

Director's Report: Electoral Area D – July 2026

This month has been defined by the transition from long-term engineering studies to **live project delivery**. From securing modern safety tools for our first responders to advancing a critical breakthrough in flood mitigation, we are continuing to move Area D **forward** through professional planning and data-backed results.

1. Transportation & Infrastructure: Highway 19A and Glenmore Road Updates

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) is currently executing an extensive summer work program that will continue well into August.

- **Resurfacing & Safety:** While the culvert replacements and resurfacing along **Highway 19A** are nearing completion, residents should prepare for **evening work** commencing shortly on **Glenmore Road** and other south-end corridors.
- **Noise & Mitigation:** This essential night work may be disruptive due to noise and traffic delays. However, this is infrastructure the community has requested for years, particularly to improve safety and access near the **Discovery Mall**. To ensure these improvements stay on schedule before the construction season ends, the Board has issued a "comfort letter" regarding noise enforcement to support these operations.

2. Utility Modernization: Finishing the Universal Water Meter Project

We are now entering the final weeks of the **Northern Area D Universal Water Meter Project**.

- **Project Status:** With only a handful of meters left to replace, we are successfully concluding this \$2.8 million modernization project **on time and within budget**.
- **Data-Driven Billing:** Behind the scenes, staff are now busy collecting real-time usage data. This step is vital to ensure that the **Meter Rate Bylaw**, coming to the Board in September, is based on actual consumption trends. This "one model, one system" approach ensures Area D residents pay fair water bills based on their own consumption while providing us with the precise data needed to detect leaks and protect our water security.

3. Public Safety: Modern Tools for Oyster River Fire Department

Ensuring our first responders have the equipment they need is a top priority.

- **Grant Award:** I am pleased to report that the Regional Board supported a **\$7,500 grant-in-aid** for the **Oyster River Fire Department** to purchase a new **thermal imaging camera**.
- **Integrity Over Friction:** While some directors raised procedural questions regarding "legacy paperwork," I remain committed to cutting through administrative red tape when it comes to **community safety** and equipping our volunteers with modern, life-saving technology.

4. Environmental Stewardship: Breakthrough in Stormwater Management

We have reached a significant milestone in our effort to resolve the **legacy flooding issues** that have plagued Area D for decades.

- **MoTI Collaboration:** Our engineering contractors have achieved a major breakthrough with the Ministry of Transportation. MoTI has agreed that if our current

design report proves their jurisdictional ditches have the necessary capacity, they can be utilized as a core part of our **regional stormwater solution**.

- **Taxpayer Savings:** This shift represents a massive potential for **cost savings**, as it allows us to leverage existing provincial infrastructure rather than building redundant, expensive new systems. This brings us closer than ever to a permanent, professionally engineered resolution for flood-prone neighborhoods.

John Rice, Director, Electoral Area D, Strathcona Regional District johnforaread.ca