



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

"One Region, One Future"

Regional Growth Strategy Update

Regional Growth Strategy Policy Recommendations

The Regional Growth Issues Working Groups have completed their task of developing goals, strategies and actions recommendations that may be included within the Regional Growth Strategy. The Community Advisory Committee and Regional Growth Strategy Support Team have been refining these recommendations, which will be presented to the Regional Growth Management Advisory Committee (RGMAC) for consideration and the Board of Directors for endorsement. After endorsement, goals, strategies and actions will be referred out to member municipalities, First Nations and adjacent Regional Districts for review and comment. Recommendations, arrived at through consensus, from the Agriculture and Food Systems, Water Stewardship and Economic Development Working Groups will be presented to the next RGMAC meeting. Recommendations from other Working Groups will follow.

Population, Housing and Employment Projections: 2006-2031

The North Okanagan Population, Housing and Employment projections to 2031 have been completed. The projections were refined by Regional District and municipal planning staff to reflect concerns and omissions identified by the Regional Growth Management Advisory Committee on September 23, 2009. The North Okanagan is expected to grow by 25,356, from 78,877 in 2006 to 104,233 by 2031. Employment is expected to grow at half the rate of the population due to an aging population. The Population, Housing and Employment reports will be referred out to member municipalities, adjacent Regional Districts and First Nations for comment after the April 7th, 2010 Board of Directors meeting.

Growth Issues Prioritization Session

One of the priority growth issues that were identified by the Board of Directors and all Working Groups was the need to develop urban containment policy in response to rapid residential development throughout the North Okanagan. Agriculture and Water Stewardship were considered the most pressing issues that required greater emphasis at the Growth Issues Prioritization Session after a year of drought. Additional exercises at Elected Officials Forums will provide additional benchmarking on current growth issues priorities. These benchmarking exercises will assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Meeting

The next Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meeting, scheduled for April 29, 2010, will discuss the population, housing and employment projections to 2031 and the preliminary policy direction of the Regional Growth Strategy. Adjacent Regional Districts' planning staff and BC Transit have been added to the list of participants. The focus of the meeting will be to solicit input and comment on policy direction, concerns and opportunities by participating agencies, as well as any synergies that may result from the Regional Growth Strategy.

Participation Events

The key milestone participation events for Phase I, as outlined in the Participation Plan, have been concluded, including an Age-Friendly (+55) Survey, a Youth (under 25) Survey and Youth Contests that explores the major issues faced by these cohorts. The Regional Growth Strategy process has received over 550 public comments to date and much more are expected in 2010. Several public participation events and communication activities will occur over the next 6 months. The major initiatives are:

- Six Phase II Open Houses in early summer;
- Display and promotional material at public events and public facilities; and
- Seniors and Youth Engagement Activities, Growth Scenario Choice Survey.



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COMPLETE!
 IN PROGRESS

Regional Growth Strategy Process Checklist

	Task	Status
Phase I : Building a Foundation	Project Initiation	
	Application for Funding from Senior Levels of Government	
	First Intergovernmental Advisory Committee	
	1st Draft RGS Terms of Reference	
	RGS Work Plan	
	Growth Issues Identification	
	Participation Plan	
	Planning Literature Review	
	RGS Terms of Reference Confirmation from Regional Board and municipal governments	
	Launch of Regional Growth Strategy Website	
	Beginning of public communication activities	
	First Release of Regional Growth Strategy Update Newsletter	
	Regional District of North Okanagan Population, Employment, and Housing Projection: 2008-2031	
	Regional Growth Scenario Base Case Report	
	First Meeting of Growth issues Working Groups	
	First Meeting of Community Advisory Committee	
	Elected Officials' Forum I	
	Public Information Session/Open House I	
<i>Regional Issues, Vision and Goals Summary Report.</i>		
Phase II: Planning, Analysis, Evaluation, and Tradeoffs	Conclusion of Working Groups Meetings	
	Development of RGS Policy Options	
	Development of RGS Policy Performance Indicators	
	Evaluation of Regional Growth Strategy Policy Options	
	Growth Issues Papers - one for each growth issue	
	Working Group Workshops	
	Regional Ideas Symposium	
	Alternative Growth Scenario Modeling	
	Growth Scenarios Evaluation Report	
	Assessment of Growth Scenario Trade-offs	
	Regional Growth Strategy Public Survey: Growth Scenarios	
	Public Information Session/Open House II	
	Draft Regional Growth Strategy	
Phase III: Drafting the RGS Bylaw	First Draft Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw	
	Public Information Session/Open House III	
	Second Draft of Regional Growth Strategy	
	Regional Growth Strategy Public Hearing	
	Negotiation of Agreement between all affected governments	
	Acceptance of Regional Growth Strategy Policy Document	
	Adoption of Regional Growth Strategy	
	Implementation of Regional Growth Strategy	
March 2007 - May 2009		
June 2009 - July 2010		
August 2010 - August 2011		