ELECTORAL AREA "D" SERVICE & BOUNDARY CONFIGURATION STUDY OVERVIEW

Get Informed, Get Involved, Have Your Say!

IS THIS AN INCORPORATION STUDY?

No. This study is a prerequisite for an incorporation study, and occurs prior to Ministry approval of an incorporation study.

This study will help Area "D":

- Learn what services they currently receive, and who provides them
- Learn how incorporation might impact services and governance
- Determine whether it makes sense for their community to participate in an incorporation study
- Establish a boundary for a future incorporation study
- Determine whether a future incorporation study is desirable

WHAT IS THE STUDY PURPOSE?

Electoral Area "D" of the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen is currently undergoing a *Services and Boundary Configuration Study*. The purposes of the study are to:

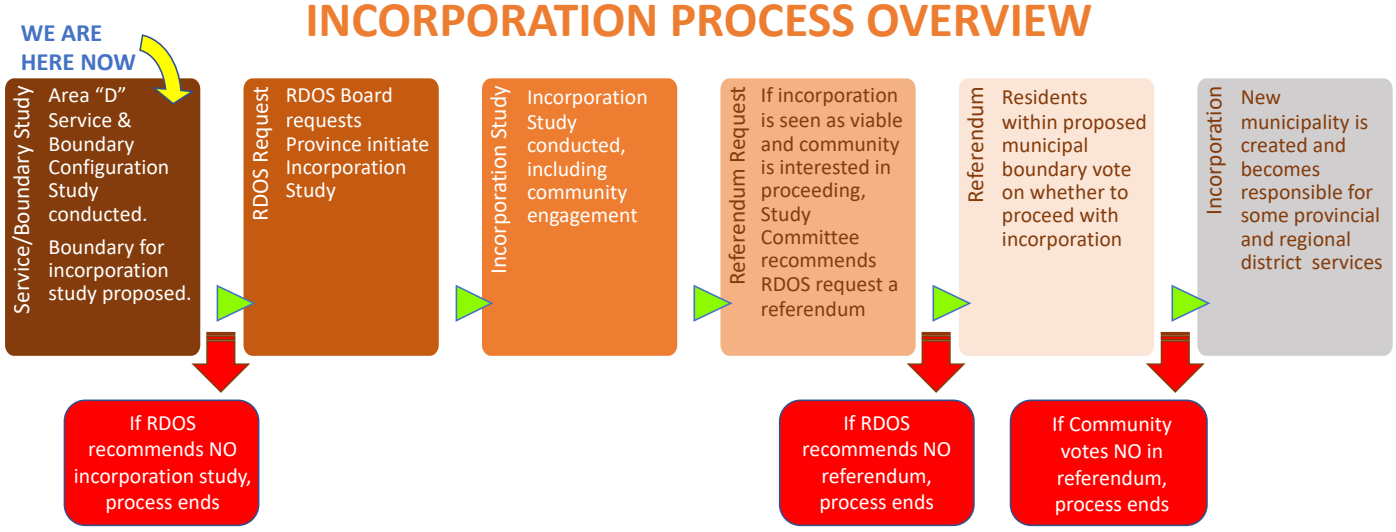
1) Examine the services provided in Electoral Area "D", identify any issues or concerns with services or governance, and gauge interest among citizens in pursuing incorporation.
2) Recommend a boundary after considering the high-level impact that incorporation would have on political representation, governance structure and service provision.

The *Services and Boundary Configuration Study* does not presume that an incorporation study will proceed. Ultimately the Study Committee, based on direction from the community, must contemplate whether an incorporation study might be an appropriate future step, and if so, identify the most suitable boundary for that subsequent analysis.

At this stage of the study, the Study Committee has reviewed and approved *Fact Sheets* for the services provided to Area "D" as well as some *Incorporation Insight* papers that provide an overview of the Incorporation Study Process, Incorporation Impacts, and Boundary Considerations.

Distribution of this Overview is intended to create awareness for the study, share information from the *Fact Sheets* and *Insight* papers, and inform residents as to how they can participate. In this next phase of the study, the Committee wants to hear and learn from residents about any issues or concerns they may have with respect to governance and services. Community input will determine whether a change in local government structure is desired. Understanding concerns will also help to identify a boundary for an incorporation study, and to gauge which communities might wish to be included.

INCORPORATION PROCESS OVERVIEW



WHAT DO RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW?

The information compiled so far identifies what services are currently provided to Area "D", who provides each service, how decisions are made about the service (how they are governed), and how much they cost. Each *Fact Sheet* then explores what impacts incorporation might have on each service. The *Fact Sheets* are available on the RDOS Regional Connections website. The graphic below highlights some of the impacts outlined in the *Fact Sheets* and *Incorporation Insight* papers.

What services are provided?

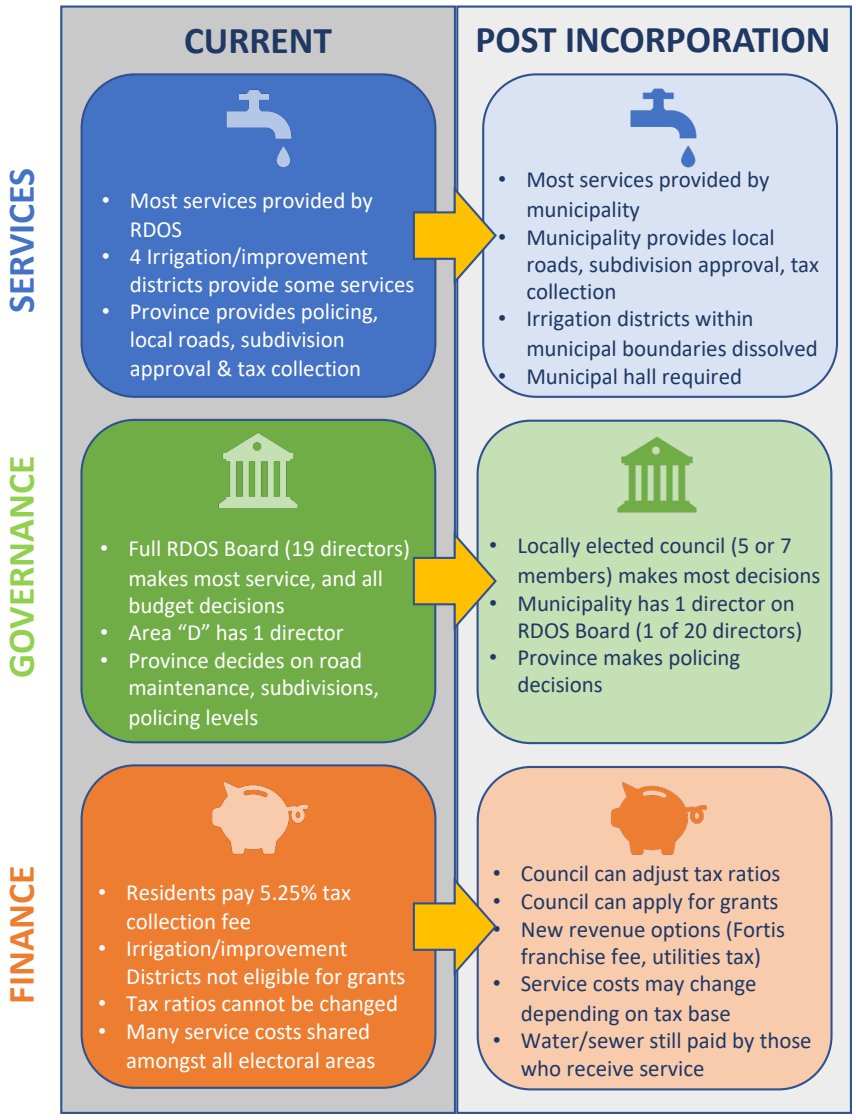
The Services provided to Area "D" residents are itemized in the chart on the opposite page, including whether the service is provided to all of Area "D" or just a portion. Individual service area maps for those services provided to only a subset of Area "D" residents (such as the area serviced by the Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department, the Sun Valley water system, or the OK Falls parks and recreation service) are shown in the *Fact Sheets* prepared for each service. The chart on page 3 also notes who would be responsible for providing the service if Area "D" (or portion of Area "D") were incorporated as a municipality. It is worth noting that just because a local government has authority for providing a service, does not mean it has to deliver the service. Service delivery, such as garbage and recycling collection, can be contracted out. Likewise, library service is delivered by Okanagan Regional Library, and bus services are delivered by BC Transit, but taxes are still collected through the RDOS for those services. Municipalities often receive services from RDOS due to the economies of scale of sharing services with other regional jurisdictions. A new municipality could choose to participate in some regional services, or could decide to deliver those services independently.

Who makes decisions?

Currently the RDOS Board, made up of 19 directors from the six municipalities and 9 electoral areas in the region, make decisions for most services. If an area incorporated, governance would change and most decisions for the community would be made by a locally-elected Council of either 5 or 7 members.

What is the cost?

While cost impacts are a significant factor for many residents, it is difficult to anticipate the impacts until an incorporation boundary is decided, and the tax base determined. While high level increases or reductions can be identified, such as the increase in cost of maintaining roads, the decrease in the surveyor of tax fee, or the dedicated grant funding, until the tax base is determined, accurate estimates are not possible.



AREA "D" SERVICES & PROVIDERS, BEFORE & AFTER INCORPORATION

SERVICE TYPE (as per RDOS Fact Sheets)	SERVICE PROVIDED TO AREA "D"	CURRENT SERVICE AREA	CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDER	SERVICE PROVIDER AFTER INCORPORATION (if within municipal boundary)
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLIING	Curbside recycling and garbage collection	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Illegal dumping	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Solid waste management	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Refuse disposal/Landfill operations	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
LIBRARY	Okanagan Regional Library	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS (through ORL)	MUNICIPALITY (ORL)
PARKS & RECREATION	Regional parks and trails	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Ok Falls parks, recreation and facilities	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
SEWER	Okanagan Falls Sewer	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Vintage Views sewer system	PARTS OF AREA D	VINTAGE VIEWS WWTP (PRIVATE UTILITY)	VINTAGE VIEWS WWTP (PRIVATE UTILITY)
	Septage disposal	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
EMERGENCY SERVICES	Emergency planning	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	911 emergency call system	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Fire protection	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Victim assistance contribution	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
PLANNING AND BUILDING	Electoral area planning	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Subdivision servicing	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Subdivision approval	ALL	PROVINCE (MOTI)	MUNICIPALITY
	Regional growth strategy	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Building inspection	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Heritage conservation	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Heritage Hills street lighting	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	Noise control	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Untidy/unsightly premises	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Animal control	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Area "D" economic development	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Regional economic development (OK Film)	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Nuisance (stariing) control	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Mosquito control	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Invasive species	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Sterile insect release	ALL	RDOS (THROUGH SIR)	RDOS (THROUGH SIR)
	Destruction of pests (weeds and insects)	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Environmenal conservation service	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
WATER	Sun Valley water system	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Okanagan Falls water system	PARTS OF AREA D	OK FALLS ID	MUNICIPALITY
	Skaha Estates water system	PARTS OF AREA D	SKAHA ESTATES ID	MUNICIPALITY
	Vaseux Lake water system	PARTS OF AREA D	VASEUX LAKE ID	MUNICIPALITY
	Rolling Hills water system	PARTS OF AREA D	ROLLING HILLS WATERWORKS ID	MUNICIPALITY
	Heritage Hills/Vintage Views/Lakeshore Highlands water system (private)	PARTS OF AREA D	LAKESHORE WATERWORKS (PRIVATE UTILITY)	LAKESHORE WATERWORKS (PRIVATE UTILITY)
	Okanagan Basin Water Board	ALL	RDOS (THROUGH OBWB)	RDOS (THROUGH OBWB)
ADMINISTRATION	Electoral area government administration	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	General govenrment regional administration	ALL	RDOS	RDOS
	Grant in aid program	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
	Rural projects (Area "D")	ALL	RDOS	MUNICIPALITY
TRANSIT	Electoral Area "D" transit system service	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS (BC TRANSIT)	MUNICIPALITY
	Regional transit	ALL	RDOS (BC TRANSIT)	RDOS
	South Okanagan transit system	PARTS OF AREA D	RDOS (BC TRANSIT)	RDOS
PROVINCIAL SERVICES	Roads	ALL	PROVINCE (MOTI)	MUNICIPALITY
	Policing	ALL	PROVINCE (PSSG)	PROVINCE*

