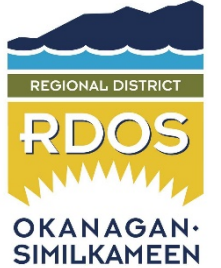


Discussion & Q&A

With Area "D" Director
Matt Taylor

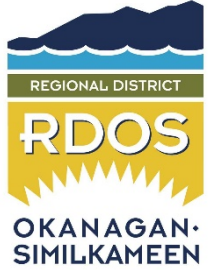
Okanagan Falls Community Recreation Centre
August 6 2025

Agenda



- Housekeeping / Rules of Order / Objective
- Coming Events.... Okanagan Falls Connects
- Proposed Purchase of an RDOS Corporate Facility
 - Background (Director)
 - Current status (CAO)
- Incorporation of Okanagan Falls
 - Provincial government representative 'on request'
 - Osoyoos Indian Band representative 'on request'
 - Current status & Matters Arising (Director)
- Other Issues

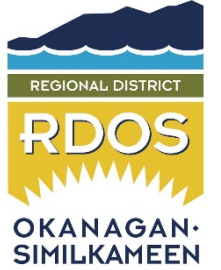
Housekeeping / Rules of Order



- Housekeeping
- Rules of Order
 - Brief Overview followed by Q & A
 - Speak from the Mic
 - Questions
 - Keep them brief, e.g. 2'
 - Quick follow up if required
 - Second questions after everyone else if time permits
 - Please be respectful
- Objective
 - Informed Residents
 - Informed Decisions & Expectations
 - Informed Director

Okanagan Falls Connects

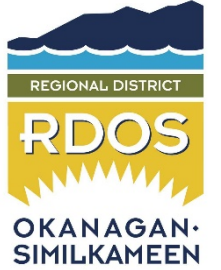
A Gathering and Celebration of Community Volunteers



- (What) A Fun way of finding out what makes our town 'tick'
- (Who) For Volunteers, Community Groups, Service Organizations & Public
- (Why) Come out and see what these organizations do and how you could play a role
- (When) 11:30 – 2 pm, Sunday September 14, 2025
- (Where) Kenyon Park, Okanagan Falls

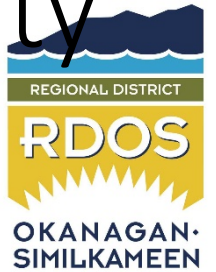
Questions Or Comments?

2 minutes each.... Please Be Respectful



Proposed Purchase of RDOS Corporate Facility

Background, Current Status & Next Steps



Background

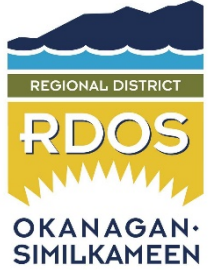
- ✓ Under consideration for 5+ years
- ✓ Staff presently in 3 different buildings
- ✓ Many Options Considered
 - ✓ Buy Bare Land & Build New Building
 - ✓ Buy & Repurpose Existing Building (various)
 - ✓ Rent Elsewhere and Rebuild Existing Building
- ✓ Done Due Diligence
 - ✓ 13 Conditions on the offer, e.g.
 - ✓ Lease reviews / approvals
 - ✓ Title review
 - ✓ Building inspection
 - ✓ Environmental assessment
 - ✓ Appraisal

Current Status & Next Steps

- ✓ Alternate Approval Process
- ☐ 30-day quashing period
- ☐ Board approval
- ☐ Possession date
- ☐ Reno / Repairs factored into cost
 - ☐ Roof
 - ☐ Elevator
 - ☐ Paint

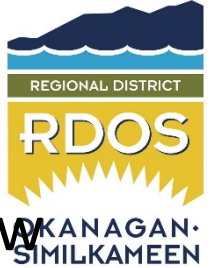
Questions Or Comments?

