

REGIONAL AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

OPEN MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

9:00 am

FVRD Boardroom, 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC

---

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

**THAT** the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of September 10 2019 be approved;

**AND THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received for information.

3. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

4. MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting - July 9, 2019

4 - 9

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

**THAT** the Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of July 9, 2019 be adopted.

5. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

No Items.

6. FINANCE

No Items.

7. REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## 7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### 7.1.1 Consultation for the Province of BC's Plastics Action Plan

10 - 23

- Corporate report dated September 10, 2019 from Jamie Benton, Environmental Services Coordinator
- Clean BC Plastics Action Plan - Policy Consultation Paper

#### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board provide a submission to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding their Plastics Action Plan consultation paper.

## 7.2 REGIONAL PARKS

No Items.

## 7.3 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INITIATIVES

### 7.3.1 Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Major Amendment Bylaw No. 1562-2018 – Formal Acceptance

24 - 108

- Corporate report dated September 10, 2019 from Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning
- Letter dated August 6, 2019 from Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Bylaw No. 1562-2018
- Maps

#### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board formally accept Squamish-Lillooet Regional District *Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 (RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018)*, per Section 436 (1) of the Local Government Act.

### 7.3.2 Village of Harrison Hot Springs Referral for Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019

109 - 115

- Corporate report dated September 10, 2019 from Melissa Geddert, Planner I
- Letter dated August 19, 2019 from Harrison Hot Springs

#### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board receive the *Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019* and that the comments outlined in Fraser Valley Regional District staff report dated September 10, 2019 be forwarded to the

**7.4     OUTDOOR RECREATION AND PLANNING**

**7.4.1     Summary of Mountain Biking on Sumas Mountain**

116 - 119

***FOR INFORMATION ONLY***

- Corporate report dated September 10, 2019 from David Urban, Manager of Outdoor Recreation Planning

8.     **ADDENDA ITEMS/LATE ITEMS**
9.     **REPORTS BY STAFF**
10.    **REPORTS BY DIRECTORS**
11.    **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO AGENDA**
12.    **RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

**MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**THAT** the meeting be closed to the public, except for Senior Staff and the Executive Assistant, for the purpose of receiving and adopting Closed Meeting Minutes convened in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter* and to consider matters pursuant to:

- Section 90(1)(g) of the *Community Charter* - litigation or potential litigation affecting the regional district and
- Section 90(1)(i) of the *Community Charter* - the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

**R E C E S S**

13.    **RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**
14.    **RISE AND REPORT OUT OF CLOSED MEETING**
15.    **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**THAT** the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of September 10, 2019 be adjourned.

# **FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

9:00 am

FVRD Boardroom, 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC

Members Present: Director Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford, Vice Chair  
Director Pam Alexis, District of Mission  
Director Henry Braun, City of Abbotsford  
Director Bill Dickey, Electoral Area D  
Director Orion Engar, Electoral Area E  
Director Ken Popove, City of Chilliwack  
Director Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent  
Director Terry Raymond, Electoral Area A  
Director Peter Robb, District of Hope  
Director Al Stobbart, Electoral Area G  
Alternate Director Michie Vidal, Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Regrets: Director Jason Lum, City of Chilliwack, Chair  
Director Leo Facio, Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Staff Present: Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services/Chief Financial Officer  
Suzanne Gresham, Director of Corporate Initiatives  
Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services  
Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning  
Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Park Operations  
Lance Lilley, Manager of Environmental Services  
Kristy Hodson, Manager of Financial Operations  
Jamie Benton, Environmental Services Coordinator  
Micha Gutmanis, Environmental Services Coordinator  
Meghan Jackson, Parks Technician  
Matthew Fang, Network Analyst I  
Tina Mooney, Executive Assistant to CAO and Board  
Chris Lee, Executive Assistant, (*Recording Secretary*)

Also Present: Director Taryn Dixon, Electoral Area H  
Dave Casey, Vice President, Chilliwack Search and Rescue  
Jer Plesman, Vice President, Chilliwack Search and Rescue  
Doug Fraser, Vice President, Chilliwack Search and Rescue  
Tracey Heron, Search Manager, Chilliwack Search and Rescue



**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS**

Moved By PRANGER  
Seconded By ALEXIS

**THAT** the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of July 9, 2019 be approved;

**AND THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**3. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Chilliwack Search and Rescue**

Dave Casey, Jer Plesman, Doug Fraser and Tracey Heron from the Chilliwack Search and Rescue (CSAR) spoke to their PowerPoint presentation regarding CSAR services, vision and mission statement and providing information on core values, members, primary operation areas and resources. They also provided CSAR statistics (call volumes) for 2018 and 2019 to date. It was noted that CSAR also provide presentations to schools and community organizations about their services. The delegation also spoke to their funding sources and the challenges faced by the organization.

The Committee expressed appreciation to CSAR for the services they provided.

**4. MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING**

**4.1 Draft Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting - June 11, 2019**

Moved By ROBB  
Seconded By RAYMOND

**THAT** the Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of June 11, 2019 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**5. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION**

**5.1 FVRD Bylaw Offence Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1532, 2019**

Moved By POPOVE  
Seconded By ENGAR

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw Offence Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1532, 2019*.

**CARRIED**

In response to questions raised regarding a fine of \$500 for dog causing death, staff advised that the maximum fine that can be imposed is \$500 under the regulations of the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act*.

**6. FINANCE**

No items.

**7. REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**7.1.1 FVRD's Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2018**

Moved By BRAUN  
Seconded By ENGAR

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board accept the 2018 Climate Action Revenue Incentive Report for the Fraser Valley Regional District;

**AND THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to report back with a recommendation for specifically allocating the accumulated annual carbon tax refunds towards a cost-effective efficiency upgrade project(s) that will offer significant carbon footprint reductions to the FVRD buildings and/or operations.

**CARRIED**

Staff was commended for the informative report and it was requested that this report be also sent to member municipalities. It was also proposed that a one-pager or infographics, highlighting the initiatives undertaken by the regional district to reduce energy and emissions from their operations be prepared for ease of public consumption.

**7.2 REGIONAL PARKS**

No items.

### **7.3 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INITIATIVES**

#### **7.3.1 Future Rail Transit in the Fraser Valley**

Comments were offered regarding the proposal submitted by South Fraser Community Rail with respect to the *Community Rail South of the Fraser on the InterUrban Corridor*.

It was noted that although the FVRD recognized the efficiency and effectiveness of rapid transit, the Committee was in agreement that the primary priority should focus on the widening of Highway 1 to address congestion issues that are increasing economic, social and public safety costs throughout the Fraser Valley.

Staff was also commended on the comprehensive report provided.

Moved By BRAUN  
Seconded By ALEXIS

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board remain focused on its priority of strongly encouraging the province to expedite the widening of Highway 1 to support HOV/bus lanes as a means of improving the viability of transit, improving public safety and supporting the broader Fraser Valley economy;

**AND THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board request that TransLink directly engage the Fraser Valley Regional District, member municipalities, BC Transit and the province on those aspects of the *Transport 2050* Plan that consider inter-regional linkages and policies that may impact this Region.

**CARRIED**

### **7.4 OUTDOOR RECREATION AND PLANNING**

#### **7.4.1 FVRD's Regional Trail Network Group**

Moved By POPOVE  
Seconded By VIDAL

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board expand the scope of its Trail Network Group to a regional scale to ensure representation from organizations involved in the maintenance and/or management of trails within the entire geographic area.

**CARRIED**

## **8. OTHERS MATTERS**

No items.

**9. ADDENDA ITEMS/LATE ITEMS**

No items.

**10. REPORTS BY STAFF**

None

**11. REPORTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Raymond reported that he and the Acting CAO attended a ceremony in Lytton for the presentation of a contract to a local company to lay fibre optics from Boston Bar to Lillooet for expanded broadband, funding to be provided by the provincial and federal governments.

He also regrettably advised on the passing of past Alternate Director for Electoral Area A, Robert Dufresne.

Director Pranger spoke to the Mayors' race event taking place at the Agassiz Speedway this weekend.

Director Engar acknowledged the City of Chilliwack for initiating efforts to reduce the flow of single use plastic items in Chilliwack.

**12. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO AGENDA**

None

**13. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

Moved By RAYMOND  
Seconded By ALEXIS

**THAT** the meeting be closed to the public, except for Senior Staff and the Executive Assistant, for the purpose of receiving and adopting Closed Meeting Minutes convened in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter* and to consider matters pursuant to:

- Section 90(1)(g) of the *Community Charter* - litigation or potential litigation affecting the regional district.

**CARRIED**

The Open Meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m.

**14. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**

The Open Meeting reconvened at 9:51 a.m.

**15. RISE AND REPORT OUT OF CLOSED MEETING**

None

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved By STOBART  
Seconded By VIDAL

**THAT** the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of July 9, 2019 be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

The Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

.....

Director Patricia Ross, Vice Chair

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2019-09-10

From: Jamie Benton, Environmental Services Coordinator

File No: 5365-28-001

**Subject: Consultation for the Province of BC's Plastics Action Plan**

---

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board provide a submission to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding their Plastics Action Plan consultation paper.

#### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship  
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community  
Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

#### PRIORITIES

Priority #1 Waste Management  
Priority #2 Air & Water Quality

### BACKGROUND

Less than 11 percent of Canada's plastic gets recycled and 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the world's rivers and ocean each year. Single-use plastics (e.g., paper bags, plastic cutlery, straws, etc.) are not a large part of the waste stream, but their disposability, their prevalence in the environment, and their wasteful nature makes them a cause for global concern. Plastics are everywhere and managing plastic waste is complex. This is especially the case in Canada where each level of government has a different authority to regulate plastic waste, adding to the challenge.

#### Federal

The federal government is responsible for ocean protection, international trade, international agreements, packaging labelling, international trade and shipping, and establishing environmental benchmarks for provinces or industry to meet.

The Canadian Government is currently in the process of developing a Canada-wide Strategy and Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste that includes the following efforts:

- Banning harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021;
- Working with industry to prevent and retrieve abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear known as ghost fishing gear – a major contributor to marine and river plastic debris;
- Mobilizing international support to address plastic pollution;
- Reducing plastic microbeads in freshwater and marine ecosystems;
- Research into chemical properties of plastics and alternatives.

Implementation of this Plan remains unclear at this time since it does not yet identify how it will be implemented or what types of single use plastics may be considered. The Plan could be altered or discarded altogether if there is a change in government as a result of the upcoming federal election.

### Provincial

Under the *Recycling Regulations* of the *BC Environmental Management Act*, the Province of BC has significant jurisdiction with respect to waste management, discharge, hazardous and industrial waste, promotion of recycling programs, and establishing stewardship programs to manage certain products. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which it is the producers' responsibility for reducing environmental impact and for ensuring their products are properly managed across the whole life cycle of the product, from selection of materials and design to its end-of-life. The Recycle BC stewardship program for residential packaging and paper products currently manages a large percentage of the residential plastic packaging in BC.

From the perspective of regulatory authority, Provincial governments are well equipped to impose bans on single-use plastics that end up in its environment and in the waste stream. While they have not yet taken action in this regard, the Province of BC is in the process of seeking consultation on possible approaches to take, which is commented on further in the Discussion section.

### Local Governments

Due to a lack of provincial or federal direction provided thus far on this matter, more than 23 municipalities throughout BC have proposed or enacted their own bylaws banning or restricting the use of single-use plastics within their communities. The City of Victoria was the first, by enacting the *Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw* in 2018 preventing businesses from providing plastic bags to customers. Several other local governments followed, introducing bylaws of their own.

The City of Chilliwack and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs are both considering regulatory tools regarding single use plastics. The City of Chilliwack is currently in the process of selecting a consultant to lead a comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation to help choose the best mechanism for Chilliwack to reduce single-use plastics. The Village of Harrison Hot Springs is considering a bylaw aimed at commercial businesses that could potentially use business licences to regulate the sale or provision of single-use items.

The Victoria bylaw was struck down by the BC Court of Appeal on July 11, 2019. It was ruled that under the *Community Charter*, municipal bylaws designed to protect the environment, such as the proposed single use plastics bylaws, required approval by the Province, and since Provincial approval was not yet given, the bylaws were invalid. Since the ruling, numerous local governments have submitted their bylaws to the Province for approval, but no Provincial decisions have yet been made.

Regional districts in British Columbia do not have the authority to ban the use of single-use plastics either through the *Local Government Act* or the *Community Charter*. Under Section 25(3) of the *Environmental Management Act*, regional districts can potentially ban plastics from the waste stream but the bylaw would not stop the sale nor the use of plastics and would create a waste stream without a lawful means of disposal. Regional districts have a role with regards to potential actions on single use

plastics due to their Solid Waste Management Plans, in coordinating amongst member municipalities and industry groups, and in advocating to senior governments.

## DISCUSSION

While actions taken at all levels of government are needed to adequately address the issues and challenges of single use plastics, and some progress has been made, the Province of BC has been relatively quiet and not actively involved thus far. The Province's new policy consultation paper on their Plastics Action Plan (attached) attempts to identify new policy options and to propose amendments that will improve existing provincial programs. They are currently seeking feedback on this Plan. The deadline for written submissions has been recently extended until September 30, 2019.

The Province is proposing actions in four connected areas to reduce plastic pollution:

1. *Bans on single-use packaging:* Determining which types of plastic packaging to phase out altogether, as well as any necessary exemptions, such as those for health, safety, and accessibility to keep products available for the people that need them.
2. *More recycling options:* Requiring producers to take responsibility for more plastic products, ensuring more single-use items like sandwich bags, straws and cutlery get recycled.
3. *Expanding plastic bottle and beverage container returns:* Expanding the deposit-refund system to cover all beverage containers – including milk and milk-substitutes – with a 10-cent refundable deposit to keep more containers out of landfills and waterways.
4. *Reducing plastics overall:* Supporting effective ways to prevent plastic waste in the first place and to ensure recycled plastic is re-used effectively.

The following points are suggested to include within an FVRD submission to the Province on their proposed Plastics Action Plan:

1. *Bans on Single-Use Packaging:*
  - Municipal bans on single-use plastics have helped encourage senior governments to take action, but a Province-wide ban would help ensure consistency and would have the greatest impact at reducing overall plastic usage. The Retail Council of Canada strongly supports senior government implementing a consistent ban with one set of rules for all of BC.
  - The potential impacts of a ban needs to be fully analysed and considered, specifically the potential unintended consequences of alternatives that could be used to replace banned materials.
2. *More Recycling Options:*
  - Any policy direction that would include the use of incineration of plastics, particularly within our airshed should not be supported.
  - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs should be expanded to ensure the recyclability of more plastic products, but input from industry and other stakeholders is needed to ensure decisions don't result in reduced competition and reduced markets for recycling. This



is particularly the case with the possible inclusion of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional sector recycling into provincial EPR programs which would not be supported by many in the solid waste management industry.

3. *Expanding Plastic Bottle and Beverage Container Returns:*

- Expanding the deposit-refund system deserves greater analyses to determine whether a higher fee than the proposed 10-cents might provide greater return rates.
- Milk and milk substitute beverage containers should be included within the deposit-refund schedule.
- Amending the Recycling Regulations to allow refunds for returned beverage containers to be made electronically is supported, as long as cash refunds are still provided as an option for those that prefer or require that method.

4. *Reduced Plastics Overall:*

- The Provincial and Federal governments should work together on improving recycling labels so that the public is better informed about how to dispose of products.
- Work with the federal government and other provinces on developing standardized compostable plastics, recycled content, and recyclable targets for across the country.

The Province's efforts against single use plastics is encouraging and it is recommended that they continue working with the Federal Government to ensure actions taken at a provincial level align with Canada's efforts. The Province also needs to hold the federal government accountable for implementing actions under federal jurisdiction. From a local government perspective, the Province plays a significant leadership role to not only support the efforts of cities and regional districts but to be aware that decisions made at a provincial level can have significant impacts on local governments, industry, and our environment (including our sensitive airshed). Working collaboratively with everyone involved is paramount, and seeking input from stakeholders is a good start for the Province for their proposed Plastics Action Plan, but it needs to continue as the plan progresses.

## **COST**

There are no financial implications.

## **CONCLUSION**

The BC Government is developing a Plastics Action Plan to reduce plastic pollution and is seeking feedback to develop new policy options and to improve existing programs. Reducing single-use plastics will reduce pollution to the environment and will encourage industry to find re-usable, longer lasting alternatives. These actions will assist the Fraser Valley Regional District to further achieve its waste diversion targets.

**COMMENTS BY:**

**Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Programs**

Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

No further financial comments.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported.

# Plastics Action Plan

## POLICY CONSULTATION PAPER



*The ministry is seeking feedback on new policy opportunities and proposed amendments to the Recycling Regulation of the Environmental Management Act by September 18, 2019 to address plastic waste.*

*Instructions on how to provide comments are provided on the last page of this consultation paper.*



## Introduction

British Columbians want action on plastic waste. Too often plastic packaging and single use items end up as litter in our communities, waste in landfills or debris in lakes, rivers and oceans. Plastic pollution hurts wildlife and harms ecosystems, and it is increasing year after year. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy recognizes that new steps are needed and is proposing action in four connected areas.

### 1 BANS ON SINGLE-USE PACKAGING



*Determining which types of plastic packaging to phase out altogether, as well as any necessary exemptions, such as those for health, safety and accessibility to keep products available for the people that need them.*

### 2 DRAMATICALLY REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC IN LANDFILLS & WATERWAYS



*Requiring producers to take responsibility for more plastic products, ensuring more single-use items like sandwich bags, straws and cutlery get recycled.*

### 3 PLASTIC BOTTLE AND BEVERAGE CONTAINER RETURNS



*Expanding the deposit-refund system to cover all beverage containers — including milk and milk-substitutes — with a 10-cent refundable deposit, keeping millions more containers out of landfills and waterways.*

### 4 REDUCING PLASTICS OVERALL



*Supporting effective ways to prevent plastic waste in the first place and ensuring recycled plastic is re-used effectively.*

Through the release of this consultation paper, B.C. is engaging on the development of new policy options and seeking feedback on proposed amendments to improve existing programs.

B.C. has been actively involved in the development of a Canada-wide Strategy and Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste ([Strategy](#) and [Action Plan](#)), and will continue to support and align with longer-term proposed federal initiatives to ban harmful single-use plastics.

## Dramatically Reducing Plastic Use

### DEVELOPING A PATH FORWARD WITH NEW POLICY OPTIONS

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the ministry) recognizes that waste prevention is the highest priority. Plastic bans have been adopted in different forms in different jurisdictions to address the growing problem of plastic pollution — for British Columbia, it's critical that we solicit public input on what forms potential bans on plastic packaging could take. For instance, there may be items of interest to British Columbians which are not covered by the proposed federal ban and that are within B.C.'s jurisdictional authority, or that are a priority due to B.C.'s coastal and remote geography.

There are also actions being taken by local governments in B.C. that could be supported by a provincial harmonized approach. B.C. proposes to collaborate with all levels of government both to avoid duplicating regulatory initiatives, and to progress actions that would have an immediate impact and protect B.C.'s environment. In addition, B.C. proposes to work with the federal government to develop national recycled content standards to ensure that in the longer term any new plastics and packaging produced contain recycled plastic.

#### NEW POLICY OPTIONS

- » Consider provincial bans for plastic packaging under the *Environmental Management Act*.
- » Support the development of recycled content performance standards being led by the federal government.



*More than 40% of plastic is used only once. We can do our part to change this, and we want your thoughts and ideas on how to do it best.*

## Expanding Recycling and Recovery

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECYCLING REGULATION

By expanding recycling and recovery of plastics that are in use, we can significantly reduce the waste that accumulates in landfills and waterways. By doing this as efficiently as possible, we can improve the supply of clean recycled plastics for re-manufacturing. When this strategy is combined with higher recycled content standards for products, it can reduce the need for new plastics to be created.

Both expanding producer responsibility and expanding B.C.'s beverage container return system can be achieved through changes in existing regulations. B.C. currently regulates Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for many products, requiring producers (manufacturers, distributors and retailers) of designated products to take responsibility for the life cycle of their products, including collection and recycling. This shifts the responsibility from taxpayers, local government or Indigenous communities to the producers and consumers of a product.

By requiring producers to be accountable, EPR programs reduce waste by incentivizing producers to design products that are recyclable and durable in order that they can be recovered for future use instead of going to disposal. This further supports a circular economy approach to waste management where resources are continually conserved and reused as raw materials.

B.C. proposes to expand existing EPR by including single-use items and packaging-like products under the [Recycling Regulation](#)<sup>1</sup> to ensure that these items are being managed responsibly through EPR programs prior to any potential federal bans coming into force (estimated for 2021 and beyond).

B.C. is able to move quickly in this regard as the North American leader with more than twenty-two EPR programs already in place. Expanding EPR to cover these items enables B.C. to capture any items that are beyond the scope or exempted from any federal ban.

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/2Oaqi5n>

The proposed amendments also include an update to the beverage container deposit system that would reduce the prevalence of littered single-use bottles in the environment and landfills by an estimated 50 million bottles per year.

As these actions would result in an increase in plastic items to be recycled, the Province would work with the federal government to develop national recycled content standards — ensuring that new single-use plastics and packaging-like products are produced using recycled plastic content.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RECYCLING REGULATION

- » Add 'packaging-like products' and 'single-use items' as obligated products to the Recycling Regulation to be recovered and recycled by producers.
- » Add all single-use beverage containers to the deposit-refund system.
- » Amend the refundable deposit amount to 10 cents for all beverage containers.
- » Allow electronic refund options for beverage containers in addition to cash.

*Too often plastic packaging and single use items end up as litter in our communities, waste in landfills or debris in lakes, rivers and oceans. Plastic pollution hurts wildlife and harms ecosystems, and it is increasing year after year.*



## We Want Your Input

### HERE ARE SOME SOLUTIONS WE ARE CONSIDERING

#### 1 BANS ON SINGLE-USE PACKAGING



*Determining which types of plastic packaging to phase out altogether, as well as any necessary exemptions, such as those for health, safety and accessibility to keep products available for the people that need them.*

The *Environmental Management Act*<sup>2</sup> (EMA) governs the management of waste in British Columbia, to protect public health and the environment. The EMA allows for the banning of packaging by prohibiting, regulating or restricting the use or sale of packaging materials. British Columbia is considering bans as a policy option for plastic packaging and would like input on viable approaches.

Bans can be an effective policy tool to prevent plastic waste from occurring in the first place and help reduce the use of plastics that are commonly found in the environment and littered in our communities. Bans can also be used to divert recyclable plastics away from landfills to recycling facilities. They are also used to stop the use of plastics that are not recyclable or are considered difficult to recycle and manage.

Plastic packaging includes items such as plastic films (e.g., plastic bags, pouches or wraps) and containers (e.g., bottles, cups, tubs, and other hard plastics) that are used to package food and beverage products, consumer goods, cosmetics and personal care items.

Recent studies have shown that plastic packaging accounts for approximately 47% of all plastic waste discarded, and the majority of single-use plastics are used as packaging<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://bit.ly/1FETB2d>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bit.ly/320HPTJ>



## EXAMPLES OF BANS

- » The European Union will ban single-use plastic products (plastic cotton swabs, cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers and sticks for balloons), as well as cups, food and beverage containers made of polystyrene foam and all products made from oxo-degradable plastics by 2021.
- » Many US states such as Maine, Vermont, California, and New York have enacted bans on plastic packaging including plastic bags and polystyrene foam.

### B.C. Local Governments:

- » The City of Vancouver single-use item reduction strategy includes bans for plastic straws, foam cups and foam take-out containers beginning in 2020.
- » More than 23 communities in B.C. have been actively working on developing bans for single-use plastic items such as bags and straws.

Plastic packaging bans are typically implemented through the following approaches:

- » **Bans to regulate the sale or use:** regulate the supply of certain plastic packaging into the marketplace or prevent or restrict the use of certain plastic packaging — e.g., a ban on the use of polystyrene foam in packaging and takeout containers and cups, or a ban on an identified type of packaging, such as a ban on plastic bags to contain or transport goods at the point of sale.
- » **Disposal bans:** prohibit the disposal of plastics that instead can be readily recycled. These bans are typically implemented at the disposal site located within the jurisdiction applying the ban — e.g., an energy-from-waste facility or landfill — and at transfer facilities where wastes are aggregated for transport to a final disposal facility. Bans on the disposal of materials, such as plastics, are implemented after systems are in place to collect and recycle the banned materials (such as those created under EPR programs).

Globally there are a number of new regulations banning plastics. Bans on the sale of plastic bags have been introduced in 65 countries, as well as many regional and local jurisdictions. The federal government recently announced their intention to ban harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021 to reduce pollution from single-use plastic products and packaging, such as shopping bags, straws, cutlery, plates, and stir sticks.

British Columbia communities have also taken significant steps to implement strategies, including bans, levies or fees on plastic bags. Beyond plastic bags, many B.C. communities are pursuing single-use plastic bans on items including plastic bags and straws, polystyrene foam, disposable cups and takeout food containers.

The City of Victoria was the first municipality in B.C. to ban plastic bags in July 2018 through a business licensing bylaw. Municipalities may regulate in relation to a number of areas under the *Community Charter*. On July 11, 2019 the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled, however, that the intent of the bylaw was for the *protection of the natural environment* and therefore under the *Community Charter*, municipalities wishing to exercise their regulatory authority for protection of the natural environment are required to obtain Provincial approval. The Province is currently reviewing all aspects of the decision and recognizes that local governments need clarity on what their authorities are and the process for acting on those authorities should they so desire. Feedback from this engagement process will inform actions and processes moving forward.

