

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN  
PRESS RELEASE  
March 18, 2010**

**REGIONAL BOARD ADOPTS 2010-2014 FIVE  
YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN BYLAW**

At their regular meeting of March 18, 2010, the Board of Directors for the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen adopted the 2010 – 2014 Budget Bylaw. The Board has a legislative requirement to have the Budget adopted by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Regional District has 129 unique functions. The majority of these functions form a specific service, each created by a group of ratepayers. Each of those 129 functions have budgets that set the requisition amount for that specific service and only those receiving the service are charged. Funds from one function cannot be shifted to another.

Operating revenue and expenses for the 2010 year of the Financial Plan are set at just under \$40.4 million, up from \$39.3 million in 2009. One of the larger items is the \$1.3 million Community Wildfire Plan in the Emergency Planning function which is funded 100% by a grant.

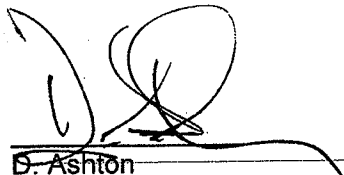
All eight electoral areas and six member municipalities contribute to the Regional functions. In 2010, expenses in the General Government budget have been increased to pay grants to such organizations such as the South Okanagan Health Fair, the Children's Festival as well as maintaining current funding for the Okanagan Film Commission. It covers our participation in the BC Street program at the Olympics, development of a Conservation Strategy.

The budget has increased significantly to fund the 911 function, to which all electoral areas and municipalities contribute. Due to the size of increase the Board has included provision for a \$30,000 study to determine the most efficient and effective method of providing this service.

With only a 2% overall growth in assessment the Board has very carefully considered each and every function to ensure that the burden on the taxpayers has been kept to a minimum,

Tax calculations are expected to be complete by early-April when 2010 revised assessed values are available.

The Five Year Financial Plan has been presented to most municipal councils and the public has had the opportunity at Town Hall meetings to review the various functions that affect their particular area. As a result of these meetings there will be ongoing dialogue to improve any mutual regional or sub-regional service delivery options.



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D. Ashton  
RDOS Board Chair

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