

Ravensong Aquatic Centre Expansion Project Referendum Update

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. General voting day will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2025. Resident electors and non-resident property electors of the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and RDN Electoral Areas E, F, G and H can vote in the referendum. The RDN has scheduled seven information sessions for eligible electors to learn more and ask questions about the expansion, proposed borrowing and referendum. Members of the general public are also welcome to attend.

Drop-In Information Sessions 5 - 7:30 p.m.

- February 24 - Coombs Fairgrounds - Arrowsmith Gym, 1014 Ford Rd, Coombs
- February 26 - Lighthouse Community Centre, 240 Lions Way, Qualicum Beach
- March 3 - Nanoose Place Community Centre, 2925 Northwest Bay Rd, Nanoose Bay
- March 5 - Craig Street Commons, 330 Craig St, Parksville
- March 10 - Qualicum Beach Community Hall, 644 Memorial Ave, Qualicum Beach
- March 12 - St. Columba Presbyterian Church, 921 Wembley Rd, Parksville

Virtual Information Session

- March 17, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
Join staff as we walk through the information virtually and answer questions about the proposed Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion and referendum.
Zoom meeting online at: bit.ly/RACinfo or by telephone by dialing: +1-587-328-1099. When prompted, enter meeting ID: 638 3104 2387 and passcode: 385739

Only RAC expansion project and referendum questions will be answered during the information sessions. Residents who have questions about other RDN services, projects or topics should send them to inquiries at inquiries@rdn.bc.ca or call 250-390-4111. They will be connected with the appropriate RDN staff person who will respond to their inquiries during regular office hours.

Background Information

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 past 11 years and the facility was identified to be at capacity in 2019 during the recreation master plan study.

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The RDN held open houses for public feedback on features important to consider in a future expansion. Alternative locations, detailed costs, and community needs were also reviewed.

The proposed RAC expansion includes:

- 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 \$30 million in long-term borrowing and \$6 million from capital reserves. The RDN is actively seeking grant funding to help reduce the cost to taxpayers. 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 upcoming information sessions, and to sign up to receive electronic project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/rac-expansion-referendum.

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

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For more information, please contact:

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