

Regional District of North Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Participation Plan Draft 4.0



5/5/2009
Regional District of North Okanagan
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goals of the Participation Plan are twofold, to ensure early and broad public communication, education and notification about the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and key participation activities. The second is to provide the opportunity for meaningful public input that will inform the RGS process. This plan establishes a framework to accomplish these goals. Over the course of the development of the Regional Growth Strategy, participation events and activities will take place with an emphasis on providing opportunities for broad public input.

The Participation Plan would reach out to, and hear the views of, as many people as possible through participation methods including public open houses, elected officials' forums, newsletters, surveys and web input. Public opinions will be considered and weighed when development of the Regional Growth Strategy. There would be plenty of opportunities for people to keep commenting as the process unfolds and the RGS is refined.

The Regional Growth Strategy process and organization will ensure that information flows in both directions, and will include a multitude of means and opportunities for people and stakeholders to more fully understand all of the information on which RGS options are being explored, and ultimately that which is being used to guide the RGS decision-making process.

The key steps in the Regional Growth Strategy process for the next 24 months include the launch of extensive public consultation on the issues and opportunities starting in late May 2009; the development of growth issues goals, objectives and strategies throughout 2009, the consideration of detailed alternative land-use scenarios in spring 2010; and the compilation of a draft RGS by the fall 2010.

There would then be a formal public process, including consideration of the RGS Bylaw by local elected officials with a public hearing where additional public input could be made.

1. INTRODUCTION

Widespread Community Participation is essential to envisioning a common future and an understanding of our management of growth contained within the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Working meaningfully together, in a collaborative and cooperative way, through a process informed by regional residents, First Nations, local governments, elected officials, provincial and federal agencies, and interested stakeholders, will ensure that that our shared vision will be defined through capturing the diverse perspectives and interests present within the Region. Meaningful participation throughout every phase of the process is essential to successful development of the Regional Growth Strategy and building the trust and relationships necessary for implementation.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of this Participation Plan is to guide the work of the North Okanagan Regional District (RDNO) Board of Directors as it gathers input and feedback for use in the development of a Regional Growth Strategy. As required by the Section 855 (2) of the *Local Government Act*, the RDNO will provide opportunities for extensive, early, and ongoing public participation with residents, stakeholders, local governments, First Nations, and other government agencies.

The goals of the Participation Plan are to ensure widespread and meaningful participation within the Regional Growth Strategy process and to maintain focus on the issues that the broader community identifies as most important, to develop regional vision; goals, objectives and strategies that will help develop informed decisions about the desired future of the Region.

The four broad goals of the Participation Plan are to:

- Ensure that **all** communities, residents and all levels of government and stakeholders in the North Okanagan have an opportunity to gain an understanding of the process and be able to provide input into it;
- Communicate to raise awareness about the Regional Growth Strategy, facilitate interest and discussion on growth management issues and priorities, and inform about opportunities to participate;
- Gather input and feedback through a variety of means, including public meetings, elected officials' forums, surveys and other methods of participation; and
- Present input and feedback in a manner that informs the development of the Regional Growth Strategy.

PARTICIPATION SCOPE

The Regional Growth Strategy participation program will seek to inform and engage residents, affected local governments including the six member municipalities and the five Electoral Areas (B, C, D, E and F), adjacent regional districts, the two First Nations in the region, local, provincial and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations and community interest groups.

The visioning and focus of the Regional Growth Strategy will be shaped and informed by the issues and priorities identified during the initial participation activities during Phase I Building a Foundation. The substantive focus of research, planning, and RGS development will be targeted to address matters considered the highest priorities. Throughout this process, the Regional Board will provide RGS project oversight and will be kept regularly apprised of the results of participation activities.

OBJECTIVES

The following are some of the higher-level participation and related communication objectives:

- To ensure that residents, the business community and other stakeholders are made aware of the vital importance of the Growth Management Strategy and are kept reasonably informed and up-to-date about study components, progress and opportunities for input;
- To raise awareness among elected officials and regional residents to encourage and support informed involvement;
- To facilitate political leadership of the process through on-going dialogue with and between Regional District elected officials, local municipal councils, electoral area boards, and First Nations;
- To engage First Nations leadership in early dialogue to develop a program that would actively involve their communities in the process;
- To coordinate Provincial and Federal government agency participation through a series of Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meetings;
- To create meaningful and strategically appropriate opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement in the different components of the process;
- To foster an environment that is conducive to substantive dialogue: a respectful, informed and productive discussion of growth-related issues and the Region's future;
- To inspire confidence in the Growth Management Strategy process and in the Regional District's implementation and management of it;
- To raise the profile of the process, through communication, education, and awareness activities;
- To establish and reinforce realistic expectations regarding feasible growth-related choices and the manner in which stakeholder input will be considered and acted upon.