*Recent studies have shown that plastic packaging accounts for approximately 47% of all plastic waste discarded, and the majority of single-use plastics are used as packaging.*



When policy tools, such as a ban, are evaluated, it is important to consider all impacts and to ensure that viable alternatives are available. For example, research has shown that switching from single-use plastic bags to single-use paper bags results in simply trading one set of environmental costs for another. A single-use paper bag can require up to four times as much energy to manufacture and produces two times the greenhouse gas emissions when compared to a single-use plastic bag; however, they are bio-degradable and do not persist in the environment like plastic bags do. Successful policies have included the use of bans, generally in combination with levies and fees to decrease unnecessary single-use consumption and to encourage the reuse of bags and other sustainable alternatives. It is critical to find the right policy approach that results in the fewest unintended consequences.

In addition, exemptions to the ban are often required where no viable alternative is found, or to ensure that the essential safety, health, and wellness of all individuals is maintained. For the remaining plastic packaging and single-use plastics, EPR programs are necessary to ensure these materials can be collected and recycled back into new packaging and products.

- » **Do you think bans on plastic packaging should be implemented in B.C.? What plastic packaging products are a priority for B.C. to ban?**
- » **What types of bans should be considered (examples include bans on sale of a certain type of packaging or ban on use of a certain type, or bans on disposal)?**
- » **If a ban was applied, how should exemptions be considered?**
- » **Bans can be implemented in some form by all levels of government due to the different regulatory powers in place. Are there bans best suited for implementation at the federal, provincial or local government level? Should local governments be given the authority to ban problematic plastic items in their community? What types of bans should be considered?**

2

## MORE RECYCLING OPTIONS



*Dramatically reduce single-use plastic in landfills and waterways: requiring producers to take responsibility for more plastic products, ensuring more single-use items like sandwich bags, straws and cutlery get recycled.*

### EXPANDING PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKAGING-LIKE PRODUCTS AND SINGLE-USE ITEMS

British Columbia is a national leader in recycling with the widest range of regulated items collected — its existing province-wide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program regulates recycling of packaging and paper products. The inclusion of packaging-like products and single-use items in the Recycling Regulation would expand the type of plastic products that producers are required to collect for recycling from sectors that may include, but are not limited to, residential and municipal properties province-wide.

Packaging-like products are materials that are sold as a product but are in turn used as packaging. This includes re-usable plastic containers, freezer/sandwich bags, canning jars, wrapping paper, and moving boxes. Single-use items are materials that are not necessarily packaging but similarly serve a one-time purpose. This includes plastic straws, stir sticks, cutlery and 'disposable' items purchased in multiples, such as plates, bowls, cups, and party supplies that could be easily diverted in a manner similar to packaging and packaging-like products. This change would require an amendment to the Recycling Regulation.

- » **Do you have comments or suggestions regarding the ministry's proposal to include packaging-like products in the Recycling Regulation? Are there any packaging-like products you believe should be exempt from the Recycling Regulation?**
- » **Do you have comments or suggestions regarding the ministry's proposal to add single-use items to the Recycling Regulation? Are there any single-use items you feel should be exempt from the Recycling Regulation?**



# 3

## EXPANDING PLASTIC BOTTLE AND BEVERAGE CONTAINER RETURNS



*Improving the deposit-refund system to cover all beverage containers — including milk and milk-substitutes — with a 10-cent refundable deposit, keeping millions more containers out of landfills and waterways.*

### EXPANDING RECOVERY AND RECYCLING OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Expanding the EPR deposit-refund system to cover all beverage containers and standardizing the refundable deposit to 10 cents, as well as modernizing the system, would capture and recycle millions more single-use containers, while reducing consumer and retailer confusion over what is and is not covered under a deposit-refund program.

Beverage containers that are currently excluded from the deposit-refund system would now be included, such as milk and milk substitutes (e.g., rice milk, soya milk, flavoured milk, and the array of milk-like products including energy drinks and caffeinated milk beverages). Milk and related products are currently under the residential packaging and paper products schedule of the Recycling Regulation. Obligating these products under the beverage container deposit-refund schedule would provide the needed incentive for greater returns from residents and would capture all containers from commercial generators (e.g., restaurants, schools, offices) that are currently exempted from the Recycling Regulation.

This change would require an amendment to the Recycling Regulation, which currently has a range of deposit-refund amounts from 5 to 20 cents depending on the container type. Creating a uniform 10 cent deposit-refund for all beverage containers translates into an estimated additional 50 million beverage containers diverted from landfills and our environment. Most plastic beverage containers sold today have a 5 cent deposit and are frequently discarded, yet beverage containers with a 10 cent deposit, such as beer cans/bottles, are returned more often by consumers.

The Recycling Regulation currently requires all refunds for returning beverage containers to be paid in cash. Modernizing the Recycling Regulation to also allow refunds to be electronic and paid in an alternative form of cash (e-transfer, cheque, in-store credit, charitable donation, or similar alternatives), would increase ease and efficiency for the consumer. An example includes convenience options such as drop-and-go systems where customers set up an account, tag their mixed bag of containers and drop it in an automated receiving system. Bags are later picked up and sorted, and credit is applied to the customer's account. The existing depot network and cash refunds would still be maintained as an option to ensure those individuals and communities depending on cash refunds continue to have access to this immediate source of income.

Other jurisdictions have seen success with raising deposit-refund rates, expanding to more products and modernizing return systems. Oregon's recovery rate was stagnant at 65% in 2016 until a doubling of deposit-refunds from 5 to 10 cents (for all beverage containers), coupled with enhanced return options such as drop-and-go bags, resulted in an overall return rate of 90% in 2018. In 2008, Alberta increased deposit-refunds to a minimum 10 cents and expanded the program to include milk and related products, resulting in total recovery rates since increasing from 75% to 85%.

In two years' time, B.C would review the impact of the deposit rate changes to determine if further increases to the beverage container deposit rate are required to improve the recovery rate.

- » **Do you have comments or suggestions on the ministry's proposal to include milk and milk substitutes in the beverage container deposit-refund schedule?**
- » **Do you have comments or suggestions on the ministry's proposal to create a uniform 10 cent deposit-refund for all beverage containers?**
- » **Do you have comments or suggestions on the ministry's proposal to allow refunds to be electronic and paid in an alternative form of cash (e-transfer, cheque, in-store credit, charitable donation, or similar alternatives)?**

# 4

## REDUCING PLASTICS OVERALL



*Supporting effective ways to prevent plastic waste in the first place and ensuring recycled plastic is re-used effectively.*

### DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL RECYCLED CONTENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Recycled content performance standards (standards) go hand in hand with extended producer responsibility programs. EPR programs collect and recycle the materials, turning them into recycled plastic commodities. Standards create the demand for recycled plastic materials by requiring a minimum content of recycled plastic in new packaging and products.

Standards help producers of plastic products to design products with recyclability in mind, which helps to eliminate products that are hard to recycle. Having a common national standard provides clarity and avoids a patchwork approach across provinces and territories for producers. National standards also incentivize and complement government procurement policies and targets requiring purchased plastic products to contain recycled plastic. Procurement policies at all levels of government can stimulate and support market development in this area.

Increasing the levels of recycled plastic content in products can also result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions to help meet the goals set out in [CleanBC<sup>4</sup>](#), the Government's plan to reduce carbon pollution. The production and manufacturing of packaging and products, including the increasing use of plastics, generates greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions can be substantially mitigated by ensuring that packaging and products are reused and, once they reach the end of their life, are collected to be recycled back into new packaging and products. This reduces the need to produce more plastic from virgin materials and fossil fuels.

Recycling plastic beverage containers, for example, has been shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 70% compared to producing plastic from virgin resources<sup>5</sup>.

As noted earlier, B.C. has been actively involved in developing the Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste<sup>6</sup> which identifies the federal government as leading the development of national performance requirements and standards for plastics. British Columbia has a significant opportunity to collaborate and influence the development of these standards, in particular with the proposed recycled content standard.

- » **What should B.C. consider in the development of a national standard on recycled content and any associated targets?**
- » **Do you have comments or suggestions on any related provincial policies or actions?**

*Recycling plastic beverage containers, for example, has been shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 70% compared to producing plastic from virgin resources.*



<sup>4</sup> <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://bit.ly/30UDrkd>

<sup>6</sup> <https://bit.ly/2Q0QVtP> and <https://bit.ly/2XbqmAx>

## Implementation

The actions proposed in this consultation paper will further advance the reduction, diversion and recyclability of plastics and other single-use items in B.C.

Feedback received will help B.C. determine other potential actions that should be developed or further consulted upon at the provincial level. Your input is welcomed regarding other potential products for inclusion in the Recycling Regulation, or other policy initiatives to minimize plastic waste.

All comments received through webinars, meetings, mail or email by 18 September 2019 will be compiled for review by ministry staff before final drafting of the regulatory amendments. This is expected to be completed in 2019.

*By expanding recycling and recovery of plastics that are in use, we can significantly reduce the waste that accumulates in landfills and waterways.*



## Additional Information Sessions

The ministry will conduct a series of webinars on the proposed revisions. The webinars will review the information contained in this consultation paper and provide an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

If you are interested in participating in a webinar, please contact the email below:

Email: [Plastics@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Plastics@gov.bc.ca)

## Providing Feedback

The ministry welcomes comments on the information and proposals outlined in this consultation paper, and has provided the following opportunities for feedback:

- 1. Complete the public survey at:**  
<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>
- 2. Send a formal submission to: [Plastics@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Plastics@gov.bc.ca)**  
**Read the guidelines for formal submissions at:**  
<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>
- 3. Email your comments to: [Plastics@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Plastics@gov.bc.ca)**
- 4. Mail your comments to:**  
*Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy –  
Recycling Regulation Amendments  
PO Box 9341 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1*

All comments received through the public survey, formal submission, webinars, mail or email by September 18, 2019 will be compiled for review by ministry staff before final drafting of the amendments to the Recycling Regulation or other policy changes. This is expected to be completed in 2019.

Please note that each organization's submission with opinions and identifiers could be made public either through a decision by the Ministry or if a Freedom of Information request is made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

*Thank you for your time and comments.*

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2019-09-10

From: Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning

File No: 6430-02-005

**Subject:** Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Major Amendment Bylaw No. 1562-2018 – Formal Acceptance

---

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board formally accept Squamish-Lillooet Regional District *Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 (RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018)*, per Section 436 (1) of the Local Government Act.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

### BACKGROUND

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) initiated a major amendment of the SLRD *Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 (RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018)* to address specific housekeeping items, clarify the implementation processes (including updates to the minor amendment criteria), address specific content gaps (namely food/agriculture and climate change) and amend mapping. Initiation of the amendment followed consideration of a review, as per the Local Government Act (LGA) section 452(2) five year review requirements. The changes do not impact the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), however changes to the minor amendment criteria have triggered a major amendment process that requires formal "acceptance" by SLRD member municipalities and adjacent regional districts.

### DISCUSSION

The SLRD RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018, was given second reading, as amended at the July 25, 2019 SLRD Board meeting. The SLRD Board is required to submit the regional growth strategy to each municipality covered by the regional growth strategy, as well as the Board of each adjacent regional district for formal acceptance prior to third reading per section 436 of the LGA.

Regional growth strategies are high-level, long-term strategies that support collaboration across jurisdictions. The purpose of an RGS per the Local Government Act (LGA) is to "promote human settlement that is socially, economically, and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources". An RGS outlines the vision and priorities of a

region, and is referenced when making both short-term and long-term decisions that have the potential to affect a region as a whole.

Regional growth strategies support the management of issues that affect more than one jurisdiction and can perform the following functions (among others):

- Promote coordination among municipalities and regional districts on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries;
- Promote coordination among municipalities, regional districts and First Nations as a means to establishing and maintaining meaningful and collaborative relationships;
- Strengthen links between regional districts and the provincial ministries and agencies whose resources are needed to carry out projects and programs; and,
- Communicate the region's strengths to potential investors while demonstrating that local governments, First Nations and stakeholders are proactively working together to address the key issues affecting the region's future.

In comparison to the FVRD, as a whole the SLRD's RGS has very similar long term goals of creating a sustainable region, balancing environmental, social and economic considerations on behalf of future generations. Regional growth strategies vary from one region to the next, reflecting the desires and visions of each respective region.

The SLRD has been updating its regional growth strategy since 2015. The RGS Review was intended to be an update rather than an overhaul of the current RGS. According to SLRD staff:

"Some content revisions and additions are proposed (i.e. the development of a Food Systems Goal and Climate Change Goal), but the focus is really toward implementation of the RGS and developing criteria, guidelines, and processes to support collective agreement and responsibility."

"...The RGS Review was initiated as a major amendment, as revisions to the minor amendment criteria are proposed. The RGS Review also provides an opportunity to address various housekeeping amendments (i.e. updating population, employment and dwelling unit projects; updating monitoring indicators; and updating terminology and references, etc.) reflecting the "living" nature of strategies, and to improve the function and relevance of the document. Some mapping updates are also proposed, reflecting member municipality OCP updates (comprehensive community processes not stand-alone amendments) and housekeeping amendments."

Revisions and content development largely reflect member municipality and SLRD Official Community Plan (OCP) objectives and policies as well as other community plans such as agricultural plans, climate action plans and transportation plans. Many of the changes are minor in nature, but changes to the minor amendment criteria have triggered a major amendment process that requires formal "acceptance" by SLRD member municipalities and adjacent regional districts.

The changes to the minor amendment criteria clarify what constitutes a minor amendment as determined by the SLRD Board. Minor amendments can include text and mapping changes required to

correct errors or reflect more accurate information and housekeeping items updating regional statistics, grammar and numbering changes that don't alter the intent of the RGS. Amendments that are not considered to be of regional significance in terms of scale, impacts or precedence or are consistent with the goals of the RGS are also considered minor.

Amendments that are not considered "minor" trigger a more extensive major amendment process as set out in the Local Government Act.

## **COST**

No costs are associated with this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

On receipt of the formal notification, FVRD staff has reviewed the amended regional growth strategy (RGS) in the context of FVRD Official Community Plans, the current regional growth strategy, as well as the draft update that is in preparation. The FVRD has two options:

- (i) Accept, by resolution, the amended regional growth strategy, or
- (ii) Respond, by resolution, to the proposing board indicating that the local government refuses to accept the major amendment.

On reviewing the proposed amendments, there are no implications for the FVRD and in many areas the SLRD RGS follows the broader goals of the FVRD's own RGS. As such, it is appropriate for the Board to formally accept Squamish-Lillooet Regional District *Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 (RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018)*.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services**

Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

No further financial comments.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported.



Box 219, 1350 Aster Street,  
Pemberton, BC V0N 2L0  
Ph. 604-894-6371, 800-298-7753  
F: 604-894-6526  
info@slrd.bc.ca | www.slrd.bc.ca

August 6, 2019

Fraser Valley Regional District  
45950 Cheam Avenue  
Chilliwack, BC, V2P 1N6  
By email: [jkinneman@fvrd.ca](mailto:jkinneman@fvrd.ca)

Dear Chair and Board:

**RE: Acceptance by affected local governments – 60-day Referral –  
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Review  
(RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018)**

---

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) initiated a major amendment of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 to address specific housekeeping amendments, clarify implementation processes (including updates to the Minor Amendment Criteria), address specific content gaps (namely food/agriculture and climate change) and amend mapping. Initiation of the amendment followed consideration of a review, as per the *Local Government Act (LGA)* section 452(2) five year review requirements. It should be noted that any updates to a minor amendment criteria trigger a major amendment process, as per the *LGA*.

“Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1562-2018” (RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018), was given second reading, as amended at the July 25, 2019 SLRD Board meeting. Before third reading the SLRD Board must submit the regional growth strategy to affected local governments for acceptance.



## **BACKGROUND:**

### **Purpose of the RGS Review:**

#### Meet LGA Requirements

The LGA requires a regular review of regional growth strategies, with a review to be considered at least once every five years.

#### Improve implementation

Through implementation of the RGS Bylaw (over the past 8 years - RGS has been in place since June 2010), SLRD staff and the RGS Steering Committee have identified some issues with the RGS, including the Minor Amendment Criteria and Process. Amendments are proposed to add clarity and support decision-making.

#### Evolve Policy and Processes

The SLRD has experienced considerable change since the RGS was initiated in 2003. There have also been changes at the provincial and federal level that have impacted regional district planning. As well, member municipalities, through the RGS Steering Committee, identified a number of areas requiring updates. The RGS Review has provided the opportunity to evolve policy and processes to reflect the current and future context.

#### Continue Collaboration:

The RGS Review process – guided by the RGS Steering Committee with direction provided through three elected officials' forums and input provided by the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee – has continued the collaborative efforts as noted in the RGS Bylaw by continuing to assist all parties with an interest in the region to:

1. Work together to address matters of common regional concern;
2. Demonstrate respect for each other's jurisdictions and processes;
3. Maintain good communications and coordination with respect to land use and other decisions of a regional and sub-regional nature;
4. Create a long term vision informed by the key principles of sustainability and embark on a path to our future in a manner that finds a responsible balance between the environmental, economic, and social needs of our communities.

### **Content**

The RGS Review is intended to be an update not an overhaul of the current RGS. Some content revisions and additions are proposed (i.e. the development of a Food Systems Goal and Climate Change Goal, preferred modes of transportation policy and priorities, and expanded affordable housing policies), but the focus is really toward implementation of the RGS and developing criteria and processes to support collective agreement and responsibility. The RGS Review was initiated as a major amendment, as revisions to the minor amendment criteria are proposed. The RGS Review also provides



an opportunity to address various housekeeping amendments (i.e. updating population, employment and dwelling unit projects; updating monitoring indicators; and updating terminology and references, etc.) reflecting the “living” nature of strategies, and to improve the function and relevance of the document.

Some mapping updates are also proposed, reflecting member municipality OCP updates (comprehensive community processes, not stand-alone amendments) and housekeeping amendments.

Please find enclosed RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 (RGS Review). Additionally, a Timeline of Events and Consultation Schedule are enclosed for information.

### **ACCEPTANCE BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

As per section 436 of the *LGA*, “*Before it is adopted, a regional growth strategy must be accepted by the affected local governments or, failing acceptance, become binding on the affected local governments under section 440 (6) [settlement of regional growth strategy in acceptance not otherwise reached]*”. The subject referral seeks affected local government acceptance of RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 (SLRD RGS Review) by resolution. Accordingly, each local government must:

- (a) review the regional growth strategy in the context of any official community plans and regional growth strategies for its jurisdiction, both those that are current and those that are in preparation, and in the context of any other matters that affect its jurisdiction, and*
- (b) subject to an extension by the facilitator, within 60 days of receipt either*
  - (i) accept the regional growth strategy, or*
  - (ii) respond, by resolution, to the proposing board indicating that the local government refuses to accept the regional growth strategy.*

Note, if an affected local government fails to act within the period for acceptance or refusal, the local government is deemed to have accepted the regional growth strategy.

**As required by section 436 of the *LGA*, please indicate by local government resolution either acceptance or refusal of RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 by October 6, 2019.** Note a failure to accept will result in a non-binding resolution or arbitration process.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kim Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services at [kneedham@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:kneedham@slrd.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Rainbow', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Tony Rainbow,  
Board Chair  
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

cc: Lynda Flynn, CAO, SLRD  
Kim Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services, SLRD

enclosures: Timeline of Events:  
[https://www.slrld.bc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/Regional-Growth-Strategy/TIMELINE%20OF%20EVENTS%20TO%20DATE\\_updatedAug2019.pdf](https://www.slrld.bc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/Regional-Growth-Strategy/TIMELINE%20OF%20EVENTS%20TO%20DATE_updatedAug2019.pdf)

Consultation Schedule:  
[https://www.slrld.bc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/Regional-Growth-Strategy/RGSReviewConsultationSchedule2016\\_FINAL\\_Aug2019\\_1.pdf](https://www.slrld.bc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/Regional-Growth-Strategy/RGSReviewConsultationSchedule2016_FINAL_Aug2019_1.pdf)

RGS Review Project Page (for full project details including staff reports and RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 and mapping):  
<https://www.slrld.bc.ca/inside-slrld/current-projects-initiatives/regional-growth-strategy-rgs-review>

## SQUAMISH-LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT

### BYLAW NO. 1562-2018

A bylaw to amend the Regional Growth Strategy for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

---

**WHEREAS** the *Local Government Act* provides for a regional district to undertake the development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and review of a regional growth strategy under Part 13,

**AND WHEREAS** the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District adopted a regional growth strategy on June 28, 2010,

**NOW THEREFORE** the Board of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1562-2018”.
2. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 is amended as follows:
  - (a) By updating the Summary of Amendments table to include this bylaw.
  - (b) Schedule “A” attached to and forming part of Bylaw 1062, 2008 is hereby deleted and replaced with a new Schedule A, as attached.

WRITTEN NOTICE GIVEN TO AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2016.

READ A FIRST TIME this 18<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2018.

READ A SECOND TIME this 24<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2018.

READ A SECOND TIME, as amended this 25<sup>th</sup> day of JULY, 2019

UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE RECEIVED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS as of the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

READ A THIRD TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20XX.

---

Tony Rainbow  
Chair

---

Kristen Clark  
Corporate Officer

# **Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy**

**Schedule “A” to Bylaw 1062, 2008**





## **Our Mission**

To enhance the quality of life of constituents through the facilitation of regional and community services for the benefit of present and future generations.

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS**  
**CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY**

Consolidated bylaws are consolidated for convenience only and are merely representative. Each consolidated bylaw consists of the original bylaw text and maps, together with current amendments which have been made to the original version. Copies of all bylaws (original and amendments) may be obtained from the SLRD Planning and Development Department.

<b>BYLAW NO.</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS</b>	<b>DATE OF ADOPTION</b>
1356 – 2014	Regional Growth Strategy Housekeeping Amendment Bylaw	January 28, 2015
1367 - 2014	Text Amendment	March 18, 2015
1514 - 2017	Growth Management Text Amendments	February 28, 2018
1562 - 2018	Regional Growth Strategy Review	

## Contents

PART 1 .....	7
Introduction.....	7
PART 2 .....	8
Context .....	8
Overview .....	8
RGS Projections – Population, Dwelling Unit & Employment Projections .....	10
Population Projections.....	10
Dwelling Unit Projections .....	12
Employment Projections .....	13
What type of growth is desirable? .....	14
RGS Smart Growth Principles .....	15
PART 3 .....	16
The Strategy .....	16
Vision .....	16
Goals .....	16
GOAL 1 Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities .....	17
GOAL 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options.....	23
GOAL 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing.....	29
GOAL 4 Achieve a Sustainable Economy.....	32
GOAL 5 Protect Natural Ecosystem Functioning.....	35
GOAL 6 Encourage the Sustainable Use of Parks and Natural Areas.....	38
GOAL 7 Create Healthy and Safe Communities .....	40
GOAL 8 Enhance Relations with Indigenous Communities and First Nations .....	42
GOAL 9 Improve Collaboration among Jurisdictions .....	45
GOAL 10 Protect and Enhance Food Systems.....	47
GOAL 11 Take Action on Climate Change .....	50
Part 4 Implementation .....	55
Implementation Process .....	555

Regional Context Statements .....	55
Coordination with Other Governments and Agencies .....	56
Legislative Requirements .....	57
Annual Monitoring and Reporting.....	57
Five-year Review .....	57
Regional Growth Strategy Amendments .....	57
RGS Amendment Criteria and Process .....	57
Regional Context Statement Amendments.....	59
Roles and Responsibilities.....	60
Glossary of Terms.....	61
APPENDIX A Integrated SLRD RGS and ISP Goals & Indicators .....	65
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY MAPPING .....	68

## FIGURES & TABLES

Figure 1: SLRD RGS Context Map .....	9
Figure 2: Population Projection, Three Scenarios for SLRD, 2001-2036.....	10
Figure 3: Population Distribution, Medium Scenario, 2001-2036 .....	11
Figure 4: SLRD Dwelling Unit Composition, 2016 vs 2036 .....	12
Table 1: RGS Projections Summary - Population, Dwelling Units & Employment.....	10
Table 2: Projected Population and Dwellings by Area, 2016 -2036.....	13
Table 3: Description of Settlement Planning Maps.....	21
Table 4: Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities .....	26
Table 5: Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities.....	27
Table 6: Minor Amendment Criteria.....	58
Table 7: Minor & Major Amendment Process .....	58
Table 8: Integrated RGS and ISP Monitoring .....	65



## REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY MAPPING

Regional Settlement Plan - Map 1 .....	69
Lillooet Settlement Plan - Map 1a .....	70
Pemberton & Area C Settlement Plan - Map 1b .....	71
Area C South & Pemberton Settlement Plan – Map 1c .....	72
Whistler Settlement Plan – Map 1d .....	73
Squamish & Area D Settlement Plan – Map 1e .....	74
Howe Sound Settlement Plan – Map 1f .....	75
Regional Transportation – Map 2 .....	76
Regional Natural Assets – Map 3 .....	77

## PART 1

### Introduction

The Regional Growth Strategy for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is an initiative of the SLRD, the District of Squamish, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the Village of Pemberton and the District of Lillooet. The purpose of a regional growth strategy under Part 13 of the *Local Government Act* is to

***“promote human settlement that is socially, economically, and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources.”***

The Regional Growth Strategy provides a broad policy framework describing the common direction that the regional district and member municipalities will follow in promoting development and services that are sustainable, recognizing a long-term responsibility for the quality of life for future generations. A sustainable future is one that provides for balanced economic, social and environmental well-being and acknowledges the duty to use land and resources in a way that does not diminish their natural capacities and intrinsic values. The SLRD Board recognizes the benefit of endorsing a science and systems based framework for planning towards sustainability. To this end, we understand the benefit of creating a long-term vision informed by the key (science-based) principles of sustainability, and then 'looking back' to the present to reveal the steps that will take us closer to our vision. Subsequent planning and decision-making will be guided by our vision of a sustainable future, including the Smart Growth Principles that form the basis of the Regional Growth Strategy.

