town, give us more ice and better facilities!

I play in the men's league

I play in the Squamish adult league and the ice times are out of control. Going to work the morning after after an 11:15 PM game is horrendous.

I support a second rink in Squamish because our community is growing, and so are the needs of our youth, families, and recreational programs. A new rink would mean more opportunities for kids to play, for teams to grow, and for the whole community to stay active and connected.

I think we owe it to our youth and other community members to be able to play ice sports and not be on a wait list that is unacceptable

I want a facility where children can play hockey at reasonable hours, where children can swim and have access to swim lessons, a facility that doesn't turn people away due to overcrowding. I want a facility that we can be proud of, that will bring community together to participate or watch hockey tournaments, games, public skate, stick and puck, shows, swim meets, organized programming, classes and events. I'm tired of playing hockey until 12:15 in the morning on ice that almost never freezes by the Zamboni doors, of having to be aware of where concrete is showing through the ice so I don't break an ankle, of having to then come back to the rink [REDACTED] in the morning [REDACTED] I'm tired of trying to go swimming with my kids only to leave angry because the lobby is packed with people waiting to swim. I'm embarrassed when I walk down the hallway at the arena and see a visiting team [REDACTED] piled on top of each other or sitting in the hallway because dressing rooms 1 and 2 are inadequate to fit an entire team. I'm embarrassed when a visiting parent at Brennan park asks if there is a gym at the facility [REDACTED] seldom, if ever used, outdoor gym. Multiple opportunities for financial assistance/ sponsorship/ private facilities have been presented only to be turned away. The community has been asking for something to be done for decades. Council after council has not done enough to grow our community services/infrastructure with our rate of growth and now it has come to a head. How is it that towns of equal or smaller population, in far less desirable areas of the province/ country, are so much better off than Squamish?

I want all people young and old to have the opportunity to be on the ice.

I want more ice space and availability so that my children have access now and as they grow.

I want to have a second rink so that I don't have to get up at 5 in the morning to have a practice, and so that new players don't have to be steered away from playing hockey in Squamish.

I want to see a second rink so that the quality of the ice improves. The timing of the available ice slots are not as late. The community is served better with more times allotted to community skates and pick up as well as being able to cater to people in the SMHL and adult leagues

I want to see a second rink so YOUNG CHILDREN don't have to travel elsewhere to play hockey or be denied to play hockey because of lack of ICE

I wanted my girls to play ice hockey but there are very limited options for aspiring female hockey players in Squamish. I played in the inaugural year of the Vancouver female hockey

league over 20 years ago. It's disappointing that female hockey players still face barriers like lack of ice time. Let's do better Squamish!

I was born in Squamish 52 years ago and the rink was already crowded back then it is now 52 years later and the town is grown by threefold and we are still running the same ice... need to expand as it is unfair for the younger generation and we are paying the most taxes ever since I've ever known here in Squamish life is already expensive and hard enough especially for young parents who are just trying to make ends meet and trying to give our children a better opportunity in life

I would love for my son to be able to play hockey when it's not already dark out so he can walk home.

I would love to see a second rink so everyone has an opportunity for a decent time ice time.

I would love to see more time slots for all the skating programs

I would need hours to write a book about all the reasons

I'd like one that works as a bare minimum. A second rink would close the gap a little bit between where our community size and needs are. Currently, our kids are lacking access to reliable facilities that support their health and well-being. After spending the weekend in Langley with my toddler and 2 other kids in hockey, it is abundantly clear that we don't have close back up options. We need accountability, not minimizing the issue and lacking responsibility with statements on how it's "inconvenient." The current situation is beyond that. It's unacceptable.

I'd love it for the community as well as myself we have so Little ice time for ladies hockey I drive to north van to play.

I'd love to see another rink so my fiancé can get some better ice time for his games and not be out so late with work so early In the morning

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

I'm a parent to a local hockey player, and having experienced the passion behind the sport and community, I want to ensure it can grow at the same pace as the housing. Also, I want to support families wanting to move from other communities but are feeling discouraged by the lack of availability for sports. Hockey is key, but lack of ice is incredibly impactful. Our community deserves better.
I'm born and raised in the town and we have had the same rec centre since i have been alive. Our community has grown so it only makes sense for improvement.
I'm hoping it will help the kids
I'm signing this petition because Squamish has outgrown its rec centre. Kids are being turned away from hockey every season, younger players are stuck with 5am practices before school, and U18 hockey doesn't even get on the ice until very late at night often not getting home until after 11:00PM on a school night. Both hockey and figure skating programs are struggling to meet the demand.
This isn't sustainable for families, and it's not fair to our kids who deserve the chance to play and grow in the sports they love. Squamish needs a second sheet of ice and a rec centre that truly meets the needs of this community. That's why I'm signing - for the kids, the families, and the future of sports here.
I've grown up playing in the single rink in Squamish and I believe we deserve a second rink to keep growing the game of hockey and figure skating
I've had two children go through SMHA.. we eventually pulled our second son out and moved him down to a more hockey focused arena. It gave him the ability to achieve the goals he's set for himself. It's quite sad that those opportunities aren't available in Squamish.
I've lived here for 50 years. My children (and grandson) played hockey for many years, the arena has not changed in their lifetimes. Is it not about time that families in Squamish can actually enjoy the ice? A second sheet of ice should have been done years ago.
Ice already a scarcity. We can't lose hockey culture in BC communities. Part of our identity and major tourism opportunity.
Ice times should not affect work and school - they should be at reasonable times, which would be more achievable if there was a second rink.
If there are people wanting to stay active with ice sports they should have the opportunity and not be turned away because the infrastructure hasn't been updated in 40 years.
So many people are trying to grow the town but no one wants to put in the work to put in the infrastructure to support the growth!!!
Im a second generation born and raised squamish local, it kills me to see the town I grew up in squeeze every last apartment building and town house in they can with no upgrades to our infrastructure. Add a grocery store? A second ice rink? Upgrade our pool? Expand our hospital? Nothing! Our kids and future generations are suffering!
Important for a community,
Inadequate investment for size and growth of community
Indoor recreational facility's are lacking for the amount of demanded growth the city and government pressure Squamish to keep up with. The rec centre is incredibly lacking. We drove to Langley for 8am hockey. This is NOT an acceptable option for 7 and 8 year olds.
Infrastrucuture is lacking but development is full on. There is no reason why we cant build two more sheets if they are condo's popping up all over the town. Absolute horse shite reasons from council. The current council and past have blinders on and would rather develop areas where people dont want development and dont really seem to care that the children in this town dont have even outlets to hang out, or play sports.
It helps us all keep in shape being able to play hockey
It is desperately and undeniably needed.
It is greatly needed.
It is ludicrous that we can not have another rink. With so much CAC coming in from development (not to mention LNG) perhaps it could be put to actual good use.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

It is one of our essential amenities, that not only supports our youth but can generate money for the community through tournaments. Outdoor recreation is not helping support our community through tax dollars, tournaments do!
It is the only way to accommodate the growing population in Squamish. Having kids on waitlist to play sports at 5-6 year old is unacceptable. And when a teenager wants to keep themself busy and play organized sports, we can't put them on a waitlist and tell them we don't have space for them.
It just makes sense. We are one of the fastest growing towns and a young population of families.
It will be great for all age groups
It would be great to see our community have facilities that match our growing population and having a second rink will help all those who would like to play have the chance to do so - not just the kids but the adults as well. [REDACTED] who is a pillar [REDACTED] and works very long hard shifts and is made to play so late at night that he ends up missing out, which feels very unfair it is [REDACTED] We pay an exorbitant amount in taxes and should expect some benefit. It is outrageous that we have zero support in building great community facilities for everyone to enjoy. We have lived in much smaller communities in Canada and they have better facilities than we do. This feels very unacceptable to not just us but the whole community. We have lived here for over 12 years and this development/increase in population has been forecasted for a long time and there has not been any thought into needing another rink and other facilities to keep up with it? It should be part of the agreement x number of developments require x percentage put into the community. Don't get me started on parking. We also should not be refusing money from companies like LNG to help us gain that goal - should this not be a community decision to yes to offers like these?
It's 2025... long over due.
It's an obvious need!!!!
It's becoming a joke not having a second sheet of ice gives me one reason not to raise my kids in this town.
It's been WAY overdue. The kids deserve a new rink
It's important for the community to be able to offer sports and culture. Skating and hockey is a culture in Canada and to have the rink closed with no other options is very frustrating and sad for the kids that can't experience it.
It's important to have community involvement in this day and age where technology is taking over. Another rink means more space for kids to grow and learn and play, and for everyone to enjoy.
It's obvious 1 rink isn't enough. Keeping kids and families healthy and active should be a priority
It's our national sport and kids need mentors like Hockey Coaches to set them in the right direction around many of life's challenges facing youth today.
It's over due!!
It's time! My daughter skated for 10 years putting up with rink problems. It's sad that these problems still continue in 2025!
Just moved here- been skating and playing hockey my whole life , it would be awesome to see more opportunities to play and enough ice time to allow for this.
Keeping children in sports learning teamwork, and self confidence are important. Therefore they stay safe and out of trouble. We can't deprive them of their hobbies, that's when they choose otherwise, we need another rink and more girl teams!
Kids have a right to enjoy sport and physical literacy.
Kids need it for sports. There is not that much it this town to do on rainy days during the winter.
Kids need opportunities for recreation other than outdoor extreme sports. Not every child is into rock climbing, trail running and mountain biking. Hockey is an important part of a community culture that Squamish is lacking right now. My parents live in Campbell River and its great to see the community turn out at the minor hockey games.
Kids who skate should be able to access sports in their community. Many of our aging population also still play hockey and skate for exercise and we could possibly host more events on a rink here to bring funds into the rec center if we had the availability.
Kids, adults needing to leave town to play hockey, figure skate and then there are the people who enjoy public skate. Just makes sense.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Kids. Community hockey league.
Less arguments over ice times between SMHA and the figure skaters, each can skate in their "own" rink, younger hockey players could have more ice time after school instead of 5am ice slots, the men's leagues wouldn't have to have as late of games. As well as opening up more ice time availability during peak skating season, we could see more women on the ice in Squamish and work towards having more opportunities for young girls who are trying to make their way through hockey in Squamish and the sea to sky.
Less ice available means less players and families feeling the benefits of community spirit and physical well being. Hockey is part of canadian culture
Long time overdue
Main reason is all kids should have the opportunity to play the game I grew up playing within Squamish. We have out grown the arena 10+ years ago and yet nothing has happened. Secondly, hockey is a sport where everyone at all ages love playing and is how some adults stay in shape. With minimal ice times available for leagues, it is impossible to keep up with the growth of the Squamish community and many new faces cannot play hockey.
Many kids in my life cannot join extracurricular activities due to lack of amenities in Squamish. Squamish district is lacking majorly when it comes to supporting the people who live here, work here, play here.
Mental health, one of the only social outing I have in the winter and then the men's night games are mostly at 11:00pm which gets you home for 1:00am with a high heart rate to go to bed. This is brutal as I have to wake up by 6:00am for work. I feel let down as an adult. I can't imagine how the kids feel. Knowing this town, Chris P will only approve it if all players bike to the new rink..
More ice time & space for the kids & revenue for the 'town'.
More opportunities for our kids!
More opportunity for youth to play locally instead of needing to commute to the north shore or whistler, less people on the road that's already busy. Smaller towns have more ice than Squamish, and this community is only going to get bigger.
More programming for kids and adults!
More recreation for kids and adults. Bring business such as ice hockey tournaments to town.
More recreational time needed! I understand the majority of people in this initiative are asking to support competitive needs, which is completely valid, but I also think we need more space for good old healthy and fun recreational skating (kids and families).
Most places have one. We have so many kids here aswell as adults who play not to mention figure skating and leisure skating. This is long overdue and would make a huge difference. Also what would be nice is something like what salmon arm has, they have the salmon arm silverbacks you pay a cheap ticket price and it's an awesome game with loads of concession and bars serving drinks almost like a Canucks game. Far fetch that we would ever have that but just a thought!
My 2 girls wanted to join a hockey team but there was no female option, nor space on a co-ed team due to lack of ice time! We are far beyond due for another rink. Squamish council, our youth deserve better than this!
My cousin plays hockey, has a family and because there is only one rink had to play / practice at 11pm. Embarrassing how few amenities are available for our town

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

My daughter is a competitive figure skater and has to commute outside of Squamish to get sufficient ice time which is unacceptable!

My daughter skates daily, and one rink isn't enough. A second rink would cut waitlists and late-night ice, giving more Squamish kids and teens a fair chance to skate and belong.

My daughter skates in town for skate sea to sky please give us a rink that works my daughter can't get to Whistler to skate

My daughter [REDACTED] is the last [REDACTED] that is still playing hockey. On more than one occasion, she has wanted to quit like her other friends from previous years. We need more access to ice to support girls in hockey.

Girls' hockey is growing—fast. Across Canada and beyond, more girls are lacing up skates, joining teams, and dreaming big. But without equitable access to ice time, those dreams are put on hold. Here's why securing more ice for girls' hockey isn't just important—it's essential:

1. Equity in Sport

Girls deserve the same opportunities as boys to train, compete, and thrive. Allocating more ice time to girls' teams is a tangible step toward gender equity in athletics. It sends a clear message: their sport matters, their development matters, and their presence on the ice is valued.

