
Regional Growth Strategies

Key Considerations

Ministry of Community Services

March, 2008



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 growth, change and development



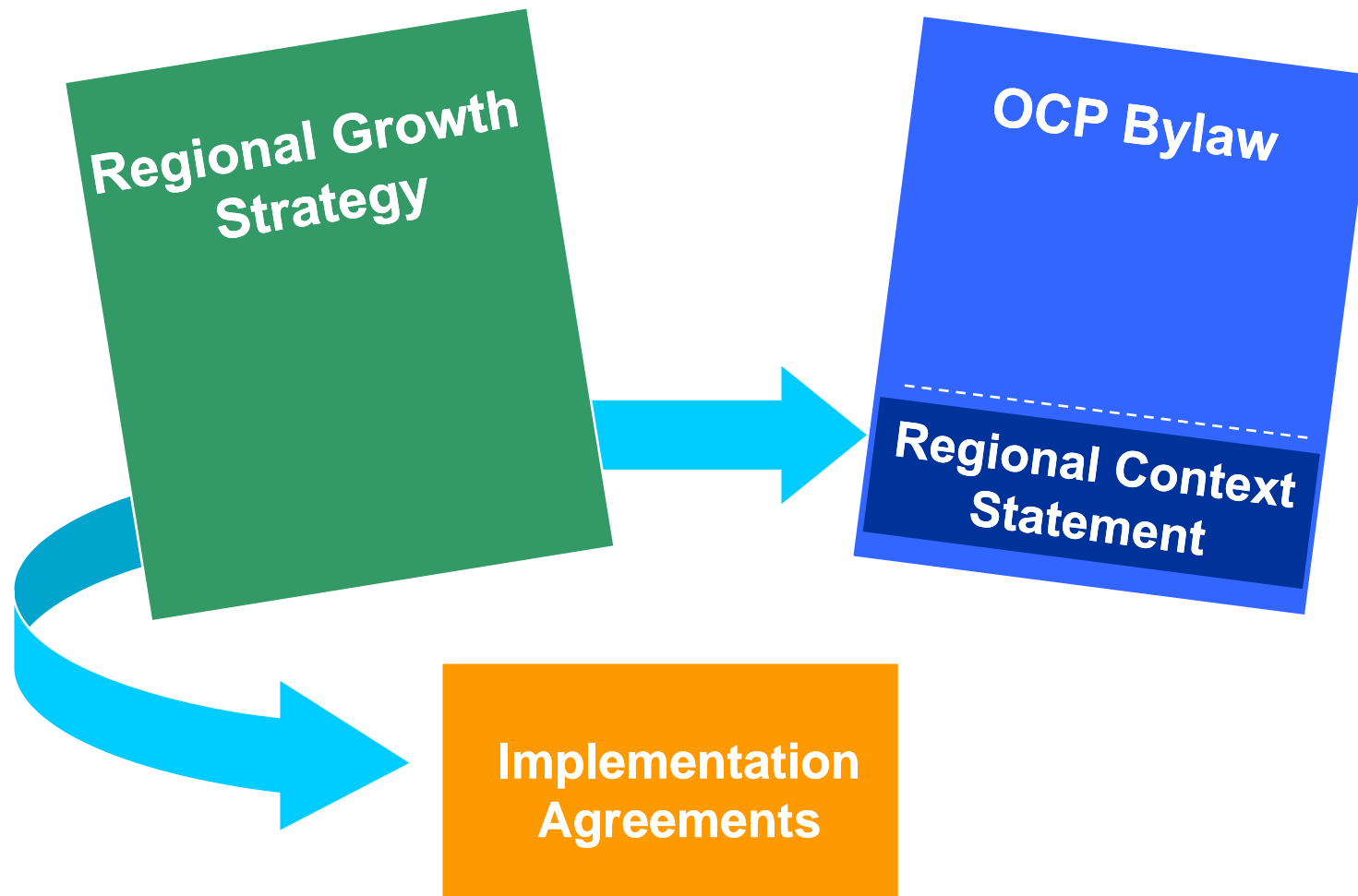
What is a Regional Growth Strategy?

Required Content

- Long term vision – 20 year horizon
- Population and employment projections
- Regional policies for key regional interests:
Housing, transportation, regional district services, parks and natural areas, economic development, and other issues including urban containment
- Strategies and targets to reduce Greenhouse Gases



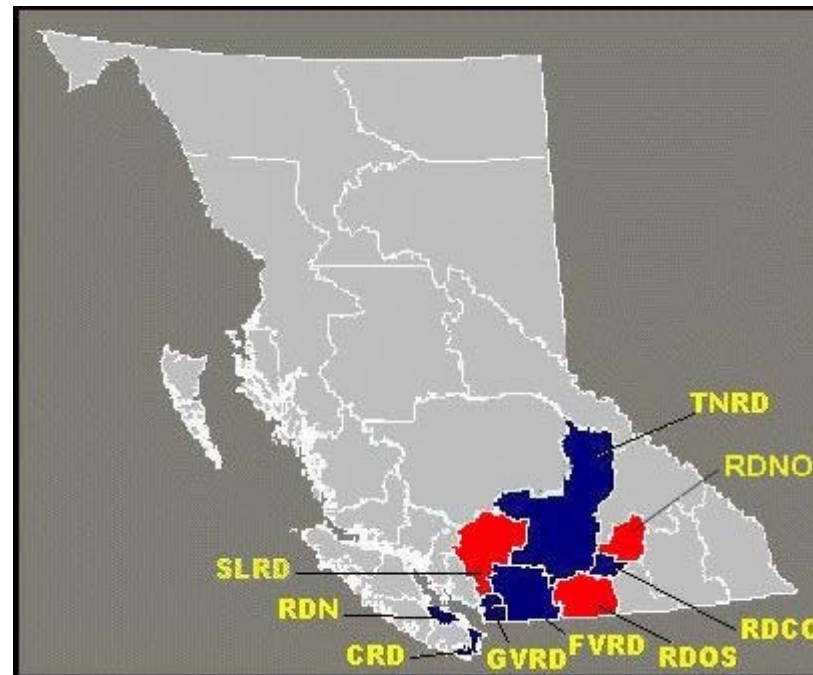
Key Elements



Who is using the RGS tool?

