



RDCO Strategic Priorities 2023-2026

CAO Report to the RDCO Board of Directors

April 3, 2025



RDCO Strategic Priorities 2023-2026

Regional and electoral area priorities at a glance

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The RDCO will build on emergency response strengths while positioning the organization to respond to growing community needs and changes in provincial legislation.

- Continue to enhance services and efforts aimed at emergency preparedness and mitigation
- Assess the readiness of the existing Emergency Management Organization model to meet the increasing demand for emergency preparedness, response and recovery

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Establish and enhance electoral area policies to manage growth, guide land use decisions and address community social needs

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

The RDCO is committed to climate action and the environment by reducing our corporate impact, adapting to climate change and delivering innovative services that better manage greenhouse gas emissions.

- Evolve services in waste management to reduce waste going to the Glenmore Landfill including organics, recyclable and construction materials
- Introduce and enforce new regulations aimed at better controlling soil deposition and preventing illegal dumping in the region's rural areas

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The RDCO will make purposeful investments in health care for physical and mental health benefits.

- The Regional Hospital District of Central Okanagan will work with Interior Health to influence priorities for responsive capital expenditures
- Commit the resources necessary to provide enhanced access to regional parks and trails, as well as programming that connects people to nature and that provides significant physical and mental health benefits



TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

The RDCO is actively committed to Reconciliation with the syilx / Okanagan people within the Central Okanagan. The RDCO strives for collaboration through a meaningful and ethical government-to-government working relationship with the syilx / Okanagan people.

- Ensure that RDCO services and the workplace are culturally safe and respectful
- RDCO will ensure that necessary steps are taken so that eligible projects proposed by the syilx / Okanagan nations receive an equitable share of provincial and/or federal grant dollars received by the RDCO

TRANSPORTATION

The RDCO will encourage the efficient and safe movement of people and goods within the Central Okanagan.

- Define and implement advocacy actions, within the framework of an RDCO Board Advocacy Strategy to:
 - Influence and help shape investments and decisions for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in the Central Okanagan
 - Improve equity in transportation options and mobility for the local jurisdictions and residents of the Central Okanagan
 - Enhance the level of integration between the Regional Growth Strategy and transportation planning in the Central Okanagan, including integration with the efforts of MoTI.



Emergency Preparedness

Regional & electoral area priority

REGIONAL KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Facilitate the establishment of an expanded Central Okanagan Search and Rescue facility.</u>			
1. Work in partnership with COSAR and other partners.	Corporate Services	In progress	2025-03-31
<u>Action fiscally supported recommendations of the RDCO Fire Services Review.</u>			
1. Assess and finalize feasibility of the recommendations.	Protective Services	Complete	2024-03-29
2. Action the recommendations based on approved budget.	Protective Services	In progress	2025-04-30
3. Organizational structure changed for reporting to the Director of Protective Services	Protective Services	Complete	2024-06-30
<u>Develop a strategy for a sustainable year-round Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).</u>			
1. Review new Emergency and Disaster Management Act for implications to regional emergency management program	Corporate Services	Complete	2024-12-31
2. Assess findings from review for funding and contractual obligation implications	Corporate Services	Complete	2025-01-31
3. Review budget and organizational design	Corporate Services	Complete	2025-01-31

Implement Next Generation 911 service.

1. Partner with BC Assessment to improve addressing consistency for Next Gen 911 implementation contingent approved on April 2025 grant application submission	Protective Services	In progress	2026-03-31
2. Continue to support advocacy efforts for a provincial 911 cell phone levy	Corporate Services	In progress	2026-12-31

Adopt feasible practices to incorporate Indigenous land management knowledge for emergency preparedness and response

1. Incorporate syilx knowledge and land practices into emergency preparedness and response planning (flood, prescribed burning...)	Protective Services	Complete	2024-12-31
2. Identify and protect culturally significant features in RDCO parks in partnership with syilx communities (i.e., work on a park trail) outside of mandated legislative requirements.	Parks Services	In progress	2025-09-30

ELECTORAL AREA KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
1. Evaluate fire services mutual aid agreements (last renewed in February 2023)	Protective Services	Complete	2024-12-31
2. Update agreements as needed for next agreement in 2026	Protective Services	Complete	2024-12-31



