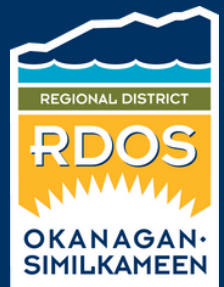


# Regional Connections Newsletter

News and information from the Regional District

December 2025



## RDOS represented at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Victoria

RDOS directors participated in several meetings with provincial representatives covering a range of issues, including rural encampments on Crown land; funding for Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Hospital District (OSRHD) capital projects; water utility and wastewater utility upgrades and acquisitions; Okanagan Falls incorporation; and direct property taxation.

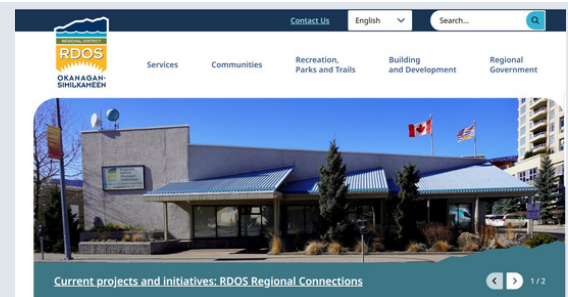
RDOS directors also took part in three meetings with provincial representatives focused on the Regional District becoming a taxing authority. This would result in an estimated savings of approximately \$659,000, which the RDOS Board of Directors can use to reduce taxes, increase services, or transfer to reserves.



UBCM September 2025

## New RDOS website to launch in early 2026

The RDOS is working with [Upandup](#) to create a new website, scheduled to launch in early 2026. The website redesign is based on feedback from RDOS Regional surveys and incorporates proven practices from other local governments. The new website will feature accessibility improvements, a modernized layout, enhanced search options, and streamlined access to essential services, including emergency preparedness and water systems.



## RDOS pop-up offices connect with communities

RDOS 2025 pop-up offices took place in Keremeos, Osoyoos, Oliver, Princeton, and Eastgate this September and October. The RDOS pop-up offices provide opportunities for senior staff to connect with residents from across the region. The RDOS is expanding its pop-up office initiative in 2026. Pop-up offices will be scheduled during community events whenever possible, including the Similkameen Sizzle in Keremeos and Canada Day celebrations in Okanagan Falls. The in-person community events facilitate meaningful conversations about RDOS projects and services. Dates and locations will be shared on RDOS websites, social media channels, and Voyent Alert!



## Take Action on Radon - RDOS participates in the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge



- Take Action on Radon is a national initiative, funded by Health Canada, to raise awareness on radon across Canada.
- Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.
- The current advisory team includes the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST) and the Canadian Cancer Society.
- Free radon test kits were made available to residents of Electoral Area "A", "C", "F" and "H" starting in October 2026 by registering for the program.
- The Town of Osoyoos and the City of Penticton are also participating.

# Events and initiatives

- **RDOS Winter Recreation Guide:** [rec.rdos.bc.ca](https://rec.rdos.bc.ca)

> Registration opened December 18, 2025.

- **RDOS office holiday closures:**

> RDOS offices close December 25 and reopen Monday, January 5, 2026.

Scan the QR code  
to view the RDOS  
event calendar



[rdos.bc.ca](https://rdos.bc.ca)

## Congratulations Venus Moreno-Atienza

The RDOS is proud to congratulate Venus Moreno-Atienza on attaining the designation of Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) from Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC), this past October 2025. Previously graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and engineering registration from the Philippines, Venus worked as a Civil/Structural Engineer in the Philippines for two years and in the Middle East for 16 years. Venus also completed the Sustainable Building Technology Diploma at Okanagan College. Venus has been working as an Engineering Technologist with the RDOS since July 2024. Venus aspires to continue growing as a professional engineer and contribute to sustainable infrastructure development – projects that prioritize resilience, environmental responsibility, and community well-being. Her long-term goal is to take on leadership roles and collaborate to generate innovative and sustainable solutions. "I am proud to earn my P.Eng. designation in Canada, which reflects my commitment to professional excellence and adaptability. I enjoy working with RDOS as it allows me to contribute directly to the community and work on projects that have a tangible impact on the residents' quality of life. I am happy to be part of an organization that empowers and uplifts one another."



## RDOS recreation enhancements and program success

### Similkameen Recreation Centre long-term improvements

- Landscape rejuvenation project - underground services, paved parking lot, tree and ground cover planting, and lighting installation for accessible pathway
- Mural expansion - work is underway to expand the artwork around the building
- Court resurfacing - multi-use and squash courts are being refinished to enhance playability and safety
- Roof repairs - maintenance work completed above the ice rink, refrigeration plant, and main entrance
- Facility painting - bowling alley, concession area, and vestibule received fresh coats of paint
- Transit access - as of September, the Similkameen Recreation Centre is now a designated bus stop for Route 50
- Accessibility improvements - installation of accessible entrance doors at the recreation centre is scheduled for early 2026

### Prescribed Recreation pilot program concludes, full trial proposed for 2026 - [click here to view the CBC article](#)

In 2025, the program included 50 prescriptions distributed to health professionals, enabling residents to access activities such as swimming, yoga, gym sessions, and chair exercises. More than 20 prescriptions were used during the trial, with participants reporting improved well-being and increased awareness of local recreation services. A full-year trial is a strategic priority for 2026.

