Future ready. Region strong.

Regional Growth Strategy

RGS Consultation Plan



Regional District of Central Okanagan

DIALOG®

June 2026



The RDCO acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓xʷúlaʔxʷ (land) of the syilx / Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial. We recognize, honour, and respect the syilx / Okanagan lands upon which we live, work, and play.

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Overview

This Consultation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the British Columbia Local Government Act. This Consultation Plan outlines how the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) will involve member municipalities, First Nation governments, provincial and federal agencies, members of the public, community partner organizations and other interested parties in the development of its Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The RGS is a long-range planning document that will guide growth, land use, and regional development over the next 20 years. The process is structured around 11 tasks that take place from 2026 through late 2028.

Meaningful engagement is essential to building a plan that reflects the values, priorities and aspirations of people across the Region. This Consultation Plan outlines the general approach to engagement throughout the project - including who will be engaged, how they will be engaged and how feedback will be used to shape the new RGS.

How to use this document

This Plan is intended to be a working document for the project team, elected officials and consulting partners involved in the RGS process. It should be read at the outset of the project to establish a shared understanding of the engagement approach and referred to as engagement activities are being planned and executed. This Consultation Plan is a living document: as the project evolves, methods and timelines may be adjusted to reflect emerging needs, community response or project circumstances. Any significant changes will be implemented in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Background and context

The Local Government Act requires a Regional Growth Strategy to address topics such as settlement patterns, housing, transportation, economic development and environmental protection.

The RDCO adopted its first RGS in 2000 and an updated RGS in 2014. The update was based on a regional population of 179,839 (2011 Census). Since then, the Region has experienced a 40% increase in population (about 72,000 more residents). Additionally, provincial housing legislation and the increasing frequency of wildfires, extreme heat and floods are influencing both how much and where development is occurring in our Region.

This Consultation Plan has been developed at the outset of the process to meet legislative requirements and endeavor to meaningfully integrate community voices from the beginning of the project.

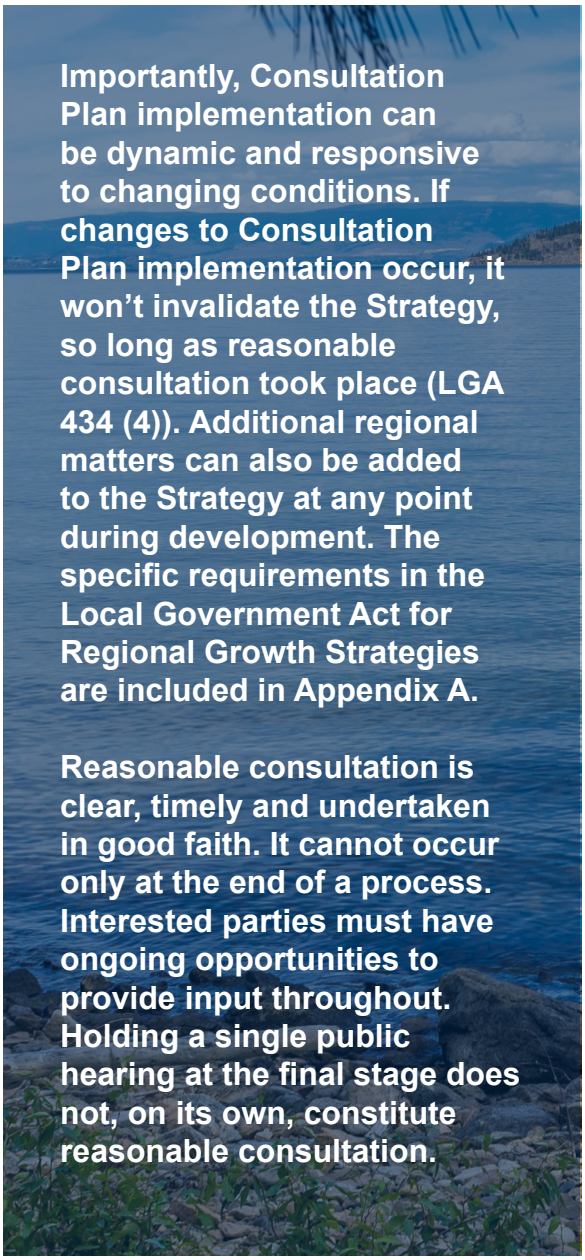


Legislative requirements

The Local Government Act sets forth requirements for consultation in an RGS process. When developing an RGS, the project must consult with anyone likely to be affected and make genuine efforts to reach agreement with affected local governments.

Under Section 434 (2) of the Local Government Act, an RGS Consultation Plan must be adopted early in the process, ensuring ongoing input from at minimum: citizens, affected local governments, First Nations, education/ improvement district boards and provincial and federal governments.

Relevant sections from the LGA are included in Appendix A.



Importantly, Consultation Plan implementation can be dynamic and responsive to changing conditions. If changes to Consultation Plan implementation occur, it won't invalidate the Strategy, so long as reasonable consultation took place (LGA 434 (4)). Additional regional matters can also be added to the Strategy at any point during development. The specific requirements in the Local Government Act for Regional Growth Strategies are included in Appendix A.

