Regional Growth Strategy Initiation

Regional Board Meeting

November 20, 2025

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Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com

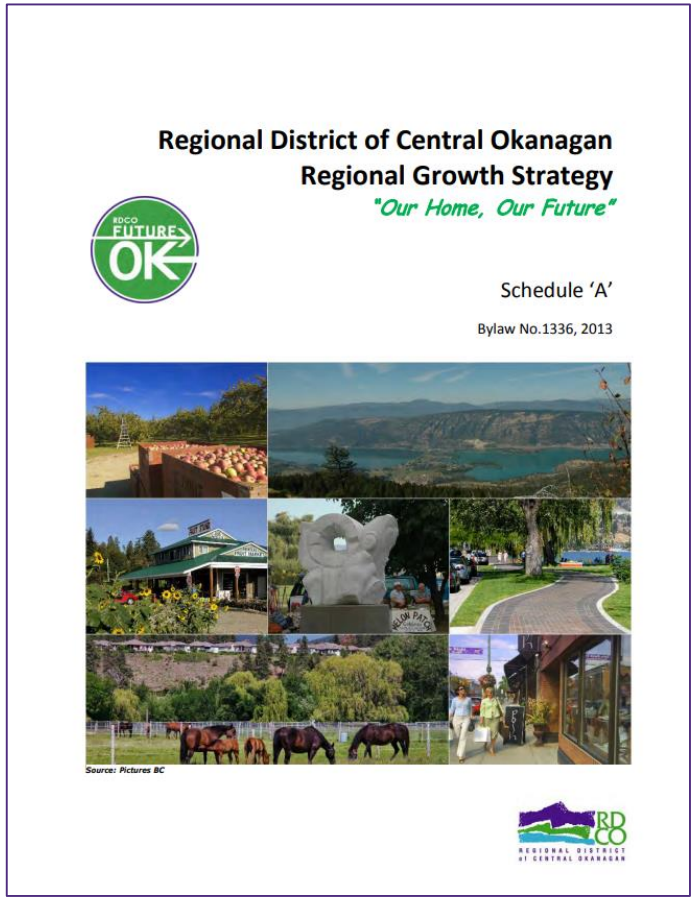
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Purpose

To seek Board direction to initiate development of a new Regional Growth Strategy

Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

- The RGS has been ensuring a coordinated approach to regional matters for over 25 years.
- Central Okanagan's 1st RGS adopted in 2000
- Central Okanagan's 2nd RGS initiated in 2010 and adopted in 2014
- New RGS approximately every 10 years



The RGS Drivers

- Population Growth
- Provincial Housing Legislation
- Increased prevalence of extreme heat, wildfire and floods



Major changes influencing both ***how much*** and ***where*** our region will grow

