



**RDOS Area “D” Governance Study
Fact Sheets
December 2015**

LIBRARY SERVICES

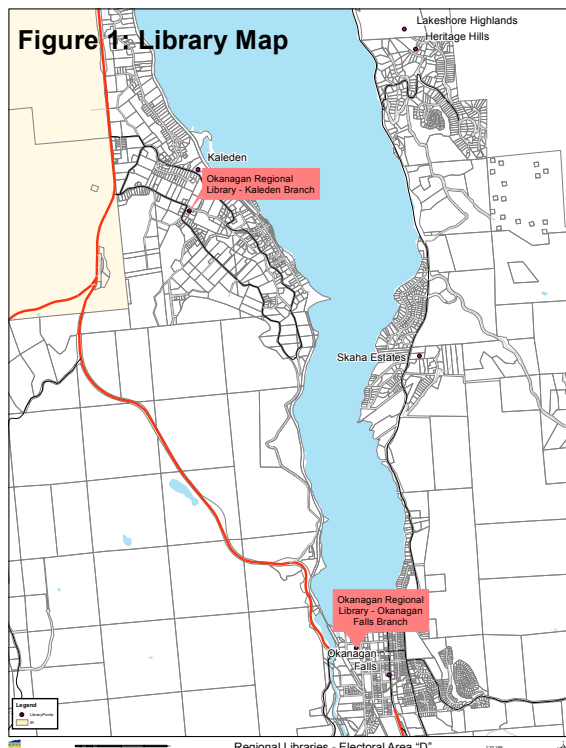
➤ What service is provided?

Although not delivered directly by the Regional District, the RDOS participates on a library board, contributes toward the upkeep of local branches, and collects taxes that are forwarded to the regional library board. Library service is provided to Area “D” by the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL). ORL is a large library system with a total of 29 branches from Osoyoos to Golden, and a service area population greater than 360,000. RDOS is one of 4 regional districts, 19 municipalities and 2 First Nations that participate in the system.

Area “D” is served primarily by ORL's Kaleden and Okanagan Falls branches, located in Okanagan Falls and Kaleden (see Figure 1). The Okanagan

Falls branch is open 4 days a week for a total of 25 hours, and the Kaleden branch is open 3 days a week for 15 hours. ORL Library cards are free to those who live in, or own property within Area D.

Many residents in Area “D” also make use of the Penticton Public Library, which is a municipal library, and not part of the ORL system. Area “D” residents cannot obtain a Penticton Library Card for free (family card is \$75 for non-residents), because they do not contribute taxes to a public library system. Residents can obtain a BC OneCard for free, which provides borrowing privileges at any BC public library. At Penticton Library, RDOS residents may borrow up to 15 items at a time, as well as renew materials, place holds, etc. with a OneCard. Materials can be returned to Penticton Library or one of the ORL Library branches.



In addition to the selection of fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers, and reference materials available at the local branches, the ORL library card gives access to:

- programs for children and adults;
- free Internet access at computer workstations as well as wireless access;
- DVDs, CDs, audiobooks and eBooks;
- Services for members who are print disabled, living in remote areas or seeking materials in other languages; and,
- BC public libraries via the BC OneCard.

➤ Who makes decisions?

ORL is a stand-alone corporation established under the authority of the *Library Act*. ORL's governing body is its Board of Trustees comprised of representatives of the system's member jurisdictions. As per the *Library Act*, each of the 19 participating municipalities appoints a council member to the ORL Board. In addition, each of the 4 participating regional districts appoints one

electoral area director from the region's participating electoral areas. ORL's Board of Trustees also includes representatives from both the Westbank First Nation and Penticton Indian Band. The Board consists of 25 trustees, including one director from RDOS. Currently the Area E Director represents the RDOS on this Board.

ORL's Board of Trustees makes all major decisions related to the service. The entire Board votes on all matters. Most decisions, such as policy, are made using a corporate voting model, in which each Board member receives one vote. Decisions related to the budgets and expenditure of monies, however, are made using a weighted vote system that awards votes to members in proportion to the population size of their respective jurisdictions.

The Board is supported in its decision-making by staff, as well as by three permanent standing committees: the Policy & Planning Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee.

It is important to understand that the boards of participating regional districts, and the councils of participating municipalities, have no formal involvement in ORL governance other than through their appointed representatives on the ORL Board. ORL is an independent corporation, separate from the municipal and regional district corporations that participate in the system.

The only direct involvement RDOS has in the library service is through approval for branch furnishings, fixtures or equipment on an as-needed basis. Support for the fixtures or equipment for the individual Kaleden and Okanagan Falls branches comes from the Area "D" Rural Projects budget. As with any expenditures made from this budget, decisions are made by the Electoral Area Director. The budget amount itself is set and approved by the entire Board.

➤ Who delivers the service?

ORL staff are responsible for the delivery of all aspects of the library service, including:

- front-line branch services (e.g., check-out, reference, children's programs, etc.)
- branch support services (e.g., transporting collections between branches)
- head office functions (e.g., administration, planning, HR, finance, information systems)

Staff in most branches are assisted in some aspects of the service by community volunteers. In particular, the Okanagan Falls branch, on its website, acknowledges the Women's Institute in Okanagan Falls as "ambassadors for our branch." The Lions Club and the Royal Canadian Legion #227 are also involved in a program with the library that funds books for toddlers.

➤ What is spent by RDOS on the service?

Figure 2 shows the total 2015 budgeted cost for delivering the ORL library service to the RDOS at \$815,926. This represents the cost of delivering library services to the participating electoral areas (Areas A, B, C, D, E, F and G), and does not include the municipalities, which are billed directly by the ORL. While the majority of the budget amount shown below represents the requisition from ORL, there is also a small administration cost component for the RDOS as well as \$5,000 contingency in the budget.

Service Component	Cost ¹
ORL Library	\$815,926
Total	\$815,926

¹ Cost estimates are from adopted 2015 budget figures

The amount in Figure 2 represents the total cost of the service, and not the portion that Area "D" residences pay for through user fees or taxes.

The RDOS does not keep reserve accounts for the Okanagan Falls or Kaleden library branches. Any fixtures or equipment are funded for through the Area "D" "rural projects" budget as requested.

➤ How are the costs recovered?

Property taxes represent the primary source of funding for the service. Each year, the ORL determines the total amount it requires from its members. The total requirement is then allocated among the participating jurisdictions based on a combination of converted assessment (50%) and

population (50%). Cost sharing on the basis of property assessments reflects a community's ability to pay, and cost sharing on the basis of population reflects a community's usage (or potential usage) of the library. The RDOS then apportions that cost amongst all property owners on the basis of property assessments (land and improvements).

In addition to the property tax contributions identified in Figure 2, each jurisdiction is responsible for providing the branch furnishings, fixtures and equipment within its boundaries. In RDOS, the Area "D" rural projects budget is used to fund these improvements. The rural projects budget is funded through taxes levied on land and improvements within Area D. There are no library expenditures identified in the rural projects budget for the next 5 years.

➤ **What is the cost to a typical residence?**

The cost of the RDOS library services is recovered from Area "D" taxpayers on the basis of property assessments. A residence assessed at \$325,000 in Area "D" paid approximately \$63.91 in taxes in 2015 for library services, as shown in Figure 3.

Service	Tax Req.¹	Res. Rate	Owing²
ORL Library Services	\$805,926	0.197	\$63.91
Total			\$63.91

1 Tax requisition amount excludes 5.25% Surveyor of Taxes fee
2 Impact is calculated on a home assessed at \$325,000