



2009 Economic Profile – Life in the Okanagan Regional District of the Central Okanagan

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About this Document

The Economic Profile is available online through the Economic Development Commission's website:
www.investkelowna.com.

The Economic Profile was updated in spring 2009 using the most up to date information and statistics available. Statistics Canada and BC Stats are major sources of information for this document. However, because these statistics are updated throughout the year, the reader may want to compare the statistics herein with the actual federal and provincial sources:

Statistics Canada: www.statcan.ca

BC Stats: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Throughout the profile, we have also included links to other websites for additional information. The Economic Development Commission of the Central Okanagan is a division of the Regional District of the Central Okanagan. Whenever possible, the information herein reflects the areas within the Regional District boundaries.

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1 Life in the Okanagan

1.1 EDUCATION

1.1.1 SCHOOL DISTRICT 23

The Central Okanagan School District serves 162,276 citizens living in four communities (Kelowna, Peachland, Lake Country and West Kelowna), near the midpoint of the Okanagan Valley. The District stretches for 60 km along the shores of Lake Okanagan.

The student population is 21,850, served by 41 schools. Although the regional adult population is growing, the number of new students entering the School District in Kindergarten has shown a slight decline over the past 10 years. There is significant movement of families to new developments at the edges of the immediate region which creates some challenges for the District.¹

In School District No. 23, the Board is comprised of seven elected citizens. Trustee elections are held every three years in conjunction with municipal elections. The next election is in November 2011.

School District 23 Quick Facts²

Educators	1,447 HC
Non Teaching Staff	1,164 HC
Operating Budget	\$ 157 Million
Capital Budget	\$ 26 Million
Special Purpose	\$ 5 Million

¹ Ministry of Education, *District Review Report 2007/08, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan), November 2007*, http://www.sd23.bc.ca/PDF/SD23_DistrictReviewReport.pdf, (Accessed April 15, 2009)

² School District 23, *Budget Planning for 2007/2008* <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/FinancialReports/Presentations/2007-2008BudgetPresentation.pdf>, (Accessed April 15, 2009)

School District 23 Student Statistics

Student Headcount - Headcount Each Grade³

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Kindergarten	1,247	1,353	1,333	1,327	1,326	1,389
Grade 1	1,431	1,308	1,401	1,400	1,390	1,379
Grade 2	1,452	1,458	1,338	1,444	1,441	1,449
Grade 3	1,547	1,504	1,517	1,422	1,494	1,488
Grade 4	1,624	1,591	1,545	1,593	1,455	1,538
Grade 5	1,631	1,646	1,625	1,590	1,644	1,478
Grade 6	1,694	1,664	1,716	1,686	1,626	1,698
Grade 7	1,773	1,743	1,727	1,743	1,732	1,669
Elementary Ungraded	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade 8	1,861	1,786	1,840	1,778	1,802	1,809
Grade 9	1,935	1,898	1,827	1,880	1,828	1,838
Grade 10	2,021	2,030	1,975	1,904	1,956	1,906
Grade 11	2,149	2,252	2,094	1,943	1,929	1,977
Grade 12	2,049	2,002	2,154	2,167	2,039	2,028
Secondary Ungraded	Masked*	Masked	7	12	15	61
Total	22,418	22,236	22,099	21,889	21,677	21,737

*Note: Masked - Fewer than five students fall within the category described and cannot be identified to protect their privacy.

