

April 19, 2023

RDN Board Confirms Next Steps for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre Bylaw Review

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board held a special board meeting on April 18, 2023, regarding District 69 Swimming Pool Service Establishment Bylaw No. 899, 1993 (Bylaw #899). The RDN Board was considering two proposed changes to Bylaw #899; changing how Ravensong Aquatic Centre is funded and adding Electoral Area E as a participating area. The Board discussed the public's response to the two proposed changes to Bylaw #899 that was collected through a survey. Residents also had an opportunity to attend in-person and virtual open houses, submit questions through the project website and to speak directly to the Board at the special board meeting.

At the meeting, the Board passed the following motions:

- That the Regional District of Nanaimo Board receive the Bylaw No. 899 Community Engagement Summary and cover staff report for information.
- That the Staff Report dated April 18, 2023, "Options for District 69 Swimming Pool Local Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 899 Amendment following Public Engagement" be received and that the Chair re-establish the District 69 Swimming Pool Service Select Committee and the report be referred to the Committee to further review options and models for the District 69 Swimming Pool Service, as well as an additional aquatic facility in Oceanside, and provide recommendations to the Board.
- That staff be directed to prepare an analysis of the 5-year financial plan for Ravensong pool with operating funds and capital funds separated for the information of the select committee meeting.
- That staff provide the select committee with the detailed usage survey data, as appropriate, from 2010 and 2015 which would include methodology and standard deviation.
- That staff provide the select committee with a variety of cost apportionment models for consideration.

The public engagement report, which includes the survey results, is available [online](#). In total, 796 surveys were submitted by residents of Electoral Areas E, F, G and H, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach. Following are highlights from the report:

Respondents

- Residents of Electoral Area E made up 81 per cent of all survey respondents from the eligible participating areas.
- The City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Area G had similar survey participation rates of five to six per cent while Electoral Areas F and H had the lowest rates of two and one per cent respectively.
- Of all respondents who shared their age, 83 per cent were 55 years of age or older.

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Proposed Changes to the Funding Model

- Of all survey respondents, 19 per cent support changing the funding model of 1/2 (50 per cent) property assessment and 1/2 (50 per cent) usage to 1/3 property assessment, 1/3 usage and 1/3 population, 66 per cent are opposed and 15 per cent would support an alternative model.
- Most respondents from Electoral Areas G and H, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach support the proposed funding model change or an alternative model.
- Seventy-seven percent of respondents from Electoral Area E oppose the proposed change while 10 per cent would accept the proposed change and 14 per cent would accept an alternative model.
- Thirty-seven per cent of Electoral Area F respondents support the proposed funding model change while 47 per cent would support an alternative model.

Addition of Electoral Area E as a Participating Area


- Most respondents (83 per cent) oppose the addition of Electoral Area E in the pool service, with Electoral Area E respondents being the majority and strongly opposed.
- Most respondents from the other participant areas (Electoral Areas F, G and H, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach) support the addition of Electoral Area E into the pool service.


To view all of the reports included in the April 18, 2023 special board meeting agenda package, please click [here](#). For more information on the Bylaw #899 review, FAQs, to read the full public engagement report and to register to get Bylaw #899 project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/pool-bylaw.

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