

	A
1	Budget 2014 Feedback (as of Dec 30, 2013)
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3	Comment:
4	<p>1. Loan repayments are stifling our ability to keep up with the growing needs of our expanding population. SODC debt of around 9 million is due for servicing in 2014 at a cost to us of about 3 million . 2. The extra work that DOS staff have done to provide budget options is commendable. Yet I feel that employees and equipment did not take much of a decrease. As for outside consultants, can we not call upon local volunteers to collect data and assist council. 3. Reducing or cancelling programs that are showing results after long and slow growth is short-sighted .These programs will only have to be rebuilt in the future; such as , animal control, community policing, transit, youth centre, library and waste disposal. Despite ones normal reaction of saying no to rising costs, we do know that improvements and inflation are real budget items. Better we keep these hard won community services and accept a small increase in our local taxes - as low as possible, please .</p>
5	<p>1. I would agree that the current Youth Centre building should be demolished, but not until you have helped it find a new home. Perhaps the Seniors Centre area would be a good fit... but hopefully you will do a survey of youth to find out. You can't just axe the program though... unless you are interested in seeing the RCMP budget need to be increased due to youth with no mentors at the YC. Think about it... if you cut the program, youth will have no opportunities to connect with the community. Be very very careful. The YC provides connections to youth that help increase their resilience. Without that service youth will be lost and will potentially careen into a negative lifestyle that will become a nuisance to the community. Off the top of my head I feel a YC at either the Seniors Centre area and/or Brennan Park/area would be good substitutes. 2. Transit – you have to give people a chance at using the new transit. I have hheard throughout town that people didn't know we have later buses and that they didn't know buses run Sundays... You have to let people get to know the new system... its been less than a month! 3. How about NOT going to Japan... what would save some \$.</p>
6	<p>Lets not reduce our investment in cycling routes, especially the ones that benefit tourists. Based on Whistler surveys, their Valley trail has been ranked as the most valued summer amenity by visitors for decades. We have private developers willing to invest 26 million in a tourist gondola project. Lets capitalize on this investment by providing cycling routes that will translate into tourist dollars for Squamish. Projects such as the Laughing Turtle trail are a worthy investment. Lets invest in our economy.</p>

	A
7	<p>Hello, I have skimmed the budget as proposed. I am personally ok with a modest increase rather than the challenge of a zero percent budget. I work in West Vancouver and have seen the challenges of a zero percent budget.... why go there? Why not go for a modest increase and keep things working smoothly, on track and at a high level of quality service that keep your staff and the people of Squamish happy? I am particularly in favour of significant increases to the Recreation and Fire/Rescue budgets. Recreation now drives this town and is the reason most new Residents move here. Relying so heavily on 51 volunteers with our Fire/Rescue service is antiquated for a town of this size, it is time to move to a full time paid shift system. Thanks,</p>
8	<p>I do not see a line item breakdown anywhere. It is hard to know what actual expenses are without this. There is no breakdown of wages and salaries. I am assuming they are included in some of the program expenses but without a breakdown who knows? As a business man one of the first places most businesses look to cut when times are tight are wages. This can be done by eliminating bonuses, not replacing vacant positions, or in worst case scenarios laying people off. Was this looked at all in any of the scenarios presented? No one wants to talk about lay offs, wage cuts, etc. but they need to be talked about as one possibility. Wages and salaries are one of the District's highest expenses, at least I believe that is the case. It is impossible to know from the documents presented here. Cutting from the largest expenses first is a better approach than starting with the smallest.</p>
9	<p>I just read all the comments on the increase fees for all sports on our fields ! When I think about the families with more than two children in clubs that just simply can't afford these increases it truly makes me sad! Please is there another way.</p>
10	<p>40K for banking charges seems excessive</p>
11	<p>1. why are golf club, yacht club and rod gun club tax exempt?? 2. who decides on size of police force for our community ??</p>
12	<p>Hey @Squamishtown; it won't help reduce the budget, but I would really like to see Brennan Park have a weight-room facility! #SQbudget</p>

