

What's Next: Beyond the 2026 Budget

Centennial Pool Grand Re-Opening!

The Centennial Pool plays an important role in the community during the summer months, offering swimming lessons, lifesaving, first aid, leadership training, private rentals, school classes, public swims and lap swims. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the new larger pool from June through August this year!

The original Centennial Pool was constructed with proceeds from the federal government as part of their Centennial Celebrations. The recently replaced Centennial Pool is planned to re-open in June 2026, thanks to a UBCM Strategic Priorities Fund Grant that provided \$2.7 million of the project cost, various other grant funds, and short-term borrowing. The operation is funded through local tax dollars from Electoral Areas C, D and E and user fees.

Bella Coola Valley Fire Service

The Bella Coola Valley Fire Service combines the former Bella Coola Fire Service and Hagensborg Fire Service into one service with two firehalls, aiming to keep overall services costs low while meeting the new regulatory requirements and operational standards. The legislative changes to merge the services are now complete; operational integration is ongoing. In 2026, rebranding of the fire trucks, logos, uniform patches, and firehall signage will proceed. Contracts and agreements will be reviewed and amended if required. A new fire truck is planned in 2026 for the Hagensborg firehall!

A small but dedicated group of volunteers continue to deliver the function, maintain the firehall and operate the equipment, with a long history of helping community residents when they need it most.

Thorsen Creek Landfill

Following the CCRD's successful advocacy, the Province contributed a \$2.3 million grant to help the CCRD with landfill improvements. Funding is separated into two parts with \$1.15 million required to go to closure and post-closure reserve, and the remaining \$1.15 million can be used for capital projects to improve the sustainability of the landfill. Work began in 2025 and will continue through 2026.

Discussions with the Nuxalk Nation regarding their annual contribution are progressing positively. As a result the per-bag household waste fee proposed is 'on hold' until following the conclusion of negotiations, at which time the need will be re-evaluated.

Hagensborg Water System Improvements

The Hagensborg Water System – Phase 1 is substantially complete in alignment with Vancouver Coastal Health requirements. The CCRD has applied for a \$6,975,000 grant to fund Phase 2 of the Hagensborg Water System for improvements to the water distribution system.

The phased implementation of rate adjustments continues with increases being phased over four years instead of three to soften the financial impact to residents. This approach raises the funds required to ensure rates are sustainable over the long term while covering future maintenance and replacement costs.

Feasibility Studies

The CCRD routinely engages in feasibility studies to determine how and if a service should be undertaken. Feasibility studies can be the first step in setting up a new service, allowing the CCRD to gather information on costs or other implications that may come with taking on a new service. The CCRD is in the process of undertaking the following feasibility studies:

Denny Island - Wharf

The CCRD was awarded grant funding under the Rural Diversification and Infrastructure Program. While potential revenue generation from commercial and tourism activity may offset some costs, ongoing maintenance and operation could create some costs that require a service to be established and property taxation. The feasibility study will provide cost estimates and revenue projections, allowing for a review of potential expenses before any commitment to construction. Should tax implications arise, they would be determined through a future budgeting process and subject to Board approval.

Area 'A' Civic Addressing - Under development.

The CCRD has undertaken a study to implement a civic addressing service throughout Electoral Area 'A'. This involves making maps for the service, issuing initial civic addresses and establishing a system for adding new addresses when they are required. Civic addressing will enhance emergency response services and the efficient provision of services such as utilities, insurance, and deliveries. Growing Communities Funds will cover most of the feasibility costs and grant funding from Vancouver Coastal Health will assist with the remaining initial costs to set up the service. Budgeted expenses for such a service after it is set up will be minimal. The study is complete, and the Alternate Approval Process has been started.

CCRD - Next Gen 911 Call Service - Being further evaluated

Following completion of the feasibility study in the fall of 2025, the Board directed that Heiltsuk, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv Nations be consulted to investigate their interest and potential funding towards a 911 program.

While this feasibility study does not impose immediate tax implications; if a service is implemented there will be costs for startup and ongoing operations. While grants and external funding sources may help offset most costs, long-term sustainability of such a service would likely involve taxation. Any future tax implications would be determined through a future budgeting process and would require Board approval.

