

**UNDERSTANDING THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD - HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE:
(EFFECTIVE AS OF MONDAY JANUARY 12, 2015)**

Municipality:	Population: (2011 Census) Note 1	Number of Directors: Note 2	Weighted Vote Value: Note 3	CRD Director(s) only Accountable to: Note 4	Director(s) & (Number of Weighted Votes):
Central Saanich	15,936	1	4	Central Saanich Electorate	Mayor Ryan Windsor (4)
Colwood	16,093	1	4	Colwood Electorate	Mayor Carol Hamilton (4)
Esquimalt	16,209	1	4	Esquimalt Electorate	Mayor Barbara Desjardins (4)
Highlands	2,120	1	1	Highlands Electorate	Mayor Ken Williams (1)
Langford	29,228	2	6	Langford Electorate	Councillor Denise Blackwell (3) ** Councillor Lanny Seaton (3)
Metchosin	4,803	1	1	Metchosin Electorate	Mayor John Ranns (1)
North Saanich	11,089	1	3	North Saanich Electorate	Mayor Alice Finall (3)
Oak Bay	18,015	1	4	Oak Bay Electorate	Mayor Nils Jensen (4)
Saanich	109,752	5	22	Saanich Electorate	Mayor Richard Atwell (5) Councillor Susan Brice (5) Councillor Judy Brownoff (4) Councillor Vic Derman (4) Councillor Colin Plant (4)
Sidney	11,178	1	3	Sidney Electorate	Mayor Steve Price (3)
Sooke	11,435	1	3	Sooke Electorate	Mayor Maja Tait (3)
Victoria	80,017	4	17	Victoria Electorate	Mayor Lisa Helps (5) Councillor Marianne Alto (4) Councillor Geoff Young (4) Councillor Ben Isitt (4)
View Royal	9,381	1	2	View Royal Electorate	Mayor David Screech (2)
Juan de Fuca EA *	4,351	1	2	Juan de Fuca Electorate	Director Mike Hicks (2)
Saltspring EA *	10,234	1	3	Saltspring Electorate	Director Wayne McIntyre (3)
Gulf Islands EA *	4,868	1	2	Gulf Islands Electorate	Director Dave Howe (2)
Totals:	354,709	24	81		

It is important to note that the above governing body makes decisions that effect the region, yet not one of them is elected "at large"- in other words by voters from across the region. Each Director is ultimately only accountable to the electors in their own (home) municipality. This is problematic in a Regional District that contains "multiple municipalities"

First Nations & Non First Nations peoples living on First Nations Lands are not directly represented on the CRD Board at this time.

* EA = Electoral Area (Unincorporated)

Langford Mayor Stewart Young chose not to serve on the CRD Board.

Data Sources: Population figures from 2011 Census of Canada - Stats Canada & CRD Website, on which weighted votes are allocated.

NOTES and Explanation of the CRD Weighted Vote:

- 1 Official Federal Census is used to determine population for number of directors & weighted vote.
- 2 Local Government Act, Section 783 defines the number of directors each municipality & Electoral Area is entitled to.
- 3 Weighted votes and the number of Directors that each Municipality & Electoral Area are entitled to are as follows:
 - 1 Director for every 25,000 population or portion thereof
 - 1 "weighted" vote for every 5,000 population or portion thereof
- 4 CRD Directors from Municipalities serve two roles, first as directly elected Mayor(s) or Councillor(s) in their municipality & secondly, as a Regional District Director, **representing their Municipality** at the Regional Board. Municipal Mayors and Councillors are only **directly accountable** to voters in their own municipality. They do not have to face voters from the other 12 municipalities.

Weighted Vote All votes at the committee level are unweighted and each director on the committee has one vote (including the Chair). Votes at the Board can be either weighted or unweighted and who actually participates in the vote (all directors or participants of the service only) depends on the item to be considered. This is determined by s. 791 of the Local Government Act. A non-weighted all directors vote applies to most resolutions and by-laws such as establishing a service or the general conduct of the Board's business. A weighted all directors vote applies to money matters such as budgets, borrowing, award of contracts, property acquisition and disposal. A weighted participants vote applies to items that relate to the management and operation of individual services and the setting of fees and charges related to that service.

The CRD does an excellent job of administering unincorporated areas, where they provide many services that would normally be provided by a municipality. These include developing OCPs (Official Community Plans), zoning, building permits and inspections, septic systems approval (and in some cases, sewers and sewage treatment, e.g. Ganges), Emergency plans, Fire Protection, etc. In some cases, they operate facilities on behalf of both Municipalities and unincorporated areas, e.g. the SEAPARC in Sooke, cost shared and between Sooke residents and residents of East Sooke and Otter Point. They also administer District Hospital Tax Collections and coordinate all municipal loans through the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA).

The CRD is somewhat unique because it encompasses 13 autonomous municipalities. Municipalities are not subservient to Regional Districts. They are equals. Municipalities will sometimes work together through a Regional District to provide services that are more effectively operated across a region. Examples of this in the CRD are the common Water Reservoir, Bulk Water sales to municipalities and Hartland Landfill operations.

The sewage Treatment program has been over complex due to the number of municipalities involved (seven). Colwood is in the process of opting out while the remainder are labouring on. The original plan called for several decentralized treatment plants, however

CRD staff convinced the Sewage Committee (CALWMC) and the Board that a decentralized system would be too expensive. This led to a single secondary sewage treatment plant being planned for McLoughlin Point, at the entrance to the Inner Harbour. Esquimalt originally agreed to zone that site for the plant based on a number of amenities, including the barging of all materials to the site. Seaterra, the CRD Commission responsible for implementing the project, received three Proposals (Design, Build) however none of the proposals would fit within the setbacks and height restrictions. Due to concerns around the size of the site (too small) and its susceptibility to tsunami(s), sea rise, and inability to grow to meet the region's needs, Esquimalt rejected a request to relax setback and height requirements, leading to a confrontation with the CRD, who then wrote to the Minister of the Environment asking her to intervene and overrule Esquimalt (under the Environmental Management Act).

Esquimalt has only one member on the Committee (because it is only entitled to one Director's Chair), hence it has been consistently outvoted by other members of the Committee, namely 4 Saanich Directors and 4 Victoria Directors, making up more than 50% of the 15 Directors on the Committee and at the Board. In 2014, the Board, at an "in camera" meeting committed to the purchase of two warehouses on Viewfield Road in Esquimalt. This was done with absolutely no public consultation beforehand and gave Esquimalt the distinct impression that they (Esquimalt) would host not only the region's sewage treatment plant but also a Biosolids processing centre (Energy Centre). This idea was ultimately abandoned after considerable public pushback. There is no way of knowing for sure how each Director voted at an "in camera" meeting, however based on previous voting patterns, following is the likely vote count. It can clearly be seen how this crucial vote went against Esquimalt residents - had the CRD succeeded, a sewage sludge processing facility would have been constructed in the midst of a residential area. This bad decision continues to overlay the project.