## Community support

The RDOS extends sincere gratitude to all volunteers, fire departments, first responders, and partner organizations for supporting response efforts during the atmospheric weather event. Thank you also to everyone who attended RDOS events, including:

- RDOS and FireSmart chipping event: Greater West Bench, October 14
- RDOS pop-up offices: Keremeos, Osoyoos, Oliver, Princeton, and Eastgate



Keremeos Fire Department  
Open House



RDOS pop-up office  
Osoyoos



# Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA)

The RDOS is partnering with six municipalities, four local syilx Similkameen/Okanagan communities, and all Electoral Areas to complete a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) for each community. The HRVAs will inform local and regional emergency response plans, land-use policies, and climate adaptation initiatives across the RDOS. The project is grant-funded through the Province of B.C. and will take place over two years, from January 2025 to December 2026.



For further information, please visit  
the HRVA project page:  
[rdosregionalconnections.ca](https://rdosregionalconnections.ca).

Watch the HRVA video on the  
RDOS YouTube channel:  
[youtube.com/@OkanaganSimilkameen](https://youtube.com/@OkanaganSimilkameen).

## FireSmart

Whether you're completing regular yard maintenance or making large-scale changes during renovations or landscaping, you can make choices to help protect your home from wildfire.

Visit [firesmart.rdos.bc.ca](https://firesmart.rdos.bc.ca) to download the [FireSmart Homeowner's Manual](#).



## Atmospheric weather event

The RDOS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) would like to extend sincere gratitude for the incredible efforts made by all regional partners for providing support to the impacted communities during the atmospheric weather events.



### Cold weather

Be safe when the weather turns cold. Be aware of cold advisories in the region and how cold impacts health.

To learn more, visit [interiorhealth.ca](https://interiorhealth.ca).



Receive RDOS notifications via email, text, or phone.

RDOS provides the following informational topics that you may subscribe to:

Subscribed	Name	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Use Change Advisories	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sewer System Advisories	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Notifications Information about RDOS projects, meetings, and events.	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water System Advisories	≡
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safety and Preparedness Advisories Informational notifications provided for awareness.	≡

All Voyent Alert! users will automatically receive relevant emergency or critical notifications such as evacuation alerts or orders.

**Notifications can be sent to telephone landlines.**



Log in to your account to update your topics, locations, and notification preferences.

Scan the QR code to learn more:



Register or log in: [register.voyent-alert.com](https://register.voyent-alert.com)



Call RDOS Communications for assistance with your account.

**250-490-4148**

# Why didn't I know about this? Let's work together to fix that.

## Sign up

If you haven't already, sign up for **Voyent Alert!** at [register.voyent-alert.com](https://register.voyent-alert.com).

If you're already registered, please review your account settings.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via RDOS Regional Connections:  
[rdosregionalconnections.ca](https://rdosregionalconnections.ca).

Follow the RDOS on social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

## Hot Topics

Information and key dates are posted on Hot Topics and the Event Calendar at:  
[rdos.bc.ca](https://rdos.bc.ca).

The screenshot shows the RDOS website with a navigation bar at the top containing links like 'Agenda & Minutes', 'Regional Bylaws', 'Employment/Volunteer Opportunities', 'Notifications', and 'I Want To...'. Below the navigation bar is a 'Welcome to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen' banner. The main content area features a map of the region on the left and a 'VOYENT ALERT!' registration prompt on the right. Below the banner is a row of service icons: 'Emergencies, Fires & Floods', 'Make a Payment', 'Maps & GIS', 'Building Permits', 'Garbage & Recycling', and 'Water Systems'. The 'Hot Topics' section is highlighted in orange and lists several recent updates, including an evacuation alert rescinded, a public information meeting, and a public notice for a temporary use permit. Other sections visible include 'Upcoming Events' and 'Take Action'.

The logo features a globe with a cursor icon. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'RDOS Online' and 'rdos.bc.ca'. Below this, a list of services and their corresponding URLs is provided: 'EOC: emergency.rdos.bc.ca', 'FireSmart: firesmart.rdos.bc.ca', 'Projects: rdosregionalconnections.ca', and 'Recreation: rec.rdos.bc.ca'.

## Be a community champion

Residents are encouraged to share information from the RDOS on neighbourhood notice boards, Facebook groups, and discussion forums. If you would like to become part of the Community Champions program, please contact RDOS Communications.

If you have questions or suggestions, please call or email the Regional District.

