Be informed. Be involved.

The Incorporation Study Committee and technical consultants completed their review of incorporation impacts in May 2024.

The Incorporation Study is now moving into the community engagement phase, where the focus is on sharing information with the community and listening to questions and feedback.

Electors within the Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study Area have many ways to get information and are invited to participate in one or more of the following ways:

Study website

View Study findings and try out the tax impact calculator to estimate cost impacts of incorporation on your residential property: rdosregionalconnections.ca/okanagan-falls-incorporation-study

Mailouts

Delivered to addresses within the Study Area in **July** and **October 2024**.

Booth at Music in the Park

Visit our booth at Centennial Park on **July 1**, **July 14**, **August 11**, and **August 25**.

Open houses

Locations to be confirmed.

- **Saturday, August 17**, 2-4:30pm
- **Wednesday, September 11**, 6-8:30pm

Discussion panel

Hear from other jurisdictions that have recently considered incorporation. Location to be confirmed.

- **Tuesday, October 8**, 6-8:00pm

Small-group meetings

Presentations to community associations and other interested groups. To request a presentation for your group, email Rick at: rewinder2@yahoo.com.

Information binders

Hard copies of all Study materials are available to review at the Okanagan Falls Library and the RDOS Community Services Office (1109 Willow Street).

Events will be advertised in Skaha Matters and the project website – please check these places to confirm event dates, times, and locations.

Scan the QR code to post a question on the Incorporation Study webpage and have a member of the project team respond.

Okanagan Falls
Incorporation Study

What is the Incorporation Study?

Okanagan Falls is currently an unincorporated community of 2,760 people within the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen's (RDOS) Electoral Area "D."

Incorporation is the process through which an unincorporated area becomes recognized as a municipality (village, town, city, or district) that is governed by its own mayor and council.

This Incorporation Study examines how incorporating as a municipality would affect Okanagan Falls' local services, taxation and governance.

Incorporation Study Timeline

Initiate incorporation study

- Province of BC approves/ funds the Study
- RDOS selects Study consultants
- RDOS establishes community committee to oversee process

Community conversations

- Community events and written communications to share information about incorporation and answer questions

Next steps

- If a referendum is recommended, Province of BC initiates a vote
- Electors in the Incorporation Study Area vote whether to incorporate

FALL 2022 - SUMMER 2023 COMPLETE

FALL 2023 - SPRING 2024 COMPLETE

SUMMER - FALL 2024 CURRENT PHASE

END OF 2024

SPRING 2025

Analysis to determine incorporation impacts

- Consultants assess service, governance, and tax impacts
- Committee ensures community interests are considered

Final report on incorporation

- Consultants submit report to Committee and RDOS Board
- Committee recommends whether to proceed with referendum
- RDOS accepts or rejects recommendation

Governance Option #1: Okanagan Falls Municipality



If Okanagan Falls were to incorporate into a new municipality, the community would be governed by a new Council made up of four (4) Councillors and one (1) Mayor. The Council would be the locally-elected body responsible for making decisions on local services like roads, water, sewer, parks, recreation, bylaw enforcement, and planning.

This option may appeal to you if you:

- Want service levels, priorities, and decisions made by a locally-elected Council
- Want greater control over the community's finances (including the ability to create reserve funds for future needs and priorities)
- Do not wish to rely on the Province for local road maintenance
- Want greater access to grant programs (that could be granted directly to a municipality, rather than to a regional district to decide how to distribute)
- Want access to provincial financial incentives that are given to communities that incorporate
- Are comfortable paying slightly higher local property taxes in exchange for greater local control over services and decisions

Governance Option #2: Remain Part of RDOS Electoral Area "D"



If Okanagan Falls remains part of RDOS Electoral Area "D," the entire Area "D" community would continue to elect one (1) electoral area director to the RDOS Board of Directors. The 20-person Board (9 electoral area directors and 11 municipal directors) would continue to make decisions about services and priorities in Okanagan Falls.

If there is not enough interest in incorporation to hold a community vote, or if a vote is held and incorporation is not supported, Okanagan Falls will automatically remain as part of Electoral Area "D."

This option may appeal to you if you:

- Are satisfied to leave local service delivery, priority setting, and decisions with RDOS' 20 directors, with one (1) electoral area director representing Area "D" (including Okanagan Falls)
- Are content to continue to pay and rely on the Province for local road maintenance
- Are satisfied with the range and level of local services provided to the community (including planning and development approvals, utilities, parks and recreation, bylaw enforcement, building inspection and economic development)
- Are satisfied to have RDOS to continue to have responsibility over local financial management, including reserve funds and property taxes
- Seek the lowest-cost local property taxes
- Believe that, in the years ahead, Okanagan Falls can be well-governed and appropriately serviced as part of Electoral Area "D" in the RDOS