

## **FB Posts re: NSInc.**

### **NORTH SHUSWAP INCORPORATED #1**

Taxes that will stay on our current tax notices.

The following items on our tax notices would stay essentially the same. They would increase annually due to inflation or other charges, but they are outside of a municipalities control. The numbers shown are rounded for ease.

- \$4m for Provincial School Tax per year: no change
- \$147,000 Police tax: no change
- \$722,000 Thompson Nicola Regional Health District tax: no change
- \$86,000 BC Assessment Authority: no change
- \$512 Municipal Finance Authority: no change
- \$258,000 Okanagan Regional Library: no change

BC Rural Tax - \$965,000 mainly for road maintenance and repair

- Each taxpayer pays an amount called the BC Rural Tax which is mainly used for road maintenance.
- NSInc. - The Rural Tax would not be on our tax notices and NSInc. would tax a similar amount to maintain the roads, excluding Squilax-Anglemont Road (SAR) as that would still be maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

### **NORTH SHUSWAP INCORPORATED #2**

Things that NSInc. would have control over

- local decision making
  - A Mayor and two or three Councillors would be elected.
  - These people, from our community, would be responsible for making all decisions.
  - There would be lots of input from the community as you will know all these individuals, and could accost them at the store or wherever, to give them your opinion.
  - They would be elected on a 4-year rotation, whenever there is a municipal election.
- roads - rules, ticketing, parking, signs etc.
  - The \$965,000 that we pay to the province for BC Rural Tax would not be paid to the province and would be used for this service.
  - NSInc. would be responsible for all roads except Squilax-Anglemont Road (SAR)
  - IF MORE than the \$965,000 was needed then NSInc. would tax for the required money to service all roads within the incorporated area.
  - Road service, include paving, pot holes, all gravel road maintenance, winter road maintenance, painting lines (if any), etc. etc. will be the responsibility of NSInc.
  - NSInc. could contract this out to local businesses or continue on with AIM or another company.

- STUDY NEEDED before the vote: There is no way to know at this time what amount would be needed to keep all the roads in good condition. This would be part of the study that will be completed before we are asked to vote.
- ability to decide on road markings and bylaws
  - MoTI would be responsible for SAR but all others would be NSInc.
  - We could paint things like Xwalks or other markings on non-SARs roads, and could work with MoTI on SAR markings
  - Other road bylaws could be approved such as no-parking on public roads, or no permanent parking on public roads.
- control over planning
  - Planning in the North Shuswap is one of the big frustrations of building out here.
  - We have an out-of-date Official Community Plan, and lots of rules and regulations are in place.
  - In general, these rules are in place to protect us from doing stupid things, like building a round house on the side of a hill, it's just got to start rolling sometime.
  - So, I can't say that we'd be able to remove all the rules, regulations, and reports, but we can certainly look them over and decide what we want to keep and what we don't.
- Ability to build a sewage or drinking water solution, or other community desires.
  - NSInc. could apply for grants and begin a community water system or community sewer system. These grants are often for up to 75% of the cost, the other 25% would have to be raised locally through taxes
  - Usually if we work with a local Indigenous band we might get up to 90% of the funds through grants.
  - Grants are available for a wide variety of community services; day care, senior accommodation, affordable/available housing, parallel paths, skating rink, other parks, etc.
  - Decisions on services and infrastructure like this would likely go to a referendum or public vote to ensure fairness and impartiality. The Mayor and council will determine this.

### **NORTH SHUSWAP INCORPORATED #3**

Things that NSInc. may have some have control over

- Interior Health Services
  - \$772,000 is paid towards the Thompson Nicola Regional Health District in 2022
  - These funds go mainly towards Royal Inland Hospital but a portion does go to regional health centres in incorporated places like Barriere, Chase, Clearwater etc.
  - In looking at health care throughout small communities, it certainly seems like anywhere that is incorporated, has a provincial health centre of some kind.
  - Doctors office, ambulance etc.
  - Study Needed: There would likely be costs to this beyond just the TRHD costs.

## **NORTH SHUSWAP INCORPORATED #4**

### Provincial and Federal Grant Applications

- The CSRD is looked upon as one municipality, one entity, and therefore can, in most cases, only apply for a specific grant one time during any grant intake period.
- This means it must prioritize a specific grant between only one of the 7 Electoral Areas (Area F North Shuswap is one of seven)
- NSInc. Could apply on its own for any of the grants that are available.

### Provincial and Federal Free Money

- There is other money that is annually provided to municipalities and Regional Districts, out of the goodness of the Prov or Fed governments heart.
- It is grant money, but you don't have to apply for it. There is usually some calculation as to how much each municipality or RD receives.
- In the CSRD, these grants must be divvied up to all the Electoral Areas (1 of 7)
- As an example, a recent grant – the Growing Communities Fund grant – was sent to each municipality and Regional District.
- The amounts provided to local municipalities (rough numbers based on the information I could find)

o Municipality	Population	Grant \$
o CSRD rural areas	21,539	\$3.8m
o Salmon Arm	19,342	\$6.3m
o Revelstoke	8,275	\$2.7m
o Sicamous	2,613	\$1.5m
o Golden	3,986	\$1.9m
o NSInc.	3,200	\$2.3m if we were incorporated

- So to start off with, Regional Districts get a proportionally smaller amount of grant
- Then, since these municipalities are 'a part' of the Regional District they get a portion of the RD grant.
- With those portions removed there is just \$2.8m left for the 7 Electoral Areas in the RD
- If this \$2.8m were divided to each EA by population, the North Shuswap (Area F) would receive \$431,000
- HOWEVER if we were an incorporated municipality, NSInc. would receive roughly \$2.3m

## **NORTH SHUSWAP INCORPORATED #5**

### Drawbacks and negatives to Incorporation

- With these benefits come responsibilities. We will have to
  - o elect local people to lead us, Mayor and 2 or 3 councillors
  - o hire staff to handle various services. Chase has a staff of 8 plus a fire chief
    - <https://chasebc.ca/departments/contact/>

- Make planning, and many other decisions locally
- Taxes may rise
  - They likely will, but until the Incorporation Study is done, we don't know how much.
  - In the South Shuswap, taxes were predicted to increase by \$328 which was to be phased in over 4 years, so roughly \$82 per year.