	A
13	<p>Dear Mayor and Council, While I appreciate your goal of limiting tax increases as much as possible, I feel that there are some small cuts that may save pennies but have a higher cost and impact -particularly to staff morale. Eliminating the contributions to the Annual Holiday party for both staff and their children to save \$3000 speaks loudly about how much the District, its politicians and the public value the people (staff) that spend each day serving them. Yes, I understand that they are paid public servants, but I do not feel that saving \$3000 would be worth the damage and possible HR repercussions that may (over time) be the result of low morale resulting from a perceived lack of appreciation. The Annual Holiday Party is where staff has the opportunity to celebrate the service milestones of their peers, participate in team building exercises and de-stress at the end of the year with their peers.</p> <p>Having an efficiently run work environment with comfortable temperatures and scheduled pay raises won't be enough to retain your staff, it will be enough to get them to show up every morning- but to take initiative, meet schedules and deadlines, operate with a seriousness of purpose and drive requires relationship building and employee recognition programs work. I am hoping that as a Council, and the public as a community that you/we can begin to see employee recognition programs (such as the Annual Holiday Party) as an investment and not an expense! It shouldn't be a line item like new equipment or a retreat, but rather part of your operating costs that can't be cut.</p> <p>"The well-being of employees is in the best interest of communities and organizations - the workplace is a significant part of an individuals' life that affects his or her life and the well-being of the community" (Harter, Schmidt et. Al, 2003)</p> <p>Well-Being in the Workplace and Its Relationship to Business Outcomes: Harter, Schmidt and Keyes, 2003 http://media.gallup.com/documents/whitePaper--Well-BeingInTheWorkplace.pdf</p> <p>I hope that when this line item is presented for your consideration that you see more than dollars to what this action will cost you and your staff in relationship, connectivity and loyalty.</p>
14	I would respectfully ask that youth sports remain exempt from user fees.

A

I am writing to request that council please approve and begin Installation of Lights on Hendrickson Fields for 2014.

I have been involved in playing softball, managing teams, and helping run softball leagues since I was a young girl growing up in Vancouver. It wasn't until I moved to Squamish in 2009 that I found a community that comes together through sport and recreation as much as it does in Squamish. As an adult newcomer to a close-knit community, I didn't know how I was going to meet people here. To my surprise, it came rather easily through joining the Squamish Slopitch Association (SSPA). I understand that baseball and softball players make up the largest sporting group in Squamish, and I believe it. Everywhere I go I see people who are familiar to me because I've seen them on the ball field.

It's apparent that soccer is popular in Squamish, and has the numbers and outspoken advocates to accomplish developments like the turf field at Brennan Park. It really is a field to be proud of and I look forward to my young son playing soccer there and throughout Squamish in years to come as soon as he's old enough. I'm also impressed by the improvements that have been made on sporting facilities for various bike-related sports and other areas of recreation in Squamish. The options for activity are vast and exciting.

I feel it's time that the Hendrickson fields got the lights they so desperately need to maximize their functionality. This need was recognized in the recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan and is supported by all field user groups. I've played softball throughout the Lower Mainland and in the United States, and have never seen a playing location with the natural beauty that Hendrickson Fields have. It is a joy to play there, but so very unfortunate that playing time on them is limited due to the lack of lighting. Lights would allow games for adults to go later into the evening, meaning we wouldn't have to play on school fields that are so incredibly inappropriate, not to mention dangerous, for adult play – and freeing those spaces up for youth to play on. Having lights would also relieve some of the challenges that arise from attempting to share space between softball,

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(continued from previous comment)

My husband and I organize a Memorial Slopitch tournament every year at Hendrickson Fields as a fundraiser. Many of the teams that play in this tournament are from the Lower Mainland. We've heard nothing but positive feedback from these visiting teams on the location of the fields and the breathtaking scenery they get to take in while playing. They also tell us they didn't know Squamish had developed so much, and enjoy their weekend in our local hotels and restaurants. If there were lights on Hendrickson Fields, we could accommodate more teams and bring more visitors into the community to show off our wonderful city. I hope this is something we can look forward to in the near future.

The Squamish Slopitch Association has worked hard over recent years to pay off debts related to Hendrickson Fields and raise money to put toward lighting on the fields. The SSPA is willing to contribute up to \$100,000 towards this critical need if it is planned for 2014. Please consider my request and approve the proposal to install lights on Hendrickson Fields. The entire sporting community in Squamish will benefit from this initiative.