2. Supporting Growth and Development

As participation surges, so does the need for structured practices, skill development, and competitive play. More ice time means better coaching opportunities, stronger team cohesion, and a pathway for girls to reach elite levels—from local leagues to national teams.

3. Building Confidence and Community

Hockey teaches resilience, teamwork, and leadership. For many girls, the rink is more than a place to play—it's where they find their voice, build friendships, and grow into confident young women. More ice time means more chances to build these life-shaping experiences.

4. Breaking the Cycle of Underrepresentation

Historically, girls' sports have been underfunded and under-supported. By prioritizing ice access now, we help break that cycle and create a more inclusive future—where girls see themselves not just as participants, but as leaders in the sport.

This isn't just about scheduling—it's about shaping a culture that champions girls in hockey. Let's give them the ice time they've earned, and the space to shine.

My daughters are just starting their figure skating career [REDACTED] but I'm already having second thoughts as I work full time and I'm unable to take them out of town during the summers to practice when Squamish closes the rink!!!

My family in Squamish are all very passionate about hockey. 2 Grandsons [REDACTED] and my son plays and coaches there as well. I'm personally in [REDACTED] Ontario with 3 ice surfaces and a population of about 44,000.

My grandsons play hockey

My husband plays men's league hockey and one of the game times is 11:15pm on a weekday. All these men work early in the morning and now my husband and I have a newborn and he won't be able to play this year because of the times. We also would love to put our child in hockey when he's old enough.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

I played on the Squamish Eagles my first 6 years of hockey. Barely any ice times a week, and no room to grow. I had to leave Squamish to play in Vancouver, commuting everyday, two hour drives just so I could play a sport i love. Now playing NCAA ice hockey in college and no thanks to Squamish. I wish more than anything for when I eventually raise family here to give them an opportunity. And as of right now there is nothing for us in Squamish. We prioritize letting people into Squamish and jamming town houses here, when in reality we should be worried about keeping the families here that helped build the town to where it is now.
My son and husband both play hockey in Squamish
My son can't even join hockey. No space in his age. He is 7. Stay up-to-date with (very) occasion 24
My son has wanted to play hockey yet unable to join...He's almost 9! It's a shame kids don't get to play on ice in Canada!
My son is 13 and as an attempted late joiner to hockey we have been trying to register him for a couple years now. The reality is he will never be able to join a team and play because of the dire lack of access to ice in Squamish. It's both sad and incredibly frustrating that our children in Squamish do not have the same basic access to amenities that those in other towns do. Having the opportunity for youth to be involved in ice sports has wide reaching benefits- greater health and wellbeing of the child, supports mental and emotional development by building resilience and discipline, enables development of social skills like team work, also being part of the hockey community fosters support and friendships. I moved to Squamish 15 years ago and at that time was hearing there wasn't enough ice time/space. It has been a complete and total failure of the city that here we are 15 years later with significant population growth and the issue has only continued to worsen to an appalling level.
Now is the time to fix what's needed to be fixed for decades- no more excuses. Do better Squamish. Our kids deserve it.
My son is an avid jr. Star figure skates and is really missing out on his activities. :(
My son plays for Squamish Eagles, and my daughter would like to take up figure skating. one rink is not enough for our growing beautiful community
My son plays hockey and for years we have been struggling with extremely early or very late practice times and and often have played fewer practices each week because of no ice time. The single sheet of ice was an issue 10 years ago. There has been time and opportunities to plan for the expansion of the rink but it has clearly been neglected by past and current community leaders. Good luck with your petition and let's hope that this message is heard. Thank you!
My son plays in Whistler all kids should have access to hockey
My son plays minor hockey and my husband plays in the adult league. My son's practice time last year was 5:30AM, which left him tired for school and struggling to focus. My husband's ice times were very late at night. My daughter played hockey until she was [REDACTED] at which point she was interested in playing on an all girls team. There are no girl's team options available in Squamish, and she has sadly dropped out of hockey.
My son was super excited to start hockey this year. Now with the closure of the rink for renovation issues he is patiently waiting for his chance. They have no idea when it will reopen.
Needs to be done a long time ago. Should have partnered with WLNG a long time ago.
No available ice at a decent hour for children or adults alike. The entire complex is run down and frankly embarrassing to have other communities come here to play us.
No child, or adult, should be turned away from participating in active sports because of lack of space. It is time that the district made the investment to provide adequate facilities to meet the needs of its community, starting with a second rink!
No ice time for adults!!
No kid deserves to be turned away from sports and healthy activities if the reason is because of lack of facility space! Do it for the kids!
No kids should be turned away from sports because there's no ice time available!!!
Not enough availability for different usage and age groups.
Not enough ice
Not only do I personally play hockey and love it for the amazing community of women I have met through this game (as well as the workout), but I have enrolled my toddler in canskste so he can learn to skate, and play hockey, and hopefully love it too! Team sports are essential to the mental health of our youth and teach invaluable life skills. Having enough ice so that all ages of our growing community can have access to 'reasonably' scheduled games, practices, be it for skating, hockey, or open family skate is crucial for everyone in the community.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

one rink is not enough for the population as it is and the growth in Squamish demands it.
One rink is simply not enough for the current population, nor is the one pool.
One sheet of ice is not enough for a town this size. The children of Squamish deserve more opportunity for ice time!
Opportunity for youth to engage in sport!
Our community has vastly grown and in order to support recreation for kids and adults we need another rink to ensure everyone has an opportunity to take part in ice based activities
Our community is increasingly growing with Bo signs of stopping. If you don't have your kids in hockey by the time they're 4 then it's too late and they can't join. It's ridiculous.
Our community urgently needs an additional ice pad at Brennan Park to truly meet the needs of all residents, from youth to seniors. The current amenities are inadequate and are preventing people from accessing sport in a fair and reasonable way. Families should not have to leave their own community so their children can participate in sport, nor should busy parents be forced into 11:00 p.m. ice times that make balanced family life nearly impossible. Programs like First Shift, designed to introduce new families to hockey at an affordable rate, should be celebrated and supported locally, yet we were deeply disappointed that it was not available for our children due to insufficient facilities. Expanding our ice capacity would not only increase access but also strengthen community connection, support youth development, and promote lifelong participation in sport. My fondest childhood memories were spent participating in and watching local sports, where the recreation centre was truly the hub of the community. That is what every child and family deserves. Unfortunately, Brennan Park does not reflect that standard. Having traveled through many communities across Ontario and BC, I have seen what is possible, and I cannot help but feel that Brennan Park has become an embarrassment compared to other facilities. Our community deserves better—facilities that we can be proud of, that bring people together, and that provide fair access to sport for everyone, from youth to seniors.
Our current facilities are not enough for our community. Kids are being turned away from playing hockey. Shameful
Our facility is neglected and decrepit. There come a time when enough is enough.. we need to upgrade
Our growing community needs it. It shouldn't be just another sheet though. Build a new facility where the grass fields are now and level the old one when ready making room for turf fields.
Our hockey teams and figure skating community needs this!!
Our population has increased 3 fold, since our only ice rink was built.
Our son loves hockey! His interest supports him developing healthy active habits, as well as developing relationships and teamwork skills. Currently we are very under resourced for a community our size, which means less time to practice. For some families it even means their kids being turned away from trying hockey due to limited spots available. This only gets worse and worse the larger our town grows! I want this to be the best town possible for young families, and that should mean providing resource and facilities to match our size and to build a stronger community together.
Our son plays hockey and we can see the life long skills he's acquiring from participation in this sport. Every year though, we are dismayed to hear his friends cannot also join their local team because there is no space to accommodate them in the same age group. His friends are joining out of town associations. Access to and participation in recreation and sports are fundamental to community health, well-being and resilience. Squamish claims to be hardwired for adventure, but the lack of access to activities that help promote physical literacy for all ages really leaves behind those who aren't moving here for the adventurous lifestyle. This choice to only maintain one rink, or to not allow a private company establish a rink here, is putting a cap on our youth's ability to strive for excellence.
Our town has grown too much to only have one ice rink (and one swimming pool)
Our youth are disadvantaged in 1). Their development and 2). ability to join the ice sports they love and or show interest in.
Adults are stuck with late ice times that also make it difficult to participate in sports.
Ours is way to old
Outdated rink not enough ice times and turning kids away from playing hockey is unacceptable

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Playing hockey creates social connections that last a lifetime and is great exercise! Ice skating is a skill that lasts a lifetime .
Playing hockey is a great way to get out with guys from the community and get some good exercise. Playing at 11:15pm on a Wednesday and working early the next morning discourages people from playing and spectating. Also these Brennan park is the only rink I have ever played at with a pool in the same building. Probably not the best idea. The waterfront development has my vote for a new facility!
Playing men's adult hockey, the ice times are always way too late, making it hard to make the games. With another rink it would allow for earlier ice times and more inclusion for adults to participate.
Rapid population growth, facility disruptions, and long-term facility investment goals all point to the necessity of expanding ice infrastructure. Squamish will lose its charm and citizens if the towns elected officials can't plan for the future. Squamish could even benefit from a Junior A ice hockey team. But not with 1 barely operable ice rink.
Squamish's ice rink infrastructure is notably limited: Just one indoor rink for a population of nearly 24,000. that is far less than the national average per capita. Only two rinks serve the entire Sea to Sky corridor, further stretching capacity.
This contributes directly to the community push for a second ice rink, given high demand and reliability issues with the existing facility.
Reasonable ice times for all ice users / but realistically it's more than just another ice pad.. a larger and better serviced community centre is what is needed
Recreational skating and ice sports has been a huge part of our family life since moving to Squamish in 2005. As our town grows it has become more and more important that our ice facilities grow to match our population needs. We need a second ice rink now not in 5-10 years time.
Ridiculous ice times for the kids and men's leagues. Our community has grown so much the rec center needs to as well. We need these amenities not to mention a bigger pool
Ridiculous that a town of our size it's failing on so many amenities and necessities. Our ice rink has fallen into disrepair right before the start of hockey season and now all the parents and children are scrambling to drive out to Vancouver to share their ice rinks. Ours is already busy enough on a good week, we need another to lighten the load and as a alternative. Council is failing this town at every turn.
Senior citizen should not have to practice at 10 at night. The current rank is inaccessible any elder cannot make it up those side stairs and they have to sit and freeze in the penalty box watching their grandchildren skate. We need more accessible arena or even open the lower portion to the bleachers so you don't force 80 year-old people to walk up the stairs of death.
Should've had one years ago the community is growing fast , you need to hear what the people want
So adult league games aren't at 10:45.
So all ages and user groups have the ability to get on the ice.
So all children and their families can have an opportunity to use the ice rink at a reasonable time!
So every child has a chance to play/ participate!
So family and residents can get lots of ice time without driving the highway! Not at 10:30 pm!
So I (a mother and woman) and my kids can play hockey more than once a week at a decent hour. My husband can keep playing at 11pm if he wants.
So more kids in our community have access
So my husband as a senior can have a decent time to play hockey. I also skate and would like more times for seniors drop in social skate. It is about mental health and physical health for all age groups.
So our young kids don't have to wake up at 5 in the morning for practice before school.And many other reasons
So people can use our facilities rather than travelling to the lower mainland.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Sports of all kinds are the key to building community and encouraging healthy childhoods. The DoS has a responsibility to keep up with community growth and demand for recreation facilities.
SQ is so long over due for a second rink. Council should have been asking LNG to support this instead of burning its bridges with this organization. Developers should be contributing through DCC charges. Make it happen.
Squamish has grown in population BEYOND the point of this city only having ONE rink and, in general, super old rec center. It is time for an upgrade!!!!
Squamish has needed a second rink for over 20+ years. One rink does not support our community's needs that include figure skating, youth hockey, old timers, men's and women's leagues and recreational skating. It is an embarrassment to host hockey tournaments and old timers are forced to play at the latest of hours. More of our community should be able to access this resource within a reasonable time.
Squamish has needed an upgrade for our kids for way to many years now. Time to stop building and focus on what the younger generation needs to succeed and support their young passions. Make it easier for our hard working parents to support their kids in their own communities that all of us tax payers pay Soooo MUCH money for.
Squamish has needed the second sheet of ice since I played ringette over 40 years ago and now with the poor planning of the district for many many years, we are very very much behind the times. And now there's a population room as well as a government mandate to increase homes. This is ridiculous and that mandate should be stopped until we have better amenities the pool and the ice rink are just the tip of the iceberg around here. The poor planning of the district shouldn't be blamed solely on the council. I think there's a lot more going on behind the scenes than anyone realizes, and I think those people running things behind the scenes need to show their faces and be accountable. I feel the district is pretty top-heavy with management that are not doing their jobs properly and hiding behind the council. The money that could've been received from the LNG project to help facilitate a new facility would've been amazing. Who behind the scenes is making huge decisions on behalf of the residents of Squamish without asking what our wants are? Let's get them to speak out and see what they've recommended over the years because the council is the one that listens to the management running the show behind the scenes. It is time to expose what's going on behind the scenes of this town and also why the government is not helping the situation. There's obviously problems in this town and for the government to lay more housing on the district to meet those requirements is ridiculous when there's not enough amenities for anybody here as it is. And facilities are so outdated as it is. Brennan Park is getting a facelift, but it doesn't include the pool or the rink. And shouldn't the renovations be managed a little more efficiently?
Squamish has outgrown its single ice sheet. Minor hockey is at full capacity, with many kids unable to join — an unacceptable situation for a town of this size. Our women's programs also cannot expand despite having the numbers to do so. Simply put, our community is maxed out on ice time. A second sheet of ice is essential to ensure fair access, support growing demand, and keep kids and adults active in the sport we love.
Squamish has to be the only town with more than 20,000 people that only has 1 rink... absolutely pathetic! 10 years too late, but also never late than never, let's do this!
Squamish ice rink & aqua centre is completely inadequate for the size of our community and the expected size that we plan to grow. District of Squamish should be ashamed of them selves for not addressing these issues properly years ago.
Squamish is a family-oriented town. A second ice rink provides greater access to activities for youth who are constantly seeking age appropriate activities to do. Squamish has very limited indoor activities for youth to participate in. Despite other priorities, recreational facilities are considered high priority for this community.
Squamish is a growing community with limited ice time. Families, youth, and adults in both hockey and figure skating face waitlists, late-night practices, and missed opportunities due to the shortage of ice space. A second, modern rink would support healthy lifestyles, community connection, and give local athletes a chance to thrive without having to travel elsewhere.
Squamish is a growing community, home to many families with young people who need recreational spaces to stay active, train, and thrive. Ice sports are not only a great way to exercise, but they also teach perseverance, discipline, and teamwork. My daughter is a figure skater, and we feel so fortunate to be part of a wonderful local club with dedicated coaches and passionate skaters. However, the reality is that ice time is extremely limited. The kids simply don't have enough access to the ice they need to continue progressing in their sport. A second rink in Squamish would open doors not only for figure skating, but also for hockey, recreational skating, and school programs. It would be a direct investment in the health, well-being, and future of our youth.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

