



## Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Changes Proposed to Electoral Area "D"

Attention residents and property owners of **Kaleden, Okanagan Falls, Twin Lakes, Lakeshore Highlands, Heritage Hills, Vintage Views, Upper Carmi, Skaha Estates, Vaseux Lake, St. Andrews, Apex and surrounding areas.** The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is considering dividing Electoral Area "D" into two electoral areas. Residents in each of the two new electoral areas would elect their own electoral area director to represent them and make decisions as part of the RDOS Board.

The RDOS is undertaking a final round of public consultation to understand public support for the proposed changes. The proposed division was a recommendation of the 2015/16 Electoral Area "D" Governance Study and public involvement process. Since the completion of the Governance Study, the RDOS has studied the changes in more detail and is providing further information through this brochure to help the public learn more. Two upcoming open houses and an on-line survey are also opportunities for the public to express their views and provide feedback to the RDOS on the proposal.

### *It's important that we hear from you!*

#### Mark Your Calendar! – Upcoming Open Houses

Two open houses will be held in September 2017. Attend a presentation or drop by to ask questions and discuss your views with RDOS representatives.

##### Tuesday, September 12, 2017

- **Kaleden Community Hall: 4 pm - 6 pm (drop in)**  
**Presentation: 4:30 pm start**
- **Okanagan Falls Community Centre: 7 pm - 9 pm (drop in)**  
**Presentation: 7:30 pm start**

#### Have Your Say! – Complete a Survey

Learn about proposed changes through this brochure or at an open house and complete a survey to express your views.

- Survey- <https://form.surveypal.net/RDOS-Proposed-Area-D-Division>
- Survey closes, Friday, September 15, 2017

### Questions? - Contact the RDOS

**Phone:** 250.492.0237

**Email:** [areadgovernance@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:areadgovernance@rdos.bc.ca)

**Web:** [www.rdos.bc.ca/area-d-governance/](http://www.rdos.bc.ca/area-d-governance/)

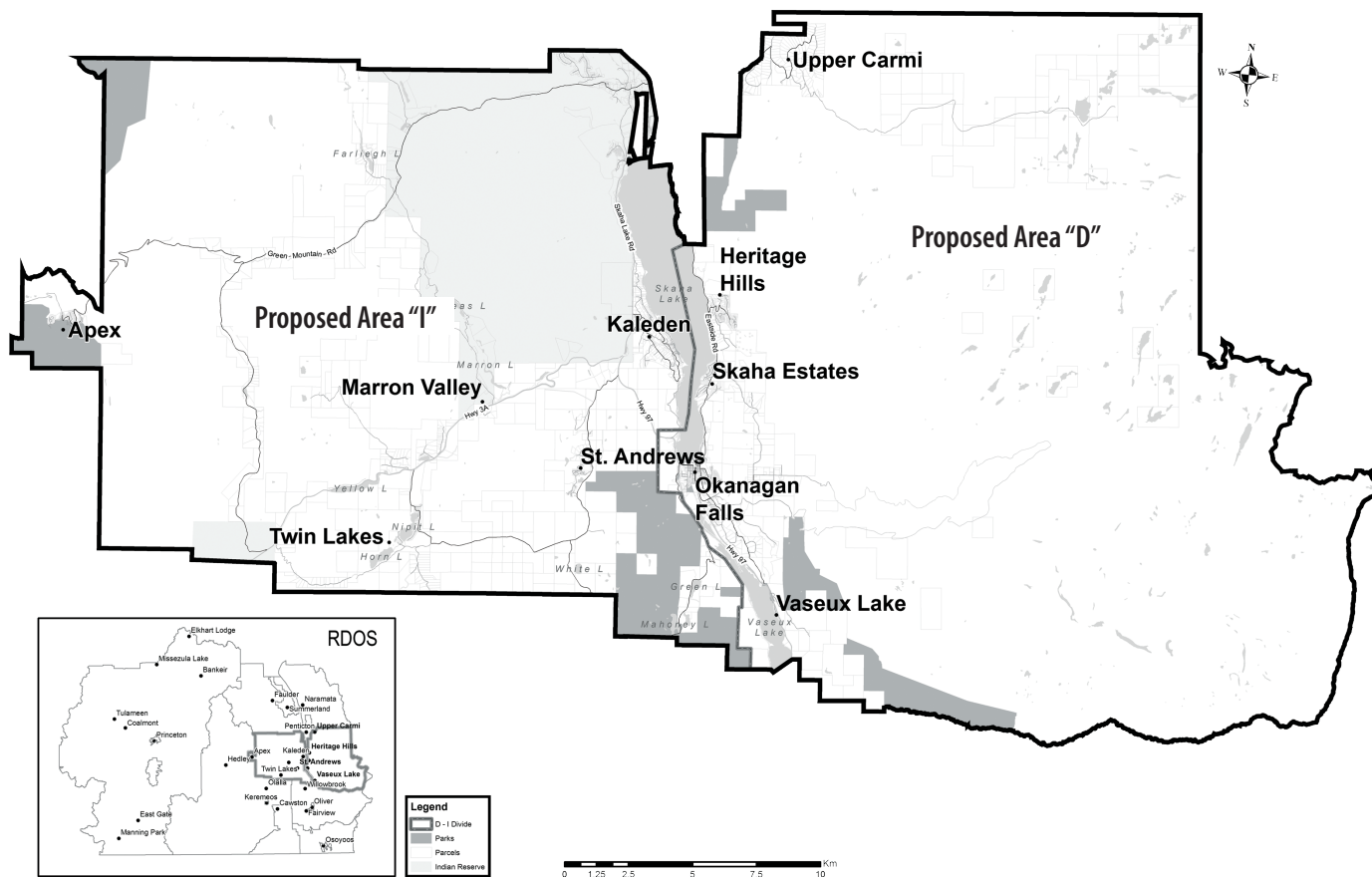
# What changes could you expect?

## Change #1 - New Boundary – Population and Size

The existing Area “D” boundary and the proposed new Area “D” and Area “I” boundaries are shown on Map 1. The proposed Area “D” includes the communities on the east side of Skaha Lake - Okanagan Falls, Skaha Estates, Heritage Hills, Upper Carmi and Vaseux Lake. The proposed Area “I” includes the communities on the west side of Skaha Lake – Kaleden, Twin Lakes, St. Andrews, Marron Valley, and Apex. There are no impacts to the boundaries of adjacent jurisdictions.

Figure 1 shows the estimated population for the existing Area “D”, and the proposed Area “D” and Area “I” in comparison to other RDOS electoral areas. Figure 1 also shows the size of each area.

Map 1 – Existing and Proposed Boundary Map - Electoral Areas “D” and “I”



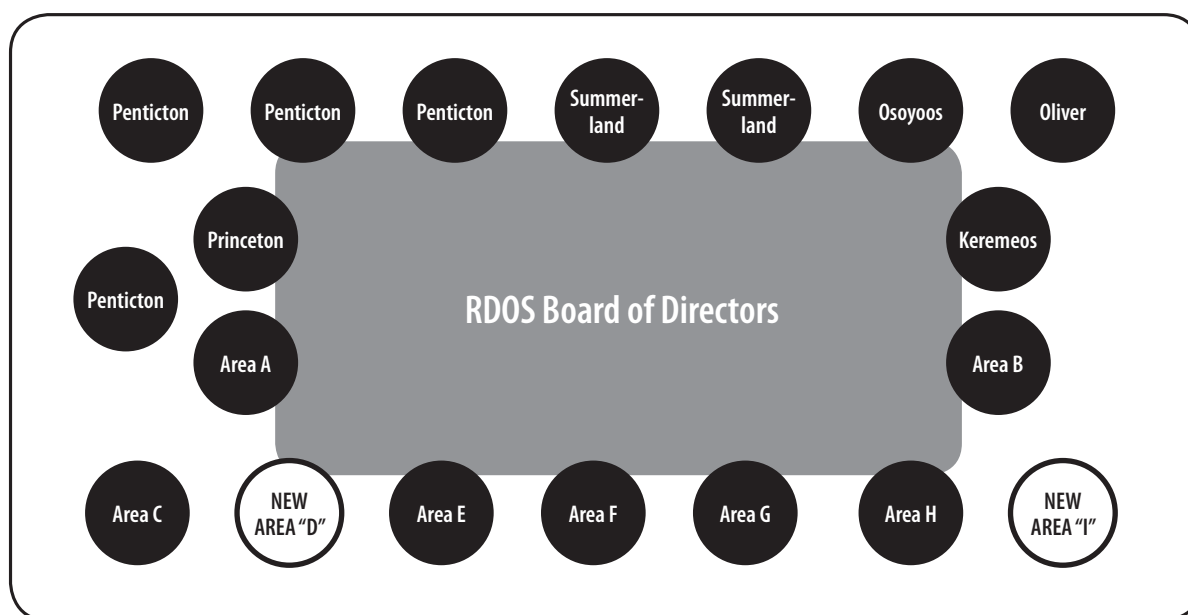
**Figure 1 – Existing Area “D”, Proposed Area “D” and Proposed Area “I” Population (estimated) and Size**

Electoral Area	Population (estimated)	Size (km <sup>2</sup> )
Area A	1,858	306
Area B	1,192	274
Area C	4,185	543
Area D	6,659	1070
Proposed Area D	3,367	477
Proposed Area I	3,292	594
Area E	1,903	542
Area F	2,210	674
Area G	2,408	2157
Area H	1,953	4784

### Change #2 - Additional Electoral Area Director

The division of Area “D” into a new Area “D” and Area “I” would result in the addition of a new electoral area director position on the RDOS Board, and would see the total number of directors grow from 18 to 19 directors. The number of municipal directors would remain at 10 while the number of electoral area directors would grow from 8 to 9. Figure 2 shows the total number of directors for each RDOS municipality and electoral area. All jurisdictions have one director with the exception of Penticton and Summerland. These areas have more than one director due to the size of their populations.