Headcount: Selected Programs⁴

School Year #	Career Prep #	Career Technical #	School Apprenticeship #	Co-operative #	Continuing
2003-04	3,135	31	103	-	162
2004-05	3,282	-	274	-	189
2005-06	3,289	178	85	-	140
2006-07	2,862	136	36	-	107
2007-08	3,251	115	19	-	70
2008-09	3,212	166	1	-	74

³ DISTRICT DATA SUMMARY 2003/04 - 2007/08, 023 Central Okanagan, March 2009, http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/sd_perf/023.pdf (Accessed April 15, 2009)

⁴ IBID

Headcount: Selected Student Groups⁵

School Year	Aboriginal		Special Needs		ESL		French Immersion	
	Headcount #	Proportion of District %	Headcount #	Proportion of District %	Headcount #	Proportion of District %	Headcount #	Proportion of District %
2003-04	2,077	9.3	1,830	8.2	322	1.4	1,505	6.7
2004-05	2,047	9.2	1,807	8.1	328	1.5	1,590	7.2
2005-06	2,097	9.5	1,726	7.8	361	1.6	1,614	7.3
2006-07	2,062	9.4	1,546	7.1	343	1.6	1,662	7.6
2007-08	2,032	9.4	1,554	7.2	279	1.3	1,757	8.1
2008-09	2,079	9.6	1,600	7.4	318	1.5	1,801	8.3

⁵ DISTRICT DATA SUMMARY 2003/04 - 2007/08, 023 Central Okanagan, March 2009, http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/sd_perf/023.pdf (Accessed April 15, 2009)

1.1.2 POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus (UBC – Okanagan) ⁶

UBC Okanagan opened in September 2005 as a distinctive, small university campus. UBC – Okanagan is destined to quickly become an important, respected centre of learning and research, enhancing knowledge creation and innovation in the Okanagan. UBC Okanagan is growing to serve the needs of the region, increasing access to the internationally recognized UBC degree. As our student numbers increase and the campus master plan becomes reality, UBC Okanagan will continue to feature small class sizes, experiential learning, community involvement, and direct access to research activity.

Student Population:	5,325
Faculty Population:	353
Faculties:	7
Campus Housing:	1,078 single-student spaces
Size of Campus:	260 acres
Buildings:	46,400 sq. m (0.5 million sq. ft.) in 2005, expanding to 139,000 sq. m. (1.5 million sq. ft.) by 2010

UBC Okanagan is a regional economic driver:

- Impact of 4,500 more students, new faculty and staff
- New research infrastructure
- Annual economic impact: \$300 million
- \$350 million in new construction anticipated by 2009

UBC Okanagan offers:

- Distinctive programs
 - Irving K. Barber School of Arts
 - Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
 - Faculty of Education
 - Faculty of Science
 - School of Engineering
 - Viticulture
 - Faculty of Health and Social Development
 - Faculty of Management
- Post-graduate programs
- Integrated region-wide college transfer
- One world-class UBC degree
- An independent Okanagan Academic Senate
- Global linkages by technology

⁶ University of British Columbia, 2008, – Okanagan, About UBC-Okanagan, <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/about.html>, (Accessed April 15, 2009)

Okanagan College⁷

Okanagan College is a public, comprehensive, post secondary educational institution that was established under the provisions of the College and Institute Act (2004). Okanagan College offers a wide variety of career, continuing education, degree, developmental, trades and technologies, university transfer, and vocational programs. The region served by Okanagan College covers 37,750 square kilometers, and extends from Osoyoos and Princeton in the south and west to Mica Creek and Revelstoke in the north and east.

Quick Facts⁸

Campus	Continuing Studies Centres	Trades Training Centres
Kelowna	Revelstoke	Salmon Arm
Vernon (Kalamalka)	Summerland	Vernon (Kalamalka)
Penticton	Oliver	Kelowna
Salmon Arm		Penticton

Student Full Time Equivalents by Campus (2007-08 Enrolment Year)⁹

Kelowna	4,067
Penticton	648.4
Vernon (Kalamalka)	620.5
Salmon Arm	393
Distance	184.1
Total	5,913

⁷ Okanagan College, 2008, Okanagan College Fact Sheet – 2007, [http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Assets/Departments+\(Administration\)/Finance+&+Corporate+Services/IR/Quick+Facts+2007.pdf?method=1](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Assets/Departments+(Administration)/Finance+&+Corporate+Services/IR/Quick+Facts+2007.pdf?method=1), (Accessed April 16, 2008)

⁸ *IBID*

⁹ *IBID*

1.2 TAXATION

1.2.1 MARGINAL TAX RATES FOR SALARY

Provincial

BC Individual Marginal Tax Rates for Salary¹⁰

Year	5.06% on the first	7.7% on the next	10.5% on the next	12.29% on the next	14.7% on the amount over
2009	\$35,716	\$35,717	\$10,581	\$17,574	\$99,588
Year	5.24% on the first	7.98% on the next	10.5% on the next	12.29% on the next	14.7% on the amount over
2008	\$35,016	\$35,017	\$10,373	\$17,230	\$97,636
Year	5.7% on the first	8.65% on the next	11.1% on the next	13% on the next	14.7% on the amount over
2007	\$34,397	\$34,397	\$10,190	\$16,925	\$95,909
Year	6.05% on the first:	9.15% on the next:	11.7% on the next:	13.7% on the next:	14.7% of taxable income over:
2006	\$33,755	\$33,756	\$10,000	\$16,610	\$94,121
2005	\$33,061	\$33,062	\$9,794	\$16,268	\$92,185
2004	\$32,476	\$32,478	\$9,621	\$15,980	\$90,555
2003	\$31,653	\$31,655	\$9,377	\$15,575	\$88,260
2002	\$31,124	\$31,125	\$9,221	\$15,315	\$86,785

Federal

Federal Individual's Marginal Tax Rates for Salary¹¹

Year	15% on the first:	22% on the next:	26% on the next:	29% of taxable income over:
2009	\$38,832	\$38,832	\$48,600	\$126,264
2008	\$37,885	\$37,884	\$47,415	\$123,184
Year	15.5% on the first:	22.0% on the next:	26.0% on the next:	29.0% of taxable income over:
2007	\$37,178	\$37,179	\$46,530	\$120,887
Year	16% on the first:	22% on the next:	26% on the next:	29% of taxable income over:
2006	\$36,378	\$36,378	\$45,529	\$118,285
2005	\$35,595	\$35,595	\$44,549	\$115,739
2004	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$43,804	\$113,804
2003	\$32,183	\$32,185	\$40,280	\$104,648
2002	\$31,677	\$31,677	\$39,646	\$103,000

¹⁰ Canada Revenue Agency: Federal and provincial/ territorial tax rates, 2008 <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/fq/txrts-eng.html>, (Accessed April 15, 2009)

¹¹ IBID

2009 Regional Property Tax Rates

Real Property Tax Rates: \$ per \$1000 of Assessed Property (Land/Buildings)¹²

Municipality	Business	Light Industry	Major Industry	Residential
Kelowna	17.5457	18.2170	22.4399	5.8896
Lake Country	18.3756	23.9426	24.2351	5.3632
Peachland	16.5344	22.0027	n/a	6.2241
West Kelowna	16.07103	15.4603	16.3023	5.6338
RDCO – Rural Tax*	14.2 to 15.8	19.7 to 22.0	19.7 to 22.0	5.8 to 6.5

* Note: Rural tax rates presented are estimates only. To determine the exact rate including local services you need to be familiar with the area or specific property. You can estimate rural property tax for specific locations using the on-line tax calculator at http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/applications/rpt/tax_calc/online_calculator.asp

1.3 PROTECTIVE SERVICES

1.3.1 FIRE DEPARTMENT¹³

In 2008, fire departments responded to 239 fires, including structural, vehicle and chimney fires; 1,043 motor vehicle accidents; 4,751 medical first responder calls; and a number of rescue and hazardous material incidents. Below is a breakout of the type of responses by each fire protection area:

Statistical Report from January 1 to December 31, 2008

Fire Protection Area	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Chimney Fires	Motor Vehicle Accidents	First Responses	Other Rescues	Hazardous Materials	Other Incidents	Total
Kelowna	83	50	10	529	3,015	13	1	5,612	9,313
West Kelowna	21	32	3	333	1,258	2	0	643	2,292
Lake Country	8	12	2	101	263	5	0	268	659
Peachland	4	6	1	36	151	11	0	145	354
Joe Rich	0	1	1	37	10	1	0	25	75
Ellison	3	2	0	7	54	0	0	54	120
Total	119	103	17	1,043	4,751	32	1	6,747	12,813

The Kelowna Fire Department's full-time personnel promote public safety year-round through fire inspections and public education programs. Trained volunteer firefighters contribute greatly to emergency efforts in outlying areas of the city.

¹² By phone and e-mail from: City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, District of Peachland, RDCO, June 2009

¹³ By e-mail, City of Kelowna, April 2009

City of Kelowna:

- 7 fire stations (4 manned and 3 volunteer)
- 84 professional firefighters and 18 support staff
- 74 trained volunteers
- 29 pieces of mobile equipment (including 1 – 100 ft aerial ladder, 9 pumpers, 2 tankers, 1 mini-pumper, 3 bush trucks, 1 HazMat truck, 1 marine rescue boat and 12 others)

Region:

8 volunteer fire stations located in main centres:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Ellison Fire Department | 1 hall |
| • Joe Rich Fire Department | 2 halls |
| • Kelowna Fire Department | 7 halls |
| • Lake Country Fire Protection District | 3 halls |
| • North Westside Road Fire Protection District | 1 hall |
| • Peachland Fire Department | 1 hall |
| • Westside Fire Protection District | 4 halls |
| • Wilson's Landing Fire Department | 1 hall |

Outlying Areas:

- BC Ministry of Forests

1.3.2 POLICING¹⁴

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provides services for the Central Okanagan. The RCMP is a national, federal, provincial, and municipal policing body which is separately accountable to the public at each of these levels through existing legislation and agreements with contracting partners. The RCMP currently provides community policing services to the populations of eight provinces, two territories, and 200 municipalities and 52 First Nation communities.

RCMP local policing services are maintained 24 hours a day and are currently handled by 214 officers. In addition to the main police office situated in Kelowna, the City has three Community Policing Offices in operation in the neighbourhoods of the Mission, Glenmore and Rutland. The municipalities of West Kelowna, Peachland and Big White ski resort also have Community Policing Offices in operation. The success of Community Policing can be attributed in a large part to the more than 300 highly skilled and trained community volunteers.

Policing Resources are distributed as follows:

Municipalities of Kelowna, West Kelowna, and Lake Country

- 214 Regular Members
- 20 Traffic Members
- 10 Public Servants
- 64 Municipal Employees
- Regional District of the Central Okanagan Employees

¹⁴ By e-mail, RCMP Community Policing, June 25, 2008

RCMP Southeast District Headquarters Staff Resources:

- 87 Regular Members
- 26 Public Servants
- 10 Technical Support-Civilian RCMP Employees
- 146 Dispatch/ 911 Staff (93 Civilian RCMP Employees, 12 Regional District Employees, 1 Public Servant, 40 Temporary Civilian RCMP Employees)
- 10 Civilian RCMP Employees
- 1 Special Constable

In addition to the Members of the RCMP, the staff/volunteers at the five Community Policing Offices work in partnership with the police community and other agencies to prevent or resolve problems that affect community safety and quality of life. Operational support for the Community Policing is provided by the Community Operational Support Unit (COSU).

The policing services provided throughout the province by the Kelowna Detachment have been a model for addressing issues related to crime. The creation of specific units formed to deal with community/business- identified problems has been key in the reduction of crime.

