

Regional District of North Okanagan

Regional Growth Strategy



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

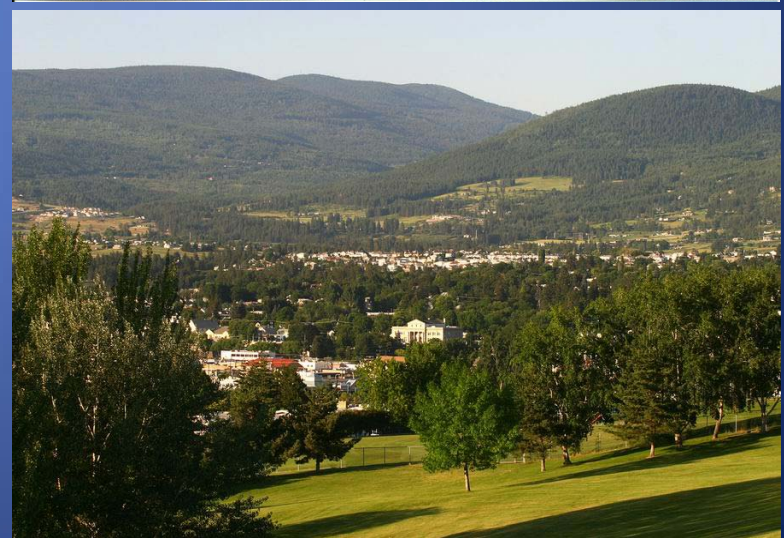
Functional Purpose:

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

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

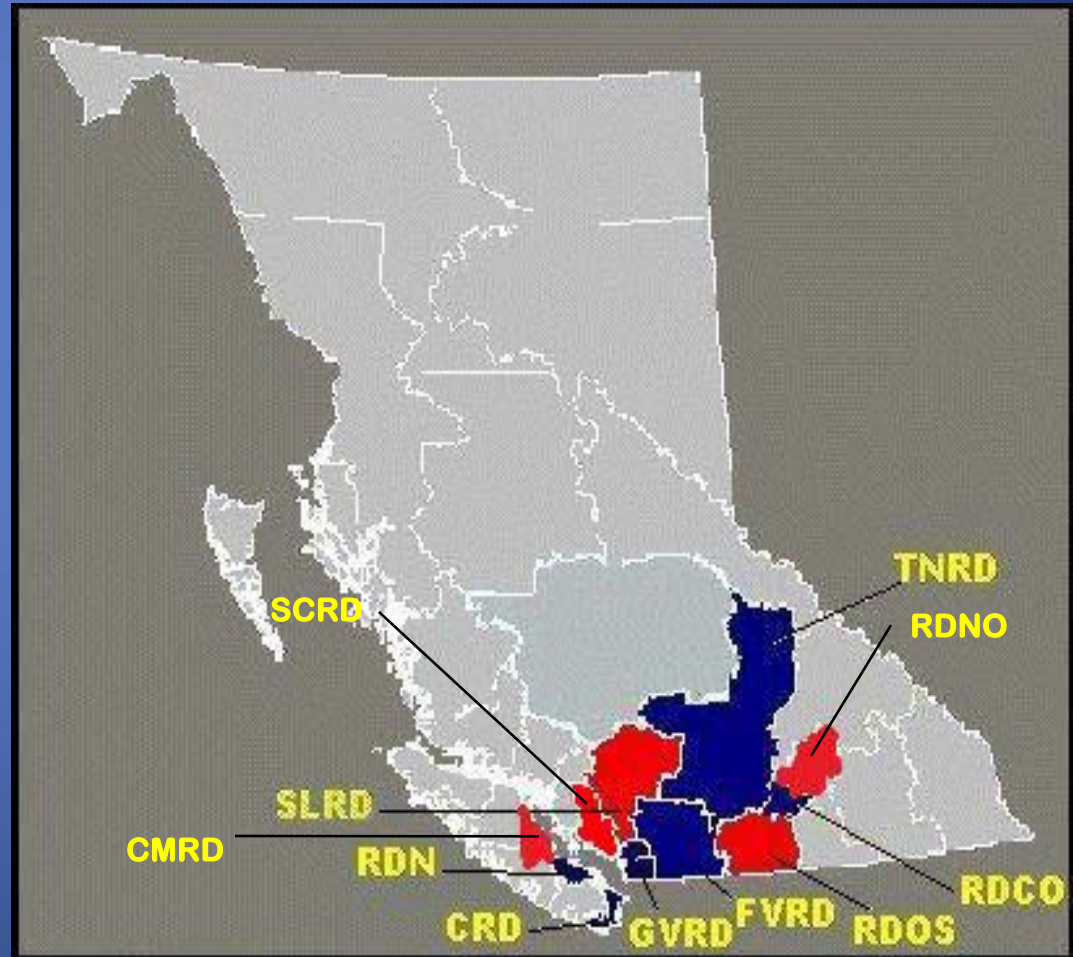
Regional Growth Strategies in Other Regions