The Regional Growth Strategy will assist all parties with an interest in the region to:

1. Work together to address matters of common regional concern;
2. Demonstrate respect for each other's jurisdictions and processes;
3. Maintain good communications and coordination with respect to land use and other decisions of a regional and sub-regional nature;
4. Create a long-term vision informed by the key principles of sustainability and embark on a path to our future in a manner that finds a responsible balance between the environmental, economic, and social needs of our communities.

The SLRD Regional Growth Strategy supports collaborative planning and consensus-based problem solving across the region. It is important to acknowledge that First Nations Land Use Plans and Provincial Land and Resource Management Plans exist alongside the Regional Growth Strategy. A key focus is to encourage coordination and cooperation between local, senior and First Nations governments in providing greater economic certainty and balancing community development, recreation and tourism, and environmental protection in the region. Through this approach to decision-making, we will embark on a path to our future in a manner that works toward a prosperous balance between the environmental, economic, social and health needs of our communities.

## PART 2

### Context

#### **Overview**

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is a complex region, comprising a wide range of landscapes and lifestyles and covering a total area of 16,500 square kilometers of land. Straddling the southern Pacific Ranges of the Coast Mountains, the SLRD encompasses a diversity of ecosystems and biogeoclimatic zones, from the wet Coastal Western Hemlock zone along Howe Sound, to the drier Interior Douglas Fir zone of the Lillooet River watershed. The land is varied and includes steep mountainous terrain, heavily forested areas, glaciers, river valleys and floodplains. Approximately 20 percent of the SLRD landscape is located within parks and protected areas, yet the least protection is afforded to the biologically diverse, lower elevation areas that are also most desirable for human settlement. The SLRD contains a range of settlement types from rural farming neighbourhoods like Pemberton Meadows and Texas Creek, to small, historic mining towns like Bralorne, to the international mountain destination resort municipality of Whistler. There are four incorporated municipalities and four electoral areas in the SLRD, as shown on Figure 1 – SLRD RGS Context Map. The four municipalities are: the District of Lillooet, the Village of Pemberton, the Resort Municipality of Whistler and the District of Squamish. The four electoral areas are: Area A (Upper Bridge River Valley), Area B (Pavilion Lake / Yalakom Valley / Texas Creek), Area C (Pemberton Valley / Mount Currie to D'Arcy corridor) and Area D (Howe Sound East / Upper Squamish Valley / Squamish to Whistler corridor). All four municipalities and three electoral areas (Areas B, C and D) participated in the development and continue to support the implementation of the RGS. The Regional Growth Strategy does not apply to Electoral Area A, which was permitted to opt out of the RGS.

The SLRD is found within the traditional territories of several First Nations, including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), St'át'imc and Líl'wat, which is a distinct Nation with linguistic, cultural, familial and political ties to the St'át'imc Nation. Each Nation is independent and self-governing. Small parts of the SLRD also overlap with the traditional territories of the Stó:lō, Tseil-Waututh, Nlaka'pamux, Tsilhqot'in, and Secwepemc Nations.

Economic change has been dramatic in the region, with primary resource extraction and manufacturing in decline and being replaced by tourism and service sector jobs as a primary source of income. The northern part of the SLRD, including Lillooet and surrounding Electoral Areas A and B, is challenged by slow population growth and economic change, while the southern communities of the Sea-to-Sky Corridor face population growth pressures and escalating housing costs. The diversity in contexts creates challenges for regional planning, as the needs and goals of these sub-regions vary significantly.

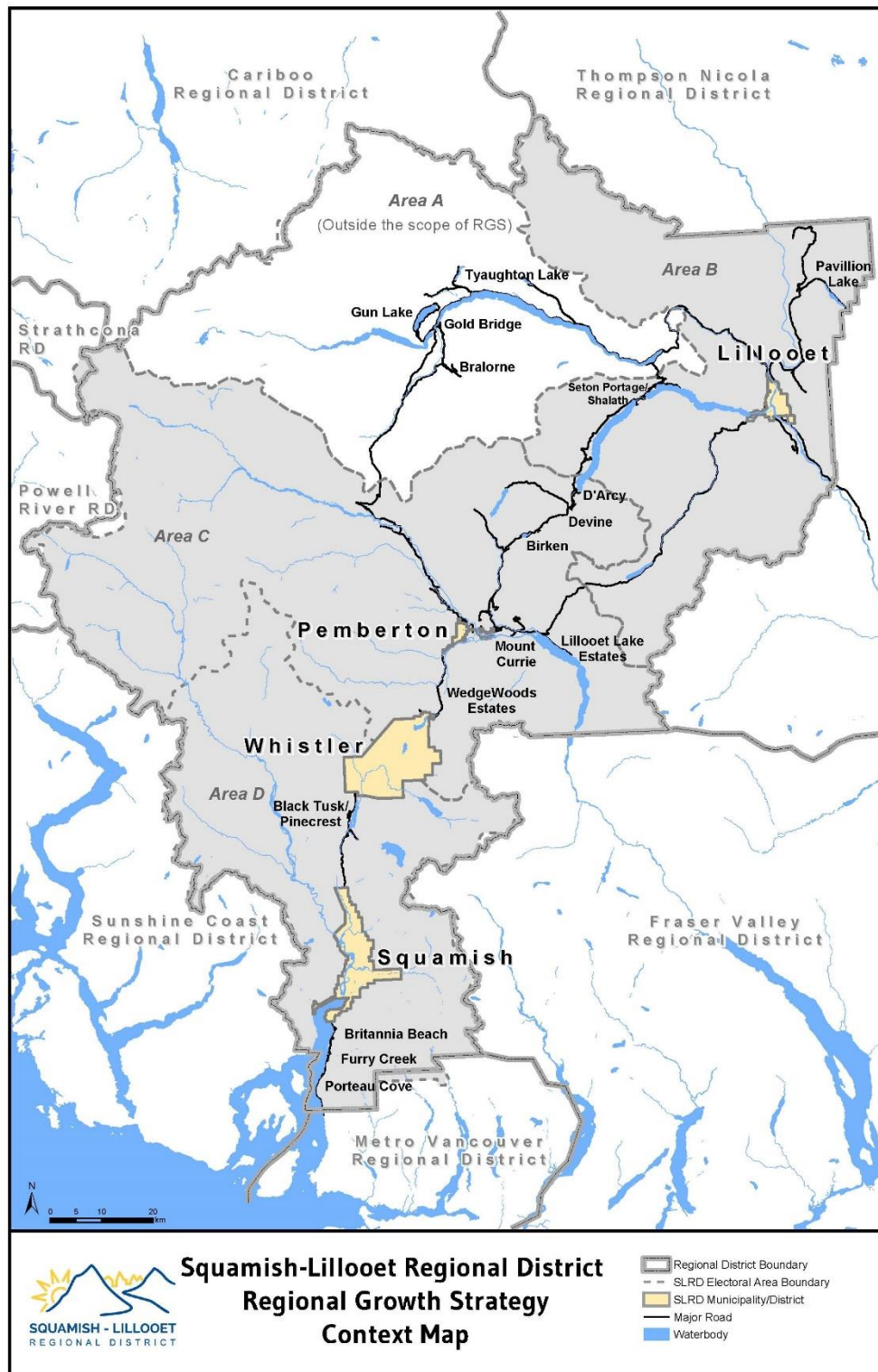


Figure 1: SLRD RGS Context Map

## RGS Projections – Population, Dwelling Unit & Employment Projections

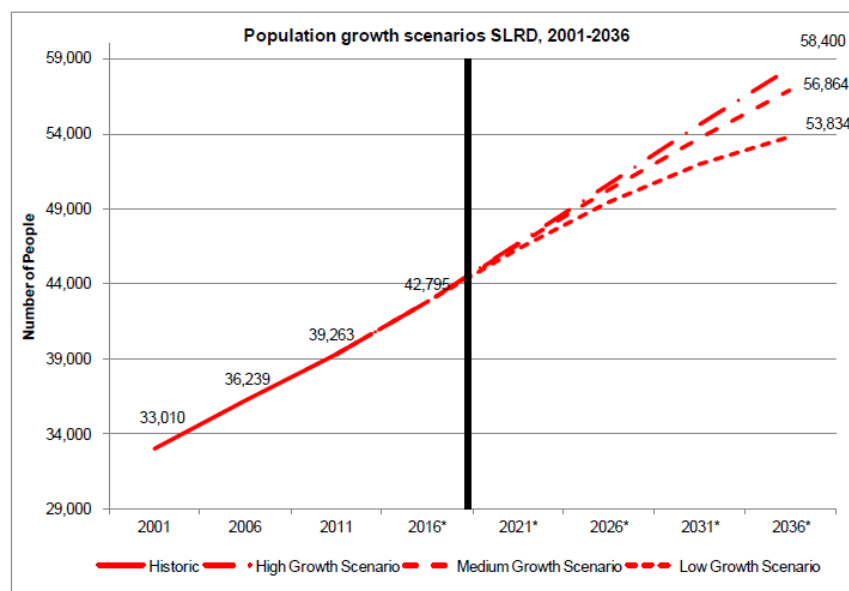
The RGS population projections estimate the likely path of population growth in the Region and can provide valuable information for evaluating long-term housing and employment goals. The dwelling unit projections are based on the population projections and look at shifts in composition of housing across the Region as well as the location of the bulk of housing growth. The employment projections highlight important and potential growth industries related to the provincial economy.

*Table 1: RGS Projections Summary - Population, Dwelling Units & Employment*

<b>Population (2016-2036)</b>	14,069 additional people (medium growth scenario)	Total projected population: 56,864 (medium growth scenario)
<b>Dwelling Units (2016-2036)</b>	5,518 additional dwelling units (occupied private dwellings)	Total projected dwelling units: 21,899 (occupied private dwellings)
<b>Employment (2011- 2026)</b>	5,442 additional jobs	Total projected labour force: 28,098

### Population Projections

The Region has and continues to experience considerable growth. The SLRD grew from 29,401 people in 1996 to 42,665 by 2016, at an average annual growth rate of 2.28 percent – a total increase of 13,394 people or 670 people per year. Under a medium growth scenario, the population of the SLRD is expected to grow from 42,665 in 2016 to 56,864 in 2036; this represents an average annual growth rate of 1.5 percent. During the same period, Metro Vancouver is also expected to have an average annual growth rate of 1.5 percent, while the Province is expected to experience an average annual growth rate of 1.2 percent.



*Figure 2: Population Projection, Three Scenarios for SLRD, 2001-2036; Source Urbanics Consultants Ltd. 2017*

The population projections include several important implications for the Region over the next 20 years:

- The SLRD will see a significant increase in population.
- The bulk of the population resides in the “working-age” segments between the ages 15 and 64 which are expected to incur the largest rates of population growth, though a slight decrease in percent of population (from 73 percent (31,256) to 67 percent (37,965)). In spite of the overall decline in population share, this age-cohort is expected to add 6,709 people from 2016 - 2036.
- The under 15 segment is expected to decrease from 17 percent of the population (7,240) to 16 percent (9,349). In spite of the overall decline in population share, this age-cohort is expected to add roughly 2,109 residents from 2016 - 2036.
- The 65 and older segment is expected to grow from 10 percent of the population (4,299) to 17 percent (9,550). This suggests an increase of some 5,251 people 65 years and over, from 2016 - 2036.

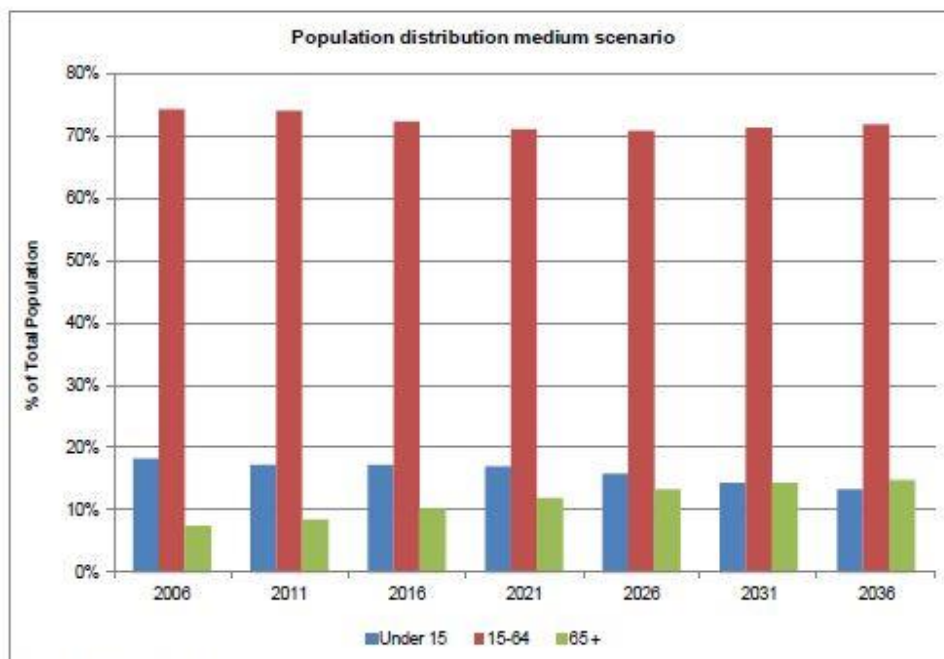


Figure 3: Population Distribution, Medium Scenario, 2001-2036; Source Urbanics Consultants Ltd. 2017

Changing demographics are a reality for the SLRD, as well as most parts of BC. Notably, the proportion of the senior population is growing and will have a greater share of the overall population, resulting in greater demands for health care, housing, recreation and other services. Yet, the younger age demographic (under 15 segment) will still hold about the same overall population share as seniors (around 17 percent) and the working age demographic will continue to make up the bulk of the population in the SLRD (67 percent). Therefore, while the goals of the RGS have import across demographics, implementation of the RGS to achieve these goals will require balancing the sometimes diverse needs of our communities.

### Dwelling Unit Projections

The Region is expected to add a total of 5,518 dwellings between 2016 and 2036, at an average growth rate of 276 dwellings per year. Important to note is the term “dwelling” in this context only refers to *occupied private dwellings* and does not include vacant dwellings.

#### PRIVATE DWELLINGS VS OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS

For the purposes of the RGS Projections, private dwellings are differentiated from occupied private dwellings. The analyses and projections focus on occupied private dwellings as it provides a more accurate measure of the housing needs of the community; i.e. housing stock which is occupied by permanent residents and does not include vacant dwellings or dwellings occupied by temporary residents. Thus, the use of the term “dwelling” refers to and highlights occupied private dwellings only. Vacant dwellings make up 32 percent of the dwellings in the SLRD; this number has remained consistent since 2006.

Additionally, major shifts in the composition of housing within the Region are expected. Most notably, the single-detached dwellings segment is expected to decline in share from 43 percent to 33 percent and significant gains are anticipated in the semi-detached category that is expected to increase in share from 34 percent to 43 percent.

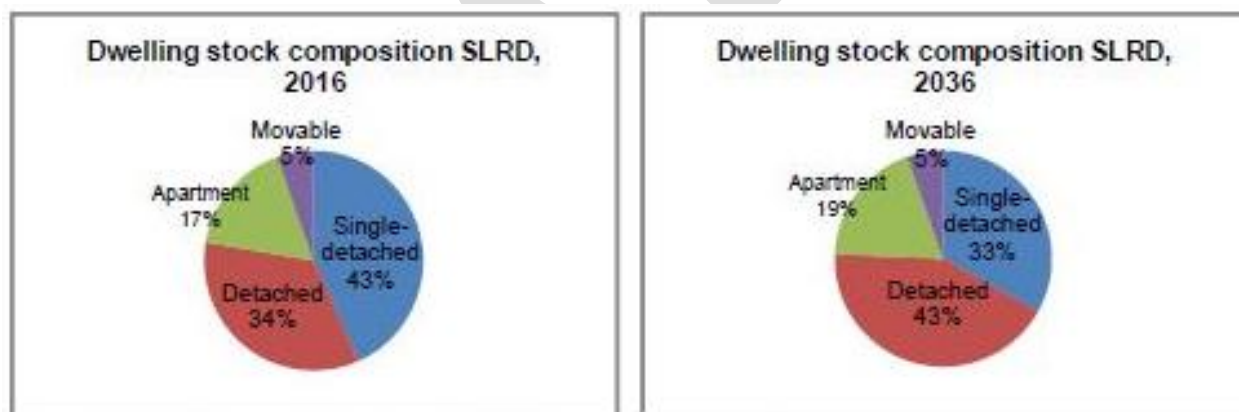


Figure 4: SLRD Dwelling Unit Composition, 2016 vs 2036; Source Urbanics Consultants Ltd. 2016

The bulk of housing growth during 2016-2036 is expected to occur in Squamish (42 percent) followed by Whistler (26 percent) and Pemberton (10 percent). Lillooet and the electoral areas are expected to display limited to no growth in terms of their housing stock over the next 20 years.

As illustrated in Table 2 below, projected housing growth is closely aligned to the projected population growth and populations share by area.



Table 2: Projected Population and Dwellings by Area, 2016 -2036

	2016 (Actual)		2036 (Projected)		Population Share	
	Population	Dwellings	Population	Dwellings	2016	2036
<b>Squamish</b>	19,512	7,260	25,674	9,089	49.4%	50.3%
<b>Whistler</b>	11,854	4,612	15,358	5,395	30%	30.1%
<b>Pemberton</b>	2,574	964	4,297	1,510	6.5%	8.4%
<b>Lillooet</b>	2,275	1,074	2,530	1,126	5.8%	5.0%
<b>Area D</b>	1,057	439	1,135	466	2.7%	1.9%
<b>Area C</b>	1,663	655	1,697	776	4.2%	3.3%
<b>Area B</b>	363	183	329	156	0.9%	0.64%
<b>Area A</b>	187	112	209	110	0.5%	0.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	39,485	15,299	51,041	18,563	100%	100%
<b>TOTAL (including reserve lands)</b>	42,665	16,416	56,864	21,899		

Note: 2016 data is sourced from the 2016 Census. Indigenous community populations are included in the 2016 Census population count of 42,665 for the SLRD (2016). Total Population Share numbers above only include incorporated municipalities and electoral areas, not reserve lands.

### Employment Projections

SLRD employment projections are based on forecast employment trends by industry for BC. The Region is expected to add roughly 5,442 new jobs between 2011 and 2026, primarily in the following industries:

- Accommodation and Foods Services (818 jobs);
- Public Administration (644 jobs);
- Retail Trade (632 jobs);
- Health Care and Social Assistance (601 jobs);
- Professional Services (486 jobs); and
- Construction (398 jobs).

Between 2001-2011, the Region's employment base grew substantially and diversified in its concentration of industrial segments. In particular, four industry sectors realized significant gains in terms of overall share of the labour force: Construction (rose from 9 percent to 13 percent); Retail Trade (rose from 10 percent to 11 percent); Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (rose from 4 percent to 6 percent); and Public Administration (rose from 6 percent to 8 percent).



These trends are expected to continue. Overall the goods-producing industries are projected to add a total 603 workers. The construction industry is expected to increase at the fastest rate by 398 workers to a total of 3,362 workers by 2026. The services-producing industries are expected to maintain steady growth throughout the study period adding a total of 4,839 workers.

**A more detailed analysis of trends and projections is found in the *2017 SLRD Regional Growth Strategy Population, Employment and Dwelling Unit Projections* report.**

## What type of growth is desirable?

The SLRD and its partners recognize the importance of planning for a sustainable future based on a long-term vision and the intermediate steps required to take us to our vision. The vision of a sustainable future includes:

- Living within the limits imposed by natural systems;
- Reducing our dependence on nonrenewable resources;
- Encouraging zero-waste, re-use and recycling;
- Minimizing disturbance of ecological and physical processes;
- Protecting and managing land, water and air wisely and efficiently;
- Recognizing and reducing human impacts leading to climate change;
- Understanding the interconnections among economy, society, health and environment; and
- Distributing resources and opportunities fairly and with an awareness of future generations.

Sustaining the region's exceptional quality of life and stunning natural beauty while managing projected increases in population in the south and stimulating economic recovery in the north is a key priority. Determining what constitutes positive growth for the SLRD and the many communities and rural areas within its boundaries is not a simple matter, as the goals for the diverse parts of the SLRD differ:

For urban areas, there is the need to plan for compact, complete and sustainable communities, to accommodate expected growth over the next 30 years, and to ensure that urban densities are being achieved in the designated growth areas.

For rural areas, there is a need to plan for resilient, innovative and adaptive rural communities, including planning for a strong agricultural sector and supporting traditional rural lifestyles and economic transitions - while at the same time protecting environmental values and resources on which both the urban and rural areas depend and preventing sprawl and extension of urban services into the rural land base.

## RGS Smart Growth Principles

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and member municipalities collaboratively developed and endorsed Smart Growth Principles that are included within a Memorandum of Understanding (2006) established to guide the preparation and implementation of the RGS. These include:

1. Direct urban development towards existing communities (avoiding urban and rural sprawl);
2. Build compact, complete, mixed-use neighbourhoods;
3. Create walkable communities;
4. Promote a variety of low impact transportation options;
5. Advocate a range of affordable housing options;
6. Foster distinct, attractive, economically sustainable communities with a strong sense of place;
7. Protect and promote responsible stewardship of green spaces and sensitive areas;
8. Ensure the integrity of a productive agricultural and forestry land base;
9. Endorse energy efficient infrastructure;
10. Ensure early and ongoing public involvement that respects community values and visions;
11. Cultivate a culture of cooperation, coordination and collaboration between local governments, provincial agencies, federal agencies, and First Nations.

THE RGS SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES summarize the core values that guided the development of the SLRD RGS and that continue to guide its implementation throughout the region.

## PART 3

### The Strategy

#### ***Vision***

Our vision of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District in 2038 and beyond is of a region comprised of diverse, distinct and liveable communities that share a commitment to:

- Practice economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- Protect the region's natural beauty;
- Enhance the region's world-class outdoor recreation;
- Foster balanced and equitable economic growth; and
- Make decisions that engage local, provincial, federal and First Nation governments, and reflect the values of communities.

#### ***Goals***

The SLRD and its members will strive to achieve the following eleven goals. These broad statements provide the strategic directions that will be used to address growth management challenges over the next 20 years.

GOAL 1 Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities

GOAL 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options

GOAL 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing

GOAL 4 Achieve a Sustainable Economy

GOAL 5 Protect Natural Eco-system Functioning

GOAL 6 Encourage the Sustainable Use of Parks and Natural Areas

GOAL 7 Create Healthy and Safe Communities

GOAL 8 Enhance Relations with Indigenous Communities and First Nations

GOAL 9 Improve Collaboration among Jurisdictions

GOAL 10 Protect and Enhance Food Systems

GOAL 11 Take Action on Climate Change

## GOAL 1 Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities

The Regional Growth Strategy aims to encourage compact, complete sustainable communities as the basis for land use planning throughout the region. 'Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities' refers to settlement that takes a long-term view of the quality of life for future generations, promotes the efficient use of land at higher population densities with greater transportation choices, protects agriculture, natural areas and open spaces, and provides an opportunity to live and work in the same community. Focussing settlements into compact, complete, sustainable communities or nodes moves us toward a vision of sustainable, highly liveable communities with accessible services, public spaces, parks, and cultural and recreation amenities.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

*(i) Provides a Smart Growth Framework that recognizes a range of opportunities to apply these principles across different settlement types. The purpose of this framework is not to limit development in the region but rather to shape the pattern and quality of development along a more sustainable path.*

*(ii) Directs population growth and settlement development primarily to compact Urban Areas and Master Planned Communities on the basis of Smart Growth Principles. New urban communities will not be considered outside of the established settlement areas.*

*(iii) Protects Non-Settlement Areas that have important agricultural, environmental, back-country recreational, aesthetic and natural resource values.*

*iv) Encourages economic development, urban growth and revitalization in the Northern area.*

### Compact, complete, sustainable communities will be achieved by:

- Accommodating major growth within the urban boundaries of Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and Lillooet, with appropriate policies for in-fill and increased population density.
- Delineating the existing and future settlement areas and, in accordance with *Smart Growth* Principles, provide for the phased extension of urban boundaries to clearly distinguish the urban/non-urban edge.
- Maintaining Nodal Development in the Sea to Sky Corridor, with well-planned centres separated by natural resource and rural land uses, and avoiding the potential for continuous or dispersed linear development.
- Encouraging urban growth and revitalization of central Lillooet as the major service centre in the northern sub-region in conjunction with economic development initiatives.
- Providing for a mix of land uses in community development, particularly at Porteau Cove, Furry Creek and Britannia Beach, to enhance the potential for more integrated, complete communities.

- Maintaining the integrity of ‘non-settlement’ lands that have particular physical constraints or values, and ensuring rural residential or resource development is compatible with the rural landscape.
- Protecting the integrity and productivity of the agricultural land base through the Agricultural Land Reserve and agricultural planning.

## Strategic Directions:

### 1.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree that:

#### a) The *Settlement Planning Maps* will be used in conjunction with Official Community Plans to:

- Direct growth and settlement development towards Member Municipalities and existing SLRD Master Planned Communities;
- maintain the rural, low density character of Serviced Residential and Rural Residential Areas; and
- protect and maintain Non-Settlement Areas.

#### Official Community Plans should:

- establish policies that are consistent with the Regional Settlement Planning Map;
- direct major settlement growth to the Urban Areas and Master Planned Communities;
- prevent major settlement growth in Non-Settlement Areas; and
- encourage Smart Growth strategies appropriate to the settlement types and local circumstances.