2 minutes each.... Please Be Respectful



Okanagan Falls Incorporation

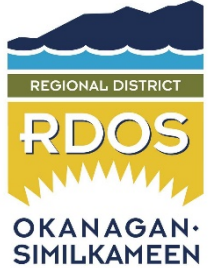
The Road To Date – A Short History of Current Incorporation Effort



- ✓ 1974... Earliest reference to formal incorporation efforts – several more follow
- ✓ 2007... Mill closure, loss of town's primary employer
- ✓ **2015 – 17.... Governance Study**, governance alternatives in regional district model
- ✓ 2018... Area "D" largest electoral area in RDOS, split in 2, Areas "D" and "I"
- ✓ 2018 - 20... Economic 'contraction' -- IGA / CU / Barber / School
- ✓ 2020... General community association formed to 'Grow Okanagan Falls' through jobs, houses & amenities (Okanagan Falls Community Association, OFCA)
- ✓ 2020... RDOS passes Director's recommendation, as provided in OFCA letter
- ✓ **2021 - 22... Study 1**, e.g. Informing community on services & boundary options
- ✓ **2023 – 24... Study 2**, e.g. informing community on costs & benefits, pros & cons
- ✓ **2025... Referendum**
 - ✓ 'Are you in favour of incorporating Okanagan Falls as a municipality?'
 - ✓ No mention of requests from province's first nation consultation

Okanagan Falls Incorporation

So We're Here Now



Standard Next Steps After Referendum Were

1. Appoint **Interim Corporate Officer**

- Appointed and paid by province
- Represent the District Municipality of Okanagan Falls

2. Provide **Letters Patent**, e.g.

- name
- boundaries
- services and how they are transitioned
- date
- 'advisory committee on indigenous matters' to mayor & council', e.g. Sun Peaks and others

3. **Election** (Mayor & 4 Councilors)

- Requires both the above

... All within purview of provincial government.

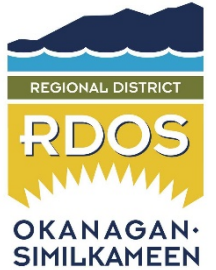
And understandably longer than previously and longer than anticipated due in part...

- Last incorporation in 2012
- Need to consider impact of all legislation passed since then, e.g.
 - Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Persons Act (DRIPA, 2019)

... and here's where we get the concerns

Okanagan Falls Incorporation

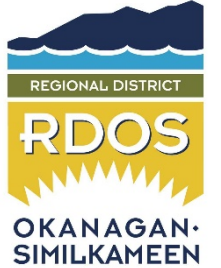
So What Are The Concerns?



- **FN Requests....** As suggested by the province
 - Removal of Crown Lands.... From within footprint*
 - RE-Name Municipality (and Streets???).... To a First Nations' recommended name*
 - Notice of Development.... to First Nations*
 - Forced Reconciliation (municipal decisions).... Or Renegotiating settlements (federal decisions)
- **Process....** What IS the process? Why are new changes introduced after referendum
- **Progress....** No draft Letters Patent, after 4-1/2 months
- **Communication....** No public communication during past 4 months from project lead
- **Meeting with Minister....** Requested April 8 & July 24.... Possibly August but none to date
 - First incorporation in 12 yrs AND First post-DRIPA?
 - Setting precedent for all future incorporations? Potential precedent for all existing municipalities?
- **Time to incorporate...** may impact taxation & RDOS budgeting
- **Representation....** Who represents the interests of 'the District Municipality of Okanagan Falls'? Increasingly important with time & issues

Okanagan Falls Incorporation

So What Are The Concerns?



- **RE-Negotiation of land settlements....** Primarily a federal responsibility, and certainly in this case....
 - Yet we see the province playing a role

- **Reconciliation....** Should be voluntary.... For a community, like Okanagan Falls, should be a municipal responsibility
 - Yet we see the province playing a role (name changes)

- **Incorporation....** This, is the province's responsibility
 - We have seen no progress

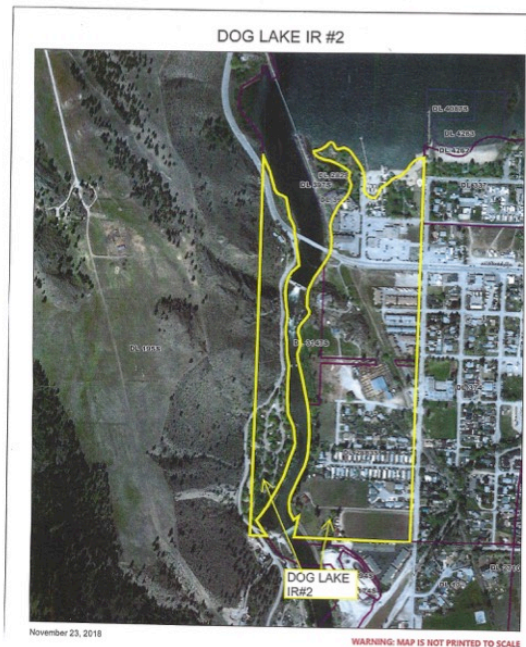
Okanagan Falls Incorporation

Ex. 1. Background On Land Claims & Reserve

Was There A Reserve At Okanagan Falls?