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17	<p>I urge the D.O.S. to make lighting the two Hendrickson Fields a priority this year. SSPA is willing to donate \$100,000 towards the project. This project will also benefit Squamish Soccer when Brennan Park is not available. Thanks,</p>
18	<p>To Mayor and Council</p> <p>As a past Vice President and Treasury of the Squamish Slo Pitch Association I would like to comment on the exclusion of the lights for Hendrickson Field from this year's budget. Over the last years SSPA has been playing on fewer and fewer school fields due to scheduling conflicts with other groups. With lights we would be able to confine our games to the slo pitch fields which was the purpose we worked so hard towards getting this project started so many years ago. The Squamish Slo Pitch Association raised a large portion of the funds for these fields and have a further \$100,000.00 to apply to the cost. With our own fields the other areas we use could be opened up to the many other users.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration for our project.</p>
19	<p>Dear Squamish council, I am an avid softball and fastball player in Squamish. Sean Mahedy and I have been running a team coming up on our fourth year 2014. Our team consists of all 18 to 24 year olds. Being a member of the community growing up I feel that baseball and slo pitch is an essential to keep our youth active and in a safe social setting. The hoodrats baseball team have struggled with funding but have pushed to contribute towards the new lights on Hendrickson. We feel this is an essential asset to Squamish as a social setting and a place we can promote health and well being. The fact is there isn't enough fields to run a safe league at this point and Hendrickson are two great facilities we can utilize to the fullest and double the use at a cheap alternative by enabling evening baseball!</p>

Hello...

I am a member of the SSPA and approving the funds to support installation of lights on Hendrickson fields is critically important to all field user groups to ensure there is adequate field space for all community field users.

Here are a list of reason's why:

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies an immediate need for lighting on Hendrickson fields "The current number of slo-pitch teams and game slots available show a clear deficiency. Installing lights on the two existing fields should be done in the short term" Lees and Associates, 2012.
- Baseball / softball is the largest sporting group in Squamish and are subject to the scheduling challenges associated with a community that has fewer ball fields on average when compared to other communities of similar size.
- Installing lights on Hendrickson fields will dramatically increase the available field booking times and decrease overlapping demands as well as reducing staff scheduling challenges.
- Installing lights on Hendrickson fields in 2014 will be an important component in relieving anticipated field shortages should the Squamish Valley Music Festival expand to 35,000 occupant load and use Centennial fields. Without additional field space, all field users including youth soccer, baseball and slopitch will be severely impacted up to and including the possibility of cancelling or significantly reducing seasons.
- All key field user groups have expressed support for expanded and improved field facilities. Squamish Slopitch Association is willing to contribute up to \$100,000 towards this project if it moves ahead in 2014.

Thank you

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Shortly after moving to Squamish, my fiancé and I joined a slo-pitch team. We were able to meet a large amount of new people and immersed ourselves in the community. We have

I work in the city and would love to be able to attend more games. Having the lights on at Hendrickson would facilitate this.

Please push this into the budget. Sincerely,

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	A
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies an immediate need for lighting on Hendrickson fields "The current number of slo-pitch teams and game slots available show a clear deficiency. Installing lights on the two existing fields should be done in the short term" Lees and Associates, 2012. <p>As a member of this community and a past president of Howe sound minor ball, current coach/manager and player in Squamish slo pitch, I have seen an significant oversight of the SSPA over the last few years. Squamish is advertised as a recreation capitol but a sport that keeps almost 600 16-60 year old residents active has been experiencing great challenges due to field availability. Hendrickson field lighting is a perfect opportunity for Squamish to relieve pressure on field usage and open opportunities for future generations to enjoy a worthwhile activity. Thanks for your time,</p>
23	<p>To whom it may concern, I would like to take this opportunity to express my disappointment that the proposed Hendrickson Field Lighting Installation Project has been removed from the 2014 Capital Projects Budget.</p> <p>Not only does the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan indicate an immediate need for lighting on the Hendrickson Field, the members of the Squamish Slo-Pitch Association have unanimously agreed in 2013 to support the project financially with a contribution of \$100,000.00!</p> <p>Squamish Softball and Baseball participants make up the largest sporting group in the Squamish area and have shown a significant level of commitment and support towards seeing this project completed.</p> <p>I ask that you please reconsider this decision and include the Lighting of the Hendrickson Fields in the Capital Projects Budget for 2014. Yours truly,</p>
24	<p>Hello district of Squamish I would like to ask why the lights for the baseball fields is not on the agenda for Hendrickson fields. I believe the fields with lights would help baseball players to stay off of the soccer fields 75% of the regular time. It will also bring more yes from out of town to spend money in our town through more hosting of tournaments. The Squamish live invests money to use our public ball fields but none of that goes back into the ball field. Please consider a budget for the fields lights. Its worth it. Thanks</p>

