



Regional Board Strategic Priorities 2023-2026



The RDCO acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded $\text{t}\acute{\text{m}}\text{x}^{\text{w}}\text{ú}\text{l}\text{a}\text{?}\text{x}^{\text{w}}$ (land) of the syilx / Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial. We recognize, honour, and respect the syilx / Okanagan lands upon which we live, work, and play.



Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure to present the 2023-2026 Board priorities that reflect our results focused commitments. As the fastest growing census metropolitan area in Canada, we are focused on solutions to uplift both our urban and rural communities, which have unique needs.

These priorities symbolize our unwavering commitment to deliver an exceptional quality of life for our residents while safeguarding the environment we call home. We recognize that progress lies in meaningful collaboration with the syilx / Okanagan people and the urban Indigenous people who reside on the unceded territory, to collectively tackle the issues that impact us all.

Crafted through a series of workshops, these priorities serve as a compass, investing taxpayer resources responsibly towards building safe, healthy and inclusive communities within the Central Okanagan. For the first time, additional sessions were held in our Electoral Area Services Committee that informed the needs of Electoral Area East and West.

Five regional and five electoral area priority areas will guide our focus and staff workplans throughout this term. The priorities will also serve as key advocacy action items to bring to the provincial and federal government. We will review our progress annually, allowing us to celebrate achievements, confront challenges head-on and remain nimble in addressing emerging priorities.



Together, we have the power to shape our shared future. Let's forge ahead with optimism, knowing that by upholding our values, we will create a Central Okanagan region that inspires future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Loyal".

Loyal Wooldridge
Regional Board Chair

The Regional Board 2023-2026

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) includes two unincorporated Electoral Areas of Central Okanagan East and Central Okanagan West, along with the member municipalities of the City of Kelowna, the District of Lake Country, the District of Peachland and the City of West Kelowna.

The Regional District Board of Directors includes 12 elected and appointed representatives from the Electoral Areas and member municipalities. In addition, Westbank First Nation Council appoints a non-voting representative.

Regional Board Members

Loyal Wooldridge, Chair	Councillor, City of Kelowna
Gord Milsom, Vice-Chair	Mayor, City of West Kelowna
Ron Cannan	Councillor, City of Kelowna
Wayne Carson	Director, Central Okanagan West Electoral Area
Jordan Coble	Councillor, Westbank First Nation
Tom Dyas	Mayor, City of Kelowna
Charlie Hodge	Councillor, City of Kelowna
Blair Ireland	Mayor, District of Lake Country
Stephen Johnston	Councillor, City of West Kelowna
Kevin Kraft	Director, Central Okanagan East Electoral Area
Gord Lovegrove	Councillor, City of Kelowna
Mohini Singh	Councillor, City of Kelowna
Patrick Van Minsel	Mayor, District of Peachland

From left to right
Back row: Jordan Coble, Gord Milsom, Wayne Carson, Ron Cannan
Middle row: Blair Ireland, Charlie Hodge, Loyal Wooldridge, Mohini Singh, Tom Dyas
Front row: Gord Lovegrove, Stephen Johnston, Patrick Van Minsel, Kevin Kraft