#### Member municipalities shall:

- prepare and update Regional Context Statements which identify the relationship between an Official Community Plan and the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy (and if applicable, how the Official Community Plan is to be made consistent with the RGS over time);
- submit the Regional Context Statements to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District Board for approval as per s. 446 of the Local Government Act; and
- once the context statement is approved, amend their Official Community Plan to include the approved Regional Context Statement.

If, after the adoption of a Regional Context Statement in an Official Community Plan, a municipality proposes to amend its Official Community Plan and the amendment may affect the Regional Context Statement, the municipality will consult with the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District before proceeding with the Official Community Plan amendment.

#### b) Land Use Designations will be used in conjunction with the Settlement Planning Maps, and include:

- **Urban Areas**, as shown on the *Regional Settlement Planning Map 1, the Squamish Settlement Planning Map 1a, the Whistler Settlement Planning Map 1b, the Pemberton/Mount Currie Settlement Planning Map 1c, and the Lillooet Settlement Planning Map 1d* will accommodate most of the future population growth, consistent with *Smart Growth* Principles applied in Official Community Plans for the District of Squamish, Resort Municipality of Whistler, Village of

Pemberton, and the District of Lillooet. The objective for these areas is to encourage compact, mixed-use urban communities within well-defined urban boundaries.

- **Master Planned Communities** refers to larger scale developments that are planned on a comprehensive basis within the defined boundaries of Britannia Beach, Furry Creek and Porteau Cove, as shown on the *Regional Settlement Planning Map* and the *Howe Sound Settlement Planning Map 1e*.
  - For existing SLRD Master Planned Communities, further growth is not supported beyond what is currently contemplated in SLRD Official Community Plans (OCPs) and what is specified in the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Zoning and OCP amendments that propose to increase density or area of existing SLRD Master Planned Communities are not supported.
  - New Master Planned Communities and/or urban areas are not supported outside of the established settlement areas.

The objective for these areas is to encourage compact, clustered residential and local commercial, mixed use developments with distinct edges and full community water and sewer services.

- **Rural Communities** are historical, small-scale settlements such as Mount Currie, D'Arcy, and Seton Portage/Shalalth, as shown on the *Regional Settlement Planning Map*. The objective for these areas is to encourage compact residential and local commercial and small-scale mixed use developments within distinct small villages or development nodes with community water and sewer services.
- **Serviced Residential Areas** will be located at Black Tusk Village, Pinecrest Estates and WedgeWoods Estates as shown on the *Regional Settlement Planning Map*. The objective for these areas is to maintain rural character, encourage compact, clustered, low-density and primarily residential development with community water and sewer services, surrounded by non-settlement resource lands.
- **Rural Residential Areas** will maintain their predominant rural character and land use within defined areas, as shown on the *Regional Settlement Planning Map*. These areas provide for a variety of rural land uses, particularly low density residential land use on larger parcels with on-site services. The objective for these areas is to protect the rural landscape and to prevent small-lot subdivision and development sprawl outside of the defined areas. Rural Residential Areas will remain with very low density land uses over the long term, except in exceptional circumstances where they may be in transition to Urban Areas, as set out in Official Community Plans and in a manner consistent with *Smart Growth Principles*.
- **Non-settlement Areas** will be maintained in a predominantly non-settled state without significant urban or rural land development and in accordance with *Smart Growth Principles* which direct residential development toward compact communities and maintain the integrity

of the resource lands that separate the settlement areas. Major land developments will be limited to agricultural developments in the Agricultural Land Reserve in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation, (including non-farm uses approved by the ALC in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation) resource extraction and industrial uses (forestry, mining, etc.) on resource lands, Backcountry Resorts and Destination Resorts without residential components. Residential development in the designated Non-Settlement Areas will be discouraged by generally maintaining subdivision minimum parcel sizes of 40 ha.

c) Settlement Planning Map Amendments, including proposed changes to designation boundaries through RGS revision – must be based on clearly defined *Smart Growth Principles* and demonstrate a commitment to the concept of ‘Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities’ as described in the RGS.

d) Growth and transportation will be addressed concurrently.

This will be pursued by developing a regional multi-modal transportation plan that addresses current and proposed growth.

## Settlement Planning Maps

A *Regional Settlement Planning Map* (attached as Map 1) as well as Settlement Planning Maps for each Member Municipality and Howe Sound (attached as Maps 1a – 1e) identifies the settlement types and provides the spatial context for growth management strategies. The purpose of this mapping within the RGS is to guide the land use and community planning processes by defining the long-term urban boundaries where they are known and assisting in delineating the defined non-settlement areas within the region. As such, there are two main settlement types – Settlement Areas (Urban and Non-Urban) and Non-Settlement Areas. Land use designations fall into these settlement types, as outlined below, and have been mapped to assist the implementation of Goal 1 of the RGS. These include:

- **Settlement Areas**
  - **Urban Areas** – areas designated in Official Community Plans or otherwise identified for existing and future urban growth, including serviced rural residential areas that are contiguous with and functionally part of existing urban areas, but excluding non-settlement areas that have agricultural, environmental, open space, parks and protected areas, hazard lands and other limited use constraints. Table 1 lists the identified Urban Areas.
  - **Non-Urban Areas** – areas designated in Official Community Plans or otherwise identified as Master Planned Community, Rural Community and Serviced Residential settlements and for long-term low density Rural Residential land uses, excluding areas that have agricultural, environmental, open space, parks and protected areas, hazard lands and other limited use constraints. Table 1 lists the Non-Urban Areas: Master Planned Community, Serviced Residential, Rural Community, and Rural Residential Areas.
- **Non-Settlement Areas** – lands designated as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), limited use, environmentally sensitive and hazard lands, water shed and drinking water aquifers, parks, open

space or protected areas, and Crown forest lands where major settlement development will be discouraged. This designation allows for non-farm uses, as permitted by the ALC in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation.

The Settlement Planning Maps (*Regional Settlement Planning Map* (Map 1) and Settlement Planning Maps for each Member Municipality and Howe Sound (Maps 1a – 1e)) provide a general guide for a regional settlement pattern that reflects a commitment to compact, complete, sustainable communities. **This mapping is conceptual with an expression of intent with regard to settlement and non-settlement boundaries that will assist more detailed land use planning within Official Community Plans.** Settlement Planning Maps are submitted to the SLRD by Member Municipalities to support collaborative planning; they are not submitted as part of Regional Context Statements.

A description of the Settlement Planning Maps and corresponding regional land use designations and areas are provided in the following Table 3: Description of Settlement Planning Maps.

*Table 3: Description of Settlement Planning Maps*

Regional Land Use Designation	Area Descriptions	Map
<b>SETTLEMENT AREAS</b>		
<b>URBAN AREAS</b>	Urban means a closely built up settlement characterized by buildings, asphalt, concrete, and a systematic street pattern within an incorporated municipality. Urban areas include residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, communications, utilities, and mixed urban land uses.	
	<b>District of Squamish</b> As per Map 1e.	<b>Map 1e</b>
	<b>Resort Municipality of Whistler</b> As per Map 1d.	<b>Map 1d</b>
	<b>Village of Pemberton</b> As per Map 1b and Map 1c	<b>Map 1b and Map 1c</b>
	<b>District of Lillooet</b> As per Map 1d	<b>Map 1a</b>
<b>NON-URBAN AREAS</b>	Non-urban includes any unincorporated or incorporated settlement area, and includes small Rural Communities, Serviced Residential areas, Rural Residential areas, and Master Planned Communities.	
<b>Serviced Residential</b>	<b>Black Tusk Village, Pinecrest Estates and WedgeWoods Estates</b> Serviced Residential means a settlement that contains primarily residential uses serviced by community water and/or sewer systems.	<b>Map 1 and Map 1c</b>
<b>Master Planned Communities</b>	<b>Furry Creek, Porteau Cove, Britannia Beach</b> Master Planned Community means larger scale developments that are non-urban, mixed use and are planned on a comprehensive basis.	<b>Map 1f</b>
<b>Rural Communities</b>	<b>Mount Currie, D'Arcy, Seton Portage/Shalalth</b> Rural Communities means settlements that are closely built up, with a mix of land uses, community water and sewer systems, and a systematic street pattern. Rural Communities generally have a population of less than 1,000 people.	<b>Map 1</b>



<b>Rural Residential</b>	<p><b>Non-ALR outskirts of Pemberton, Seton Lake, D'Arcy, Seton Portage/Shalalth, Mount Currie, Ivey Lake, Walkerville, Owl Ridge, Poole Creek, Lillooet Lake Estates, Birken and Devine, Pavillion Lake, Paradise Valley, Squamish Valley, Ring Creek, 5 Coves</b></p> <p>Rural Residential means a settlement that contains dispersed residential uses usually on small acreage parcels which are not serviced by community water or sewer services.</p>	<b>Map 1</b>
--------------------------	--	--------------

#### NON-SETTLEMENT AREAS

All other areas, including all ALR lands.

Non-Settlement Area means an area predominantly used for agriculture, including non-farm uses approved by the ALC in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation, rangeland, forestry, outdoor recreation or resource extraction uses or areas of undisturbed natural environments. Non-settlement areas include watersheds, conservation areas, farmland, forests, and major parks and large areas of unsurveyed Crown land. They may be characterized by some sparse settlement and localized, historic subdivisions. Parcel areas are generally greater than 15 hectares (40 acres) in non-settlement areas.

## GOAL 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options

The Regional Growth Strategy intends to promote transportation choices across the region and to support an improved regional transportation system that sustains compact, liveable communities, economic vibrancy and a healthy environment. Expanding preferred modes of transportation linkages and options will be particularly important to accommodate aging and growing populations.

### WHAT ARE OUR PREFERRED MODES OF TRANSPORTATION?

The SLRD Prioritizes preferred modes of transportation in the following order: 1. pedestrian, bicycle and other-non-motorized means (active transportation), 2. transit, rail, ferry and movement of goods, 3. private automobile (HOV, and leading low-impact technologies), 4. private automobile (SOV, traditional technology).

Highway 99 is the backbone to regional inter-community connectivity and significant to the economic success of each community. Recognizing alternative transportation solutions needs to be a priority.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

- (i) Encourages the development of neighbourhoods and communities that are compact with a mix of land uses, well-connected streets and trails, and a pedestrian/bicycle friendly environment to encourage active forms of transportation.*
- (ii) Supports minimizing auto-dependency where possible, and increasing transportation choices and connectivity within the region and between the region and the Lower Mainland and the Interior.*
- (iii) Supports the development of a regional transit system that is convenient, efficient, integrated with land uses and other transportation modes, and is financially sustainable.*
- (iv) Supports improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional road network (access, mobility, safety, reliability), making better use of capacity and managing issues such as traffic volumes, speed, noise, air quality, and share the road.*
- (v) Supports expanding preferred modes of transportation within and between communities, with a focus on safety, health, enjoyment and accessibility.*

Transportation needs in the regional growth strategy have been identified as an expression of local priorities for improvements. Where the province has responsibility for local roads, improvement decisions will be based on a proper evaluation that considers cost and benefits and impact on safety.

In the northern part of the region, safety concerns, the need for highway service improvement, and the lack of public and/ or private transportation options are the primary transportation issues. Ongoing improvements to the Duffey Lake Road segment of Highway 99 and other northern routes [Hurley Forest Service Road (FSR), In-Shuck-CH FSR, Highway 40, Highway 12, and the Highline Road / Douglas Trail] are suggested in order to improve accessibility, enhance safety and support economic development.

In the southern part of the region, safety concerns and level of service/capacity constraints are the primary transportation issues. Ongoing improvements to Highway 99 between Pemberton and Lions Bay are suggested, as well as a focus to integrate land uses in a way that minimizes auto-dependency, to maintain and further improve current levels of transit ridership, active modes of transportation and car-pooling, and to facilitate the development of an efficient regional approach to transit service. Ensuring compact land use patterns with high quality pedestrian environments and a mix of land uses will increase transport options, reduce air pollution and lower the risk of accidents.

Map 2: Regional Transportation illustrates the various transportation networks - including road, rail and air - within the Region.

### Transportation will be improved by:

- Building cooperation among stakeholders and pursuing collaborative regional transportation solutions that anticipate projected population growth.
- Adhering to *Smart Growth Principles* to create compact, walkable communities and neighbourhoods that provide transportation choices and support efficient public transit.
- Promoting a Transportation Demand Management (TDM is an alternative to increasing capacity) approach in the Sea to Sky Corridor that supports an integrated and viable transportation system.
- Prioritizing preferred modes of transportation choices/ options to reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicle travel within neighbourhoods and between communities.
- Addressing connectivity (inter-regional and intra-regional) between communities, especially in the north and with adjacent regions.
- Working collaboratively to promote a high level of service across the region that will move more people, goods and services efficiently, with travel times and key measures.

### Strategic Directions:

#### 2.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Strongly encourage compact, mixed use developments that allow for minimized use of vehicles and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transit.

This will be pursued by implementing Goal 1: Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities, whereby land uses are integrated so that people can easily accomplish basic trips on foot or bicycles; retail development is clustered near residential to attract more walking trips; residential developments are in close proximity (within walking distance) to parks, schools, transit, shops and services; pedestrian friendly environments exist that are safe, vibrant, and interesting for those who walk, cycle and take transit; and streets and trail networks are highly interconnected and maintained according to the seasons, reducing distance and time needed to get from one place to another.

b) Consider a model for the provision of regional transit services that will:

- assess opportunities to develop regular bus services between the major centres;
- initiate further transit studies and initiatives with the aim of increasing transit ridership;

- undertake long range transit planning, implementing transit improvements and integrating transit facilities within updated Official Community Plans;
- improve connectivity of ferry/rail/bus infrastructure, especially in downtown Squamish;
- consider marine transportation opportunities between Squamish and Vancouver/Richmond; and
- encourage transportation improvements and transit opportunities in regional tourism development, including tourism operators promoting transit use by their employees and customers.

c) Work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and other agencies to improve the safety and reliability of the regional road network, taking account of priorities identified by the member councils of the regional district and First Nations.

Table 2: Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities identifies regional priorities. These will be pursued by encouraging priority road improvements that reflect safety and reliability needs in the region. Particular note is made of the Duffey Lake – Lillooet – Highway 12 route improvements that will enhance economic development and urban growth opportunities in the Lillooet area, the potential upgrades in the Whistler-Pemberton corridor, and long range planning of southern alternative routes. Discussions with Ministry of Forests are also proposed to address road access and maintenance issues in certain rural areas.

d) Support the development, implementation and integration of member municipality Active/Alternative/Preferred Modes of Transportation Plans.

This will be pursued by encouraging priority preferred modes of transportation improvements (as identified in Table 3: Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities) and collaborating/coordinating to facilitate linkages between communities. It is recognized that these efforts will require support from other levels of government and that a collective regional vision and lobby is advantageous.

e) Encourage the continued development of trails and bicycle routes that provide for safe walking/hiking and biking in the region.

This will be pursued through discussions with community organizations, Sea to Sky Trail and Friendship Trail (Pemberton to Mount. Currie) participants, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, CN Rail and property owners. The trail/routes will facilitate transportation alternatives and outdoor recreation activities within a regional trails and bicycle network.

f) Approach the issue of regional air service in a coordinated manner that takes into account regional demands, and the various advantages and constraints associated with the existing airports infrastructure and business plans.

This will be pursued in conjunction with Goal 4 – Achieve a Sustainable Economy.

g) Continue to support region-wide 911 and cell phone service to enhance the safety of the public in remote areas in the event of an accident or emergency situation through improved communication with emergency responders.

h) Support broadband internet services that promote local employment opportunities close to home (encouraging telecommuting) and reduce travel needs.

These will both be pursued in conjunction with economic development functions of the regional district and discussions with service providers to enhance region-wide cell phone service for better travel safety in remote areas, and broadband internet services that promote economic development / local employment opportunities close to home.

2.2 Transportation system improvement priorities at the regional level are summarized in the Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities on Table 4 and the Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities on Table 5. These are presented as a guide for gradual long-term upgrading of the transportation system recognizing that provincial funding allocations are based on cost-benefit evaluations.

**Table 4: Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities**

Capital Improvements	Rehabilitation Improvements
<i>Southern Routes (south of Pemberton)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic safety improvements to the Hwy #99 Whistler-Pemberton route</li> <li>• Construct a Highway #99 "Suicide Hill" solution to switchback turns, erosion and excessive grade</li> <li>• Traffic calming and speed restriction signage at 18 Mile on the Upper Squamish River Road</li> <li>• Highway capacity and safety improvements in accordance with the development of a Sea to Sky Corridor Sustainable Transportation Plan</li> <li>• Britannia Beach traffic flow upgrade</li> <li>• Connect Highway 99 to Downtown and Squamish Terminals via Clarke Dr. intersection and a new Pemberton Ave. bridge.</li> <li>• Improve connectivity of future neighbourhoods north of Garibaldi Way to Highway 99.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve vehicle/pedestrian safety and connectivity at Highway 99 intersections with Darrel Bay Rd., Alice Lake Rd. and Cleveland Ave.</li> <li>• Single lane bridges on Garibaldi Park Rd (Ring Creek)</li> <li>• Upgrade Upper Cheakamus Road to MOTI specifications.</li> <li>• Upgrade the Site B access/egress to Highway 99.</li> </ul>
<i>Northern Routes (north and east of Pemberton)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade all single lane bridges on Duffey Lake Road</li> <li>• Address the slide area 15 km south of Lillooet on Highway 12 "The Big Slide" possibly through construction of a tunnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address erosion and undermining of highways throughout the sub-region</li> <li>• Expedite subsurface rehabilitation and repaving of all</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the Hurley from Forest Service Road to MOTI Road classification to ensure better/more maintenance, supporting the development of tourism opportunities and providing a vital link to the Bridge River Valley</li> <li>• Redesign existing wide turns through the Fountain Reserve including the underpass on Highway #99 where there is no vision until in the turn</li> <li>• Address high risk areas on Highway 40 between Lillooet and Gold Bridge including widening from the dam to Gold Bridge, roadside barriers and paving</li> <li>• Fountain Slide (10 Mile Slide) Area (works underway)</li> <li>• Five Nations Highway</li> <li>• Build an alternate route connecting Harrison and Mount Currie including upgrades to Lillooet Lake Road</li> <li>• Increase number of passing lanes and pull-outs on the Duffy Lake Road</li> <li>• Public Facilities Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>highways in the sub-region including Highway #97 – Lillooet to Cache Creek, Pemberton Valley Road, Pemberton to Anderson Lake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade to year round, no weight restriction roads to stimulate local economy particularly in rural Lillooet</li> <li>• Undertake improvements to Duffey Lake Road communications including installation of communications boxes or consistent cellular coverage</li> <li>• Replace all one lane bridges in the subregion including Devine and Birken</li> <li>• Provide parking facilities for boats/trailers at Anderson Lake 'end of road'</li> </ul>
---	--

**Table 5: Regional Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities**

Capital Improvements	Rehabilitation Improvements
<i>Region Wide Improvements</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore high-speed passenger rail service</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to implement pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure in conjunction with other capital projects</li> <li>• Develop Regional Design Guidelines to support Preferred Modes of Transportation</li> <li>• Install Share the Road Signage along highways and busy roadways</li> <li>• Expand bicycle storage facilities</li> </ul>	
<i>Southern Routes (south of Pemberton)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway 99 Cycling Infrastructure Enhancements</li> <li>• Sea-to-Sky Regional Transit Service</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance Sea-to-Sky Trail</li> <li>• Explore marine transportation options between Squamish and Metro Vancouver</li> <li>• Develop Commuter/Car Pool/Park and Ride Lots to support Highway 99 transportation system</li> <li>• Support Safe Routes to School programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widen shoulders and/or provide dedicated routes required between Pemberton and Whistler to accommodate the significant volume of cyclists.</li> <li>• Encourage <i>Complete Streets</i> designs in all new development and road projects</li> </ul>
<i>Northern Routes (north and east of Pemberton)</i>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Friendship Trail connecting Pemberton and Mount Currie</li> <li>• Re-establish passenger rail service to Lillooet and beyond</li> <li>• Highway 99 Cycling Infrastructure Enhancements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widen shoulders and/or provide dedicated routes required between Whistler and D'Arcy to accommodate the significant volume of bicyclists and pedestrians</li> </ul>
---	--

DRAFT

## GOAL 3 Generate a Range of Quality Affordable Housing

The Regional Growth Strategy aspires to generate an adequate supply of quality affordable housing and a diversity of housing types for employees, seniors and people in need in the region. Affordable housing means rental or ownership housing priced so that monthly payments are less than 30% of gross household income. Securing housing availability and affordability in perpetuity is of particular importance – for both ownership and rental. Access to stable and affordable housing is critical to our quality of life, contributing to economic development while supporting diversity and community well-being. Changing demographics will also require particular attention to the generation of housing that facilitates *aging in place*.

Affordable housing is recognized as a regional issue, needing collaborative approaches that build upon common tools and techniques to support a range of quality affordable housing across the region. Whistler has gained important experience in its efforts to house three-quarters of its workforce in the municipality.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

- (i) Supports an ongoing regional collaboration on affordable housing that will serve to strengthen communication and coordination of local efforts by municipalities, housing authorities and community organizations.*
- (ii) Prioritizes higher-density and mixed use neighbourhoods close to where residents work and play as part of the solution to the affordability issue. This could involve incentives and/or requirements for targeted affordable units, infill housing, density bonusing, inclusionary zoning, acquisition of community housing land banks, requiring units above commercial space and mixed use developments that address the needs of employees, seniors and people in need.*

### Expanded housing choice and affordability will be achieved by:

- Building cooperation among stakeholders and pursuing collaborative regional affordable housing solutions.
- Adhering to *Smart Growth Principles* to create communities that advocate a range of affordable housing options within Official Community Plans.
- Expanding the diversity of housing types for seniors and other population groups with special needs and lifestyles.
- Securing a range of housing that remains affordable for local employees and residents over the long-term.
- Increasing the rental housing supply, including purpose-built rental housing.
- Integrating affordable housing in existing communities and in close proximity to services.
- Promoting consistent affordable housing policies across the region, drawing upon lessons learned to date.



## Strategic Directions:

### 3.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Establish collaborative and consistent affordable housing policies, targets and tools to generate an adequate supply of quality affordable housing and a diversity of housing types for employees, seniors and people in need in the region.

This will be pursued by requiring a description of affordable housing policies, targets and tools within member municipality Regional Context Statements and SLRD Official Community Plans. Specifically, statements/descriptions should include the following:

- Inclusionary zoning requirements with aggressive targets, preferably at a minimum of 15 % affordable housing in perpetuity (e.g. purpose built rental, cooperative housing, etc.);
- Tools to secure affordable housing in perpetuity through deed/title restrictions and price controls;
- Strategies for the acquisition of community land banks for housing;
- Incentives and/or targets for affordable rental housing.

b) Adopt policies and regulations that support live-work studio space, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and a variety of residential intensification strategies such as allowing secondary suites, providing for 'flexhousing' (a multi-unit built form designed for adaptability of units to accommodate changing family size and needs over time), encouraging infill housing and small lot development, density bonusing and other tools that will support housing affordability.

This will be pursued in the review and updating of Official Community Plans and the overall development of collaborative approaches on affordable housing within the region.

c) Encourage affordable housing self-help initiatives by community organizations and individuals to maintain and/or increase the supply of affordable housing (e.g., community housing land trusts, non-profit, locally controlled entities that acquire and hold land in perpetuity so that it can be used for affordable housing).

This will be pursued in discussions with these organizations and in the review and updating of Official Community Plans to identify affordable housing land supply options, and by maximizing the use of existing provincial and federal government housing programs and advocating for increased funding for affordable housing.

d) Adopt financial tools that will assist in the delivery of accessible family housing and *seniors* housing, such as cash-in-lieu of social housing contributions, waiving development cost charges, property tax exemptions, and lands grants.

This will be pursued as part of decision making by the Regional Board and Member Municipality Councils in regard to social housing proposals.

e) Adopt, as appropriate, deed-restricted price, resale control, rent geared to income and other options to increase the supply of affordable housing and create housing that remains affordable in perpetuity.

This will be pursued as a region through the implementation of Official Community Plans and the collaborative, consistent affordable housing approaches committed to therein, and through the sharing of best practices learned by the Whistler Housing Authority and the affordable housing experiences in Squamish and Pemberton.

f) Encourage cooperation with community service groups and private developers to supply low-cost housing options for seniors with the aim of maximizing independence and self-reliance and promoting continued socialization and the ability to age in place.

This will be pursued in the review of residential and commercial development proposals and in the review and updating of Official Community Plans in regard to congregate care and independent living developments for seniors.

g) Encourage housing models that provide security of tenure and support infill priorities, such as *cooperative housing*, cohousing, pocket neighbourhoods, etc.

This will be pursued in the review of residential and commercial development proposals, in the review and updating of Official Community Plans, and through sub-area/neighbourhood level planning.

h) Work collaboratively to address impacts of short-term nightly rentals and home "sharing" on housing supply.

This will be pursued through bylaw enforcement, business licenses, exploring the use of property rental programs matching business owners with property owners for workforce housing and targeted communications and outreach efforts.

i) Work together as a region on initiatives with the Province to deliver affordable resident housing, such as: acquisition of community land banks for housing; authority to levy employee housing works and services charges; and project funding and financing.

This will be pursued through collaborative lobbying efforts with the Province.