BENEFITS

The Regional District of North Okanagan, member municipalities, electoral areas, First Nations, and local and regional stakeholders will experience benefits from participating in the process in developing the Regional Growth Strategy. The Participation Plan will provide opportunities to:

- work collaboratively to create a regional long-range vision for the next 20 years and beyond;
- have meaningful input into the form, location, and timing of growth in the region;
- improve communication between participating jurisdictions;
- develop strategies to ensure that community values are integrated into decision making;
- participate in a publicly accountable process;
- increase efficiencies and cost savings through economies of scale achieved by joint servicing agreements;
- strengthen individual local jurisdictional advocacy positions by joining with other local governments to speak with one voice;
- participate in joint discussions with senior levels of government regarding provincial and in some cases, federal matters that affect local governments;
- strengthen access to senior government infrastructure grants for regionally beneficial infrastructure projects; and
- improve relationships between staff at local levels and those of senior levels of government.

COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Regional District of North Okanagan is committed to engaging residents and stakeholders, and maximizing input throughout the Regional Growth Strategy process. The Regional District, taking into consideration the results of participatory activities, will make informed decisions that are in the best interests of the community as a whole. The Region's participation approach will seek to provide balanced and objective information about key substantive issues and invite feedback on any analysis, alternatives or decisions. To this end, the Regional District will work with the public to ensure that their concerns and issues are reflected, and their ideas and advice incorporated to the maximum extent possible.

The Regional Growth Strategy Participation Plan will uphold the following principles:

1. **Inclusiveness** through offering multiple methods of participation, employing open dialogue and wide input into the process;
2. **Innovation**, using new technology and creative participation, analysis and communication methods;
3. **Clarity** of the participation process, with clearly expressed goals and objectives;
4. **Flexibility** in the design of the process, to incorporate ongoing feedback on preferred or alternative methods of participation;
5. **Honesty** about the constraints that the process has to operate within;
6. **Respect** for all participants and communicating with care and respect;
7. **Creativity** through the encouragement of collaborative and cooperative thinking;
8. **Integrity**, with commitment to take input and feedback into consideration;
9. **Timeliness**, with substantial early involvement, sharing results and information in a timely and comprehensive way; and

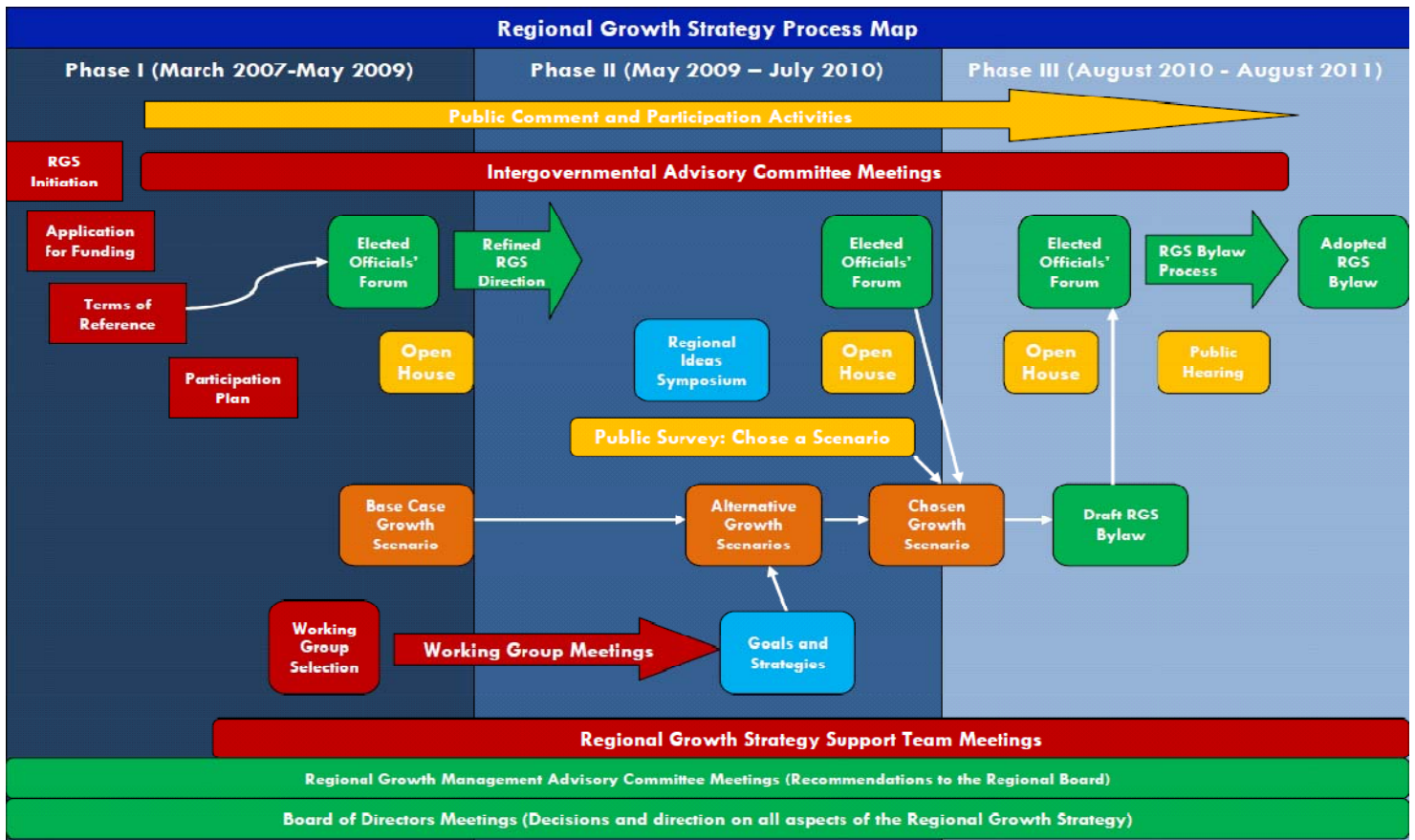
10. **Emergence**, where the energy, excitement, and creativity that are brought to the process will provide the basis for thoughtful response and innovative output.