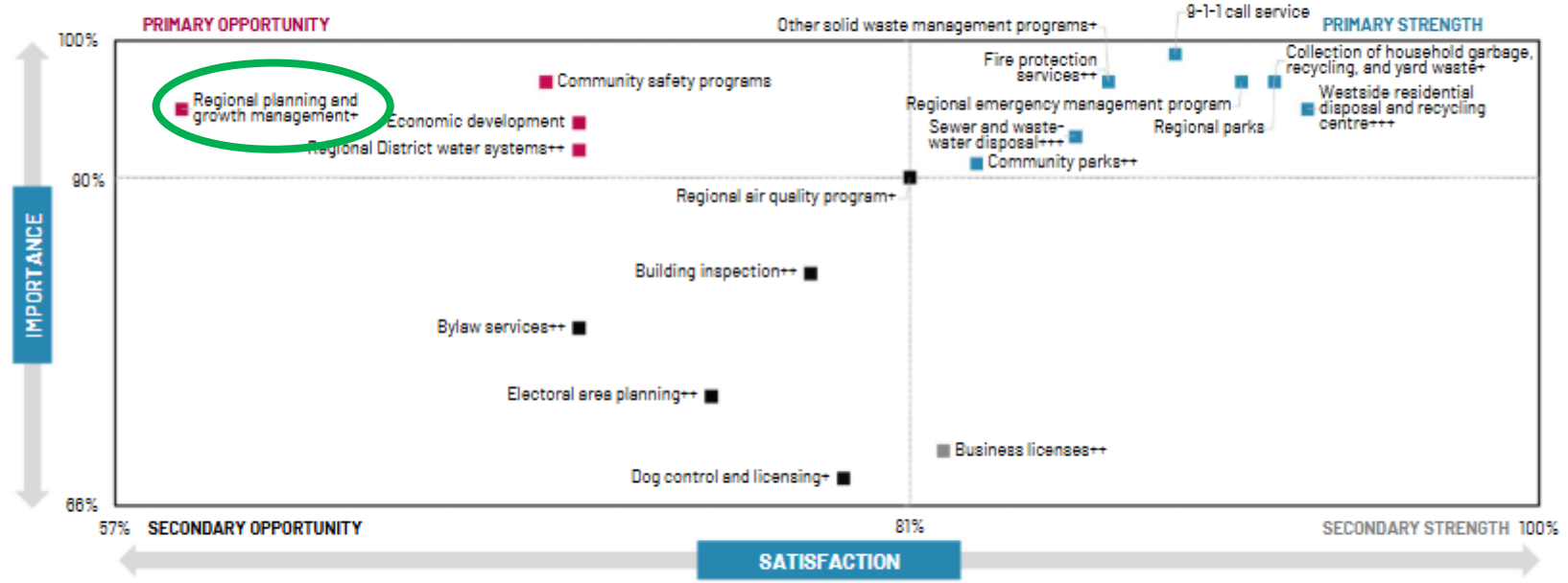
RGS Responsiveness

- Current RGS: regional population of 179,839 (2011 census). Since then, the Central Okanagan region has grown by 40% (approx. 72,000 more residents)
- Without a new RGS, individual municipalities will increasingly need to grapple with regional issues in isolation
- Impacts to Central Okanagan region's livability and quality of life



2024 Regional Citizen Survey

Importance versus satisfaction action grid



Base: All respondents (n=700)
Q8. I'm now going to read a list of services provided to you by the Regional District. Please tell me how important each service is to you personally. How important is ---?
Q10. And how satisfied are you with this service? Would you say ---?

* Small base size (<100), interpret with caution.
\+ Excluding Westbank First Nation (n=548)
++ Electoral Areas East and West only (n=88)*
+++ West Kelowna, Peachland, Westbank First Nation only (n=232)

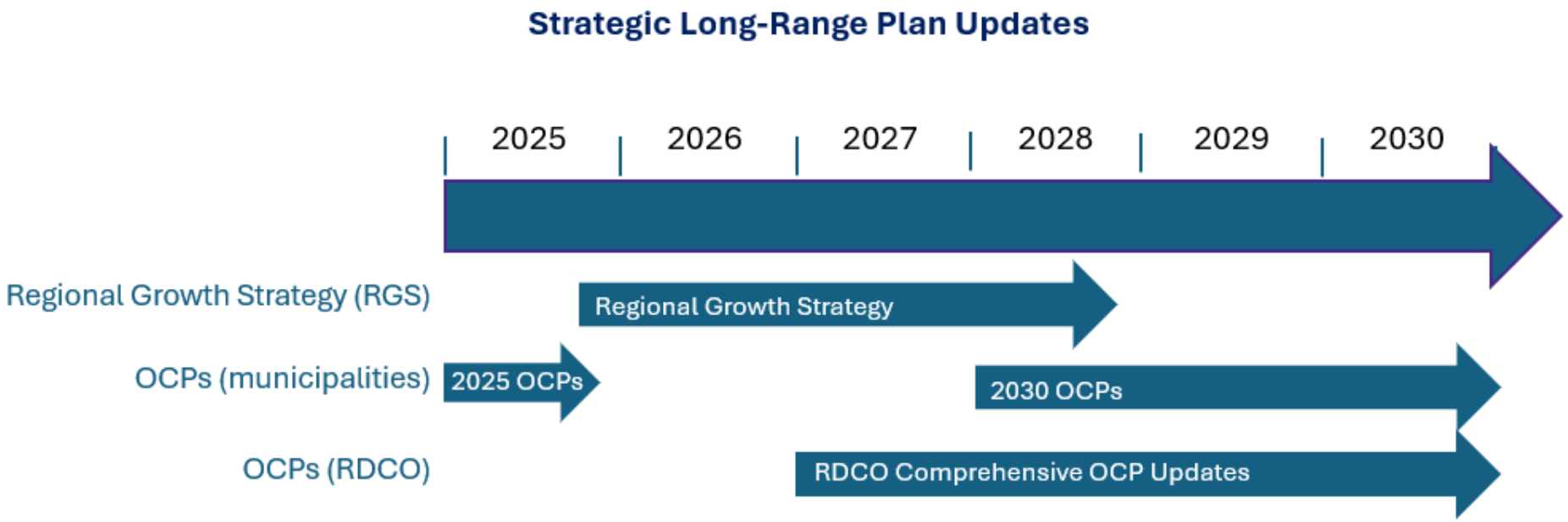
Regional Board Direction

- October 2024 - Regional Board directed staff to commence the scoping of a Regional Growth Strategy
- Creating a new RGS was also included in the 2024-2028 RGS Priority Projects Plan, endorsed on December 12, 2024



Benefits to Member Municipalities & Electoral Areas

- Streamlined integration with 2030 OCP update timelines, minimizing re-work



Benefits to Member Municipalities & Electoral Areas

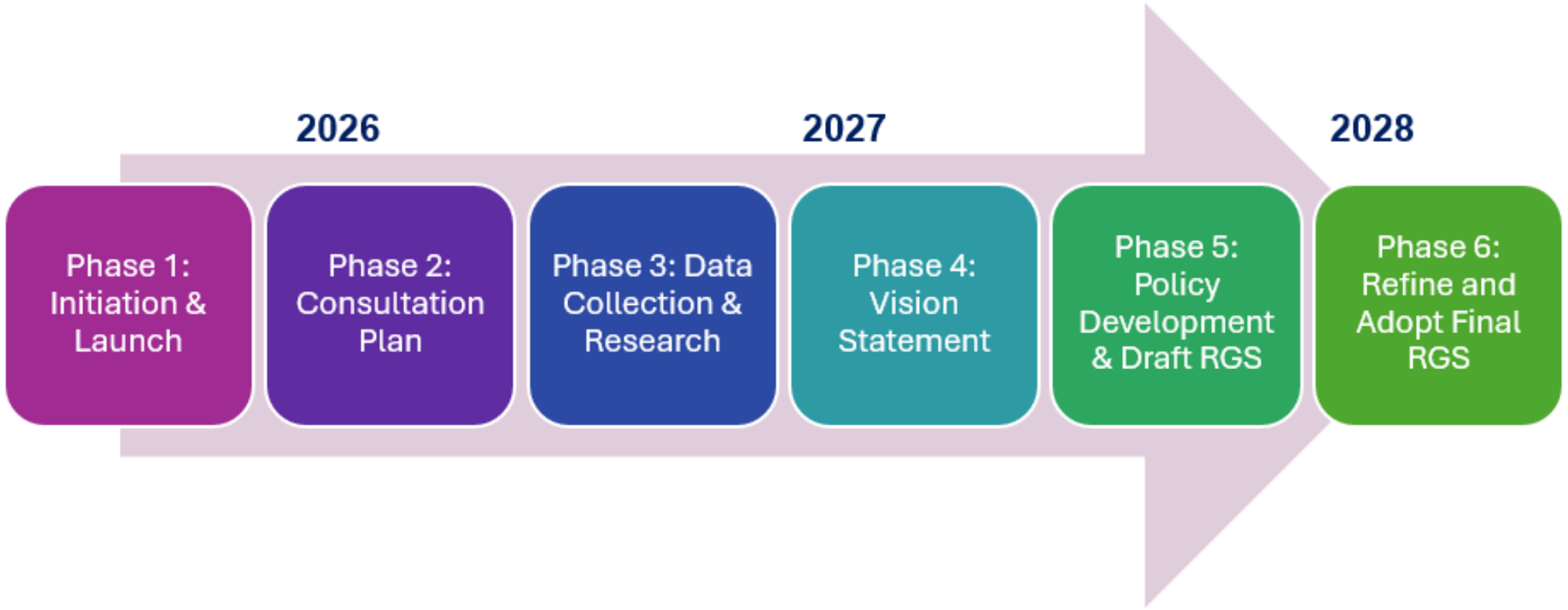
- The RGS will **build upon and complement** recent municipal plans & strategies
- Identifying regional policies and actions that tackle the **complex inter-jurisdictional issues** no one member government can address alone
- This will result in a **clear, modern regional policy framework** that can be easily incorporated into future OCP updates and topic-based master plans
- **Increases efficiencies** and **reduces the burden** on municipal and first nation staff

Communications and Engagement

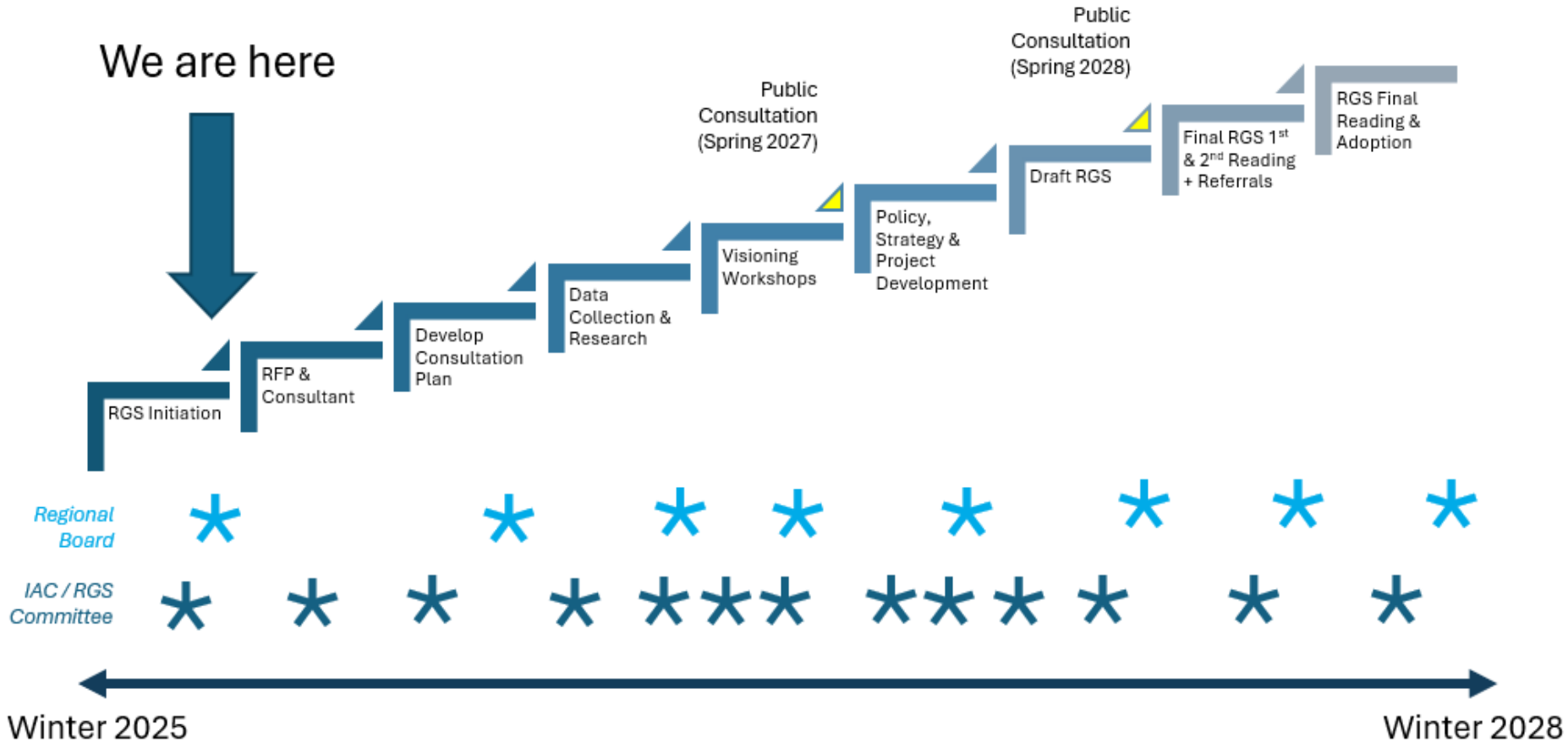
- Engaging, accessible and inclusive process that reflects the values of our region
- Consultation Plan - brought back to Board for adoption (next step)
  - Central Okanagan Residents
  - Member Municipalities
  - First Nations
  - Adjoining Regional Districts
  - Regional Community Partner Organizations, and Provincial
  - Federal Governments
- Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC)
  - Planning Directors (regional district & member municipalities)
  - Provincial government representatives



Regional Growth Strategy - Timeline

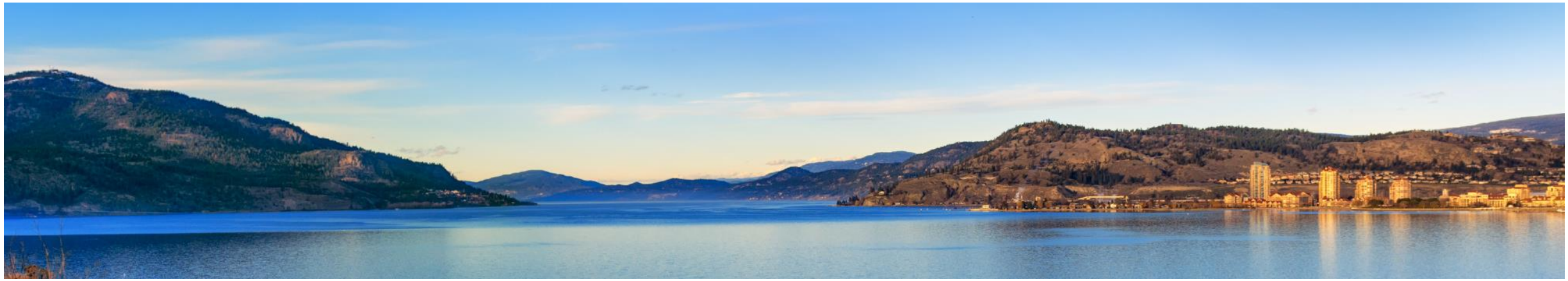


Regional Growth Strategy - Timeline



Funding

- Grant application to the UBCM Strategic Priorities Fund
- Funding to develop a new RGS was included in the 2025 – 2029 Financial Plan
- A new RGS can enhance regional competitiveness for grant funding



Next Steps

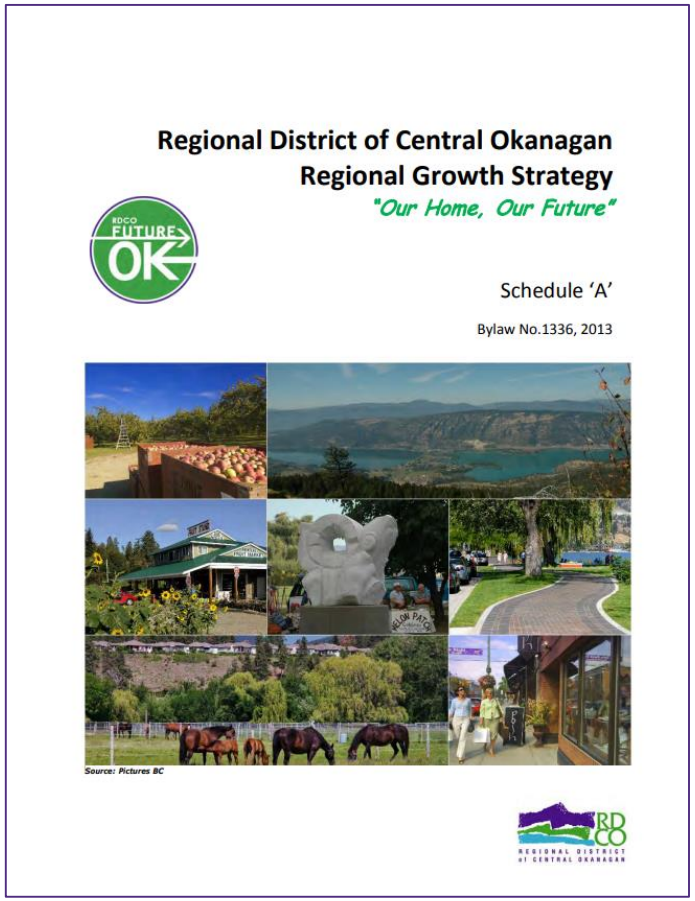
- Developing a new RGS would follow the requirements of Part 13 of the Local Government Act:
  - Adopt a Consultation Plan (LGA Section 434(2))
  - Establish an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (LGA Section 450(1)(b))
  - Provide written notification would be provided to affected local governments and the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs (LGA Section 433(4))

Next Steps - 2026

- Winter 2025/2026: RFP & Consultant Procurement
- Spring 2026: Develop Consultation Plan
- Summer/Fall 2026: Data Collection & Analysis Summary Report
- Winter 2026/2027: Visioning Workshops

Region-wide benefits

- Advancing the RGS would provide value to all our member governments and bring region-wide benefits:
  - Addressing major changes related to population growth, provincial housing legislation and increased natural hazard events
  - Provide a consistent regional approach to growth in time to inform member's 2030 OCP updates and the RDCO's OCPs



Conclusion

- The Central Okanagan region is growing rapidly and facing new and evolving challenges
- A modern and relevant regional policy framework is vital to adapt and respond to today's challenges
- Developing a New RGS:
  - Supports a coordinated response to increasingly complex regional matters
  - Ensures an efficient approach that adds value to members & lightens the load on municipal staff
  - Supports the creation of a **future-ready Central Okanagan**



Recommendations

All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

THAT the Regional Board directs staff to initiate the development of a new Regional Growth Strategy for the Regional District of Central Okanagan;

AND THAT staff report back to the Regional Board with a Consultation Plan for the new Regional Growth Strategy.