2000 - 2007 Year End Police Activity Statistics¹⁵

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Police Strength	156	156	156	157	157	172	181	184
Case Load	102	101	105	121	146	126	109	104
Population Served Per Member	963	983	996	1,010	1,020	956	935	957
Violent Crimes	1,551	1,638	1,699	1,959	2,177	2,118	2,062	2,494
Property Crimes	9,016	8,100	8,590	10,795	12,287	11,952	10,535	9,447
Other Crimes	5,278	6,095	6,091	6,218	8,389	7,594	7,089	7,275
Total Criminal Code Offences	15,845	15,833	16,380	18,972	22,853	21,664	19,686	19,216
Drug Crimes	675	708	750	965	1,428	1,311	901	981
Assault: Level 1	1,181	1,193	1,230	1,397	1,574	1,480	1,444	1,832
Motor Vehicle Theft	815	821	867	1,075	1,412	1,661	1,250	1,164

¹⁵ Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, British Columbia, Regional Profile 2007, Released September 12, 2008

1.4 LOCATION AND CLIMATE

The Okanagan Valley runs north and south between high plateaus containing the sources for the many streams draining into the Okanagan Lakes. Small lakes located on the surfaces of the plateaus act as storage reservoirs for the domestic and irrigation water systems throughout the Okanagan Region. Agricultural areas are located on the valley floor and the irrigated terraces and benches.

The climate of the Okanagan Basin is somewhat less continental than the rest of the interior of the province. The warm summers with fairly low humidity and relatively mild winters provide an excellent environment for agriculture and recreation.

The temperature is best described as being of the mild, continental type. The summers are warm, with hot days, but the nights are cool and sometimes cold. Winters, occasionally cold, are much milder than areas north and east of the Valley. In Kelowna, mean maximum temperatures vary from about 0C in January to 27.9C in July. About one third of midsummer is tropical in nature (maximum temperature greater than 30C), and thaws occur at valley bottom on about half of the days in January.

The Okanagan is characterized by cool, humid air and cloudy skies in winter, and by dry air with bright skies in summer. The mean annual hours of bright sunshine in the Central Okanagan is just under 2,000 hours.

Major Centre Climate Comparison¹⁶

City	Altitude	Rainfall June - Sept.	Avg. Annual Precip.	Frost Free Days	Record High Temp	Record Low Temp	Average Annual Temp
Kelowna	354 m	107.2 mm	318.6 mm	140	39.0C	-36C	9C
	1161 ft	4.2 in	12.5 in.		102.0F	-33F	48F
Vancouver	3 m	185.4 mm	1112.6 mm	216	33.3C	-17.8C	9.8C
	9 ft	7.2 in	43.7 in		87.1F	-19.4F	52.3F
Calgary	1084 m	248.4 mm	423.8 mm	112	36.1C	-45.0C	3.4C
	3555 ft	9.7 in	16.6 in		94.4F	-41.2F	18.1F
Winnipeg	239 m	284.5 mm	525.5 mm	121	40.6C	-47.7C	2.2C
	783 ft	11.1 in	20.6 in		106.2F	-43.7F	11.7F
Toronto	173 m	278.8 mm	761.5 mm	149	40.6C	-32.8C	7.3C
	567 ft	10.9 in	29.9 in		106.2F	-30.1F	38.9F
Montreal	36 m	325.5 mm	946.2 mm	157	36.1C	-37.8C	6.2C
	118 ft	12.8 in	37.1 in		94.4F	-34.7F	33.1F

¹⁶ Environment Canada, Canadian Climate Normals 1971-2000, http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climate_normals/results_e.html. (Accessed April 15, 2009)

1.5 RECREATION

1.5.1 SUMMER RECREATION

Water Activities

The beaches in Kelowna, BC are outstanding, and the activities are endless. Families can enjoy children's water parks, water slides and swimming. For the more adventurous, there's jet skiing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, windsurfing and parasailing. With boats, canoes and kayaks, you can enjoy being on the water as much as you love being in it. Kelowna has miles of beautiful parkland, much of which is located along sandy beaches. Grassy picnic areas, playgrounds, washrooms and concession stands are all standard facilities at our many beaches.

For more information and listings visit:

<http://www.tourismkelowna.com/visitors/thingstodo/boating.php>

<http://www.tourismkelowna.com/visitors/thingstodo/parksbeaches.php>

<http://www.tourismkelowna.com/visitors/thingstodo/rentals.php>

Field Sports

Field sports, including soccer, football, baseball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, lawn bowling, and riding (English and Western) are popular within the valley.

