

# Regional Growth Strategy *Review*

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1. RGS 101 – Background & Context
2. RGS Review – Overview & Options



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Overview, Options and Discussion

# **RGS *REVIEW***

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# Purpose of the RGS *Review*

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- Meet LGA Requirements
  - Improve Implementation
  - Evolve Policy & Processes
  - Continue Collaboration
    - Address matters of regional concern
    - Respect jurisdictions and processes
    - Maintain good communications and coordination
    - Create a long term vision
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# Approach

Collaborative approach provides framework for review

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SLRD Staff – *facilitating*

SLRD Board – *oversight & direction*

Elected Officials – *direction & referrals*

RGS Steering Committee – *advisory*

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee – *advisory*

Chief Administrative Officers – *advisory*

First Nations – *engagement & enhancing relations*

Affected Local Governments – *referrals*

Affected Agencies and Orgs – *referrals*

Public – *engagement*

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# Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

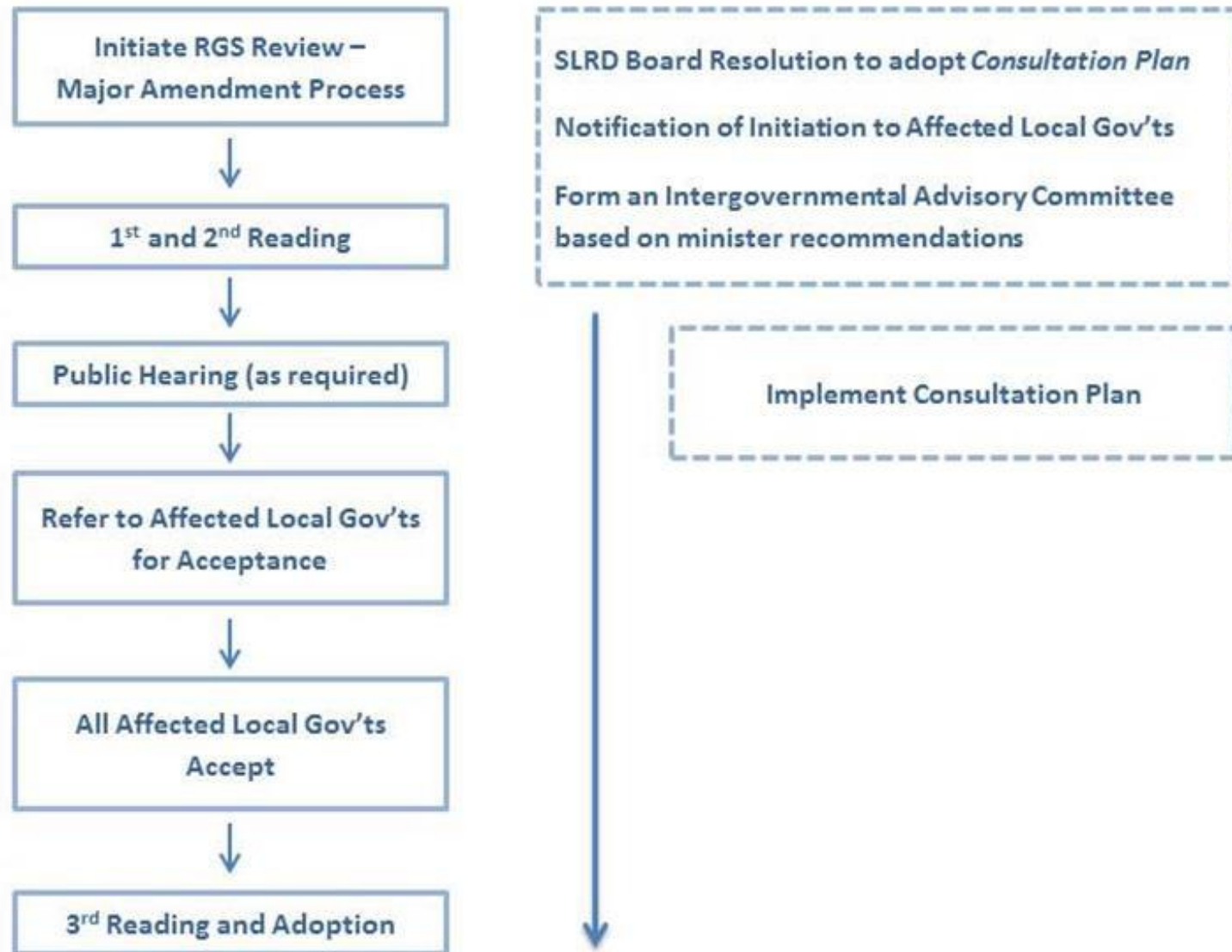
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as required by s. 450 of the *LGA*, includes:

<p>IAC =</p> <p>Intergovernmental Advisory Committee</p>	<p>RGS Steering Committee &amp; CAOs</p> <p>+</p> <p>Provincial government agencies/corporations</p> <p>+</p> <p>Other authorities/orgs</p>
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# Major Amendment Process



# Consultation Plan

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Phase	Consultation Approach
Initiation	Advisory
Review & Revise	Advisory and Public Engagement
Share	Advisory, Public Engagement and Referrals
Adopt	Public Engagement and Referrals

Consultation during the RGS *Review* will not be as extensive as was undertaken during the initial development of the SLRD RGS, as the scope of the review is much narrower, with the **main intention to improve process and content rather than make significant changes**

The bulk of the consultation will follow the requirements set out in the *LGA*

# Key Findings and Recommendations

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## **Areas to Address:**

- ☐ Minor Amendment Criteria and Process
  - ☐ Implementation – Part 4 Implementation and Implementation Guidelines
  - ☐ Growth Management – Goal 1
  - ☐ Waste Management
  - ☐ Transportation
  - ☐ Food & Agriculture
  - ☐ Climate Change
  - ☐ First Nations Relations
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# OPTIONS

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- ❑ Minor Amendment Criteria
- ❑ Food & Agriculture
- ❑ Climate Change
- ❑ Implementation & Implementation Guidelines
- ❑ Growth Management

**OBJECTIVE: Discuss and receive feedback**

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# MINOR AMENDMENT CRITERIA

- A. Current SLRD RGS
  - B. Local Government Act
  - C. Steering Committee Option
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# A: Current SLRD RGS

Criteria under which a proposed amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy may be considered a minor amendment include the following:

1. Where a land use or development proposal is inconsistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, and, in the opinion of the Board:

- a) is not considered to be of regional significance in terms of scale, impacts or precedence; and
- b) contributes to achieving a compact, complete and sustainable community.

2. Text and map amendments which are not directly related to enabling specific proposed developments may be considered minor if, in the opinion of the Board, the amendment is not of regional significance.

## B: Local Government Act

- (3) A board may proceed with a proposed amendment to a regional growth strategy as a minor amendment in accordance with the following:
- (a) the board must give notice, including notice that the proposed amendment may be determined to be a minor amendment and the date, time and place of the board meeting at which the amending bylaw is to be considered for first reading, to each affected local government at least 30 days before the meeting;
  - (b) before first reading of the amending bylaw, the board must allow an affected local government that is not represented on the board an opportunity to make representations to the board;
  - (c) if, at first reading, the amending bylaw receives an affirmative vote of all board members attending the meeting, the bylaw may be adopted in accordance with the procedures that apply to the adoption of a regional growth strategy bylaw under Division 3 [*Voting and Voting Rights*] of Part 6 [*Regional Districts: Governance and Procedures*] and the board's procedure bylaw;
  - (d) if, at first reading, the amending bylaw does not receive an affirmative vote of all board members attending the meeting, the bylaw may be adopted only in accordance with the procedure established by section 436 [*acceptance by affected local governments required*].

## B: Local Government Act Cont.

- (4) The following may not be considered a minor amendment for the purposes of this section:
- (a) an amendment to a regional growth strategy to establish or amend a process referred to in subsection (2);
  - (b) an amendment to anything that the minister has established or directed under section 430 (3) or (4) or the Lieutenant Governor in Council has required under section 431;
  - (c) an amendment to a regional growth strategy proposed as a result of a non-binding resolution process under section 439 (2) (a);
  - (d) a type of amendment prescribed by regulation.
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# C: Steering Committee Option

MINOR Amendment Criteria
<p>Criteria under which a proposed amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy may be considered a minor amendment include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Where a land use or development proposal requires an amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy, and, in the opinion of the Board:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) is not considered to be of regional significance in terms of scale, impacts or precedence; and</li><li>b) is not inconsistent with the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy.</li></ol></li><li>1. Those text and map amendments required to correct errors or as a result of more accurate information being received relative to existing information;</li><li>2. Those housekeeping amendments to population, dwelling unit and employment projections, housing demand estimates, performance measures, tables, figures, key indicators, grammar, or numbering, that do not alter the intent of the Regional Growth Strategy;</li><li>3. Anything that is determined to <i>not</i> be a minor amendment is to be treated as a major amendment.</li></ol> <p>Although not considered an exhaustive list, the following types of amendments are considered regionally significant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Those that include land in the Agricultural Land Reserve or will negatively impact agricultural lands;</li><li>• Development of non-settlement lands that are not contiguous to existing designated settlement areas; and,</li><li>• Those that would have significant impacts to the regional highway system and may negatively affect level of service.</li></ul>

# Discussion

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Do you support the proposed option?