- Yes. Res. #II, a.k.a. Dog Lake Indian Reserve #2, OIB and Gov't of Canada
- Removed or 'cut off' from main reserve (McKenna / McBride Royal Commission, 1912–16)
- One of 22 'cut off' land claim disputes in BC
- Current Status: 'full and complete' Negotiated Settlement (1982)
- Claims extinguished for past / future band (Indian Cut Off Lands Dispute Act, 1993)

.... For this claim, Okanagan Falls is 'ceded' territory



Status Report on Specific Claims

BRITISH COLUMBIA (595)

Claimant & Claim Name	Current Status & Description	Key Date(s)
Osoyoos (BAND-596) BC Cut-Off Lands (SPLIT #11)	Settled Settled Through Negotiations Alienation of reserve land arising from decisions of the McKenna-McBride Commission in 1916.	- Canada Offered to Negotiate: 1981/01/21 - Settlement Signed by Canada: 1982/11/01



Okanagan Falls Incorporation

Ex. 2. Background On Removal Of Crown Lands

➤ Why?

- First Nation request

➤ What?

- Crown Land = land owned by the Crown, e.g.
- Yellow colour in attached map, e.g.
 - KVR Trestle south to HWY97
 - River trails south along river
 - Dam
 - Lake frontage & roadway (Hody Dr)
 - MoTT gravel pit (Eastside Rd)
 - Mouth of Shuttleworth Creek
 - Few orphan lots throughout town