Golf¹⁷

With an average of 2,000 hours of sun every year, the Okanagan offers one of the longest, driest golf seasons in Canada. With orchards over desert terrain, rolling hills and expansive lakes, it also offers the most scenic views. How could your game get any better? The Kelowna area boasts over 18 quality golf courses, including Predator Ridge, host of the prestigious PGA Skins Game in 2000 and 2008, the Okanagan Golf Club - the Quail and the Bear Courses, The Harvest Golf Club, and Gallagher's Canyon Golf & Country Club. An abundance of courses, along with natural grass putting courses, are available for all levels in the immediate Kelowna area.

Waterparks

The Central Okanagan has a number of excellent waterparks for the amusement of old and young alike. In Kelowna, there is Children's Water Park in City Park and Ben Lee Park in Rutland and the Kettle Valley Playground in the Upper Mission.

Tennis

There are multiple active community tennis clubs with both private and public facilities.

Hiking

A wide selection of hiking trails throughout the Okanagan allows for enjoyment by all levels of fitness and inclination.




For information on Regional Parks, please visit www.regionaldistrict.com.

¹⁷ Tourism Kelowna, *Skiing and Snowboarding*, <http://www.tourismkelowna.com/visitors/thingstodo/golf.php> (Accessed April 15, 2009)

1.5.2 WINTER RECREATION

Skiing¹⁸

The nearby Monashee Mountains boast consistent amounts of light, dry powder snow that challenge every level of downhill enthusiast. Four ski resorts within a short drive from the City (Big White, Silver Star, Crystal Mountain and Apex) offer a wide selection of amenities beyond the major attractions of skiing or snowboarding. Big White is the closest to Kelowna and is considered by residents to be the local mountain.

	Apex Mountain ¹⁹	Big White ²⁰	Silver Star ²¹	Crystal Mountain ²²
Season:	Nov - Apr	Nov - Apr	Nov - Apr	Dec - Mar
Annual Snowfall	600 cm	750 cm	700 cm	310 cm
Base Elevation	1,575 m	1,508 m	1,155 m	1200 m
Summit Elevation	2,180 m	2,319 m	1,915 m	1400 m
Vertical Rise	605 m / 2,000 ft.	777 m / 2,550 ft.	760 m / 2,500 ft.	200 m
Terrain (Patrolled)	450 hect. / 1112 acr.	1,147 hect. / 2,765 Acr.	1,240 hect. / 3,065 Acr.	190 hect. / 470 acr.
Number of Trails	67	112	115	21
Longest Run	5.0 km / 3.0 miles	7.2 km / 4.5 miles	8.0 km / 5.0 miles	1.6 km / 1.0 miles
Trails				
	16%	18%	20%	30%
	48%	54%	50%	50%
	36%	28%	30%	20%
Terrain Parks	2	2	2	0
Half Pipes	1	2	1	0
Lifts	4	16	12	3
Lift Capacity (riders/hour)	8,030	28,000	14,000	3,000
Location	35 minutes west of Penticton	45 minutes southeast of Kelowna	30 minutes north east of Vernon	25 minutes west of Kelowna
Website	www.apexresort.com	www.bigwhite.com	www.skisilverstar.com	www.crystalresort.com

¹⁸ Tourism Kelowna, Skiing and Snowboarding, <http://www.tourismkelowna.com/visitors/thingstodo/skiingboarding.php>, (Accessed June 25, 2008)

¹⁹ Apex Mountain Resort, Homepage, <http://www.apexresort.com/> (Accessed June 25, 2008)

²⁰ Big White Ski Resort, Fast Facts, <http://www.bigwhite.com/index.php?fuseaction=home.showSection&ID=10>, (Accessed June 25, 2008)

²¹ Silver Star, Fast Facts, http://www.skisilverstar.com/mountain_showSummerReport.html, (Accessed June 25, 2008)

