

RDCO Financial Plan Backgrounder

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is one of 27 regional districts, unique to the Province of BC. The form of regional local government is modeled as a federation, composed of four municipalities:

- Kelowna
- West Kelowna
- Lake Country
- Peachland

and two unincorporated electoral areas:

- Central Okanagan East
- Central Okanagan West

Based on population, municipal councils appoint the elected representatives to the Regional Board, while residents in the electoral areas directly elect one Director each to represent them. Westbank First Nation Chief and Council appoint a non-voting representative to the Board.

The Regional Board determines how local services will be financed and has outlined its Strategic Priorities, providing staff direction on implementing this vision.

Regional Districts differ from municipalities because they don't have just one tax rate. The RDCO has more than 80 individual services provided and paid for by different combinations of taxpayers.

The member municipalities receive a basket of 18 – 20 general regional services like:

- Economic Development
- Regional Parks
- Dog Control
- 9-1-1
- Regional Rescue/Emergency Planning.

These services account for a relatively small share of the total average tax bill for property owners ranging from just over \$190 in Kelowna to slightly more than \$224 in Lake Country.

The Regional District is also the local government for residents in the two electoral areas providing them with 29 general services such as:

- Fire Prevention
- Planning
- Community Parks
- Building Inspection
- Bylaw Enforcement

These services account for average taxes of \$534.82 for property owners in the Central Okanagan East Electoral Area and \$674.42 for those in the Central Okanagan West Electoral Area. A decrease in requisitions for Transportation Demand Management and the Okanagan Regional Library has partially offset increases for Electoral Area Planning, Electoral Area Fire Prevention, Electoral Area Governance and Regional and Community Parks.

Specific communities within the electoral areas also fund additional services received from four paid-on-call fire departments, three community halls and six water systems that provide drinking water to more than 1,000 properties.

Westbank First Nation also receives several services from the Regional District including:

- Regional Parks
- Regional Rescue
- Economic Development
- Okanagan Basin Water Board

Cost sharing for Regional District services is based on the assessed value of properties in accordance with a service agreement.