Squamish is a growing community, with sports and recreation being a promenade part of the community. Squamish needs and deserves the additional space for members of the community to engage in recreational activities, especially for the children and youth, they need a space to stay active, to build social connections and self confidence through sports programs.
Squamish is a rapidly growing community with a population that has far surpassed what the current rink can support. Not everyone wants to mountain bike 24/7 . This community needs more rinks so everyone can enjoy them.
Squamish is a rapidly growing community with a young, active population and a strong demand for recreational infrastructure. Our single rink is currently operating at full capacity, limiting availability for programs like hockey, figure skating, public skating. Many families face scheduling challenges, long waitlist or have to travel to Whistler, or North/ west Van to access ice time- which is not sustainable or inclusive.
Squamish is growing at a rapid rate and our amenities are not keeping up. Ice time and sw
Squamish is home to so many young and aspiring athletes. It's a missed opportunity that so many don't have access to rink time and must travel so far just to get a daily practice in. This takes a great toll on parents in the form of time, money, and energy. Squamish can do better for the kids.
Squamish is one of the fastest-growing communities in B.C., and demand for ice time at Brennan Park has far outpaced what a single rink can provide. Hockey, figure skating, mens league, women's league, and recreational programs are competing for limited hours, leaving many families and athletes without fair access. The recent humidity-related closures at Brennan Park also highlight how fragile it is to rely on just one sheet of ice. When the rink is closed, the entire community loses access and it impacts youth development, recreation, and community well-being.
Squamish is turning down kids who want to play and the "beer" league is playing at god awful hours. It is obvious that Squamish has outgrown the single rink and small change rooms. We need more infrastructure for the families who live here.
Squamish isn't usually cold enough for natural ice outdoors so the kids & adults need somewhere to skate where it's cold and dry! I'm in my 60s and I still love to ice skate!
Squamish minor hockey is currently having to turn away kids due to lack of ice time. I couldn't imagine a single kid being turned away from participating in a sport. Currently we are having to travel to Langley a 1.5 hour drive for a 8 am ice time which means the kids have to be on the road by 6am. The over 50 league has had ice times taken away and the over 35 league has games as late as 11pm on week nights. The other various groups such as sea to sky skate (figure skating) and squamish women's hockey are unable to expand their programs. Having a second rink is the minimum requirement, another 2 or 3 sheets would be all used to the fullest extent. Other organisations such as shift hockey and pivot are restrained by the single sheet. They could host camps year around with a huge economic benefit to the community. The ability to host hockey tournaments is a major influx of money to the community. The average tournament has 8 teams per division. That's approximately 150 hotel rooms, meals at local business, sport shops providing gear or skate sharpening... The benefits a huge to our community and requires action now. Thank you
Squamish needs a second rink. Access to skating and hockey is a fundamental aspect of being Canadian. The town has grown too much to still provide access with just 1 rink.
Squamish needs a second sheet of ice to sustain the growing demand for hockey, figure skating and recreational skating.
Squamish needs to figure it out. We left town due to the poor recreation facilities in the town. Grow up
Squamish needs to upgrade their infrastructures to keep up with growth
Squamish residents deserve more ice time, a second rink would allow that :)
Squamish residents need more opportunity for recreation- for ice skating lessons and hockey practice for both kids and adults. It should be something everyone can enjoy!
Squamish so desperately needs a second rink. No child should be turned away. Being a long time local (born and raised) and seeing this town grow as much as it has, a second rink would allow every kid to be in the ice. It needs to happen.
Squamish urgently needs a second ice sheet because one sheet of ice in an old, dilapidated building cannot support a rapidly growing community of over 25,000 people. The current facility is at full capacity, with many children turned away from hockey programs and those who do get in forced to share ice time with other teams. Older players often need two dressing rooms due to space limitations, and recreational skaters are left with late-night ice times starting at 10:30 or 11 p.m. A new rink is essential to meet community demand, provide fair access to sports, and support the healthy growth of youth programs in Squamish.
Squamish's population has grown so much, our current rink is not big enough for people to comfortably enjoy free skating, or even watching games.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

support kids sports and local activities its long over due for a new one build a SPCA
Support youth sports and not make families drive to Langley to practice
The arena has not changed since I played Rinegate there 30 years ago . The population has doubled since then .
The community desperately needs a second rink to keep up with the growing demands.
The Community is currently underserved with indoor recreation options, including the lack of ice surfaces to meet the demand of the local population and associations. We need new facilities.
The community, particularly the children in this community, deserve better!
The current ice surface is over-capacity and children are being turned away from hockey and made to play in communities outside our own. A second rink is needed to support Squamish's increased population.
The current lack of rink space is already forcing development programs into school hours, disrupting education and limiting opportunities for our kids. Families are being turned away from sports in a community that prides itself on recreation. If we truly want to live up to that reputation, we must invest in a new rink—because right now, we're failing our youth.
The demand for another rink is insatiable. I encourage any future council to be open to all possibilities even those that might be in line with their broader political views. There are a material portion of the community that would have been fine with Woodfibre LNG building a rink.
The demand for ice time in Squamish has far outgrown the capacity of our single rink. A second sheet of ice would not only allow more children, youth, adults, and seniors to participate in hockey and other ice sports, but it would also strengthen the sense of community that these activities foster. Across Canada, rinks are hubs where teamwork, resilience, and life-long friendships are built—values that benefit both individuals and the wider community. Investing in a second rink is an investment in the health, well-being, and connectedness of Squamish residents, now and for generations to come.
The demand is there to support at least a second sheet of ice. The population has grown substantially since I was a kid, when we only required one sheet of ice.
The existing one is too old
The existing rink and facility cannot support the growth and demand . This has been a discussion in this community for 20 years. Corporate business (s) have offered to contribute to a redevelopment/2nd sheet of ice at Brennan Park , our elected officials declined their offer
the fact the town of Squamish is still relying on the same rink I used growing up is mindblowing. The population as more than doubled since I grew up! Poor some funds into the youth instead of stupid condo developments.
The first rink is ancient, Squamish minor hockey isn't allowing people to re join their association because they're full. Community is continuing to grow
The girls need their own league!!
The ice times here need immediate improvement. Along with all recreational sports.
The kids and youth struggle in this technological world, being a mother of 3 not all the kids like doing sports But we need to push and have it easy for the ones who like it Is ridiculous the schedule there is for kids that wants to do figure skating or hockey and they have to do it before school
We need to keep alive the enjoyment they have for sports

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

The kids of Squamish need to be given the opportunity to learn to skate and to play hockey. With the growing population, there is already too much demand on the existing facility.
The population has grown so much in Squamish and recreation facilities including the ice rink and pool facilities have not kept up. This should be a priority investment for the district.
The population is growing and the kids need more to do!
The population is growing. Children and adults should not be denied in participating.
The rink is old, full and way past its time for the population. There is not enough support with one ice pad. The ice is also in dire need to be redone as the ice itself has been terrible.
The rinks are out of date let's make the outdoor capital actual be a place for sports to come and play!
The slate and hockey program need to be able to grow. I have two daughters and my concern with how little space there is for new kids to sign up if they're not already in the hockey program at the earliest day possible they will miss out on the sport if they're decide to join because they won't have space.
The town has a population that requires it.
The town has grown, so has the need for more ice!
The town needs on desperately.
Their is not nearly enough ice time for all the user groups that use the current ice rink.
There are a lot of people that use this facility children, youth, adults etc. they should not have to drive to Whistler, north van or west van to use their ice.
There are no ice
Times. No kid wants to be up at 5:30 am to practice to get ice. We have so many users we need a second ice. Our taxes should be put towards what we need. Why can't we change the bylaw and accept
cooperate donations ? Lng would have built a beautiful faculty
I strongly suggest you check out Fort Nelson a small town but received donations and have a beautiful facility. Fort St. John has an incredible 3 level facility. With all do the new homes being built there is no way Brennan Park can support the newcomers to town. Funny how the northern communities work together and create beautiful facilities for a population way less than ours. Taxes keep getting raised but we have nothing to show for it.
There are obvious reason why we need a second (or third, if really looking long term!) is this town has just undeniably outgrown one rink. There is a huge hockey and skating
community here, and there are so many kids missing out a chance to be included in any on ice activities. The ice schedule is next to impossible to navigate – leaves kids as young as 9 with 5:45am practice
times, weekends and before school. There are so many missed opportunities with training and or even just being included in these sports for our kids, with young players being turned away from joining
teams as there just isn't enough ice time, with some being forced to travel 45 minutes just so they can play on a team. It's very disappointing, especially seeing other, even smaller communities with better facilities and more options.
There are other communities in BC with far less of a population with two or more sheets of ice. There aren't a lot of extra curricular activities for youth and another sheet of ice is much need to get kids off waitlists and also to have public skate available.
There are so many kids here and not enough ice times. We are behind every other club in our league. A recreation centre is the nucleus of a community. Our rink isn't even working so we had to drive 3 hours to Langley to tryouts.
There are too many skaters and not enough ice
There is not enough ice to facilitate this growing community. During hockey season there is not extra ice for families, men's and ladies leagues.

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

There is simply not enough ice time for programs. Many groups have super late ice times and that isn't feasible for many. Which leads to less playing and ultimately less people buying memberships for Brennan Park in general. There is a demand for womens teams.
there needs to be an easy path for kids who want to get involved in ice sports in Squamish, it's too difficult currently with the limited space.
There needs to be another rink in town to support the growing needs of our community !!!
There should always be room for kids looking to get into sports. More available rink time would go a long way to support the kids in the community.
Think of the children
This arena is downright embarrassing. The new rink is so overdue. Saying no to kids who want to play hockey is beyond ridiculous!
This growing town needs more amenities for kids and young adults.
This is 30 years overdue. My 5 year olds had to play Sat/Sun at 5:45 am due to ice shortages in the late 1990, over 25 years ago. I was the [REDACTED] the 2000s for SMHA and any changes /disruptions/playoffs required ice to be taken from away from one group to support another. Too many missed opportunities to build a 2nd rink with a private/public model.
This is sorely overdue by 15+ years. It's necessary not just to support the youth in our community but also for adult recreation! It's embarrassing that smaller communities in BC have more rinks and opportunities than we do with the rate of growth of this town.
This is the same sheet of ice I figured skated on 40 + years ago. My kids are no longer playing hockey, one aged out and the other lost interest due to the 5:45 am practices before school. Besides the rink, the change rooms are a joke. It's embarrassing what other Associations say about our "rec centre".
This town has continued to grow without adequate amenities. In a digital world were we want to keep our children and ourselves as adults active requires community centres and programs that are available for our needs. These band aids jobs are not cutting it and a new community centre and secondary rink is required to match the growth of its community members.
This town I was born and raised in has needed this for years. We only got an ice arena when I was in my teens! We used to go skate at the curling rink! We are a hockey and skating community! Our kids thrive for this recreation! Come on DOS think about our livelihood for our youth! They have suffered enough with not an adequate facility. Our town is growing far to fast and we need more ice to keep up with the population.
This town is growing we need it!
Three of four of our kids played hockey and unfortunately they all had to commute to the city for proper hockey problem the biggest problem was the lack of ice to compete and developer like the rest of the province, lacking in so many ways
To accommodate the demand for proper ice time for all ages.
To allow for all members of the community to have a chance to play sports they want to. Travelling to other towns for ice time is not achievable in the long run
To enable the children and families of this town the opportunity to enjoy and thrive in sports that they love. Children in sport creates confidence, determination, team work, focus, mental and physical heath, beautiful friendships and community. As a town known all over the World and visited for its recreation, the local citizens and children deserve to be a priority and have infrastructure to support growth & opportunity now and well into the future! A second sheet of ice is long overdue!
To grow the game
To keep up with the growth of the community. Provide opportunities and facilities to keep Squamish healthy.
To support kids playing ice sports so family's don't have to spend their time on the highway

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

To Whom It May Concern at Squamish Council, I am writing to express my deep concern and frustration with the state of our community centre. Quite frankly, it is outdated and falling far behind the needs of our growing community. • Rink: The rink is old, the stands are not insulated, and there isn't even a canteen to support families and teams. • Pool: The pool is retro, the chlorine levels are far too high, and overall it feels unhygienic. A conversion to salt water should be a priority for both safety and health. • Childcare & Gym: Families in our community need accessible childcare within the centre. The gym is badly in need of a facelift and updated equipment. • Swimming Lessons: The waitlist for swimming lessons is unreasonably long, making it nearly impossible for many children to participate. • Programming: The centre's programming does not reflect what children and families actually want or need. No child is playing pickleball — yet that's where resources are being directed. This facility is supposed to serve as the heart of our community, but instead it feels neglected, outdated, and mismanaged. It urgently needs investment and a vision that reflects the real needs of families, youth, and community members today. I urge you and council to make this a priority. Our community deserves a centre that we can be proud of — one that grows with us, not one that holds us back. Sincerely, [REDACTED] Mother of a seven year old.

