



## Table of Contents

1 What we heard: framing and visioning.....	3
1.1 What we Heard: Issues, Goals and Policy Objectives .....	5
1.2 What we Heard: Growth Scenarios .....	22
1.3 What we Heard: Participant Information.....	27
2 Elected Officials Forum .....	28
2.1 What has the RGS done for you lately discussion .....	28
2.2 Draft goals and policy objectives discussion .....	30
2.3 Elected Officials Forum evaluation form responses .....	34

## 1 What we heard: framing and visioning

Question: Think ahead to 2032 in the Central Okanagan... It's a stretch! What do you hope your life will be like? How old will you be (if you will still be around!), and how would you like to be spending your time? How about your friends, family, and neighbours – what will their lives be like in the future that you hope for? What will life be like for a child and a teenager? And a senior? What will peoples' homes be like, and how will they get around (personal jetpacks, anyone!)? How will people feel about their financial situations, and how healthy will they be? What will the quality of the environment be like? Where will energy, water, and food come from, and where will waste go? What will it take for you and your family to stay in the region until 2032?

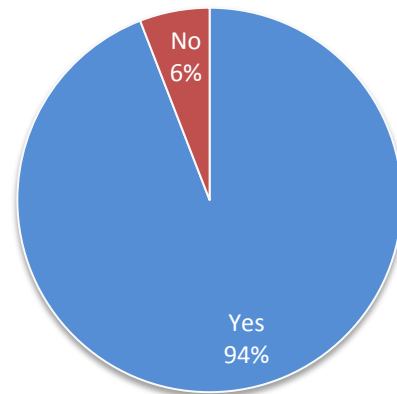
### **Themed Responses - Vision:**

- General: model sustainable, resilient, beautiful community with great quality of life and active, healthy lifestyles where sustainable lifestyle choices are the easier ones
- Issue 1 – Our Housing: more affordable housing options for people of all ages and incomes; densify around centres, protect undeveloped land, retain smaller community and neighbourhood feel of some communities and centres
- Issue 2 – Our Health: more accessible open spaces, public spaces, beaches and facilities for recreation
- Issue 3 – Our Ecosystems: waste reduction through composting
- Issue 4 – Our Land: families; take advantage/protect beauty of local landscape – don't build everywhere
- Issue 5 – Our Water: protect for habitat and ecosystems, for health, for beauty of region
- Issue 6 – Our Food: support local food and food security
- Issue 7 – Our Transportation: improved infrastructure for transit, bike, walking; streamlined road infrastructure to reduce congestion
- Issue 8 – Our Economy: more opportunities for work – for me and for my children; support local merchants, local value-added production; bring in non-polluting technologies, industries, eco-tourism, businesses that give back to community
- Issue 9 – Our Governance: local governments to collaborate and think and plan for long term; community building - more communication channels, way for public to be heard and affect change

**Question: Do you agree with this vision?**

“The Central Okanagan is a region of urban and rural communities that are interconnected, distinct, vibrant and welcoming. The citizens, businesses, First Nations Councils and local governments understand and accept that they are individually and jointly responsible for the well-being of the natural environment that we all inhabit. Together and from this time forward, the citizens and governments of the Central Okanagan will work in partnership to create a sustainable and diversified economy that protects the natural environment while providing a range of economic opportunities for today's and tomorrow's residents.”

**Do you agree with this vision?**



**Themed Response - Vision:**

- Strengthening collaboration, getting municipalities to work together, involving citizens, and improved governance models all essential to achieving vision

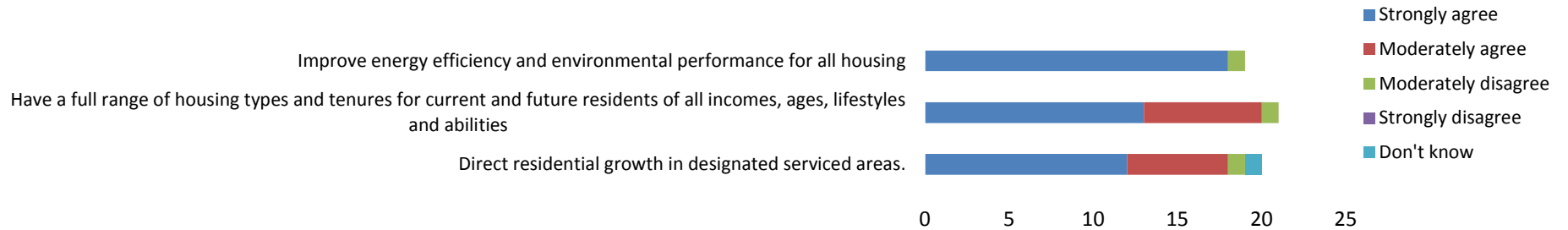
## 1.1 What we Heard: Issues, Goals and Policy Objectives

The following charts illustrate the results of the online workbook.

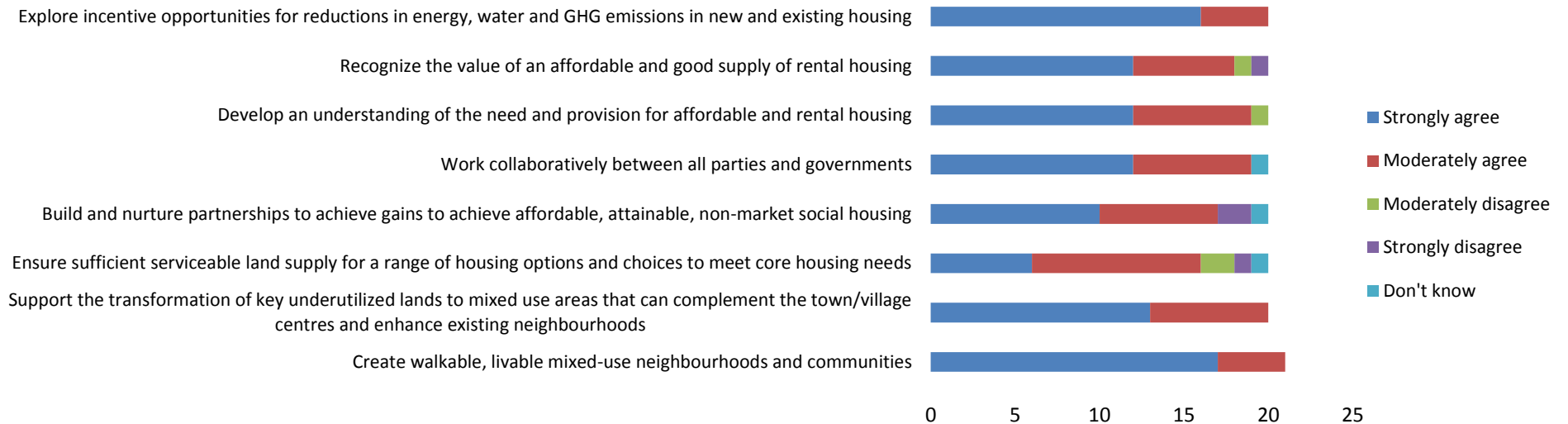


### Issue 1 – Our Housing

#### Level of support for the draft housing goals:



#### Level of support for the draft housing objectives:



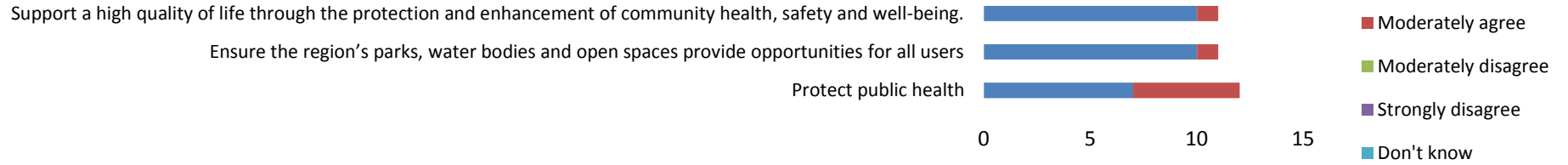
**Themed Responses – Housing Goals and Objectives:**