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25	<p>We need lights on Hendrickson fields! Playing ball on local school fields is not popular with local residents and other school fields are not in very good shape. We are running out of places to play and now more than ever we need to maximize the use of the fields designed and built with slopitch in mind. When these fields were built we played at Highlands elementary (both diamonds), valleycliffe, Mamquam (both diamonds) which now we are not able to use. That's five diamonds we no longer have use of. That is a huge loss of field use. Please help us play the sport we love! This is one of the few sports that people of all ages can competitively play with/against each other. The oldest active player in the league is over 70 playing beside recent graduates from high school. Many parents play on the same teams as their children.</p>
26	<p>Greetings, I am writing this letter in strong support for funding of lights at Henrickson fields in the coming budget. I feel this is a valued community asset used by many member of Squamish. The Slopitch league has worked tirelessly to raise funds in support of this cause and can contribute funds.</p> <p>Thanks for your efforts to date! You face a challenging and often thankless endeavour in determining the most worthy project amongst many great options and I sincerely hope that Henrickson field lights becomes a priority. Cheers,</p>
27	<p>Hi, We are strongly in favor of the lights being put in at H1 and 2 fields. It will benefit all of the present and future athletes in Squamish. The sooner the better. Healthy active kids and adults are an investment in the future of our country. Please be the council that got the ball rolling on this very important community improvement. Thank you.</p>
28	<p>Hello, I have been playing slo-pitch in Squamish since I was over the age restriction and feel that lights need to be installed on the Hendrickson fields. I feel so strongly about this that I am writing this while on my honeymoon in Hawaii (Aloha). But I will not be back in time to write an e-mail if I don't do it now.</p> <p>With game times being so late in the evening due to work schedules we are often having to cut games short due to lack of light. And now that fall ball has started to take off I feel that the need for lights is even greater. I have played fall ball every year since it started and I love it but we are also cutting games short here due to light and having games on the mens fastball diamond later in the evening is not ideal for many of the people involved. I think slo-pitch is a large enough organization now that putting lights on the fields can only help it to grow even more and it could help in tournaments as well (getting more teams out and offering the opportunity for more games per team). Thank You (Mahalo).</p>

	A
29	Hello, I just wanted to express my opinion that installing lights at Hendrickson fields would greatly benefit the community. All groups using the fields would greatly benefit from this and having more available fields would likely increase community involvement.
30	To whom it may concern, Squamish slopitch requires the lights at Hendrickson fields to be installed due to the lack of available and safe fields to play slopitch on in Squamish. The lights would double the amount of games that could be played as well as ensuring the league had well maintained safe fields for players. Squamish does not have nearly enough fields to be able to schedule all activities including minor and adult sports. Installing the lights at Hendrickson would help to ease the scheduling and usage conflicts. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, The Brickhouse Slopich team, friends, fans and family!
31	I Strongly support the initiative for the light on Hendrickson fields. As a active member of squamish and a pro athlete and a father , i want Squamish to support this project.
32	Hi i'm supporting the lights for hendrickson field . Have been playing on school field for about 25 years . It would be nice to get off the school field and play all games on Hendrickson fields. I would hope that the district would support us as well. thank you
33	DO NOT CUT FUNDING FROM THE YOUTH CENTRE!!!!
34	I noticed the webpage has been redesigned , yeah reduce the hours of things that benefit the taxpayers yet to you to find money to redesign a well functioning website . Kirkham ,Race and Sander got my vote because of their conservative history , yet when the become councillors they lose that . How much per year do we spend on cellphones and quantifiably how has that benefited the taxpayer. In private business before we could spend any money it had to be justified in savings and those saving were tracked monthly, there nothing.
35	How much did replacing the itersections with the roundabouts cost and I imagine that boneheaded expenditure was made under the recommendation of a director of something . The pound requires a new vehicle , what happens to the old one traded in or just absorbed into our growing costs.