**Figure 2 – Proposed new RDOS Board of Directors**



### **Change #3 - New Directors Represent Smaller Populations**

The existing Area "D" includes a number of unique communities and is currently the largest RDOS electoral area in terms of population with close to 6600 residents (including residents on reserve lands). The scale of the population of Area "D", the number of individual communities and the total land area (1070 km<sup>2</sup>) is challenging for one electoral area director to represent at the RDOS Board of Directors. The creation of two electoral areas, each with roughly half the population of the existing Area "D", would mean that each area could elect and be represented by their own director on the Regional Board. Instead of relying on one director to bring the issues of all the existing Area "D" communities to the attention of the Board, the new Area "D" would be represented by its own director and the new Area "I" would be represented by its own director. Capacity to attend meetings across the area and understand the views of residents and property owners would increase.

### **Change #4 - New Advisory Planning Commission**

The creation of two electoral areas from the existing Area "D" is expected to include the addition of a new Advisory Planning Commission. If the directors for the new areas choose to have commissions (an APC is not mandatory), the existing APC for Area "D" would be re-established with local representatives from the communities on the east side of Skaha Lake, and a new APC would be established for Area "I" with representatives from the communities on the west side of the Lake. These changes would increase the input that local communities have on matters relating to land use planning and management.

### **Change #5 - Electoral Area Voting**

Creating two electoral areas from the existing Area "D" would change the voting structure for decisions made by the RDOS Board. In regional districts, special voting rules apply as different types of decisions are made at the Board. On some types of decisions, each of the new areas would have their own vote (unweighted votes - vote per director) instead of 1 vote for all of the current Area "D". On other types of decisions, each director of the new electoral areas would receive 2 weighted votes (due to the small area populations) as compared to the 4 weighted votes now allocated to the director of the existing Area "D". Figure 3 provides the relative distribution of weighted votes at the Board across all RDOS jurisdictions. Figure 4 provides further detail on voting at the RDOS Board.

### **Change #6 - Rural Project Funding and Priorities**

The Province of BC provides funding to the RDOS for rural projects through gas tax funding. The proposed division would see the existing gas tax funding (ie., the funding provided to the whole of Area "D") divided between the proposed new Area "D" and Area "I", based on the populations of these new areas. The division does not result in a reduction or increase in the total gas tax funding across the area; however, the new directors of each area would have the ability to identify and fund priority projects in each of their electoral areas.

Figure 3 – Number of RDOS of Directors, Total Number of Weighted Votes (estimated)

	Population (estimated)*	Directors	Weighted Votes
Penticton	33,761	4	19
Summerland	11,615	2	7
Osoyoos	5,085	1	3
Oliver	4,928	1	3
Princeton	2,828	1	2
Keremeos	1,502	1	1
Area A	1,858	1	2
Area B	1,192	1	1
Area C	4,185	1	3
Area D	6,659	1	4**
Proposal Area D	3,367	1	2
Proposal Area I	3,292	1	2
Area E	1,903	1	2
Area F	2,210	1	2
Area G	2,408	1	2
Area H	1,953	1	2
Total	82,708*	18	53
Proposal Total	82,708*	19	53

\* Population figures for Penticton, Summerland, Osoyoos, Oliver, Princeton and Keremeos are based on 2016 BC Provincial Statistics. Populations for electoral areas are based on RDOS estimates and include residents of the adjacent reserve lands.

\*\* Each area gets one vote per 1800 people. In prior years, the Area "D" director had 5 votes. Due to a recent change in the methodology for population counts, without a division in the electoral area, the existing Area "D" director would have 4 votes. This change in methodology is not related to the proposed division.

Figure 4 – Voting at the RDOS Board

In regional districts, special voting rules apply as different types of decisions are made at the Regional Board.

**Unweighted Votes, full board** - Decisions to establish new services or a regulatory bylaw are made by the full RDOS Board, where each director gets one vote, regardless of the population size. In these circumstances, the proposed changes would see each new electoral area with 1 vote of 19 total Board votes. Currently, the Area "D" director has 1 vote of 18 total Board votes.

**Weighted Votes, full Board** - Budget and borrowing decisions and decisions to purchase property are examples of decisions made by the full Board through a system of weighted votes. For these decisions, the proposed changes would see the new Area "D" director with 2 votes and the new Area "I" director with 2 votes of a total of 53 total Board votes.

**Weighted Votes, parts of the Board**

Decisions related to the operation of services (i.e., non-financial decisions) delivered to only certain parts of the region are made by weighted votes and involve only those directors who represent areas that participate in that service. The proposed changes would see the new Area "D" director with 2 votes and the new Area "I" director with 2 votes. The total number of votes depends on the jurisdictions participating in that service.

## Change #7 - Minimal Service and Cost Impacts

Some services are delivered to all of Area “D” while others are provided only to certain communities or parts of the electoral area. These same services - whether they are delivered to the entire Area “D” or only certain parts - will remain even if Area “D” is divided into two electoral areas. All RDOS services provided to Area “D” are outlined in Figures 7 and 8.

Because the proposed division of Area “D” does not include changes to local services, taxes will be largely unaffected by the proposed change. The minimal costs of the addition of one extra electoral area director, as well as an Advisory Planning Commission will be shared by all electoral areas in the region. An average residential property (valued at \$373,371) could expect to pay an additional \$1.68 to account for the additional costs of a boundary division. Figure 5 summarizes these costs.

Impacts to taxpayers could apply if, in the future, the new Area “D” or Area “I” were to consider establishing new services or withdrawing from existing services. The costs of any new services are typically divided among those who benefit from the service based on the assessed values of land and improvements for properties within the participating areas. Figure 6 summarizes the tax base of the new Area “D” and Area “I” as compared to the existing Area “D”.

**Figure 5 – Estimated\* Annual Cost to Taxpayer of the Proposed Division for an Average Residential Household (\$373,371)**

### Electoral Area (EA)

RDOS Services	Additional Tax Collected in EA “D”	Additional Tax Collected in EA “I”	Additional Tax on an Average Household
General Government	\$2,255	\$1,314	\$0.82
EA Admin	\$2,380	\$1,386	\$0.86
EA Planning (APC)	\$40	\$23	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,675</b>	<b>\$2,723</b>	<b>\$1.68</b>

\* Costs are estimates only. Estimates are annual, based on 2017 taxation figures and an average residential property assessed at \$373,371.

**Figure 6 – Existing Area “D” and Proposed Area “D” and Proposed Area “I” - Assessment (Converted) (2017)**

	Tax Base*	% of Existing Area “D”
Existing Area “D”	\$173,294,937	
Proposed Area “D”	\$109,507,660	63%
Proposed Area “I”	\$63,787,277	37%

\* Converted Assessment Tax Base (total converted value of land and improvements)

Figure 7 – Local Services Provided to All of Area “D”

**Administration**

- Grants in Aid
- General Government
- Electoral Area Administration
- Rural Projects

**Planning and Building**

- Electoral Area Planning
- Economic Development
- Building Inspection
- Subdivision Servicing
- Heritage Conservation
- Regional Growth Strategy

**Bylaw Enforcement**

- Animal Control
- Unsightly Premises
- Noise

\* Not provided to Apex

**Emergency Services**

- 911
- Emergency Planning

**Parks**

- Parks and Trails

**Library**

- Library

**Transit**

- South Okanagan Transit

**Solid and Liquid Waste Management**

- Solid Waste Planning
- Septage Disposal
- Illegal dumping

**Water**

- Okanagan Basin Water Board\*

**Invasive Plants and Pest Control**

- Noxious Weed Control
- Mosquito Control
- Invasive Plant Control
- Starling Control
- Sterile Insect Release\*

Figure 8 – Local Services Provided to Parts of Area “D”

**Curbside Recycling and Garbage Collection**

- Okanagan Falls, Twin Lakes, Skaha Estates, Kaleden, Lakeshore Highlands, Heritage Hills, Upper Carmi

**Fire Protection**

- Kaleden, St. Andrews
- Okanagan Falls, Vaseux Lake, Skaha Estates, Vintage Views, Lakeshore Highlands, Heritage Hills
- Willowbrook

\* Not provided to Apex

**Recreation**

- Okanagan Falls, Vaseux Lake, Skaha Estates, Vintage Views, Lakeshore Highlands, Heritage Hills
- Kaleden, St. Andrews, Twin Lakes

**Other**

- OK Falls Sewer
- Heritage Hills Street Lights
- Transit
- Sterile Insect Release\*

## Next Steps

The recommendation to divide Area “D” into two electoral areas was one of the outcomes of the 2015/2016 Electoral Area “D” Governance Study. Based on that study, combined with feedback received in this final round of public consultation and through the initial Governance Study, the RDOS will consider a proposal to the Province related to the division. If approved by the RDOS and the Province, the division would take place in early 2018, in advance of the 2018 General Local Elections. At that time, the new electoral areas would each elect an electoral area director.

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