- Needs to be balanced with other land uses that are important for sustainable community – active farmland, park spaces, transportation, long-term asset management
- Consider urban containment boundary
- Developers should be responsible for/RDCO should be concerned about full costs of infrastructure (short- and long-term) to service hillside and other sprawling development. Incentives provided to densify/build in existing areas
- Standards/strategies/requirements to increase energy and water efficiency
- Walkable and mixed-use in the context of the whole region, not just in one development (otherwise they are still car dependent – Kettle Valley and Wilden as examples)

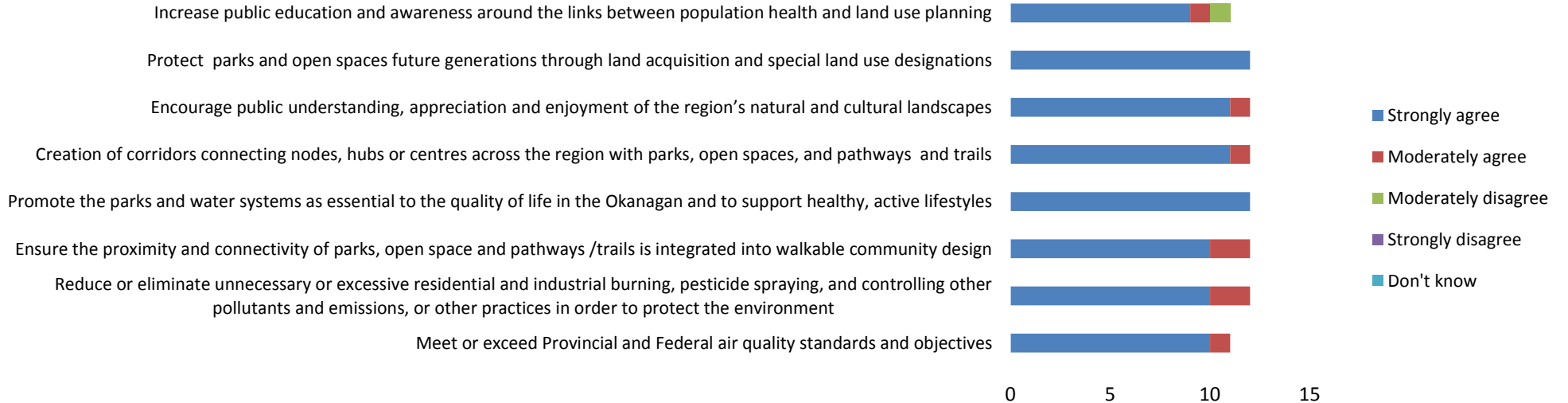


Issue 2 – Our Health

Level of support with draft housing objectives:



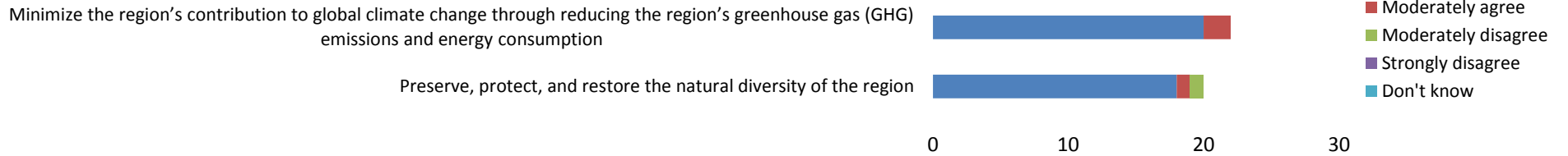
LoF support with the draft housing objectives:



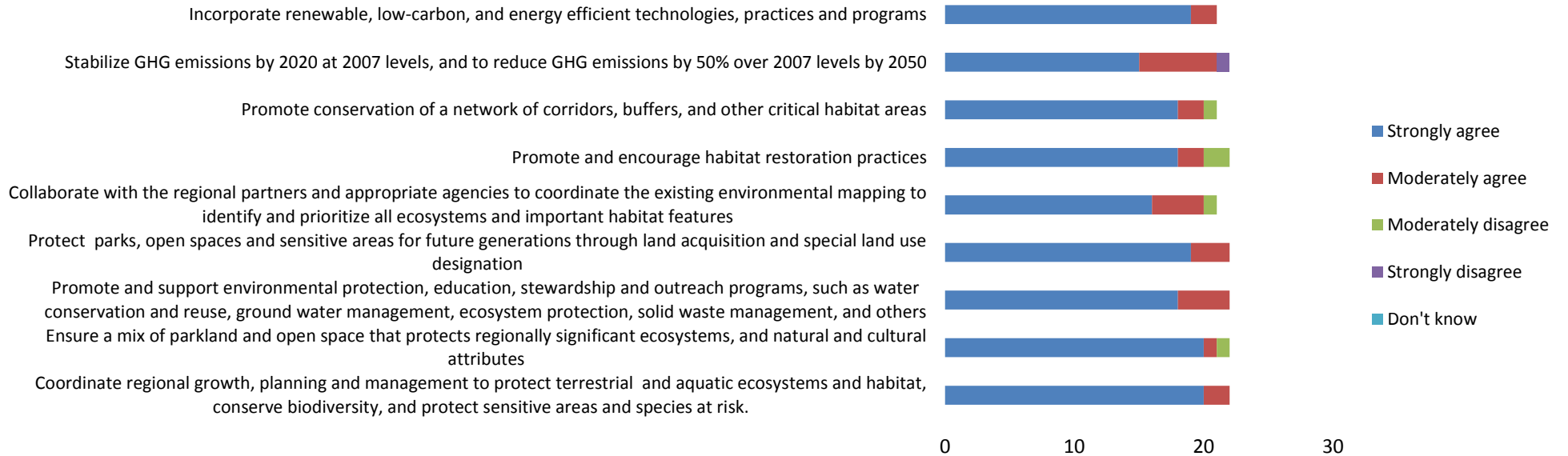


### Issue 3 – Our Ecosystem

#### Level of support for the draft ecosystem goals:



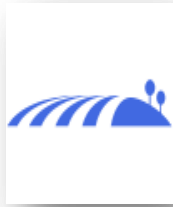
#### Level of support for the draft ecosystem objectives:





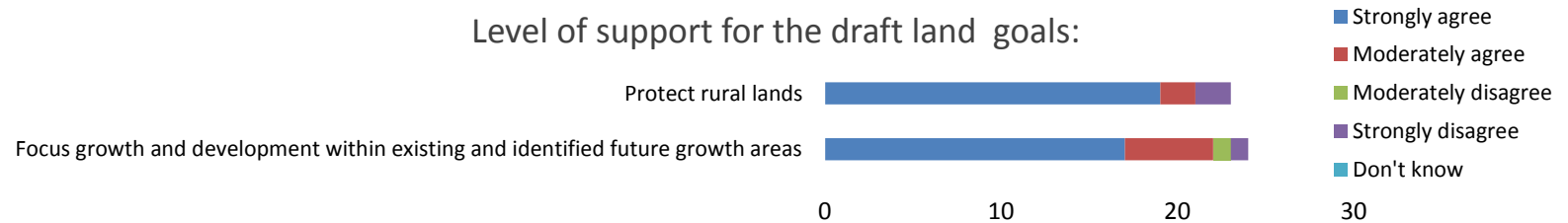
**Themed Responses – Ecosystems Goals and Objectives:**

