

**Tom Yates**

---

**Subject:** FW: Unsustainable tax increases on Cortes Island

---

**From:** david shipway <[windjammer@twincomm.ca](mailto:windjammer@twincomm.ca)>

**Sent:** March 12, 2023 11:26 AM

**To:** Mark Vonesch <[mvonesch@srd.ca](mailto:mvonesch@srd.ca)>

**Cc:** David Leitch <[DLeitch@srd.ca](mailto:DLeitch@srd.ca)>; Mike Harmston <[mharmston@srd.ca](mailto:mharmston@srd.ca)>; Mark Baker <[mbaker@srd.ca](mailto:mbaker@srd.ca)>

**Subject:** Unsustainable tax increases on Cortes Island

**NOTICE:** This email is from an external source.

Regional Director Mark Vonesch, and Strathcona Regional District Board,

You are probably well aware that most Property Assessments on Cortes Island have DOUBLED over the last few years, due to a real estate market that has become what many are calling a Ponzi scheme that is making home purchase nearly impossible for young families.

On top of this massive increase in evaluation/taxation, the ability of home owners to appeal such dubiously inflated evaluations in person was made quite difficult due to the pandemic.

At the same time, inflation across the board has raised the cost of living considerably, certainly making things difficult for older residents on fixed incomes, and even for the working class since wages haven't kept pace with rising costs.

Now, property owners on Cortes are facing a near doubling of their tax burden to maintain the Cortes Island Fire-Fighting Association?

While we support our local fire fighters and their persistent dedication to serve this small community, we must **object** to this sudden and substantial increase in taxation, and feel that their operating budget, just like the SRD budget, should increase far more gradually over time.

Sincerely,

David and Joy Shipway  
504 Highfield Road  
Cortes Island BC, VOP 1K0  
250.935.6417