## GOAL 4 Achieve a Sustainable Economy

The Regional Growth Strategy supports the development of a healthy economy as a vital component of a liveable, sustainable region. Fostering economic development throughout the regional district where social, economic, environmental, and community values are addressed in a balanced and sustainable manner is of particular importance. Sustainable economic development will contribute to the liveability of the region, helping to sustain the quality of life we all desire and will help reverse the economic decline in the northern part of the region. Throughout the region, economic development efforts need to be proactive and collaborative, identifying economic partnerships and opportunities and implementing workable strategies to achieve them.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

*(i) Promotes northern development initiatives that contribute to a wider geographic balancing of economic growth throughout the region.*

*(ii) Supports strengthening transportation linkages within the region and with the Interior and the Lower Mainland that support new investment.*

*(iii) Supports undertaking various investment strategies (industrial, tourism, agriculture, etc.) at a regional and sub-regional level that complement sustainable economic development and diversification and assist the transition from traditional resource industries.*

*(iv) Supports balancing the creation of housing with employment opportunities to contribute to the development of complete communities.*

### A sustainable economy will be achieved by:

- Building cooperation among stakeholders and pursuing collaborative regional economic development solutions.
- Adhering to *Smart Growth Principles* to foster distinct, attractive, economically sustainable communities with a strong sense of place.
- Diversifying the regional economy, including support for opportunities in Arts and Culture, Recreational Tourism, and expanding the opportunity for a range of employment types and pay levels.
- Supporting small businesses and encouraging local spending.
- Recognizing the importance of agriculture to the region's economy.
- Engaging the business community to provide leadership and support for sustainable economic development initiatives, including partnering with Indigenous communities and First Nations.
- Improving regional transportation infrastructure.
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing for people living in the region, and addressing the affordability of goods and services for local residents, particularly for those with low or moderate incomes to increase residents' ability to remain in the region and add to its social fabric.
- Protecting farmland for agricultural purposes.

## Strategic Directions:

### 4.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

#### a) Support diversified and sustainable economic growth and productivity.

This will be pursued through collaboration between the SLRD, member municipalities, provincial ministries/agencies and local organizations.

#### b) Strengthen the multi-modal transportation systems as a key component of economic diversification.

This will be pursued as described under RGS Goal 2 – Improve Transportation Linkages and Options.

#### c) Work together to enhance the national and international awareness of the SLRD and its member municipalities as welcoming environments for sustainable business investments.

This will be pursued by re-establishing a SLRD economic development function and recognizing the economic development opportunities associated with providing adequate supply of industrial land with good access to the Interior and the Lower Mainland.

#### d) Support the downtown of each member municipality as the priority area for commercial uses.

This will be pursued by encouraging revitalization and densification of the downtown of each member municipality (the member municipality's commercial and social hub), directing new commercial development to the downtown of each member municipality, protecting commercial lands, and planning for the future commercial needs of communities by setting aside lands for future downtown growth and expansion.

#### e) Provide for land development patterns that maintain an adequate supply of employment land, industrial land, transportation infrastructure and services to support a diverse regional economy.

This will be pursued by ensuring plans and policies prioritize such land development patterns, by working with provincial and federal governments to ensure fiscal measures are in place to reinforce investment, and by undertaking economic development planning where necessary.

#### f) Implement the recommendations of the Northern SLRD Economic Development Assessment, Strategy and Action Plan and the Northern SLRD Economic Development Governance Model Feasibility Study, including working to establish an inclusive, multi-party regional economic development committee.

Implementation will be pursued by undertaking a series of strategic initiatives outlined in the reports that will guide future investment in the Lillooet area economy in collaboration with the St'át'imc.

#### g) Support urban growth and revitalization efforts in Lillooet to expand the range of opportunities for community development beyond the Sea to Sky corridor, and to further encourage smart growth policies adopted in RGS Goal 1 - 'Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities'.

This will be pursued by sub-regional economic development initiatives and updating of the Lillooet Official Community Plan and transportation improvements in conjunction with the Ministry of Transportation and the St'át'imc.

h) Support the preservation of waterfront facilities and port lands, including Site B (of the Squamish Estuary Management Plan), Watts Point, Squamish Terminals and Darrell Bay, which are strategic land resources for port functions and for the regional forestry industry.

This will be pursued through collaboration between the regional district, member municipalities, provincial ministries/agencies and local organizations and by ensuring Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws work to preserve the identified and potential strategic land resources.

i) Support the economic viability of the local agricultural sector.

This will be pursued by developing regulations that strengthen the capacity of local farmers to produce and reach their markets and highlighting/recognizing the importance of agriculture to the region's economy in decision-making.

j) Support the development of a comprehensive, locally relevant, place-based approach to agritourism.

This will be pursued by consulting with the local agricultural community, Indigenous communities and First Nations, Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission to ensure local government plans, policies and strategies reflect the provincial regulations and local needs/opportunities.

k) Work together to encourage outdoor recreation tourism, recognizing its importance to the regional economy, while at the same time working to ensure growth in this sector is aligned with the regional carrying capacity.

This will be pursued through collaboration between the regional district, member municipalities, provincial ministries/agencies and local organizations.

l) Further the work undertaken by the SLRD to advance a regional Independent Power Production (IPP) development strategy in context with integrated watershed management that provides a framework for long term IPP development.

This will be pursued by the regional district in collaboration with UBCM.

## GOAL 5 Protect Natural Ecosystem Functioning

The Regional Growth Strategy seeks to protect ecosystem functioning and to conserve and steward its natural assets. These assets include both renewable and non-renewable resources including living organisms, water, air, land, vegetation and the habitats and ecological processes that support living organisms. The quality of life in the region is directly dependent on maintaining our natural assets. Population growth in the SLRD is based in large part on the quality of life offered by the region, and with future opportunities in the tourism industry dependent on the natural environment, the Regional Growth Strategy intends to protect environmental quality and retain its spectacular natural assets.

The Regional Growth Strategy embraces *Smart Growth Principles* to guide future development and settlement patterns in a manner that best conserves natural capital and promotes natural ecosystem functioning. 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. Map 3 Regional Natural Assets shows the geographic locations and extent of natural assets within the Region.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

*(i) Supports minimizing adverse impacts by carefully managing where and how development occurs, how wastes are reduced/diverted and how resources are managed; and*

*(ii) Supports promoting ecological restoration and enhancement opportunities.*

### Natural ecosystem functioning will be protected by:

- Protecting critical and sensitive habitats and ecological areas.
- Promoting connectivity through landscape level planning and maintaining and creating wildlife corridors.
- Maintaining the integrity of watershed processes and promoting the use of best management practices in land use planning and vegetation management (e.g., land use planning and management based on natural units and systems such as drainage, watersheds and ecosystems).
- Protecting and enhancing healthy air and water quality throughout the region.
- Promoting best management practices in water conservation and surface/ground water management.
- Implementing the SLRD Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (SWRMP).
- Undertaking noxious weed and invasive species control initiatives.
- Promoting public education of environmental issues and stewardship.
- Being prepared for the potential consequences of climate change on the region's natural resources.

## Strategic Directions

### 5.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Consolidate existing information into an inventory (data set) of regional ecologically-sensitive areas and biodiversity values, and further develop the Sea to Sky Sensitive Habitat Atlas as a planning tool (or coarse filter) for determining significant ecologically sensitive areas (ESA's) and natural biodiversity of the region that will assist in land use decision-making.

This will be pursued through collaboration with federal and provincial agencies, regional districts and local conservation organizations.

b) Promote Best Management Practices, including bylaws that encourage development design that limits environmental impact and promotes integrated storm water management, to manage surface water, drainage and groundwater to protect the supply and quality of water resources.

This will be pursued by incorporating appropriate measures in OCPs, regulatory bylaws and public works programs.

c) Investigate the need for a regional or sub-regional water conservation strategy, aimed at educating residents on water conservation methods and reducing water consumption and introduction of tools for water conservation and demand management (e.g., metering, pricing incentives).

This will be pursued through ongoing drinking water improvement plans and review of community water service operations.

d) Strive for continuous improvement of regional air quality.

This will be pursued through implementation of the Sea to Sky Air Quality Management Plan and the region-wide use of good planning principles such as smart growth, the promotion of a carbon-neutral region, support of new technologies, and the use of clean energy sources.

e) Strive toward achieving the SLRD SWRMP goal of reducing waste to 350kgs per person per year and further progress towards Zero Waste.

This will be pursued by implementation of the SLRD SWRMP.

f) Take an active approach to responsible vegetation management, including, where appropriate, consideration of alternatives to herbicides in rights-of-way maintenance, and cost-effective measures to control the spread of noxious weeds and alien invasive species.

This will be pursued by promoting alternatives to chemical treatments; enforcing SLRD and member municipality Soil Deposit and Removal bylaws; supporting the works of the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council and Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society; and investigating the introduction of a noxious weed bylaw and awareness program (e.g. restricting fill movements, etc.).

g) Encourage community involvement and stewardship efforts, including the adoption of Bear Smart programs at the local level, and habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement.

This will be pursued through discussions with federal and provincial agencies and local conservation organizations.

h) Utilize the SLRD Integrated Sustainability Plan, adopted March 2013, to inform internal and external policy direction, organizational decision making, and implementation of the RGS.

i) Protect Drinking Water Supplies (quality and quantity).

This will be pursued through proactive land use management and planning, in conjunction with provincial agencies, health authorities and First Nations, and including the identification of future potential sources and maintenance of existing sources.

j) Promote best practices in the development and maintenance of on-site sewerage systems in unserved rural areas.

This will be pursued through collaboration with provincial agencies and health authorities and by incorporating appropriate measures in OCPs, regulatory bylaws and public works programs.



## GOAL 6 Encourage the Sustainable Use of Parks and Natural Areas

The Regional Growth Strategy advocates the sustainable use and appropriate management of parks and natural areas, to protect wildlife habitat and corridors and to maintain open space for active and passive recreation. Natural area conservation is a priority throughout the Region. The RGS promotes the sustainable use and management of parks and natural areas on a regional level in context with the Provincial Land and Resource Management Plans. Promoting the sustainable use and management of parks and natural areas on a regional level will contribute to their management by other levels of government. Defining areas for new local and regional parks and green space will create a legacy for future generations and ensure a diversity of recreational opportunities.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

*(i) Supports maintaining the designated non-settlement areas for rural, agricultural and forestry land uses (including agricultural development in the Agricultural Land Reserve in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation, and the protection of ecological and recreational values.*

*(ii) Supports the establishment of a regional district 'Green Plan' network of local and regional parks and greenways for the purpose of recreational activities, wildlife habitats and natural ecological functions, consistent with the Provincial LRMP.*

### Sustainable use of parks and natural areas will be encouraged by:

- Establishing a regional network of greenways for ecosystem, wildlife and recreational functions.
- Promoting responsible stewardship of green spaces, marine/aquatic and sensitive areas.
- Protecting public access to public lands and waterways in conjunction with the Lillooet and Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs).
- Promoting / ensuring a variety of accessible recreational facilities.
- Ensuring opportunities for wilderness /natural (primitive) experiences.
- Recognizing significant places noted in First Nations land use plans.
- Harmonizing local, provincial & First Nations land use plans with respect to recreation.
- Building upon our reputation as a world-class outdoor recreation destination.

## Strategic Directions

### 6.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Support the retention, continued operation and potential expansion of existing provincial parks as recreational and natural areas and support adventure tourism activities that are appropriate to the long-term goals of the park.

This will be pursued by supporting the provincial government in their management of existing parks and recreational areas, by advocating for increased management in high-use parks and natural areas, and through input to Crown land referral applications.

b) Explore the various options for managing green spaces and natural areas at a regional level (e.g. the establishment of a regional parks function).

This will be pursued by investigating the potential for a regional parks system and region-wide conservation strategy. A 'no net loss' policy for important natural areas will also be considered as part of a Conservation Strategy.

c) Support the creation (and management) of an inter-connected network of regional green spaces / corridors to serve as recreation and wildlife corridors, growth boundaries and wildfire interface areas.

This will be pursued by considering preparation of a regional district 'Green Plan' in collaboration with local conservation and recreation organizations, Indigenous communities and First Nations and in conjunction with actions to implement RGS Goal 5 and relevant provisions of the Provincial LRMPs.

d) Continue supporting the development of the Sea to Sky Trail as a regional amenity, and continue advancing the goals of the Sea to Sky Recreation Trails Program. As trails are developed, they will be designed to be compatible with farm and ranching operations.

This will be pursued in collaboration with provincial, regional and local land managers including the Agricultural Land Commission, land owners in the ALR, clubs and stakeholders to preserve and maintain existing trails and plan new trails for the future.

f) Continue to support local, voluntary organizations in stewardship of recreational areas and natural assets.

This will be pursued in conjunction with federal, provincial and private sector environmental conservation and restoration programs.

e) Support the management of access points to parks and natural areas within the SLRD to identify key access points, new opportunities, management strategies and important infrastructure enhancements, with an emphasis on addressing capacity issues in high-use areas.

This will be pursued through lobby efforts with the provincial government, UBCM and partnerships with local organizations.

## GOAL 7 Create Healthy and Safe Communities

The Regional Growth Strategy supports the creation of healthy, secure, safe and accessible communities. A healthy community approach is one that is continually improving the physical and social environments that people live, learn, work and play in. They are mutually supportive and allow individuals the opportunity to live in a healthy, safe and meaningful society.

The SLRD and its partners acknowledge that local governments have the ability to influence many of the determinants of community health and safety, given the interaction between land use and design, transportation planning, food systems, environmental protection, multi-hazard mitigation and recreation. The healthy communities approach includes community involvement, political commitment, volunteerism, partnerships among different community interests, and public policy that supports community health. Building complete communities with compact development can promote healthy lifestyles, including walking or cycling to work and services, and will improve environmental sustainability.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

(i) *Supports the integration of health promotion and emergency preparedness in community planning and development.*

(ii) *Promotes cooperative, community-based initiatives to address health and safety issues.*

### Healthy and safe communities will be created by:

- Developing mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented, complete communities and neighbourhoods.
- Maintaining and strengthening sense of place, with a strong community spirit.
- Creating opportunities for improving the quality of life so that people will choose to live and remain in the region.
- Enhancing accessibilities for people with disabilities.
- Promoting high quality (level, range and appropriateness) health, social, cultural, educational, recreational, and commercial services to meet the needs of people of various ages, abilities, and income levels.
- Respecting and celebrating ethnic and cultural diversity, including First Nations heritage.
- Ensuring a safe community through attention to drug awareness, policing, and emergency preparedness.
- Bringing provincial and community partners together to work in collaboration towards the common goal of keeping our communities safe.
- Supporting 911 emergency services through-out the region.
- Building community resilience through emergency management, preparedness and response.
- Considering conflicting land uses and promoting building design that minimizes exposure to environmental contaminants and nuisances.

## Strategic Directions

### 7.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Work in conjunction with regional health authorities, local social development organizations, School Districts, RCMP and Tribal Police to promote healthy public policy. Encourage a regional strategic plan, in conjunction with the RCMP and Tribal Police, which focuses on crime prevention, harm reduction, rehabilitation and reintegration, and restorative justice.

This will be pursued through collaboration with provincial and federal agencies and First Nations.

b) Ensure land use planning encourages the development of healthy, compact and walkable communities that promote safety through environmental design and *Smart Growth Principles*, natural hazards and environmental contaminants protection and FireSmart principles, and provisions for seniors and universal, accessible design.

This will be pursued in the review and updating of Official Community Plans and master planning processes.

c) Undertake integrated, coordinated emergency preparedness planning on a regional basis, including strategic planning for fire protection services, natural hazards management, extreme weather events, other large-scale emergencies, and expanding 911 emergency services.

This will be pursued by a Regional District committee and staff.

d) Encourage a well-functioning system of volunteerism that recognizes and acknowledges the ongoing contributions of those who improve our communities' well-being.

This will be pursued by engaging community organizations and citizens in the planning and delivery of appropriate social and community support services.

e) Work in conjunction with appropriate local agencies and vulnerable, at-risk populations to address short-term solutions and long-term strategies.

This will be pursued through discussions with provincial and federal agencies.

f) Support the development of infrastructure / recreational trail and greenway systems that link communities with regional parks.

## GOAL 8 Enhance Relations with Indigenous Communities and First Nations

The Regional Growth Strategy seeks to enhance our working relationships with the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Líl'wat and St'át'imc Nations. There is significant opportunity to build constructive and enduring relationships with Indigenous communities and First Nations through the implementation of the RGS. The SLRD Board has declared itself to be a Regional District of Reconciliation and will continue to work towards turning these words into actions. The organization has adopted several calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015 Summary Report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, and has endorsed in principle Call to Action #43, which calls upon all levels of government to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation.

The UNDRIP was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007, and endorsed by the Government of Canada without qualification in May 2016 and by the Province of British Columbia in September 2017. The UNDRIP recognizes Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands, and rights to self-determination, to maintain and strengthen their political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, to participate in decisions that could affect their rights, to maintain and strengthen their distinct spiritual relationships with their territories, to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories and language, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons, and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations and to conservation and protection of their territories. With mutual respect, recognition, reciprocity, and responsibility as overarching principles for stronger relationships, the SLRD and its partners acknowledge the important role local governments have in enhancing relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and governments.

Building strong, respectful and effective working relationships with Indigenous communities and First Nations is especially important given the many growth pressures and challenges in the region and the complexity of issues facing all levels of government. While the Skwxwú7mesh, Líl'wat and St'át'imc are not signatories to a RGS under the *Local Government Act*, there are benefits in improved communication, information sharing and coordinated planning and servicing in areas of mutual interest. Engagement with Indigenous communities and First Nations will be pursued in the spirit of enhancing relationships and exploring opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and learning. The strategic direction under the RGS does not prejudice or affect any inherent Aboriginal Title, right or interest, recognizing that the legal context within which Aboriginal Title, rights and interests exist continues to evolve and change, thus impacting the ways in which Title, rights and interests are exercised.

## The Regional Growth Strategy:

*(i) Supports expanding the means of dialogue, learning and cooperation with Indigenous communities and First Nations.*

*(ii) Supports establishing MOU's, Implementation Agreements, and/or Protocol Agreements between First Nations and local governments that address issues of mutual interest/concern.*

*(iii) Recognizes Indigenous communities and First Nations have existing and distinctive Aboriginal rights, including Aboriginal Title, flowing from the ongoing and organized occupation of their traditional territories and recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982); implementation of the RGS will proceed without prejudice to any Aboriginal Title or rights that may currently exist, or be defined further through treaty or other processes.*

## Relations with Indigenous communities and First Nations will be enhanced by:

- Acknowledging and respecting cultural differences, while recognizing that Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments have overlapping and mutual interests, that their decisions impact one another, and that the residents in the entire region are best served by Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments working together in a spirit of cooperation.
- Formalizing communication and information sharing protocols.
- Supporting collaboration on economic development, land use planning and service partnerships and other collaborative activities among the SLRD, member municipalities and First Nations.
- Exploring and encouraging cross-cultural learning opportunities within our governments and communities.
- Building trust and shared understanding by continuing to support Community Forums.
- Understanding and respecting the differences between the distinct government authorities, their jurisdictions and responsibilities.
- Advocating resolution and accommodation of Aboriginal Title and rights.
- Acknowledging that establishing and maintaining mutually respectful and effective relationships is a shared responsibility that requires political will, joint leadership, mutual trust, accountability, transparency and an investment of resources.

## Strategic Directions

### 8.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Support processes that advocate the fair and timely resolution of Aboriginal Title and rights for all Indigenous communities and First Nations within whose traditional territory the SLRD is located. This will be pursued through ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities, First Nations and senior levels of government.

b) Continue to support the creation of SLRD-Indigenous Liaison Committees to work on information sharing protocols, learning resources, and engagement tools on matters of joint interest such as land use planning, servicing, economic development, etc.

This will be pursued through discussions with Indigenous communities, First Nations and relevant member municipalities.

c) Engage with Indigenous communities and First Nations on the development and implementation of official community plans, zoning bylaws and the RGS shall be encouraged and proceed without prejudice to any Aboriginal Title and rights that may currently exist, or be further defined through treaty or other processes.

This will be pursued through referrals to adjacent Indigenous communities and First Nations and by pursuing engagement that is meaningful and timely.

d) Encourage First Nations to engage with local governments on the development of their land use plans.

This will be pursued through discussions with First Nations and referral processes to encourage coordinated land use planning and to jointly improve servicing efficiency and community liveability.

e) Continue using tools, such as Protocol / Implementation Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, with all interested First Nations in the Region to assist with improving relationships.

f) Support an ongoing process of information sharing and mutual learning to increase understanding, build trust, and foster collaboration.

This will be pursued by supporting community-to-community forums and other opportunities for mutual dialogue and discovery.

g) Encourage opportunities to learn about the many First Nations and Indigenous communities within whose traditional territory the SLRD operates, including culture, history, laws, rights, governance, roles, and responsibilities.

This will be pursued by exploring opportunities to implement cross cultural professional development training on relevant topics and skills, such as: the history of Indigenous peoples; including the history and legacy of residential schools; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Treaties and Aboriginal rights; and intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.

## GOAL 9 Improve Collaboration among Jurisdictions

Decision making over land use, health, safety, natural resources, environmental protection and many other issues of concern to residents within the regional district is a shared responsibility. The Regional Growth Strategy intends to improve collaboration between all levels of government within the region: municipal, regional, provincial, federal and First Nations. Better collaboration can lead to improved coordination and cooperation which in turn can reduce duplication and inefficiencies in local governance and improve service delivery. It also builds on the core competencies of existing jurisdictions so that limited resources are utilized efficiently.

### The Regional Growth Strategy

*(i) Supports expanding the opportunities for participation and communication in Regional District decision making.*

Collaboration among jurisdictions will be improved by:

- Making decisions in ways that are inclusive, coordinated, and transparent, based on mutual respect, respect for the rights of others, and a culture of collaborative management.
- Promoting early and on-going communication, and collaborative dialogue among jurisdictions with an interest in the regional district.
- Continuing to develop a collaborative, multi-faceted approach to governance.

### Strategic Directions

9.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

a) Continue using the round table format (i.e., RGS Elected Officials Forums) on a regular basis as a means for continued cross-regional communication and coordination.

This will be pursued through consultation activities related to a variety of regional issues.

b) Encourage SLRD and member municipality staff departments (administration, planning, finance, engineering, etc.) to develop mechanisms by which they may share information, collaborate and co-operate with their respective peers across the jurisdictions including, but not limited to: regular staff meetings; referral systems; working committees; etc.

This will be pursued through collaborative approaches to regional and trans-boundary issues.

c) Establish MOU's, protocol agreements and working committees between various jurisdictions (i.e., local, regional, First Nation, provincial and federal, health authorities) to improve collaboration and coordination.

This will be pursued through consultation activities related to a variety of regional issues.



d) Utilize ground rules and other protocol measures established in advance to assist with inter-jurisdictional disputes and conflict resolution.

This will be pursued through consultation activities related to a variety of regional issues.

DRAFT

## GOAL 10 Protect and Enhance Food Systems

The Regional Growth Strategy endorses *Smart Growth Principles*, which includes ensuring the integrity of a productive agricultural land base. The highest and best use of agricultural land is for agriculture and the protection of agricultural land helps to promote the agricultural sector. Further, predicted changes in climate, energy costs, population growth, water availability and agricultural production suggest that protecting and enhancing the capacity of the regional food system is vital to community resilience. The ability to grow and access food is a key component of developing complete communities.

### WHAT IS OUR FOOD SYSTEM?

An integrated view of the production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of food.

The SLRD and its partners acknowledge that local governments have the ability to undertake local and regional approaches benefiting community-based food systems, such as: the protection, acquisition and management of agricultural land; the development and implementation of policy/regulations to encourage agriculture, including urban agriculture, and neighbourhood-based food assets; agricultural economic development; management of problem wildlife and invasive species; watershed management; riparian protection; and provision of affordable water and irrigation services. The value of our food systems is recognized and celebrated as a strength and source of economic development within the region.

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

- i. *Supports a regional food system that is healthy, accessible and resilient.*
- ii. *Promotes growth and development in the local agricultural sector.*
- iii. *Supports the protection and preservation of farmland and sustainable agriculture as the highest and best use of the Agricultural Land Reserve.*

### Food systems will be protected and enhanced by:

- Developing supportive policies and regulations for both rural/remote and urban settings.
- Maintaining the integrity of the Agricultural Land Reserve and agricultural resources, including water, land and knowledge.
- Developing mechanisms to preserve and enhance the agricultural land base for working agriculture.
- Improving the economic viability of the local agricultural sector within the region.
- Increasing community awareness of and support for agriculture.
- Strengthening regional connections, collaborations and partnerships around food systems.
- Fostering collaboration between Indigenous communities and the farming community.
- Supporting traditional and modern teachings about food preservation, seed saving, eating seasonally, and eating locally.
- Prioritizing a localized food system in support of *community food security*.

- Supporting sustainable agricultural and harvesting practices, including marine and aquaculture.
- Encouraging water conservation and climate change preparedness.

## Strategic Directions:

### 10.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

- a) Implement Agricultural Plans in conjunction with Indigenous communities and First Nations, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission.

This will be pursued by ensuring that local and regional land use policies and bylaws reflect and support the vision and priorities set forth in the Agricultural Plans, and by supporting local community groups, organizations and initiatives in their implementation efforts.

- b) Preserve the agricultural land base for sustainable agriculture through the recognition that the highest and best use of agricultural land is for agriculture.

This will be pursued by supporting the management of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) by the provincial government, encouraging the provincial government to protect the agricultural land base through the ALR, and utilizing appropriate Zoning Bylaw, OCP, and RGS policy tools to strictly regulate non-farm uses and the subdivision of farmland in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation.

- c) Promote agricultural viability with an emphasis on food production and sustainable practices.

This will be pursued by working with other levels of government to ensure all jurisdictional regulations are aligned and beneficial to producers and food production, including pursuing strategies and actions to increase actively farmed agricultural land, encourage sustainable land-based aquaculture, emphasize food production, support local food processing and distribution, and reduce barriers to the economic viability of agricultural activities. This will be pursued further by encouraging communities to set policies/targets for local and sustainable food procurement.

