

Recommendation	Action	Timeline	
OBJECTIVE #1: STRENGTHEN COORDINATION BETWEEN RDCO ELECTORAL AREAS, MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND FIRST NATIONS.			
4.1.1 - Create a Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force to collaborate on housing policy direction across the region to ensure local governments and First Nations have access to policy direction in neighbouring jurisdictions.	<p>Form a Regional Advocacy Task Force with elected officials from local governments and First Nations with the goal of creating greater opportunity for regional affordable housing development. Roles and responsibilities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of upcoming opportunities and connecting regional stakeholders. • Implementation of the Strategy, in particular oversight over key items (e.g. feasibility study for a regional housing service, tracking and monitoring success and impacts of the strategy (Staff role to report to Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force) • Reviewing an update to Housing Needs Report when new data becomes available (Staff role to report to Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force). • Advocating to senior government for funding and other resources. 	Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.2 - Establish a housing sub-committee of the RGS Steering Committee comprised of RDCO member staff to collaborate on housing strategies, policies, and regulations. Communicate and coordinate these strategies with local governments and First Nations so policies can be developed that align with the direction of senior governments.	<p>The Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force will monitor and analyse senior government strategy in relation to delivery of affordable housing units and encourage strategy alignment. The next step in implementation of a uniform approach to policy development across the region requires the RDCO to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a staff working group that will focus on the alignment of senior government strategy and the advocacy strategy developed by the Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force. • Monitor and report back to the Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force on progress across the region. 	Short-term	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.3 - Develop regional tools for municipalities to better understand their existing land base, and identify potential sites for affordable housing (municipal, provincial, private, non-profit, etc.).	<p>The RDCO can look to the RGS to coordinate and support: Providing local government and First Nations' staff the tools and resources required to conduct comprehensive land use inventories and the local level, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS tools to prepare local staff to more easily query and analyse property information. 	Short-term	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation	Action	Timeline	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a set of criteria that can be used to assess and evaluate potential sites for affordable housing. 		
4.1.4 - Work with local government planners to support the implementation of regional mapping tools for identifying potential affordable housing sites.	<p>Using the outcome of the mapping tools and resources, the RDCO can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer staff support to local governments and First Nations in understanding and identifying feasible and desirable lands that align with local strategic priorities around housing. Monitor the way that the information is being used by stakeholders and ensure this information is being communicated to other local government partners through the Digital Hub (as described in Section 4.3.1 of this strategy). Provide updated support to the land mapping tools and resources every 3-4 years. 	Short-term	□
4.1.5 - Study the feasibility of implementing a regional housing service or trust fund to contribute to land acquisition and capital investments in affordable housing across the region.	<p>As limited staff resources and funding has been highlighted as a barrier to the facilitation of additional affordable housing, identifying opportunities and options for funding to increase service levels is recommended. The key purpose of this recommendation would be to review case studies and the regional context to better understand the feasibility, scale, and identification of options for implementation of increased funding to support an improved level of service. This will in turn provide a stronger evidence base for elected officials to make decisions on the value of pursuing this type of regional service.</p> <p>A study of the feasibility of a Regional Housing Service is a recommended action of this Strategy to provide clarity and opportunity to elected officials. The outcome of the study will allow the RDCO Board to weigh the potential positive outcomes and challenges associated with an expanded service area.</p> <p>To determine the feasibility of a regional housing service in the RDCO it is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Board considers that a study be undertaken to determine the feasibility, efficacy, and estimated impact of a regional housing service as part of future strategic priority deliberations. <p>It is recommended that any study of the viability of a housing service consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview and assessment of other models that achieve similar objectives as those intended with a Regional Housing Service; 	Short-term	□

Recommendation	Action	Timeline	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost impacts to regional households; • The style of governance structure (arms length organization vs managing the service in-house); • The specific objectives of the fund or service (e.g. additional capacity support within the Regional District, land acquisition, facilitating affordable housing development planning, capital construction cost, priority types of residential built form); • The estimated impact (e.g. land acquisition or unit development) of this fund in the short and long term; and • Allocation considerations to ensure geographic equity for all participating partners. 		
Objective #2: COORDINATE A REGIONAL HOUSING ADVOCACY STRATEGY ALIGNED WITH PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL HOUSING POLICY TO APPROACH HIGHER LEVELS OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT FOR ADDITIONAL CENTRAL OKANAGAN RESOURCES AND SUPPORT.			
4.2.1 - Use a representative and coordinated group of elected officials – the Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force – to develop an effective Housing Advocacy Strategy for the region.	<p>Advocacy on behalf of the region, local governments and First Nations is essential in the process of securing funding for affordable housing projects. To initiate advocacy, the RDCO will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form an Advocacy Subcommittee of the Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force comprised of fair representation across the region that will develop an advocacy strategy. The advocacy strategy developed by the subcommittee will be based on the engagement undertaken and related to housing priorities in the Regional Housing Strategy. • Key priorities of municipal and First Nation partners should also be integrated into the advocacy strategy (e.g. lack of investment in smaller communities in the RDCO) 	Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.2 - Collectively advocate to senior levels of government to raise the profile of the housing crisis in the Central Okanagan to obtain additional housing and support.	<p>Following the development of an advocacy strategy, the Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force will target the senior government agencies identified in the strategy in order to spotlight the housing challenges of the region and obtain additional funding and support. To effectively advocate on behalf of the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force will identify opportunities to advocate to levels of senior government. • Use the tools developed in the advocacy strategy to collaboratively approach senior government agencies for support. 	Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation	Action	Timeline	
Objective #3: STRENGTHEN MECHANISMS FOR INFORMATION SHARING AND PARTNERSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROVIDERS.			