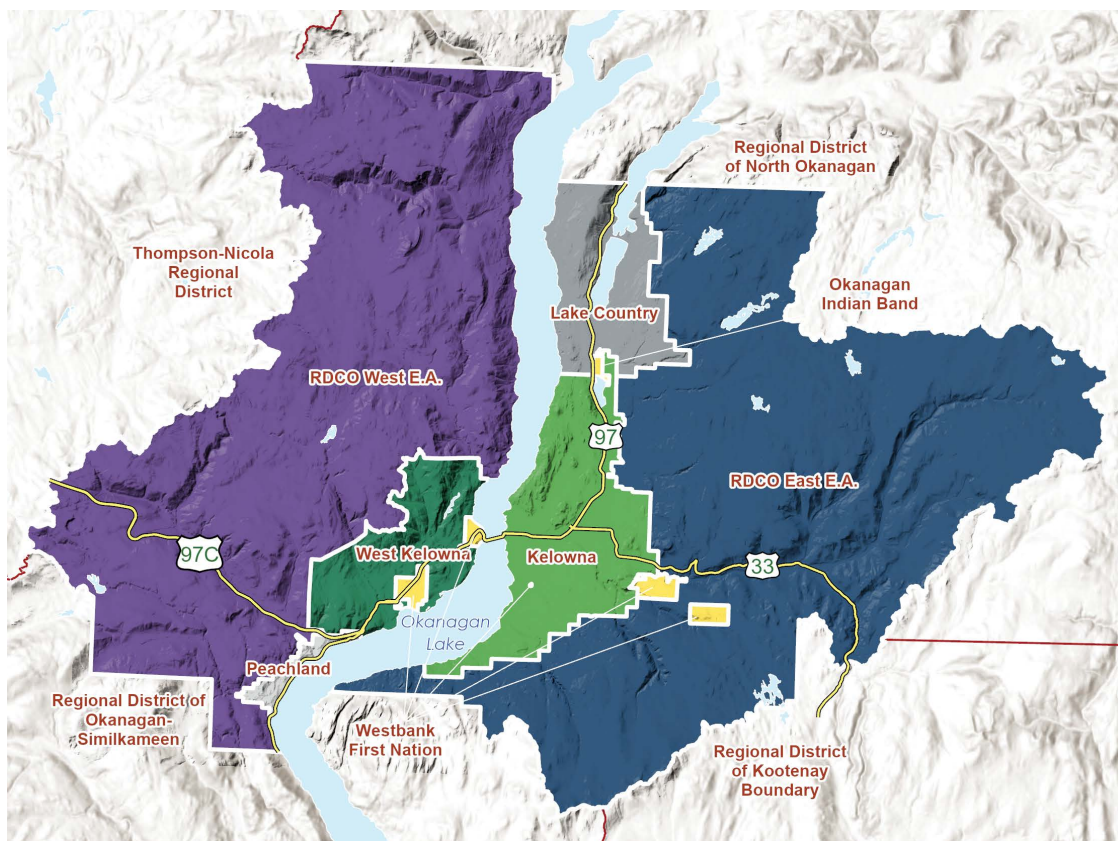
RDCO governance

The local government system in B.C. is unique in Canada. In addition to its 161 municipalities, it is composed of 27 regional districts. Regional districts are modeled as a federation composed of municipalities and electoral areas, each of which have representation on the regional district board.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan includes the City of Kelowna, City of West Kelowna, District of Peachland, District of Lake Country, Electoral Area East, Electoral Area West and representation from Westbank First Nation.

Regional districts have several governance roles, and all are focused on service provision. These include:

- Local government for electoral areas – the RDCO is responsible for providing basic local government services in Electoral Areas East and West
- Sub-regional services – the RDCO provides governance and administration for services that are delivered to more than one municipality, electoral area, and / or Westbank First Nation including wastewater treatment and sewer
- Regional services – the RDCO provides some regional services to address the shared needs and priorities of the whole region. This includes services like the Emergency Management program, waste reduction and regional parks



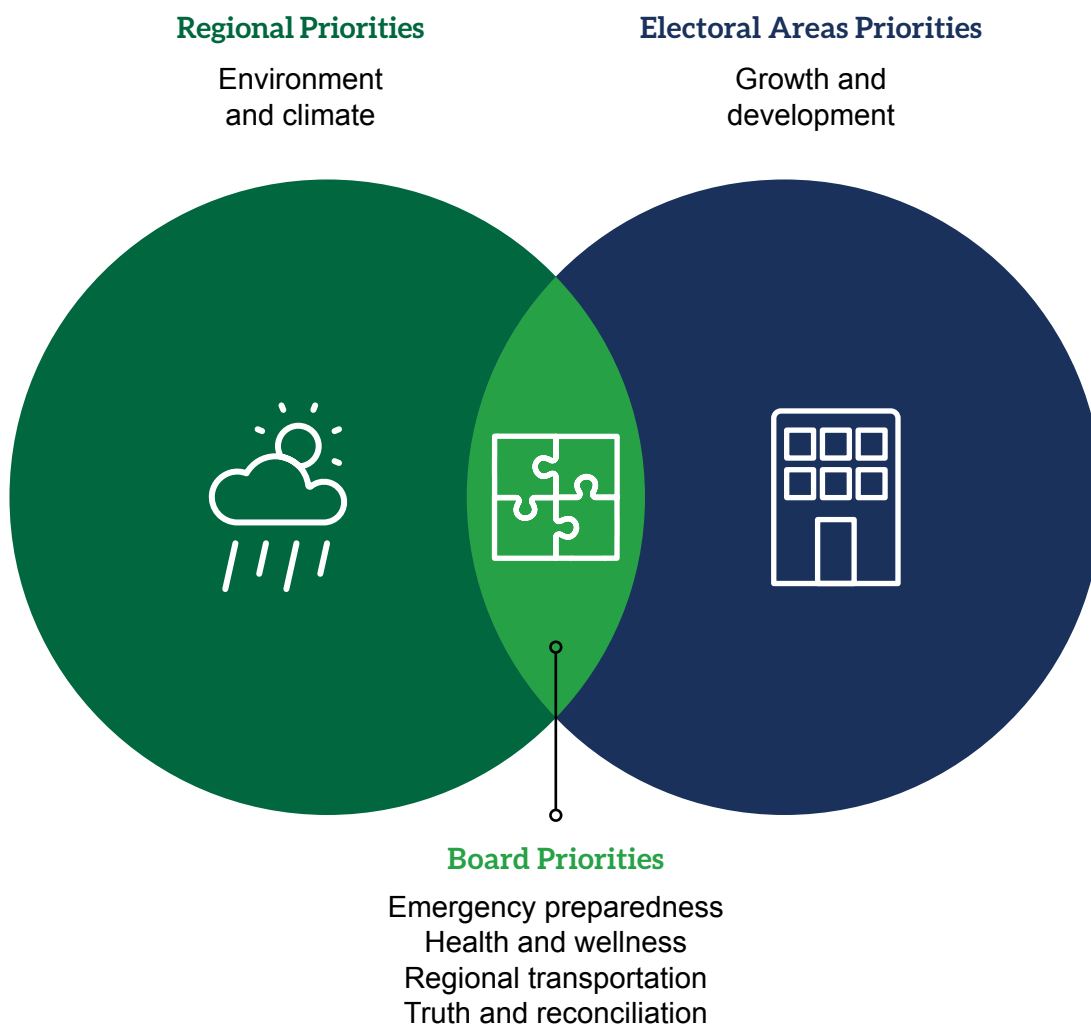
Strategic priorities at a glance

In developing the priorities, the RDCO Board:

- **Shared vision** and the sense of community needs and interests
- **Shared strong optimism** in the ability of the regional district model to move forward the priorities identified
- **Shared desire for the RDCO to lead** and set the standard for others on key issues

- **Focused on the regional nature** of many community issues and recognized the economies of scale in collective representation
- **Recognized the important local government role** for the electoral area residents

The resulting Board priorities represent the needs for both regional and electoral area services.





EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The RDCO will build on emergency response strengths while positioning the organization to respond to growing community needs and changes in provincial legislation.

- Continue to enhance services and efforts aimed at emergency preparedness and mitigation
- Assess the readiness of the existing Emergency Management Organization model to meet the increasing demand for emergency preparedness, response and recovery

Regional Actions:

- Facilitate the establishment of an expanded Central Okanagan Search and Rescue facility
- Action fiscally supported recommendations of the RDCO Fire Services Review
- Develop a strategy for a sustainable year-round Emergency Operation Centre
- Implement Next Generation 911 service
- Adopt feasible practices to incorporate Indigenous land management knowledge for emergency preparedness and response

Electoral Area Actions:

- Update and renew mutual aid agreements as required



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

The RDCO is committed to climate action and the environment by reducing our corporate impact, adapting to climate change and delivering innovative services that better manage greenhouse gas emissions.

- Evolve services in waste management to reduce waste going to the Glenmore Landfill including organics, recyclable and construction materials
- Introduce and enforce new regulations aimed at better controlling soil deposition and preventing illegal dumping in the region's rural areas
- Establish and enhance electoral area policies to manage growth, guide land use decisions and address community social needs

Regional Actions:

- Develop RDCO Corporate Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with Regional District operations and assets
- Reduce the volume of construction waste going into the Glenmore Landfill

- Expand the range of recyclables accepted, reduce contamination and control costs by completing the transfer of the delivery of curbside collection to Recycle BC
- Implement a curbside organics collection program
- Create and enforce a Soil Deposition Strategy and Bylaw

Growth and development

The Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) identified responsible land use planning as a strategic priority to safeguard the environment and climate.

Electoral Area Actions:

- Pursue funding opportunities to update the Electoral Areas Official Community Plans (OCPs)



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The RDCO will make purposeful investments in health care for physical and mental health benefits.

- The Regional Hospital District of Central Okanagan will work with Interior Health to influence priorities for responsive capital expenditures
- Commit the resources necessary to provide enhanced access to regional parks and trails, as well as programming that connects people to nature and that provides significant physical and mental health benefits

Regional Actions:

- Establish a memorandum of understanding with Interior Health to outline community healthcare needs and align capital funding
- Identify priority regional parks and trails to implement year-round access for residents of all abilities
- Leverage RDCO planning labs to inform land use policies that enhance quality of life in the region

Electoral Area Actions:

- Bolster the range of local park amenities and local recreation and community programs available through existing services to promote physical literacy



TRANSPORTATION

The RDCO will encourage the efficient and safe movement of people and goods within the Central Okanagan.

- Define and implement advocacy actions, within the framework of an RDCO Board Advocacy Strategy to:
 - Influence and help shape investments and decisions for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in the Central Okanagan
 - Improve equity in transportation options and mobility for the local jurisdictions and residents of the Central Okanagan
 - Enhance the level of integration between the Regional Growth Strategy and transportation planning in the Central Okanagan, including integration with the efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Regional Actions:

- Define, and explore a Regional Transportation Service
- Collaborate with partner municipalities and MoTI to advance regionally significant capital projects

Electoral Area Actions:

- Advocate for:
 - Innovative BC Transit service options for rural areas
 - Enhanced road safety and maintenance for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure roads in Electoral Areas



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The RDCO is actively committed to Reconciliation with the syilx / Okanagan people within the Central Okanagan. The RDCO strives for collaboration through a meaningful and ethical government-to-government working relationship with the syilx / Okanagan people.

- Ensure that RDCO services and the workplace are culturally safe and respectful
- RDCO will ensure that necessary steps are taken so that eligible projects proposed by the syilx / Okanagan nations receive an equitable share of provincial and/or federal grant dollars received by the RDCO

Regional and Electoral Actions:

- Complete the Regional District Reconciliation Framework to guide the actions taken by RDCO in its pursuit of Reconciliation with the syilx / Okanagan people
- Develop government-to-government relationships with Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Continue work already underway to explore full representation for Westbank First Nation on the Regional District Board
- Support the syilx / Okanagan people in their efforts to protect culturally significant areas



Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4

