

Ravensong Aquatic Centre Renovation Project Update

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is pleased to announce that renovations to the Ravensong Aquatic Centre (RAC) are moving forward under a revised project scope. RAC is the RDN's largest consumer of energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by facility. This renovation will directly contribute to meeting the RDN's goal of sustained carbon neutrality by 2030 by reducing energy use and lowering GHG emissions. The renovation project will also address aging infrastructure and improve accessibility. Funding in the amount of \$7 million from the Government of Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program forms a significant portion of the \$13.5 million project budget. The \$6.5 million balance will be covered by the Ravensong Aquatic Centre capital reserve fund.

The planned renovations, which are expected to begin in the fall of 2027, will:

- deliver an estimated 47.5 per cent in annual energy savings (approximately \$22,000/year) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 83.9 per cent compared to the existing building;
- include improvements to heating, filtration, pumps and other building systems, as well as measures to manage climate-related risks;
- address critical building components and mechanical systems that have been identified for replacement or upgrade;
- replace the existing pool deck tile and regrade the pool deck slopes, allowing for easier and safer movement around the pool deck; and
- help reduce barriers in areas such as the lobby and changerooms, making the facility safer and easier to use. The renovations are designed to meet the Canadian Standards Association's technical standard, Accessible Design for the Built Environment and the accessibility requirements of the BC Building Code.

Background

Constructed in 1995, Ravensong Aquatic Centre, which is owned and operated by the RDN, remains the most used indoor recreation facility in Oceanside and has been unable to meet community demand since 2006. This pressure puts users in competition for oversubscribed pool space and limits the diversity of programs able to be offered in this aging facility.

On April 5, 2025, eligible electors from the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and RDN Electoral Areas E, F, G and H voted against borrowing up to \$30 million for the larger expansion project to address community demand. Following the referendum, the Board directed staff to look at a revised project scope that could still utilize the provisionally approved \$7 million federal funding contribution without including

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an expansion to the facility. Staff presented a revised renovation project scope at the June 25, 2026, Oceanside Services Committee meeting, which was later approved by the RDN Board on July 14, 2026.

To learn more about the project, ask questions and to sign up to receive project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/ravensong-aquatic-centre-renovation.

Quotes

“Community facilities like the Ravensong Aquatic Centre play an important role in bringing people together and supporting healthy, active lifestyles. These upgrades will improve the experience for residents and visitors in Qualicum Beach while reducing energy consumption, and helping build stronger, greener communities.”

The Honourable Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors) and Member of Parliament for Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke

“We are grateful to the federal government for its \$7 million contribution, which will help ensure Oceanside residents have access to a pool facility that is safer, more accessible and better able to serve the community. These upgrades also support the Board’s commitment to managing impacts of climate change by taking reasonable measures where there is an opportunity to reduce energy use, lower emissions and improve the resilience of our public facilities.”

Stuart McLean, RDN Board Chair

Quick Facts

- **The revised project is moving forward with a \$13.5 million budget.** Funding includes \$7 million from the Government of Canada’s Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program and \$6.5 million from the Ravensong Aquatic Centre capital reserve fund. This project is supported by existing funds, there are no tax implications for residents.
- **Planned upgrades will improve accessibility throughout the facility.** Improvements to the lobby, changerooms and pool space will help reduce barriers and make the facility safer and easier to use.
- **The renovations are expected to reduce energy use and emissions.** The project is expected to deliver an estimated 47.5 per cent annual energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 83.9 per cent compared to the existing building.
- **The project scope was revised after electors voted against borrowing for a larger expansion.** While the approved project scope does not include the expansion needed for Ravensong Aquatic Centre to meet community demand, it allows key improvements to move forward within the approved project funding available.

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