Two kids in hockey - just got home 10p. From late night practice in city!

Two kids in hockey and a third on the way. Squamish minor hockey is already over capacity and families are choosing to play elsewhere due to lack of ice. Squamish is way over due for a new community rec center yet families are being abandoned while the town grows rapidly around them.

Ty his town is growing and the infrastructure needs to keep up! We need a second rink to support hockey, skating and just a place for our kids/teens to go!

We absolutely need one. It's about time.

We are a fast growing YOUNG town, full of children who need opportunities for these ice based sports. The district has not kept up with infrastructure at all, its a snails pace. I put in my 2 cents about Brennan Park revamp, I will say it again. I cant believe the amenities other small BC towns have when I pass through them, and with less population. Our community deserves much more, its own multiple ice rinks, and more than one (or an updated) pool, on the note! Throw in a weight room/gym too, while you at it! People should not have to drive out of our town to access ice (or pools- we often go to the West Van rec centre). Maybe instead of taxing all of us, charge these damn developers that are bringing more people up here a "rec centre contingency fund fee"....they are greedy and will pay it! Everyone wants a piece of Squamish. Just look at the highway every weekend! Thank you.

We are a growing community that greatly values ice sports and ice time is very limited.

We are directly effected by the ice shortage in more ways than one.

We are LONG LONG overdue for at MINIMUM an upgraded rink. I've played hockey in many other facilities in the Lower Mainland, Okanagan & Vancouver Island. Our current facility

falls FAR below average of what I've seen. Based on how Squamish is growing, and its reputation for being an "active community" the district has failed miserably at keeping up with our growing community.

As someone that grew up in this town, it's time to see major upgrades, and build a recreation centre (with 2 ice rinks) that lives up to the expectations that people have when they come to Squamish, and for our current residents. Get it done right!!!!

We are the recreation capital of Canada, and our recreation infrastructure should reflect that. It is time that our arena becomes a point of community pride.

We have a lot of athletic people who want a second sheet of ice to keep fit through the winter months.

We have a rapidly expanding town with a massive population increase expected. Our facilities are old, aging, and only available to a small number in terms of limited sign up for activities, lack of space etc

We have been battling in need of a second rink for many many years in Squamish. Our town is overflowing with people and children. Children who want to play Hockey public skate and figure skate.. It's very sad that in a town this big that should have way more infrastructure to support it have to take their children to other towns like West Vancouver North Vancouver, Burnaby, and beyond. This is long overdue! Instead of paying developers by giving them perk after perk, including golf course memberships we should have been getting them to invest in our town to support all this growth, like building a new rink and a new Brennan Park!

We have needed a second rink for years. Now with all the new developments built and future ones planned. We have no resources to accommodate this growth. The pool has been shut down this year and now the rink. Terrible planning and zero forward thinking from council.

We have needed more ice for the last 30 years. And myself [REDACTED] would utilize so much more ice time for women and children.

We have needed one for decades - let's not wait any longer!

We have no girl hockey teams. Kids when they reach adulthood have little option other than play in men's league which most the games are late at night. Scheduling at Brendan Park is absolutely horrible for random users of their yearly passes. They've needed a second ice pads 4 decades ago. We basically curtail in the summer shutting down the rink...brutal. They've spent 2 million on office space upgrades there- wtf for?

We have outgrown the old facility.. a facility

Second Rink Squamish Comments:

We leave squamish and drive to the city for our boys to play hockey. We started in Squamish and they loved hockey but it soon became apparent that the ice limitations in squamish were so bad and with no sign on the horizon of getting another rink we made the choice to move them to the city to play. We know people that have moved out of squamish because of this reason. Now I am just hopeful we will have a second rink by the time I'm a grandma. It's terrible for our youth and we could be doing so much more with ice rinks, hosting tournaments, games etc.
We need a 2nd ice rink in this town, to invest into our children that deserve to play the sport they love. Enough is enough, put our tax dollars towards our children and get a second rink.
We need a new rec center, period.
We need a second rink so badly! Our town is rapidly growing and the infrastructure isn't supporting us. A second rink would help give access to everyone for sports, recreation, more targeted programming for youth AND adults.
We need a second rink! I'm at teacher and having students practicing until 10 or 11pm or getting home that later because they had to travel for practice ice time, is unacceptable. It's impacting their ability to learn. Additionally Brennan Park has been set to be upgraded for YEARS now. Why have all the meetings for it not to have gone through yet. We got the funding, didn't we?
We need another rink to support minor hockey in town. We should not have waitlists or lack of activity for kids
We need another sheet of ice so ALL kids that want to play hockey CAN. It is crazy that 5 year olds are not able to sign up because there's no space!
We need it for the youth to do something in this town
We need it!!!!!!
We need it. Simple. My son plays hockey my daughter wants to. This is insane. My husband misses playing but hours of day available for everyone is insane. Minimal. Even towns voted worst to live in BC have better facilities.
We need more ice in our community for obvious reasons. To keep kids in our community, instead of having talent leave to the city, and taking away the competitiveness for our local teams. To bring in revenue by being able to host tournaments and competitions.
We need more space for indoor activities, and things that bring our community together — especially in the cold dark rainy months! Increased rink capacity would do wonders to bring more people under the same roof and build stronger ties.
We need, not want, a second sheet of ice to allow boys, girls, adults, and elderly adults more and equal access to ice time to develop skills and get involved in and develop their sense of belonging and community. Boys and girls, young and old, are being regularly turned away from skating and hockey due to a lack of available ice time. The district of Squamish, particularly Brennan park, is being poorly run and our property taxes being mismanaged and improperly spent.
We owe it to our youth to do better. They deserve access to reasonable ice time in the way other communities provide this.
We require an extra sheet of ice
We've had one rink since the 70s when there were fewer than 10,000 people in this town. With approximately 30,000 people and more coming everyday, it's time for a second rink and adequate recreational facilities. Towns smaller than Squamish, across the entire country, have better facilities than we do. It's embarrassing and maddening.
We've lived in the area since 2003 & had all three of my children accessing Brennan park constantly as they were growing up here, it needed work then, I also know that squamish council turned down a private donor who wanted to build a new 2 sheet arena about 15-ish years ago...what were they thinking?? Brennan park is so far gone now it's probably cheaper to blast it and build a new one!
We've need it since our children were young. Now our grandchild is okaying hockey and we travelled to Langley on the weekend to watch him practice.
Well, I've been playing hockey in this town for 27 years. We've needed a second sheet of ice every single one of those years. Not only would it be beneficial to every kid and the parent of those kids . It would also be extremely beneficial for adult hockey. It's a joke that kids have to be on the ice at 5:45 am and it's a joke that mens league games start at 11:30 when most people have to get up at 5 am for work.
With our population we are way under served, to compare us to any other town of similar size, 2-3 rinks would be easily expected. Also make rink outages much more manageable
With such an amazing place to live we need to have the space for our kids to grow within our community. Right now kids are leaving Squamish because we can't accommodate the numbers that want to play the game. My family 100% supports a new rink in Squamish.
With the growing community it is important to have different sport options for kids and adults and it is obvious squamish has out grown One sheet of ice.

Financial Planning & Taxation

Well I see once again your viewpoint of what sustainable tax increases would differ from the average persons. 2026-2028 of almost 13% tax increases is hardly sustainable (although better than the 15% in last years plan). Far above the level of inflation, expected raises, etc. You seemingly feel the need to have a plan or analysis of everything. Surely some could be saved for a later date?

Seemingly once again despite having record high expenditures instead of delaying non essential plans and line items we are forging ahead with new community park plans, expanded transit and updating every district plan someone has ever suggested

For a council that has a one track mind about climate I find it quite interesting that you suggest brine for anti icing as being so much better for the enviroment. While I agree it is likely better than rock salt in ditches, have you seen what it does to vehicles and equipment? Seemingly the lifespan of a vehicle being significantly shortened would be of some concern given the climate impact of manufacturing and shipping a vehicle? Also I look forward to seeing our replacement streetscape garbage bins being in need of quicker replacment due to accelerated rust due to brine usage.

Active transporation is a great addition to our community but I wholeheartedly disagree with councils war on vehicles. There is definitely a place for vehicles in this community going forward but it comes across as downright disdain. That we should all live without a vehicle and bike every where. Can't wait too see my pregnant wife biking to Squamish General while in labour this winter! Also ever tried showing up for an appointment after biking in the summer and you're just covered in sweat. I'm sure paramedical providers love that.

Before I dive into further non budget related things about our high cost of living in town (getting fleeced on gas and groceries much) I will conclude with my arguement that once again I feel our exceptionally high spending does not leave much room for additional revenue demands that pop up in the next few years. I also do not believe the forecasted taxation increases over the 10 year plan. I have a hard time believing we will be down to single digit taxation increases by 2029. The further out this plan looks the more uncertainy and unknown expenses remain unaccounted for. I believe it simply looks better on paper to be able to say look in the future we will spend less and then fill in the unknowns as we go along. "Needs no wants"

As a taxpayer, I am noticing an increasing trend for multi-generational families living in a single dwelling (i.e. 11 family members in a single 3 bedroom house) and 10-12 renters in a 3 bedroom house. My concern is that high density living is resulting in significant inequities in taxing (i.e. the school system, healthcare, water consumption, subsidized community recreation programs, transit; essentially everything the taxpayer is paying for. The town needs to move to a system of taxing according to the number of people in a household.

Household water consumption is being abused since it isn't being monitored at each household. I believe that I'm paying a huge water bill so that other households can have a beautiful lawn with their automated sprinkler systems or homes with multiple families (ie. 11 people in a three bedroom house). I would like to see home owners have the option of getting a water meter installed at their home, even if the installation is at their own expense, or the town move to have water metered at all households. I'm sure you would see a substantial reduction in water use with this approach.

I would like to see continued transparency about the District Budget and planning process. I want residents and stakeholders to be invited to participate in meaningful and integral ways in budget planning processes.

Amenities & Infrastructure

Community amenities

I am pleased to see that the Ravenswood park is back on the table. Our neighbourhood has got to be the highest number of children per-capita and it's ridiculous that we don't have a walkable playground nearby, especially when there is a huge empty field that many of us were promised would have a playground in when we moved in.

I love downtown and would love to see an effort made to improve sidewalks and also create a better sense of unity downtown with regards to the look and feel. You go to other small downtowns and they feel cute, charming, and cohesive. Ours is a Hodge Podge of parking lots random building and no clear vision. We could really use a designer to help us develop a clear identity and then have nice sidewalks to encourage more walkability.

Also omg can we please find our community centre, it's ridiculous that there are no adult arts or learning courses.

continued building construction with what seems to be a lack of vision for the infrastructure such as schools, well thought out street/community design, and of course the ever more over capacity, poorly retrofitted rec centre

I am thrilled to see that an updated childcare needs assessment is included in the budget. I hope that this will include addressing the woefully inadequate availability of before and aftercare services. This has a major impact on my employment mobility.

In addition, I am delighted to see there is a priority for updating "streetscapes". However, it is unclear from the language which neighbourhoods will be prioritized. I live in Dentville where there are virtually no sidewalks and no traffic calming in the *residential* area despite a high-traffic thoroughfare frequented by impatient drivers. The limited sidewalk on one side of the road is routinely blocked by parked cars, large puddles or overgrown hedges. During winter this is exacerbated by a lack of sidewalk ploughing (because of the overgrown hedges) leading to school aged children walking in the street alongside heavy traffic to get to school. It would be great to have in writing some assurance that this "streetscaping" resource will be implemented in an equitable manner, i.e. not *only* focused on more affluent neighbourhoods, and that we Dentvillers will finally see some progress in improving our pitiful streetscape.