A

Dear Mayor Kirkham and Council, Sea to Sky Crime Stoppers continues to bring a robust crime fighting program to this community and the Sea to Sky Corridor.

It is unfortunate that we are unable to publicly celebrate our successes due to the confidential nature of our work. However, the RCMP Detachments and a Board of Directors comprised of local citizens deeply understand the impact this program brings to help respond to crimes in our area.

At budget time, it is reasonable to put all programs under review. We understand this as we, too, review our program and approach on a regular basis. This memo supports the continued operation of the Squamish Community Police Office and all the programs it offers to the community. Certainly the recent upgrades to the office have proven very worthwhile as the CPO operation continues to demonstrate its capability to deter crime. The downtown continues to be a focus for revitalization and a safe and crime free community core is a worthy investment toward that end.

Sea to Sky Crime Stoppers requests the Community Police Office and its programs and staff be maintained as you undertake the important budget review process.

A

1) Budget overall should not be increased beyond inflation or cost-of-living, that is approximately 2% for 2014. If other (often larger or equivalent sized) communities can keep their budgets in check, and even at 0%, so can Squamish.

2) Costs could be reduced substantially by reducing the sheer number of employees, especially at middle and upper management levels, and by scaling back their salaries and benefits. Again if other (even bigger) communities are able to operate effectively and efficiently with a smaller management force, why not Squamish? For instance, does Squamish really need 6-8 programmers (for a rather limited program)? Does it really need 5 By-Law officers, (3 of whom are known to delight in "harassing" rather than helping locals)? Does it need to be so top-heavy with "senior" management, at quite inflated salaries? The argument often is that "good people can't be attracted in without paying them very well". Well, that reasoning evaporated with the economic and banking crises since 2008, and with the fairly dismal performance locally. Perhaps the District could scale back on the sheer number of unnecessary meetings, especially on matters which could be resolved expeditiously by less buck-passing and creating a culture of "initiating and taking responsibility"? And why not use less over-time (for instance, do staff have to be deployed overnight for snow-plough duty when there is no snow or no snow in the forecasts?) Why pick-up garbage and recyclables on holidays at substantial overtime pay? Why "cut" the grass in the parks when it is so dry that the grass hasn't grown? Does it really need to hire more and more consultants, for relatively mundane exercises, such as recently the American firm for re-branding Squamish, when much of that "branding" was already done by locals/volunteers (see the reports which sit on DoS shelves) and when huge local talent in this field exists from Vancouver to here.

3) It is reported that District staff are recommending the amalgamation of the Seniors' Centre with the Youth Centre. This would be untenable for both demographics.

For the Seniors, because it is their Centre which they have worked hard for, contributed to in terms of blood, sweat and tears, AND money, over many years. It is wrong to take away their main meeting place in Squamish, given what they have contributed.

(continued from previous comment)

Yes, it costs money to run but so do kiddie pump tracks, numerous bike trails, the latest Brennan Park bike park for kids, skate board places, plastic play equipment for the parks, all-weather fields, huge black prison doors for the pool, etc., none of which the Seniors or Elders benefit from, even though they continue to pay taxes towards. A more visionary, imaginative approach to resolving some of the immediate financial and social issues of the Centre is undoubtedly needed, but so far has been rather lacking (except through the Creative Connections Committee). Opening up the Centre, when space is empty, for evening zumba classes or afternoon kiddies' ballet is a start to using and paying for empty space. More needs to be done, including on the weekends. And more needs to be done to attract in the younger Elders or newbies to town - to date not done (even a few low-cost attractive directional signs for the Seniors' Centre would help). Eliminating a Seniors Committee advising and reporting to Council has not helped, either, and has contributed to isolation and misunderstandings.

