Regional Districts:

Federations of Members

RD's: a "Made-in-BC Solution"
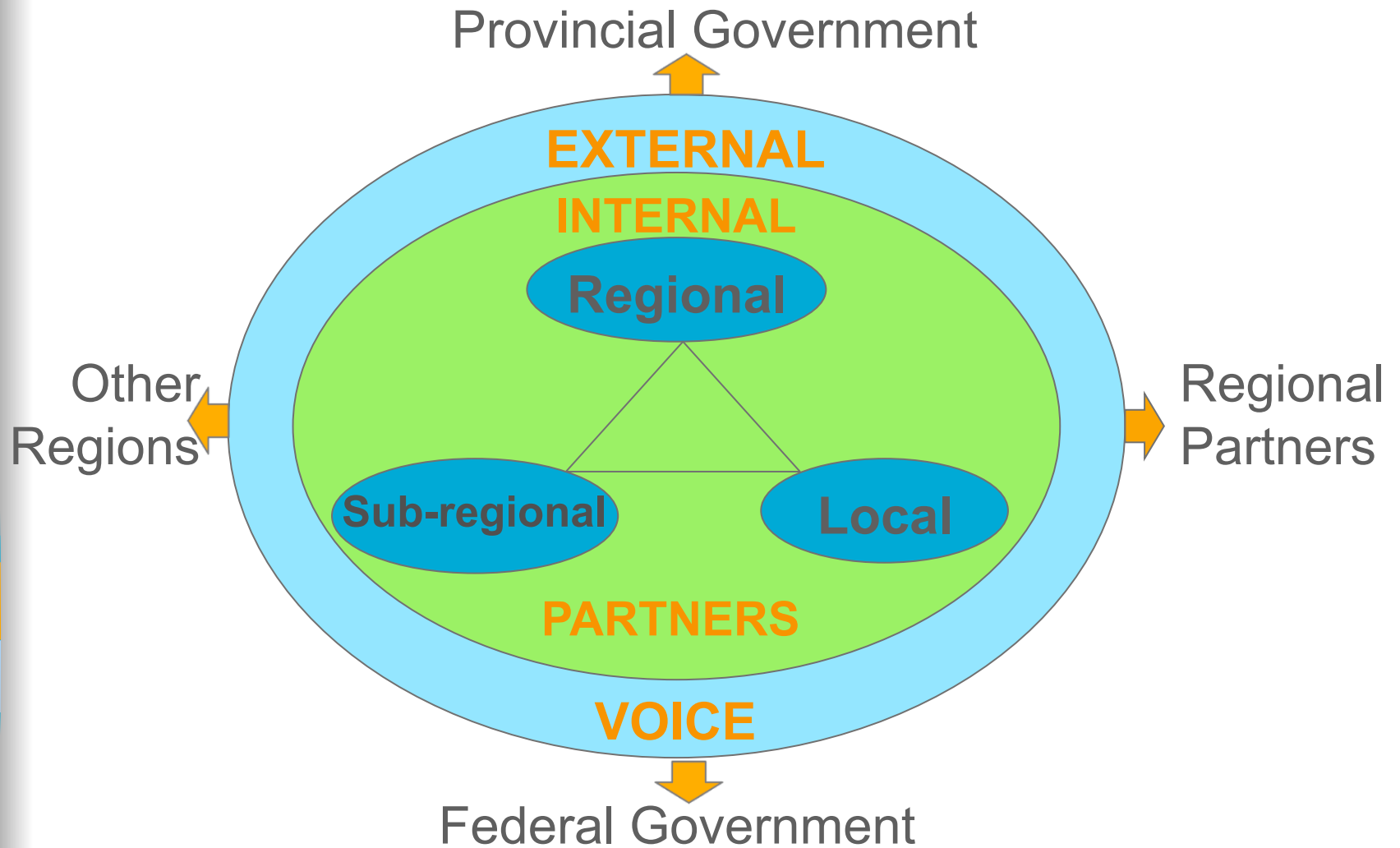
Why Regional Districts?

