

John Rice Seeking reelection for Area Director



Dear Residents of Area D,

I am officially announcing my candidacy for re-election to continue serving our incredible rural community within the Strathcona Regional District (SRD).

When I reflect on the beauty, potential, and vibrancy of our area, I am reminded of why my family and I chose to make this place our home. Together with our dogs, we fish, camp, and cherish the everyday moments spent in our local wilderness. It is this unique

connection to our land and neighbours that fuels my commitment to public service.

Progress Over the Past Three Years

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together over these past three-plus years. By collaborating closely with SRD staff and earning the support of the Board of Directors, I have been able to keep Area D's priorities at the forefront of the regional conversation.

Public service comes with its challenges, but I truly appreciate the work. I treat every single constituent issue like an open service ticket that demands a transparent, suitable resolution. Over my term, we have driven historic shifts toward openness, including:

- **Monthly Progress Reports:** Keeping you directly informed of every vote and piece of business conducted at board meetings.
- **Annual Public Town Halls:** Creating a space for face-to-face accountability and open community dialogue.

- **The Advisory Panel Committee:** Establishing transparent, resident-led committees to ensure your voices shape our decisions on development in the community.

Navigating Our Unique Position

Area D faces unique circumstances. As a rural area relying on contracted services from a large municipality to our north and a growing regional district to our south, we must balance independence with active collaboration.

I have learned that divisive politics rarely yield respect or results. Instead, I have focused on fostering consensus at the board table, proving that Area D is an invaluable, constructive partner in the broader regional district.

The Work Ahead: Critical Issues We Must Face Together

While we have made great strides, several pressing infrastructure and advocacy challenges require a dedicated, detail-oriented leader who knows how to get things done:

- **Water & stormwater management & Sewage Infrastructure:** We need to secure our water infrastructure and restart serious, delayed discussions on sewage systems. Years ago, provincial funding and commitments were in place to connect the majority of our homes—yet today, we still don't have a single connection. We must get this back on track. While considerable progress has been made addressing stormwater flooding issues which have persisted for decades there is far more work that needs to be completed.
- **Fire Insurance:** Too many local households are are not able to obtain fire insurance for their most significant investment—their homes. I am committed to finding a structural path forward to fix this.
- **Rural Utilities:** We must continue to push the question: what is the definitive path forward to finally bring hydro power to Upper Campbell Lake?
- **Proactive Planning:** As local development flourishes, we must invest heavily in smart community planning so that adequate services remain accessible to everyone.

- **Provincial Advocacy:** Persistent advocacy with Provincial Ministries—especially the Ministry of Transportation and Transit—must continue to resolve the daily transit and road challenges affecting our residents.

A Fair Shared Future: The Recreation Referendum

I have actively worked to advance a crucial referendum question for the upcoming ballot. While other regional districts require multiple areas to contribute to regional recreation facilities, Area D and the City of Campbell River currently carry the sole financial burden for a facility that benefits the *entire* regional district. This fix is long overdue, and we are finally taking the steps to resolve it fairly with a referendum question asking voters should the service participants who fund the gardens be expanded to include a portion of Quadra Island.

Building Tomorrow Together

The choice in this upcoming election is clear: will our community take a step **backward**, or will we continue to build on our hard-earned progress?

Earning your support so we can continue "**Building Tomorrow Together**" is incredibly important to me.

Thank you for your time, your trust, and for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

John Rice

Area D Director, Strathcona Regional District