- d) Strengthen regional connections with community-based food initiatives and organizations in support of an economically viable and ecologically sustainable food system.

This will be pursued by recognizing and supporting the efforts and visions of community-based food system initiatives, strategies and organizations, including Indigenous communities and First Nations – and by ensuring that urban and rural planning facilitates greater connectivity in the food systems, including decision-making. This may also involve the development of a Regional Food System Strategy.

- e) Explore options for local governments to champion Agricultural Land Trusts, in which land is purchased for community food growing and protected in perpetuity as an investment in long-term food security.

This will be pursued by investigating the establishment of an Agricultural Land Trust Fund that could be used to purchase and/or lease agricultural land.

- f) Encourage urban agriculture and ensure the ability to grow and access food is part of developing complete communities.

This will be pursued by expanding land regulations that encourage urban agriculture throughout the community and integrate food growing (gardens, small plot farming) on regional district and municipal lands and parks. This will be further pursued by encouraging innovation with regard to land use and policies that support the food system, ensuring all new development is designed with the ability to grow and store food, including the provision of community gardens, greenhouses and community kitchens.

- g) Support opportunities to educate, increase awareness and celebrate local food systems.

This will be pursued by continuing to support: farmers markets; festivals/events; school, youth and community-based education programs; farm-to-school/institution programs; community gardens and kitchens; and traditional foods initiatives and teachings about food preservation, seed saving, eating seasonally, and eating locally.

- h) Seek input and advice from the local agricultural community on food system issues.

This will be pursued through maintaining and regularly engaging with the Agricultural Committees, Farmers Institutes/Societies and organizations, and by working with indigenous communities and First Nations.

- i) Manage wildlife/human conflicts and invasive species.

This will be pursued by continuing to engage and partner with the regional Invasive Species Councils/Societies to control invasive species on farms, participating in management solution initiatives to passively and actively deter predator populations from damaging crops (urban and rural) and livestock (such as Bear Aware), and encouraging the use of best management practices to mitigate effects of wildlife and invasive species and maximize the efficient use of resources.

- j) Ensure sustainable watershed management to support food production.

This will be pursued by considering agricultural needs in all watershed, drought, stormwater management, groundwater management and floodplain management plans.

- k) Collaborate with provincial agencies to prepare a regional agriculture climate adaptation strategy for the SLRD.

This will be pursued by engaging the food system communities throughout the regional district to collaborate with provincial agencies.

- l) Reduce potential farm/non-farm conflicts.

This will be pursued through proactive land use planning, regulations and development permit areas, as well as education and communications in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the ALC.

## GOAL 11 Take Action on Climate Change

The Regional Growth Strategy seeks to address climate change through the directions put forth in all ten SLRD RGS Goals. Additionally, the RGS recognizes the need for climate responsibility and a continued commitment to climate leadership. The Province of BC has identified the biggest sectoral contributors to *greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions* as transportation (37 percent), built environment (24 percent), industry & utilities (18 percent), and oil & gas (18 percent). Taking action on climate change will require provincial and federal leadership to support sector-based changes. It will also require local leadership and broad community commitment – by local governments, by community members, by business owners and entrepreneurs, and by visitors. Personal transport continues to be the most significant (over 50 percent of all estimated community-level emissions) contributor to local community-based GHG emissions and the single largest reason why communities are failing to maintain interim target reduction levels, suggesting that shifting the way we travel is critical.

The Regional Growth Strategy supports taking action on climate change through mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation strategies seek to reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption, with targets being critical motivators for action on mitigation. Adaptation strategies identify and address the potential local impacts of climate change, with intention of using various methods to build community *resilience*.

A RESILIENT COMMUNITY is one that takes intentional action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of its citizens and institutions to respond to and influence the course of social, economic, and environmental change. (SLRD Energy Resilience Task Force Report)

### The Regional Growth Strategy:

- (i) Supports efforts to reduce inter and intra community-based GHG emissions and energy consumption.*
- (ii) Supports planning for climate change and building community resilience through adaptation strategies that prevent or minimize key potential impacts.*
- (iii) Prioritizes land use and transportation strategies as the foundation of our climate action.*

### Action on Climate Change will be achieved by:

- Reducing community-based GHG emissions and energy consumption.
- Preventing or minimizing potential local impacts.
- Supporting localized, *renewable energy* systems toward community resilience.
- Protecting the carbon sequestration value of natural systems.
- Engaging our communities on climate change.
- Ensuring climate change mitigation and adaptation planning is integrated in all community decision-making.

## Strategic Directions:

### 11.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

#### a) Adopt Provincial GHG reduction targets.

This will be pursued by incorporating targets into SLRD and member municipality OCPs and establishing/maintaining corporate and community emissions inventories. Under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and reconfirmed through the Climate Leadership Plan (2016), the following targets are established for the purpose of reducing BC GHG emissions:

(i) by 2020 and for each subsequent calendar year, BC greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 33% less than the level of those emissions in 2007;

(ii) by 2050 and for each subsequent calendar year, BC greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 80% less than the level of those emissions in 2007.

#### b) Maintain status as BC Climate Action Charter signatories.

The SLRD and member municipalities are signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter. Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals: *(i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, recognizing that solid waste facilities regulated under the Environmental Management Act are not included in operations for the purposes of this Charter. (ii) measuring and reporting on their community's GHG emissions profile; and (iii) creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities (e.g. foster a built environment that supports a reduction in car dependency and energy use, establish policies and processes that support fast tracking of green development projects, adopt zoning practices that encourage land use patterns that increase density and reduce sprawl.)*

#### c) Explore the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and options to measure, monitor, evaluate and report on community GHG emissions.

This will be pursued by developing/maintaining climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and/or monitoring and reporting programs, and by lobbying the province to re-establish the Community Energy and Emissions (CEEI) Inventory in support of community-level monitoring and meeting Climate Action Charter commitments.

#### d) Explore the feasibility of preparing a regional climate action strategy.

This will be pursued through discussions with federal and provincial agencies, community organizations and the Union of BC Municipalities.

#### e) Substantially reduce GHG emissions:

*i. from mobile sources*

This will be pursued by limiting growth outside of established urban areas and prioritizing infrastructure development and policies that support *preferred modes of transportation* for inter and intra community travel.

ii. *from stationary sources*

This will be pursued through collective prioritization of energy efficient development and may include establishing Green Building Policies, creating incentive structures, encouraging retrofit programs, exploring development controls, exploring district energy systems, and lobbying the province for building code extensions. Additionally, the SLRD and member municipalities agree to explore the BC Energy Step Code.

BC ENERGY STEP CODE:

The Province brought the BC Energy Step Code into force in April 2017. The BC Energy Step Code is a voluntary roadmap that establishes progressive performance targets (i.e., steps) that support market transformation from the current energy-efficiency requirements in the BC Building Code to net zero energy ready buildings. It establishes a set of incremental performance steps for new buildings that aims to communicate the future intent of the Building Code and improve consistency in building requirements across B.C. to transition to net zero energy ready buildings by 2032. It is a voluntary tool local governments across B.C. can use to encourage—or require—the construction of more energy-efficient buildings in their communities, and do so in a consistent, predictable way.

The BC Energy Step Code takes a new, performance-based approach rather than the traditional prescriptive approach. This means the BC Energy Step Code does not specify how to construct a building, but identifies an energy-efficiency target that must be met and lets the designer/builder decide how to meet it. In addition to being a voluntary standard for builders, the BC Energy Step Code may also be referenced in local government bylaws and policies as an 'unrestricted matter' under the Building Act.

iii. *associated with solid waste management*

This will be pursued by continuing to develop and implement policies, practices and targets toward achieving Zero Waste Goals.

f) Ensure regional/municipal decision-making is structured to achieve GHG reduction targets and energy goals.

This will be pursued by supporting compact, complete, efficient land use patterns and using an integrated asset management approach in which consideration is given to the full costs throughout an asset's life cycle (lifecycle costs), prioritizing opportunities for GHG and energy reduction. This may also involve expanding/updating corporate purchasing policies.

g) Utilize local third party accredited carbon offset programs and explore the creation of locally and/or regionally planned and managed third party accredited carbon credit/trading systems, with potential offsets going towards tangible local projects.

This will be pursued by working with community organizations, local governments and provincial agencies/authorities.

h) Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands and wetlands, and explore opportunities to strategically acquire protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation.

This will be pursued by protecting forested lands and wetlands under local government jurisdiction, expanding protected areas where possible, and considering carbon sequestration values in provincial referral responses.

i) Consider impacts to local community GHG emissions in decision-making around GHG-intensive industries and utilities, LNG, and commercial recreation and leisure operators.

This will be pursued through development approval and environmental assessment processes and lobbying efforts with provincial and federal government.

j) Prioritize developing strategies and taking action to reduce personal transport emissions.

This will be pursued by developing compact, complete land use patterns and expanding the share of preferred modes of transportation.

k) Encourage the development and use of renewable energy across the region.

This will be pursued through partnerships and in consultation with communities, exploring options at both the building-level and grid or system level. It may include advancing opportunities to incent small-scale, renewable energy production and use, exploring new technologies through pilot projects, and supporting provincial building code extensions and other tools to facilitate renewable energy systems in local development and construction.

l) Build climate resilience.

This will be pursued through efforts to address the vulnerability that communities have to the environmental consequences of climate change and expand the capacity of citizens, institutions and infrastructure to respond to and influence change. Special consideration must be made for those in our communities who are most vulnerable and least able to respond or influence.

m) Plan for climate change.

This will be pursued by ensuring new land use, buildings and infrastructure are planned and designed with tomorrow's climate in mind.



n) Prepare for extreme weather events, natural hazards and other large-scale emergencies that may increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climate change.

This will be pursued by expanding on emergency preparedness and management plans/strategies and enhancing community resiliency and self-sufficiency – both human and physical infrastructure.

o) Pursue community engagement and consultation opportunities around climate change – with a focus on mitigation and adaptation.

This will be pursued by collaborating with local organizations, agencies, and stakeholders to build awareness, empowerment and commitment to take local action on climate change.

p) Ensure Climate Action is evidence-based.

This will be pursued by using data and modeling to inform climate action planning and decision-making.

DRAFT

## Part 4 Implementation

The RGS is intended as a strategic guide to future land use development and services in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. The operational challenges will include: managing settlement growth in a manner that is consistent with the RGS *Smart Growth Principles*, while also preventing development sprawl in the rural and resource areas; improving transportation systems in a way that enhances efficiency, safety and sustainability goals; and developing the processes for communication and cooperation between local government, provincial and federal agencies and First Nations in a common commitment to responsible land use planning and management.

### Implementation Process

The RGS implementation process will involve the following tasks:

- a) The development and adoption of Regional Context statements within Official Community Plans, as required by the Local Government Act;
- b) Continued development of a RGS implementation program based on the directives contained in the RGS where the SLRD undertakes the required follow-up action;
- c) The development and application of specific Implementation Agreements between SLRD and member municipalities, provincial agencies and First Nations, where they can assist in addressing mutual concerns;
- d) The preparation of Implementation Guidelines, provided as resources to support collective implementation of the RGS.
- e) Annual progress reporting to the SLRD Board on implementation of the RGS strategic directives presented in the preceding pages;
- f) Annual monitoring of Integrated SLRD RGS and ISP Goals & Indicators (Appendix A).
- g) Implementation of completed Economic Development Studies and Agricultural Plans, which may result in amendments to the RGS.

### Regional Context Statements

Successful implementation of the RGS depends on cooperation between the SLRD and member municipalities, and the ability of local plans, policies and programs to contribute to the regional planning goals identified in the RGS. Regional Context Statements set out the relationship between the RGS and the member municipality Official Community Plans, and as such, they are the main implementation tool of the RGS.



Section 446 of the *Local Government Act* establishes the requirement for local governments to prepare Regional Context Statements. Regional Context Statements must identify the relationship between the Official Community Plan and the goals and strategic directions identified in the RGS. If applicable, Regional Context Statements will identify how the Official Community Plan will be made consistent with the RGS over time. Regional Context Statements are accepted by resolution, meaning a majority vote of the SLRD Board is needed. A regional public hearing is not required.

Regional Context Statements have been accepted for all four member municipalities.

## **Coordination with Other Governments and Agencies**

The SLRD will work with neighbouring jurisdictions, namely the Fraser Valley Regional District, Cariboo Regional District, Metro Vancouver Regional District, Powell River Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Strathcona Regional District, and Thompson-Nicola Regional District to facilitate the compatibility of regional growth planning and initiatives.

The SLRD and member municipalities will work with the provincial and federal governments and their agencies on major investments in the regional transportation system, expansion of affordable housing choices, the location of public facilities, and any other initiatives that supports the goals and strategies specified in the RGS.

The SLRD and member municipalities will work with the Agricultural Land Commission to protect the region's agricultural land base.

The SLRD and member municipalities will seek to build relationships and to work with First Nations. (Refer to Goal 8).

## **Recognition of Aboriginal Title**

First Nations have asserted/continue to exercise Aboriginal Title and rights to traditional territories within which the SLRD is located. The implementation of the RGS will proceed without prejudice to any Aboriginal Title or right that may currently exist, or be defined further through treaty or other processes.

## **Implementation Agreements**

Implementation Agreements (IA) will provide operational tools for ongoing RGS implementation. These agreements will identify processes and activities to implement certain provisions of the RGS.

## **Implementation Guidelines**

The SLRD may periodically prepare guidelines to assist in the implementation of the RGS, including but not limited to, guidelines for the preparation of and amendments to Regional Context Statements, for amendment of the Regional Growth Strategy, and, for establishing referral protocols. Implementation Guidelines are provided as resources, living outside the RGS, to support collective agreement and responsibility. They provide a set of norms that all parties of the RGS agree to and are to be read in conjunction with the SLRD RGS Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 as amended from time to time – they do not replace or supersede the content of, or requirements in, the RGS.

## Legislative Requirements

### ***Annual Monitoring and Reporting***

Section 452 of the *Local Government Act* requires annual monitoring and reporting of regional growth strategies. Monitoring is the process of collecting information, analyzing trends and gauging progress toward goals. Monitoring of the RGS has two purposes – to measure progress in RGS implementation and to measure substantive improvements in the core conditions or results that are targeted by the RGS. Reporting includes evaluation and is the process of communicating the results of the monitoring.

To facilitate the monitoring and reporting process, Table X, Appendix A presents the key indicators that will be used to measure overall implementation of the RGS. Data sources and reporting procedures will be specified in the Annual Monitoring reports.

### ***Five-year Review***

To ensure that the Regional Growth Strategy continues to respond to current and future needs, at least once every five years the SLRD will consider whether the Regional Growth Strategy must be reviewed for possible amendment, pursuant to Section 452 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Regional Growth Strategy Amendments

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and member municipalities will continue to work to ensure Official Community Plan policies are consistent with the RGS Settlement Planning Map, or provide for a process that will lead to consistency over time, recognizing the economic, social and environmental benefits of compact community development, with particular attention to growth management that assists economic development in Pemberton and revitalization of the Lillooet area. The following outlines the criteria and process for considering minor amendments to the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy.

### ***RGS Amendment Criteria and Process***

- a) The process to initiate amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy is by resolution of the SLRD Board. Member municipalities may, by Council resolution, request amendments; typically this will also involve a Regional Context Statement/OCP Amendment, with all amendments processed concurrently.
- b) On receipt of a resolution from a member municipality or the SLRD Board to amend the Regional Growth Strategy, SLRD staff will prepare a preliminary report for review by the RGS Steering Committee. RGS Steering Committee comments and recommendations will be forwarded to the SLRD Board to assist in its decision on whether the application should be processed as a minor or major amendment.
- c) The SLRD Board will assess the application in terms of the minor amendment criteria and determine if the amendment application should be treated as a minor or major amendment.

*Table 6: Minor Amendment Criteria*

<b>MINOR Amendment Criteria</b>
<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>2. 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>3. 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>4. 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>• Those that involve development of non-settlement lands that are not contiguous to existing designated settlement areas;</li> <li>• Those that would have significant impacts to the regional highway system and may negatively affect level of service; and,</li> <li>• Those that would have significant impacts to regional energy emissions and may negatively affect Climate Change reduction and/or adaptation.</li> </ul>

- d) An affirmative 2/3 vote of the SLRD Board members attending the meeting is required to proceed with a minor amendment process.

*Table 7: Minor & Major Amendment Process*

<b>MINOR Amendment Process</b>	<b>MAJOR Amendment Process</b>
<p>Where the SLRD Board resolves to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the Board will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. give 30 days written notice to each affected local government, including notice that the proposed amendment has been determined to be a minor amendment. The notice shall include a summary of the proposed amendment and any staff reports, other relevant supporting documentation and the date, time</li> </ol>	<p>Where the SLRD Board resolves to not proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the amendment becomes a major amendment and may only be adopted through the process outlined in section 436 of the <i>Local Government Act</i>.</p>

<p>and place of the Board meeting at which the amending bylaw is to be considered for first reading;</p> <p>ii. consider any representations and written comments provided by the affected local governments prior to giving first reading to the proposed amendment bylaw.</p> <p>Procedures for adopting the minor amendment bylaw: Where the SLRD Board resolves to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, bylaw readings will require a majority vote with section 212 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> outlining voting rights and as per Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Procedure Bylaw No. 1260-2012, as amended from time to time. No public hearing is required for minor amendments to the RGS.</p>	
---	--

## Regional Context Statement Amendments

After a Regional Context Statement has been accepted by the SLRD Board there are three instances in which municipalities will be required to submit a revised or new Regional Context Statement:

1. When a new Official Community Plan is being developed.
2. When amendments to an existing Official Community Plan are proposed that are not consistent with the accepted Regional Context Statement.
3. Within five years of the Board's latest acceptance of the Regional Context Statement and/or in association with an RGS Review.

The process for amending an accepted Regional Context Statement is the same as the process for initial acceptance of the Regional Context Statement, as per Section 448 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### **Squamish-Lillooet Regional District:**

- Assist in the development and approval of Regional Context Statements and Amendments.
- Ensure Regional Context Statements are consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation.
- Adopt Regional Context Statements that serve to implement RGS *Goals* and *Strategic Directions* within electoral area Official Community Plans.
- Chair and provide technical support to RGS Steering Committee.
- Coordinate follow-up implementation of the RGS *Goals* in accordance with RGS *Strategic Directions*.
- Monitor and report on implementation of the RGS *Goals*.
- Monitor RGS and ISP Indicators.

### **Member Municipalities:**

- Adopt Regional Context Statements that serve to implement RGS *Goals* and *Strategic Directions* within Official Community Plans.
- Assist and cooperate in the implementation of the RGS *Goals* and *Strategic Directions*.

### **Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee:**

- Guide the implementation of the RGS *Goal* and *Strategic Directions*. This includes: reviewing the annual monitoring report on progress made in achieving the goals of the RGS; reviewing all requested amendments to the RGS; and guiding the process of reviewing and updating the RGS;
- Advise the Board and member municipalities on Regional Growth Strategy issues/matters, including providing comments and recommendations to the Board/Councils on proposed Regional Growth Strategy amendments and development issues of regional, inter-municipal, and inter-agency significance.

### **Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee:**

- Advise applicable local governments on the development and implementation of RGS, including RGS reviews, and to facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs as they relate to the development and implementation of the RGS.

## Glossary of Terms

**Affordable housing** means rental or ownership housing priced so that monthly payments are less than 30% of gross household income.

**Aging in Place** Aging in place means having the health and social supports and services you need to live safely and independently in your home or your community for as long as you wish and are able.

**Backcountry Resort** refers to a commercial recreation development with a maximum of 50 accommodations rooms that focuses on one or more recreation/ adventure tourism activities that provide a high quality recreation opportunity and which may include accessory commercial activities but no residential development other than staff accommodations.

**BC Energy Step Code** is a voluntary compliance path within the BCBC (via new Subsections 9.36.6. and 10.2.3. of Division B) that establishes progressive performance targets (or steps) to support transformation from the current energy-efficiency requirements in the BC Building Code to net zero energy-ready buildings by 2032. Effective April 7, 2017, the BC Energy Step Code has been introduced as an amendment to the 2012 BC Building Code (BCBC).

**Board** means the Regional Board of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District; for the purposes of the RGS only those Board members who participate in the RGS service may participate in RGS decision making.

**Community** means an identifiable or distinct settlement of people, living and interacting with one another in a defined geographic area, who may share a common culture, values and norms and similar environmental conditions.

**Complete community** means a type of settlement where necessary and desired services, features and attributes allow residents to live, work, play, shop, and learn within close proximity of their home. A more complete community is one where there is a range of opportunities for day-to-day activities, resulting in jobs closer to where people live, accessibility to transit, shops and services near home, and a wider range of housing types.

**Community food security (CFS):** is defined as a situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice (BC Provincial Health Services Society).

**Co-operative (co-op) Housing** means is a type of housing that residents own and operate as part of a membership.

**FireSmart** means structured and practical solutions or mitigative approaches to reduce the hazard posed by interface fires to communities and homes.

**Flex Housing** means a multi-unit built form designed for adaptability of units to accommodate changing family size and needs over time with a minimum of expense



**Food Security** exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)).

**Food Systems** a food system provides an integrated view of and includes the production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of food.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions** are any gaseous compound in the atmosphere that is capable of absorbing infrared radiation, thereby trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere. By increasing the heat in the atmosphere, greenhouse gases are responsible for the greenhouse effect, which ultimately leads to global climate change.

**Healthy community** is one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources that enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential.

**Master Planned Communities** means larger scale developments that are non-urban, mixed use and are planned on a comprehensive basis.

**Natural Capital** refers to living organisms (i.e., plants, animals, bacteria), water, air, land, and non-renewable stocks (i.e. oil and gas, minerals). The value of natural capital is based on the quantity & quality of the goods (timber, food, fuel, genetic resources, biochemicals) and services that flow from these stocks. Services are those that are essential, support all life and are extremely complex; they include climate regulation, water purification, waste treatment, erosion control, air quality management, nutrient recycling, photosynthesis, soil formation, pest and disease control, and protection from extreme weather damage. Natural capital is one approach to ecosystem valuation, an alternative to the traditional view of all non-human life as passive natural resources, and to the idea of ecological health.

**Neighbourhood** means a local, identifiable area within a settlement area, either urban or non-urban, which has some quality or character that distinguishes it from other areas.

**Non-market housing** means housing that is owned or controlled by a government or nonprofit entity and is rented to low or moderate income households at less than market rent, or made available for purchase at less than market value.

**Non-settlement Area** means an area predominantly used for agriculture, including non-farm uses approved by the ALC in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation, rangeland, forestry, outdoor recreation or resource extraction uses or areas of undisturbed natural environments. Non-settlement areas include watersheds, conservation areas, farmland, forests, and major parks and large areas of unsurveyed Crown land. They may be characterized by some

sparse settlement and localized, historic subdivisions. Parcel areas are generally greater than 15 hectares (40 acres) in non-settlement areas.

**Non-urban** means any unincorporated or incorporated settlement areas, and includes small Rural Communities, Serviced Residential areas and Rural Residential areas.

**Occupied Private Dwelling** means a separate set of living quarters which has a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway leading to the outside, and in which a **person or a group of persons live permanently**.

**Preferred mode of transportation** the SLRD Prioritizes preferred modes of transportation in the following order: 1. pedestrian, bicycle and other-non-motorized means (active transportation), 2. transit, rail, ferry and movement of goods, 3. private automobile (HOV, and leading low-impact technologies), 4. private automobile (SOV, traditional technology).

**Private Dwelling** means a separate set of living quarters which has a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway leading to the outside (includes all dwellings – vacant, occupied by temporary residents and occupied by permanent residents).

**Region or Regional** refers to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and its member municipalities.

**Resilience** means the ability to anticipate risk, limit or mitigate impacts, and adapt, evolve and grow when faced with change.

**Resilient community** is self-reliant and ensures those most in need have access to essential services such as food, housing, water, and energy to support ongoing social, economic and environmental health. A resilient community is one that takes intentional action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of its citizens and institutions to respond to and influence the course of social, economic, and environmental change.

**Renewable Energy** is generally defined as energy that is collected from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Renewable energy often provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services.

**Rural Communities** means settlements that are closely built up, with a mix of land uses, community water and sewer systems, and a systematic street pattern. Rural Communities generally have a population of less than 1,000 people.

**Rural Residential** means a settlement that contains dispersed residential uses usually on small acreage parcels, which are not serviced by community water or sewer services.

**Senior (housing)** means an adult aged 55 years or older. Note housing programs, partners and housing providers may define senior by a different age.

**Serviced Residential** means a settlement that contains primarily residential uses serviced by community water and/or sewer systems.

**Settlement Area** means an area of predominantly residential use at varying densities. These may be either urban or non-urban.

**Smart Growth** means a pattern of development that makes efficient use of our limited land base and our existing infrastructure systems, protects important resource lands and natural areas, promotes a wide variety of transportation and housing options, creates more complete communities, and fosters high quality and environmentally sensitive development practices. Smart growth recognizes the connections between development and quality of life, and leverages new growth to improve the community.

**Transportation Demand Management** programs designed to reduce demand for transportation through various means, such as the use of transit and of alternative work hours.

**Urban** means a closely built up settlement characterized by buildings, asphalt, concrete, and a systematic street pattern within an incorporated municipality. Urban areas include residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, communications, utilities, and mixed urban land uses. Undeveloped land completely surrounded by developed areas, such as cemeteries, golf courses, and urban parks is recognized within urban areas. The extent of urban areas is determined by the existence of a dense systematic street pattern and the relative concentration of buildings.

