

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2019-01-23

From: Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning

File No: 6460-30-013

**Subject: 2018 Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Report**

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### **INTENT**

This report is intended to advise the FVRD Board of information pertaining to Fraser Valley Regional District's 2018 Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Report. 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**

Support Environmental Stewardship

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

### **BACKGROUND**

Per Section 452 of the Local Government Act, Regional Districts must establish a monitoring program for their respective Regional Growth Strategies. It is for this reason the region collects a range of data from numerous sources to monitor change over time. Beyond the legislated requirement, it is important for the region to ensure that both long-term and short-term decisions are being made based on the RGS vision, and result in positive trends.

Prior to this report, the monitoring requirement was met through a series of "Regional Snapshot" documents that focused on specific areas of interest. This new monitoring report format provides a broader reporting on how the region is meeting, or not meeting, its RGS Vision and Goals both current and proposed. The report provides an overview of the region and provides a baseline for monitoring the performance of the RGS over time.

## DISCUSSION

The Local Government Act sets out several reporting requirements, one of which is monitoring the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Prior to this report, the monitoring requirement was met through a series of “Regional Snapshot” documents that focused on specific areas of interest. These reports are quite detailed, but don’t provide a broad assessment of the many challenges facing the region in one place. The Snapshot Series was intended to provide detailed summaries of the region’s different areas of focus: Aging, Agriculture, Commuting, Health and Active Living, Housing, Employment, and Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. These documents also provided important information in support of the ongoing RGS review and update.

While key Snapshot documents, such as the Housing Demand and Affordability snapshot and recently updated Agricultural Economy snapshot will continue to be updated, and more detailed studies and analysis will be undertaken on specific issues as required, the monitoring report will become the annual RGS reporting mechanism as envisioned by the Local Government Act.

The current “*Choices for our Future*” RGS is the basis of the draft RGS update therefore the indicators presented in this document are applicable to both the existing and draft strategies. Much has changed since 2004 when the current RGS was adopted. The monitoring report presents information that reflects new legislative requirements (such as reference to climate change), new population growth, changing demographics and new challenges facing the Region. The monitoring report is broken down into eight sections reflecting the proposed eight Goals of the draft Regional Growth Strategy:

- 1.0 Collaboration
- 2.0 Economic Strength & Resiliency
- 3.0 Living Well
- 4.0 Community Building
- 5.0 Ecosystem Health
- 6.0 Transportation & Mobility
- 7.0 Infrastructure & Services
- 8.0 Energy and Climate Change

Data included in the monitoring report comes from a wide range of sources. Census data, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation data, ICBC statistics, FVRD studies and more, are utilized to establish a range of baselines which align to RGS goals. Some data will be updated on an annual basis, but the most significant updates will occur in the years following the Census as new data is released by Statistics Canada. The monitoring report will be adjusted as necessary in the future to reflect evolving reporting requirements and as new or better data sources are identified.

Completion of the Regional Growth Strategy update is on the 2019 Strategic Planning and Initiatives departmental Work Plan.

## **COST**

There are no additional costs associated with this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

Per Section 452 of the Local Government Act, Regional Districts must establish a monitoring program for their respective Regional Growth Strategies. The attached report provides an overview of the region and provides a baseline for monitoring the performance of the RGS over time.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs**

Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

No further financial comment.

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported