

# RGS Five-Year Review

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

April 26, 2021

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Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4  
[rdco.com](http://rdco.com)



# Purpose

- Summary of input received through the RGS 5-Year Review Consultation Plan
- Consider the need for a review of the Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy; *Our Home, Our Future.*

# Background

- *Local Government Act*
  - At least once every five years the Regional District must consider whether the RGS should be reviewed for possible amendment

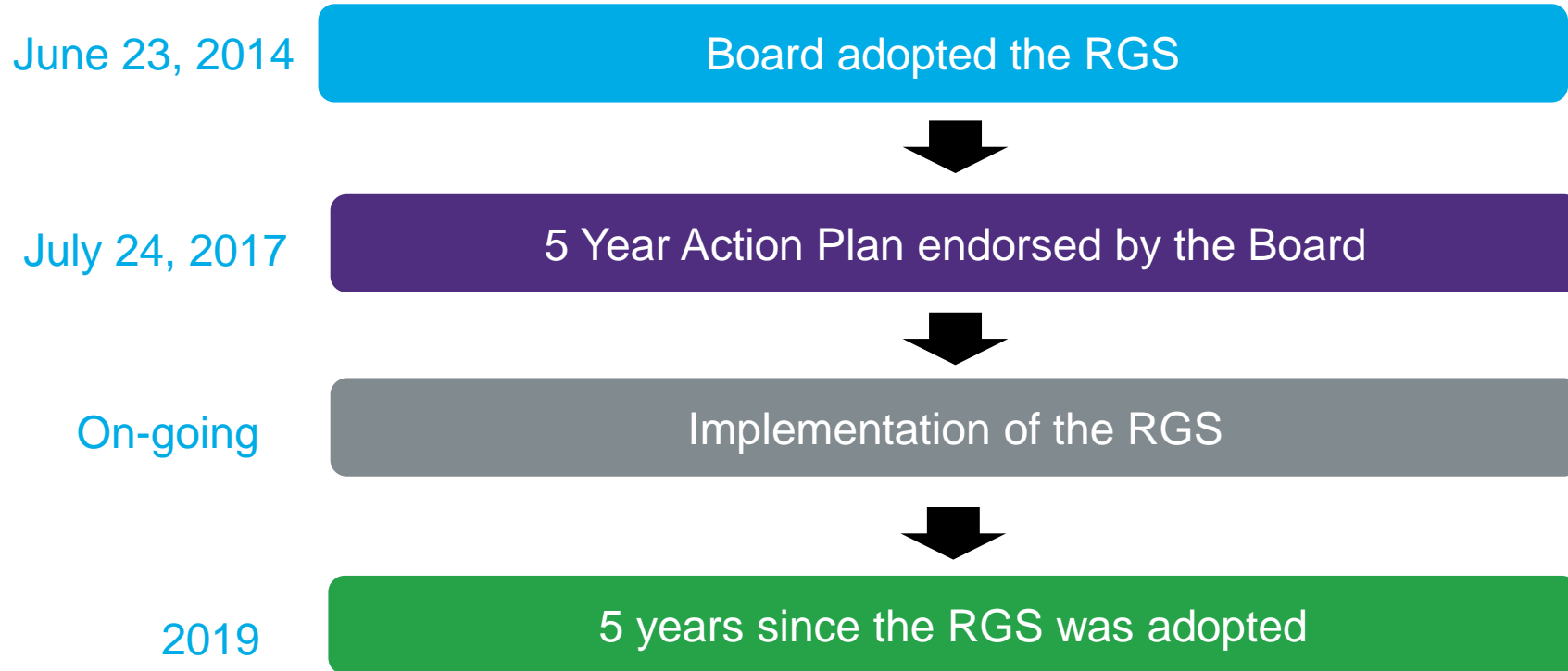
AND

- Provide opportunity for input on whether the RGS should be reviewed

# Consultation Plan



# RDCO Regional Growth Strategy



# Regional Growth Strategy

- Agreed future vision by local governments
- Long range plan – 20 years
- Broad goals for a region
- Reflected in local government plans and policies
- Implementation & Monitoring



# Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy *"Our Home, Our Future"*



## Schedule 'A'

Bylaw No.1336, 2013



Source: Pictures BC





## REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

## Your Future

## VISION

You are invited to help us  
with a shared vision... Come see

- COLLABORATION - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
- HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

And... ideas?

## HIGHLIGHTS

SINCE 2000 RGS ADOPTION:

- Steady growth in population, housing and employment
- Growth in NYC Chinatown
- Incorporation of the District of Columbia
- Expansion of Rhinecliff International Airport and improvement along the Hudson River corridor
- New Tappan Bridge
- Increased efficiency and expansion of public transit
- Reduction of air emissions and consumption levels
- Expansion of regional transit systems
- Increased density of land use, transit, and public facilities
- Expansion of infrastructure and services
- Enhancement of regional growth vision and implementation through Regional Growth Strategies in the municipalities comprising the area

## AGREED ISSUES

- Regional Governance and Service Delivery
- Housing
- Environmental Protection
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Economic Development
- Transportation

### the GOALS of the organizational process:

### EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS:

1. Raise the level of awareness of the RGS
2. Obtain input for the future regional vision
3. Identify issues of concern to regional growth management
4. Present input and feedback that helps to update the current RGS

The AIDS crisis is an equally representative of how people themselves have come to understand public communication. Involvement, communication, education, together, a combination of the three processes will not a successful public campaign. Education, which includes the following: awareness, power, and self-protection. (Kilbourne, 1990) that will provide valuable information and help in the fight to end the AIDS epidemic.

- EGS review, establish baseline and issues inventory.

PHASE 1 2010

REVIEW RGS, ESTABLISH BASELINE ISSUES AND INVENTORY

PHASE 2 2011

## EXPLORE ISSUES AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES

PHASE 3 2012

PHASE 4 20  
IMPLEMENTATION

- Collaboration among project implementation partners
- Action on R&D with
- Preparation of R&D

RGS  
AMENDMENT  
ACCEPTANCE AND  
ADOPTION

Shahbaz.com.wordpress.com



# Implementation

- Many projects completed, in progress, or planned across the region
- RGS Steering Committee
- 5 year action plan
  - projects supporting various RGS policies and Issue Areas
- Existing RGS framework provides flexibility for implementation

# RGS Priority Projects Plan

- 5 year action plan which outlines the priority initiatives to implement *Our Home, Our Future*
  - 9 projects supporting various RGS policies and Issue Areas
  - consideration for a Five-year Review was identified as one of the projects

# Five-Year Action Plan Summary – Status Update

#	Project	
1	Regional Flood Management Plan	Phase 2 Complete Phase 3 In progress
2	Regional Planning Lab	Ongoing
3	Regional Housing Needs Assessment	Complete
4	Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Program	Complete
5	Regional Citizen Survey	2021
6	Regional Housing Strategy	2021
7	Regional Growth Strategy Five-year Review	Regional Board to decide whether or not to undertake this project - 2021
8	Regional Agricultural Strategy	TBD
9	Regional Employment Lands Inventory	TBD

## Other

Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy	In progress
Next Five-Year Action Plan	TBD

# RGS Legislation

- Similar processes in other jurisdictions have highlighted issues with the RGS legislation
  - Costly and time consuming processes
  - Challenges with process and content
- Comprehensive review and update of RGS legislation is needed



Making a difference...together

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June 26, 2018

File: 0400-50

UBCM Members  
(via email)

Dear Regional District Board Chairs:

**RE: Request for Support regarding the Comprehensive Review of RGS Legislation by the Provincial Government**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I am writing to request your support for the Province to engage local governments in a comprehensive review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) sections of the Local Government Act.

At its June 13, 2018 meeting, the CRD Board passed the following motion:

*That a letter be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting engagement of local governments in a comprehensive review and update of Part 13 of the Local Government Act and related regulations.*

On March 14, 2018, the CRD Board adopted a new RGS bylaw (Bylaw No. 4017) following an extensive and costly eight year update process. Provincial legislation presented significant process and content challenges in preparing the RGS document (see Attachment for details). Without legislation changes, future RGS updates will likely face similar challenges. Engaging local governments in a comprehensive review and update of the 20 year old RGS legislation would help mitigate future time, cost and process risks. The decades since RGS legislation was initially introduced have seen significant shifts in provincial and local government issues and community contexts – shifts which warrant re-examining the legislation. An update is considered particularly critical in light of recent court rulings which have raised questions about the effect of RGSs. It is noted that other provinces have recently updated their growth strategy legislation.

As dated RGS legislation is a matter impacting not just the CRD, but also many other Regional Districts across the Province, the CRD has raised this matter with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and has also submitted a related resolution to be considered at this year's UBCM convention.

I encourage you to contact the Minister to indicate your support for local government engagement in a review of the RGS legislation and to submit a letter of support to UBCM for the CRD's resolution.

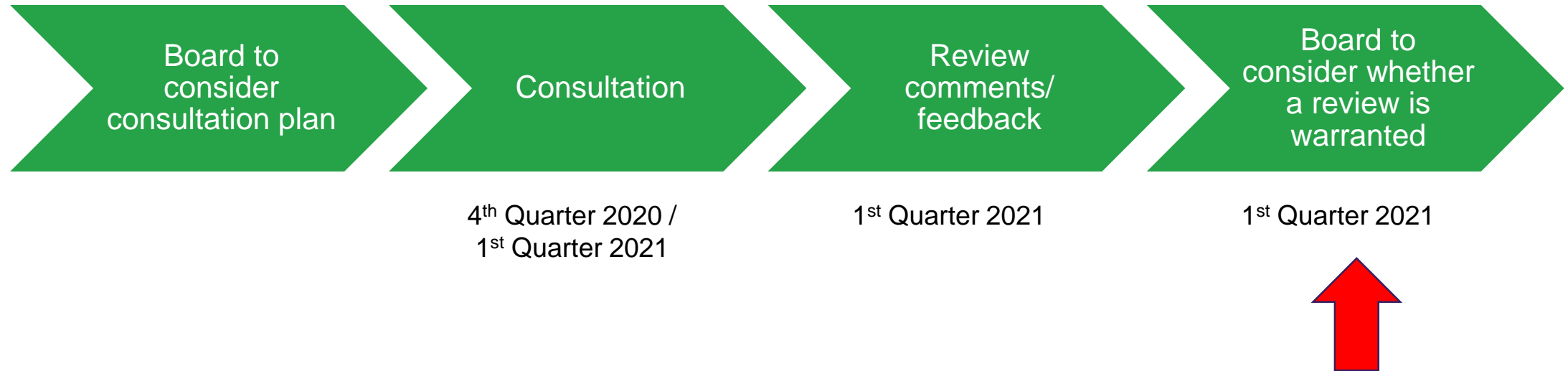
For further discussion on this matter, I can be reached at [crdchair@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdchair@crd.bc.ca) or 250-360-3126.