Need for further community services to support young families amidst our rapidly growing population and the Districts plan to accommodate this

DOS needs to leverage their position with the province to secure funding for vital infrastructure and amenities before executing on the provincial mandate to grow our housing capacity.

Pool expansion

Improved sports and rec facility for expanded programming

Waterfront access- Improved boat launch and waterfront use areas for all.

Hospital

Roads

Pausing some of the future residential development approvals will impact tax revenue but constantly adding more people without amenities isn't working.

Pay parking is unpopular in the short term but can add lots of revenue. Choosing specific locations to have this might lessen the initial blowback. Ask Whistler about their day lots.

I'm not familiar with developer or community businesses expectations when they "offer" to build community facilities but it needs to be considered. Naming rights? Let Woodfibre build another soccer turf and call it Woodfibre Park.

Adding more paved trails is also a win for the community. More e-bikes are everywhere and having safe trail systems will greatly assist locals getting to/from places and maybe reduce some vehicle traffic.

A few thoughts from a resident who doesn't know the ins/outs of municipal government.

Last comment: stop hyper-villainizing businesses with terms like "man-camps" when trying for re-election. All communities have some polarized views but it doesn't help when council and mayors make comments like that. It tells us they aren't listening to everyone.

Public Safety

I am concerned about our lack and slowness to invest in the fire staff we had been told we would be getting- and yet the district okaying buildings 7 stories tall and other situations where rescue staff can not enter due to minimal staffing. That does not look to be increasing any time soon and should not be allowed. Also there is clearly concerns around the management of recreation and the equity that offers to our community and that it should be prioritised ahead of some other recreational goals due to all the issues that have come to be over the past year (perhaps a splash pad (minimal seasonal use) and more pickleball as well as additional trails can be put on hold. I am also extremely concerned about the transitional housing and affordable housing combination- likely some time and effort should be put in to making this as best case a scenario as possible and possibly that involves having construction access by the hotel and access to their parking moved there etc. less floors. I am also wondering why builders are not building sidewalks and lights and tax payers have to take it on in order to allow the proposal for funding to happen quicker- we should have both if we are being forced to take on these two without enough emergency and support services. In addition they will need better public transportation as they do not have much accessible to them in the current location. Honestly based on other communities that have been through it I am concerned it will go through without provincial and other governments taking on their responsibilities.

As a first responder in our community, I'm deeply concerned about emergency management.

We live in a climate crisis in a community that is very susceptible to natural disasters, including wildfire, flood, earthquake, and a volcano that is dormant now and currently completely unmonitored.

The study done by the district in 2020 estimated it would take nine hours to evacuate the Highlands seven for Valleycliffe and six for Brackendale-in addition, there is still only one road in and one road out of town and this road has already been closed multiple times for accidents as well as landslide.

As we embark upon this time of historic population growth like has never been seen before in the Sea to Sky, it is absolutely imperative that we look at emergency access as a key feature of plans before massive population growth.

There must be increased funding for things like fire smarting Merrill Park, which currently is a Tinder box waiting to burn down the Highlands. There must be more access put into the Highlands and Valley cliff before any more population growth happens with one road in one rolled out of these communities, a simple event like construction this summer completely shut down access to these communities for hours.

There are many things this community needs such as a decent rec centre that is open on weekends and can serve more than a small fraction of our community but if we don't have proper emergency response plans and access it is all meaningless.

Natural disasters are coming. I'm disappointed with the lack of funding for emergency response planning, and I am very concerned that massive population growth will just mean that more people die when the next natural disaster hits.

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Public Safety, Property Damage, and Winter Parking Restrictions

Dear Council Members,

[REDACTED], and during this time we have witnessed a significant and worsening decline in safety and livability in the downtown core.

Non-stop break-in attempts, thefts, vandalism, and repeated property damage for many of us living Downtown by Under One Roof and the 2x drug dens behind and across from the building.

This has cost Strata's and residents living downtown 100's of thousands of dollars in window repairs, lock replacements, cleanup costs, and stolen items.

This is a small group of repeat offenders and any empathy for these thieves is long gone and resides with the woman and children who no longer feel safe.

My [REDACTED] was spat on in broad daylight interrupting one of them in the middle of stealing a bicycle [REDACTED] at the Women's Shelter next door.

This behaviour has become increasingly common, and many residents we speak with feel their safety concerns are being systematically ignored.

In addition, the near-constant emergency response activity—sirens, fire trucks, and ambulances—underscores how concentrated these issues have become. Multiple women in [REDACTED] have stated they no longer feel safe walking alone at night. This should not be the reality for people living in the centre of our community.

Local small business owners have voiced similar concerns, noting that these issues are directly impacting customer access, staff safety, theft, vandalism costs and the commercial viability of the downtown core.

On top of these public safety concerns, the seasonal winter parking restrictions pose a disproportionate hardship for elderly residents, parents with young children, and those returning home from long workdays.

Last winter, there were many nights when we could not find parking within several blocks of our home.

After working long days and a drive , circling the neighbourhood at 11 p.m. just to park “legally” Dec 1st- March 1st is extremely frustrating especially when there is no or minimal snow.

With new developments at 2nd and Victoria now occupied, and hundreds of additional units approved along 3rd Avenue, the strain on parking will only worsen.

This is still a commuter town for many of us. Most residents don't have taxpayer-funded jobs nearby they can walk or bike to—we rely on vehicles to reach the work that makes living here possible. One-stall developments reflects ideology, not the reality of how this community actually lives.

Restricting half of the downtown parking supply for four months in response to only 2-3 substantial lasting snowfall events is disproportionate and does not reflect our actual winter conditions. There must be a better way to manage this.

The current situation is that residents are left without safe, accessible parking while simultaneously dealing with escalating safety issues in the surrounding blocks.

We have questions,

- **Where does the Municipality and Planning Department expect downtown residents to park once winter restrictions take effect in 7 days?**
- **What steps are being taken to address the escalating crime and safety concerns downtown?**
- **What is the long-term plan for managing the impacts of Under One Roof and both drug dens behind the building and across the street on neighbouring residents and businesses?**

When even some of the basics aren't being delivered like a community where women feel safe at night and where residents have basic services like parking spots many start to question what our taxes—and your salaries—are paying for.

We don't expect the District to solve a drug crisis created by grotesque and historic incompetence by the Province and Ottawa, and we understand the local RCMP are doing their best with limited resources with their hands tied by a justice system that refuses to hold criminal repeat offenders accountable — but you *can* fix the parking, because that part is entirely within your control.

What is your plan ?

Sincerely,

Squamish, BC



Dear Squamish Council

We are writing to request that the District of Squamish work with Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCM-SAR) and the RCMP to develop a water-lot design for a Water Safety Facility to be located on the municipal water lot in the Blind Channel. Squamish currently lacks dedicated water safety infrastructure on our oceanfront, and an appropriately sited facility is urgently needed to improve response capability, training capacity, and public safety.

For the past 5 years, RCM-SAR has been fundraising for the construction of a boatshed and training facility. The primary barrier to realizing this goal has been the lack of a suitable location with long-term security to protect the significant investment. RCM-SAR has now partnered with the RCMP, and included Squamish Search and Rescue who have additional needs for secure moorage. After exploring many options, we believe the water lot fronting Xwún'ekw Park and the east end of Main Street provides the most feasible location for a joint facility.

Rationale and problem statement

- **Gap in water safety infrastructure:** There is no dedicated water-based safety facility serving the waters of northern Howe Sound; this limits search-and-rescue readiness and coordinated marine patrol presence.
- **No marina availability:** After an exhaustive search, there is no available space in existing marinas that can host the required combination of boat shed, training space, and secure moorage.
- **Public safety and community benefit:** A water-based safety facility will reduce response times for maritime incidents, provide community training and outreach opportunities, increase patrol capacity, and enhance safety for recreational and commercial users of local waters.

Proposed facility concept

The facility can be designed to co-locate with a non-motorized public access dock will provide the following key elements:

- **RCM-SAR boat shed and training facility** to accommodate two RCM-SAR Dedicated Response Vessels, equipment storage and crew training space.

- **Secure moorage** sized to accommodate a new RCMP patrol vessel and the Squamish Search and Rescue Swiftwater jet boat.
- **Public non-motorized access dock** integrated to preserve and enhance recreational access while separating motorized safety operations from non-motorized uses. We believe that a new Water Safety Facility can be integrated with the intended public access dock currently designed.

Funding and partnerships

- **Capital funding commitment:** RCM-SAR will have the funding in place to fund the construction of the boatshed and training facility.
- **Operational partnerships:** RCM-SAR, RCMP, and Squamish Search and Rescue would use and operate respective assets from the facility, with opportunities for the organizations to host community training and public education programs. The facility will also facilitate improved joint training with Squamish Fire Rescue and BC Ambulance.
- **Support from the paddling community:** The operational partners have secured the support of the concept from the Squamish Paddling Club as a representative of the non-motorized water recreation community.

Requested Council action

We request that Council adopt the following direction to staff:

1. Direct staff to engage with RCM-SAR and the RCMP to develop a conceptual water-lot plan for the municipal water lot at Blind Channel that accommodates the Water Safety Facility and co-located non-motorized public dock.
2. Authorize staff to engage necessary technical consultants and coordinate required regulatory and permitting reviews with provincial and federal authorities as part of the water-lot design process.

Benefits to the community

- **Improved emergency response** and reduced risk to residents, visitors, and commercial operators on our waters.
- **Enhanced training capacity** for lifesaving and public-safety education.

- **Efficient use of municipally owned water lot** to deliver a tangible public safety outcome without requiring marina displacement.
- **Strengthened partnerships** between the municipality, federal and volunteer emergency services.

We urge Council to approve the requested direction so staff can begin collaborative work with RCM-SAR and the RCMP and bring options back to Council for decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Rob Walter



Rob Walter
Station Leader
RCM-SAR 4
Squamish



Cam Stuart
President
Squamish Search
and Rescue

Joey Pereira
Vice President
Squamish Paddling
Club

Parking & Transportation

I'd love to see a better outcome for the parking issues downtown. Current council has moved towards a walkable and 15 minute city - which is not attainable for many in our community. Housing costs have skyrocketed, groceries are all time high, and the district pushes more and more high density housing with minimal parking allotted.

I'm ready for a new council to run this town that actually prioritizes the people who live here and not the developers and the current council members personal gain and profit. We need so many amenities added to this town to sustain the people who already live here and not focus solely on tourism and growing the town. We have no room for more condos and no parking. We need serious thought on parking structures to satisfy downtown residents especially. We need a new civic center instead of doing pointless repairs that put the building out for months and then do it again and again and again. It is not big enough to sustain and support the town of Squamish. So much tax payer money is being allocated for pointless projects. We need more parking and more amenities. Money being spent on anything else is pointless and considerably self gaining by the current council members. If parking and a bigger and better civic center isn't top priority for this council then don't expect to be reelected. The people have had enough of your antics and not listening to the community on how to support the people who actually live here. Forcing us out of vehicles for your own agenda of fake climate change isn't going to go over well. Causing road blocks for major infrastructures that will prosper this province and town while approving condominiums everywhere without adequate parking downtown is lunacy. This council is so out of touch with the people THEY WORK FOR it's sickening. Parking and Civic Center should be the only things considered at this time because that's what we need. Not bike lanes. Not pointless strips of grass for dogs to do their business on while taking away MORE parking. No more big condo buildings downtown. I come from Saskatchewan and it is absolutely pathetic how much more my small town of 1200 people has compared to Squamish with over 30,000. Do right by the people or step aside so others who will can.

Skyline Drive

To Whom It May Concern:

Can I plead with you, that as you work on Skyline Drive that you not only convert it back into a residential road and not a collector street, **but you also place appropriate road stanchions on this route that you see in this video**, at the corner of Braemar and Skyline, as you do with the base of Skyline and Garibaldi Way? This way we could walk up the road in the walking lane and have the cars go around the stanchions? Currently they drive right into our walking lane which is dangerous on top of the velocity at which they travel and the lack of following the safety stop and speed limit signs. There are no sidewalks on this road and it makes it inherently dangerous to travel up and down the road.

We [REDACTED] travel this route daily to catch the bus, but we are not the only ones affected by this sketchy intersection. Because people don't stop at the stop sign, and are used to traveling right through without paying attention, we stay on the house-side of the road, and walk against traffic so we can see oncoming vehicles. As you can see, I took out my camera to capture this and it was captured within seconds. The vehicles drive directly into our walking lane. This is a crisis waiting to happen.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Housing Affordability & Cost of Living

I wish grocery prices and rental prices were controlled based on income in the Sea to Sky corridor - essential workers barely scrape by and many have to leave because they cannot afford the cost of living here.

Thank you for this opportunity and the interactive budget tool.

While I appreciate the encampment cleanup investment, I don't see upstream investments in housing, shelter space, counseling, and social support. Are these budgeted elsewhere? How might we shift focus to addressing root causes rather than just displacement and cleanup?

Environment

All future builds should be net zero.

