



Open Houses a Success!

The first Regional Growth Strategy open houses were held on June 22, 2009 in Vernon at the Recreation Complex, June 23, 2009 in Enderby at the Drill Hall and June 25, 2009 in Lumby at the White Valley Community Centre. A total of 106 participants attended these sessions, with 36 in Vernon, 66 in Enderby and 4 in Lumby. Everyone was passionate about the issues and future of their communities and the region.

The 'twitter-lite' post-it note comment exercise was anonymous, with people posting comments directly on the display boards. Over the course of the three open houses, there were 129 growth

issues comments posted on the display boards.

Governance and service delivery received the fewest comments at each event, with environment and natural areas, agriculture and food systems and water stewardship received the most comments overall.



'My Sustainable North Okanagan' Youth Contests

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**. And 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.

Find out more on RGS Youth-view at: www.rdno.ca/rgs.

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**Your Thoughts About...
Age-Friendly Survey**
 PLEASE RETURN BY NOVEMBER 30, 2009

The Regional District of North Okanagan is developing a Regional Growth Strategy that will guide our communities over the next 20 years. Your thoughts on the issues and the priorities you consider to be most important will assist in the development of a Strategy that responds to the entire North Okanagan. Thank you for providing your input, your thoughts and your concerns. Please fax, post or e-mail the survey or drop it off in your community when you're done. The information is on the back. There is an online version at: www.rdnoc.ca/rgs

Your Thoughts About Housing

There is enough housing for seniors in my community? YES NO DON'T KNOW

Housing for seniors is affordable in my community. YES NO DON'T KNOW

There is enough housing for younger people in my community. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Your Thoughts About Transportation

Public transportation to your destination are sufficient. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Transportation options for medical appointments is sufficient. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Transportation options for people with disabilities is sufficient. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Public transportation options are affordable to seniors. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Your Thoughts About Services and Infrastructure

Local parks and walking trails are accessible to seniors. YES NO DON'T KNOW

I don't need a car to get to essential services. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Do I feel safe when I am walking or crossing the street? YES NO DON'T KNOW

Recreational activities are generally affordable to seniors. YES NO DON'T KNOW

There are programs that bring seniors and youth together. YES NO DON'T KNOW

The services that I use are sufficient for my needs. YES NO DON'T KNOW

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
 REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY
"One Region, One Future"

COMMENTS!

YOU CAN COMMENT ON OUR GROWTH ISSUES IN FOUR WAYS:

YOU MAY:

- Call our equipment team on the 800 website at www.rdnoc.ca/rgs
- Email your comments to: rdnoca@rdnoca.ca
- Fax to: (250) 355-8750
- Mail your comments to:
 Audrey Kiser
 Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator
 Regional District of North Okanagan
 1919 Alexander Road
 Coldstream, BC
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Comments would be appreciated by August 1st, 2009.

**THANK YOU PROVIDING YOUR INPUT.
TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.RDNO.CA/rgs



**A wall full of comments:
Vernon Open House**



**Elected officials
discussing agriculture at
the EOF**

Seniors, We Want to Hear From You!

The Regional Growth Strategy establishes a common vision for how the North Okanagan accommodates growth over the next 20 years. The strategy will provide guidance on a variety of key growth issues that directly affect the quality of life for all residents throughout the North Okanagan. The

Your Thoughts About... Age-Friendly Communities Survey is designed for North Okanagan residents 55+, although anyone, regardless of age, is encouraged to provide your thoughts about your community, the future of the Region and the issues that you feel are important. We want to hear from every-

one, regardless of age. The survey is available on-line, at your local municipal hall, at the Schubert Centre, and throughout the Region, as well as on-line at www.rdnoc.ca/rgs. You can drop the survey off at your local municipal office. **The deadline is November 30, 2009.**

The First Elected Officials Forum

The Regional District of North Okanagan hosted the first Regional Growth Strategy Elected Official's Forum on the evening of April 16th at the Prestige Hotel and Conference Centre to begin to answer the question 'Where do we want to be by 2031?.'

The Elected Officials Forum provide an opportunity for elected officials and First Nations to define the direction of the Regional Growth Strategy process, discuss growth issues objectives and goals, and share ideas about the RGS vision of the future.

Public officials from across the North Okanagan expressed near unanimous support for regional planning, something they deemed to be good for the region, desired, and necessary. As responsible community leaders these elected officials spoke passionately on the subject at the Elected Officials' Forum. Regional planning provides the forum and the stimulus for integrated

thinking which the basis is for strategic action aimed building sustainable communities, a prosperous economy and maintaining our quality of life.

The 41 attending participants were elected officials (26) and senior staff (15) from the City of Armstrong, District of Coldstream, City of Enderby, Village of Lumby, Township of Spallumcheen and Electoral Areas 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F' met to discuss the strategic direction of the Regional Growth Strategy, our shared vision for the future and broad growth issues goals and objectives that will guide our working groups as we move into Phase II.



A New Vision

The New RGS Vision Statement

"The Regional District of North Okanagan is a unique region that will continue to be recognized for its diverse natural habitats, robust economies, outstanding recreational opportunities and the high quality of urban and rural lifestyles provided in established communities. As such, the Regional Board will strive to conserve and enhance the very reasons that make the North Okanagan so attractive by ensuring:

- Growth is managed to reflect our social, environmental and economic values;
- The Region's natural constraints to growth, are water availability, agricultural lands, and environmentally-sensitive areas;
- Rural and urban lifestyle choices are maintained through designated growth areas and urban boundary management;
- Agricultural lands are protected and a sustainable regional food system is supported and encouraged;
- A strong, sustainable, and diverse economy that reflects our values and the identities of our communities;
- Our natural systems, including air, land and water, are respected and protected; and
- Inclusive, accountable and effective governance based upon a foundation of regional cooperation.