Planning & service delivery in rural areas	• Local government for rural planning and services
Coordinating infrastructure between communities	• Template for arranging cross-boundary service partnerships
Responding to diverse local service needs	• Custom local services: any service, any scale, any mode
Matching who pays, who benefits and who decides	• Flexible service boundaries and cost recovery options
Supporting municipalities	• Governance as a federation of members

Why Partner for Services?
The Competitive Service Advantage

- Low-cost framework for negotiating partnership services

- Multiple services with custom boundaries

- Match between who pays, who benefits, and who decides

- Professional service management and service delivery you can't afford on your own

The result:

BC has **1000's** of service partnerships

RD's are Federations

Chosen from among all directors

Elected to serve 3-year term

Appointed FROM and BY municipal councils

Board Chair

Typical Board

Municipal Director

Municipal Director

Municipal Director

Municipal Director

Municipal Director

Municipal Director

Rural Director

Rural Director

Rural Director

RD Special Voting Rules

Note: applies to all but GVRD

Unweighted Corporate
- Every Director votes, each casts one vote
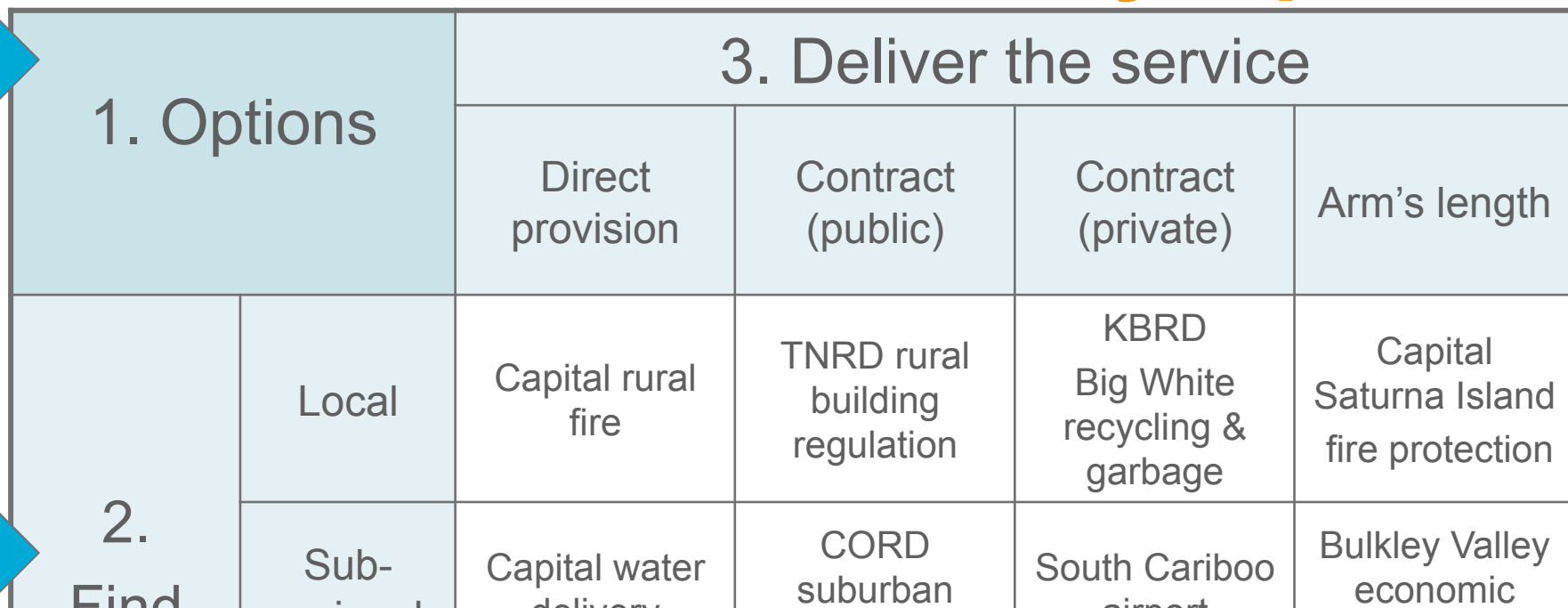- Used to elect chair and to adopt procedure and regulatory bylaws