Adopted Regional Growth Strategies

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

In Progress

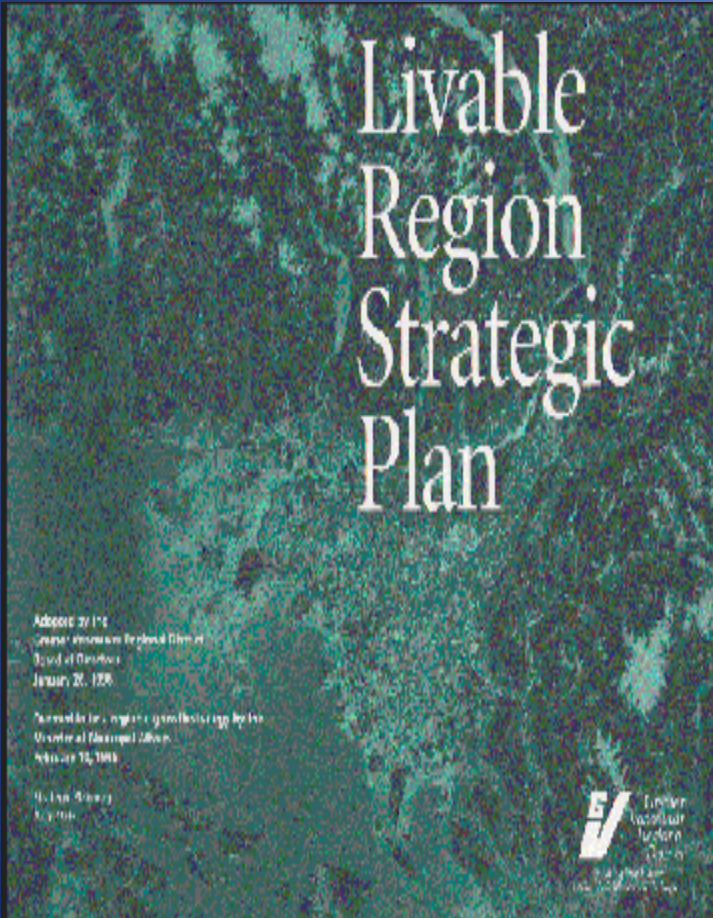
- Squamish-Lillooet RD
- Comox Valley RD
- RD North Okanagan
- Sunshine Coast RD - Scoping
- Okanagan-Similkameen RD



A Growth Strategy is a Flexible Tool

Greater Vancouver Regional District

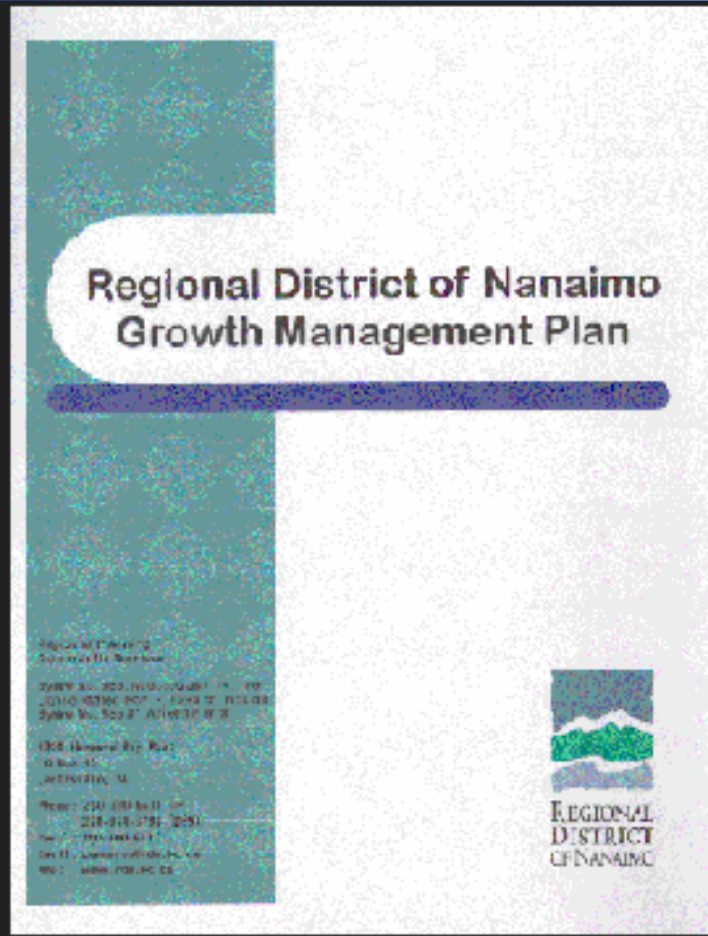
- 33 Pages
- High Level
- Four key strategies
- Allocates growth
- “Framework document”



