

Regional District of North Okanagan

Regional Growth Strategy



What We Will Cover Tonight

- **What is a Regional Growth Strategy**
 - **How it Works**
 - **The Growth Issues**
 - **Regional Growth Strategy Organization**
 - **Working Groups**
 - **Speaking the Same Language**
 - **Getting Involved**

What is a Regional Growth Strategy?

Legislated Purpose:

“To promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources”

Local Government Act, Part 25

Functional Purpose:

To guide Regional growth, change and development

What is a Regional Growth Strategy?

Required Content:

- 20+ Year Strategy
- A Regional Vision Statement
- Population and Employment (2008 to 2031)
- Regional policies for our cross-jurisdictional key growth issues



What a Regional Growth Strategy Can and Can Not Do?

What a RGS Can Do:

- Provide strategic-level direction for Official Community Plans and land use decisions
- Commitment, through agreement, to a shared regional vision on growth management

What a RGS Can Not Do:

- A RGS can not regulate land use within municipalities and electoral areas
- Dictate how the objectives of the RGS policies will be implemented, allowing flexibility in approach

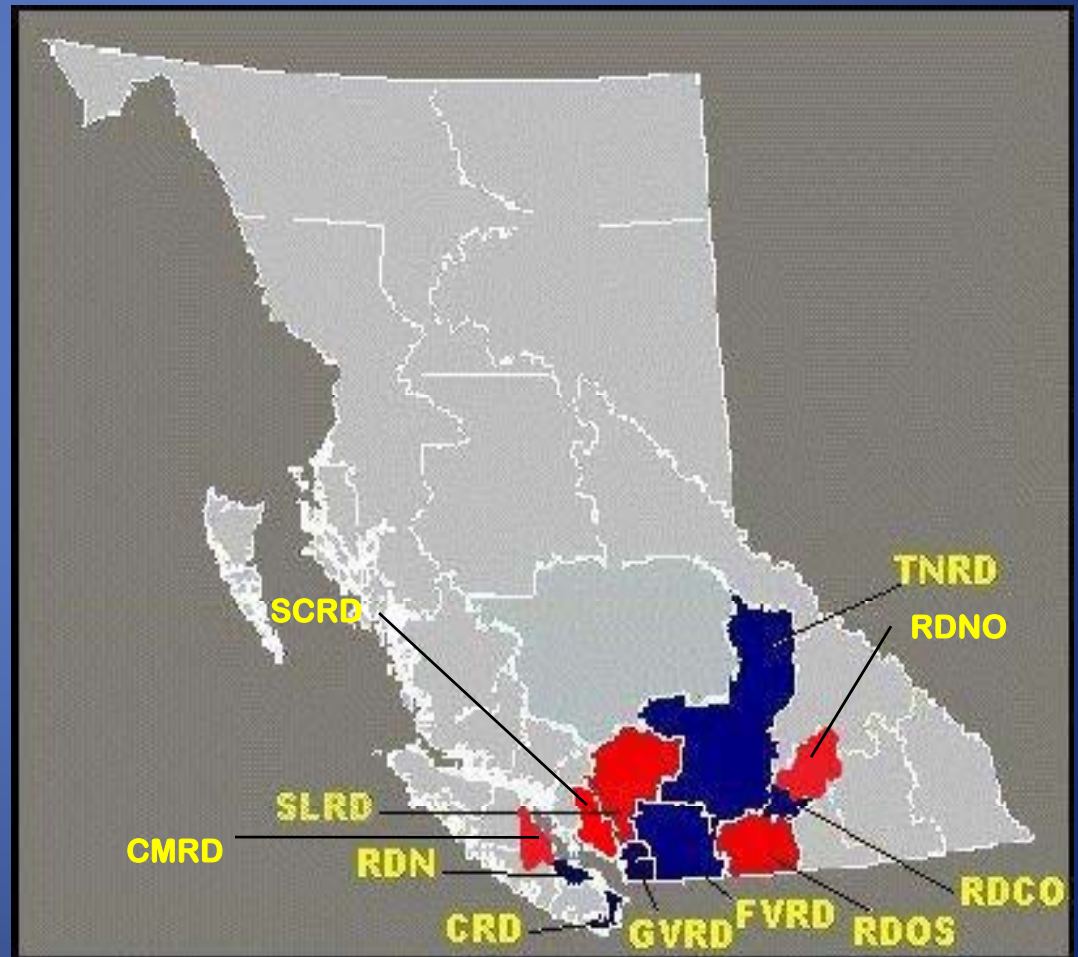
Regional Growth Strategies in Other Regions

