

Ravensong Aquatic Centre Expansion Project Referendum – Have Your Say

Resident electors and non-resident property electors of the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Electoral Areas E, F, G and H have the opportunity to decide through a referendum if the RDN can borrow up to \$30 million for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre Expansion project. General voting day is Saturday, April 5, 2025, with advanced voting days on March 26 and April 2.

Voters will be asked: "Are you in favour of the Regional District of Nanaimo adopting Ravensong Aquatic Centre Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1921, 2024, which will authorize the Regional District of Nanaimo to borrow up to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) in order to finance the Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion?"

Voting Information and Key Dates

Advanced Voting Days

Dates: March 26 and April 2

Time: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

One voting location only: Qualicum Beach Community Hall, 644 Memorial Ave, Qualicum Beach

General Voting Day

Date: April 5

Time: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voter Area	Voting Location
City of Parksville	Craig Street Commons, 330 Craig Street, Parksville
Town of Qualicum Beach	Qualicum Beach Community Hall, 644 Memorial Avenue, Qualicum Beach
Electoral Area E (includes Snaw-naw-as First Nation)	Nanoose Place Community Centre, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose Bay
Electoral Area F	Coombs Fairgrounds, 1014 Ford Road, Coombs or Meadowood Community Centre, 1810 Galvin Place, Qualicum Beach
Electoral Area G	St. Columba Presbyterian Church, 921 Wembley Road, Parksville
Electoral Area H (includes Qualicum First Nation)	Lighthouse Community Centre, 240 Lions Way, Qualicum Beach

Note: Electors in each electoral area and municipality are only eligible to vote at their respective voting location(s) noted.

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Mail Ballot Voting

Eligible electors can register to vote and vote by mail by requesting a mail ballot package by submitting an Application to Vote by Mail.

Applications to vote by mail will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2025. To be counted, mail ballots must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 p.m. on general voting day, April 5, 2025, at the Regional District of Nanaimo Administration Office, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2.

For more information on the referendum, including the three ways to vote, who can vote and voting locations, visit rdn.bc.ca/ravensong-referendum.

Background Information

In October 2024, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board approved a referendum to seek the approval of eligible electors to borrow up to \$30 million to finance the Ravensong Aquatic Centre (RAC) expansion located in Qualicum Beach.

The Ravensong Aquatic Centre opened in 1995 and is the most used indoor recreation facility in the Oceanside area. In 2006 the need for increased aquatic services in the Oceanside area was identified. Swim visits and program attendance continued to increase over the following 11 years and the facility was identified to be at capacity in 2019 during the recreation master plan study.

The RDN held open houses for public feedback before proposing the following expansion features:

- A new four-lane, 25-meter pool
- A leisure pool with play features and a zero-depth entry
- A “lazy river”
- New sauna and steam room
- A bigger lobby, universal changerooms and multi-purpose rooms
- Net Zero Design features that reduce emissions from materials, improve energy efficiency, implement onsite renewable energy generation and achieve further emission reductions

The expansion design is more inclusive, accessible and energy efficient. It also offers new opportunities for recreation and physical therapy for the community.

The estimated project cost of \$36 million would be financed through the recently announced \$7 million Government of Canada Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program contribution, \$6 million from capital reserves and up to \$30 million in long-term borrowing if approved through the referendum on April 5. The federal contribution will reduce the RDN’s reliance on borrowing the full proposed \$30 million amount and provide a financial buffer during a shifting economic period. If borrowing is approved through the referendum, construction will start in early 2026 and is estimated to take 24 to 28 months.

For more information on the proposed RAC expansion and to sign up for online project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/rac-expansion-referendum.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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