11. **Excitement**, making the process interesting, engaging, informative, and participatory.

The Regional District expects all participants in the consultation process to be respectful of one another and to offer input and feedback that is relevant, constructive and productive. The goal is a process that encourages mutual understanding, joint exploration of key issues, meaningful dialogue, and consensus where possible.

TIMELINE

The Regional Growth Strategy participation will occur in three major phases.. A number of participation activates and opportunities will exist throughout the development of the Regional Growth Strategy, as well as public communication activities to maintain a transparent and accessible process. Residents will be encouraged to participate in the process at each stage through information sessions, open houses, public forums, surveys, and continual feedback mechanisms.



2. PARTICIPATION APPROACH

OVERALL APPROACH: To help ensure that the Regional Growth Strategy is completed with adequate participation among all key stakeholders, the participation process will employ a variety of active and passive information and input methods and tools over the three major phases.

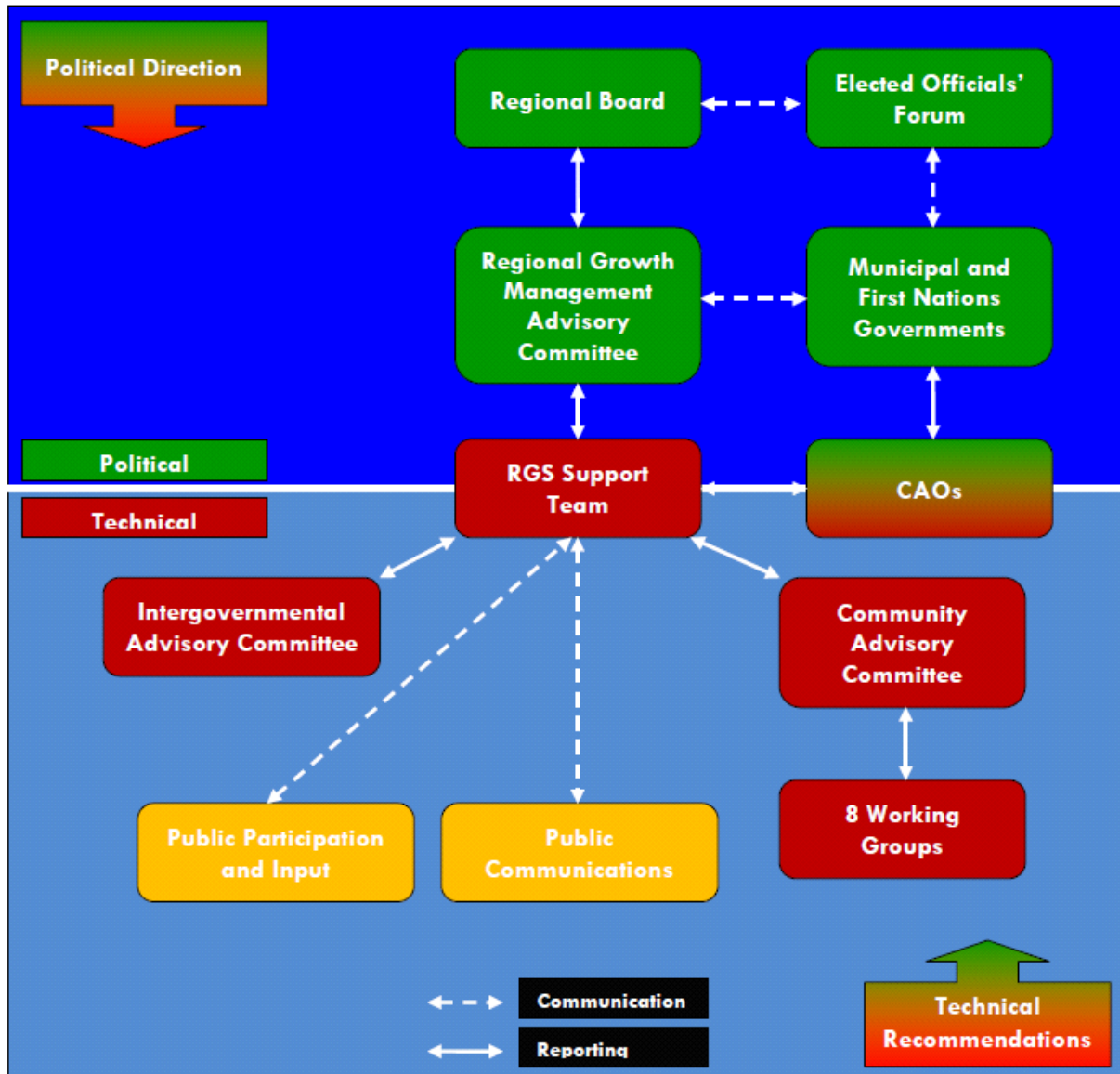
PHASE I: BUILDING A FOUNDATION: Participation activities during this phase will begin with a 3 hour Elected Officials' Forum with a focus on refining the overall RGS direction and vision.. Other participation activities include public and stakeholder workshops, a public information session, Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meetings, First Nations participation activities, Growth Issues Working Groups' meetings, and various communications activities. The results of this phase will be presented in a Phase I Summary Report.