Community rec center improvements should be a priority along with infrastructure.

Letters from Hikari Nakaya (Conservation Officer Service)

Regarding Secure Food Storage at Smoke Bluffs Park

Smoke Bluffs Park is a popular climbing destination that attracts many visitors annually. Unfortunately, the presence of unattended food at climbing crags has led to repeated incidents of black bears seeking human food rewards this summer. This behavior poses significant public safety risks and threatens the healthy wildlife population around Squamish. Bears accessing human food become food-conditioned, losing their natural wariness of humans.

Food-conditioned bears often tolerate close human proximity, increasing the likelihood of dangerous encounters. Over time, these bears may become bold or aggressive, which can result in situations where a bear could ultimately be put down (against public interest).

Reports through the RAPP line and social media posts confirm that climbers are concerned about both their safety and the bear's welfare. Despite seasonal signage, regular communications through social media channels and outreach efforts, the lack of secure food storage options remains a critical gap.

As a Bear Smart Community, installing bear-proof food lockers at strategic locations within Smoke Bluffs Park will provide climbers and park users with secure food storage, reduce human-wildlife conflicts, improve public safety, and foster a shared sense of responsibility for wildlife safety among the climbing community.

Furthermore, it can encourage community engagement (i.e. Squamish Access Society, climbers, residents, park users) and maintain the District's reputation as a safe and responsible outdoor recreation destination.

By taking this proactive step, the District will demonstrate leadership in wildlife stewardship and public safety, setting an example for other outdoor recreation areas across British Columbia.

Regarding Wildlife Attractant Fruit Trees

Trees provide significant value to our community, offering shade, beauty, and ecological benefits. However, fruit and nut-bearing trees can attract dangerous wildlife, including bears. There are several parks within the District that have fruit and nut trees, such as Rose Park, Smokey Downs Park, Smoke Bluffs Park, Eagle Run Park, Sp'akw'us Feather Park and Eaglewind Dog Park, where park users observed bears feeding from those trees. To reduce these risks in parks, proactive management is key.

The best permanent solution to alleviate this issue is to remove fruiting trees and replace them with non-fruiting species. This helps to reduce wildlife attractants in parks, and in turn, significantly reduce the number of human-bear conflicts in high-traffic areas. One example can be seen from 2018, where the District removed 10 White oak trees from a section of the Discovery Trail (behind the skate park) as it is designated as a Safe Route to School for the three schools in close proximity. (Link: <https://squamish.ca/government-and-administration/district-information/news/bear-attractant-oak-trees-to-be-removed-from-discovery-trail/>)

If food security is a concern, the District could consider having a community orchard that is protected by electric fencing to prevent bears from accessing the trees.

For short-term solutions, seasonal pruning, harvesting fruits early and picking up fallen fruits can help to reduce human-bear conflicts, improve public safety, and support wildlife stewardship. These short-term solutions also presents an opportunity for collaboration with local community groups and volunteers, fostering shared responsibility and engagement.

As a Bear Smart Community, residents can look to the District to set an example by taking proactive steps to responsibly manage fruit and nut trees. Taking these proactive measures will reduce human-bear conflicts and contribute to a safer community for both people and wildlife.

November 19, 2025

Attention: Mayor and Council

Re: Tourism Master Plan – Request for Inclusion in the 2026–2035 Special Operating Project Budget

On behalf of Tourism Squamish, I am writing to request the inclusion of funding for a Tourism Master Plan (TMP) within the District's 2026–2035 Special Operating Project budget.

Tourism Squamish has identified the need for a coordinated, community-aligned Tourism Master Plan for several years, and the urgency has continued to grow as Squamish experiences both opportunities and pressures tied to increased visitation. A clear, shared roadmap is needed to guide how tourism integrates with land use, transportation, parks and recreation, arts and culture, marine access, economic development, bylaw services, housing, environmental protection, and community amenities. As most of these are all municipal areas of responsibility, it is important that the District lead the development of the TMP.

Recommended Leadership + Governance Structure

To ensure the plan is grounded in community priorities and positioned for real implementation, we recommend the following structure:

• Project Lead: District of Squamish

The District should hold ownership of the TMP, direct the policy framework, and serve as the ultimate decision-maker. Tourism impacts cross nearly every municipal department; the plan must therefore be driven and adopted at the municipal level to be effective.

• Project Partner / Operational Lead: Tourism Squamish

Tourism Squamish would support the project through destination expertise, research inputs, sector relationships, visitor data, engagement coordination, and on-the-ground operational insights. This approach helps reduce workload for District staff while ensuring sector-specific expertise is fully integrated.

• Shared Steering Committee

A joint steering committee, including the District, Tourism Squamish and key sector representatives, would ensure that perspectives across the community are reflected.

• Capacity & Previous Barriers

In earlier discussions (2023 and 2024), the TMP was delayed primarily because neither Tourism Squamish nor the District's Economic Development function had sufficient capacity to support a project of this scale at the time. Tourism Squamish's internal capacity constraints have now been resolved, and with a more stable team and defined roles, we are confident in our ability to support the District as an operational partner in 2026.

• Why 2026 – Timing Rationale

The pace of visitation growth and associated pressures, trail use, transportation pinch points, accommodation constraints, and increased demand on municipal services continues to

accelerate. A Master Plan is needed to proactively address these pressures and guide investment, policy and service decisions over the next decade.

Launching the TMP in 2026 also aligns with the delivery of the 2025 Tourism Impact Study that Tourism Squamish has commissioned. The study's data, modelling, and trend analysis will be fresh and directly applicable, ensuring that Council has the benefit of current, relevant information. Delaying the plan further would risk losing the value of that investment and limiting the usefulness of those insights.

- **Funding Model**

Tourism Squamish is prepared to contribute financially toward the development of the plan. While the District would provide the majority of the funding, TS's contribution signals strong partnership and commitment to the process.

This governance model aligns with how tourism master plans are delivered in similar communities throughout British Columbia and ensures the final plan is implementable, credible, and grounded in municipal authority.

Estimated Budget & Partner Contributions

Tourism Master Plans for communities similar in scale and complexity to Squamish typically range from \$150,000 to \$250,000 depending on scope and level of engagement. We anticipate a total project budget in the range of \$200,000, with the District contributing approximately \$150,000 and Tourism Squamish contributing \$50,000. This shared investment reflects both the municipal role in guiding policy and land-use direction, and Tourism Squamish's commitment to supporting the sector with data, industry expertise and coordinated engagement.

The TMP previously appeared in the District's budget at \$100,000, which reflected a reduced scope and a more limited engagement process. A comprehensive community-aligned TMP consistent with best practices across BC requires broader scope and engagement, which is why the updated estimate is higher.

Request for Budget Inclusion

The TMP is not currently reflected in the draft Special Operating Project budget. The Mayor has requested that Tourism Squamish formally submit this information so that Council has what it needs to consider the TMP for inclusion during upcoming budget deliberations. Developing the plan in 2026 would provide clarity on priorities, growth management, community expectations, and investment decisions that support both residents and visitors.

Thank you for considering this request as part of the upcoming budget deliberations. We look forward to working together to advance this important piece of strategic work for Squamish.

Sincerely,



Lesley Weeks
Executive Director
Tourism Squamish

Tourism Squamish
104-38551 Loggers Lane Squamish, BC V8B 0H2

November 24, 2025

To: Mayor and Council

District of Squamish

Re: Tourism Squamish Comments on the 2026–2035 Draft Financial Plan

Tourism Squamish appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the District of Squamish's 2026–2035 Draft Financial Plan. As Squamish's destination management organization, our focus is on ensuring that tourism contributes positively to community well-being, local business vitality, and the stewardship values that matter deeply to residents.

Our submission is organized into three sections:

1. Items we are pleased to see included in the 2026 budget
2. Follow-up on items raised in last year's submission that remain outstanding
3. Comments on Economic Development alignment with Squamish's core economic engines

1. Items Tourism Squamish is Pleased to Support in the 2026 Budget

Transit Enhancements

We are encouraged to see continued investment in public transit, including FTN and South Squamish service expansion and the seasonal service to Alice Lake. These improvements advance sustainable access to high-use recreation areas and reduce seasonal congestion.

We also note that BC Transit's On-Demand service, scheduled to launch in Squamish in 2026, is not reflected in the current plan. While we recognize this may be addressed in future budget cycles, we encourage the District to consider the operational and infrastructure implications of this new service model as part of long-term transit planning.

Parks, Recreation & Outdoor Infrastructure

Tourism Squamish strongly supports the Parks & Recreation Master Plan update, ongoing climate-resilience and hazard-mapping work, and continued maintenance of parks, trails, and outdoor spaces. These investments are foundational to resident quality of life and Squamish's recreation-driven visitor economy. We also acknowledge several recreation-focused capital projects, such as upgrades in climbing and biking areas, that strengthen Squamish's identity as an outdoor recreation hub.

Support for Key Community Partners

We appreciate continued or enhanced support for SORCA, the DSBA, and the Squamish Arts Council, each of which plays a vital role in community vibrancy, trail stewardship, and cultural programming.

Arts, Culture & Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Partnerships

Ongoing investment in public art maintenance, cultural programming, and implementation of the District–Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw MOU provides meaningful opportunities for cultural expression and community storytelling.

Event Support Capacity

We are pleased to see increased staff capacity to support the growing number of community events. Events are an important contributor to local business vitality and play a significant role in the visitor experience.

Tourism Squamish
104-38551 Loggers Lane Squamish, BC V8B 0H2

Adventure Centre Renewal

We appreciate the inclusion of roof replacement and building-envelope repairs for the Squamish Adventure Centre, an important public facility for both residents and visitors.

District-Wide Planning Initiatives

We are encouraged by progress on the OCP update, Downtown Lighting Review, and Parking Strategy Review, each of which will help guide land use, infrastructure investment, and community amenities.

2. Follow-Up on Outstanding Items from Last Year's Budget Submission

Tourism Master Plan – Not Included

The previously funded Tourism Master Plan does not appear in the 2026 budget. Tourism Squamish has submitted a separate letter outlining the rationale, governance model, and recommended timing for including the TMP in the Special Operating Project budget, and we respectfully reiterate this request.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Timing

While included in the 2026 budget, the timeline remains later than previously recommended. Given Squamish's rapid growth and rising pressures on recreation amenities, bringing this work forward would support better alignment of land-use planning, capital investment, and long-term stewardship.

Marine & Waterfront Planning

The Marine Impact Study is included; however, broader waterfront planning—particularly around watersports access, marine recreation, and visitor infrastructure—remains unaddressed. This gap has implications for residents and tourism-related businesses.

Adventure Centre – Site Circulation

Parking lot and site circulation improvements remain absent, despite earlier identification of these needs. Enhancements would improve visitor flow and overall site functionality.

Outdoor Recreation & Green Economy Studies

The Outdoor Recreation and Green Economy impact studies funded in previous plans do not appear in the 2026 workplan. These studies remain important for understanding and supporting two of Squamish's key economic sectors.

Airport Strategic Planning

While the Airport Processes & Procedures Manual appears in the plan, long-term strategic planning for the Airport particularly related to land-use certainty, lease structures, and aviation-based tourism is not included.

Visitor Accommodation & Tourism Land-Use Planning

The OCP rewrite provides an opportunity to integrate visitor-accommodation planning, hotel zoning, and tourism-related land-use considerations. These elements are not currently reflected in the Draft Financial Plan and remain important for managing future growth and addressing existing accommodation constraints.

Economic Development Transparency

Economic Development continues to be represented primarily through special projects, with limited visibility into core operating activities. Greater clarity would support improved alignment with community partners and the sectors that drive Squamish's economy.

Tourism Squamish
104-38551 Loggers Lane Squamish, BC V8B 0H2



3. Economic Development Alignment with Squamish's Core Economic Engines

Tourism Squamish supports destination development, stewardship programs, visitor services, and industry engagement; however, core economic development functions sector strategy, business retention, long-term planning sit with the District.

The 2026 Economic Development workplan remains weighted toward large industrial project coordination, policy administration, and technical research. While these are important initiatives, the absence of programming that supports tourism, small businesses, and the outdoor recreation economy represents a strategic gap. These sectors contribute substantially to employment, economic activity, and Squamish's identity, and require dedicated planning and support.

Conclusion

Tourism Squamish supports many of the key initiatives within the 2026–2035 Draft Financial Plan and appreciates the District's continued investment in community assets, partners, and long-range planning. We have also identified items that remain outstanding and areas where greater alignment would support Squamish's long-term economic resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We look forward to continued collaboration in support of Squamish's residents, businesses, and visitors.

Warmly,

Lesley Weeks
Executive Director, Tourism Squamish

Tourism Squamish
104-38551 Loggers Lane Squamish, BC V8B 0H2

SORCA

SORCA needs to better funded. They are a net driver of revenue to the district.

Trails are why we live here and why people visit. Please do more.

Hi Mayor & Council,

Please see below comments related to the budget & funding for the Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association (SORCA).

