



Engagement Plan Highlights

Project Name: Regional District of Nanaimo Voting Formula

Date the department lead and engagement coordinator jointly sign-off on the Engagement Plan: February 12, 2026

Date Engagement Plan was Approved by general manager: February 13, 2026

Engagement Objective

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is reviewing the voting formula applied to the RDN Board in making decisions via resolution and bylaws to achieve the following objectives:

1. Address the City of Nanaimo's projected 2026 Census population that, under the current voting formula, will result in ten directors needing to be appointed to the Board in 2027 whereas the city only has nine elected officials.
2. Retain the foundational principle of representation by population.
3. Consider the impacts of the possible voting formula options to unweighted corporate votes, weighted corporate votes and weighted participant votes.

Decision

The RDN Board will be considering which voting formula will best achieve its governance objectives. The broad options under consideration are:

- Option 1: Changes to the voting unit
- Option 2: Changes to the voting divisor
- Option 3: Changes to the voting unit and voting divisor

Engagement with the member municipality councils and public will provide an opportunity to share their views and raise concerns in relation to the voting formula options before the RDN board makes its final proposal to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

Promise to the Public/IAP2 spectrum

The RDN will inform the public and member municipality councils that a change to the voting formula is needed due to expected Census population growth and what the option (or options) are to provide feedback on and how. We will listen to and acknowledge questions, concerns and feedback received, analyze and consider all feedback received as part of the decision-making process and inform the public and the member municipalities of the outcome.

Tools and Techniques

- Discussion at the March 3 RDN Committee of the Whole meeting



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- Establishment of a Get Involved RDN project page with an opportunity for interested or affected people or groups to learn more. It will include details on how to provide feedback or express concerns about the change in voting formula being considered by the Board for submission to the Ministry at a predetermined RDN Board meeting by submitting a letter or attending as a delegation.
- Send letters to member municipalities seeking a formal response with their feedback
- Send letters to the First Nations with reserve lands located within the Regional District of Nanaimo - Snuneymuxw First Nation, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, and Qualicum First Nation - whose traditional territories overlap with the RDN's boundaries to inform them of the proposed change in the regional district voting formula and invite their comments
- Acknowledgement of input received, sharing a summary report, that their input has been considered as part of the decision-making process and what the RDN Board's proposal to the Ministry is

Report to the Committee of the Whole	March 3, 2026
Get Involved RDN project page	March 2026
Mail letter to municipalities	March 2026
Review and incorporate feedback	May 2026
Report to the Board	May 2026
Submit proposal to the Ministry	May 2026
Communicate result of the Board's decision	May 2026
Communicate result of the Ministry's decision	June 2026