- More parkland, especially non-maintained/wild spaces
- Consider sustainable uses for all user groups to enjoy and focus on protection rather than restoration: eco-tourism (sailboating/fishing vs speed boating); harvesting from the land; fishing, hunting, hiking, outdoor pursuits; protect heritage values of rural areas; promote wise use of backcountry and more people appreciating nature
- Cannot protect integrity of natural environment by achieving balance with development; stop urban sprawl
- GHG emissions on downward trend; set same/more ambitious reduction goal to help regional partners work together

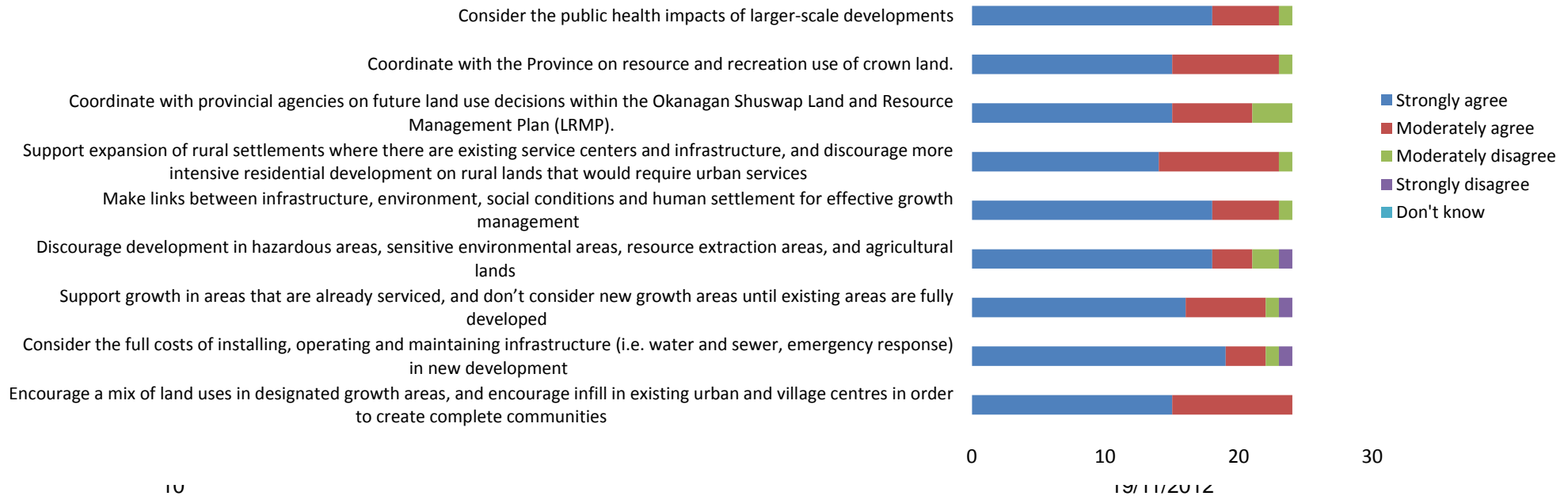


Issue 4 – Our Land

Level of support for the draft land goals:



Level of support for the draft land objectives:



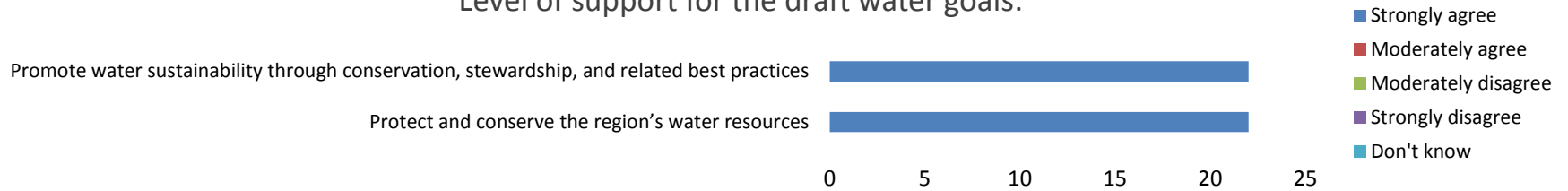
### **Themed Responses – Land Goals and Objectives**

- Limit urban sprawl; development in brownfields and existing centres; allowing growth in “future growth areas” means more sprawl and is what got us into this mess; treat large scale developments differently (more controls) than homeowners wanting to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> house on a large lot
- Use stronger word than “discourage” development in sensitive areas if the community doesn’t want it
- Developers to pay for full costs of services, other taxpayers shouldn’t cover these; prevent surprise infrastructure assessments/upgrades for future homeowners
- Agricultural land: need to be protected; this is what makes our community appealing; livelihoods of farmers need to be considered as well; infrastructure costs of not allowing development on poorer ALR land that should be developed (e.g. Glenmore area)

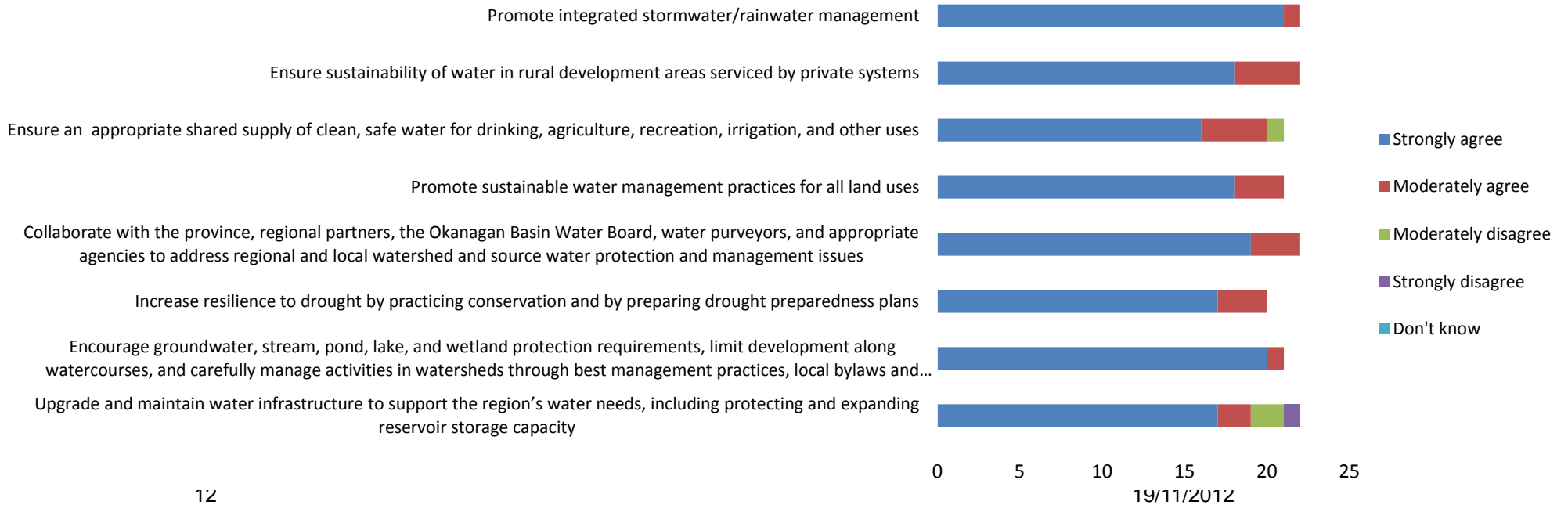


Issue 5 – Our Water

Level of support for the draft water goals:



Level of support for the draft water objectives:



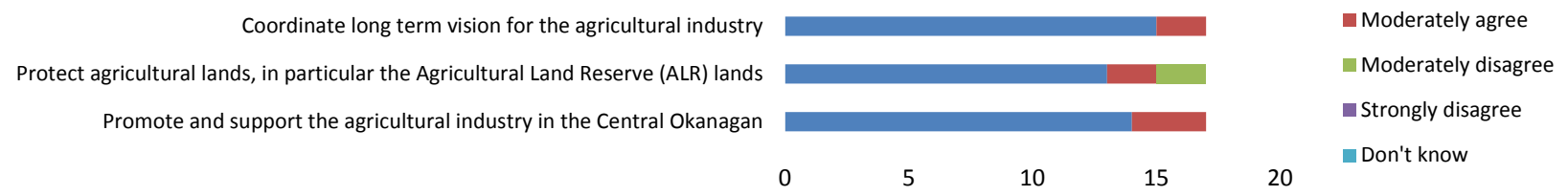
### **Themed Responses – Water Goals and Objectives**

- Need both carrots/incentives (to conserve water) and sticks (compliance monitoring, enforcement, annual inspections to identify polluters, higher fees, restrictions on watering, review and adjust water licenses)
- Use what we have with existing capacity rather than expanding more upland reservoir capacity

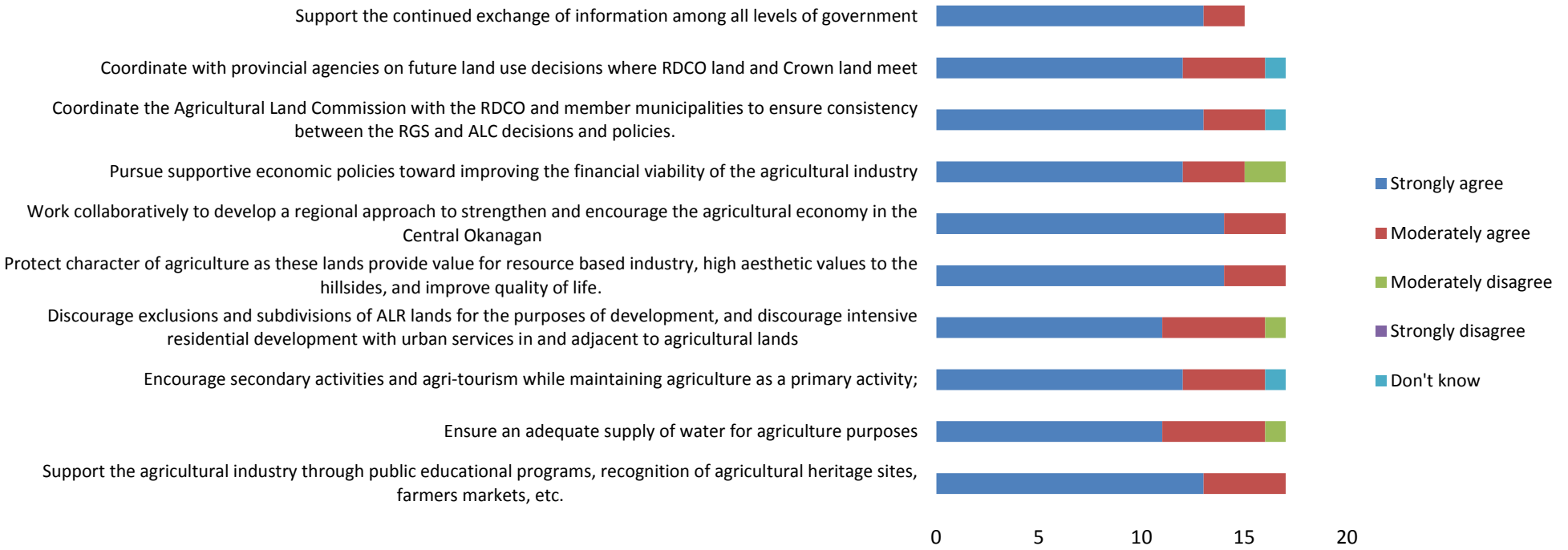


Issue 6 – Our Food

Level of support for the draft food goals:



Level of support for the draft food objectives:



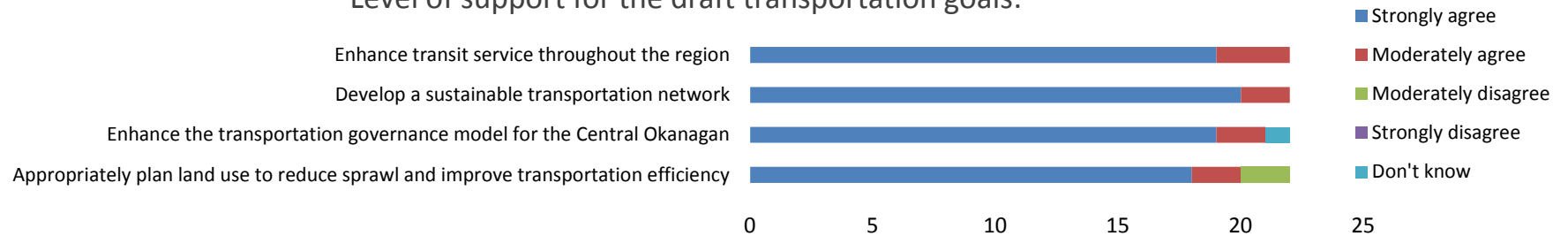
### **Themed Responses – Food Goals and Objectives**

- Senior government collaboration: economic development, modernizing ALR rules, involving farmers in consultation
- Maximize locally grown food: regional agriculture plan, urban agriculture policy
- Practices: encourage organic, large greenhouses to extend production



