



News Release

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Process Begins to Update the Regional Growth Strategy

In the year 2000, the average price of gasoline in the Central Okanagan was 70 cents a litre, cell phones were larger than your hand and television featured a different kind of reality.

There've been many changes too in the Central Okanagan since the Regional District adopted its first Growth Management Strategy over ten years ago. Many more people are living here, an additional local municipality has been created and there are new challenges pressuring our climate, environment and transportation infrastructure. In order to address them for the future, the Regional District of Central Okanagan is embarking on a process to review and update its Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).

The Regional Growth Strategy is a strategic plan approved by the Regional Board after extensive discussion and input involving local governments, other stakeholders and the public. The RGS provides a consistent and coordinated regional approach for growth management issues between different jurisdictions to guide them in the development of their Official Community Plans, bylaws and other policies that make efficient use of land and resources while sustaining social, economic and environmentally healthy communities.

The existing plan was adopted in 2000 in response to concerns about the impacts of rapid population growth and development. The Central Okanagan remains one of the fastest growing areas in the Province and is expected to be home to an estimated 238,000 people by 2025 (BC Stats People Projection 35 - July 2010).

It's anticipated the process to update the Regional Growth Strategy will take more than a year to complete. It's anticipated that the initial phase of consultations will identify key areas of importance to the community. These will include Climate Change, Housing, Transportation, Regional District Services, Parks and Natural Areas and Economic Development. In addition to participation from local Councils, municipal staff and other stakeholders (Regional District of Central Okanagan, City of Kelowna, District's of West Kelowna, Lake Country and Peachland, Provincial ministries and agencies, Irrigation Districts, School District No. 23, Interior Health and local First Nations), residents and businesses will have opportunities to get involved and provide

feedback that will help craft a new vision for the future that protects the quality of life we enjoy in the Central Okanagan.

Information and opportunities for input and involvement throughout the Regional Growth Strategy process will be publicized and available through the Regional District website at regionaldistrict.com/growth.

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