Yes, we should have more inter-generational gatherings in Squamish, but the Seniors and Youth Centres have been set up for different reasons. To demolish the Youth Centre at a cost of \$70,000 is short-sighted, given that the structure itself is a very solid, concrete structure. Yes, repairs are needed because of the years of poor maintenance (why was that?), but the proposed budget for renovations seem way out of line. How well have they been costed by people actually involved in construction and renovation? How many quotes sought? Could not sponsorships be obtained from around town to reduce the costs? Could not task forces of YOUTH volunteers be set up to undertake such tasks as painting, minor repairs, decoration? This Centre is not just a "nice-to-have" facility - it is necessary to many youth who are having problems, or want companionship. They don't have a cinema anymore. If they don't have this place to hang out in, NEAR their school, where will they be forced to go? The back-alleys? In addition the Youth have their skate board park near at hand. Why would they want to hike over to Seniors' Centre (are they going to bowl?)? NO, given location, programs, facilities, and reasons for existing, the combining of the 2 facilities or centres would be counterproductive and, in the long run, not much of a money-saver.

4) I note that staff are recommending the elimination of or cut-backs to what could be termed "frivolous" items such as plants in the downtown planters, town trees, banners, lights, boulevard foliage, arts exhibits, signage, and other "decorative" items that make what could be a fairly nondescript town into an attractive venue for locals and tourists alike. Many of these have been provided by volunteers in one way or another, and that perhaps could be expanded by engaging the volunteer bases better and more imaginatively (for instance, look at what Chemainus or Fort Langley have done in their little towns).

	A
39	<p>(continued from previous comment)</p> <p>Sadly, often (not always of course) when volunteers try to initiate something, they either get dinged by By-Law officers (such as over misplaced sandwich boards or antique cars) or they have to jump through innumerable hoops at City Hall. Their enthusiasm gets squelched, so they give up, yet much of what they do enlivens and beautifies the town (a great example of that is the upcoming 2014 Biennale being organized by K. Egyed), at minimal cost to the District, which thus provides savings in and of themselves, while attracting visitors who spend. Even budding young entrepreneurs (almost a form of volunteers) run into DoS stumbling blocks, such as the fellow trying to get a much needed shuttle bus service going to Vancouver/Squamish.</p> <p>Bottom line is keep the budget in check, increasing no more than the actual cost-of-living (approximately 2%); bring middle and senior management numbers and salaries in line with other communities of similar size; don't amalgamate the Seniors/Elders' and Youth Centres; and use your great Volunteer base more imaginatively, efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>Good Luck.</p>
40	<p>On reviewing the 2014 budget Sea to Sky Forestry Society asks that you reconsider the following proposed adjustments to these individual special projects.</p> <p>On reviewing the 2014 budget the Sea to Sky Forestry Society asks that you reconsider the following proposed adjustments to these individual special projects.</p> <p>Squamish Economic Development Strategy Reducing the proposed budget by \$19,212 from \$45,788 means that some aspect of the work in determining an Economic Development Strategy will not be carried out. The forest industry and associated industries are concerned as to what aspect of the project would be removed. Completing a fully funded project is important with the objective being to have a complete and comprehensive strategy. Determining what the District of Squamish economic development strategy is paramount for business here and those that would consider locating in Squamish.</p> <p>Recommendation: Do not reduce the proposed budget allocation</p> <p>Employment Land Strategy Reducing the proposed budget by \$15,000 from \$50,000 means that some aspect of the work in determining an Economic Development Strategy will not be carried. The forest industry and associated industries are concerned as to what aspect of the project would be removed. Completing a fully funded project is important with the objective being to have a complete and comprehensive strategy whereby long term employment lands are identified and included in the District of Squamish planning processes.</p> <p>Recommendation: Do not reduce the proposed budget allocation</p>

