



**RDOS Area “D” Governance Study  
Fact Sheets  
January 2016**

## **BYLAW ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL**

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➤ **What service is provided?**

**Bylaw Enforcement**

Area “D” has established regulatory bylaws and service areas for:

- animal control;
- untidy and unsightly premises;
- noise control; and,
- electoral area planning.

Each of these services includes a bylaw enforcement component. Bylaw enforcement staff respond to contraventions of these bylaws and services, primarily on a complaint basis, guided by RDOS enforcement policies. Bylaw enforcement is therefore not a separate service, but rather a component of multiple services.

Enforcement of bylaws, policies and regulations in service areas other than the 4 services referenced above, is generally done by RDOS staff who deliver the service, or, in the case of fireworks regulations, by the RCMP. Bylaw enforcement staff are typically only involved in services other than those mentioned above when fines are issued.

**Animal Control**

Animal control is a service that regulates the licensing and control of dogs. In addition to enforcement and education, the service includes shelter operations for impounded or dangerous dogs. A shelter is provided in Penticton and use of a second shelter in Oliver is being negotiated.

**Untidy or Unsightly Premises**

Untidy and unsightly premises service includes regulations to address issues related to the collection of garbage, water and other materials on properties as well as noxious weeds, graffiti and safety hazards from natural materials.

**Noise Control**

Noise control regulates noises that disturb neighbours, including the operation of equipment, idling of certain vehicles and barking dogs.

**Electoral Area Planning**

The majority of bylaw enforcement activity involves the enforcement of the RDOS land use regulations (zoning bylaws) that are part of the Electoral Area Planning service. Bylaw enforcement is only one component of the broader service of Electoral Area Planning. The scope and costs of that service are detailed in a separate *Planning & Building Services Fact Sheet*.

➤ **Who makes decisions?**

The full RDOS Board of Directors makes decisions regarding the bylaw enforcement budget, policy and procedures, and decisions concerning legal action to be pursued. Decisions specific to electoral area planning (e.g., approval of new land use and zoning bylaws) and animal control are made by the group of directors that participate in these services. In the case of electoral area planning, all 8 electoral areas participate. All but Area “H” participate in the animal control service.

Bylaws related to noise control and unsightly premises are approved by the directors of the electoral areas that participate in each individual service. The noise control service has 5 participating electoral areas (C, D, E, F and H), and 6 electoral areas (C, D, E, F, G and H) participate in the unsightly premises service.

➤ **Who delivers the service?**

RDOS Development Services department manages all bylaw enforcement and dog control matters. Bylaw enforcement staff includes one full-time coordinator and one part-time clerk. The RDOS contracts the delivery of bylaw enforcement fieldwork to South Okanagan Security (SOS). SOS provides 2 bylaw enforcement officers focussed on land use and zoning, unsightly and untidy premises and noise control.

K-9 Control is contracted to deliver the dog control service and has one animal control officer as well as additional support available. Currently dogs are housed in the City of Penticton shelter, but in 2016 the Town of Oliver shelter is also anticipated to be available. The shelters, and operation of them, are provided by the respective municipalities through contracts. The SPCA and other rescue agencies provide adoption services for unclaimed dogs.

➤ **What is spent by RDOS on the service?**

The cost of the individual services is summarized in Figure 1, including the following:

- 2015 budgeted cost of the bylaw enforcement service;
- 2015 budgeted cost of the animal control service (all participating areas);
- 2015 budgeted cost of the untidy and unsightly premises service (just area “D”);
- 2015 budgeted cost of the noise control (total for Areas “D” and “F” combined).

It is important to note that while the cost of the bylaw enforcement service is included in the chart (\$169,435), the bylaw enforcement amount is comprised of portions of the electoral area planning service (\$111,237), animal control (\$20,825), as well as untidy and unsightly premises and noise control service budgets from each of the participating areas. The bylaw enforcement budget is therefore already accounted for in the *Planning & Building Services Fact Sheet*, as well as other service budgets shown here. The amount shown in Figure 1 is therefore not in addition to the costs already referenced in other service budgets.

Service Component	Cost <sup>1</sup>
Bylaw Enforcement <sup>2</sup>	\$169,435
Animal Control <sup>3</sup>	\$117,075
Area "D" Untidy and Unsightly Premises	\$2,963
Area "D" & "F" Noise Control	\$5,531

<sup>1</sup> Cost estimates are from adopted 2015 budget figures  
<sup>2</sup> Bylaw Enforcement budget includes \$20,825 of Animal Control budget, plus all of the untidy and noise bylaw amounts  
<sup>3</sup> Animal Control cost is for 7 Electoral Areas, not just Area "D."

Costs associated specifically with the animal control service are largely for contracted services (\$66,000) and shelter rentals (\$15,000). The entire budget for the unsightly premises and noise control services represents bylaw enforcement costs.

➤ **How are the costs recovered?**

The majority (66%) of the costs of bylaw enforcement are recovered from the electoral area planning budget, and the remainder are recovered through animal control, untidy and unsightly premises, and noise control. Taxpayers therefore contribute through property taxes to bylaw enforcement, but through other services.

In 2015, the costs of the animal control service were recovered primarily through property taxes (95%) levied on land and improvements. Enforcement fees and licensing revenue accounted for 4% of the service revenues.

Costs for untidy and unsightly premises and noise control services are raised through property taxes levied on land and improvements.

➤ **What is the cost to a typical residence?**

In 2015, residences throughout Area “D” assessed at \$325,000, paid approximately \$10.29 in property taxes toward animal control, unsightly premises and noise control services. Figure 2 summarizes the cost impact on a typical residence. The property tax contribution that residents make to electoral area planning services (which includes some bylaw enforcement) is accounted for in the separate *Planning & Building Services Fact Sheet*, and is not reiterated here, as not to double count the contribution.

Service	Tax Req. <sup>1</sup>	Res. Rate	Owing <sup>2</sup>
Animal Control <sup>3</sup>	\$111,275	0.027	\$8.81
Area "D" Unsightly Premises <sup>3</sup>	\$2,563	0.002	\$0.55
Area "D" Noise Bylaw <sup>3</sup>	\$4,326	0.003	\$0.93
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$10.29</b>

<sup>1</sup> Tax requisition amount excludes 5.25% Surveyor of Taxes fee  
<sup>2</sup> Impact is calculated on a home assessed at \$325,000  
<sup>3</sup> Tax requisition amount is for Area "D" only