PHASE II: PLANNING, ANALYSIS, EVALUATION AND TRADEOFFS: Participation activities during this phase will include extensive communications activities, a second series of public and stakeholder workshops, a public survey, Elected Officials' Forum, continued meetings of the Growth Issues Working Groups, and Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meetings. As well, a series of public open houses, a public survey, additional events, and an open invitation for written comments throughout the RGS process will provide numerous opportunities for regional residents' participation. The input from these participation activities will be used in selecting and developing a preferred growth option and Regional Growth Strategy policies. The results of this phase will be the first draft of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw.

PHASE III: REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY PREPARATION, NEGOTIATION, ACCEPTANCE AND ADOPTION: The final phase of the Regional Growth Strategy project will include continued communication activities, as well as an Elected Officials' Forum, a public information session, Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meetings, and a well-publicized formal public hearing. Growth Issues Working Groups and the Community Advisory Committee will continue to meet throughout Phase II, focusing on completion of the Regional Growth Strategy, as well as implementation and monitoring the RGS.

3. ORGANIZATION

Development of a Regional Growth Strategy is a collaborative effort involving many parties (See Below).



There are several groups, departments, agencies, elected bodies, and individuals involved in the process to develop a Regional Growth Strategy for the North Okanagan.

There are political, advisory, technical, and staff committees and working groups that all have specific roles and responsibilities at various steps in the process. The general scope of work and responsibilities for each participant group are outlined below while the proposed structure is outlined in the figure below. It is anticipated that these general descriptions will be refined through participant discussions that occur in Phase 1 of the process and reflected in the revised Work Plan. Public and stakeholder participation activities and communication strategies are an integral aspect of the Regional Growth Strategy development process.

4. ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES

SUMMARY

Broad public participation activities will provide the opportunity for a diversity of interests and stakeholders, as well as the public, to provide input into the RGS process. Efforts will be made to provide opportunities for participation to all residents within the region to capture the vision, issues, concerns, goals, strategies, and commonalities related to the challenges to managing regional growth. Participation activities and opportunities will be provided throughout each stage of the process.

PARTICIPANTS

The Participation Plan will endeavor to engage the broadest number of regional participants within the Regional Growth Strategy dialogue. Meaningful development of the vision, issues, objectives, and strategies informing Regional Growth Strategy policy must involve the diverse interests and perspectives found throughout the North Okanagan.

ELECTED OFFICIALS: The participation of elected officials, representing the Regional District, member municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations, is essential to the development of a common regional vision and a collaborative working relationship. The Regional Growth Strategy process is a cooperative enterprise, with local government working together on managing growth into the future for the benefit of all communities in the Region.

RESIDENTS: The North Okanagan has a diverse citizenry, with local interests, concerns, and issues related to growth and its management. To ensure input for the public, opportunities for meaningful participation will be at key points throughout the process.

STAKEHOLDERS: The involvement of the regional stakeholders, with their diverse interests, knowledge, and perspectives on growth issues, priorities, and strategies, will be critical to the successful development of the Regional Growth Strategy. Various groups will be present on the growth issues working groups, as well as participation events and opportunities throughout the process. Collaboration and cooperation with other groups, as well as local government, the public, and First Nations, throughout the process will provide an opportunity for inclusivity, creativity, and ingenuity.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: Government agencies with responsibilities affecting the region will be involved in the process, and will be represented on the Inter-governmental Agency Committee (IAC) throughout the process to ensure coordination and collaboration in defining and achieving regional goals and objectives. The expertise and insight of these agencies on regional growth issues and potential strategies will be invaluable in moving forward to a sustainable regional future.

FIRST NATIONS: The Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) and Splotsin Nation (SN) will be essential participants in the formulation of a Regional Growth Strategy, with both the OKIB and SN bringing to the discussion unique perspectives, values, issues, and opportunities. The SN and OKIB are invited and encouraged to participate throughout the process and at each level of engagement. The Regional District of North Okanagan recognizes the significant opportunity to build constructive and enduring relationships with First Nations communities through the Regional Growth Strategy process. This work provides a foundation for continued constructive dialogue into the future on regional land use and growth management issues.

