

Request for Direction - RDCO Voting Unit Review

Regional Board Meeting

April 26, 2021

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



Background

- Due to rapid population growth, the City of Kelowna had a seventh Director added to the Board in November 2017;
- The Regional Board Strategic Planning Workshop was held on January 16th, 2019;
- The composition of the Board and the RDCO Voting Unit was identified as an issue to review;
- Staff presented a report to the Board on this matter in November 2019 seeking direction.

Voting Unit Review

Regional District	Largest Municipality	Population	Voting Unit	# of Directors	Voting Strength
Central Okanagan	City of Kelowna	129,044 / 194,882	4,000	* 7 of 13	33 of 52
Fraser Fort George	City of Prince George	74,003 / 94,506	4,000	4 of 14	19 of 30
Nanaimo	City of Nanaimo	90,504 / 155,698	2,500	8 of 19	37 of 68
qathet	City of Powell River	13,157 / 19,363	2,000	2 of 7	7 of 13
Strathcona	City of Campbell River	33,465 / 44,671	1,500	5 of 13	23 of 34
Thompson-Nicola	City of Kamloops	90,280 / 132,663	3,250	6 of 26	28 of 52

Voting Unit (population) -	4,000	Projected Census Year Population					
Jurisdiction	Growth Rate %	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Kelowna	1.34%	131,654	140,714	150,398	160,749	171,811	183,635
	#Directors	7	8	8	9	9	10
West Kelowna	1.60%	33,751	36,539	39,557	42,824	46,362	50,191
	#Directors	2	2	2	3	3	3
Lake Country	1.40%	13,356	14,317	15,348	16,453	17,637	18,907
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peachland	0.50%	5,610	5,752	5,897	6,046	6,198	6,355
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area East	1.10%	3,954	4,176	4,411	4,659	4,921	5,198
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area West	1.60%	11,383	12,323	13,341	14,443	15,636	16,928
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Regional Population:		199,721	213,835	228,966	245,189	262,581	281,230

Background

- Various voting options were provided for consideration and after deliberations, the Board adopted the following resolutions:
 - #213/19
 - *THAT the Regional Board authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to enter discussions with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing to review and amend the Voting Unit assigned to the Regional District of Central Okanagan.*
 - #214/19
 - *THAT the Regional District pursue with the Province of BC a change in the Regional Board's voting unit from 4,000 to 6,000 and report back to the Board prior to any final decision of the Province.*

Background

- The CAO contacted the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to present information and confirm the process by which the Province and the RDCO would review and possibly amend the Voting Unit value for the Central Okanagan;
- After reviewing our information, the Province requested we initiate a formal consultation process with all municipal Councils on this matter prior to the Province providing a response;
- Consultation process was completed in February, 2021.

RDCO Voting Unit Review – Consultation Summary

Jurisdiction	In Favour of Review	Desired Voting Unit Value
City of Kelowna	Yes	5,000
City of West Kelowna	Yes	5,000
District of Lake Country	Yes	5,500
District of Peachland	Yes	6,500
Electoral Area East	Yes	5,500
Electoral Area West	Yes	6,000

Background Continued

- Consensus was not reached on the Voting Unit value;
- However, consensus was reached on the need to review the voting unit and there was strong support for implementing any change at the inaugural meeting of the next Board;
- Without consensus on the Voting Unit value, the Province is looking to the Regional Board to consider the results of the consultation process and advise what new value it wishes to have as its Voting Unit;

		Current Voting Unit of (2021 Projected Population) 4000				
Member Jurisdiction	2021 Projected Population	# of Directors	Voting Strength (# of Votes)	% Weighted Vote	% Corporate Vote	% of Population
Kelowna	140,714	8	36	62%	57%	66%
West Kelowna	36,539	2	10	17%	14%	17%
Lake Country	14,317	1	4	7%	7%	7%
Peachland	5,752	1	2	3%	7%	3%
Electoral Area East	4,176	1	2	3%	7%	2%
Electoral Area West	12,323	1	4	7%	7%	6%
Totals:	213,821	14	58	100%	100%	100%