## Issue 7 – Our Transportation

### Level of support for the draft transportation goals:

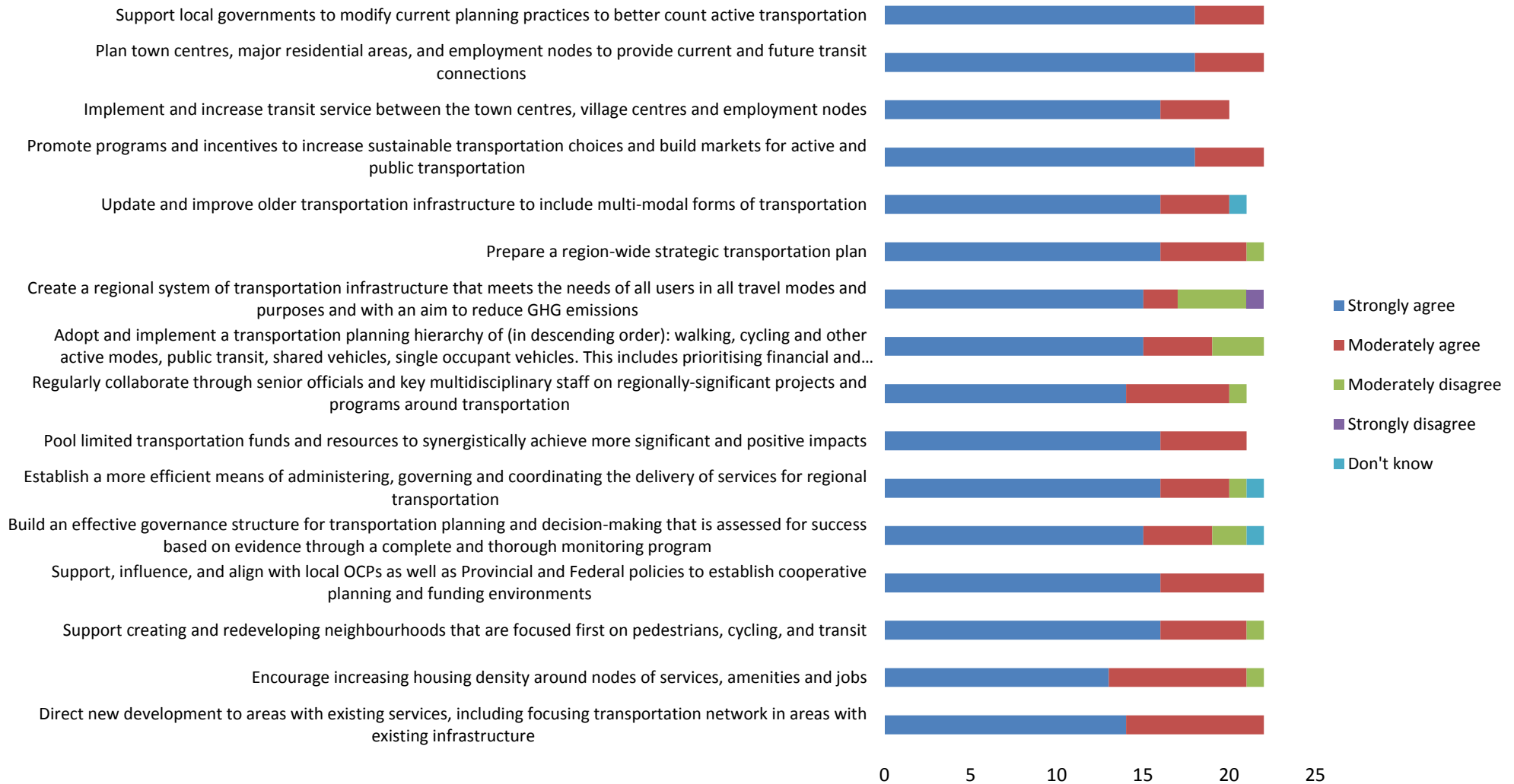


### Themed Responses – Transportation Goals and Objectives

- Multi-modal improvements needed focused on sustainable transport, particularly transit (better frequency, more efficient, more areas serviced) and bikes (adopt 8-80 model - 8yr olds and 80 year olds should both feel safe using bike lanes, bike drop stations, bike lanes)
- Limit expansion of roads; divert typical road budget into bike, walk, transit
- Use disincentives to single occupant vehicles (toll on Harvey, planned congestion)
- Consider appropriate sustainable transportation options for rural areas



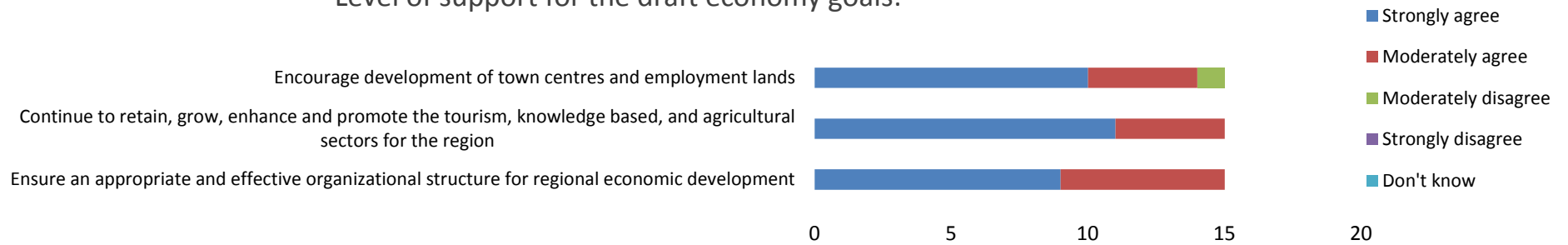
## Level of support for the draft transportation objectives:





## Issue 8 – Our Economy

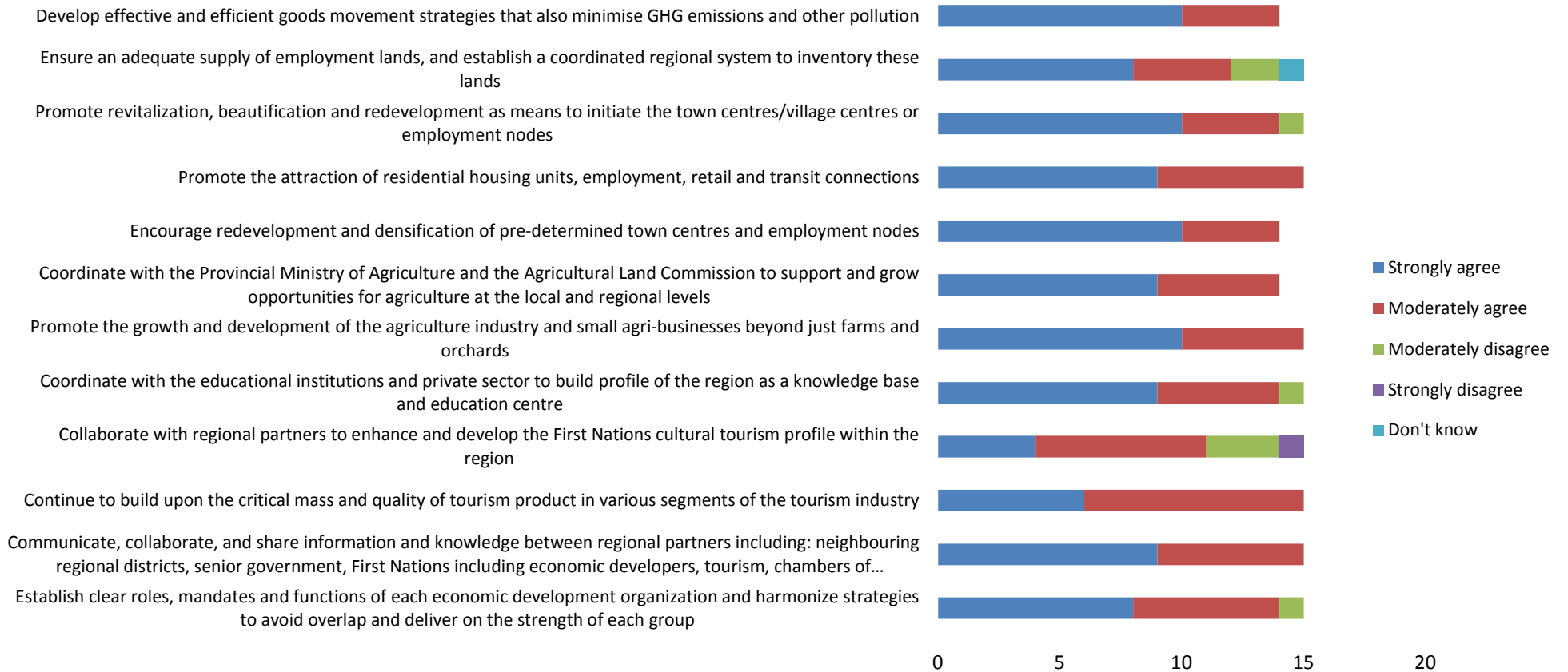
### Level of support for the draft economy goals:



### Themed Responses – Economy Goals and Objectives

- Limited comments, no themes mentioned 2+ times

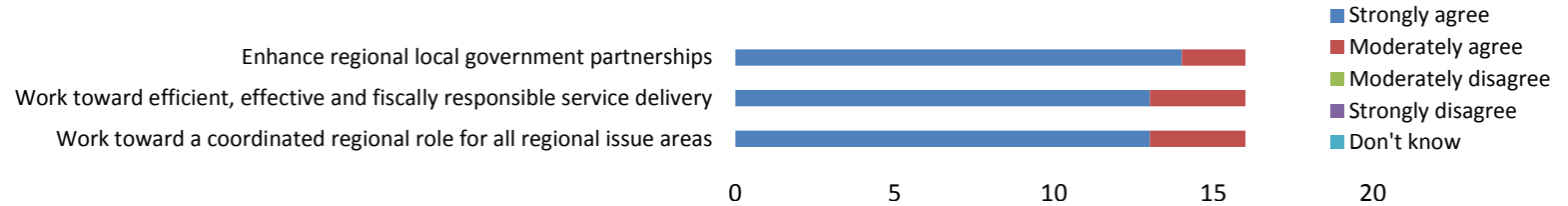
## Level of support for the draft economy objectives:



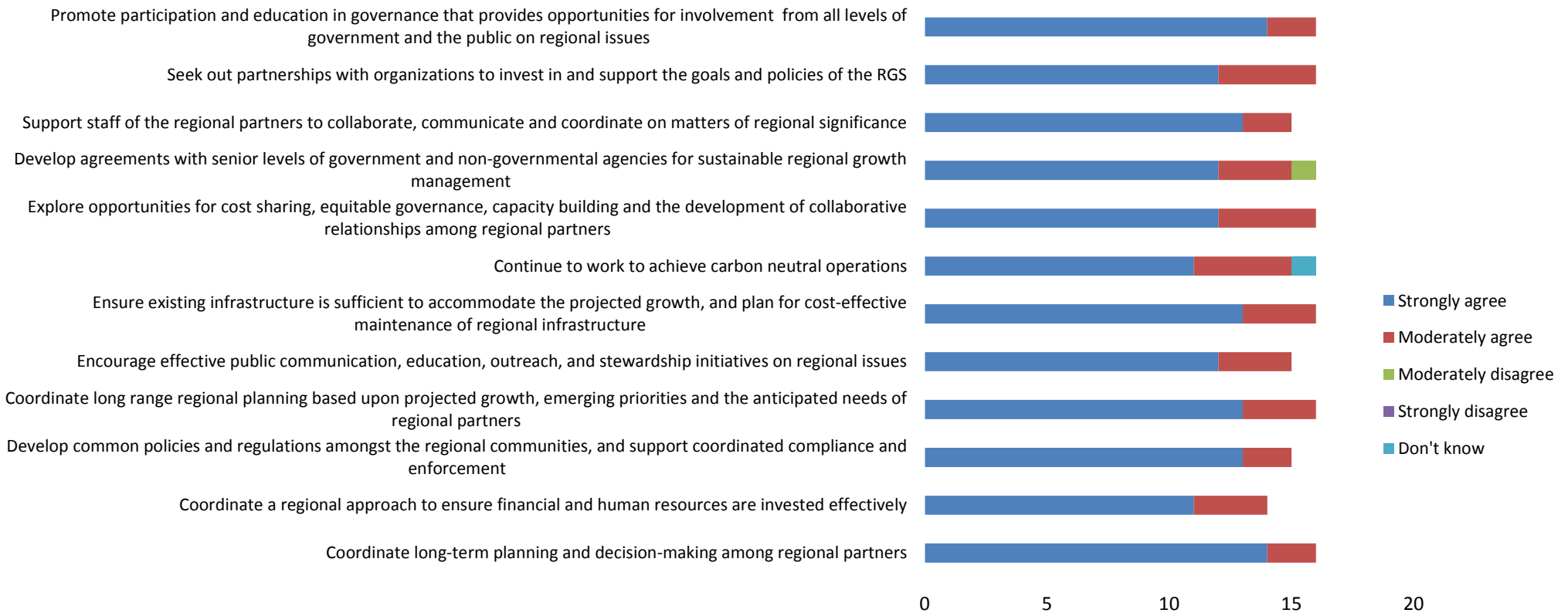


## Issue 9 – Our Governance

### Level of support for the draft governance goals:



### Level of support for the draft governance objectives:



### **Themed Responses – Governance Goals and Objectives**

- Limited comments, no themes mentioned 2+ times

## 1.2 What we Heard: Growth Scenarios

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on two potential future growth scenarios for 2032, and were given information about the current state (using 2007) data for context. The two future growth scenarios were built using the results of the Greenhouse Gas Implications of Land-Use Scenarios for the RDCO background report, as well as components of the discussion papers.

### Current state



19% of homes are multi-family



31,430 people live within 5 min walk of transit station, 18% of the population



2,555 people live within 5 min walk of town centre, 1.5% of the population



36,700 ha of forest cover



20% of food locally grown is locally consumed



0.9 tonnes of solid waste to the landfill per person

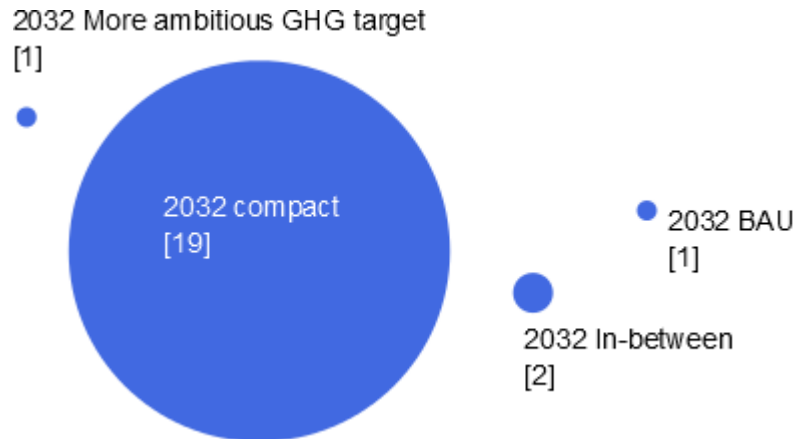


Average vehicle trip is 15 km

Comparison of land use options

<b>Issues</b>	<b>2032 Business as Usual</b>	<b>2032 Compact</b>
Greenhouse gas emissions	Increasing	Small reduction
Housing	New construction is mostly single family	New construction is mostly apartments, and townhomes; all housing is more energy efficient
Transportation	Less people living near public transit	More people using public transit, cycling and walking; more electric vehicle infrastructure
Average car trips	Longer and more of them	Shorter and less of them
People living near town centres	Less	More
Forest cover	Same	More
Environmental protection	Sensitive areas continue to be impacted by development	More sensitive areas protected from development
Local food grown and eaten	Less land available for local food production	More land available for local production
Solid waste sent to landfill	More	Less

**Question – Describe your desired scenario**



**Question (for groups) - What aspects of favourite scenario are shared? Where did you find the most agreement?**

**Themed Responses:**

- Forest cover; preservation of natural open space and environmentally sensitive areas; land and water protection; wild habitats
- Local food
- Public transit, transportation, reduce average car trips
- Housing; less sprawl; condensed housing; less destruction of land in single family subdivisions