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

The RDNO will use a variety of participation, engagement, and dialogue tools and events to emphasize broad community engagement and meaningful input from those that are involved in the process. The strategies and activities will attempt to reach a diverse demographic through a variety of means.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' FORUMS: At key stages during the preparation of the Regional Growth Strategy, Elected Officials' Forums will be held to provide elected officials with an opportunity to refine strategic direction, discuss progress on the Regional Growth Strategy, debate strategy content, brief each other on relevant issues in the plan area, and provide input to the Regional Growth Strategy process along the way. The Elected Officials' Forum is comprised of RDNO Regional Board members, including all Electoral Area Directors, other elected officials from member municipalities, and First Nations elected officials.

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 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, City of Vernon and Electoral Areas 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F'

The purpose the first Elected Officials Forum was to 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 Regional Growth Strategy Vision of the future. The Regional Board will use this information to define the strategic direction of the Regional Growth Strategy process and the growth issues to be addressed.

REGIONAL IDEAS SYMPOSIUM: A Regional Ideas Symposium will be held within the second Phase, as the alternative growth scenarios, policy options, and strategies are developed using the issues, goals, objectives, and regional vision identified and discussed in Phase I. The purpose of this symposium is to provide a forum for dialogue between local elected officials, local government staff, community stakeholders, First Nations, and government representatives to set priorities, discuss the various policy options and alternative scenarios that may inform the Regional Growth Strategy document, and provide the opportunity to select a growth scenario.

The objectives of this symposium include:

- Generating meaningful discussion and dialogue on the merits, constraints, and trade-offs that each growth scenario presents;
- Encouraging innovative and original ideas and options for achieving desired policies and growth scenarios through meaningful dialogue;
- Examining the policy implications, challenges and opportunities presented to achieve the various growth scenarios; and

- Facilitating an atmosphere of collaboration and cooperation when discussing Regional Growth Strategy policy and implementation;

The final results of the symposium will be summarized and presented to the Regional Board and an Elected Officials' Forum, emphasizing policy and growth scenario areas where consensus was reached, constraints to implementation and issues with the various growth scenarios. The draft Regional Growth Strategy policy framework will be informed from this dialogue.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS: The Regional Growth Strategy participation process will include, if there is sufficient interest, 2-hour stakeholder workshops. The workshops will focus on review and discussion of Regional Growth Strategy alternative growth scenario options. Following presentation of the options, participants will be encouraged to engage in discussion on the merits and concerns for each option. The sessions will be designed, if sufficient interest exists, to maximize:

- input on what growth scenario option is preferred; and
- understanding of each of the Regional Growth Strategy options;
- engagement in discussion of the merits of each option, considering local and regional priorities; and
- identification of possible modifications to preferred options.

GROWTH ISSUES WORKING GROUPS: Growth Issues Working Groups will be instrumental in developing goals, objectives and strategies that will form the foundation of the Regional Growth Strategy. There will be one working group for each key growth issue identified in the process. These working groups will focus on a specific key growth issue such as affordable housing, economic development, urban containment, agriculture and food systems, as well as several others. Amongst the participants of the working group, a chairperson will be chosen to run the meetings but also to represent these working groups on the Community Advisory Committee.

The Working Groups will be provided with a Terms of Reference that will focus the discussions and dialogue on the growth issues. The Working Groups will be conducted in an inclusive, respectful manner with the primary objectives of consensus-building, understanding, and meaningful discussion that will inform recommendations to the Community Advisory Committee.

Each group will identify and prioritize issues, propose strategies throughout the process. These groups will also be responsible for identifying informational needs and gathering the information required supporting their efforts. They will also be responsible for regular reporting through the chain, to the Community Advisory Committee.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC): The Community Advisory Committee will be comprised of the Growth Issues Working Groups chair-people and the Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator. The results of the working groups are represented through the individual chairs, within the wider process of Regional Growth Strategy development. As a result of the discussion of issues, policies, constraints, and opportunities, the Community Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to the Regional Growth Strategy Support team regarding goals, objectives, strategies and priorities to be included in the Regional Growth Strategy. Formulating these recommendations will be based on a triple bottom line approach and will include discussion of economic, social and environmental impacts of those recommended strategies.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC): There will be quarterly Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) meetings throughout the RGS process. The role of the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee is to advise the Regional District on the development and implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy, and to facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs as they relate to the development and implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy. It is essential to maintain this contact with all levels of government participating in the regional growth strategy process, and to obtain updates from agencies on their own plans and processes.

The primary purpose of the IAC is to bring provincial governmental interests, programs and policies that may have a direct bearing on local plans. At the very least, these other interests must be recognized for the influence they can and will have on the strategy and ways and means they can support its implementation. The IAC will also "...facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs..." as they relate to the Regional Growth Strategy. This coordinating role is particularly important to achieve mutual respective and supportive actions and to enhance the development of shared visions. A key aspect of the IAC is to inform the local government process by providing a forum for provincial and local government senior staff to discuss provincial interests and the tools the provincial government is prepared to use to support particular outcomes and to develop strategies for implementing common provincial/local objectives. Provincial representatives on the IAC act with a clear mandate. This reinforces the provincial commitment to the regional growth strategy process.

