



The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan
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Highlights of the Regional Board meeting – January 12, 2023

2023-2027 water rates and fees

The Regional Board has adopted bylaws setting out annual rate adjustments for 2023 through 2027 for each of the six water systems maintained and operated by the regional district. The new rates reflect inflation and operating cost increases and projections since the last rate adjustments were approved in 2019. Specific fees may need to be adjusted during the annual budget process to ensure each system is financially sustainable. The rates vary by each system based in part on its age, number of customers served and regulatory water quality requirements. Information on the new rates is available at rdco.com/waterrates.

New water systems regulation bylaw

The Regional Board adopted a new Water Systems Regulation Bylaw to provide consistency in operations and the provisions of Drinking Water Regulations and Guidelines for the six RDCO water systems. The bylaw includes:

- no charge seasonal water turn on/off once a year
- User fees will continue while water to a connected property is turned off
- additional options to the RDCO for bylaw compliance water system safety to reduce unauthorized connections and unmetered water use
- all future new property connections or those involving major renovations are required to install an in-ground, accessible pit to house the water meter

Wastewater service standing committee

The Regional Board adopted the Terms of Reference for the Westside Wastewater Service Standing Committee and appointed these committee members:

- Vice-chair Gord Milsom (West Kelowna)
- Director Jordan Coble (Westbank First Nation)
- Director Patrick Van Minsel (Peachland)
- Director Stephen Johnston (RDCO)

The combined assets of the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and East Trunk Sanitary Sewer System are valued at more than \$150 million.

First regional citizen survey results

The Committee of the Whole received the results of the first statistically-valid citizen survey conducted for the Regional District. The survey provided an opportunity for direct feedback from participants, an indication of citizen priorities and helps gauge satisfaction with existing RDCO programs and services. It may also assist the Regional Board in priority setting and allocating resources. Among the findings:

- 94% of residents reported a good overall quality of life
- 94% are generally satisfied with the overall level of services received from the RDCO
- 79% believe they get good value for their taxes

The survey was done by Ipsos during the fall involving 700 participants. The results are considered accurate +/- 3.7%, 19 times out of 20.

Regional Board meetings

Regional District office – 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna (Woodhaven Boardroom)

- Thursday, January 19 – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, February 2 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, February 16 – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, February 23 – Electoral Area Services Committee – 8:30 a.m.

When a meeting begins, a live stream video link will be available for that meeting in the Upcoming Meeting agenda section of rdco.com/agenda. When available, a link to the Video recording will be posted in the Past Meetings section for the individual meeting date.

Stay informed about the Regional District

Sign up at rdco.com/subscribe to receive customized news and information from the Regional District.

Share your thoughts and stay up to date with RDCO projects at yoursay.rdco.com.

The Board Report is published monthly after each regular meeting of the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

The Regional Board meets twice a month in regular session in the Woodhaven Boardroom at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road.

The public is welcome to attend.

For copies of this publication or more information contact

Bruce Smith, Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
250-469-6339

Christmas Tree Chipping



Free drop-off at all locations
(until January 31, 2023)

Please remove all decorations, tinsel and bags used for transporting the tree

Kelowna:

- Ben Lee Park, off Houghton Road
- Behind the Capital News Centre (on the Lequime ring road)
- Glenmore Landfill (3 tree limit) • 7:30am-4:45pm
Closed Dec. 25, 26 & Jan. 1

West Kelowna:

- Residential Waste Disposal Centre on Asquith Road
Fri-Mon 7:30am-3:50pm • Closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1
- Lake Country:
Jack Seaton Park parking lot at 1950 Camp Road

FireSmart rebates available



Qualify for a rebate with recommended FireSmart actions

Taking recommended FireSmart actions could earn Central Okanagan electoral area property owners a rebate for their efforts. That's in addition to helping protect their home and property by reducing the potential fire hazard.

- To get started, visit the program webpage: rdco.com/firesmart
- Schedule an appointment with the RDCO FireSmart coordinator
- You'll receive a personalized property assessment with recommended actions that will help reduce the potential fire hazard on your property
- The coordinator will also answer any questions you may have about FireSmart practices and the rebate program

A maximum rebate of up to \$500 is available for 50% of the costs of labour and supplies for those who take the recommended FireSmart actions. A limited number of rebates are available.

Science-based FireSmart principles and practises are the best and most cost-effective way to increase a home's survivability from wildfire. By removing potential fire hazards on and around buildings and managing vegetation in zones on a property residents can help protect their homes, neighbourhoods and vital natural resources from wildfire.

Questions?

Please contact our FireSmart coordinator by emailing firesmart@rdco.com or calling 250-469-6223

Fire Services
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC, V1Z 3Z4
250-469-6223 | firesmart@rdco.com
rdco.com/firesmart



Certified Interpretive Guide Course



Why take the course?

Develop skills in:

- story telling and public speaking
- group management
- enhancing guest experiences
- connecting people to natural and cultural resources
- developing higher quality tours for your organization

Great for:

- park naturalists
- cultural hosts
- visitor services staff in museums, zoos, aquariums and historical sites.
- environmental and outdoor educators
- tour directors, guides, and tourism professionals

February 22 to 26, 2023

Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan
Mission Creek Regional Park
Kelowna, BC

Instructor: Rose Maunder, MES

To learn more and to register:
www.interpnet.com



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