4.3.1 - Establish a regional information base by providing a Digital Hub for all affordable housing activities and information in the region.	The RDCO, with support from regional partners, will determine the best structure for the delivery of the Digital Hub. This oversight will be provided by the RGS Housing Sub-Committee.	Medium-term	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3.2 - Utilize the Digital Hub to create partnerships and support information sharing on research and programs that could impact or contribute to affordable initiatives.	<p>To save time for local government staff and to present clear partnership opportunities it is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Digital Hub include material on existing programs within the region that could be implemented in the RDCO. • Through the RGS Housing Sub-Committee identify non-profit partners who are open to partnerships with private developers in the delivery of affordable housing • Promotion of the Digital Hub will be critical to inform and build partnership programs. 	Medium-term	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3.3 - Collaborate with financial institutions and senior government to secure a range of funding sources for affordable housing.	<p>The RDCO Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force to strategically advocate to attract funding and strengthen partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening and coordinating discussions between local funders, private sector financial organizations (including both credit unions and larger banks), regional businesses, and senior government to support new financial approaches to affordable housing. • The Task Force is encouraged to collaborate with financial organizations that might have a role in supporting and financing market-oriented solutions in RDCO. • Coordinate with staff and the RGS Sub-Committee to ensure alignment with senior government mandates and identify advocacy opportunities and roles as appropriate. 	Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3.4 - Work with the development community to achieve housing goals including small units, rental housing and identification of development sites.	<p>As local governments and First Nations develop incentives and approaches to supporting priority housing types (e.g. incentives for rental housing) the Regional District can support communicating this information in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Digital Hub to communicate and disseminate new policies, incentives, and land use to the development community 	Short to Medium-term	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation	Action	Timeline	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with UDI Affordable Housing and Rental Committee to ensure developers are aware of new local government measures to support this housing as it becomes available • Liaise with this UDI Committee as any coordinated policy initiatives 		
Objective #4: DEVELOP REGIONAL BEST PRACTICES TO REGULATE AND PROTECT RENTAL HOUSING STOCK AND FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.			
4.4.1 - Identify, compile, and offer a library of best practices and regional success stories to support local government policies around affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDCO staff will create a library of best practices on a platform embedded within the Digital Hub, available with restricted access to local government and First Nations staff. • Explore potential partnerships that address affordable rental housing, rental stock age, and vulnerability to redevelopment, including innovative solutions for developing a toolkit or scorecard that communities can use for their own assessment processes. 	Short to Medium-term	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2 - Provide implementation support on best practices to local governments and First Nations	<p>To be recognized as a support base, the RDCO must communicate their intention to local governments and First Nations and demonstrate the available assistance through correspondence with their peers. To best support local government staff the RDCO will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support through the development and maintenance best practices library, • Support local government staff and act as a base of organizational knowledge for best practice. 	Medium-term	<input type="checkbox"/>
OBJECTIVE #5: REGIONALLY ASSESS POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES TO BUILD STAFF CAPACITY, IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLICY COORDINATION AND STREAMLINE APPROVALS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT.			
4.5.1 - Seek opportunities for regional approaches to policy development.	An RDCO staff member that coordinates the RGS Committee will manage and monitor a recurring agenda item that will request updates from members on expected policy improvements in their communities. If a number of members note a similar policy priority, or if a pressing issue is highlighted during a meeting, the RDCO representative can encourage other members to advocate for the coordination of efforts across their respective organizations.	Medium-term	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation	Action	Timeline	
4.5.2 - Build local government housing capacity (technical and planning expertise) through collaborative educational opportunities.	<p>Actions based on this recommendation will assist other RHS objectives in establishing the RDCO as a trusted source of housing-based information for local government staff. RDCO staff will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key opportunities for local government staff in partnership with the RGS Housing Sub-Committee and Regional Housing Advocacy Task Force. • Facilitate educational opportunities on a semi-annual basis (e.g. 2-3 times per year) to build local government technical and planning expertise on housing issues in the Central Okanagan. • Educational opportunities can be made available to local government staff through recurring workshops, or through a newsletter style synopsis of new legislation from senior government. 	Ongoing	□
4.5.3 - Identify opportunities to streamline senior government approvals for affordable housing projects across the region.	<p>On behalf of stakeholders, local governments, and First Nations the RDCO Advocacy Task Force and RGS Housing Sub-Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for streamlined processing times with senior government agencies in general terms and for affordable housing development applications. The task force will need to prioritize agencies to engage with based on the highest levels of application delays in the region based on local government and First Nation feedback. 	Ongoing	□