SORCA has taken the past few weeks to reflect on Council's October 7th, 2025 motion to reduce the requested funding increase from \$47,500 to 10%, and we wanted to share a few thoughts. First, we want to express our appreciation for your continued support and the efforts made on our behalf. We recognize the time, advocacy, and care that went into the process, and we're grateful for your ongoing commitment to SORCA and the broader community. We also understand the challenging financial pressures the district is under and the tough decisions required from our elected officials.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide some corrections and clarifications, and to close with a request.

Inaccuracy of the Requested Increase:

While we understand that staff clarified the inaccuracy in the reported funding increase, that clarification came only after Council had reviewed the materials. By then, perceptions had already been shaped. Even if the outcome might not have changed, presenting the accurate \$47,500 increase figure rather than \$55,000, would have provided a more accurate context that would not have stood out as dramatically compared to other figures.

Rationale for the Increase:

When Council asked why SORCA was asking for "so much," the response that "it's what SORCA put forward" didn't reflect the depth of the discussion and planning that led to that figure. SORCA has worked closely with staff (Devon Guest, Sarah Morris, Devin Kiyonaga, Megan Latimer, and Jay Deo) since April 2024 to assess and communicate the need for increased support. As was suggested by staff, in our September 2024 presentation to Mayor and Council, we clearly stated: "In order to maintain the current service delivery, SORCA needs to increase revenues by a minimum of \$50,000 per year starting in 2026." (30min 45sec mark of this DOS video recording). <https://squamish.civicweb.net/document/242117?splitscreen=true&media=true>

To recap, the rationale for our requested increase is:

Increased land access responsibilities: SORCA has fulfilled its commitment to the District of Squamish by securing and managing additional private landowner agreements, ensuring public access to these parcels. Each of these results in growing costs to the organization.

Visitor rider volumes continue to grow: visitors now make up a greater share of total ridership, yet contribute little directly to trail maintenance.

Commitment to the Squamish Nation: we continue to fund and prioritize the Squamish Nation Youth MTB Program (~\$30k/year), a program we're proud of and eager to expand.

Volunteer fatigue: as ridership increases, maintenance demands rise, leading to burnout within our volunteer base.

Recognizing SORCA's Broader Role:

In addition to driving social and economic benefits to the community, SORCA is a partner to the District to execute multiple objectives in its Strategic Plan.

Perhaps the most important message for the future is that grant monies provided to SORCA are not an expense, but an investment with a measurable return to the community and the District of Squamish's tax revenue.

The data in the 2023 Cultural, Social, and Economic Impact of Mountain Biking in Squamish study clearly show that our trail network is a major social and economic driver for the community.

The trails not only generate \$52+ million annually in local and visitor spending and employ roughly 184 local jobs, but also directly and indirectly fund and support many of the same community service organizations that the Council is striving to increase funding for.

SORCA remains committed to working collaboratively to ensure that the contributions of SORCA, and the trails that define so much of Squamish's character, are recognized as an investment in community well-being and economic vitality with a proven and substantial return on investment.

In light of this, SORCA would like to know if there is an opportunity to revisit the 2026 investment with Council before the budget is finalized.

Thank you again for your time, support, and ongoing engagement. We look forward to finding ways to strengthen our collaboration moving forward.

SORCA deserves more. SORCA directly contributes to squamish municipality coffers 7 figures , according to real data. A 10 percent increase is not enough. Funding needs to go to organizations that create value first and other programs with whats left (womens shelter , firemen who just got two new halls in a town with few calls)

Three Identical Comments:

District of Squamish,

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Letters Addressing Multiple Themes

Feedback on 10 year budget

I read the article in the newspaper on December 3, 2025 about the project with some interest.

Some thoughts came to mind.

Consultants

I was dismayed to read about the amount of money you are proposing spending on recreation consultants, especially since you had already determined recreation needs only 5 years ago. I think it is quite clear from talk that has been going on since I moved here that a new swimming pool and ice rink is needed. Rather than try to determine all sorts of additional needs you should focus on what the community has been asking for - for a long time.

If these "recreation consultants" are needed to help identify WHERE to put these new facilities and DESIGN of these new facilities that would be okay, but anything starting from scratch or redoing what has already been done (only 5 years ago) seems like a waste of money. [FYI, because there were no lower priced community fitness programs - such as aerobics classes in a community centre I gave up on the idea of such. I would be delighted to see indoor space for community centre run classes - in aerobics, pilates, dance, etc.]

As an overall summary I would like the District to be careful how much money they spend on consultants as they often don't provide enough useful information to justify the cost. If you need outside help for design and construction that is fine, but needs assessment - hmm.

Fleet maintenance and replacement

Wow - you have so many vehicles that need replacing I felt like I was reading the inventory for a truck retail establishment! At any rate, I FULLY support all those you have listed for active transportation (sidewalks and narrow lanes) and snow & ice removal. I think this was about three.

Oceanfront Paving

I was a little dismayed to read that there is money that needs to come from District Reserves for some of this work and not all from DCC. There is no indication how much is from DCC and how much from reserves.

Road and Bridge Paving

Desperately needed! I fully agree with a pavement plan.

Road Painting Program

These comments in the big scheme of things are not super important but basically you need better oversight on the work that is done. For example. The line painting on the MUP at Mamquam and Highway 99 indicates that bicyclists need to bicycle THROUGH light posts (this

is not possible.). If you want to have a line there is should be dashed; not solid. Then when you get to the corner it is dashed and some of it would be more appropriate as solid. Another location of poor line painting is at the corner of Behrmer and Clarke Drive SE corner (where you redesigned the corner recently). As you head up the hill an old line was removed and the new one that was put in is too narrow and puts you too close to a ditch. I don't bicycle that close to the ditch.

Bus shelters

Why do you need consultants for bus shelters? Perhaps they are needed to actually build them? But the design?

No Name Park

It is nice that you create playgrounds for kids to play. However, if you ever want to find a nice quiet park to read and eat lunch; these are hard to find.

Adventure Centre

It is so sad to see money having to be spent on this - as it is such a White Elephant. It was located in the wrong place in Squamish for its original purpose. I would consider selling it to a private organization. I don't think it fulfills one of its original purposes. It should have been where the building JUMAR is - regardless of what a school PAC said.

Miscellaneous Observations

Cheekeye Fan Development - I'm not exactly sure where this is. However, it seems it is slated for development, which I'm guessing will be housing. Since all this housing is being urged by the province with their new policies, this might be a useful one to push back and say - we will do this if you provide the funding. (Most people don't say anything but I suspect there are many people who are upset with what is happening in the District regarding housing).

Squamish Nation Year of Truth. - No real issues with this but a \$50,000 apology seems expensive. I can only assume this \$50,000 includes more than an apology. [REDACTED]

Wastewater Centrifuge replacement - \$2.6M for two! Wow no wonder the district has trouble doing other capital projects. Definitely needed but definitely expensive.

Mamquam Bridge replacement - INCREASE of \$2.5M - so what is the total cost now? This is one small portion of the transportation and look how much it is costing!

Residual Water Long Term Planning - not exactly sure what this entails. However I saw an extremely interesting article about what Sweden is doing. I haven't read the entire article yet; but Sweden is actually asking for waste from other countries ... hmm. Here's the article. Probably for those in this line of responsibility is worth a read.2

<https://www.blueoceanstrategy.com/blog/turning-waste-energy-sweden-recycling-revolution/>

Improvements to the Transportation Network

When I got to this I was happy to see that at least some money is proposed for improvements to the transportation infrastructure. With the ridiculous increase in housing and hence population happening in this town it is desperately needed. It is almost criminal that the province; although urging you to build, and build and build (much to the dismay of many CURRENT residents) is not providing help to provide the much needed infrastructure that goes along with it.

Third Avenue. Yes this is an important road for getting around Squamish that is not on Second Avenue and Cleveland, both of which are currently overrun by cars. It needs a sidewalk and separate bike lane/path. (Not sure how you will achieve some of this (say in some stretches between Winnipeg and Main - which currently has neither and only has lots of parked cars in the way.). I would put this one as a high priority item.

Government Road. I'm not sure what you have planned here. It would be nice to know. Currently, parking on both sides of the road make it dangerous for bicycling. More room is needed for the bicycle lanes on either side of the road.

Westway - Multi Use Paths are not appropriate as transportation infrastructure - they are good as Recreational infrastructure - and that you have plenty of. The MUP's you currently have will become less and less useful for transportation as population increases. They ONLY work when use is low. It is NOT appropriate to put humans travelling at different speeds in the same narrow space. So, too, it is not a good idea for bicyclists to try to mingle with pedestrians either. You need to put a path that is wide enough to accommodate separate use - walking separate from bicycling.

Finch Road - proposed MUP. It is getting to the point, and I don't mean to be rude, where I feel like I am talking to people who make the decisions and build the infrastructure - truly do not understand. Multi Use paths are not good for bicycle commuting. They are great for recreation, they are great for inexperienced bicyclist. BUT, how would you like to have dogs, baby strollers, people out enjoying a walk (side by side) walking down the road you are driving?? Probably not much. It is bad enough in other areas of the district that I have to get in the way of cars because of parked cars on the side of the road. As the traffic increases this is resulting in bicycle commuting becoming more dangerous. I am not 100% sure which part of Finch is being proposed with this MUP the east side - might work as it might mostly be residential - the west of Logger's Lane - should have a divided path. It will work fine if it is not on the road - but needs to be wide enough to have it separated. I understand that creating a separate bike path is population triggered. If this is the case - the population trigger is set too high.

WHAT IS BICYCLE COMMUTING? Consider what you use your car for - bicycle commuting is using your bicycle to do the same thing. Therefore you are likely to go all over the district - all roads. Any major roads (Buckley, Queens, Government, Loggers Lane, Tantalus, Skyline, Highlands South, The Boulevard, Westway and Guilford) all need a path for bicyclists to stay out of the way of car drivers. And yes, this is not possible on some roads (eg Skyline and Highlands south - you have probably done what you can).

Capital Projects that don't even make the list.

When I moved here 10 years ago I wrote to say these three areas needed to be dealt with to improve bicycle commuting. (This is use of a bicycle in the same way you use your car - not as a recreational activity).

I will repeat them again. Yes, they are costly but as the roads degrade, and housing has increased they continue to become more important.

1. MUP south of Scott Crescent

This has a serious squeeze point (ie it is one lane with restricted viewpoints). It needs to be widened and the water flow needs to be dealt with as it seriously floods when it rains. Any person walking through it will get wet well above their ankles. It is costly because you probably need to blast the cliff that is making it a one lane here and there is a house on top of it. This is an important transportation path as it is the only way into Valleycliffe besides Highway 99. (There will be a little up Scott Crescent once this finally is open).

2. Watershed Restaurant and Dike area

The road is in poor shape and there is a lot of gravel on either side of the road that is used for temporary parking that pulls a lot of gravel onto the road. The small parking area at the Watershed is gravel with pot holes and spews gravel on the shoulder of the road. This gravel poses a problem when bicycling on the shoulder. The parking area on the east side of the road is too small and results in parking in the gravel further to the south, which creates a very dirty shoulder (almost always). This parking area is also gravel and results in a large build up of gravel on the shoulder at the exit. Sometimes it can be so large you can't even bicycle over it.

3. Loggers Lane between the Adventure Centre and Brennan Park Recreation Centre.

The MUP along this stretch of road is completely inappropriate for bicycle commuting and Loggers Lane needs to have shoulders put on it, thereby creating a bicycle lane for commuting. The road itself in the southern half, east side is in very poor shape. Increased traffic caused by increased population and housing in the area is creating a more dangerous situation. This project can be done in stages (for example four stages - SE, SW, NE and NW sections of Loggers Lane)

Lastly, the call for a Tourism Master Plan

Well, this probably has many divided opinions. From MY perspective a Tourism Master Plan needs to be one that REDUCES tourism completely. The Sea to Sky corridor is not designed for the amount of use the area is getting. Here is why:

- The highway is not designed for the amount of traffic it is getting. It needs to be four lane from Vancouver to Whistler. The current configuration results in congestion in many areas where the roads merge from two to one lane. The province is not thinking of fixing this. (This is part of my comment about how it is almost criminal that the province writes you urging you to build houses but not help).
- There is not enough parking at most of the areas where people are wanting to recreate.

- There is no funding for the trails that are used and they are falling into serious disrepair. Volunteers can only do so much.
- The highway travels through about 5 communities (Lions Bay, Furry Creek, Britannia Beach, Squamish and Whistler). A highway through a town is not suitable. This is a big problem going through Whistler and Squamish and may occur through Britannia Beach. Whistler is the most serious problem because it is only two lanes not four. Squamish is just a nuisance because it has about seven traffic lights through it. The first two you don't actually travel through the community. However Lions Bay, despite now being four lanes has lowered speed limit that is not highway speed.

Just look at Whistler - the ski area is currently in a huge pickle about not having enough space for parking during the busy ski season. Additionally the traffic on the Sea to Sky highway is so bad that it seriously affects other recreational users on weekends. The traffic is so backed up south of Function Junction that if you make it there you can spend an hour just getting to Creekside. Yet in all these years, despite this being a significant problem NOTHING has been done to improve traffic flow through Whistler. I know this has nothing to do with you.

And I'm not sure what the intent of tourism master plan is - but tourism is ruining the Sea to Sky corridor.

SO, those are my thoughts about the District's Ten Year Budget.