Weighted Corporate
- Every Director votes, each casts a number of votes based on population
- Used for corporate financial decisions (e.g. annual budget)

Stakeholder Vote
- Only Directors from the service area vote, each casts a number of votes based on population
- Used for service administration and operation decisions

Regional Districts: Infinite Service Delivery Options

1. Options		3. Deliver the service			
		Direct provision	Contract (public)	Contract (private)	Arm's length
2. Find your Partner	Local	Capital rural fire	TNRD rural building regulation	KBRD Big White recycling & garbage	Capital Saturna Island fire protection
	Sub-regional	Capital water delivery	CORD suburban transit	South Cariboo airport	Bulkley Valley economic development
	Regional	TNRD library	CORD landfill	Metro Van waste to energy	Capital housing
	Multi-regional	Lower Mainland parks	North Island 9-1-1 service	Metro Van regional parks	North Island 911

27 RDs... 27 Different Stories

	Columbia Shuswap	Thompson Nicola	Capital
Rural / urban mix:	Large rural population of about 60%	Small towns or rural population about ⅓	Rural population of about 7%
Pop. 2010:	54,000 (rank 15 of 27)	132,000 (rank 5 of 27)	372,000 (rank 2 of 27)
Expenditure (2009):	▪ $23 million ▪ ~44% of total LG	▪ $37 million ▪ ~ 22% of total LG	▪ $128 million ▪ ~27% of total LG
Services (#)	95	115	200
Service profile drivers	▪ focus on rural & sub-regional service delivery	▪ "service bureau" approach ▪ primarily aimed at smaller members	▪ strategic focus on regional planning & regional services ▪ limited role in inter-local & rural services

Statistics: cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/statistics_index.htm

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The Whole is Greater Than the Sum Of its Parts: Regional Building Inspection for Small Communities

For more information:
tnrd.ca

Professionally Led, Community Executed
Regional Fire Support Services

For more information:
csrd.bc.ca

Image credit FVRD website

Beyond RD Boundaries: Emergency Communications, Dispatch and Response

Committed and dedicated to protecting the people.

For more information:
ni911.ca

RD's: A Bright Future?

Unmatched service potential

(e.g. any scale, fair, efficient)

▷

The toughest issues are those that cut across sectors and boundaries

▷

Regions often end up with the toughest issues

(e.g. solid waste, sewer, economic development, transportation, housing)

▷

Tough issues may result in **real debate and some conflict...**

But the **opportunities for results are considerable**

RD's need **you** to realize their potential

Collaboration to Strengthen Regions

- Provincial legislation and supports

- Incentives for regional action

- Support from strong, collaborative associations (e.g. UBCM, MFA, LGMA, Civicinfo, MIA)

- Building leadership skills (e.g. collaboration, negotiation, soft power)

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Still Not Convinced...

"The only **success stories** have been the **regional districts** in British Columbia, including Metro Vancouver. Municipal membership is compulsory, but municipalities can opt in or out of most services that they provide; boundaries are fixed, but territories of particular services are not; all municipalities are representative on the boards of directors, but votes are weighted to account for population differences; regional planning is an important function, but local municipalities retain significant planning autonomy; the province is not afraid to step in on important policy issues (transit for example) but it does not try to rearrange municipal boundaries. These are the kinds of policies and practices that enabled regional districts to survive and prosper for a period of more than 40 years. **They are Canada's success stories in two-tier metropolitan and regional government".**

Andrew Sancton, Western Ontario University *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011)

More Information

- RD 40-Year Anniversary Report (
  Google to "Regional District Retrospective"

- *RD Toolkit* (from UBCM)
  www.ubcm.ca/library/default.aspx

- Under LGD publications index see:
  - *Designing Regional Service Arrangements*
  - *Primer on Regional Districts in BC*
    www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/site_index/publications.htm

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Questions

- How does your board develop teamwork?

- What are some of the innovative things your board is doing?

- What services can be more efficiently delivered at a larger scale?

- Governance as a federation of members