A Growth Strategy is a Flexible Tool

Regional District of Nanaimo

- 95 Pages
- Detailed policies and designations
- 12 Maps
- 5 Appendices
- Guides all planning and servicing decisions



Key Elements

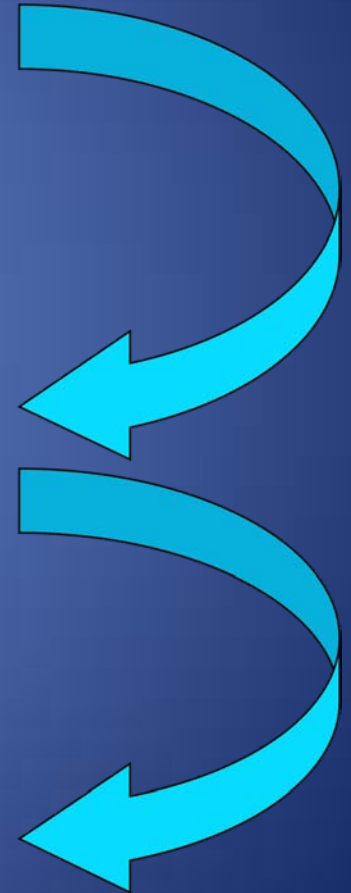
Regional Growth Strategy

OCP Bylaw

(All Municipalities and EAs)

Regional Context Statement

Implementation Agreements



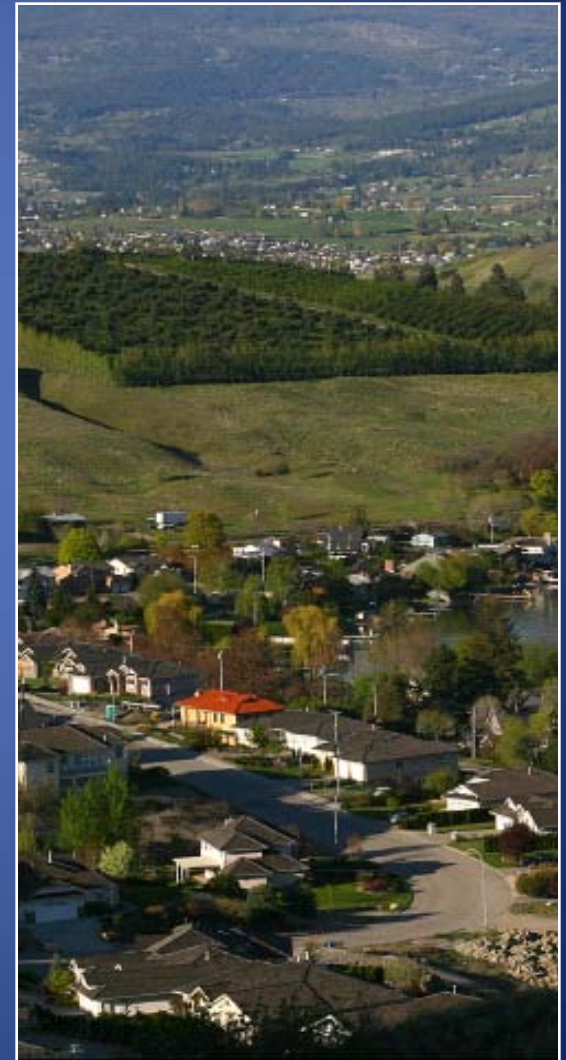
Why develop a Regional Growth Strategy?