	A
41	<p>AFTER DUE STUDY I BELIEVE COUNCIL SHOULD LOOK AT THE PUBLIC WORKS OPERATION. THERE ARE LOCAL CONTRACTERS IN THE COMMUNITY WHO COULD PROVIDE ALL THE SERVICES NEEDED WITH OUT HAVEING TO KEEP & MAINTAIN THIS LARGE FLEET OF EQUIPMENT & EMPLOYEES. ITS CALLED CONTRACTING OUT. WHEN I SEE SIX EMPLOYES & THREE DISTRICT TRUCKS INVOLVED IN WEEDING THE GARDEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ACCESS FOR TWO DAYS I CAN FEEL MY TAX DOLLARS BEING PLUCKED FROM MY POCKET. CITY HALL HAS NO PROBLEM CONTRACTING OUT TO CONSULTENTS EVEN THOU THE CITY HALL EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE JOB, E G THE DAMN SIGN SAYING WHERE TO TURN INTO SQUAMISH FOR ONE THING. LETS HAVE CITY HALL TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK INSIDE ITS WALLS AND THAN TELL THE TAX PAYERS IF ALL THIS OVERHEAD IS REALLY NECESSARY.</p>
42	<p>Just a quick note to let you know we are not happy with the upcoming tax increases. A friend of mine has e-mailed me a copy of a letter she sent to council with some great ideas for trimming the budget and keeping tax increases down. I also had a lady approach me yesterday with the same concerns. I think council needs to look carefully at these suggestions in order to keep Squamish an affordable place to live.</p>
43	<p>I am writing this email to request you specifically consider approving funds for the installation of lights at Hendrickson fields.</p> <p>The Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an immediate need for lighting on Hendrickson fields. As a slopitch player in Squamish for many years, and as a parent of children who have participated in minor sports, I feel it is important to express to you how important these lights are to not only the Slopitch field users but all field users.</p> <p>Baseball / softball is the largest sporting group in Squamish and is subject to the scheduling challenges associated with a community that has fewer ball fields on average when compared to other communities of similar size. Installing lights on Hendrickson fields will dramatically increase the available field booking times and decrease overlapping demands as well as reducing staff scheduling challenges.</p> <p>I believe the installation of lights will have significant benefits to the community in the long term and hope you see this too.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
44	<p>Squamish slopitch requires the lights at Hendrickson fields to be installed due to the lack of available and safe fields to play slopitch on in Squamish. The lights would double the amount of games that could be played as well as ensuring the league had well maintained safe fields for players. Squamish does not have nearly enough fields to be able to schedule all activities including minor and adult sports. Installing the lights at Hendrickson would help to ease the scheduling and usage conflicts.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

	A
45	I would like to see the lights put in at Hendrickson this year. The Slopitch players of Squamish have worked hard trying to raise the money to have these lights. Its starting to pose as a danger to players at certain times of the year. There is a huge portion of the Squamish population that take part in the slopitch season every year who would greatly benifit from this.
46	Is our genius council and bureaucracy think some kind of miracle will happen and they will get a windfall of money that will fix all of the money problems up , don't count on the LNG operation as there is only about a 2% chance it will every move beyond talk , then what, more tax increase and hire more bureaucrats to squeezemore revenue from the tax paying public while cutting back on services? A group who are way out of their comfort zone .
47	Marketing action plan, wow . How about doing something novel and cut expenses to people coming up with stupid ideas like that. Quit trying to get more revenue and focus on cutting back on bureaucratic heavyights . If you cut out a few directors ,managers and assistant managers there will be plenty of money to give increases to plow operators. I won't even charge for that idea .
48	More cutbacks and deferrals. We have managers,assitant managers, directors and whatever galore but we can't find the money for the benefit of the guy paying the bills . Does no one else see the absurdity in this. We have a spokes person (or district propaganda spiner)an events coordinator and who knows what other waste is there but our councillors can't come up with an y better budget management than not installing the lights on the fields, doing maint to our firehall or rec centre. I can see the blank look in some of councillors faces but all of them are this naïve . I gues a windfall will occur and everything will be miraculously fixed , won't happen

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I invested in Squamish in 2006 because I believed it was both affordable and great place to live. The continuing yearly tax increases makes Squamish increasingly unaffordable to myself and many others. Regretfully I am unable to attend the budget meeting as I'm working two jobs. Please consider my thoughts, suggestions & concerns below as well as a few key documents I've attached that support my suggestions & offer viable solutions to reduce taxes in Squamish:

1. Looking through the 2013-2017 Financial Planning Proposed Operating & Service level document I did not find any reduction of municipal staff, instead there is a proposed increase. Compared to other cities in BC it seems that Squamish is already top heavy in municipal workers, with a massive 49% of the 2013 budget spent on staffing alone. We really need to look at cutting back middle management as we have almost the same number of workers as cities that are double our size:

Penticton - 33000 population , 178 municipal workers

Campbell River - 31000 population , 161 municipal workers

Squamish - 17000 population, 150 municipal workers

Summerland - 11000 population, 70 municipal workers

2. Municipal workers are paid 30-40% above the wages for the private sector, in fact there are very few jobs in Squamish and the majority are minimum wage. Penticton set an example by at least negotiating with their union workers to agree that new hires start at \$5 less hourly than current workers. We really need to bring the wages in line with the private sector as they are simply unsustainable and the yearly increases ultimately drive up the cost of housing & new business through increases in development fees charged to developers and construction companies. Penticton was able to recover from a sizable deficit, balance their budget and freeze taxes for three years. Clearly what they have done can also help us and needs to be examined closely. Please see the attached document "Penticton's Balanced Budget & Tax Freeze" for details & a link to a podcast interview of Penticton's Mayor & CAO.

3. To stimulate the local economy, the city should be contracting out to local business rather than hiring new union workers. I have attached a document "The Beggars Checklist - A To Do List For Canadian Municipalities" that goes into detail as to how this is cost effective and will save Squamish money. It also examines several other effective cost reducing measures that need to be undertaken: utilize private/public partnerships for capital projects, sell surplus land/assets, convert services to user fees, allow volunteers to help deliver services, refocus activities on core services, develop sponsorships for services, develop partnerships for the delivery of services and utilize new technology to reduce costs. Rather than reiterate

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4. The DOS needs to examine and reduce their spending on consultants (\$600,000 in 2012 alone - Squamish Reporter November 2013) in addition to granting pay raises to council members and municipal workers. Neither reflect any fiscal restraint to the public and gather little sympathy or support for raising taxes or cutting services.

5. I have found many departmental studies on Squamish.ca from 2010 and earlier with recommendations on how to improve service, morale, communication, save money, etc., however it seems that there has been very little visible follow through or very few results from these studies. The economic development strategy department has moved at a glacial pace yet they do not lack in funding. The accountability of these departments needs to be more transparent. What's actually going on to attract new business to Squamish? We paid an exorbitant \$67,200 for a website that should be heavily utilized to attract global investors. I was told this past summer that the council has approved tax incentives for new business, but as of yet no details of these incentives have been posted online. The DOS can learn volumes about how this is done from the excellent marketing strategy on Penticton's website:

<http://www.penticton.ca/EN/main/business/economic-development/economic-incentives.html>

If I was a business doing initial research online whether to invest either Penticton or Squamish, by comparison we appear to be mired in stagnation rather than open for business!

6. Water & sewage rates are extremely high and have increased every year since I bought my 640 sq ft condo in 2006, yet I pay the same rate as a large household with several rental apartments who consume much more water than I do. This is unfair and does not encourage water conservation. Until we can afford to have meters installed I have suggested to council in the past that Squamish adopt the billing method based on property values outlined in "FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS IN ONTARIO" -Pricing Structures: "The easiest pricing structure to support is the Property Assessment structure. As municipalities undertake the process of calculating property tax bills and the collection process for their general services, the incorporation of the water costs into this calculation would have virtually no impact on the administrative process and structure."

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One good example of binding legislation is Ontario's Bill 175, the Sustainable Water and Sewage Act, 2002. This measure compels municipalities to assess the costs of water and sewer services and to recover the money needed to operate, maintain and replace them. Although this has led to higher user fees, it has made Ontario's water and waste water infrastructure financially and environmentally more sustainable. It has also provided consumers an incentive to reduce water use, thereby lowering the cost of future infrastructure investments. Please see the attached docs "Toward more efficient Municipal Government in Canada" & "Financial Management of Municipal Water Systems".

Thanks for the opportunity to give my input. I hope my suggestions will be seriously considered and implemented. I believe they are necessary to ensure the growth and sustainability of Squamish. Further tax increases will see more homeowners and businesses leaving, resulting in a diminished tax base to support a top heavy DOS.