**Question (for groups) - Where is there disagreement? Where were there divergent views?**



**Themed Responses:**

- Housing: need mix of single/multi-family; need to maximize already developed areas; “cheek-by-jowl” living/cheaply built multi-family rather than energy efficient and comfortable; most people want own patch of quiet space rather than high density;
- Greenhouse gas emissions; should be gradually decreasing
- People living near centres; transit; transit system that works for seniors; proximity of jobs to housing; all want public transportation but cost is too high
- More land for local food production; need to allow for single family housing and individual transport in order for agriculture to work

**Question - What excites you about these potential futures?****Themed Responses:**

- Protection of environment
- Improved infrastructure; sustainable transportation
- Better neighbourhoods with smart planning; higher density urban form; residing in livable, sustainable, clean community

**Question - What worries you about these potential futures?****Themed Responses:**

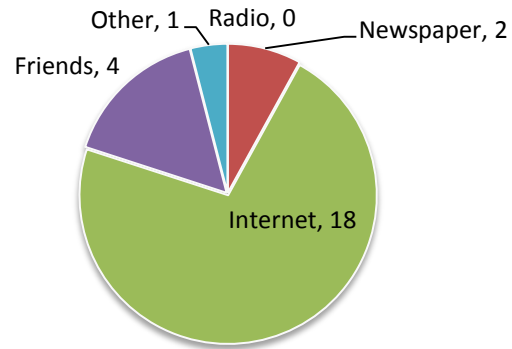
- Leaders won't carry through with necessary actions; other interests slow/derail for personal/financial reasons; those with most power to steer future not acting on behalf of majority; plans will fall apart in face of greedy and influential developers and politicians beholden to them; lack of collaboration and shared vision with each municipality; each city must have accountability for decision making that compliments larger vision
- Poor planning
- Cost of improvements; economics and how region will support all in making a reasonable living

**Question - If you could distil the discussion tonight into one key message to send back to the RDCO as they update the regional growth strategy and the preferred growth scenario, what would it be?**

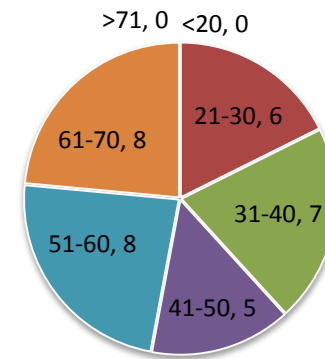
- Do it; make changes happen; don't give up
- Keep the dialogue alive among citizens and local and senior levels of government; partnerships, communication, sharing of information with public and reasons for decisions taken; education; listen to what people want and elected leaders represent their constituents; focus on working together
- Growth within urban containment; don't allow destructive developments; keep high density in urban areas and low density in rural; development that supports existing neighbourhoods while improving and investing in current infrastructure
- Connect communities through sustainability; actively protect environment; land preservation of natural open areas, agricultural land, ecologically sensitive areas, train connections
- Support local food production and consumption
- More wealth-creating growth; living wage in the Valley
- Not having transportation requirements dominate future state; more active transportation less vehicles

### 1.3 What we Heard: Participant Information

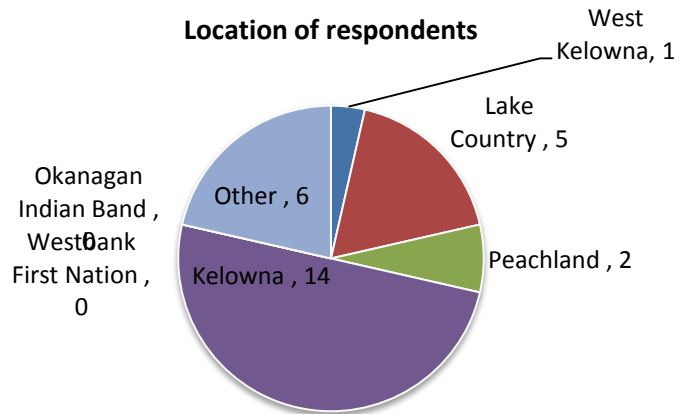
Where respondents heard about the survey



Age of respondents



Location of respondents



## 2 Elected Officials Forum

The Elected Officials Forum was hosted on October 18 2012 at the Okanagan College. All elected officials and senior staff from local governments and First Nations, as well as staff from the Province were invited and 46 attended this evening event. There was representation from District of Peachland, District of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, the RDCO, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, and the Regional District of the North Okanagan.

The first half of the evening provided the context for the discussion, and included an update on the RGS Review, a panel discussion with the Province and RDNO about the purpose and hopes for a renewed RGS, and presentations on each of the discussion papers. The second half of the evening focused on discussion, dialogue and feedback from participants on the purpose of the RGS review as well as on the goals and objectives drafted for each of the nine issue areas. Here is what was heard, including themed responses (those mentioned 2+ times). In all cases responses have retained the wording used by the forum participants.

### 2.1 What has the RGS done for you lately discussion

**Question – What have we learned through the previous RGS? Was it effective in general? In certain policy directions?**

#### **Responses**

- Smart decisions made due to foresight; need to look at bigger picture; better to work together; we are all integrated – need to collaborate, need opportunities to collaborate; good cooperative planning (example of Tahoe cited); collaboration with OBWB is important
- OCPs are working toward this: support containment boundaries, secondary suites, town centre idea, regional park strategy, water conservation, triple bottom line view
- Hwy 97 as an “urban corridor” to density – as opposed to centres as a “spine” of region
- Clear targets; don’t want to talk about platitudes
- Transit multi-modal; cycling investment; bus rapid transit

**Question – Where are the best opportunities to make the RGS more effective this time?**

**Responses**

- How do we do this while addressing the discrepancies between different jurisdictions; allow individuality while agreeing on principles and objectives; standardization of development terms, processes
- Put the strategy in our Council Chambers; need a legislated solution to implement effective change; take ownership; raise profile of our initiatives
- Include some teeth in the strategy, e.g. urban growth boundaries; inter-jurisdictional authority to fund transportation; link grant funding to working together on the strategy; more prescriptive policy needed
- Town centres concept is key; walkable community; mixed use centres
- Need to involve youth (RDNO); involve youth as stewards of the vision; future generations will likely want smaller footprint houses; future generations are thinking differently – no need for big homes
- Excited to see WFN at the table; WFN has to be at the table
- Need opportunities to collaborate; excited about concept of collaboration
- Identify economic benefits of enduring the strategies; protecting the environment is good for the bottom line

**Question – What might hold us back from having an effective RGS?**

**Responses**

- Gap between theory and practice; too general, motherhood and apple pie type statements; RGS not in the OCPs, quoted in reports but not measured, don't really know if its working or how well its working; need to be intentional in identifying our priorities and commit to meet them; challenge to distill down to a manageable level; stuck with existing approvals; aligning all OCPs/policy amongst communities; discussion about plans between communities; unwillingness to participate in regional services; RGS sat on shelf, unfamiliar with it; municipalities did not change development strategies but stuck to their existing OCPs; modal split not shifted, housing unaffordability, sprawl continues

- Redefine regional role - needs to be more practical; need to understand what the RDCO does now; need to define what RDCO does and choose 3-5 issues to focus on in regards to collaboration and region building to start seeing some successes
- Collaboration and partnership still just words, not enough action; being selfish; addressing competition between jurisdictions; competing with each other over commercial interests; tendency to be self-focused; competing regions (multiple town centres); West Kelowna does not want to be bound by RGS; WFN as competitor makes for problems in region; lot of resistance to a loss of autonomy
- Come to agree regarding GHG/measure; difficult to meet GHG targets
- Provincial decisions on Crown land impacting watersheds, conservation lands; role of MOTI – importance of highway to region, 800m buffer sign-off is not popular; not settling land claims
- Public not buying in; more effective public engagement

#### **Question – What can I do to support a more effective RGS?**

#### **Responses**

- Go for it; elected officials be engaged, stay engaged

### **2.2 Draft goals and policy objectives discussion**

- Detailed feedback was collected on the goals and policy objectives during the forum. Participants were asked to review the draft goal and the draft policy objectives, and were asked to consider them in light of two additional questions: 1. Are they good enough given where we've said we need to be going; and 2. What would they mean in 2062? What follows is a summary of the comments received for each of the issue areas.