Adopted Regional Growth Strategies

- Greater Vancouver RD
- RD Central Okanagan
- RD Nanaimo
- Thompson Nicola RD
- Capital RD
- Fraser Valley RD

In Progress

- Squamish-Lillooet RD
- Comox Valley RD
- RD North Okanagan
- Sunshine Coast RD - Scoping
- Okanagan-Similkameen RD



Key Elements

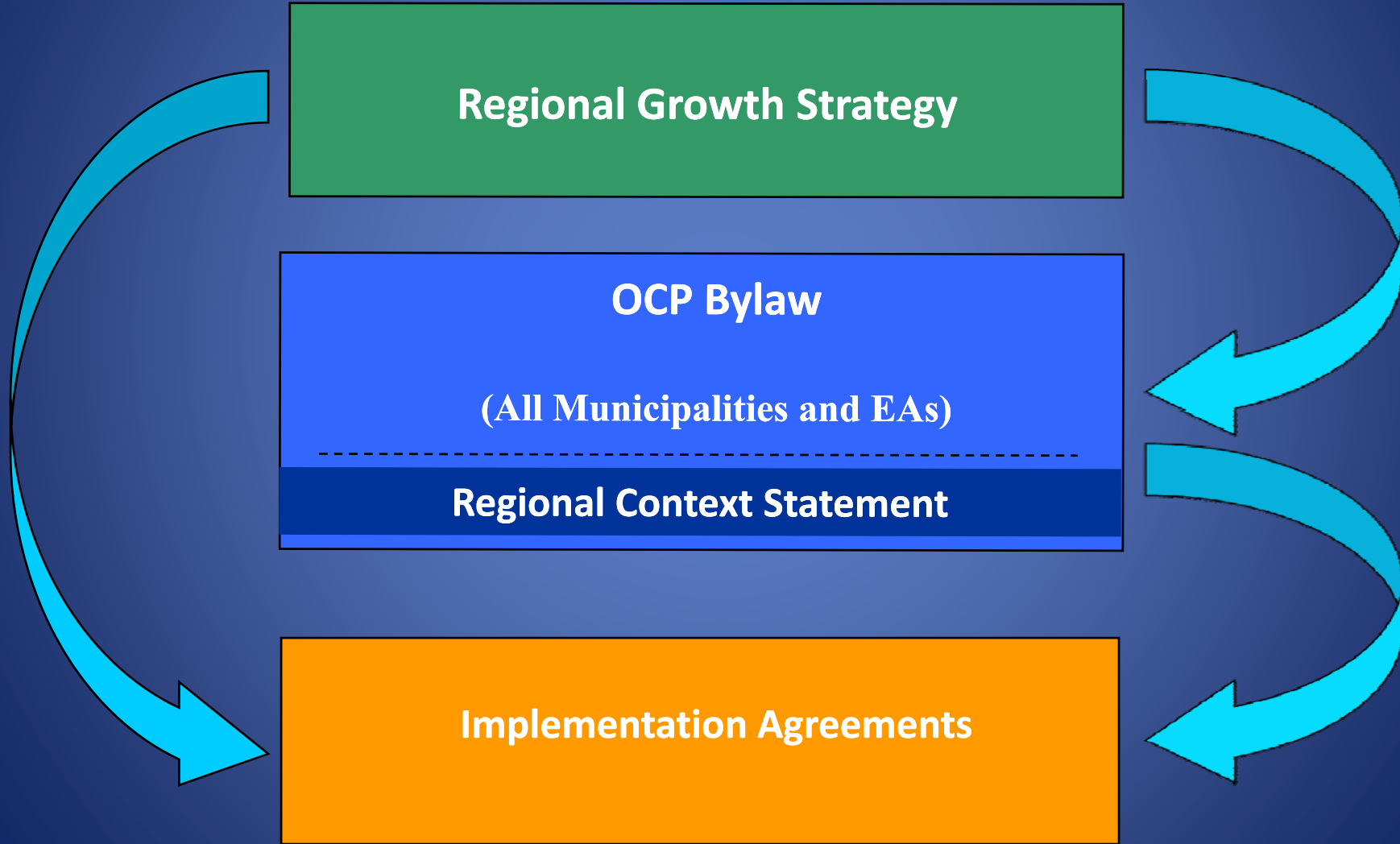
Regional Growth Strategy

OCP Bylaw

(All Municipalities and EAs)

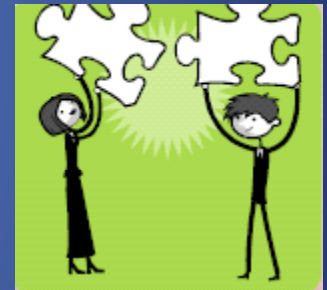
Regional Context Statement

Implementation Agreements



Why develop a Regional Growth Strategy?

- Addressing critical regional issues;
- Implementing Provincial programs and investments in infrastructure
- Assessing regional service efficiencies
- Better coordination of issues that transcend local jurisdictional boundaries
- Sets a clear direction & establishes priorities for the future
- Provides enhanced understanding of the complexity of issues



