



REGIONAL DISTRICT of NORTH OKANAGAN

MEDIA RELEASE – September 21, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLDSTREAM, BC – The Regional Growth Strategy ‘My Sustainable North Okanagan’ Youth Contests and Survey

We are putting together a Regional Growth Strategy that will set the direction for a sustainable North Okanagan. Youth are vital to every community and your ideas, dreams and issues are essential to the future of the North Okanagan. The Region’s youth are invited to write, draw and imagine about what they believe makes the North Okanagan a great place to live and what are the problems we need to look at.

For the young photographers, media artists and videographers in the North Okanagan, get your equipment ready to showcase your talents in the **multimedia contest**. Our **poster contest** is calling to all our young (under 14) artists to start your creative juices flowing. Aspiring writers, sharpen your pencils and let the words flow for the **creative writing contest**. All you debaters and dialoguers out there, put your conversation abilities, survey skills and craft supplies to work preparing for the **regional mapping contest**.

Always thought you had the greatest idea for making the North Okanagan an awesome place to live? Roll up your sleeves and tackle tough growth issues such as revitalizing downtowns, enhancing transportation, exploring sustainable development, or thinking about the future of our economy.

Why:

- To actively engage our youth in sustainability visioning for the North Okanagan.
- To foster youth participation in community dialogue and issues.
- To allow the creativity of the youth to contribute to the North Okanagan wide-planning process.
- To help create awareness of the Regional Growth Strategy and the challenges that faces us all.

The deadline for submissions is December 31st, 2009.

For youth with little time and an interest in the future of the North Okanagan, the “**What Future Would YOU Like to Create**” youth survey is for you. This two page survey focusing on desired futures and the issues that concern youth. The youth survey will provide the opportunity for broad youth participation within the Regional Growth Strategy process. Everyone who fills out this survey will be entered into a draw for an iPod Nano. The survey will close on December 31st, 2009 and the draw will take place in early January 2010.

All youth contest and survey information will be available on the Regional District of North Okanagan website (www.rdno.ca).

CONTEST 1

Your Vision: Multimedia Contest (Open to Ages 14-25)

Why: Show us your vision of the community through your eyes. Tell us what growth issues worry you most? What does your utopia look like?

How:

1. Bring your imagination! Use any media medium you can think of – video, music, spoke work recording, or anything else you can think of - tell us a story about your vision of the region, what needs to change or what the future may look like.
2. Write a short description of the multimedia submission and why you chose your subject.

Details:

- Include a short description (max. 150 words) of what your multimedia submission shows, the location and why you chose your subject
- Submit the multimedia presentation and text to anthony.kittel@rdno.ca
- Deadline for submissions will be December 31st, 2009
- One submission per person
- Open to everyone between 14 and 25 years old
- A selection of multimedia submissions will be shown on the website and at an Open House.
- All submissions will be entered into the contest for the cash bursary and may be displayed on the **RGS Youthview** website and RGS events

1st Prize: \$250 Cash Bursary

2nd Prize: \$100 Cash Bursary

3rd Prize: \$50 Cash Bursary

CONTEST 2

Your Issues (Open to Ages 14-25)

Why: We need to know how youth in the North Okanagan are affected by the issues of growth and change, and what they see as solutions. Add your ideas to Regional Growth Strategy.

How: Describe an issue that is important to you and suggest steps that may provide a solution. Be creative and use your imagination! Works of fiction, poetry and any other literary form are encouraged.

Details:

- Submit essays, poetry, fiction or any other written form to anthony.kittel@rdno.ca
- Deadlines for submissions is December 31st, 2009
- Maximum 500 words
- All submissions will be entered in the contest for the cash bursary and your essay may be featured on the **RGS Youthview** website

1st Prize: \$250 Cash Bursary

2nd Prize: \$100 Cash Bursary

3rd Prize: \$50 Cash Bursary

CONTEST 3

Your Community (Open to Ages 14-25)

Why: The way that youth see their communities is essential to developing a common future vision. We can not get from here to there without knowing what here looks like. The Regional Growth Strategy will explore the issues that are important to you, but also it will help maintain what you feel is important.

How: Create a Community Map, using the tools on the **RGS Youthview** website, with your peers, showing the areas that are important to you and your friends (parks, trails, where you hang out, etc). Show what you consider a problem or are concerned about (environmental concerns, transportation, etc). Be creative and discuss what you like about your community and what you don't!

Details:

- Submit your community map to anthony.kittel@rdno.ca or mail it to:

Anthony Kittel, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC V1B 2K9

- Deadline for submissions is December 31st, 2009
- Please provide the number, age, and community of everyone that contributes
- Find community mapping tools at **RGS Youthview**
- All entries will be entered in the contest and your community map may be featured on the **RGS Youthview** website

Prize: \$500 Cash Bursary to the Team

CONTEST 4

Your Future: Poster Contest (Open to ages under 14)

Why: The youngest members of our communities will inherit our future and be active participants in that future. Images of what their communities will look like and what is valued will contribute to the Regional Growth Strategy. Put together a poster of your North Okanagan.

How: Draw the future of your community and what you want to see happen. What is important to you, what don't you like? You can focus on anything or any place within your community.

Details:

- Submit your drawing and a very brief description of your picture to anthony.kittel@rdno.ca or mail it to:

Anthony Kittel, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC, V1B 2K9

- Deadline for submissions is December 31st, 2009
- Please provide the your name, age, and community
- All entries will be entered into the contest and your drawing may be featured on the **RGS Youthview** website and RGS events.

1st Prize: \$150 Cash Bursary

2nd Prize: \$100 Cash Bursary

3rd Prize: \$50.00 Cash Bursary

For more information:

Anthony Kittel, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator

Regional District of North Okanagan

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