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Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
2009 Annual Report



Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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## **RDOS Departments**

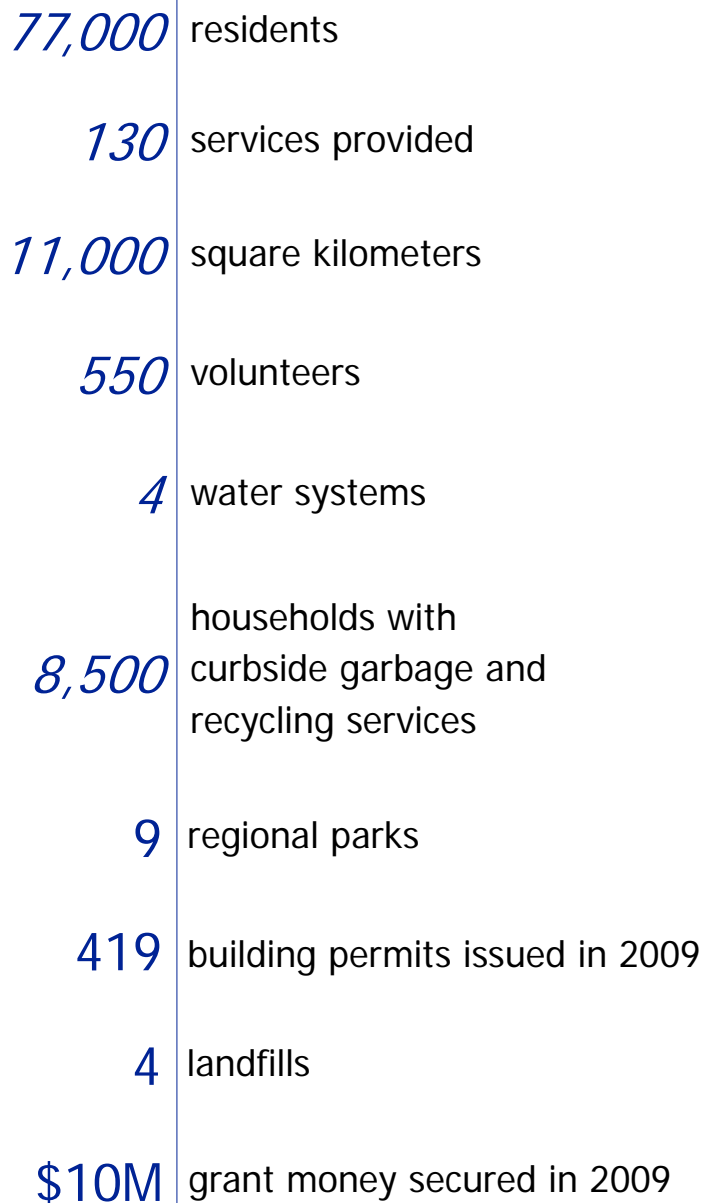
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Financial Highlights for 2009 can be found  
at [www.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.bc.ca) as of May 31, 2010.



# Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

*at a glance*





# Towards the Year 2020

*On January 15, 2009, the Board of Directors for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen convened to set a direction for the Corporation. Their goal was to produce a common purpose which inspires and motivates the Board and our administration and helps them organize their thoughts and actions to achieve desired future-oriented goals.*

## **OUR LEGACY**

### **To the Citizens of the Regional District in 2020**

The Legacy of the 2008 – 2011 Board of Directors for our citizens of the future (2020):

We would choose to leave in perpetuity and in your trust:

#### **Values**

A belief that our diverse population is an opportunity and that we should blur the boundaries between jurisdictions to leverage our unique form of governance to allow all of our citizens to work and live together in a friendly and tolerant manner.

#### **Liveability**

A belief that all of our citizens should be safe and secure to allow them to enjoy living in our Region and that we will do this by encouraging all citizens to take responsibility for each other and work in cooperation with local police.

#### **Environment**

A belief that the protection of the environment should be a guiding principle for decision making and that low density in our rural areas is important.

#### **Economy**

A belief that the Regional District will establish a strong, diversified economy attracting industry and knowledgeable workers, but built on health care, manufacturing, tourism and agriculture.

#### **Social Support**

A belief that high employment levels can be sustained, making the Regional District an affordable place to live. We will benefit from a focus on partnerships between governments in the Regional District to achieve efficiencies and take advantage of economies of scale.