Value of the Regional Growth Strategy

Value will be derived from the *Strategy* & from the *process to create it*

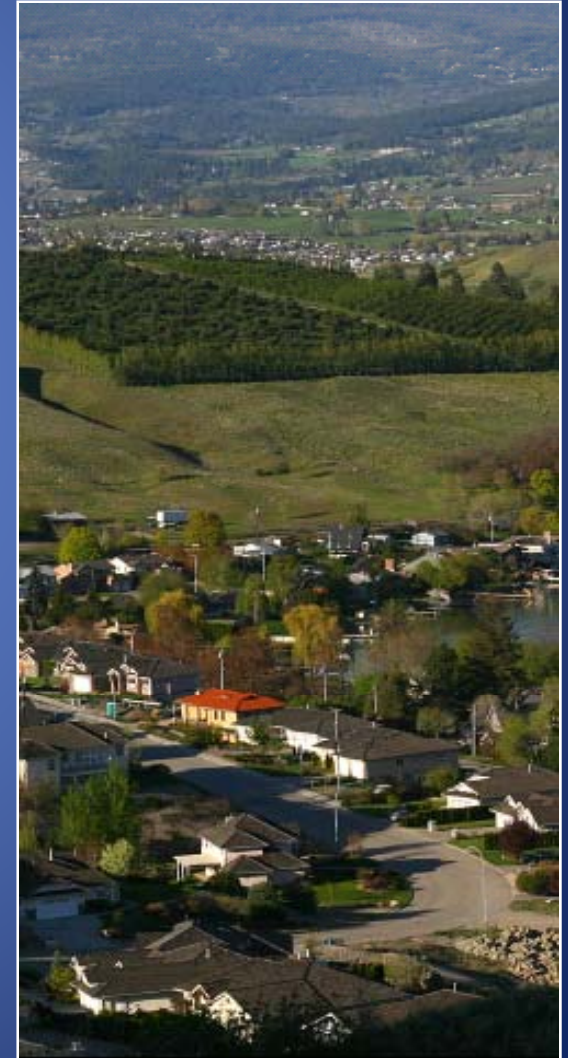
- Setting a Direction for the Region
- Bringing Communities Together in Discussion
- Involving All Stakeholders
- Addressing Interrelated Issues
- Identifying Opportunities
- Agreeing on Strategies & Actions
- Finding Solutions to Complex Problems

The Benefits of Undertaking an RGS

- Made in the North Okanagan Solutions to Growth
- Use Local Knowledge and Expertise
- Focus on Priority Regional Issues
- Strength Relationships Between Local Governments
- Local Decision-making, Coordination, Collaboration
- Opportunities for Broad Community Participation

The Growth Issues

- Economic Development
- Urban Containment
- Natural Environment
- Agriculture
- Water
- Governance and Service Delivery
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation and Infrastructure