Voting Unit of (2021 Projected Population)

5000

Member Jurisdiction	2021 Projected Population	# of Directors	Change in # of Directors	Voting Strength (# of Votes)	Change in # of Votes	% Weighted Vote	% Change in Voting Strength	% Corporate Vote	% of Population
Kelowna	140,714	6	↓2	29	↓7	63%	1%	50%	66%
West Kelowna	36,539	2	No change	8	↓2	17%	0%	17%	17%
Lake Country	14,317	1	No change	3	↓1	7%	0%	8%	7%
Peachland	5,752	1	No change	2	No change	4%	1%	8%	3%
Electoral Area East	4,176	1	No change	1	↓1	2%	-1%	8%	2%
Electoral Area West	12,323	1	No change	3	↓1	7%	0%	8%	6%
Totals:	213,821	12		46		100%		100%	100%

Voting Unit of (2021 Projected Population)

5500

Member Jurisdiction	2021 Projected Population	# of Directors	Change in # of Directors	Voting Strength (# of Votes)	Change in # of Votes	% Weighted Vote	% Change in Voting Strength	% Corporate Vote	% of Population
Kelowna	140,714	6	↓2	26	↓10	62%	0%	50%	66%
West Kelowna	36,539	2	No change	7	↓3	17%	-1%	17%	17%
Lake Country	14,317	1	No change	3	↓1	7%	0%	8%	7%
Peachland	5,752	1	No change	2	No change	5%	1%	8%	3%
Electoral Area East	4,176	1	No change	1	↓1	2%	-1%	8%	2%
Electoral Area West	12,323	1	No change	3	↓1	7%	0%	8%	6%
Totals:	213,821	12		42		100%		100%	100%

Proposed Voting Unit of (2021 Projected Population)

6000

Member Jurisdiction	2021 Projected Population	# Directors	Change in # of Directors	Voting Strength (# of Votes)	Change in # of votes	% Weighted Vote	% Change in Voting Strength	% Corporate Vote	% of Population
Kelowna	140,714	5	↓3	24	↓12	62%	-1%	45%	66%
West Kelowna	36,539	2	No change	7	↓3	18%	1%	18%	17%
Lake Country	14,317	1	No change	3	↓1	8%	1%	9%	7%
Peachland	5,752	1	No change	1	↓1	3%	-1%	9%	3%
Electoral Area East	4,176	1	No change	1	↓1	3%	-1%	9%	2%
Electoral Area West	12,323	1	No change	3	↓1	8%	1%	9%	6%
Totals:	213,821	11		39		100%		100%	100%

Proposed Voting Unit of (2021 Projected Population)

6500

Member Jurisdiction	2021 Projected Population	# Directors	Change in # of Directors	Voting Strength (# of Votes)	Change in # of Votes	% Weighted Vote	% Change in Voting Strength	% Corporate Vote	% of Population
Kelowna	140,714	5	↓3	22	↓14	63%	1%	45%	66%
West Kelowna	36,539	2	No change	6	↓4	17%	0%	18%	17%
Lake Country	14,317	1	No change	3	↓1	9%	2%	9%	7%
Peachland	5,752	1	No change	1	↓1	3%	-1%	9%	3%
Electoral Area East	4,176	1	No change	1	↓1	3%	-1%	9%	2%
Electoral Area West	12,323	1	No change	2	↓2	6%	-1%	9%	6%
Totals:	213,821	11		35		100%		100%	100%

Analysis

- The Province is reluctant to weigh in on the issue without Board consideration of the municipal Council consultation results;
- Key considerations:
 - There is unanimous support for the review of the RDCO voting unit;
 - The two jurisdictions most impacted by a change to the voting unit value supported an incremental approach with a population value of 5,000;
 - Most jurisdictions favoured a voting unit value of less than 6,000;
 - Regional population modelling suggests a voting unit value of 5,000 will result in the same Board composition as we have today in 4 years time;
 - Regional population modelling suggests a voting unit of 5,500 will have a lasting effect for approximately 20 years (2041).

