



**CCRD Governance & Service Delivery Study
Fact Sheets
September 2016**

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO CENTRAL COAST RESIDENTS

This *Fact Sheet* gives an overview of the number of different governments involved in local service provision on the Central Coast and how they are structured. While the focus is on local governments, the federal and provincial governments are included due to the number of services they deliver to central coast residents.

➤ **What is the governance structure on the Central Coast?**

The Central Coast region is home to a variety of authorities and agencies that look after different services for the region's residents. Some authorities look after multiple services in a specific area or community, while others are responsible for providing one or two services. Some have overlapping jurisdictions, but provide different services to the same community. The list of governments includes the following:

- Central Coast Regional District
- Nuxalk First Nation
- Heiltsuk First Nation
- Wuikinuxv First Nation
- Ocean Falls Improvement District
- Hagensborg Waterworks District
- Noosatsum Waterworks District
- Provincial Government
- Federal Government

Each of these governments, agencies and service

providers plays a role in providing services to residents of the Central Coast.

➤ **What services do the governments provide?**

Figure 1 below provides an overview of which authorities look after which services. As part of this study, *Fact Sheets* have been prepared on the services provided by the CCRD and include details of how each of those services are delivered, paid for and how decisions are made.

Federal Government

The federal government does not provide many direct services to the Central Coast, but it does regulate the Bella Coola airport, which is a Transport Canada certified airport, and provides services such as Coast Guard and fisheries (hatcheries and fisheries officers) for the Pacific Ocean, which is an area of federal responsibility. The Bella Coola harbour is also within federal jurisdiction but is managed by a local elected authority (the Bella Coola Harbour Authority). Through the department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the federal government provides funding for, and oversees services to First Nation reserves, including the Nuxalk First Nation, Wuikinuxv First Nation and Heiltsuk First Nation. The Central Coast region is part of a broader federal riding of Skeena-Bulkley Valley that extends north to the boundary of BC and Yukon. The representative elected from the Skeena-Bulkley Valley riding is one

Figure 1: Services Provided to Central Coast Residents

GOVERNMENTS	WATER	SEWER	ROADS	AIRPORTS	FERRIES	FIRE PROTECTION	LAND USE PLANNING	POLICING	HEALTH	EDUCATION	SOLID WASTE	FISHERIES & OCEANS	ECON. D'VLPMT	PARKS & REC.
Central Coast Regional District	✓			✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Nuxalk First Nation	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heiltsuk First Nation	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wuikinuxv First Nation	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ocean Falls Improvement District	✓	✓				✓					✓			✓
Hagensborg Waterworks District	✓					✓								
Noosatsum Waterworks District	✓					✓								
Provincial Government			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓				✓
Federal Government				✓								✓		

of 338 members of parliament in Canada's House of Commons.

Provincial Government

The provincial government (through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure) is responsible for the provision of roads and highways, as well as approval of subdivisions in unincorporated areas of the province (land not within municipalities). The Province also oversees ferry services through BC Ferries, provides policing services to unincorporated areas (delivered through the RCMP), and delivers health services through Vancouver Coastal Health. The Province is also responsible for education services, which are delivered by School District #49. The School District has its own board of education comprised of 5 trustees that provide public oversight of education, finance, facility management, human resources, and policy. Other than the Board of Trustees, provincial services are not governed by locally elected bodies, but rather are overseen by the Provincial government. The Central Coast region is part of the North Coast electoral district that elects one member to the provincial legislative assembly. The representative from the North Coast is one of 85 members of the legislative assembly.

First Nations Governments

The three First Nations within the region – Nuxalk, Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk – each deliver a range of services to their communities, located primarily on reserve lands. Services are governed by Band Councils elected by each Band membership. The Council is generally responsible for the day to day management of the Band, and administers services funded primarily through the federal government, including public and capital works, housing, health and wellness, social services as well as fisheries, forestry and land and marine use planning. In addition to the elected Band Councils, the Bands also have a traditional government of hereditary chiefs that is relied upon for guidance and leadership.

The Heiltsuk Tribal Council has 1 Chief and 11 Councillors, the Nuxalk Nation Band has 1 Chief and 12 Councillors, and the Wuikinuxv Nation Council has a Chief and 2 Councillors.

Central Coast Regional District (CCRD)

The CCRD provides a variety of services throughout the region, including land use planning, library and emergency services, then provides others such as parks and recreation, water, solid waste, and fire protection to specific areas within the region. The

Regional District is governed by a 5-person Board of Directors. Each director is elected from one of the 5 electoral areas during local government elections every 4 years. The Regional District receives its authority through provincial legislation, including the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*, as well as Letters Patent that provide the authority for specific services.

Improvement Districts

Improvement districts are a form of local government that typically look after a small number of services (most commonly water) for communities that are not located within a municipality. Often these bodies were established prior to the creation of regional districts, which then became responsible for service delivery for areas outside municipalities.

Now that regional districts are in place, the Province no longer creates new improvement districts. In 2006 the Province developed the *Policy Statement on Improvement District Governance*. The provincial policy supports the continued gradual elimination of improvement districts, with municipalities and regional districts assuming the responsibilities of improvement districts over time.

Improvement districts are required to follow the *Local Government Act*, and are governed by a Board of Trustees elected by the residents of the properties within the improvement district boundaries.

There are 3 improvement districts on the Central Coast. The Hagensborg Waterworks and Noosatsum Waterworks districts both provide water and fire protection to specific areas in the Bella Coola Valley. The Ocean Falls Improvement District is unique in that it has been delegated authority for a wide variety of services, due in part to the remote location of the community, and amount of infrastructure. The OFID provides a wide range of services including water, sewer, recreation, street lighting, garbage collection and disposal, fire service, building maintenance and cemetery services within the Ocean Falls community.