Environment & Climate

Regional priority

REGIONAL AREA KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Develop RDCO Corporate Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with Regional District operations and assets.</u>			
1. Corporate Climate Action Plan drafted and presented for Board approval	Development and Engineering Services	On hold	2026-12-31
<u>Reduce the volume of construction waste going into the Glenmore Landfill.</u>			
1. Construction waste stream studies completed (information gathering) and relevant recommendations presented to the Board	Development and Engineering Services	In progress	2026-12-31
2. Implement supported recommendations for actions to reduce construction waste	Development and Engineering Services	Not started	2026-12-31
<u>Expand the range of recyclables accepted, reduce contamination and control costs by completing the transfer of the delivery of curbside collection to Recycle BC.</u>			
1. Explore curbside glass collection with Recycle BC and present options to the Board (not needed as Recycle BC picking up the cost)	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-11-28
2. Explore flexible plastics curbside pilot project with Recycle BC and present options to the Board (same as above comment)	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-11-28
3. Complete curbside AI Recycling pilot, and present options to the Board	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-06-30
<u>Implement a curbside organics collection program.</u>			

1. Report to Board on public engagement Phase 1, and present options (next steps) to the Board	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-02-29
2. Report to Board on public engagement Phase 2, and present program options to the Board	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-11-28
3. Implement Board direction	Development and Engineering Services	In progress	2025-07-31
<u>Create and enforce a Soil Deposition & Removal Strategy and Bylaw.</u>			
1. Present a soil bylaw to the Regional Board complete with budget implications	Development and Engineering Services	Canceled	2025-06-30
2. Create a Regional Soil Deposition and Removal Strategy with partners and present to the EASC and the Regional Board	Development and Engineering Services	Canceled	2025-04-30



Growth & Development

Electoral area priority

ELECTORAL KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	FUNDING	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Pursue funding opportunities to update the Electoral Areas Official Community Plans (OCPs).</u>				
1. Complete an OCP scoping exercise and present to the Electoral Area Services Committee and the Regional Board complete with budget implications	Development and Engineering Services	External	Complete	2024-11-30
2. Explore funding options	Communications and Information Services	Internal	In progress	2025-09-30
3. Request Board approval for funding application/s (if funding requires Board approval)	Communications and Information Services	Internal	Not started	2025-11-30



Health & Wellness

Regional & electoral area priority

REGIONAL KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Establish a memorandum of understanding with Interior Health to outline community healthcare needs and align capital funding.</u>			
1. Memorandum of Understanding signed	Corporate Services	Complete	2023-11-17
<u>Identify priority regional parks and trails to implement year-round access for residents of all abilities.</u>			
1. Present updated land acquisition strategy to Regional Board	Parks Services	Complete	2024-09-30
2. Identify Regional Parks with opportunities for year-round access in multiple phases	Parks Services	Complete	2024-03-31
3. Identify capital improvements and operational resource required to open Regional Parks Year-Round and increase accessibility.	Parks Services	Complete	2024-12-31
4. Implement Phase 1 objective to improve winter access to Kopje Regional Park	Parks Services	Complete	2023-12-01
5. Implement additional phases to improve year-round access in Regional Parks	Parks Services	In progress	2025-12-31
6. Seek Growing Communities Funds (GCF) to support capital improvements to Regional Parks to improve accessibility where possible	Parks Services	Complete	2023-11-30
7. Include GCF funding into existing capital projects to enhance and improve accessibility to Regional Parks over the next 5 years.	Parks Services	In progress	2026-12-31
<u>Leverage RDCO planning labs to inform land use policies that enhance quality of life in the region.</u>			

1. Partner with UBCO on Environmental Protection Planning Lab	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2023-11-29
2. Coordinate planning labs twice annually	Development and Engineering Services	In progress	2026-12-31

ELECTORAL AREA KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
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Bolster the range of local park amenities and local recreation and community programs available through existing services to promote physical literacy.