²² Crystal Resort, History, <http://www.crystalresort.com/expand/history/index.html> (Accessed June 25, 2008)

Nordic Skiing

The Okanagan Valley has extensive Nordic ski facilities that have an excellent reputation. A number of foreign national teams regularly come to train on the trails in the region. Many of these areas have chalets in addition to extensive groomed trail systems. Nordic ski facilities and trails are located at Big White, with 15 kilometres of maintained trails as well as Sovereign Lake Nordic area near Silver Star Mountain with 60 kilometres of maintained trails. Adjacent to Crystal Mountain, above West Kelowna, is the Telemark X-C Ski Club. All of these Nordic areas also offer backcountry and snowshoe trails.

Curling

There are 12 sheets of ice for curling in Kelowna and four sheets of ice in Winfield.

Skating

Skating is available at Prospera Place, Kelowna Memorial Arena, Mount Boucherie Recreation Centre (West Kelowna), Rutland Arena, Capital News Centre Arena and Winfield Recreation Centre.

1.5.3 YEAR ROUND RECREATION

Swimming Pools

In Kelowna, there are three swimming pools: the H2O Adventure Centre, Athens Pool-YMCA-YWCA and Parkinson Recreation Centre. In West Kelowna there is the Johnson-Bentley Memorial Pool.

Mission Recreation Park Project²³

The H₂O Adventure and Fitness Centre comprised of an Olympic-size 50-metre swimming pool, two whirl pools, a children's play area, a fitness centre and a large water park, the 8,920 sq m (96,000 sq ft) facility, opened in April 2009. The 8-lane 50-metre tank can be converted into a 25 metre pool allowing simultaneous activities such as length swimming, synchronized swimming and water polo. With movable bulk heads and a 12.5 metre adjustable floor, the facility will also be able to accommodate kayaking, scuba and springboard diving. The indoor water park is the largest in B.C. and the second largest in Canada. Features include:

- A 3-metre wide River Run (with vortex pool and adjustable water flow)
- Canada's first Flowrider with a standing wave that simulates an ocean wave for surf enthusiasts
- A wave pool capable of generating waves up to 1.5 meters (5 feet)
- Three slides, including a tube ride
- One family and one "adults only" whirlpool
- Children's play area with water jets and other interactive water toys

Bowling Lanes

There are five pin and 10 pin bowling alleys in Kelowna, and five pin alleys located in West Kelowna, Winfield, and Peachland.

Other Recreation Services

Judo and karate clubs, fitness centres and senior citizen activity centres are also located throughout the region.

Parks

²³ Mission Recreation Park, Homepage, <http://www.missionrecreationpark.ca/> (Accessed April 15, 2009)

A list of parks in the region can be found on the following websites:

City of Kelowna: www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page845.aspx
West Kelowna www.districtofwestside.ca
Regional District www.regionaldistrict.com

Kelowna offers recreation programs through the Parkinson Recreation Centre, and the Regional District offers programs through various venues; a recreation brochure is available online.

1.6 CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AMENITIES

1.6.1 LIBRARIES

The Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) is a public library system established in 1936 to serve people in the regional districts of Columbia Shuswap, North Okanagan, Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen. The Board is made up of 22 representatives from the constituent regional districts and municipalities. With headquarters in Kelowna, the ORL serves over 300,000 people through its 29 branches from Golden to Osoyoos and Princeton. In the Central Okanagan, there are six branches - Kelowna, Rutland, Mission, West Kelowna, Peachland and Winfield.

Every library branch has a wide range of print and non-print materials available for circulation or use in the branch. The Kelowna branch has a broad range of reference materials and serves as the reference resource centre for all other branches. All branches carry both large print and taped books to meet the needs of people with visual disabilities, and Kelowna has an Optolec Reader which allows those with low vision to access materials in the branch. All branches in the Central Okanagan have public access catalogues.

1.6.2 CHURCHES

There are 132 churches in the Regional District of Central Okanagan. All denominations are represented.