#### **Facilities & Services**

A belief that the Regional District needs an ample network of green space, trails, leisure, recreation and cultural opportunities for all ages.

## Message from the Chair



On behalf of the Directors and Staff, I am pleased to present our 2009 Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of RDOS activities over the past year.

We take pride in our commitment to the communities we serve and are always striving to improve the quality of life for our residents. Efficiency, sustainability, responsibility and liveability are a few of the key words that have directed our Board and Staff in 2009.

In order to serve residents better, the RDOS has worked hard to reduce red tape and improve efficiency by reviewing and revising policies in several departments. Additionally, we have focused on fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability and partnerships with member municipalities and organizations.

Some of the highlights of 2009 that support these objectives include the launching of a grant tracking system, a review and redesign of the organizational structure and a Climate Action Plan. As well, over \$10 million in grant money was secured for various partnerships, economic development, infrastructure projects and for developing sustainability, .

As usual, every member of the Board and staff has shown extraordinary dedication to the residents of the Regional District. Through their knowledge, commitment and perseverance, they continue to make a positive and appreciated difference. We are pleased to have such experience and enthusiasm at the RDOS.

I hope you will enjoy learning more about the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen throughout this report. Please contact us anytime with any concerns or questions.

*Working Together to Enhance Quality of Life*

Regards,

Dan Ashton

RDOS Chair

## Board of Directors



### 2009 Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Board of Directors

Area A (Osoyoos Rural)	Mark Pendergraft
Area B (Cawston)	George Hanson
Area C (Rural Oliver)	Allan Patton
Area D (Kaleden/Okanagan Falls)	Bill Schwarz
Area E (Naramata)	Tom Chapman
Area F (Okanagan Lake West/West Bench)	Michael Brydon
Area G (Keremeos Rural/ Hedley)	Elef Christensen
Area H (Rural Princeton)	Brad Hope
City of Penticton	Dan Ashton (Chair) John Vassilaki Gary Litke Andrew Jakubeit
District of Summerland	Gordon Clark Ken Roberge
Town of Oliver	Pat Hampson
Town of Osoyoos	Stu Wells
Town of Princeton	Randy McLean
Village of Keremeos	Walter Despot

Regional Boards are composed of elected municipal and rural area directors.

At present, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Board is comprised of eighteen directors: ten municipal directors representing the City of Penticton, the District of Summerland, the Town of Osoyoos, the Town of Oliver, the Town of Princeton and the Village of Keremeos and eight rural area directors representing Kaleden/Okanagan Falls, Naramata, Okanagan Lake West/West Bench, Keremeos Rural/Hedley, Cawston, Rural Princeton, Rural Oliver and Rural Osoyoos.

This unique representational scheme provides the necessary cross-communication venue to promote co-ordination between the activities of the individual municipalities and the rural areas of the region. The assumption of powers by individual Regional Districts is based upon continued negotiations and dialogue between the Board and the participating municipalities and rural areas.

## Message from the CAO



The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is a municipal corporation formed under the *Local Government Act* of British Columbia. It covers a geographic area of over 11,000 km<sup>2</sup> and serves the rural and urban communities in the southern parts of the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys.

The RDOS mission is to initiate and enforce policies which preserve and enhance the quality of life for the citizens within the Regional District and serve the broader public interest in an effective, equitable, environmental and fiscally responsible manner.