ISSUE PAPERS: A series of issue papers will be prepared based on the EIGHT growth issues identified; affordable housing, transportation and infrastructure, agriculture, governance and service delivery, environmental policy, economic development, urban containment and water stewardship. These will be short documents that will state the facts of the issue and provide background and context information. The issue papers will be posted on the web site. These papers will be used later as the basis for the positional papers as they begin to identify options and solutions to the issues and concerns.

POSITIONAL PAPERS: The issue papers will be expanded into positional papers using the direction provided through the participation process and recommendations developed, as accepted by the Regional Board, by the Working Groups. These papers will summarize the goals and strategies that will be used to develop options and scenarios. These papers will be posted on the Regional Growth Strategy website so the community can view them. Hardcopies will be available by request.

PUBLIC SURVEY: An on-line AND hardcopy survey will provide a means for larger numbers of people to vote for a preferred scenario and provide feedback on the RGS options. The survey will be especially important in creating access to the process for people who are unable to, or prefer not to, attend public meetings. In addition, respondents will have opportunities to comment on how preferred options could be modified and strengthened.

The survey will be designed to be user-friendly, so that it is clear and easy to use in both the on-line and hard copy versions.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: Throughout the entire Regional Growth Strategy process, written submissions from citizens, community groups, and non-government groups for input will be accepted by the RDNO. Particular attention will be paid to encouraging written submissions during key stages of the Regional Growth Strategy process (including public participation events).

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS/OPEN HOUSES: A Phase I public information session will be held to introduce the concept of the Regional Growth Strategy process to regional residents. Input from the community will be encouraged and feedback will be shared with the Growth Issues Working Groups and Community Advisory Committee for consideration. The objective of the public information session is to build interest and momentum for the Regional Growth Strategy while providing an opportunity for public input and insight early in the process.

Phase II public open-houses will provide an opportunity for comment on the preferred option chosen which will be described in detail in the draft Regional Growth Strategy.

A public open house will be held during Phase III, providing the public an opportunity to review the draft Regional Growth Strategy in advance of the formal public hearing.

The open houses will be advertised in the local paper and media releases sent to both the television and radio stations. Open houses will then be held to provide opportunities for public input and review of the Regional Growth Strategy progress and outcomes at key stages of the process.

FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING: A formal public hearing will be held at a central location within the Region once final comments have been received from member municipalities, electoral area representatives, and First Nations' Councils and these comments have been addressed within the Draft Regional Growth Strategy. The formal public hearing, as required, will be the last opportunity for public participation regarding the development of the Regional Growth Strategy. The Regional Growth Strategy, after the public hearing, must be formally referred to all member municipalities and electoral area. Each jurisdiction has 120 days in which to review the RGS before notifying the regional district board whether it is accepted.

AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES: Youth and senior engagement initiatives are key elements of the Participation Plan, targeting youth that does not normally get involved in the planning process, as well as seniors that may not have the access or mobility to other participation opportunities. Youth and students are a key underrepresented group within the participation process and this group will inherit the Regional Growth Strategy policies and strategies that will be developed. As well, senior engagement activities will encourage input on senior-related issues, concerns, and potential opportunities related to growth issues can be explored, represented, and considered within the larger participation process. Targeted effort must be advanced to ensure that youth and senior perspectives, issues, and regional future vision are reflected in the final product. A Youth Engagement Strategy and a Seniors Engagement Strategy will be developed in early 2009.

REPORTING ON THE PARTICIPATION PROCESS: The Regional District is committed to providing summaries and updates on the process through four main channels: public consultation reports, web-site updates, monthly updates to the Regional Growth Management Advisory Committee, Regional Board, and municipal and First Nations council, and quarterly RGS newsletters.

The public consultation reports and interim updates to council will include all comments and feedback received at the

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY PRINCIPLES:

It is critical for the success of this process to develop a communication strategy that will ensure that the principles of participation are met. These principles include:

- Inclusivity – every one in the region has the right to be involved in the process and should be afforded the opportunity to view the information and have the ability to respond in a timely manner.
- Equitability – every group and resident is treated equitably and fairly in that no extra weight or strength is given to one group over another – everyone’s view and opinion is valid.
- Readability – while every profession has its jargon, all materials will be prepared in a manner such that any resident of the region is able to read and understand the documentation.
- Accessibility – all materials will be as accessible to the public as possible through a number of formats and medium including newsletters, newspapers, web sites, open houses, and other meetings formats.

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY WEBSITE: A new web page will be created to act as an online repository of information related to the RGS. This web page will provide links to the project terms of reference, work plan, consultation plan, press releases, advertisements for public events, and related staff reports (as these items become available). The web page will also provide contact information and instructions for submitting comments on the draft amendment bylaw.

