

Regional Growth Strategy Update Enters Final Phase

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is entering the final phase of updating the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) bylaw. An RGS sets out the region's long-term approach to coordinating and managing how and where we grow by considering regional matters, such as land use, transportation, housing, economic development and climate change action. Through an informal review process, the RDN invites the public and the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC), which includes government representatives from Snuneymuxw First Nation, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, Qualicum First Nation, member municipalities, provincial agencies and other organizations, to provide input on the draft updated bylaw, Shaping Our Future 2040.

"An estimated 54,000 new residents will move into our region over the next 20 years. Shaping Our Future 2040 will help create connected communities and protect farmland, industrial land and environmentally sensitive areas," said Vanessa Craig, RDN Chair. "The Regional Growth Strategy is vital for guiding future decision-making on how and where we grow as a region."

The RDN Board passed a resolution in 2018 to update the RGS (which does not change existing land use designations or Growth Containment Boundaries) and public engagement informed the following RGS improvements:

- new policies supporting climate adaptation, mitigation and resiliency
- expanded policies for housing choices and affordability
- expanded policies for food system resiliency
- more sustainable growth management practices
- advancing our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation
- additional measures to monitor and evaluate RGS goals
- new population, housing and employment projections


The IAC and public are invited to comment on the proposed RGS updates from May 11 – June 30, 2023. Following the review period, a report of the findings and the formal draft bylaw will be referred to the RDN Board for consideration. For Shaping Our Future 2040 to be implemented, the bylaw requires adoption by the RDN Board.

For more information, to review the updated RGS, submit comments and to sign up to receive project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/RGSreview.

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