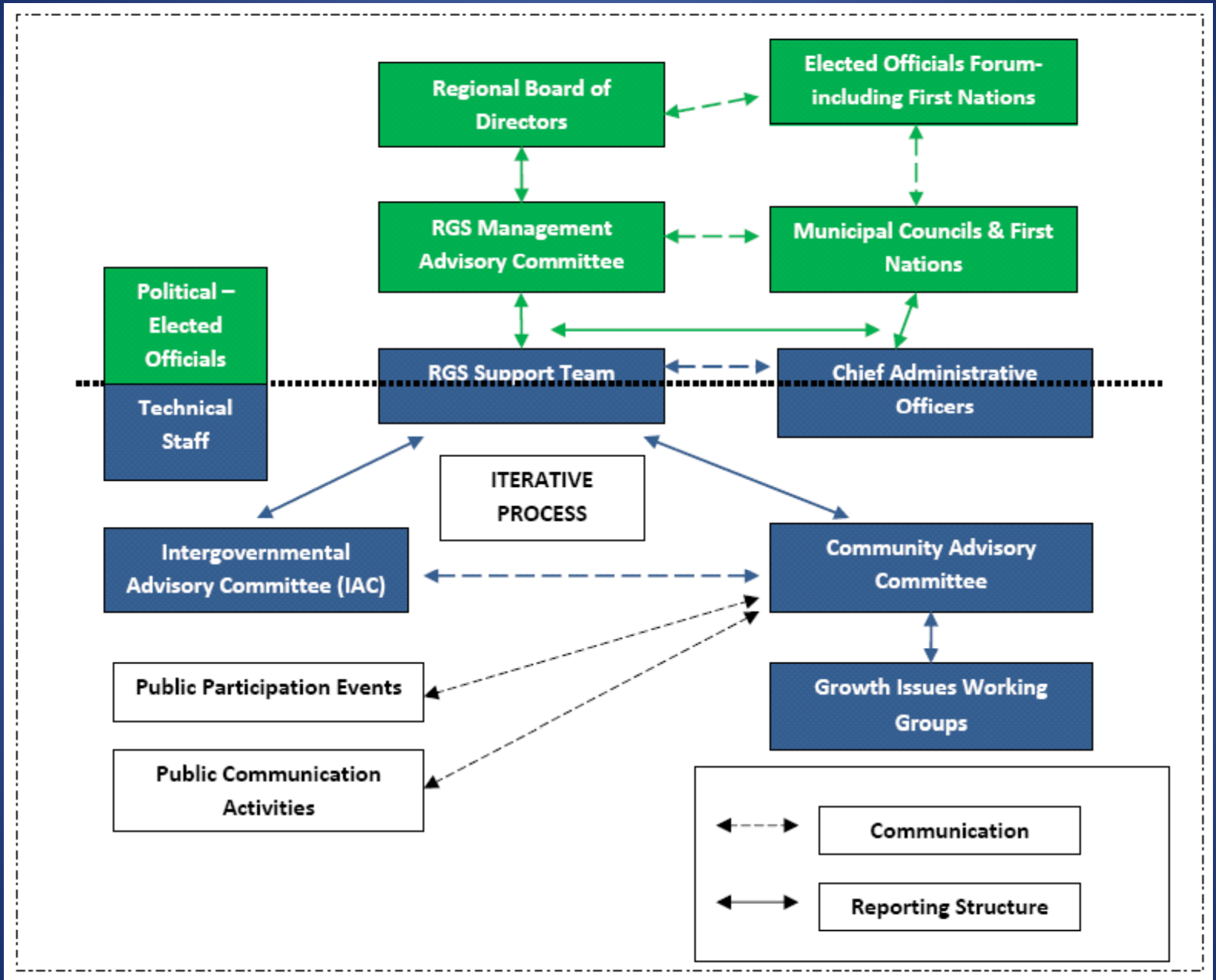
Exploring the Issues

What are the effects of these factors on the future of the North Okanagan:

- Demographics
- Economy
- Climate Change
- Housing Needs
- Technology
- Views & Values



- Natural Environment?
- Built Environment?
- Social System?
- Economic Prosperity?
- Agricultural Sustainability?