**Poll:**

- A. Whole hearted endorsement**
  - B. Support this proposed option in principle, but it needs work**
  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
  - D. I don't support this proposed option**
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# FOOD & AGRICULTURE

- A. Current SLRD RGS
  - B. Steering Committee Option
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# A: Current SLRD RGS

The RGS Bylaw does not have a Food/Agriculture Goal or any such Strategic Directions or policies (any content).

This is identified as a major gap that should be addressed through the RGS *Review* - of the 10 RDs in BC with adopted RGSs, 6 have a specific Food/Agriculture goal and 8 have policies or related strategic directions

The SLRD is one of two RDs that do not include Food or Agriculture in their RGS

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# Examples from other RGS Bylaw

**GOAL** Enhance Food Security – protect and enhance the capacity of the region to produce and process food

**GOAL** Food Systems – support and enhance the agricultural and aquaculture sectors and increase local food security

**GOAL** Our Food – to support a regional food system that is healthy, resilient and sustainable

**GOAL** Protect farmland and encourage farming

**GOAL** Agriculture and Food Systems

AG-1: Water is managed sustainably so all reasonable needs, including agriculture, are met in a balanced manner

AG-2: Maintain and diversify the agricultural land base

AG-3: Support a robust and diverse agricultural economic sector

AG-4: Encourage a healthy, accessible and resilient food system

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## B: Steering Committee Option

**OPTION:** Develop a new goal in the RGS to address food and agriculture systems

- It was determined that developing a separate Food/Agriculture goal is the best approach, including strategic directions.
- It was further suggested that the goal needs to be broad to include agricultural and food systems

### **RATIONALE**

Food Systems, including food security, is an important emerging issue for local/regional governments that is not covered in the current RGS Bylaw, and may be seen as particularly relevant to long-term planning efforts. Agriculture is an important land use and economic activity in the region. Given best practices and the needs of the region, developing a new food and agriculture systems goal is warranted.

# Discussion

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Do you support the proposed option?

**Poll:**

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  - B. Support this proposed option in principle, but it needs work**
  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
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# CLIMATE CHANGE

- A. Current SLRD RGS
  - B. Steering Committee Option
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# A: Current SLRD RGS

## Goal 5 Protecting Natural Ecosystem Functioning

### Description

Issues that are of concern to the region's residents include: air quality, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, visual quality, water quality, wildlife habitat fragmentation, environmental degradation and natural hazards....

- *Being prepared for the potential consequences of climate change on the region's natural resources.*
- *Adopting Provincial Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets to see a reduction in emissions by 33% in year 2020 and 80% in 2030.*

### Strategic Direction

h) Explore the feasibility of preparing a regional climate change strategy that would examine the potential consequences of global warming on the region's flora, fauna and water supplies and identifies strategies for taking local action on climate change. This will be pursued through discussions with federal and provincial agencies, conservation organizations and the Union of BC Municipalities, and through the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation.

### Monitoring Indicator

*Total GHG emission* is an indicator of Goal 1 Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities

# Examples from other RGS Bylaws

## **Goal 3. Protect the Environment and Respond to Climate Change Impacts**

STRATEGY 3.3- Encourage land use and transportation infrastructure that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality.

STRATEGY 3.4- Encourage land use and transportation infrastructure that improve the ability to withstand climate change impacts and natural hazard risks.

## **Goal 7. Energy and Climate Change**

7.1 Promote energy efficiency

7.2 Reduce the region's impact on climate change

## **Goal 1. Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy**

**Consumption** - Reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption and promote adaptive measures to prepare for climate change impacts

**GOAL Our Climate** – To minimize regional greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the impacts of climate change

## B: Steering Committee Option

**OPTION:** Develop a new goal or additional content in the RGS to address Climate Change (i.e. expand *Goal 5: Protect Natural Ecosystem Functioning* to something like *Protect Natural Eco-system Functioning and Respond to Climate Change Impacts* or could develop new goal.)

- Look to other, newer RGS's to see what other RD's are doing in terms of approaches.
- Explore the possibility of using the RGS to generate and collect information to support regional decision making (regional pooling of resources to get consultant studies, etc.).
- Continue GHG Emission monitoring (current indicator) and work to distribute/share this information better.

### **RATIONALE**

Climate change is a big issue affecting us all; as such, regional policy/strategies would be beneficial. The pooling of resources and information will support decision-making.

Given best practices and the needs of the region, and the new Provincial Climate Leadership Plan, developing a new goal or additional content around Climate Change/Energy Emissions is warranted.



# Discussion

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Do you support the proposed option?

**Poll:**

- A. Whole hearted endorsement**
  - B. Support this proposed option in principle, but it needs work**
  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
  - D. I don't support this proposed option**
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# IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Current SLRD RGS
  - B. Steering Committee Option
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# A: Current SLRD RGS

Part 4 Implementation and Monitoring chapter in the RGS focuses on Implementation Agreements – none of which have been implemented to date. This is common across many RDs.

Specific issues that were identified include:

- No content on Regional Context Statements, which are the main implementation tool of the RGS;
  - Outdated *Implementation Agreements* section;
  - No content related to coordination with other governments/agencies or First Nations;
  - No content related to RGS Review requirements.
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# C: Steering Committee Option

## **OPTION:**

*Implementation Agreements and Guidelines:* remove specific Implementation Agreements listed, as none have been implemented to date, and instead leave the general description, enabling Implementation Agreements to be developed on an as needed basis. Provide content to enable the development of Implementation Guidelines, as an additional (and sometimes preferred) option to Implementation Agreements.

Develop a set of Implementation Guidelines, provided as resources to support collective implementation of the RGS (to live outside the RGS)

## **RATIONALE**

to assist in implementing the RGS. Implementation Guidelines provide guidance to member municipalities and the SLRD and are considered a best practice to support collective agreement

*Implementation Guidelines:*

Resources are needed to implement the RGS (collectively uphold, amend, settle, etc.).

# Discussion

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Do you support the proposed option?

**Poll:**

- A. Whole hearted endorsement**
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  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
  - D. I don't support this proposed option**
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# GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- A. Dwelling Unit Projections Option
  - B. Settlement Planning Maps Options
  - C. RCS and RGS Amendments – concurrent process option
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# A: Dwelling Unit Projections Option

- Current SLRD RGS does not include requirements for dwelling unit projections.
- Local Government Act only requires population and employment projections
- Best Practice in high-growth areas – RGSs require dwelling unit projections in addition to population and employment projections.

## **Example: Metro Vancouver**

*"A key aspect of the RGS is projecting future population, dwelling unit and employment growth distribution within the region. The projections are intended to establish general agreement among regional agencies and municipalities on growth expectations for the region, and to provide the basis for planning transportation and infrastructure improvements and investments at the regional and local levels."*

## **Metro Vancouver Example Cont.**

*"Policy 1.1.3 (p. 14) indicates that Regional Context Statements are to include municipal population, dwelling unit and employment projections.*

*The projections contained in Table A.1 (p. 68) are guidelines only. Regional Context Statements should reference these projections and indicate how the municipality intends to accommodate projected growth. The regional and municipal growth projections are expected to be used as guidance, and Regional Context Statements should attempt to illustrate the municipality's best efforts to achieve the projections over time. Regional Context Statements should indicate growth projections for the same time periods as indicated in the RGS: 2021, 2031 and 2041."*

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# Discussion

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Do you support the proposed option?

**Poll:**

- A. Whole hearted endorsement**
  - B. Support this proposed option in principle, but it needs work**
  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
  - D. I don't support this proposed option**
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## B: Settlement Planning Maps Options

Map Based RGS – Regional Context Statements must contain maps depicting the regional land use designations, delineating the defined settlement and non-settlement area.

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Non-map Based RGS = Regional Context Statements include language only indicating consistency with the RGS.

The current SLRD RGS includes settlement planning maps for each member municipality, delineating settlement and non-settlement areas.

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# Discussion

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Do you support a Map Based RGS option?

**Poll:**

- A. Whole hearted endorsement**
  - B. Support this proposed option in principle, but it needs work**
  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
  - D. I don't support this proposed option**
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# C: RCS and RGS Amendments Options

## **Regional Context Statements that trigger Regional Growth Strategy Amendments**

A municipality may anticipate that its proposed Regional Context Statement is not generally consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy and therefore would not be accepted by the SLRD Board. If the Regional Context Statement and the request for amendment to the RGS are submitted at the same time, the SLRD will process the two items **concurrently**.

Prior to considering a revised Regional Context Statement that triggers an RGS amendment, the corresponding RGS amendment must be adopted by the SLRD Board.

The SLRD will endeavour to process RGS amendments that are a result of Regional Context Statement revisions within the 120-day period for acceptance of Regional Context Statements.

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# Discussion

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Do you support the proposed option?

**Poll:**

- A. Whole hearted endorsement**
  - B. Support this proposed option in principle, but it needs work**
  - C. Don't prefer this proposed option, but I can live with it**
  - D. I don't support this proposed option**
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# Closing Remarks

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