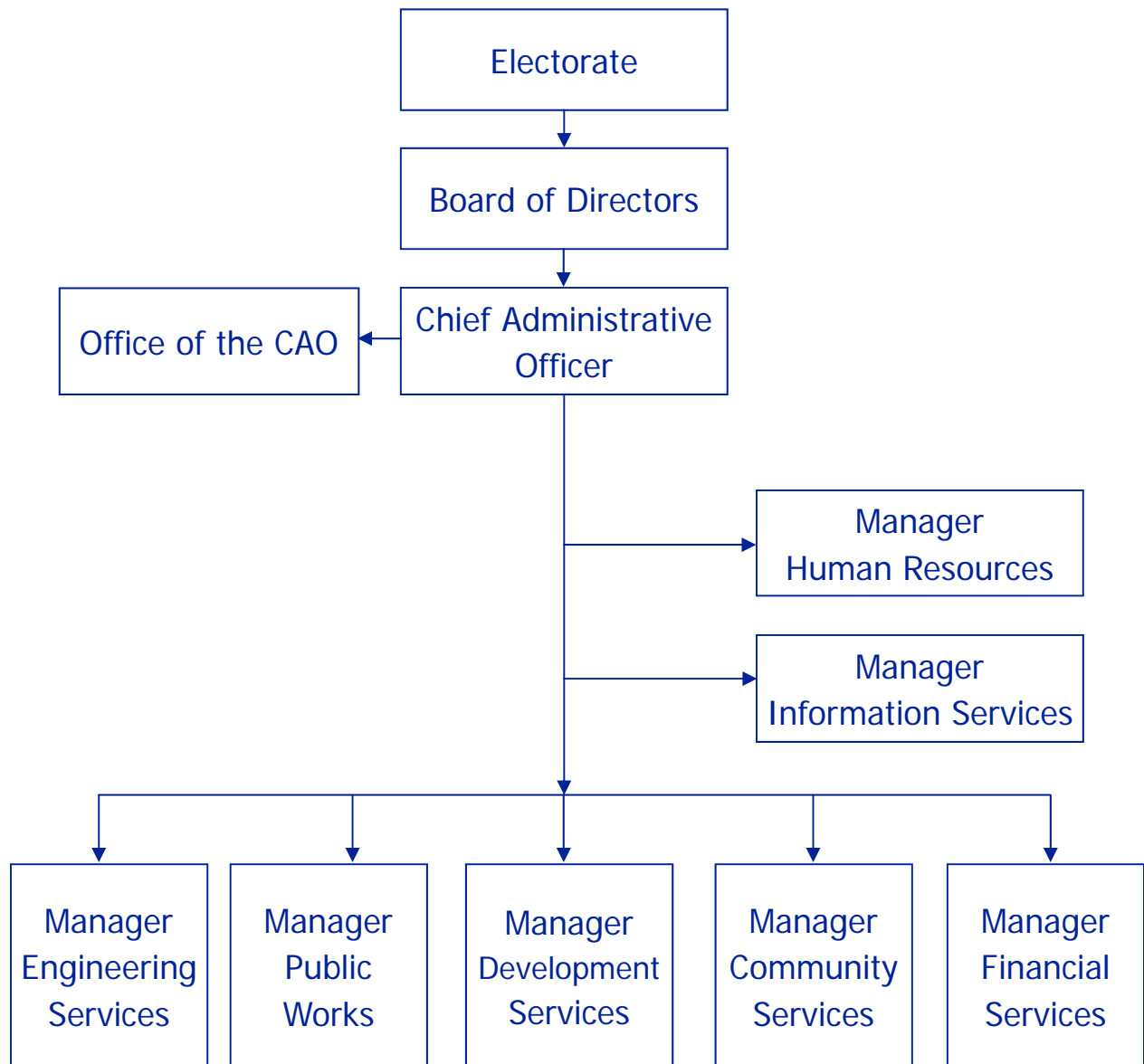
Each year the Regional District prepares an Annual Report identifying our achievements over the previous twelve months and providing an update on our progress in meeting the goals set out for us by our Board of Directors. Coming off the 2008 local government elections, our Board of eight rural members and ten municipal members experienced a 50% turnover, as we welcomed nine new members in 2009.

Of primary importance to our Board of Directors is the fiduciary responsibility to guard the financial resources of the citizens of the Regional District, taking into account our changing economy. Working with the Board, we restructured our organization in 2009, deleting one of our two levels of management and reducing our management positions from eleven to eight. By working more closely with our municipal members, we believe our service has increased. We're continually reviewing our processes and our services to reduce red tape and be more responsive.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their trust, our marvellous employees for their support and responsiveness and our citizens for the privilege of letting us serve the Regional District. We look forward to doing so again in 2010.