RDOS	Operated by the RDOS, on a region-wide or sub-regional basis (so assumed would still be operated by RDOS after incorporation)
MUNICIPALITY	Municipal responsibility (if within municipal boundary); could choose to have someone else (including RDOS) deliver service
PROVINCE	Provincial responsibility
OTHER	Other authority

** Note that if the municipality were to exceed 5,000 population in the future, the municipality would be responsible for providing local police service; however municipal council would have only limited influence over policing decisions*

HOW TO LEARN MORE

Check out the

RDOS REGIONAL CONNECTIONS WEBSITE

www.rdosregionalconnections.ca

The website is the official source of information for the Study. The site includes:

- ✓ Fact Sheets
- ✓ Incorporation Insights
- ✓ Committee meeting dates, agendas and minutes
- ✓ Links to attend the committee meetings (available on the agenda)
- ✓ Dates for upcoming events
- ✓ Frequently Asked Questions
- ✓ An area to submit your questions to the Committee, RDOS or consultant to answer

Other opportunities to get involved:

- ✓ Attend a Study Committee meeting (Second Wednesday of each month from 6 – 8 pm)
- ✓ Attend the open house for your community (see schedule on this page)
- ✓ Attend the panel discussion (date to be determined)
- ✓ Check out the monthly updates in *Skaha Matters*
- ✓ Submit questions for our FAQ on the RDOS regional connections website
- ✓ Fill out the Boundary Options survey mailed to you in April!



Photo credit: Kari Medig

HOW DO I HAVE MY SAY?

OPEN HOUSES

The Study Committee is hosting 5 open houses, each with the focus on a different Area "D" neighbourhood or community. The intention is to give residents in each specific area an opportunity to share and discuss issues relevant to their community, engage with their neighbours, and learn about the services and governance that impact their area.

Open house meetings will be held:

- February 16 – focus on Eastside Road South/Skaha Estates, 7 pm
- February 17 – focus on Upper Carmi & surrounding area, 7 pm *(location to be determined)*
- February 23 – focus on Eastside Road North (Vintage Views, Lakeshore Highlands, Heritage Hills), 7 pm
- February 24 – focus on Vaseux Lake & surrounding Area (Sun Valley, Rolling Hills), 7 pm
- Saturday February 26 – focus on Okanagan Falls, 1 pm

Meetings will be held at the OK Falls Elementary School gym, excepting the Upper Carmi meeting (location to be determined). Meetings will be held in accordance with any restrictions at the time but are being planned as 'hybrid' meetings to accommodate residents attending both in person (proof of vaccination required) and online. Meeting details will be provided on the RDOS Regional Connections website closer to the date, and the February edition of *Skaha Matters*. Residents unable to attend their community meeting are encouraged to attend one of the other meetings, as everyone's input will be recorded and considered.

DISCUSSION PANEL

In addition to the community Open House meetings, a discussion with panelists representing communities that have been through the incorporation process, as well as a community in the midst of the process, is being prepared. Residents can submit questions to the panelists and learn from their experiences. The Discussion Panel is planned for early March – watch for details!

BOUNDARY OPTIONS SURVEY

Once the community open houses are complete, the consultants will collate the input. A public input summary will be provided to the Committee and available online.

During this phase, the consultants will be reviewing technical information, including BC assessment information, service boundaries, zoning & OCP designations that can be combined with the community input received to prepare some preliminary boundary options. These boundary options will be refined by the Committee, and then shared in a mailout survey to all Area "D" residents in April to identify preferences and collect further community input.