**Urban Containment Boundary** refers to a set of land-use regulations that prohibit urban level development outside a certain boundary; they are a regulatory tool used to shape the geographical pattern of urban growth.

**Zero Waste** means the goal of eliminating waste wherever possible by encouraging a systems approach to avoid the creation of waste in the first place. A Zero Waste Systems approach turns material outputs from one process into resources for other processes.

#### **PLANNING TERMS:**

**Vision:** an overall description of our desired future.

**Goals:** elements that collectively comprise the realization of our vision.

**Strategic Directions:** actions designed to guide RGS implementation.

## APPENDIX A Integrated SLRD RGS and ISP Goals & Indicators

Table 8 outlines a series of indicators developed for the purposes of tracking and evaluating trends in community growth and development. Each indicator has an accompanying description in order to obtain data. The indicators are based not only on *Smart Growth Principles* but align with the indicators of the SLRD Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISP), thereby allowing collection of data to serve two monitoring programs within the SLRD.

An important outcome of the RGS will be to monitor these indicators over time to evaluate the progress made, or changes occurring within these key parameters, as a measure of how well the region is managing the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

*Table 8: Integrated RGS and ISP Monitoring*

RGS & ISP GOAL	INDICATORS	DESCRIPTION
<b>GOAL 1 FOCUS DEVELOPMENT INTO COMPACT, COMPLETE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</b>	Energy Use	Total energy used
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
	Landfill Waste	Total amount of solid waste sent to landfills from SLRD communities.
	Population Density	Population per ha of developed land
<b>GOAL 2 IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES AND OPTIONS</b>	Highway Safety	Fatalities on certain highways
	Transit Commutes	Percent commuting to work via transit
	Number of Vehicles	ICBC vehicle ownership data
<b>GOAL 3 GENERATE A RANGE OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>	Housing Affordability	Ratio of median income to median assessed residential property value
	Housing Diversity	Diversity of housing stock in settlement areas, including mixed use where possible for new areas
<b>GOAL 4 ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY</b>	Diversity of Industry	Labour force concentration in industries that bring in outside money to the region (export-like industries such as tourism, logging, building homes, etc.)
	Median Income	Real median income of SLRD based tax filers
	Total Income	Total income reported by SLRD based tax filers
	Room Revenue	Room Revenue for the SLRD tourism communities
	Population	Population and Sustainable Population Ratios

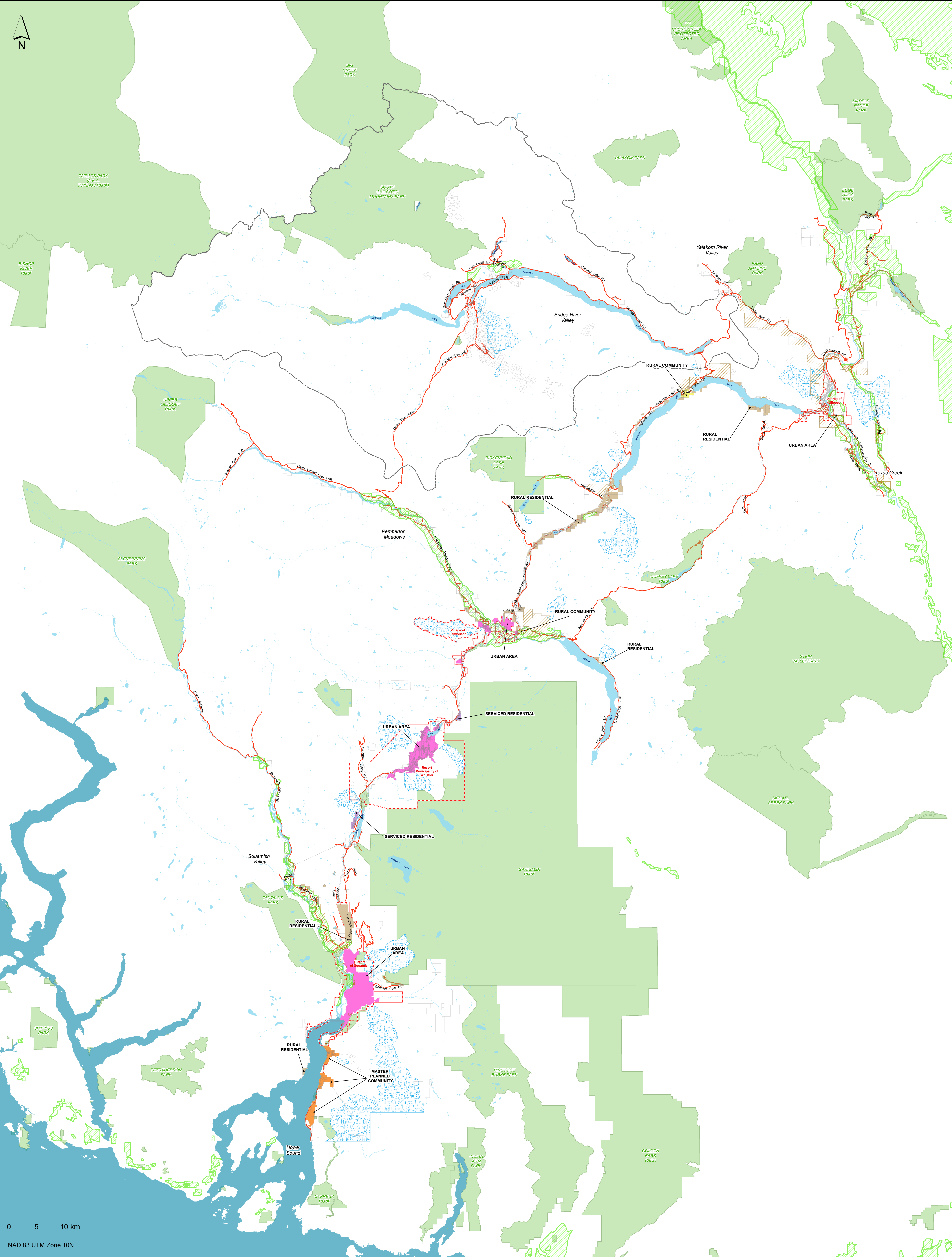
	Connectivity	Number of communities (and/or residents and businesses) with access to high speed communications technology
<b>GOAL 5 PROTECT NATURAL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING</b>	Species at Risk	Number of vascular species at risk within the SLRD
	Water Use	Total amount of water extracted then delivered from municipal and SLRD water plants to end users in the SLRD.
	Regional Air Quality	Number of hours where the AQI for Whistler and Squamish is below low
<b>GOAL 6 ENCOURAGE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS</b>	Recreation Facilities	Recreation facilities and parks/ fields area.
	Commercial Recreation Operators	The number of commercial operators in the region (indicator aims to represent the commercial recreation activity in the SLRD)
<b>GOAL 7 CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES</b>	Child Development	Proportion of total kindergarten children considered vulnerable based on the Early Childhood Development Index (EDI).
	Drinking Water Quality	Drinking Water Quality Index
	Socio-Economic Index	BC Stats Socio-Economic Index
	Leisure Activity	The population aged 12 and over who reported an active or moderately active level of physical activity on Canadian Community Health Survey
	Trail Length	The length of official commuter trails as well as recreation trails that are generally accessible to a large segment of the population (lower grade, wider, gravel or paved).
<b>GOAL 8 ENHANCE RELATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND FIRST NATIONS</b>	SLRD-Indigenous Meetings	The number of meetings held between the SLRD and Indigenous communities and First Nations on an annual basis.
<b>GOAL 9 IMPROVE COLLABORATION</b>	Voter turnout	Proportion of the registered voters voting in SLRD Community/ Electoral Area elections
	RGS Collaboration	Number of RGS steering committee meetings
<b>GOAL 10</b>	Active Farms	Total ha of active farms

<b>PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS</b>	Status of the ALR	Number of subdivisions; number of non-farm use applications approved; amount of land removed from the ALR; amount of land included in the ALR.
	Urban Agriculture	Total ha of urban agriculture (community gardens, greenhouses, small plots, etc.) Number of people participating in community garden programs.
<b>GOAL 11 TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	Energy Use	Total energy used
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

## REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY MAPPING

DRAFT





# Regional Settlement Plan - Map 1

## Squamish - Lillooet Regional District

### Bylaw No. 1062

- |                           |                           |                                      |                          |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Indigenous Reserves       | Community Watersheds      | <b>Regional Land Use Designation</b> | Master Planned Community | Non-Settlement Area |
| Agricultural Land Reserve | Municipal Boundaries      | Urban                                | Rural Residential        |                     |
| Parks & Protected Areas   | Electoral Area Boundaries | Rural Community                      | Serviced Residential     |                     |

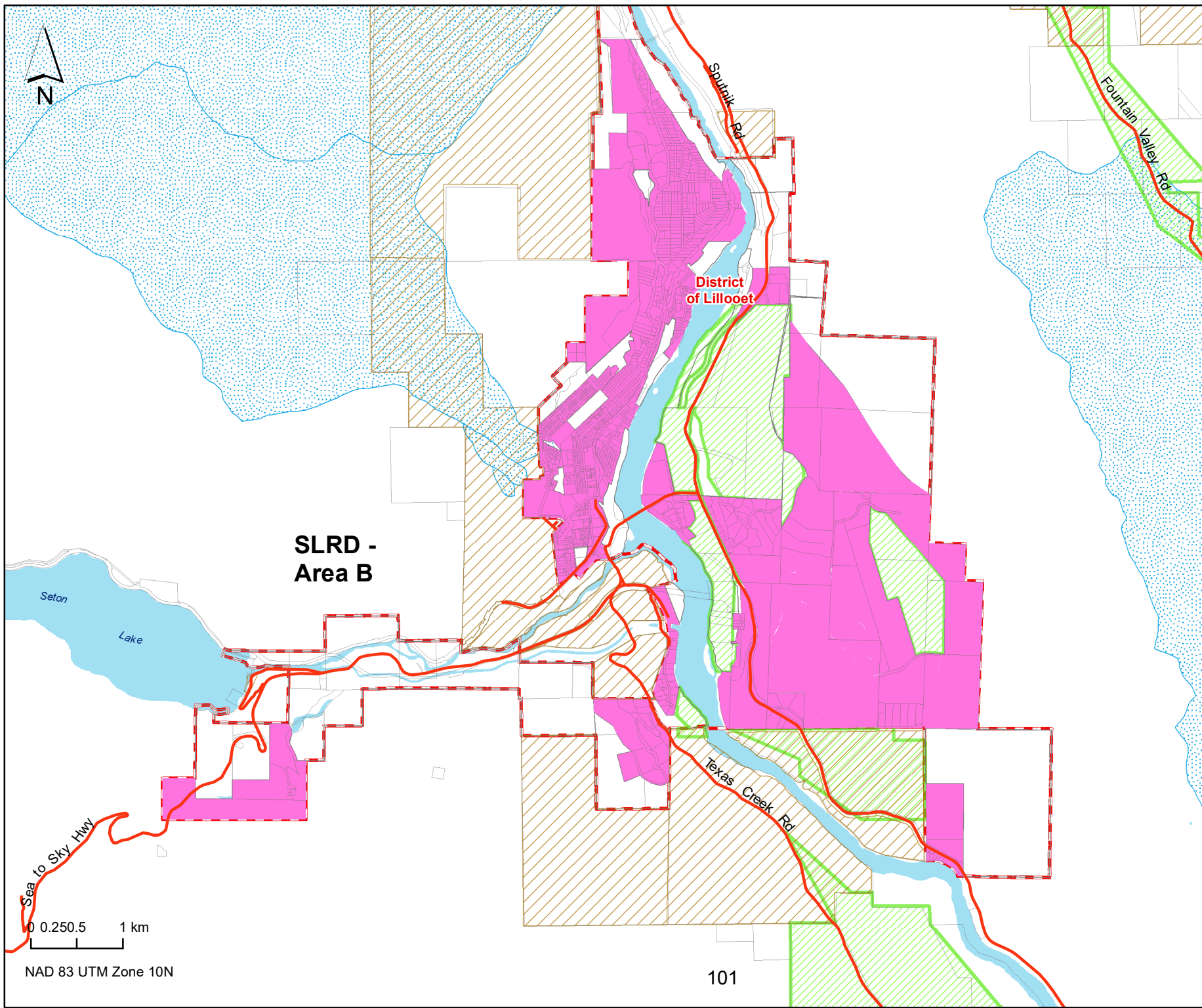




# Lillooet Settlement Plan

Squamish - Lillooet  
Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1062  
Map 1a

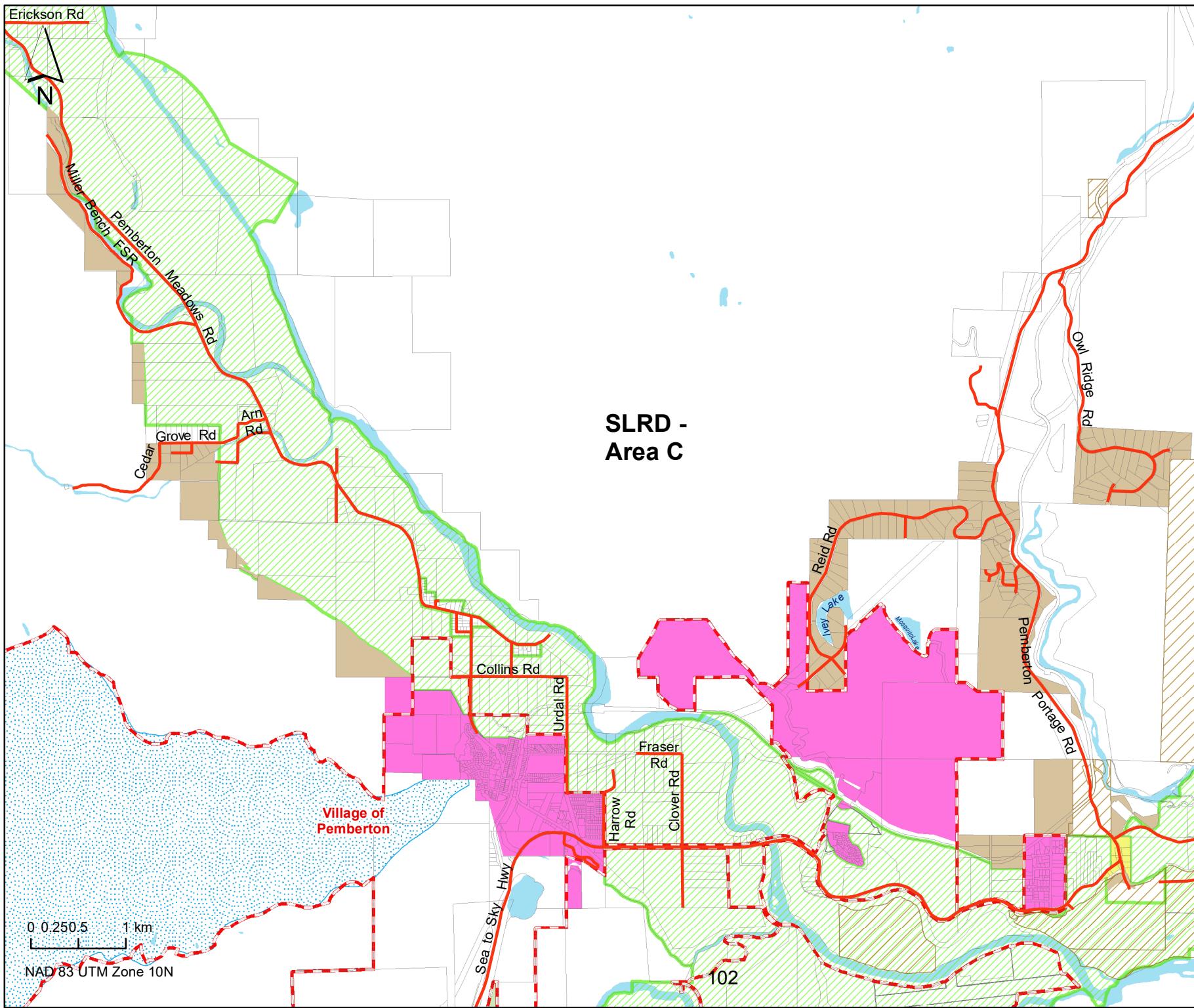
- Indigenous Reserves
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Community Watersheds
- Municipal Boundaries
- Electoral Area Boundaries
- Urban
- Rural Community
- Master Planned Community
- Rural Residential
- Serviced Residential
- Non-Settlement Area



0 0.250.5 1 km

NAD 83 UTM Zone 10N





# Pemberton/Area C Settlement Plan

Squamish - Lillooet  
Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1062  
Map 1b

- Indigenous Reserves
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Parks & Protected Areas
- Community Watersheds
- Municipal Boundaries
- Electoral Area Boundaries
- Urban
- Rural Community
- Master Planned Community
- Rural Residential
- Serviced Residential
- Non-Settlement Area





0 0.25 0.5 1 km

NAD 83 UTM Zone 10N

Resort  
Municipality  
of Whistler

Village of  
Pemberton

SLRD - Area C

Soo River FSR

Sea to Sky Hwy












Riverside Dr

GARIBALDI  
PARK

103

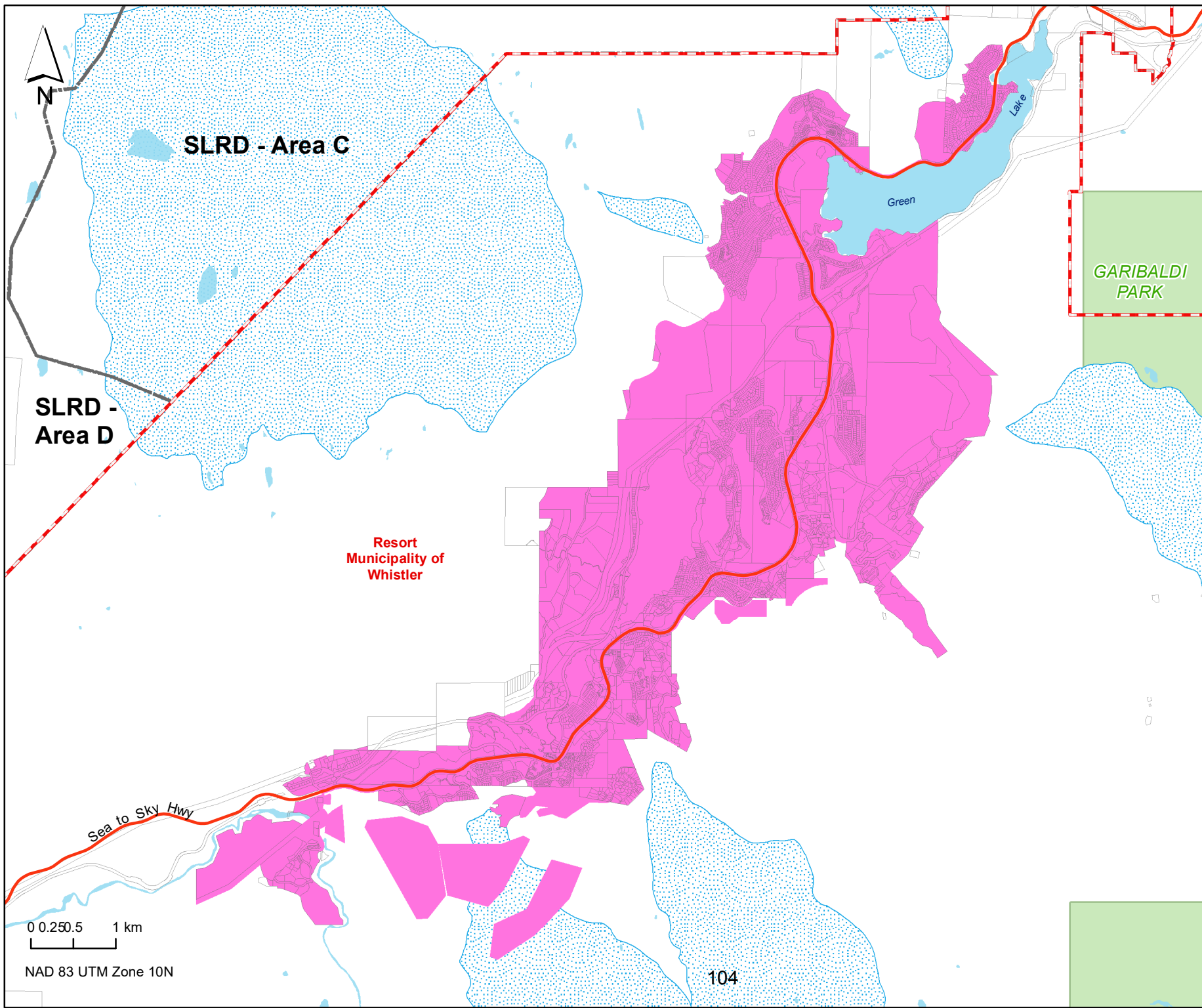
## Pemberton/Area C Settlement Plan

Squamish - Lillooet  
Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1062  
Map 1c

-  Agricultural Land Reserve
-  Parks & Protected Areas
-  Community Watersheds
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Electoral Area Boundaries
-  Urban
-  Rural Community
-  Master Planned Community
-  Rural Residential
-  Serviced Residential
-  Non-Settlement Area













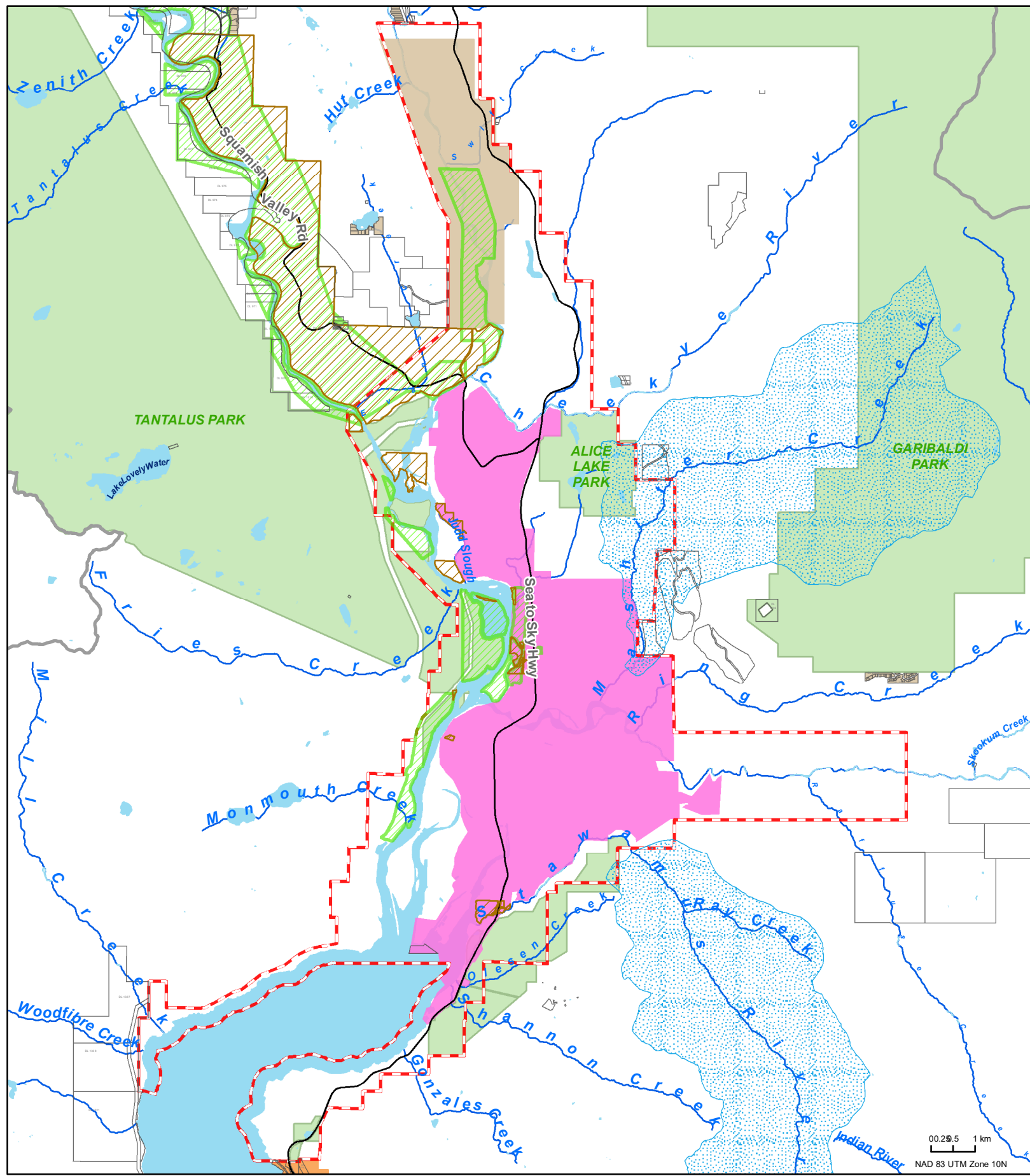




# Whistler Settlement Plan

Squamish - Lillooet  
Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1062  
Map 1d

-  Parks & Protected Areas
-  Community Watersheds
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Electoral Area Boundaries
-  Urban
-  Rural Community
-  Master Planned Community
-  Rural Residential
-  Serviced Residential
-  Non-Settlement Area