# Electoral Area Directors

## **Electoral Area "A" - Rural Osoyoos**

Director Mark Pendergraft, RDOS chair  
250-485-2289

## **Electoral Area "B" - Cawston, Lower Similkameen**

Director George Bush  
250-499-0376

## **Electoral Area "C" - Rural Oliver**

Director Irwin Chahal  
250-460-1319

## **Electoral Area "D" - Skaha East, Okanagan Falls**

Director Matt Taylor  
778-931-6080

## **Electoral Area "E" - Naramata**

Director Adrienne Fedrigo  
250-460-0282

## **Electoral Area "F" - Greater West Bench, Rural Summerland, Okanagan Lake West**

Director Riley Gettens  
250-488-0246

## **Electoral Area "G" - Rural Keremeos, Hedley, Olalla**

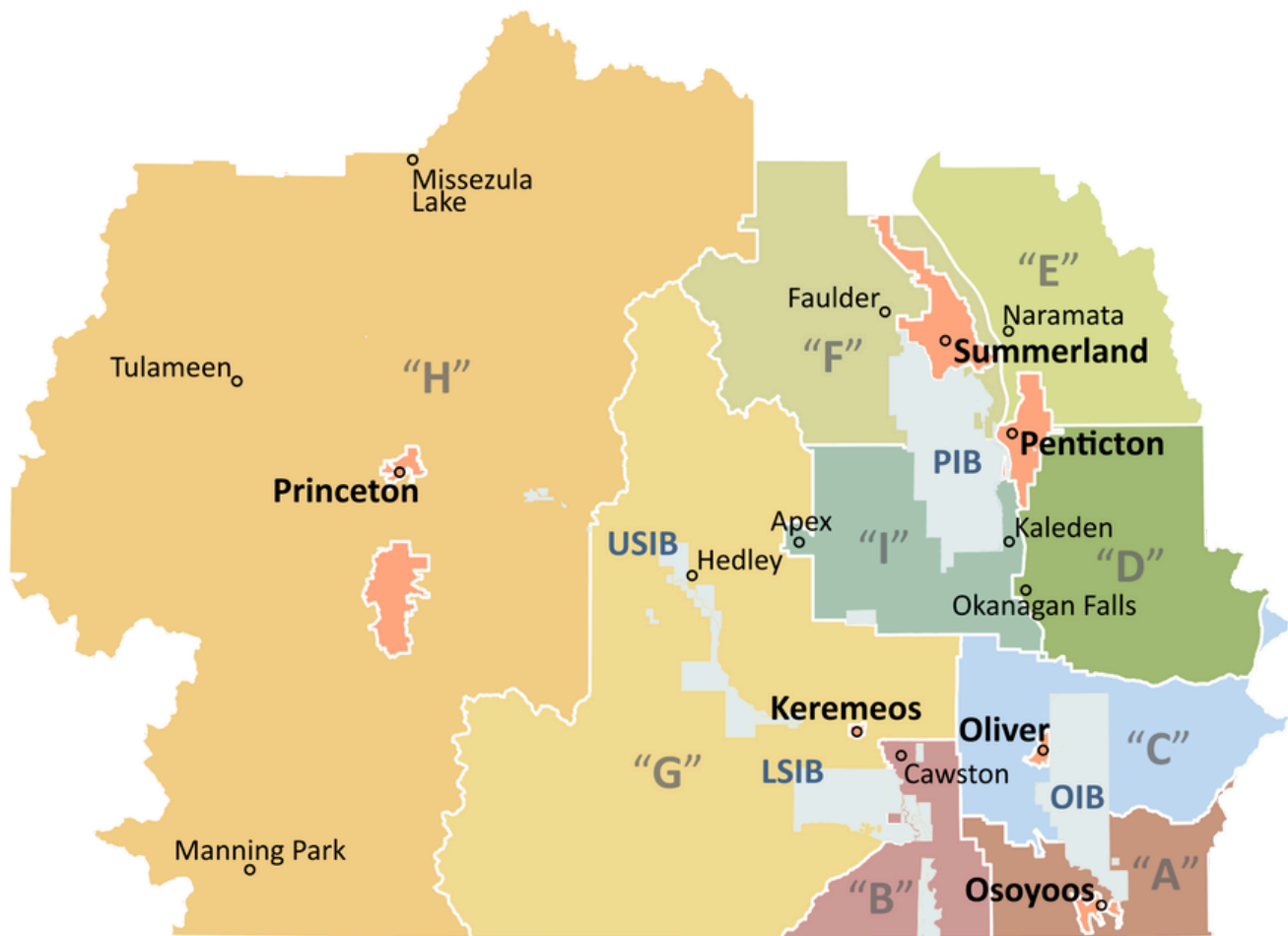
Director Tim Roberts, OSRHD vice-chair  
250-499-0900

## **Electoral Area "H" - Rural Princeton, Tulameen, Coalmont, Eastgate**

Director Bob Coyne  
250-582-9090

## **Electoral Area "I" - Skaha West, Kaleden, Apex**

Director Subrina Monteith  
250-460-0723



You can find the latest updates and resource links  
on the [Electoral Area News](https://rdos.bc.ca/electoral-area-news) page at [rdos.bc.ca](https://rdos.bc.ca).