Status of Growth Strategies in BC

6 Adopted
3 Under Development
Others Considering



Why develop a Regional Growth Strategy?

Provides framework for:

- Addressing critical regional issues;
- Implementing Provincial programs and investments
- Assessing regional service opportunities
- Better coordination



Developing a Strategy

- Different approaches (flexible for local needs)
- Two to four years
- Agreement on strategic interests
- Draft RGS
 - Vision for the region
 - Description of how to achieve vision



Key Consideration: Green Communities

- Imperative of Climate Change
- Premier and Cabinet acknowledge local government role
- Call for higher urban densities, reduced sprawl in rural areas, transit oriented green development, urban forests
- Incentives and disincentives



Recommended Content Considerations

GHG Reduction Targets, Policies and Actions

- Proposal for inclusion of GHG targets, policies and actions in OCP and RGS
- Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI)
 - Measurement tool intended to provide local government energy and emissions data, inventory baselines, ongoing monitoring and periodic reports to help inform planning processes and monitor commitments to GHG targets
- CEA – Green Buildings BC for Local Governments
 - Provides assistance with energy audits and retrofits
- More advice to come through the Green Communities Committee and Working Groups



Recommended Content Considerations

Okanagan Similkameen Valley Governance Working Committee

- Elected officials tasked to identify alternative governance models to address water, air quality and transportation

Affordable Housing

- Capitalize on incentives for affordable housing
- Authority to wave or reduce DCCs for affordable housing

Agricultural Plan

- Strategies concerning environmental, social & economic opportunities



Recommended Content Considerations

Energy Plan

- Policy actions on energy efficiency, alternative energies & energy self-sufficiency

Brownfields Renewal Strategy

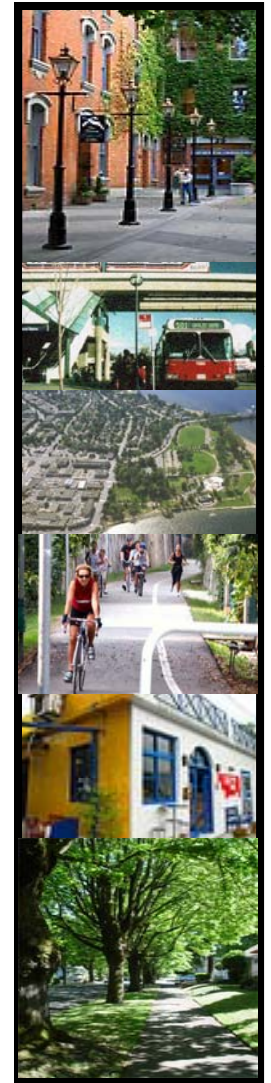
- Support urban re-vitalization

Transit Oriented Development

- Intra-regional linkages to major service centres
- Cycling and pedestrian accessibility

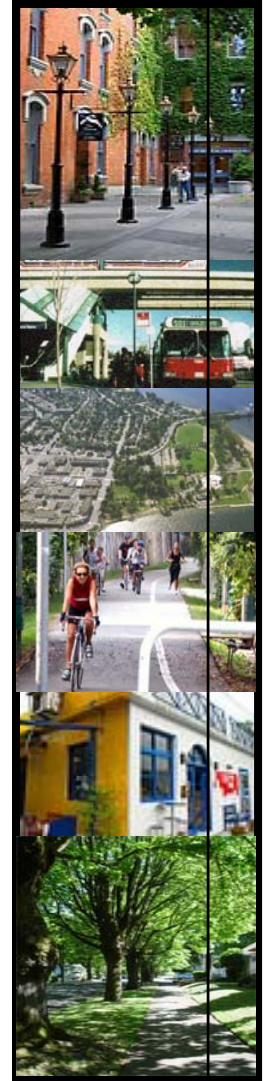
Integrated Planning & Decision-making

- Incorporation of sustainability principles



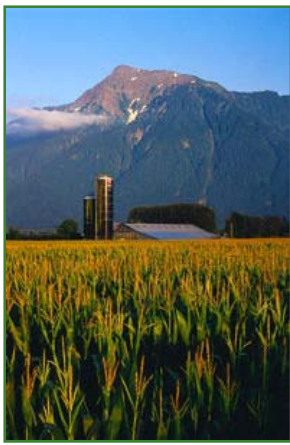
Growth Strategy Review 2006-2007

- Initiated review of RGS process
- Local government had 10 yrs experience working with the legislation
- Purpose of review:
 - Assess from multiple perspectives how well the legislation and inter-governmental processes are working and what (if any) changes should be made



What We Heard

- General Support
- Implementation Challenges
- Cautious Improvements Suggested



Questions ?