The Regional Growth Strategy has a new, exciting vision of the future. Refining the original vision statement was the starting point for the discussion at the Elected Officials Forum . councillors, mayors and electoral area directors from throughout the region discussed the direction of the Regional Growth Strategy and what a desired regional future would look like.

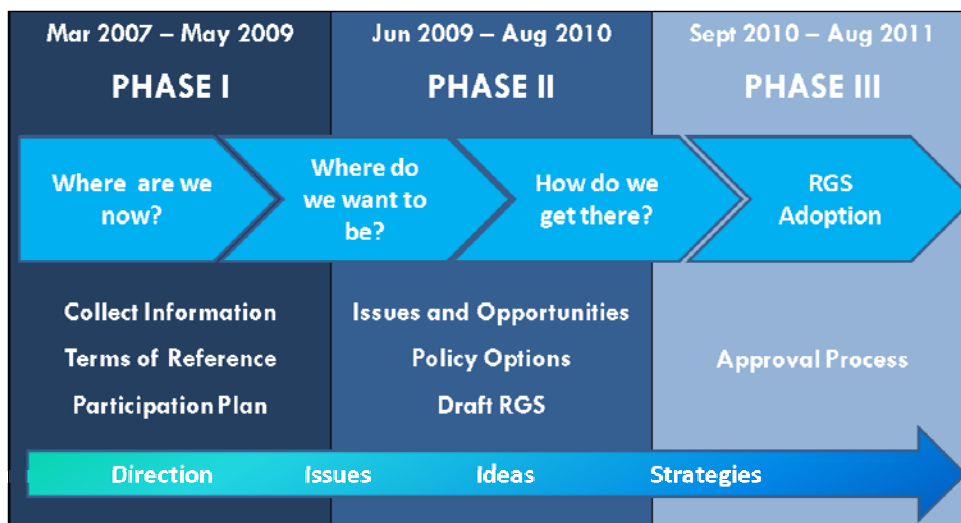
A new vision statement was developed from the themes of those contributions. This is a vision that truly reflects the Region!

The Transition to Phase II:

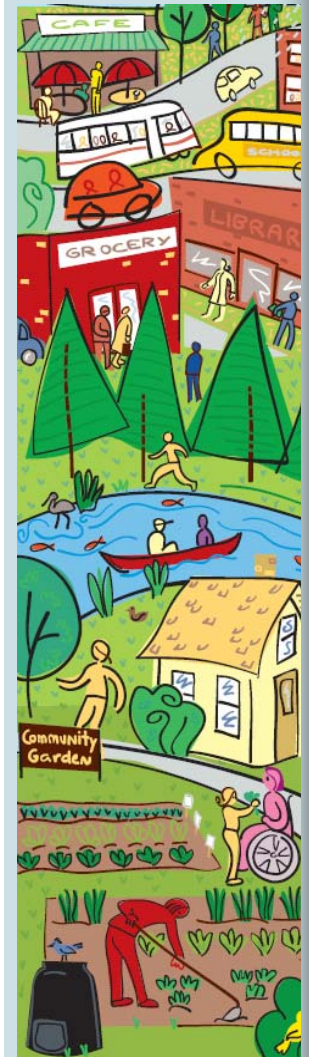
The Regional Growth Strategy process is in transition from Phase I to Phase II with the successful conclusion of the first Open House series. We are now starting to ask the question 'Where do we want to be in 20 years?'

We will be looking to our 8 Growth Issue Working Groups and public comment received throughout Phase II to help answer that question.

The focus of the Phase II will be the development of growth issues policy recommendations (September to December 2009) and the development of, and choice from, several alternative futures that will form the basis of the Regional Growth Strategy.



Youth, tell us,
What kind of Region do you want to live in and what will it take to get there?



Contact us!

If you have questions or comments about anything you have read in this issue of the RGS newsletter, please contact:

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Visit the RGS Website!

On the RGS website there is a lot of information on the Regional Growth Strategy in regards to what the plan is, what is included in the Strategy, and the process the Regional District goes through to complete this initiative. There is new information on the website all the time, so check back often. Remember, we want to hear from you. There will always be an open door for you to add your comments at the website.

www.rdno.ca/rgs



Your Role!

Stay informed and provide feedback. This newsletter will be available on the Regional District website throughout the Regional Growth Strategy process to provide you with updates. Attend open houses and workshops

to gather as much information as you can, review maps and policies, and provide comments to the Regional District. You can email us at

anthony.kittel@rdno.ca, call the Regional District, go on the RGS website, or stop by the Regional District office to ask questions or provide comments.

These open house meetings are one of several open house series for citizens to

provide input in the Regional Growth Strategy planning process. Small information sessions can be arranged by request. Other input opportunities are outlined in the public participation plan, which is available on the Regional Growth Strategy website.

Upcoming Events:

- Small Growth Issues Workshops—By Request
- Second Series of Open Houses—Late Spring 2010
- Your Comments—Anytime!

Thank you for your effort to be a part of the Regional Growth Strategy.