- Addressing critical regional issues;
- Implementing Provincial programs and investments in infrastructure
- Assessing regional service efficiencies
- Better coordination of issues that transcend local jurisdictional boundaries



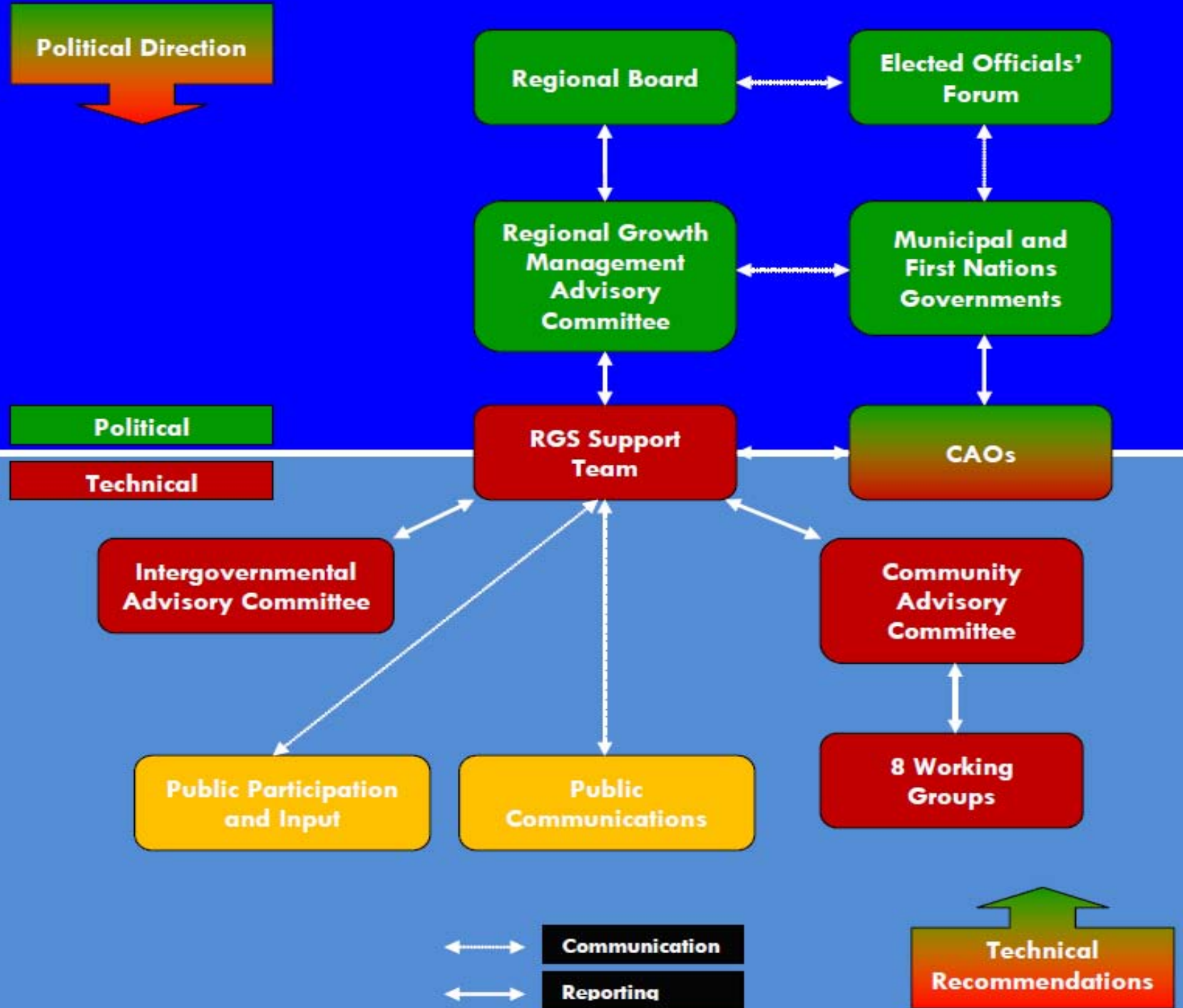
The Growth Issues

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

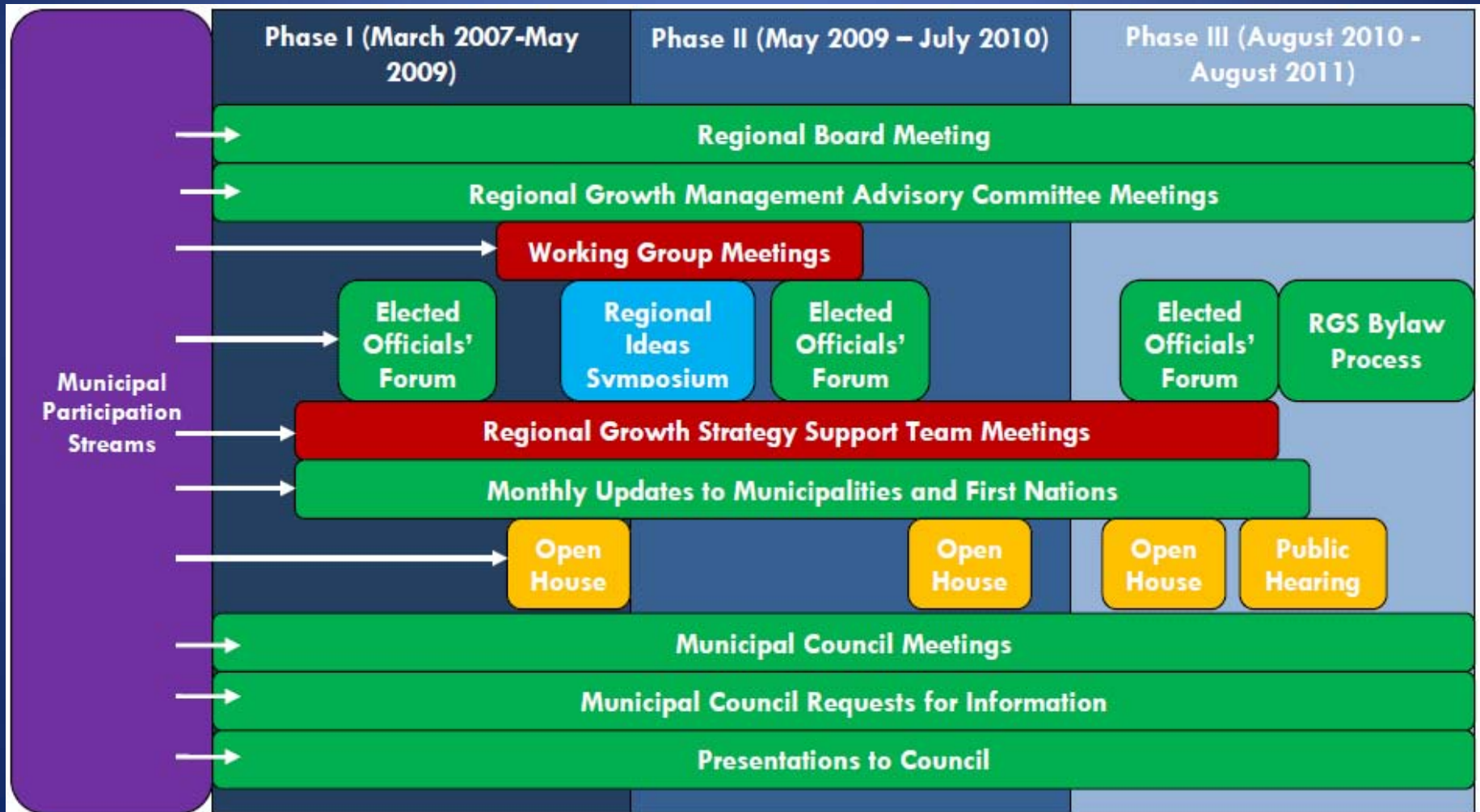


Iterative Process





Municipalities and Participation



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.

Public Participation Opportunities
(AT KEY POINTS IN THE PROCESS)

Phase I: Building a Foundation

- **Project Initiation**
- Development of **Terms of Reference** including a vision statement, draft work plan and guiding principles
- Development a **Participation Plan** to ensure extensive and meaningful public, First Nations and stakeholder participation and engagement throughout the process
- Local and regional planning policy **Literature Review**
- Regional **Population, Employment, and Housing Projections** with a 20 year time horizon
- Growth scenario **Base Case** development
- Preliminary **Issues Identification** draft report
- **Confirm** vision statement, guiding principles and participation plan



Phase II: Planning, Analysis, Evaluation, and Trade-offs

- **Key issues** review and refinement
- Formulation of **goals and objectives, performance indicators**
- Generation and analysis of **Alternative Growth Scenarios** and policy alternatives
- **Evaluation** of growth scenarios and policy alternatives
- **Assessment of Trade-offs** between growth scenarios
- **Choosing a Growth Scenario!**



Phase III: Regional Growth Strategy Final Draft Preparation and Bylaw Process

- Preparation of **Draft Regional Growth Strategy** and Implementation Strategy
- **Negotiation** of agreement between all affected local governments
- **Acceptance** of Regional Growth Strategy by affected local governments
- **Adoption** of Regional Growth Strategy (bylaw process including public hearings)
- **Implementation and Monitoring**

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011



NEXT STEPS – Phase I!

- Re-confirming the Terms of Reference
- Participation Plan Implementation
- Regional Growth Base Case Model: 2008-2031
- Forming the Working Groups
- Elected Officials Forum - scheduled April 16th
2009

Any Questions ?

