

Why Review & Update the OCP?

- To examine the community with “fresh eyes”
- To examine the type and degree of change—employment, households, environment, growth?
- Should we consider a new direction, new principles, new objectives or new strategies to address change?



Elements of Community Change

Over the last 10 years there have been many important local, regional, provincial and global changes that affect the way we plan our communities:

- Global awareness of climate change and potential local impacts
- Fewer births than deaths throughout the western world with the result that the population is rapidly aging
- Large scale recession and pull-back in the markets.
- Heightened awareness of the importance of “sustainability”, in all forms—financial, social, economic, physical.
- Legislative changes in BC that give local governments more tools and more responsibilities (including planning for energy, water conservation and Green House Gas reduction).
- Changes in the role that resource industries play in the local economy.
- Changes in the level of services available (e.g. water supply) and changes in the level of servicing expected.
- Increased challenges for lower income households in the region, manifesting itself particularly in the cost of housing, both rental and ownership.

BC’s Changing Legislative Framework

The BC government has made changes to the legislation that affect the content and implementation of OCP’S:

- Providing goals and values which municipalities are to take into account in OCP planning processes. Some of these include:
 - .avoiding sprawl
 - minimize use of automobile
 - Reduce and prevent pollution
 - Adequate affordable housing
 - Creating and linking urban/rural open space
 - Planning for alternate energy use
- Re-enforcing the importance of consultation
- Providing new tools:
 - Development Approval Information
 - Tax revitalization exemptions
 - Housing Agreements
 - More Development Permit Areas
- Requiring targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and actions to achieve those targets.