# Squamish Settlement Plan

Squamish - Lillooet Regional District  
Bylaw 1062 Map 1e

Electoral Area Boundaries

Community Watersheds

Indigenous Reserves

Agricultural Land Reserve

Municipal Boundaries

Parks & Protected Areas

Regional Land Use Designation

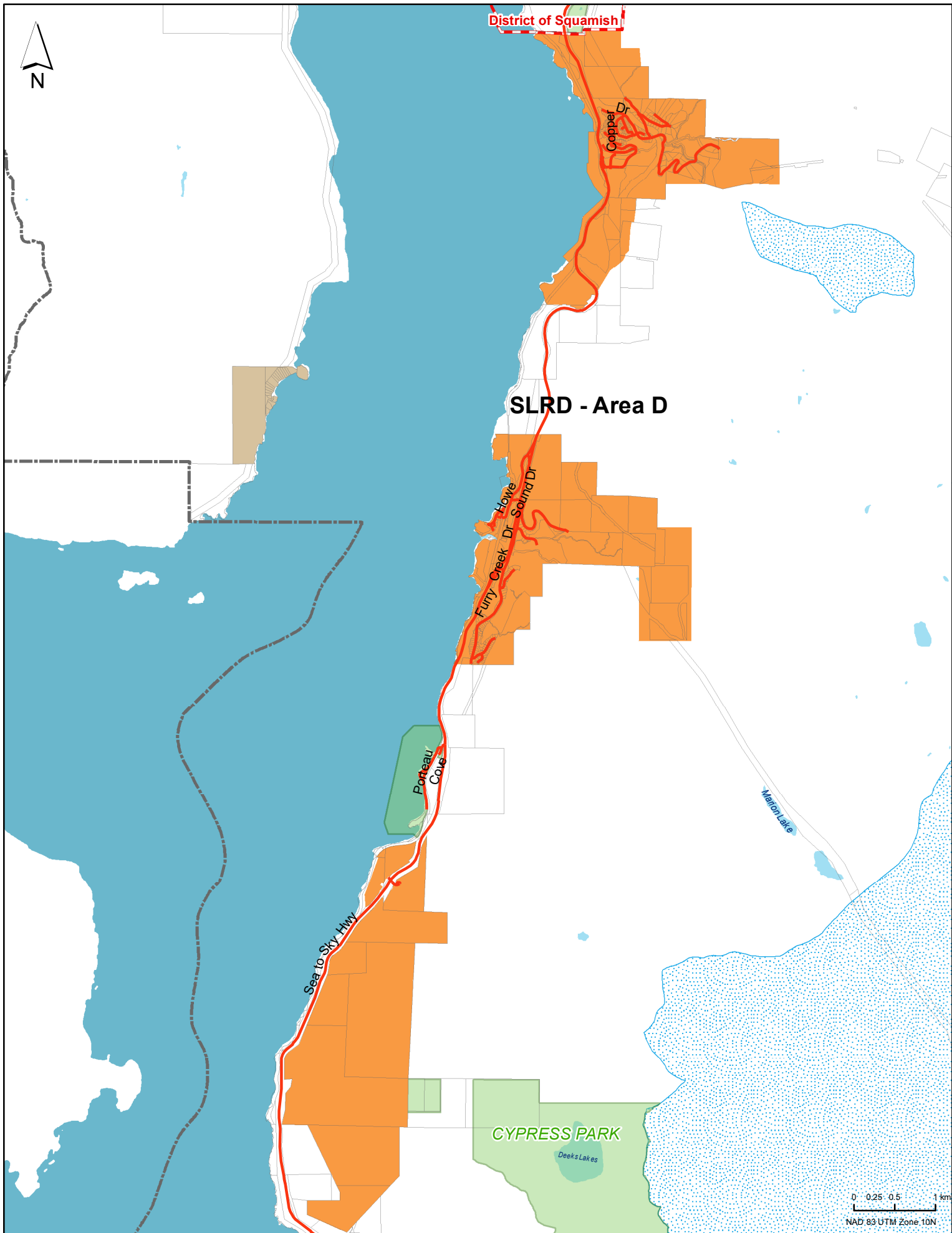
Master Planned Community

Non-Settlement Area

Rural Residential








Urban



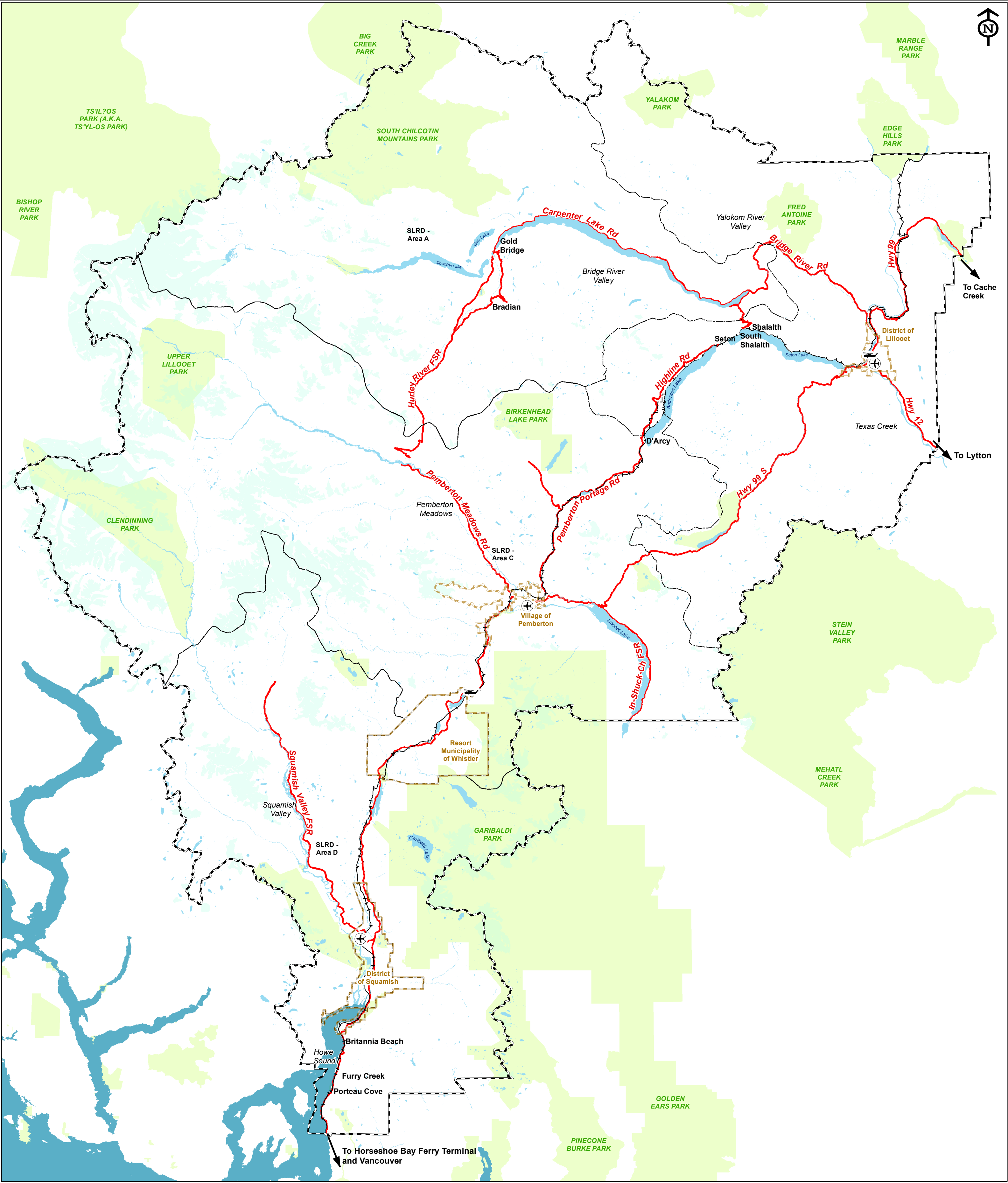


# Howe Sound Settlement Plan

Squamish - Lillooet Regional District  
Bylaw No. 1062  
Map 1f










- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Parks & Protected         |  Master Planned Community |
|  Community Watersheds      |  Rural Residential        |
|  Municipal Boundaries      |  Non-Settlement           |
|  Electoral Area Boundaries |  |





Squamish - Lillooet Regional District  
Bylaw 1062 Map 2

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

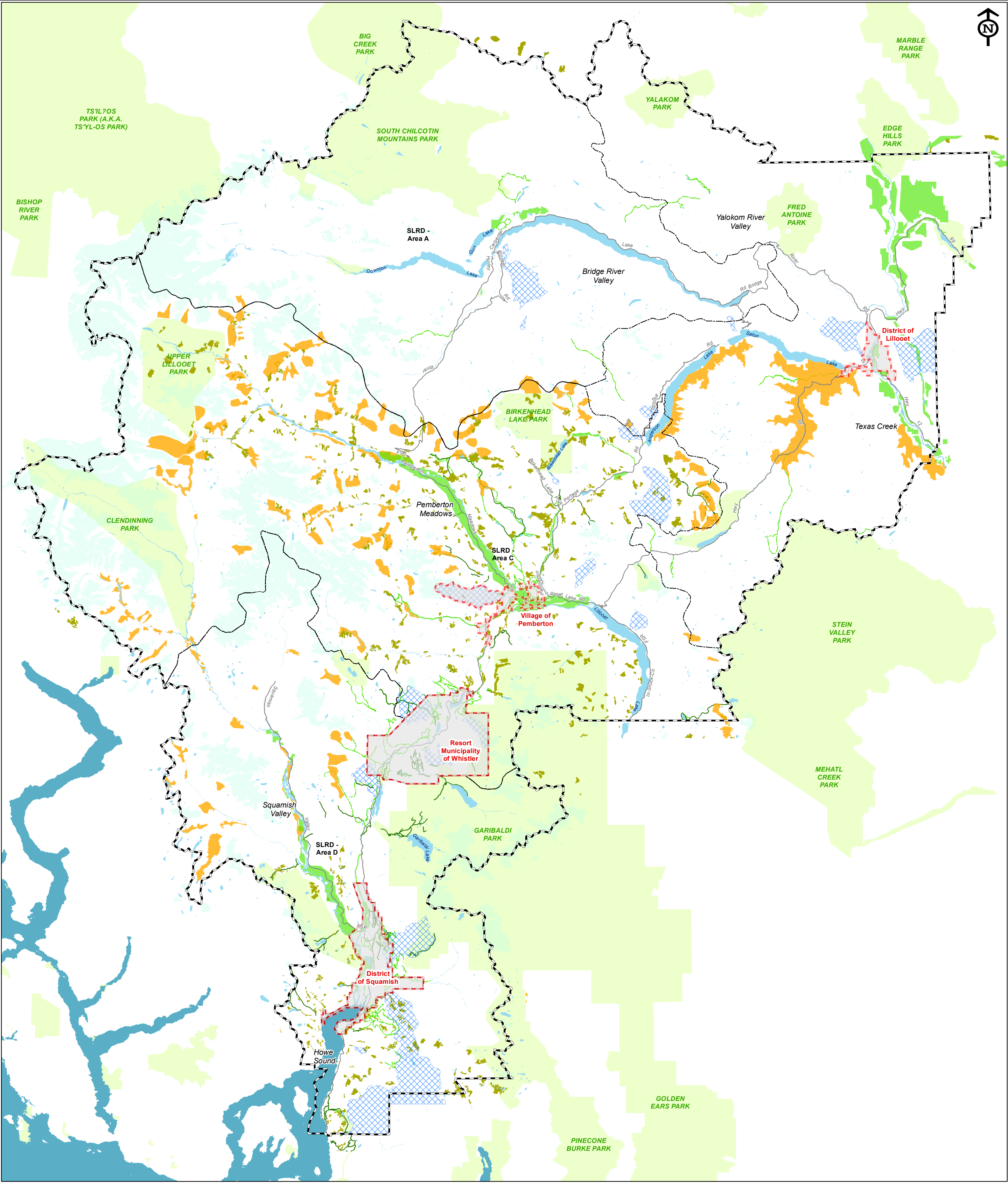
- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  Municipal Boundaries      |  Heliport |  Railway |  Ocean          |
|  Electoral Area Boundaries |  Airstrip |  Road    |  Lakes & Rivers |
|  SLRD Boundary             |  |   |  |

0 5 10 km  
NAD 83 UTM Zone 10N



Plot Date: 04/03/2014





Squamish - Lillooet Regional District  
Bylaw 1062 Map 3

REGIONAL NATURAL ASSETS

- |                           |                |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Municipal Boundaries      | Ice Masses     | Community Watersheds      | Wildlife Habitat Areas      |
| Electoral Area Boundaries | Ocean          | Agricultural Land Reserve | Old Growth Management Areas |
| SLRD Boundary             | Lakes & Rivers | Parks & Protected Areas   | Recreation Trails           |
|                           |                | Forest Tenure Rec Trails  |                             |

0 5 10 km  
NAD 83 UTM Zone 10N



Plot Date: 04/03/2014





## CORPORATE REPORT

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2019-09-10

From: Melissa Geddert, Planner I

File No: 6935-15-Harrison Hot Springs

**Subject: Village of Harrison Hot Springs Referral for Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019**

---

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board receive the *Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019* and that the comments outlined in Fraser Valley Regional District staff report dated September 10, 2019 be forwarded to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

### BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) has received a referral from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs regarding an amendment to their *Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw 864*. The Village is amending its OCP to re-designate the lands outlined on Schedule A (see attached) from Public Use Area to Village Centre Area. The purpose of the Village Centre Area is to develop a distinct commercial and mixed commercial/residential town centre with a full range of services. First and second reading was given for *Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019* on August 12, 2019.

## DISCUSSION

FVRD staff have reviewed the *Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019* from a regional perspective and find the proposed amendment to be consistent with the FVRD's 2004 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), *Choices for our Future*. The community plan amendment specifically supports the RGS's growth management goal to develop a network of sustainable communities and achieve sustainable economic growth.

The proposal to amend the lands from Public Use Area to Village Centre Area promotes a range of commercial, residential and public uses and thus, enhances the development of a strong and diverse economy within the village. This is key to meeting the social and economic goals of the RGS and creating a healthy and sustainable community

## COST

No costs are associated with this report.

## CONCLUSION

On receipt of the referral, FVRD staff has reviewed the proposed Village of Harrison Hot Springs OCP amendment in the context of the FVRD Regional Growth Strategy and the draft update that is in preparation. The lands associated with the amendment are within the FVRD's urban growth boundary and the proposal is consistent with the policies set out in the RGS.

## COMMENTS BY:

**Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning:** Reviewed and supported

**Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services:** Reviewed and Supported

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services:** No further financial comments.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer:** Reviewed and supported

## Lands Subject to OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019



File: 3900-20

August 19, 2019

Fraser Valley Regional District  
45950 Cheam Avenue  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6

**Attention: Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services**

Dear Ms. Barker:

**Subject: Proposed Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019**

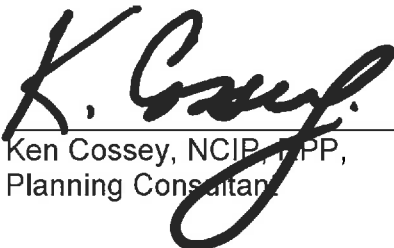
The Village of Harrison Hot Springs is proposing an amendment to the Official Community Plan. The intent of the Official Community Plan Amendment is to re-designate the lands from a Public Use area to a Village Centre use to facilitate a proposed land use which will consist of a mixed commercial-residential development.

We are seeking any comments from the Fraser Valley Regional District concerning the proposed Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw to ensure conformity to the Fraser Valley Regional District's Regional Growth Strategy.

Enclosed is a copy of the corresponding Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this application further please contact the undersigned at (604) 796-2171 or at (250) 514-4259.

Please provide any comments by September 9, 2019.

Yours truly,

  
Ken Cossey, NCIP, PMP,  
Planning Consultant

/dk  
Enclosure (1)

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 22 2019  
FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT  
DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_



## VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS BYLAW NO. 1142, 2019

### A bylaw to amend Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 864, 2007

---

**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Council has deemed it advisable to amend the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Bylaw 864, 2007, the Official Community Plan Bylaw for the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, as adopted May 7, 2007;

**NOW THEREFORE** in open meeting assembled, the Mayor and Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs enacts as follows:

#### CITATION

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "**Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1142, 2019**".

2. TEXT AMENDMENTS

- 2.1 Official Community Plan Bylaw Number 864, 2007 is hereby amended by inserting the following into 4.3.2(b) after the word "Avenue" and before the word "and" "includes the Lots that front onto Hot Springs Road and Poplar Street, as legally described in amendment Bylaw 1142, 2019."

#### MAP AMENDMENT

2. That:
  - (a) Schedule 1-B the Official Community Plan Map of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan, Bylaw 864, 2007, be amended by re-designating the lands, legally described as:

435 Hot Springs Road – Lot 2, Block 2, S 13, Tp 4, Range 29, W6M NWD Plan 9786  
445 Hot Springs Road – Lot 3, Block 2, S 13, Tp 4, Range 29, W6M NWD Plan 9786  
455 Hot Springs Road – Lot 4, Block 2, S 13, Tp 4, Range 29, W6M NWD Plan 9786  
456 Poplar Street - Lot 16, Block 2, S 13, Tp 4, Range 29, W6M NWD Plan 9786  
446 Poplar Street - Lot 17 Block 2, S 13, Tp 4, Range 29, W6M NWD Plan 9786  
436 Poplar Street - Lot 18 Block 2, S 13, Tp 4, Range 29, W6M NWD Plan 9786

outlined in red and cross-hatched on Schedule A.1 of this Bylaw from a **Public Use Designation** to the **Village Centre Area Designation**; and,

- (b) this area is also included in the Lakeshore Development Permit Area 1; and

- (c) the map appended hereto designated as Schedule A.1 showing such amendment is an integral part of this Bylaw.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2019

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2019

A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

READ A THIRD TIME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

A street map showing a grid of streets. The vertical streets are labeled 'HOT SPRINGS RD' and 'POPLAR ST'. The horizontal streets are labeled '425 HOT SPRINGS RD', '435 HOT SPRINGS RD', '445 HOT SPRINGS RD', '455 HOT SPRINGS RD', '465 HOT SPRINGS RD', '475 HOT SPRINGS RD', '485 HOT SPRINGS RD', '495 HOT SPRINGS RD', '436 POPLAR ST', '446 POPLAR ST', '456 POPLAR ST', '466 POPLAR ST', '476 POPLAR ST', '486 POPLAR ST', '349 WALNUT AVE'. A red rectangle highlights the area between 435 and 455 HOT SPRINGS RD and 436 and 456 POPLAR ST.

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee  
From: David Urban, Manager of Outdoor Recreation Planning

Date: 2019-09-10  
File No: 6140-35-Trails

**Subject: Summary of Mountain Biking on Sumas Mountain**

---

### INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Regional District Board of information pertaining to mountain biking on Sumas Mountain. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

### PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism

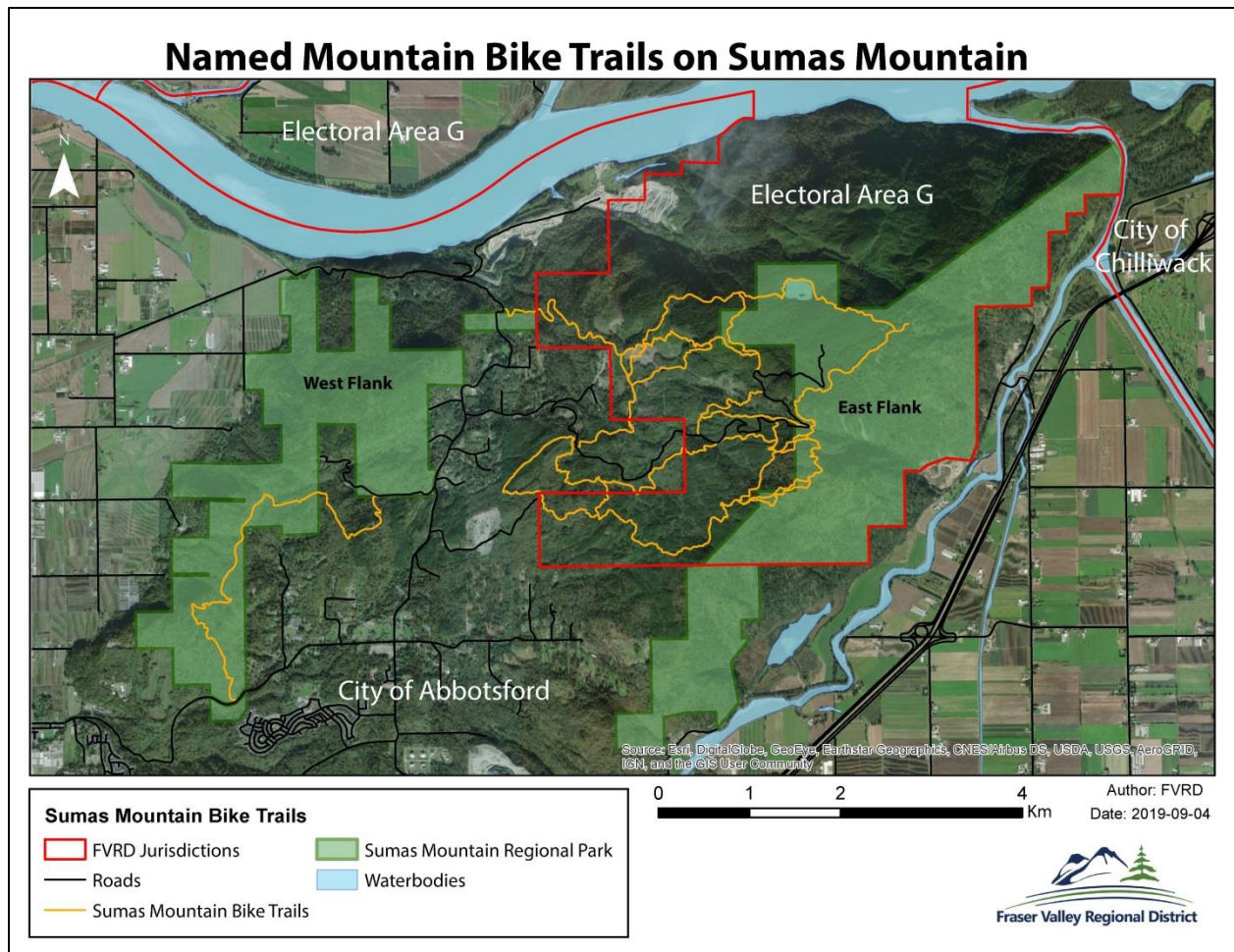
Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

### BACKGROUND

Earlier this year Director Loewen and staff from both the City of Abbotsford (COA) and the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) met with Chris Friesen, Abbotsford Trail Representative, Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association (FVMBA) to discuss several topics related to mountain biking on Sumas Mountain. With another mountain bike season coming to an end, the COA has requested that the FVRD provide an update to their Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee about mountain biking on Sumas Mountain.

Sumas Mountain Regional Park is one of several different land tenures on the mountain. Other tenures include City of Abbotsford, First Nations, Crown land, and private land for residential and industrial purposes. The majority of mountain biking trails on Sumas Mountain are on Crown land and only a few are within the regional park, please see Map #1.





**Map #1: Mountain Bike Trails on Sumas Mountain**

Recreation Sites and Trails BC manages more than 1,350 recreation sites and over 800 trails throughout the province on Crown land. They provide safe and enjoyable public recreation opportunities and in the case of Sumas Mountain are responsible for the majority of the mountain bike trails and associated parking areas. Earlier this year RSTBC were involved in some much needed improvements on the Sumas Mountain forest service road (FSR) and the primary mountain bike parking area. These improvements have been well received by both the biking and trail running communities.

The FVMBA is a registered non-profit, volunteer-run organization whose primary goal is to grow the sport and increase participation through the Fraser Valley. They actively support the development of sanctioned new trails and maintain existing trails to provide a positive experience for a full range of abilities and styles of mountain biking. In addition, they organize group rides, races, and social events geared towards increasing ridership on the trails. On their Board of Directors they have regional directors advancing trails in Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack.

## **DISCUSSION**

Last year the FVRD, the COA and Metro Vancouver (MV) worked collectively to coordinate the transfer of a portion of MV's regional parks to the FVRD as a sub-regional service which included the west flank of Sumas Mountain Inter-Regional Park. Since that time FVRD and COA staff have been working together on a plan forward to advance this park. This summer MV provided the FVRD with their GIS data and this information has now been assimilated into our system. This new information has already been used to confirm the park's boundary. When fully integrated with our data it will highlight any information gaps that are needed before a park management plan is undertaken.

The FVRD Parks department has two counters on Sumas Mountain's main FSR. Based on data collected to date, staff can reasonably estimate the annual usage. For the counter closest to the COA boundary it is anticipated there will be 65,000 users this year and 18,000 users accessing the top of the west flank based on the counter figures near the regional park boundary. With the role RSTBC has on the mountain, it is important to include them in the mountain bike discussion with the City of Abbotsford's Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee.

This year the community directors of the FVMBA began working in both the communities of Agassiz and Hope. To develop existing and new riding areas the FVMBA works with other trail user groups and government organizations. With such a regional approach being taken by this organization, it seems like an appropriate time for the FVRD to collaborate with the FVMBA to better understand and possibly support their aspirations for mountain biking on Sumas Mountain and throughout the region.

## **COST**

The sub-regional parks service area budget covers FVRD staff time.

## **CONCLUSION**

This year's mountain bike season is coming to an end on Sumas Mountain and the City of Abbotsford's Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee has asked for a status update. Since the majority of trails are on Crown land it seems appropriated to have both the FVRD and RSTBC meet with the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee.

Mountain biking is increasing in the region and the Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association is the leading organization formally developing this sport throughout the region. The FVRD will further collaborate with this organization to better understand their ambitions and see where opportunities exist to support this outdoor recreation activity both on Sumas Mountain and throughout the region.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services:** Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services:** No further financial comments.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer:** Reviewed and supported.