Sincerely,

Steve Price,



# Overview of Consideration Process



# Consultation Plan

- Opportunity for input from
  - Public
  - Affected local governments
  - First Nations
  - Provincial ministries
  - Other government agencies
  - Stakeholder groups

# District of Peachland

- Recommends the RDCO not undertake a five-year review of the Regional Growth Strategy

# City of Kelowna

- Recommends the RDCO not undertake a 5-year review of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336

# City of West Kelowna

- Recommends the RDCO not undertake a 5-year review of the Regional Growth Strategy



# District of Lake Country

- Did not recommend that the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336 be reviewed for possible amendment at this time

# Interior Health Authority

- Current RGS aligns with healthy planning principles
- Items for future consideration include:
  - the incorporation of a poverty reduction approach
  - adding an equity and inclusion lens
  - updating “Our Housing” to reflect findings from recent projects and initiatives
  - climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience

# Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries

- Contains policies that are supportive of both the agricultural land base and the agricultural industry
- Policies are still generally relevant and applicable
- Items for future consideration include:
  - upcoming 2021 Census of Agriculture
  - Regional Agriculture Strategy
  - mitigating long-term effects of COVID-19

# Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

- Continued efforts are necessary through land use planning to ensure the goals of Our Land, Water Resources, and Ecosystems are adequately addressed

# Public Notification

- Zero (0) comments received



# Summary

- Numerous successful initiatives and projects have been completed
- Ongoing implementation of the Priority Project Plan
- Opportunity to assess priorities within the existing RGS framework to identify other projects to support continued implementation
- Challenges with existing RGS legislation
- A review and update of the RGS could become a multi-year initiative which would require designated resources

# Recommendation

**THAT** the Regional Board determine a review of Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336 for possible amendment, as per Section 452 (2) of the *Local Government Act*, is not required.

**AND THAT** the Regional Board support staff efforts to actively engage with member municipalities, First Nations, Interior Health Authority and other agencies regarding continued implementation of the Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy.





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9	Regional Employment Lands Inventory	TBD

## Other

Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy	In progress
Next Five-Year Action Plan	TBD

#	Project	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Page
1	Regional Flood Management Plan: Phases 2 and 3						18
2	Regional Planning Lab						19
3	Regional Housing Needs Assessment						21
4	Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Program						23
5	Regional Citizen Survey						25
6	Regional Housing Strategy						26
7	Regional Growth Strategy Five-year Review						28
8	Regional Agricultural Strategy						29
9	Regional Employment Lands Inventory						32



Consultation Items	Intent
Regional Board	Board to consider the scope of the engagement process and endorse the consultation plan
RGS Steering Committee	Provide an update on the consultation plan.
External Referral	To provide an opportunity for affected local governments, First Nations, provincial ministries and agencies and other levels of government to provide comments and express an opinion regarding the need / or not for a review of the RGS.
Regional District of Central Okanagan Website Advertisement	Notice of a Public Meeting and information on the opportunity for public comment will be advertised on the RDCO's main webpage.
Newspaper Advertisements – Notice of Public Meeting	Notice to be placed in 2 consecutive issues of Kelowna Capital News – Black Press, Vernon Morning Star, and Kelowna Daily Courier not less than 3 days and not more than 10 days before the public meeting noting the purpose, time / date, and location of the meeting. The advert will also provide contact information for Planning staff should there be any questions from the public. Written submissions from the public in advance of the meeting will be encouraged.
Public Meeting	Public meeting to provide a formal opportunity for public input to provide comments and express an opinion regarding the need / or not for a review of the RGS.
Regional Board	Provide a decision on the need for a review of <i>Our Home, Our Future</i> , the Regional Growth Strategy.

# RGS Review and Update

- High-level review
- Input required to inform the review
- Assessment of strengths and weaknesses
- Re-evaluate solutions to persistent region-wide issues
- Responding to new legislation, initiatives, plans, research

# Alternative Recommendation

**THAT** the Board direct staff to prepare a framework for the Board's consideration to initiate a review and update of Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336.