Squamish Resident

Dear Budget Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the District's draft 2026–2035 Financial Plan. I appreciate the considerable work involved in balancing growth, infrastructure renewal, climate goals, and community services in a fast-growing community like Squamish.

As a resident following the plan, I'm encouraged by the District's ongoing commitment to sustainable infrastructure, active transportation, and recreation facility improvements. After reviewing the financial plan and online budget tools, I have a few questions and comments regarding the timing and funding of future facility upgrades, particularly Brennan Park Recreation Centre and other community amenities:

1. Brennan Park Recreation Centre Funding and Capital Planning

- What is the status of funding for Brennan Park Recreation Centre (pool/ice/overall facility) in the 5-year and 10-year capital plans?
- In the "Brennan Park Recreation Centre Upgrades" capital summary, staged funding is shown (e.g., ~\$500,000 in 2025/26, ~\$450,000 in 2027/28). Which years are explicitly budgeted for design, vs. construction for a second pool or aquatic expansion?
- Is the placeholder value for the pool expansion budget confirmed or approximate?
- What portion of future years (after 2029 vs. In the 2025-2029 plan) is reserved for this project?

2. Operational and Maintenance Costs

- Beyond capital costs, has the District modeled future operating costs, including staffing, utilities, and maintenance?
- Has provision been made in the operating forecast for an additional 25-metre pool?

3. Community Engagement and Input

- What are the next engagement dates or budget open houses related to the 2026–2035 plan?

- The 2025 Citizen Satisfaction Survey showed that a large majority of residents identified recreation and facility upgrades as important priorities. How have those findings been incorporated into the draft plan, particularly for Brennan Park Recreation Centre renewal and expansion?

4. Alignment with Growth and Capacity Planning

- With Squamish's population now exceeding 30,000 and projected to continue growing rapidly, how does the Financial Plan address facility capacity, especially for high-demand, all-ages amenities such as aquatic and arena spaces?
- Regarding timing and sequencing of major recreation projects: the 2025–2029 plan identified \$950,000 for aquatic design in 2027 and \$8 million for construction in 2028. Can you confirm whether these allocations remain in the 2026–2035 draft plan, and if any timing or scope adjustments are being considered?

5. Sustainable and Inclusive Facility Design

- The District's Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan emphasize accessible, energy-efficient infrastructure. How will these goals shape design standards for future Brennan Park investments or other major recreation facilities?

6. Brennan Park Task Force

- How will the newly created Brennan Park Task Force ensure that its recommended upgrades or expansion align with the priorities and funding allocations outlined in the draft 2026–2035 Financial Plan?
- What mechanisms will the Task Force use to integrate its findings, estimated costs, and potential funding strategies into the District's 1-year and long-term financial planning processes?

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this process and for making the budget materials accessible to the public. I appreciate the District's efforts to plan responsibly for growth while maintaining the quality of life and recreation opportunities that make Squamish such a special community.

Regards,

Squamish resident

Budget Information Night Engagement

Budget Info Night

December 10, 2025

Transcript of facilitated discussion between attendees and Council.

Objective: Focus on resident feedback/comments

Resident, Highlands:

- Capital expenditure
- 150mil~ dollar spend; 46.6 mil~, borrowing 25.5 mil~, raising taxes 65%~
- Can you give me estimate of 10yr plan looks like, what percentage will they [taxes] be going up
- Funding is critical aspect
- Question: Issue with Woodfire LNG, which could impact our financing...

French: Acknowledges those numbers are reasonable; Asking about projecting out 10yrs; This is first year we're working towards 10yr plan; historically around province it's 5yr plans; 10yr out numbers we're working with are preliminary, subject to change; within 5yr plan a high level of confidence, the next 5yrs we're really feeling our way

Hamilton: speaking to financial planning 10yrs out; we need to be aware of, we may not be sitting in these sites 10yrs out from now; dependent of direction community goes; one of the things we've done, inside financial plan we're putting in projects where we know where the funding is and it's going ahead; landfill expansion, \$30mil range; things like swimming pool or ice rink, we're not putting directly into plan as the funding sources are still uncertain; the numbers you mentioned are core pieces that we have certainty of

Pettingill: Decades we've been living beyond our means; a lot of infrastructure that needed updating to match our growth; our debt limit of 17%~, 2.5%~ money going into reserves, savings for future councils to not be in this situation years out; acknowledging that we're working hard to accelerate a brand new rec centre; folks who want to contribute, and folks who do not; tough challenge of not relying just on taxation for resolve

Andersen: among all municipalities in BC, Squamish has high reliance on property tax, we don't have industrialisation as other communities of larger size [communities]; important

to be mindful to restore better balance and build our business tax base; mindful of that, working on that.

Resident, Brackendale:

Want to understand the new industry that may pay for some of services. If industry isn't coming back, then we need to understand what's realistic. If its other industry, how do we create the environment whereby they want to come to Squamish and invest so everything doesn't need to fall on our community.

Mayor: As you alluded to, broader economic piece, as Councillor French talked about the development of Brennan Park where industrial components would chip in; it's important to recognize the step before benefit gain we need to determine impact; it's been a challenge; that relationship is complex and we're in a weird spot; the residents will be here as long as the projects are here; the relationships are under construction and not everything goes as planned with construction; we are continuing to make investments into economic development; we've seen rapid growth in our business park; employment sector as well; we need to keep going that way; there's not one solution; we things progress with the project and policy there will be improvements.

Stoner: Combination of things, we have amazing industry folks who are here, we're losing them because they don't have places to grow into, land use sector plan is needed, carbon engineering, quantum tech; we're also losing folks because they can't afford to live here; housing component; We do tax industry, we expect them to pay their taxes.

Pettingill: Debris flow opportunities; we've been restricted on land; we have been focusing on green tech etc., aligned with economic features are going; outlined in our OCP; focusing and supporting everything we do in alignment; some smaller community being decimating by [boom bust]; no single employer.

Resident:

Infrastructure and long-term community planning; Shared responsibility between province and municipality; Squamish has one high school; Health care workers

Pettingill: province is responsible for education and healthcare; We'll zone land for hospitals and high schools; we work with school board and VCH, constantly checking in with them regarding land-use and zoning; Advocacy provincially and federally on things we

don't agree with like: we need more support for school and health care; Zoning and advocacy piece [is key].

French: we here over-and-over at school board that enrollment is plateaued; projections will continue; one baby a day; 400~ a year in 26~ or 27~; we need to be ready for the incoming baby boom. Every single school site in Squamish is land rich. Lots of room to grow and build; up and out.

Mayor: quick note on healthcare; provincial responsibility; our role is advocacy; part of that happens in our roles as Councillors and Mayor; part of this role involves SLRD; part of that is regional hospital board; through layers of that work with VCH, ensuring they understand that we are not always 45min to Lionsgate, that we are in a regional that serves the Sea to Sky; we've done tons of work to understand our housing needs so that they understand; the new hospital identified in this plan; location of funding are in process of being answered; commitment to expand Hilltop House, on a site district sold to province; when we engaged with school district to ensure they have best planning info and how to support their needs:

- Bulge going through high schools currently
- Declining kindergarten enrollment
- Our fastest growing demo is seniors, who have followed their kids and grandkids to be here in Squamish; change from [previously] youngest community in the country

Resident:

Curious if any would like to share what they disagree with or have major concerns about from the 2026 budget.

French: disagree with 12% increase of property taxes; while I disagree I reflect back on infrastructure deficient and asset management into future; one of reasons we're grappling with this increase is because back in the day best practice in budgeting didn't include reserve funding with specific items identified that we're saving for; good example is the 2 water intake systems (Mashiter and Stawamus) currently backup; when those two systems were created there was no budget for future replacement; no fund was created, we don't operate like that now; one of the reasons why we're looking at double digit increase last year and the year ahead

- Don't agree with it but understand the logic of it

Andersen: Regret over the last few years we haven't' done more in rec and cultural facilities (like library); we keep postponing Parks and Rec master plan update and Cultural master

plan update and Marine/waterfront planning; we need to be ready for [funding]; 5Bil budget from province on port; needs assessments and studies, background studies.

Pettingill: backtracking; recently signed MOU; piece of that is focus on collaborative; things I disagree with; IDEA committee is meant to focus on inclusion and diversity; I've received correspondence that folks don't feel safe; not comfortable in how we're addressing that yet; Rec Centre Task Force price tag; master plan and community partnership agreement; confusion in overlap of what exactly we're paying for; I'm comfortable putting a large investment in rec but want to ensure clarity.

Hamilton: good question, one we ask ourselves all the time; one of the things that comes with responsibility of removing this item is we take responsibility of what impact that loss has on system; everyone of the new plans for industrial land planning or tourism master planning, all these plans cost money, staff etc.; when we remove planning money what impact does it have 5yrs from now; encourages folks to listen to Council meetings to learn about disagreements or challenges:

- Task force
- Service level changes

Stoner: Important to note the breakdown of 12.5% increase; 8% non-discretionary costs like service level increases like new firefighters, dept. from public works and firehall; 2.4% asset management, saving for future; 2% wiggle room

- Task force = major discussion
- Cemetery increase = major discussion

Mayor: [addressing previous question]

- Taxation over time and capital over time; 348mil, various funding sources; some yet TBD, some taxation, borrowing is taxation, but it allows everyone that will benefit from facility or investments to contribute from future residents
- Average increase (tax), non-market growth (future residents); growing tax base to support; major industry also contributes
 - 83.3% - big challenges
 - This number is not something that will correlate directly to individual; distributed around business/commercial/industrial properties as well
 - Average is 8.3% over ten-year period.
 - Borrowing piece: Brennan park; if this room and councillors agreed to, we are at our borrowing capacity; funding strategy work is integral to supporting what we need

Pettingill: We spend a lot of time advocating for funding, grants; poor taxation constraints; “I want this this this and this”— but it all comes with a price tag; it’s not just up to us as Council but community as whole.

Resident:

Safer houses, roads, cars; every year we increase police and fire, but are we having more fires? We as a neighbourhood don’t really use police we have, so why are we constantly hiring new police and fire? We send out more in SAR day by day.

Pettingill: fire department can’t enter building without at least 4 members at scene; our full time contingent is reliant on paid on call; our numbers seem high, but it can be challenging to ensure life safety; 16 full time members

- Police-side, “cop per pop”; population ratio
- Disclosure rules now [require] spending hours-and-hours on writing and reports, which means we might only have 2-3 members on ground, not having backup.

French: ambulance strategy by province relies on fire to be front-line drug response; they can get to overdose faster than ambulance; our fire department is picking up where the province is leaving off

Mayor: Protective services account for 30% operating budget; these increases are discussed at length with protective service partners; important to know that yes buildings are safer broadly; complexity of new builds, denser, multi story buildings take more personnel; we’ve capped height to catch up our fire services; we’re on our own here unlike other communities, thusly higher investments; we’re working to have full-time 24/hr fire service, we’re relying on paid on call; statistic annual fire volume calls have increased 15-20% and investments have been no where near that.

Resident:

CAC’s and development costs; does the District retroactively adjust on those who got a deal on CAC’s 4yrs ago, or match todays costs?

Mayor: One change from CAC work, negotiated at rezoning; disconnect at rezoning and construction; we can’t go back and do retroactive; ACC’s triggered at permitting, no more at rezoning; if you have home and want to tear it down, you’ll be paying ACC’s at that point. Prescriptive measure.

Comments from Comment Cards and Budget Banter

(Photos also included)

- 1) Our dump is nearing capacity. What is the long-term plan for tackling the volume of garbage that is being produced by residents, local businesses, and schools? We cannot keep clearing crown land to solve this ongoing problem.
- 2) A plan is needed to consider the needs and requirements of the community. In many cases, the staff, councillors, and community members will know these needs better than anyone. A very expensive consultant is not needed to understand whether a rink is needed, or if the field allocation policy needs to be written.
- 3) In climate and environmental planning and cost/benefit/risk analysis, is the District considering the ecosystem as a key stakeholder? Can we take a multi-species justice approach to development in Squamish so we are not causing irreversible harm, especially to the marine and river basins/watersheds?
- 4) I was at the Premier lunch today and he noted 100 billion dollars coming to BC in the next ten years. What is Council doing to attract major projects or investment to Squamish to offset the budget? Be ready to have projects ready because of the Call to Power by BC.
- 5) Accessibility: Can residents move about the District safely, no matter their mobility needs? Bus stops are not all covered or well-lit. Sidewalks don't have consistent surfaces or appropriate sloping for wheelchair uses, those with mobility aids, strollers, etc. Mobility access and accessibility is crucial for residents to move freely and safely. It's currently very inconsistent.
- 6) Where is our relationship at with the Squamish Nation?
- 7) John French's comment about using "exports" and "sweat equity" from residents. How can we engage our local community to support short-term and long-term progress in our community?
- 8) I also loved John French's comment.
- 9) I'm a huge fan of task forces (or advisory boards) with local expertise.
- 10) I would like to see a port developed with federal funds.
- 11) Relationship building with the Squamish Nation is poor.
- 12) Build a new hockey rink, then reno the old one.
- 13) Make hard choices about what not to fund, especially when it's not municipal responsibility. And then communicate why you had to say "no".