

Do you live in Electoral Area “I” (Skaha West/Kaleden/Apex)?



Are You A Resident of:

Apex ♦ St. Andrews ♦ Twin Lakes ♦ Farleigh Lake ♦ Marron Valley ♦ Kaleden

Your feedback regarding the proposal for Area “I” to discontinue participation in the Economic Development/Community Services Office in Okanagan Falls and consider a different service 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 “I” participation in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) Community Service Office in Okanagan Falls (Figure 1). The office currently serves both Areas “I” and “D” and is jointly funded at this time. The office provides residents with access to RDOS services; community information; support for community projects and initiatives; and, provides office space for the Okanagan Falls Visitor Centre.

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.

Director Subrina Monteith has proposed that Area “I” leave the shared Community Service Office in 2020 and establish a new service in Area “I”. Several services are being explored. Potential options include establishing a: Kaleden-based community office; culture service to coordinate a heritage or museum project; contribution service where Area “I” would share costs associated with Area “D” to develop funding sources through grant submissions; and, contribution service to fund a portion of the Visitors Center in Okanagan Falls.

Participation in the Community Services Office is funded through property taxes on land and improvements. The Area “I” contribution for the office budget in 2019 is \$58,146. A typical Area “I” residence assessed at \$434,282 will pay approximately \$33.87 annually to fund the service (Figure 2). No increase in Area “I” taxes to fund the service above current costs has been proposed at this time.

Figure 2

2019 Economic Development Service Costs

Area “I” Contribution	
Tax requisition:	\$58,146
Cost to typical residence:	\$33.87
Area “D” Contribution	
Tax requisition:	\$98,474
Cost to typical residence:	\$36.07
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 “I” to determine which services are preferred. Your feedback is essential in this process. Please contact, Greg Rose, by email or phone to provide feedback and suggestions at engagement@rdos.bc.ca or phone (250) 486-1670. Or contact Area “I” Director, Subrina Monteith by email: smonteith@rdos.bc.ca. For updates, please visit the RDOS Website at: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/legislative-services/area-d-i-community-service-office/>