

Do you live in Electoral Area “D” (Skaha East/Okanagan Falls)?



Are You A Resident of: Upper Carmi ♦ Heritage Hills ♦ Lakeshore Highlands ♦ Vintage Views Skaha Estates ♦ Vaseux Lake ♦ Okanagan Falls

Your feedback regarding the Area “D” Economic Development/Community Services Office in Okanagan Falls is requested.

The 2018 boundary change that divided Area “D” into two electoral areas (“I” and “D”) provides an opportunity to review the existing service and Area “D” participation in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) Community Service Office in Okanagan Falls (Figure 1). The office currently serves Areas “D” and “I”; however, Area “I” may elect to leave the service in 2020. Currently, the office provides access to RDOS services; community information; support for community projects and initiatives; and, also provides space for the Visitor Centre in Okanagan Falls.

Figure 1

History of the Office

The Community Service Office was established in 2015 and originated from the Economic Development Service created in 2008. The Economic Development Service was established after the Okanagan Falls Weyerhaeuser site closed. The initial intent of the service was to find a use for the site and to retain existing and attract new businesses and industry to the area.

Area “D” Director, Ron Obirek, would like to enhance the function of the Community Service Office. Central to this plan is to reinvigorate all initiatives currently administered through the office and enhance the economic development component which would include: moving the Town Centre Revitalization and Waterfront Plans forward; renovating the tourist Visitors Centre; increasing policing in Area “D”; strengthening partnerships with local business associations; and, attract new business and industry to Area “D”.

Participation in the Community Services Office is funded through property taxes on land and

improvements. The Area “D” contribution for the office’s budget in 2019 is \$98,474. A typical Area “D” residence assessed at \$462,537 will pay approximately \$36.07 annually to fund the service (Figure 2). Area “I” may elect to withdraw its current funding from the service in 2020. No increase in Area “D” taxes to fund the service above current costs has been proposed at this time.

Figure 2

2019 Economic Development Service Costs

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Area “D” Contribution | |
| Tax requisition: | \$98,474 |
| Cost to typical residence: | \$36.07 |
| Area “I” Contribution | |
| Tax requisition: | \$58,146 |
| Cost to typical residence: | \$33.87 |
| Total cost of service: | \$156,620 |

Do you have feedback or suggestions regarding the Community Services Office?

Are there additional community services you want offered? (Propose one!)

This is your opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions about establishing a service.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has contracted a public engagement consultant to engage with residents in Area “D” to determine what services residents want delivered through the Community Service Office in Okanagan Falls. Please contact, Greg Rose, by email or by phone to provide feedback and suggestions at engagement@rdos.bc.ca or phone (250) 486-1670. Or contact Area “D” Director, Ron Obirek by email: robirek@rdos.bc.ca. For updates, please visit <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/legislative-services/area-d-i-community-service-office/>