#### **Comments across multiple issue areas**

- Some language is too broad, too general, and needs to be more focused, specific and action-oriented
- RGS is often too diluted, need to include details
- Include reference to First Nations governments throughout wherever other levels of government are mentioned
- Ensure commitment of partners to the new RGS

### **Issue 1 – Our Housing**

- Universal access to housing for all incomes
- Focus future density on main corridors (highway's 97 and 33, Gordon Dr.)
- Meet core housing needs within designated growth boundaries
- Use remote rural lots for single family homes
- Consider a regional housing authority
- Seek Provincial support (legislation) to ensure green building practices in new and renovated structures
- Through planning, reduce vehicle kilometers traveled for work, live and play trips
- Every community should have an affordable housing strategy

### **Issue 2 – Our Health**

- Need a fuller consideration of the determinants of health in framing this section (poverty, housing, recreation, education, tobacco addiction, etc.)
- Parks and recreation should have its own category; health as a topic on its own is problematic unless better focused
- Better laws to encourage efficient wood burning appliances
- Consider burning to mitigate forest fires
- The desirability of walking will be replaced by the necessity of it
- Add blue paths – canoeing, kayaking
- Want to see active parks
- Create separate bicycle routes, not adjacent to roads
- Better signage to encourage public appreciation of natural and cultural landscapes

### **Issue 3 – Our Ecosystems**

- Want to see stronger language, with teeth, used throughout

#### **Issue 4 – Our Land**

- New development has rigorous fiscal analysis and only what is beneficial is built
- Water, water sources, and other resources are well protected
- There is another mechanism in place to control agricultural land use, in addition to ALR
- Province works with municipalities and First Nations on development of a land and resource management plan
- Ensure ALR can be effectively and affordably farmed
- Plan to reduce vehicle kilometers traveled for work, live and play
- Concentrate on land uses so development goes in appropriate areas
- Work with MOTI to coordinate wayfinding and directional/gateway; signage consistent across the region
- Develop around educational centres

#### **Issue 5 – Our Water**

- Inconsistent rules around water quality standards
- Province has downloaded too many responsibilities for watershed, source water protection and management issues
- Restrict damaging recreation activity in watersheds
- Set a measurable per capita water use reduction target
- Require metering of all water sources (surface and ground)
- Infill development and limit rural sprawl by establishing rural containment
- Consistent governance of water is needed

#### **Issue 6 – Our Food**

- Need for improved water management systems to manage useage on agricultural land
- Ensure long-term protection for ALR lands
- Encourage terraced hillside wine growing
- Need for help from Provincial and Federal governments in order to compete (e.g. Washington State) and grow the agricultural economy
- Create a valley agricultural land commission



- Ensure policy provisions regarding genetically modified foods
- Promote food safety initiatives

#### **Issue 7 – Our Transportation**

- Consider light rail from Lake Country to Peachland in the long-term
- Focus on green transportation
- Recognize that transit need to be funded as a core necessity – will never function unless highly subsidized
- Develop viable transit funding models
- Include transportation demand management strategies

#### **Issue 8 – Our Economy**

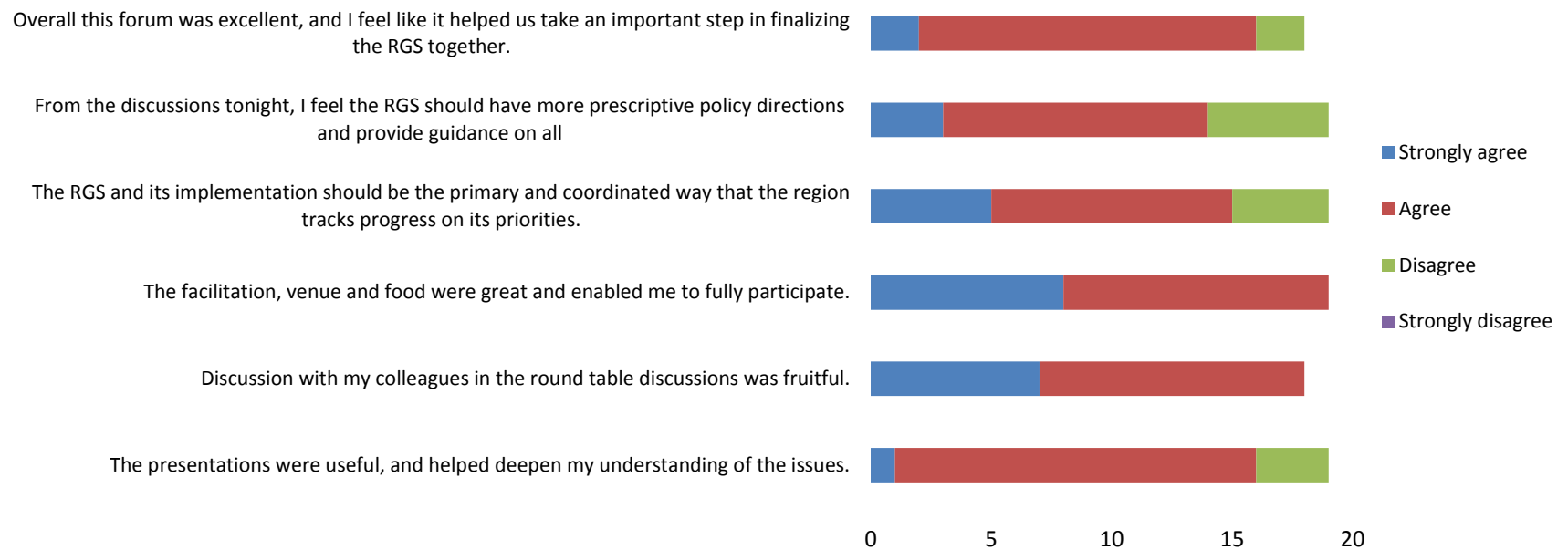
- Rural areas remain green, smart to the environment, walkable urban connectivity
- Diverse housing forms
- New jobs
- Use highway 97 as a “skytrain” corridor, but bypass Peachland

#### **Issue 9 – Our Governance**

- Redefined roles and composition of regional entities
- Consider legislative change – a Regional District version of community charter
- Standardized legislation, e.g. zoning bylaw
- Important action to share information, develop common understandings of bylaws, common analysis/evaluation of outcomes
- Need to define what “regional infrastructure” includes
- Consider disincentives for lack of collaboration
- Give local authority for decisions, within a broader framework
- Determine “defining issues” for regional governance – which issues are most important to work together on with a regional voice – and focus on these

## 2.3 Elected Officials Forum evaluation form responses

### Elected official s evaluation form



# Regional Growth Strategy

## Youth Engagement Report

### APPENDIX 2: DETAILED RESULTS