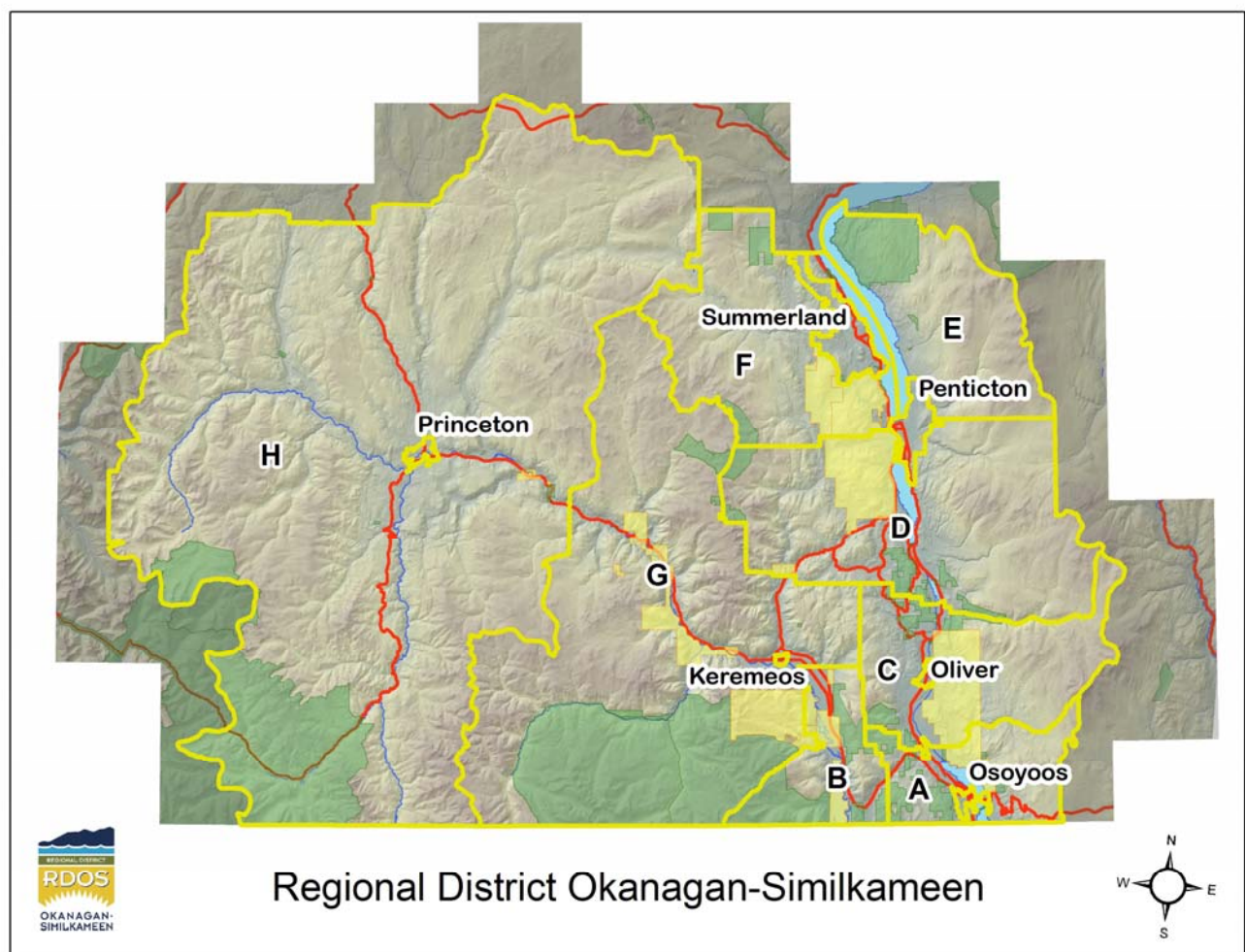
Bill Newell  
CAO

# RDOS Organizational Structure



## About the RDOS

Covering 11,000 square kilometers and serving 77,000 people, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen was created in 1966. The RDOS provides general government administration, electoral area planning and solid waste management planning. The RDOS is also responsible for a wide range of services including water and waste water utilities, regional parks, solid waste services, protective services and noise control.



<b>Census Information (2006)</b>	
<b>Municipality/Electoral Area</b>	<b>Population</b>
Village of Keremeos	1,289
Town of Oliver	4,370
Town of Osoyoos	4,752
City of Penticton	31,909
Town of Princeton	2,677
District of Summerland	10,828
Area A (Osoyoos Rural)	1,921
Area B (Cawston)	1,082
Area C (Oliver Rural)	3,899
Area D (Kaleden/OK Falls)	5,913
Area E (Naramata)	2,010
Area F (OK Lake West/West Bench)	2,011
Area G (Keremeos Rural/Hedley)	2,308
Area H (Princeton Rural)	2,208
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>77,177</b>