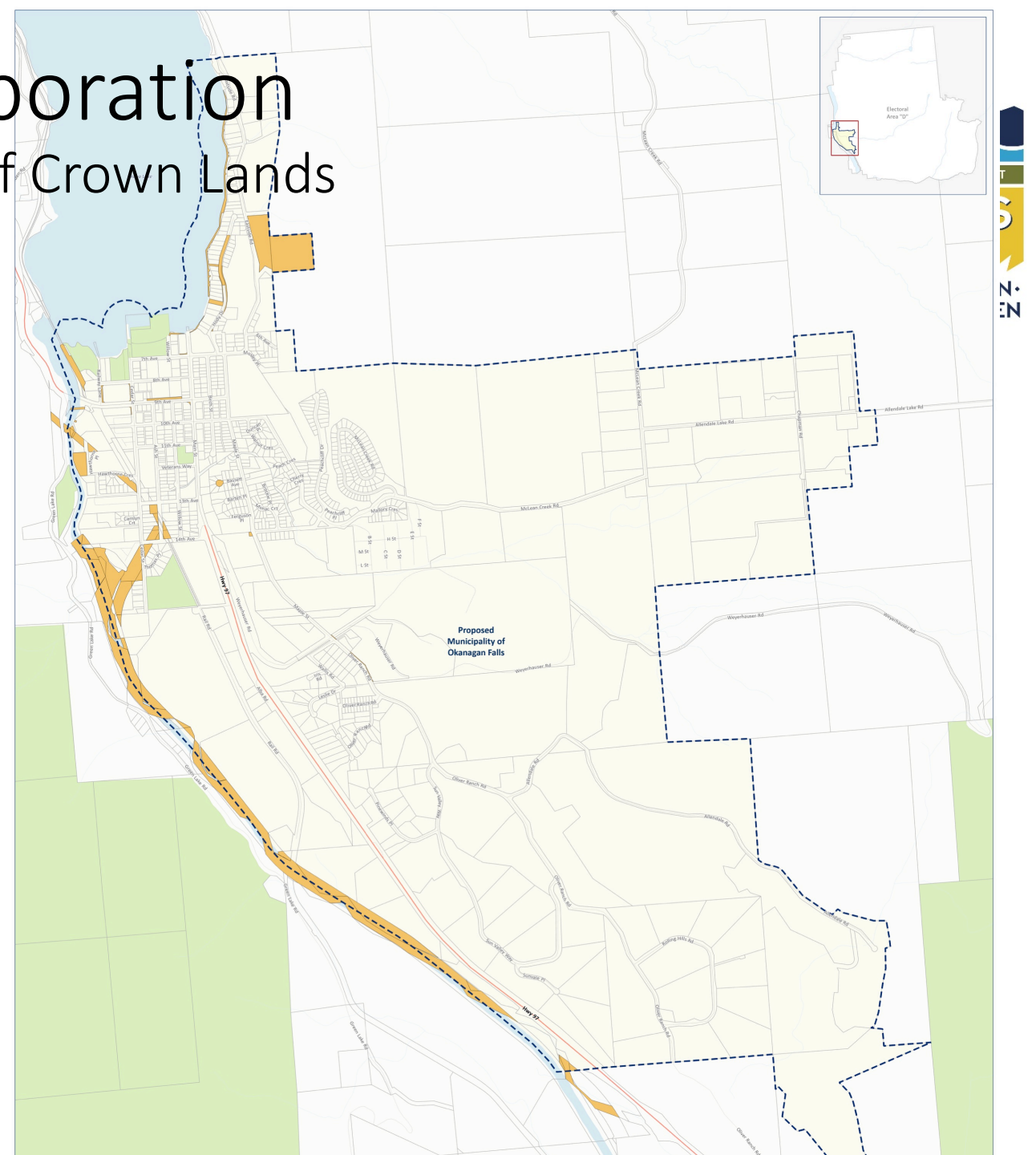
➤ The concerns

- These lands have value to the community.

➤ What's the process???

- Why removal after referendum?

➤ RE-negotiating???... Forcing Reconciliation???



Okanagan Falls Incorporation

Ex. 3. Background On Name Change



➤ Why?

- First Nation request

➤ What Name?

- 2 suggestions but we've not been told

➤ The concerns

- Business costs
- 10 to 100's of changes required, depending on the business
- Re-establishing a brand
- Communicating

➤ What's the process?

- Recent amended Letters Patent have not been renamed
- Normally by mayor & council

➤ Forcing Reconciliation???

➤ Comparisons provided by Province

- 'Haida Guaii' (previously Queen Charlotte Is.)

- > 60% indigenous

- 'qathet' Regional District (previously Powell River R.D.)

- Board chooses to change name
- 'Powell' was first Superintendent of Indian Affairs (disliked)

- Powell River City

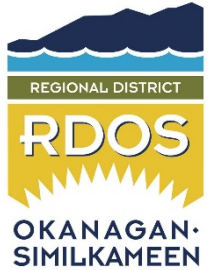
- < 3% indigenous
- Declined to change name after lengthy consultation

- Okanagan Falls???

- < 3% indigenous
- 'Okanagan' is a first nation word, and part of the 8-nation Okanagan Nation Alliance

Questions Or Comments?

2 minutes each.... Please Be Respectful



What can you do?

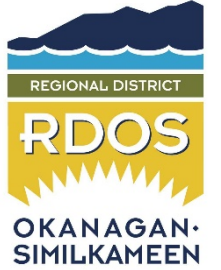
- Sign the petition, to be sent to Minister / Premier
- Provide a comment – to be assembled, PDF'd and sent to Minister / Premier
- Host a comments session at Belich's
- Write a letter to Minister Boyle
 - Cc MLAs Wilson & Rustad
 - Cc Premier Eby
 - Cc Director Taylor

What I'm doing? What RDOS is doing?

- Bi-weekly progress updates from Province
- Strong / Informed support from RDOS
- Letter to Minister Boyle (3)
- Letter of Support (RDOS)
- Meeting with Minister Boyle (August)
- Meeting with Union BC Municipalities
 - Letter to Minister
 - Awareness of other municipalities
 - agenda item at September conference
- Media
 - CBC / Castanet / Penticton Herald / AM1150 Vista News

Call me, if you have a concern with the directions suggested here

Thank You For Coming!



Matt Taylor
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mtaylor@rdos.bc.ca