To ensure that the public can easily locate the new RGS web page, a link will be added to the main RDNO web page (<http://www.rdno.ca>), and other RDNO web pages as necessary. The web site will also be referenced in any letters to stakeholders or newspaper advertisements.

OTHER COMMUNICATION TOOLS: A range of additional communication tools will be used throughout the Regional Growth Strategy participation process to inform and engage the general public and interested parties. Informing residents and interested organizations will be important for raising the profile of the Regional Growth Strategy process; building and maintaining interest; raising awareness of growth management issues in general, and more specifically, what growth means for our Regional District; keeping people updated on progress; and, informing people about opportunities to provide input and feedback.

Additional communication tools will be used to support participation events, including display materials and advertising in local media outlets to inform residents and other interested parties about key participation events. Communication tools will be designed to reach the largest possible audience within the Region.

AMENDMENTS

The Participation Plan is a living document that will evolve and change over time to reflect the lessons learned throughout the Regional Growth Strategy process. The Participation Plan, at key points in the process, will be re-evaluated, refined, and updated and the most recent version of the Participation Plan will be posted on the Regional Growth Strategy website.

5. CONCLUSION

By implementing this Participation Plan, the Regional Board will ensure strong inclusion of elected officials, First Nations, residents and other interested parties in the creation of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Effectively engaging the full spectrum of local and regional interests will be necessary to create a common vision of the region and a clear strategy for moving toward that vision.

The communication tools described in this plan will inform residents and interested organizations of opportunities to participate more effectively in the Regional Growth Strategy process. Raising public awareness about growth management priorities and options will also be useful in building a strong foundation, in each community of the region, for future implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy.

The Regional Planning Process, Timeline and Work Plan outlined the steps where public participation would occur during the process (Attachment "A"). Participation may use a number of techniques including public meetings, workbooks, open houses, focus groups, working group meetings, and committee meetings.. Information about the regional planning process, issues, and concepts for future growth will be distributed using newsletters, the Regional Growth Strategy website, Regional Board reports, local newspapers, and other media. In addition, both non-statistical and statistical questionnaires and/or surveys may be used.

The participation tools identified within this plan will provide opportunities, across the spectrum of participation, to access the Regional Growth Strategy process. Providing the opportunity for dialogue, listening, and learning within the process is the purpose of this plan. Strong connections between the participatory outcomes and the Regional Growth Strategy process will ultimately reflect the inclusivity and transparency of the process. The resulting Regional Growth Strategy will reflect the vision and goals of the community and participants, guiding the development of the region over the next generation and beyond.








Phase I: Building a Foundation				Year
Task	Date	Output	Status	
Establish RGS Steering Committee and Meeting Schedule	Mar 2008 - Apr 2009	Meeting Minutes	Monthly	2008
Establish Intergovernmental Agency Committee and Meeting Schedule	Mar 2008 - Apr 2009	Meeting Minutes	As Needed	
First Nations Pre-consultation	Mar 2008 - Apr 2009	Summary Report	In Progress	
First Nations Consultation/C2C Activities	Mar 2008-Apr 2009	Reports	Future	
Participation Plan Development	Sept - Oct 2008	Participation Plan	Under Revision	
Regional Growth Terms of Reference Re-confirmation - municipal councils and Regional Board	Feb - Mar 2009	N/A	In Progress	2009
Participation Plan Referral to municipal councils, provincial government, and First Nations	Dec 2008-Jan 2009	N/A	In Progress	
Website Development and Launch	Jan 2009	Website	Complete	
Developing RGS Name`	Mar 2009	Name	In Progress	
Monthly Updates to all municipal councils and First Nations	First Update in May 2009	Summary Report	Ongoing	
Regional Growth Strategy Presentations to First Nations and municipal councils	Jan - Mar 2009	Presentation	In Progress	
RGS Presentations to community groups and other interested parties	Jan 2009 - April 2010	Presentation	Ongoing	
Press Release and advertising for Working Group participation	Feb - Mar 2009	Media release	Complete	
Confirming Working Groups	May-Jun 2009	Report to RB	Future	
Working Group Orientation Session	May 2009	N/A	Future	
Establish Growth issues Working Groups	Jun 2009	Meeting Minutes	Future	
Growth Issue Working Groups Meeting Schedule	Jun 2009	Meeting Minutes	Monthly	
Establish Community Advisory Committee	Jun 2009	Meeting Minutes	Monthly	
Development of the RGS On-line Newsletter	Feb - Mar 2009	Two Format Newsletter	Quarterly	
Web development of comment section	Feb - Apr 2009	Issues Comment	Complete	
Development and Implementation of Youth Engagement Strategy	Apr-Jun 2009	Quarterly Report	In Progress	
Development and Implementation of Senior Engagement Strategy	Apr-Jun 2009	Quarterly Report	In Progress	
Elected Officials' Forum I - Refinement of vision, objectives, and growth issues	Apr 16th 2009	Facilitator Report	Complete	
Public Information Session/Open House I –Vernon, Enderby, Lumby	Late June 2009	N/A	Future	
Public Open House/Information Session Summary	Jul - Aug 2009	Summary Report	Future	
Participation Plan Review and Amendment	Jun - Jul 2009	N/A	Future	
Summary of Phase I Outcomes	Sept 2009	Report to Regional Board	Future	

