



North Westside Governance & Services Study
Background Paper
March, 2022

NORTH WESTSIDE AREA SERVICES OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN WEST ELECTORAL AREA?

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is one of 27 regional districts in BC. It is made up of two electoral areas (unincorporated areas) and four municipalities. The electoral area boundary also includes Westbank First Nation Reserves #9 and #10, however the Westbank First Nation is an independent government. Central Okanagan West, often referenced as RDCO West, is one of the two electoral areas. RDCO West encompasses 1,173 km² and is home to about 2,897 residents (2021 Census), not including those living on the Westbank First Nation reserve lands. If the 10,900 WFN residents (and lands) are included, the total rises to 13,797, and 1,247 km². The electoral area includes the communities of Trader's Cove, Killiney Beach, Wilson's Landing, Westshore Estates, Fintry, Valley of the Sun, as well as areas the Trepanier Valley and Brent Road, just outside of Peachland.



The focus of this Study is specifically on the North Westside communities within the Central Okanagan West electoral area. These communities are those within the North Westside Road fire protection

service area, and includes Killiney Beach, Westshore Estates, Fintry and Valley of the Sun.

WHAT SERVICES DOES CENTRAL OKANAGAN WEST RECEIVE

The RDCO West electoral area receives services from a combination of providers, including the RDCO, the provincial government, improvement district, and some private companies that provide infrastructure services (water) to specific areas.

The Provincial government provides roads, policing and is the approval authority for subdivisions within unincorporated areas of BC.

As noted in the *Regional District Governance* backgrounder, regional districts can provide a broad range of services. With the exception of a few provincially mandated services, the services are determined by the regional board, with the support of residents. Because the board only provides services that their members, or residents, agree the regional district should provide, the menu of services varies by regional district, and can be different within each electoral area or community. Therefore, just because the RDCO offers a service in one area of the region, does not mean the service is provided to RDCO West, or indeed to the North Westside communities within RDCO West.

Figure 1 lists the services the RDCO provides to RDCO West. Some of the services are provided to the entire electoral area, while others are specific to certain areas or neighbourhoods within the



Figure 1
RDCO Services to Central Okanagan West

<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Administration (Board) EA Government (shared expenses) Central Okanagan West administration Regional Grants in Aid RDCO West Grants in Aid Communications 	<p>Planning and Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Planning EA Planning Building Inspection Transportation Demand Management Noise Abatement Untidy Premises
<p>Emergency Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescue Services 911 Crime Stoppers Victim services EA Fire Prevention Fire Protection - North Westside Crime Prevention Brent Road Fire Protection Wilson's Landing Fire Protection 	<p>Environmental Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Okanagan Basin Water Board Air Quality OK Sterile Insect Release Insect Control
<p>Solid and Liquid Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effluent Disposal Westside Waste Disposal Westside Sanitary Landfill Waste Reduction Solid Waste Collection 	<p>Animal Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited Animal Control Dog Control
<p>Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Killiney Beach Water Westshore Estates Water Upper Fintry/Shalal Water 	<p>Parks and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Okanagan Regional Library Killiney Community Hall Regional Parks Community Parks
	<p>Economic Development & Business Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development

electoral area. The North Westside communities receive the full list, with the notable exceptions of:

- Brent Road Fire Protection
- Wilson's Landing Fire Protection
- Trepanier Bench Water System
- Westside Municipal Recreation
- Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre

WHO MAKES DECISIONS?

As an unincorporated electoral area within the RDCO,

the residents of Central Okanagan West elect one director to the regional district's Board of Directors. The RDCO West Director is one of 13 voting directors. The Board also includes one other electoral area director (from RDCO East), as well as municipal directors from Peachland (one), Lake Country (one), two from West Kelowna, and seven from Kelowna. Westbank First Nation appoints one non-voting director to the Board for a total of 14.

Each municipality or electoral area has a voting strength on the Board based on population. In the



RDCO, each jurisdiction has one vote for every 4,000 residents. The population of RDCO West was 13,797 in 2021, including First Nations reserve areas, resulting in a voting strength of 4 votes – more than Peachland and RDCO East, and the same number of weighted votes as the District of Lake Country.

Decision-making for each service is done differently. Some decisions are made by the entire Board of Directors, regardless of whether the service is delivered to the entire region, or just a portion of the electoral areas. Voting by the entire Board is required for establishing new services, or regulatory bylaws, as well as the financial plan, borrowing or buying property. Operational decisions, however, are typically made by the directors of the areas that participate in that service. For instance, operational decisions on Insect Control are made by the areas participating in the service (RDCO East, RDCO West, Peachland, Lake Country). If there is only one participating area, the entire Board will vote on the service. Further information about the type of votes are referenced in the *Regional District Governance* background.

In addition to the decisions made by the RDCO Board, there are a variety of committees, commissions and boards that play a role in decision making for different services. Some committees have a purely advisory role, and make recommendations to the Board, while others can be delegated some decision-making powers or authority on operational issues. Some of the committees and commissions that impact RDCO West services include:

- Governance and Services Committee
- Central Okanagan West Advisory Planning Commission
- Agricultural Advisory Commission
- Environmental Planning Commission
- Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Okanagan Regional Library Board
- Sterile Insect Release Board

HOW DO CENTRAL OKANAGAN WEST RESIDENTS PAY FOR SERVICES?

As noted in the *Regional District Governance* background, each service provided by the regional district is budgeted separately. Costs are recovered by billing those who benefit from the service. The expense of providing a service must be covered by revenue generated for that same service; one service cannot subsidize another.

In the Central Okanagan West electoral area, the costs of most services are recovered through property taxes levied on assessed values of land and improvements. Parcel taxes and user fees are used to recover the costs of some services, such as the Sterile Insect Release program, solid waste services, and water services.

