



January 13, 2022

As we close the door on 2021, and welcome 2022, even the optimists among us admit that 2021 was a very challenging year.

We are well into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and have seen how this global crisis is continuing to affect our region. Outbreaks in the Central Coast have required many sacrifices to comply with health restrictions and keep our communities safe. Local businesses have experienced unforeseen financial losses and have had to adapt quickly to stay afloat in these unpredictable times. For up-to-date COVID-19 information and health restrictions please see provincial guidelines: [BC COVID-19 Restrictions BC](#) [COVID-19 Dashboard Nuxalk EOC Information](#)

In 2021 we also faced supply chain disruptions, devastating community losses, a heat dome, road closures, flood warnings, and much more. Despite these challenges, never has it been more apparent that the people of the Central Coast of BC are some of the most resilient, resourceful, hard-working people around. It has also never been more important to be kind to our neighbors, to check in on and watch out for one another, and to be prepared for the unexpected.

For the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD), it was a year of transition. Our previous Chair Samuel Schooner was elected Chief Councillor of the Nuxalk Nation. Congratulations, Sam! I stepped in to do my best to fill his shoes as CCRD Chair in September, and in October former CAO Courtney Kirk took a new position as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Village of Queen Charlotte. In 2022 we will be welcoming our new CAO Curtis Slingerland who brings with him a wealth of local government and management experience. We are very excited to have Mr. Slingerland joining our team and are looking forward to a great year. The Board of Directors would like to express our gratitude to Courtney for her years of service to CCRD, and to Evangeline Hanuse for her hard work as interim Acting CAO.

The CCRD Board and staff have a packed year ahead as we focus on our updated Strategic Priorities and priority projects, including: an updated Official Community Plan for the Bella Coola Valley, Hagensborg Water Service infrastructure upgrades, the Great Bear Playgrounds Initiative, and next steps in the Denny Island Water System construction process.

At the Provincial and Federal levels, the Board will continue collaborative advocacy efforts with Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Village of Queen Charlotte to close taxation gaps and update unfair revenue-related policies and practices. We have also prioritized advocacy for improving emergency medical evacuations from our region, and for improving ferry service within the Central Coast.

I am confident that our communities will continue to face future challenges with the steadfast determination, generosity, and grit that makes our region so resilient and adaptable. I look forward to the coming year and the brighter days it promises.

In service,

Jayne Kennedy
CCRD Chair, Area C