Media Release

November 23, 2026
For immediate release

RDCK welcomes new Board – Aimee Watson elected Board Chair for ninth year

Nelson, BC: The newest Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) were sworn in at their inaugural meeting on Thursday, November 19. The first item on the meeting agenda was the election of the RDCK Board Chair. Aimee Watson, Director of Electoral Area D, was acclaimed as the Board Chair, while Denise Dumas, Town of Creston and RDCK Director, was elected Vice Chair. Both Chair and Vice Chair are one-year terms.

This will mark Chair Watson's ninth year as Board Chair.

"I am excited to be working with the new Board, getting to know the perspectives and experiences each director brings to the table," said RDCK Board Chair, Aimee Watson. "Our strength is in our diversity, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue guiding the Board in the work ahead. I see a real opportunity to collaborate on community driven priorities that enable an economically, healthy and vibrant region."

Vice Chair Denise Dumas joins the Board executive for her first term.

"I am honoured to serve as Vice Chair and look forward to working alongside Chair Aimee Watson and the Board," said RDCK Vice Chair Denise Dumas. "My role is to support the Chair and help continue to create an environment where all voices around the table are heard and respected. By working together, we can make informed decisions that balance local priorities with what is best for the RDCK as a whole."

Of the 20 RDCK Board Directors, 14 are new, and 6 are returning after the election was held on October 17, 2026. The Area Directors on the Board are:

- **Electoral Area A:** Forrest Demman (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area B:** Danny Turner (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area C:** Mike Martell (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area D:** Aimee Watson (Acclaimed - Incumbent)
- **Electoral Area E:** Landon Veregin (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area F:** Tom Newell (Acclaimed – Incumbent)
- **Electoral Area G:** Anna Bundschuh (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area H:** Will Parker (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area I:** Chris Popoff (Acclaimed - New)

- **Electoral Area J:** Gordon Zaitsoff (Elected – New)
- **Electoral Area K:** Teresa Weatherhead (Elected - Incumbent)

Directors appointed by RDCK member municipalities to the Board include:

- **City of Castlegar:** Mayor Brian Bogle (New)
- **Town of Creston:** Mayor Denise Dumas (New)
- **Village of Kaslo:** Mayor Erika Bird (New)
- **Village of Nakusp:** Mayor Tom Zeleznik (New)
- **City of Nelson:** Councillor Keith Page (Incumbent)
- **Village of New Denver:** Mayor Leonard Casley (Incumbent)
- **Village of Salmo:** Mayor Payton McKellar (New)
- **Village of Silverton:** Mayor Tanya Gordon (Incumbent)
- **Village of Slocan:** Mayor Jamie Ingram (New)

Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 am in the Regional District Board Room at 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC, unless otherwise specified. Residents can join the meeting in-person or virtually. Agendas and minutes are made available at rdck.ca/meetings.

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Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

PHOTO 1: Newly elected RDCK Board of Directors
Back row Left to Right: Anna Bundschuh, Mike Martell, Keith Page, Leonard Casley, Danny Turner, Will Parker, Forrest Demman, Landon Veregin, Gordon Zaitsoff, Brian Bogle, Chris Popoff, and Tom Zeleznik
Front row Left to Right: Jamie Ingram, Tom Newell, Erika Bird, Denise Dumas, Aimee Watson, Payton McKellar, Tanya Gordon, Teresa Weatherhead.

PHOTO 2: Board Chair Aimee Watson and Vice Chair Denise Dumas
Left to right: Vice Chair Denise Dumas, Board Chair Aimee Watson

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