

Proposed Core Facilities Contribution Service - Area A (rural Golden)

Q: What is the purpose of the proposed new Core Facilities Contribution Service?

A: The Town of Golden owns and operates four core facilities within its boundaries which are used extensively by rural area residents. The four core facilities include: the Golden Civic Centre, the Golden Municipal Pool, the Golden and District Seniors Centre, and the Mount 7 Rec Plex. The Town and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District have jointly determined that these facilities require a contribution from rural taxpayers in order to maintain operations, in addition to revenues from rental and user fees. As residents in rural Golden receive economic and social benefits from the use of these facilities, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District is proposing a new tax for rural residents in Area A to support these facilities.

Q: What areas are included in the new taxation boundary?

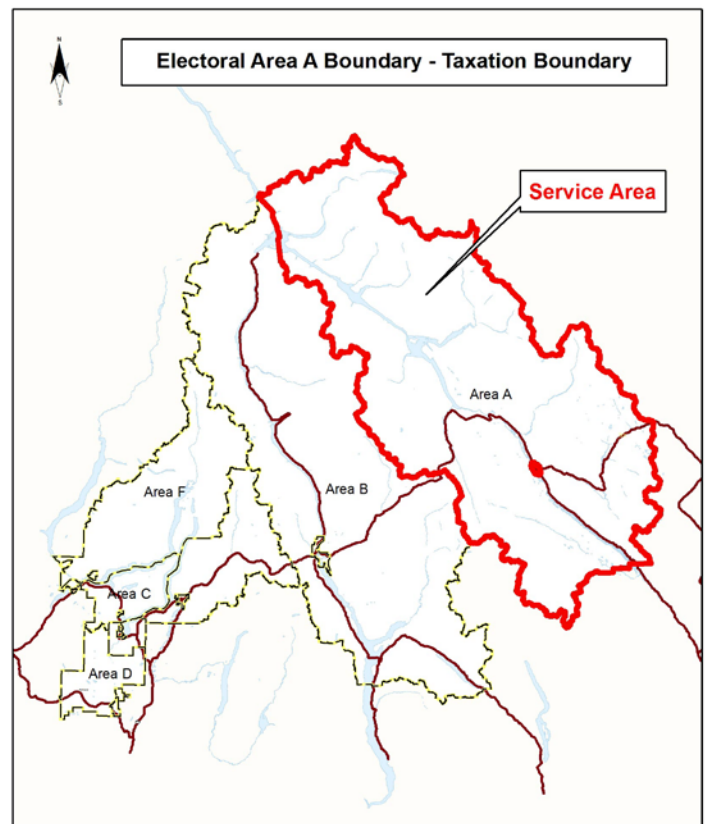
A: The new taxation boundary includes all of Electoral Area A of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District as per the attached map. Approximately 3,148 residents live in Electoral Area A and 3,709 people live in the Town of Golden.

Q: How much is the contribution to support the four facilities?

A: The Columbia Shuswap Regional District will provide funding through a five-year contribution agreement. The annual payment to the Town amounts to 20% of the aggregate net operating costs for the four facilities. Based on the 2018 budget for the four core facilities, the 20% cost sharing formula represents an annual contribution from Area A property owners of \$94,000. The Town's net operating costs to operate the four facilities in 2018 is \$468,000.

Q: What is the proposed tax rate going to be?

A: Based on the 2018 budget figure of \$94,000, the residential tax rate for Area A residents will be about \$9.27 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of land and improvements. For the average residential assessment in Area A of \$311,776, this would translate to an annual tax payment of \$28.83. This would take effect in 2019.



Q: What services and benefits are provided by the Core Facilities?

A: Golden Municipal Swimming Pool – the swimming pool is primarily funded through the Town's general taxation and user fees. While rural taxpayers do not contribute to the pool through general taxation, a recent study of user visitations revealed that up to 36% of pool visits were from people who reside in the surrounding rural area.

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What is the current overall operating budget for the four (4) core facilities?

