

Ravensong Aquatic Centre Expansion Referendum

As Mayor of Parksville, I am voting "yes" in the referendum to approve Regional District of Nanaimo borrowing for the proposed Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion. General voting day is April 5.

For the past five years, Parksville Council has heard from many residents about the need for additional aquatic amenities to serve our growing population. While the City explored the possibility of creating a new pool facility, it was deemed not feasible for Parksville alone.

The much-needed Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion proposes to add a new four-lane 25 metre pool, leisure pool with zero depth entry, lazy river, fun and therapeutic water features, upgrades to the sauna and steam room, and increased accessibility on the pool deck. The expanded facility will allow for additional program space for swim lessons and aquatic fitness, as well as physical therapy and rehabilitation.



Accessibility

One of the key aspects of the proposed expansion about which I am most excited is the numerous accessibility features. The zero-depth entry leisure pool will allow those with mobility issues to enter the pool comfortably and with dignity. It is important residents of all abilities have access to recreational amenities for health and wellbeing. The renovation to the facility will create a more accessible and inclusive space, with transit and bike parking and additional change room space.

The expanded facility will also reduce emissions and overall carbon footprint by using innovative design, including the use of materials like low carbon concrete and renewable wood, high-quality windows, efficient wall design, variable-speed water pumps and solar panels.

Funding

The Regional District of Nanaimo has already obtained a commitment for \$7 million in grant funding from the federal government, which may reduce the required borrowing amount. I am confident the RDN will continue to seek all possible grant opportunities to offset costs.

I encourage residents to look up the estimated annual property tax impact per household at getinvolved.rdn.ca/rac-expansion-referendum. It is crucial all residents make an informed decision based on factual information. It is my hope this referendum receives the approval of the electorate and the expansion of the Ravensong Aquatic Centre will proceed at the earliest opportunity to provide residents and visitors with significantly enhanced aquatic amenities.

Sincerely,



DOUG O'BRIEN
Mayor



City of Parksville
Office of the Mayor