1. Support volunteer driven activities in West Electoral Area Community Parks	Parks Services	In progress	2026-12-31
2. Support non-formal local recreation opportunities in the East Electoral Community Parks	Parks Services	Complete	2024-12-31
3. Renew the agreement with Joe Rich Society for on-going recreation and programming at the Joe Rich Community Hall (renewed for 5 years)	Parks Services	Complete	2024-12-04
4. Develop and provide events and programming at the Ellison Heritage Community Centre, while offsetting costs with facility rentals to balance revenue generation and community programming	Parks Services	In progress	2026-12-31



Transportation

Regional & electoral area priority

REGIONAL KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Define, and explore a Regional Transportation Service.</u>			
1. RDCO staff assigned to the Regional Transportation Technical Committee	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-02-29
2. Explore a more effective governance structure to oversee the implementation of the Regional Transportation Service	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2024-12-31
3. Identify the mandate, scope, membership, voting structure, cost sharing and staff capacity for a future Regional Transportation Service	Development and Engineering Services	In progress	2025-04-30
<u>Collaborate with partner municipalities and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to advance regionally significant capital projects.</u>			
1. Make improvements to Waterfront and Sunnyside Trails in Kalamoior, connect the Active Transportation route from Casa Loma to Sunnyside, connecting the regional corridor coming from the east off the Bennett Bridge to the City of West Kelowna network to the west	Parks Services	In progress	2025-12-31
2. Advise YLW/CoK /MOTI/ALC staff (YLW led) on the proposed Airside Commercial project (YLW Master Plan 2045)	Development and Engineering Services	On hold	2026-12-31
3. Advise YLW/CoK/MOTI staff (YLW led) on the proposed Old Vernon Road project (YLW Master Plan 2045)	Development and Engineering Services	On hold	2026-12-31

ELECTORAL AREA KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Advocate for innovative BC Transit service options for rural areas.</u>			
1. Develop an advocacy strategy for Electoral Areas	Communications and Information Services	Not started	2024-12-31
2. Implement advocacy activities as outlined in the strategy	Communications and Information Services	Not started	2026-12-31
3. Coordinate BC Transit presentations to the Electoral Area Service Committee (EASC)	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2026-12-31
<u>Advocate for enhanced road safety and maintenance for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure roads in Electoral Areas</u>			
1. Develop an advocacy strategy for Electoral Areas	Communications and Information Services	In progress	2026-12-31
2. Implement advocacy activities as outlined in the strategy	Communications and Information Services	Not started	2026-12-31
3. Coordinate MOTI presentations to the EASC	Development and Engineering Services	Complete	2026-12-31



Truth & Reconciliation

Regional & electoral area priority

REGIONAL AND ELECTORAL AREA KEY ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<u>Complete the Regional District Reconciliation Framework to guide the actions taken by RDCO in its pursuit of Reconciliation with the syilx /Okanagan peoples.</u>			
1. Board approved framework developed in consultation with syilx communities in the Central Okanagan	Communications and Information Services	Complete	2024-01-31
2. Implement Reconciliation Framework recommended activities in collaboration with syilx communities in the Central Okanagan	Communications and Information Services	In progress	2026-12-31
<u>Develop government-to-government relationships with Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance.</u>			
1. Host Community to Community Forum for staff and elected officials	Corporate Services	Complete	2024-06-15
<u>Continue work already underway to explore full representation for Westbank First Nation on the Regional District Board.</u>			
1. Complete Inclusive Governance project with Province and Westbank First Nation including discussion paper and joint exploration workshop	Communications and Information Services	Complete	2024-06-14
<u>Support the syilx / Okanagan people in their efforts to protect culturally significant areas.</u>			
1. Develop Engineering protocol for protecting culturally significant areas in proximity to proposed and planned infrastructure	Development and Engineering Services	In progress	2026-12-31

2. Update 2017 Memorandum of Understanding with Westbank First Nation for the protection of cultural features in Regional Parks to align the principles and framework identified in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Province of BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)	Parks Services	In progress	2025-12-31
3. Update OCPs, bylaws and policies to ensure development proposals adhere to the Heritage Conservation Act as amended	Development and Engineering Services	In progress	2025-06-30
4. Explore a Board policy for Archeological Assessments in Electoral Areas to align with DRIPA legislation.	Development and Engineering Services	On hold	2025-12-31