A: After factoring in rental revenues and user fees, the current estimated taxation subsidy required to operate the four facilities is \$468,000 per year. If the new Regional District core facilities contribution services is established, rural residents will contribute \$94,000 per year based on the 2018 budget, while the Town of Golden will contribute \$374,400.

A: Golden Civic Centre – the Civic Centre is used extensively by Town residents, as well as residents of the surrounding rural area. User data on municipal vs. rural residents who regularly visit the facility are not available; however, it has been estimated that roughly 50% of the attendees at various performing arts concerts are rural residents.

A: Golden and District Seniors Centre – Based on current membership data, roughly 33% of the people utilizing the facility reside in the neighbouring rural area.

A: Mount 7 Rec Plex (Mt7RP) – the Mt7RP is a well utilized public facility serving a variety of community needs. It serves many smaller clubs and groups. A tracking of users of the facility reveals that usage by rural residents is as much as 35%.



Will Area residents have a say in how the facilities operate?

A: No. The CSRD is proposing a straightforward fee for services arrangement with the Town, wherein the CSRD would be purchasing the ability to access and use the facilities for rural residents. The CSRD would not participate in the provision of the service or in its governance.

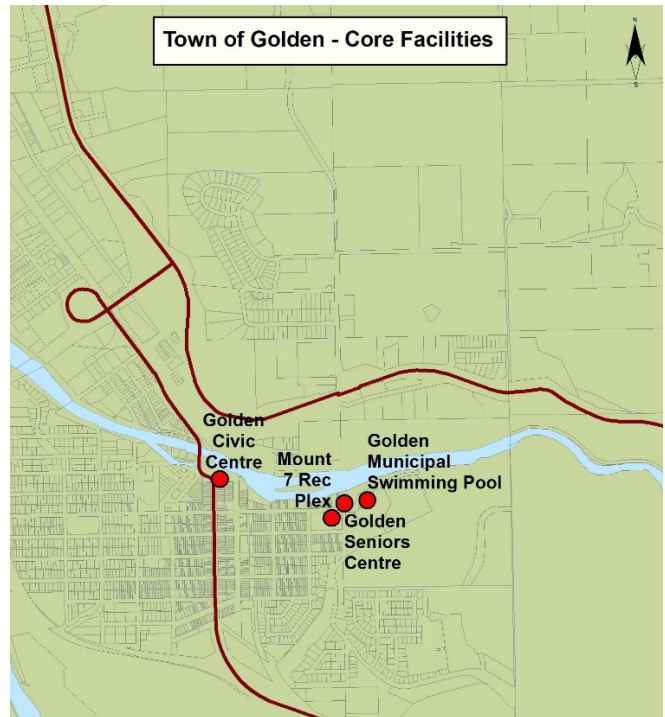
Are rural residents protected from ever rising service costs?

A: Yes. The CSRD wants protection against rising costs that result from service level enhancements made at the sole discretion of Town Council.



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Because the CSRD has no say on how the facilities are managed or operated, or in the setting of priorities, rural ratepayers will have no control over the ultimate size of the budget. It is not reasonable for the Town to expect rural contributions to be open-ended, and to increase automatically as costs rise. To this end, the Parties have agreed that should elector assent be obtained and a cost sharing agreement is entered into between the Town and the CSRD, a cost containment provision will be included that will place a cap on the size of any increase on a year over year basis.



Q: Who should I contact if I have any questions that are not addressed in this FAQ or want to request additional information?

A: Questions or requests for further information can be directed to:

- by email to inquiries@csrd.bc.ca
- by phone at 250.832.8194 or Toll free (within BC) at 1.888.248.2773.



Will there be a referendum?

A: Yes. In order to establish the proposed new Core Facilities Contribution Service, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District must hold a referendum. The goal is to hold the vote in conjunction with the local government general election on Saturday, October 20, 2018. All eligible voters in Electoral Area A will be able to vote in the referendum.

What happens if the referendum fails?

A: If the referendum does not pass, the Regional District cannot establish the new tax to support the four facilities. This lack of financial support from rural residents may result in a reduction in recreational and cultural services available to the community and jeopardize the long term viability of these facilities.