



NORTH OKANAGAN

# Wastewater Recovery Project



Enriching Environment & Economy

## PROJECT backgrounder

### What is the North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project?

The North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project is the results of a unique partnership launched in 2015 by the **Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), Township of Spallumcheen, and Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB)** to improve water quality in Swan Lake and local streams and to provide economic development opportunities through the implementation of a community sewer system.

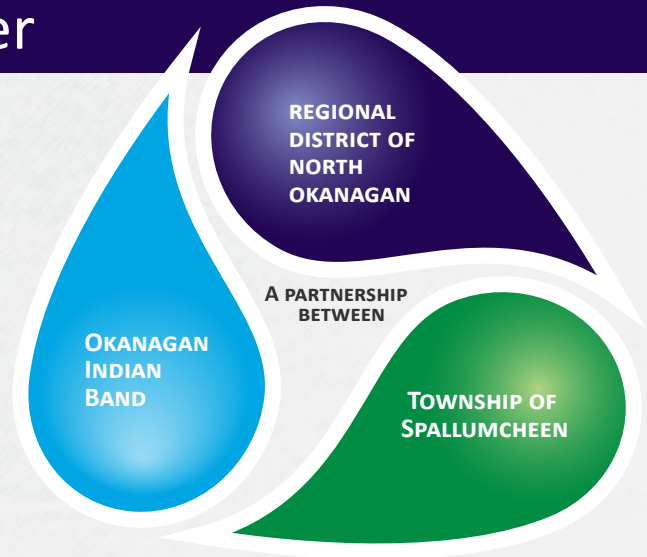
The project will provide sewer service to residents and businesses in portions of RDNO Electoral Areas B and C, the Township of Spallumcheen's southeast industrial area, and the ability to service parts of OKIB.

### Why is it Needed Now?

- Contaminants from septic systems are leaching into Swan Lake.
- The leachates are negatively affecting water quality and bird habitats.
- The leachates are limiting recreational opportunities for the communities along the corridor.
- Lack of community sewer limits economic growth opportunities.
- This is one of the last developed areas of the Okanagan without a community sewer system.
- Grants are available now: more than 80% of the estimated \$36.9M project will be funded by grants.

### Who are the Partners on the Project?

- This project is the result of a unique and collaborative partnership between the Regional District of North Okanagan, Township of Spallumcheen, and Okanagan Indian Band.
- The partnership approach has increased funding opportunities.
- The partnership will ensure project consistency and integration.
- It sets the stage for future collaborations.



## 2015

An innovative partnership between the Regional District of North Okanagan, Township of Spallumcheen and Okanagan Indian Band forms and the project launches.

Western Water Associates Ltd. conducts first water quality assessment. Finds Swan Lake is negatively impacted by septic systems.

## 2016

Western Water Associates Ltd. recommends community sewer system after second assessment.

Urban Systems' Phase 1 Feasibility Study reports the project is technically and financially viable.

RDNO Employment Lands Report shows support of sewer project; finds the project would support economic development.

## 2017

Province of BC funds \$10,000 to support further project planning.

## 2018

Urban Systems' Phase 2 Feasibility Study refines technical elements of the project and examines funding opportunities.

Survey finds 76% of Local Area Plan open house respondents support the community sewer for environmental and economic reasons.

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The proposed location of the treatment plant is on a 2.5-acre site purchased by the Township of Spallumcheen that is zoned for industrial use. The Township secured a 99-year lease for reclaimed water storage and arranged a partnership with an existing biosolids composting facility near the proposed project site.

## 2019

Open house is held for RDNO property owners living in Electoral Areas B and C.

63% of the parcels and 78% of the value of RDNO affected properties were in favour of borrowing to support the project.

Open houses held in the OKIB and Township to provide info on the project.

Additional reports submitted for grant applications.

**Received \$24.3M of combined Provincial and Federal government funding as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program-Environmental Quality Program**

## 2018

Application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for a \$24.3M grant is submitted.

A Wastewater Recovery Community Working Group of community volunteers is formed to provide local perspectives on the project.

## What are the Benefits of the Project?



### ENVIRONMENTAL

Reduce leaching of contaminants into Swan Lake

Improve surface and groundwater quality

Enhance the natural habitat and support wildlife habitats



### ECONOMIC

Increased options for development and business enhancement

Job creation during project construction

Development to meet future growth



### AGRICULTURAL

Farmers to access reclaimed water for irrigation

Reclaimed water contains nutrients for crop growth

Water supply during drought conditions



### COMMUNITY

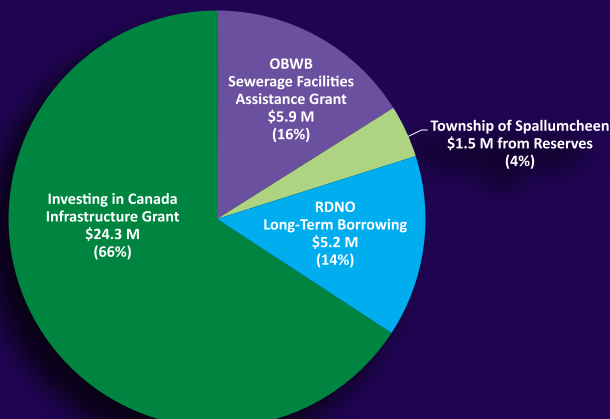
Increased property values for homeowners

No more hauling of wastewater

Enhanced recreational opportunities

## How Much Will it Cost?

The project is estimated to cost \$36.9M. More than 80% of that cost will be covered by grants.



## What's Next?

- Continued community updates through print and online channels.
- Input from the volunteer Wastewater Recovery Community Working Group to increase awareness and ensure community perspectives are considered.
- Project proceeds to the design phase.
- Construction of the project is estimated to take approximately two years following design and tender.

**Sign up for Project Updates by email**

Visit [www.rdno.ca](http://www.rdno.ca), select Contact Us & subscribe to Wastewater Recovery Project