The Regional Growth Strategy Process

| <i>Phase</i> | <i>Tasks</i> | <i>Expected Timing</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| I: Building a Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Participation Plan | January 2007 – |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Scenario Base Case Analysis • Confirming Direction | April 2009 |
| II: Choosing a Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Issues Strategies, Goals, and Actions • Alternative Growth Scenarios Development • Choosing a Growth Scenario | May 2009 – June 2010 |
| III: Developing the Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Regional Growth Strategy Development • RGS Bylaw Process • Adoption of Regional Growth Strategy • Implementation and Monitoring | July 2010 – August 2011 |

Participation Plan and the RGS

Objectives of the Participation Plan, specifically:

- To create meaningful appropriate opportunities for public engagement;
- To foster an environment that is conducive to respectful, informed and productive discussion;
- To raise the profile through communication, education, and awareness activities; and
- A process that is open, accountable and accessible.

What are the Working Groups

- Eight working groups , with 10-12 members per working group
- Working Groups will consist of :
 - Local, regional and provincial government staff;
 - key stakeholders and organizations;
 - First Nations; and
 - advocates for the community at large.
- provide local knowledge, perspective and expertise
- Three meetings will be held in 2009

What Working Groups Do!

- Provide a forum for informed and productive discussion on creating goals, actions, and strategies;
- identify local challenges and opportunities related to their growth issue;
- provide local knowledge, experience, and perspectives;
- think through critical issues and trends for their growth issue, and assess how these trends will inform goals, actions, and strategies; and
- *create recommendations for realistic goals, actions and strategies for their topic area.*

Working Group Meetings

WG 1 - Issues, Assets, and Actions

- Introduction and Purpose
- Clarify WG role and end product
- Review background materials
- Identify issues, assets, and actions
- Link issues, assets and actions to potential objectives, goals, and strategies
- Draft recommended objectives, goals, and strategies

WG 2 - Setting the Direction

- Review input received after first meeting
- discussing the initial/preliminary objectives, goals, and strategies
- What is practical, what is doable, what is achievable?
- Is it sustainable – economic, environmental, social?
- Start exploring indicators
- Draft goals, objectives, and strategies

WG 3 - Defining the Future

- Review input received
- Integrate that input and any further ideas from the working group into objectives, goals, and strategies
- Revise and finalize the goals objectives and strategies for Board consideration
- Discuss and develop performance indicators
- Final recommendations to the CAC, RGSMC, and RB

WG 4 - Followup at end of Phase II

- Review the goals and strategies of the chosen scenario
- Make recommendations on the language of the chosen goals and strategies
- Refine recommended performance indicators
- Recommend implementation strategies
- Assist in development of RGS monitoring strategy

Speaking the Same Language

Goal – A desired outcome that would achieve the objective.
Many goals may be associated with each principle.

What specific things do we hope for?

Example from FVRD RGS

Support and Enhance the Agricultural Sector: The region's agricultural lands will be managed responsibly by:

- minimizing land use conflicts between agricultural, recreational and urban uses;
- addressing the intensification of agriculture
- promoting the agricultural sector; and
- promoting the reclamation of lands back to agricultural use, where appropriate.

Speaking the Same Language

Strategy – A measurable set of activities that can achieve the goal. There may be many strategies to achieve a goal

How do we get there?

Example from FVRD RGS

- **3.1:** Support Official Community Plans policies that encourage infill, redevelopment, densification and mixed use as a means of creating more compact development patterns.
- **3.7:** Support actions that reduce conflict along the urban/agriculture interface.

Appointment to the Working Groups

- **Advertisement and exposure in the media for advocates of the community at large**
- **A committee will review the applications that were received for the working groups**
- **Ensure that there is a balance of jurisdictional representation on the working groups**
- **Appointment will be made by the Regional Board**

How to Get Involved

- Fill out an Working Group application at www.rdno.ca
- Request a paper or Word application form from Anthony Kittel, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator (akittel@rdno or (250) 550-3750)
- Visit the Regional Growth Strategy website (<http://www.rdno.ca/services/development/rgs/index.php>) and add your comments
- Keep informed about upcoming events!

Any Questions ?