Phase II: Planning, Analysis, Evaluation, and Tradeoffs			
Task	Date	Output	Status
RGS Management Advisory Committee Meetings	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Meeting Minutes	Monthly
Intergovernmental Agency Committee Meetings	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Meeting Minutes	As Needed
Community Advisory Committee Meetings	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Meeting Minutes	As Needed
Growth issues Working Groups' Meetings	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Meeting Minutes	As Needed
Public Comment - Growth Issues	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Public Comments	Ongoing
Development, Posting, and Circulation of the RGS On-line Newsletter	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Two Format Newsletter	Ongoing
Webpage Content and Layout Revision and Update	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Webpage	Ongoing
Presentations to organizations and community groups	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Presentation	Ongoing
News releases at key points in the process	Jun 2009 - Jun 2010	Media release	Ongoing
Monthly Updates to all municipal councils and First Nations	Jun 2009 -Jun 2010	Summary Report	Ongoing
Committee and Working Group Break	Jul – Aug 2009	No meeting scheduled	Future
Press Release and advertisement for growth scenario public survey	Feb 2010	Media release	Future
Regional Ideas Symposium	Apr 2010	Summary Report	Future
Regional Growth Strategy Public Survey: Choosing a Growth Scenario	Mar –May 2010	N/A	Future
Public Information Session/Open House II -Vernon, Lumby, Enderby - Choosing a scenario	Jun 2010	N/A	Future
Summary of Public Information Session/Open House Series II	Jun 2010	Summary Report	Future
Summary of Public Survey Results - with preferred option	Jun 2010	Public Survey Results Report	Future
Elected Officials Forum: to discuss the proposed growth alternatives and potential growth policies during the development phase	Jun 2010	Meeting Minutes and Summary Report	Future
Summary Report of Elected Officials Forum Results	Jun 2010	Summary Report	Future
Alternative Scenario Choice - Media Release after Board resolution	Jun 2010	media release	Future
Draft Regional Growth Strategy based upon results of Phase II	Jun – Aug 2010	Draft Regional Growth Strategy	Future

2009

2010

Phase III: Drafting the Regional Growth Strategy Document and Bylaw Process				
Task	Date	Output	Status	
RGS Management Advisory Committee Meetings	Jul 2010 - Aug 2011	Meeting Minutes	Monthly	2010
Intergovernmental Agency Committee Meetings	Jul 2010 - Aug 2011	Meeting Minutes	As Needed	
Development, Posting, and Circulation of the RGS On-line Newsletter	Jul 2010 - Aug 2011	Two Format Newsletter	Quarterly	
Presentations to organizations and community groups	Jul 2010 - Aug 2011	N/A	Ongoing	
News releases at key points in the process	Jul 2010 - Aug 2011	New Release	Ongoing	
Monthly Updates to all municipal councils and First Nations	Jul 2010 - Aug 2011	Report to RB/Council	Ongoing	
Post the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw on the Webpage with - Public comment on RGS Bylaw	Oct 2010	Draft Regional Growth Strategy, Comment Card	Future	
Public Information Session/Open House III -Vernon, Enderby, Lumby	Nov 2010	N/A	Future	
RGS Comment Card Summary Report	Nov 2010	Summary Report	Future	
Draft RGS Modification based upon feedback from the public, elected officials, First Nations, and government representatives	Nov 2010	RB Report on Recommendation for RGS Amendments	Future	
First Reading of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw by the Regional Board	Nov 2010	Board Resolution		
Second Reading of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw by the Regional Board	Dec 2010	Board Resolution	Future	
(Optional) Elected Official's Forum; to discuss Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw before Public Hearing	Dec 2010	Meeting Minutes and Summary Report	Future	
Negotiation of Agreement between all affected local governments	Dec 2010 - Mar 2011	N/A	Future	
Forward Draft Regional Growth Strategy to member municipalities, Electoral Areas, and First Nations for final review and municipal acceptance (120 day Approval Period) - Section 857.4	Mar -May 2011	N/A	Future	
Acceptance of Regional Growth Strategy Policy Document by municipal partners, electoral areas, and First Nations governments	May 2011	N/A	Future	2011
Regional Growth Strategy Public Hearing	Jun 2011	Meeting Minutes	Future	
Amend Regional Growth Strategy to address comments provided during the Public Hearing	Jun 2011	Amended Draft RGS Policy Document	Future	
Third Reading of Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw by Regional Board	July 2011	Board Resolution	Future	
Adoption of Regional Growth Strategy	Aug 2011	RGS Document	Future	
Implementation of Regional Growth Strategy	Sept 2011	Implementation and Monitoring Evaluations	Future	

Legend	
Key Deliverables	
Media and Communications	
Public Participation Events	
Meetings	
Summary Reports	
RGS Bylaw Process	
Consultant Reports/Activities	
Optional	