1.6.3 ARTS AND MUSIC

Theatre: Kelowna Community Theatre: Rotary Centre for the Arts, Mary Erwin Theatre, Theatre Kelowna Society, The Sunshine Theatre, Dreamnasium and Foot Lights Play House.

Music: Okanagan Symphony Orchestra by Special Appearances and Kelowna Philharmonic Festival Society.

Art Galleries: The Evans Gallery, Freeman Galleries, Peachland, Hambleton Galleries, Kelowna Art Gallery, R. Dow Reid Gallery, Tutt Street Gallery, Blueberry Hill, Geert Mass Sculpture Gardens and Gallery, Art Ark, Alternator Gallery and Bronze Rooster Gallery.

1.6.4 MUSEUMS

Kelowna Centennial Museum, BC Orchard Museum, The Wine Museum, Okanagan Military Museum, Peachland Museum, and The Westbank Museum.

1.6.5 SERVICE CLUBS

Practically all the better-known service clubs are represented; some have three or four chapters within the Region.

Ethnic Community: With representation by most ethnic groups, all can experience and share cultural backgrounds.

Senior Citizens: There are Senior Citizens Activity Centres in the region with other clubs and associations providing programs and activities for the seniors.

To find out what cultural events are happening in our region, additional information can be found at the individual chambers:

Downtown Kelowna Association: www.downtownkelowna.com/
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce: www.kelownachamber.org/index.php
Lake Country Chamber: www.lakecountrychamber.com/
Peachland Chamber: www.peachland.ca/
Tourism Kelowna: www.tourismkelowna.com/
Westbank and District Chamber of Commerce: www.westbankchamber.com/

Additional information on events can be found in the Kelowna Capital News - Showcase Magazine (www.kelownacapnews.com/) and Kelowna's Daily Courier Event Magazine (www.eventpub.com/)

1.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1.7.1 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

1450 KLO Road
Kelowna BC, V1W 3Z4

www.regionaldistrict.com

Contact: Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer

Main Switchboard:	Tel:	(250) 763-4918
	Fax:	(250) 763-0606
Engineering Department	Tel:	(250) 469-6241
Finance Department	Tel:	(250) 469-6242
Inspection Services	Tel:	(250) 469-6211
Human Resources Department	Tel:	(250) 469-6249
Planning Department	Tel:	(250) 469-6227
Regional Parks	Tel:	(250) 469-6232

1.7.3 CENTRAL OKANAGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1450 KLO Road Tel: (250) 469-6280
Kelowna BC, V1W 3Z4 Toll Free: (877) 332-2673

Contact: Robert Fine, Manager of Economic Development

E-mail: info@investkelowna.com

Web site: www.investkelowna.com

1.7.2 CITY OF KELOWNA

1435 Water Street
Kelowna BC, V1Y 1J4

Contact: Ron Mattiussi, City Manager

www.kelowna.ca

Tel: (250) 469-8500
Fax: (250) 861-7412

1.7.3 DISTRICT OF WEST KELOWNA

Mount Boucherie Municipal Facility
West Kelowna, BC V1Z 2T6

Contact: Jason Johnson, CEO

www.districtofwestside.ca

Tel: (250) 707-2999
Fax: (250) 707-2997

1.7.4 THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF PEACHLAND

5806 Beach Avenue
Peachland BC, V0H 1X0

Contact: Elsie Lemke, Administrator

www.peachland.ca

Tel: (250) 767-2647
Fax: (250) 767-3433

1.7.5 THE DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTRY

10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road
Lake Country BC, V4V 2M1
Contact: Randy Rose, Administrator
www.lakecountry.bc.ca

Tel: (250) 766-5650
Fax: (250) 766-0116

1.7.6 WESTBANK FIRST NATION

301 – 515 Hwy 97 South
Kelowna BC, V1Z 3J2
E-mail: mail@wfn.ca
Web site: www.wfn.ca

Tel: (250) 769-4999
Fax: (250) 769-4377