Voting Unit (population) -	5,000	Projected Census Year Population					
Jurisdiction	Growth Rate %	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Kelowna	1.34%	131,654	140,714	150,398	160,749	171,811	183,635
	#Directors	6	6	7	7	7	8
West Kelowna	1.60%	33,751	36,539	39,557	42,824	46,362	50,191
	#Directors	2	2	2	2	2	3
Lake Country	1.40%	13,356	14,317	15,348	16,453	17,637	18,907
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peachland	0.50%	5,610	5,752	5,897	6,046	6,198	6,355
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area East	1.10%	3,954	4,176	4,411	4,659	4,921	5,198
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area West	1.60%	11,383	12,323	13,341	14,443	15,636	16,928
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Regional Population:		199,720	213,833	228,965	245,186	262,578	281,228

Voting Unit (population) -	5,500	Projected Census Year Population					
Jurisdiction	Growth Rate %	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Kelowna	1.34%	131,654	140,714	150,398	160,749	171,811	183,635
	#Directors	5	6	6	6	6	7
West Kelowna	1.60%	33,751	36,539	39,557	42,824	46,362	50,191
	#Directors	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lake Country	1.40%	13,356	14,317	15,348	16,453	17,637	18,907
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peachland	0.50%	5,610	5,752	5,897	6,046	6,198	6,355
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area East	1.10%	3,954	4,176	4,411	4,659	4,921	5,198
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area West	1.60%	11,383	12,323	13,341	14,443	15,636	16,928
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Regional Population:		199,719	213,833	228,964	245,185	262,577	281,226

Voting Unit (population) -	6,000	Projected Census Year Population					
Jurisdiction	Growth Rate %	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Kelowna	1.34%	131,654	140,714	150,398	160,749	171,811	183,635
	#Directors	5	5	6	6	6	7
West Kelowna	1.60%	33,751	36,539	39,557	42,824	46,362	50,191
	#Directors	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lake Country	1.40%	13,356	14,317	15,348	16,453	17,637	18,907
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peachland	0.50%	5,610	5,752	5,897	6,046	6,198	6,355
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area East	1.10%	3,954	4,176	4,411	4,659	4,921	5,198
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area West	1.60%	11,383	12,323	13,341	14,443	15,636	16,928
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Regional Population:		199,719	213,832	228,964	245,185	262,577	281,226

Voting Unit (population) - 6,500		Projected Census Year Population					
Jurisdiction	Growth Rate %	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Kelowna	1.34%	131,654	140,714	150,398	160,749	171,811	183,635
	#Directors	5	5	5	5	6	6
West Kelowna	1.60%	33,751	36,539	39,557	42,824	46,362	50,191
	#Directors	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lake Country	1.40%	13,356	14,317	15,348	16,453	17,637	18,907
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peachland	0.50%	5,610	5,752	5,897	6,046	6,198	6,355
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area East	1.10%	3,954	4,176	4,411	4,659	4,921	5,198
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electoral Area West	1.60%	11,383	12,323	13,341	14,443	15,636	16,928
	#Directors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Regional Population:		199,719	213,832	228,963	245,184	262,577	281,225

Conclusions

- The Province has requested the Regional Board nominate a new voting unit value after giving consideration of the municipal Council consultation results;
- The key question facing the Regional Board is whether to:
 - Confirm its support for its original voting unit value of 6,000; Or
 - Support the two jurisdictions most impacted by a change to the voting unit value with an incremental approach and a voting unit value of 5,000; Or
 - Consider supporting a voting unit value of 5,500 that avoids having to revisit the same issue in 4 years and provides a balanced approach for the next 20 years.

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board recommend a preferred RDCO Voting Unit value of 5,500 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for their consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional Board supports the implementation date of this change to the Voting Unit being the Inaugural Meeting of the next Board following the 2022 general local election.