Reasonable consultation is clear, timely and undertaken in good faith. It cannot occur only at the end of a process. Interested parties must have ongoing opportunities to provide input throughout. Holding a single public hearing at the final stage does not, on its own, constitute reasonable consultation.

Engagement approach

The RDCO is committed to engagement that is genuine, inclusive and transparent. This Consultation Plan is informed by the RDCO Public Engagement Policy, which establishes a framework for formal public engagement undertaken for RDCO programs, policies, plans and projects. This Consultation Plan is also grounded in the Core Values of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), namely:

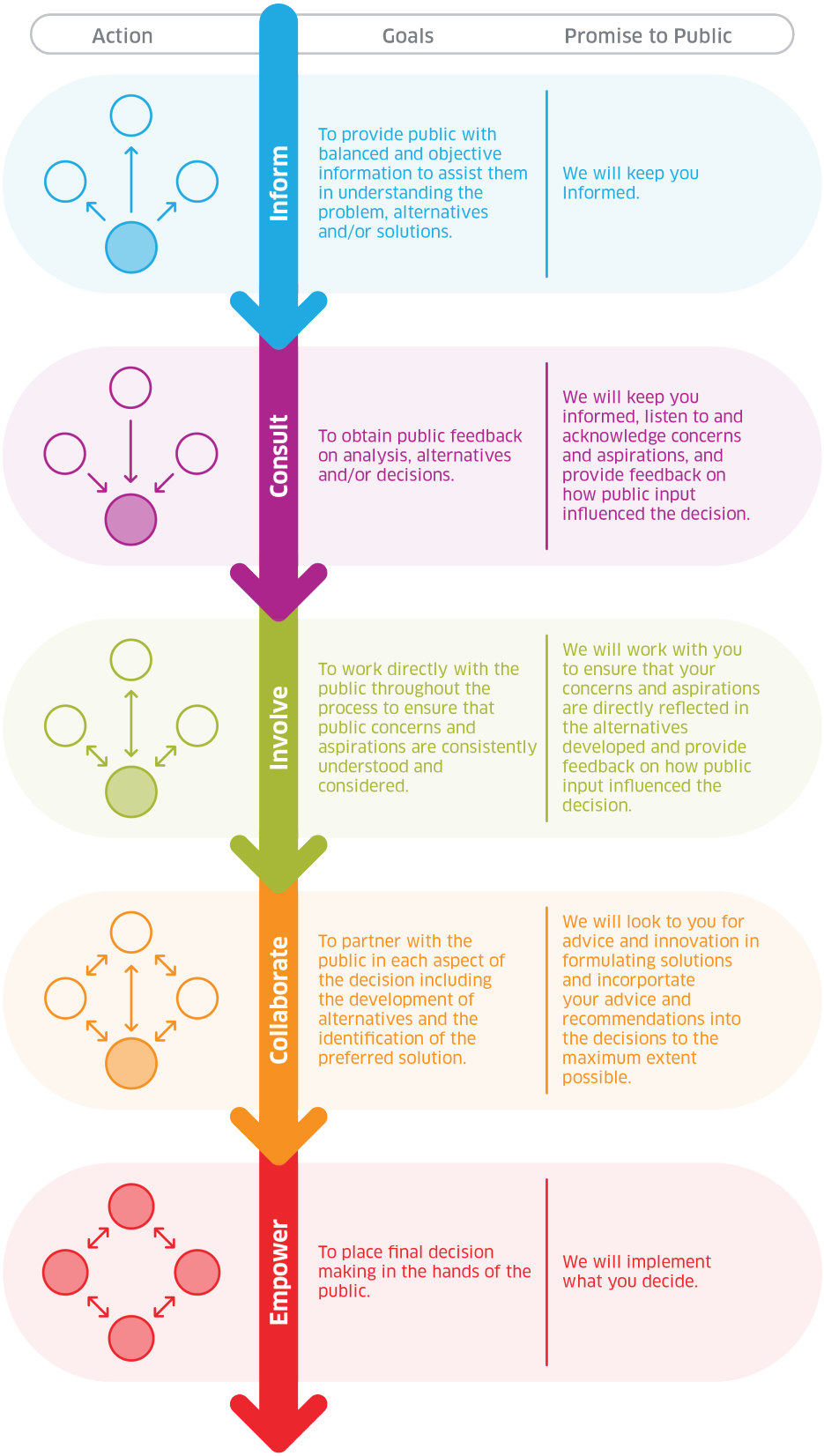
1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

This Plan will use the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum to inform engagement tools and techniques.

In addition, the RDCO is committed to:

- Starting engagement early so that residents and interested audiences will have the opportunity to help shape the vision and direction before draft policies are written.
- Being clear about the influence by communicating openly about what is within scope, what decisions have already been made, and how input will be used.
- Providing deliberate efforts to reach beyond the usual voices. We will reach out to renters, youth, newcomers, low-income households and others who are often underrepresented in planning processes.

IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement



Who is the RDCO engaging?

Engagement will be tailored to reach a broad cross section of the Region, including:

- General public across all member governments and electoral areas
- Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band
- Affected local governments and elected officials
- Development industry, business and agricultural interests
- School Districts and Improvement Boards
- Environmental and community organizations
- Provincial and federal agencies
- Underrepresented groups, including youth, seniors, renters and newcomers



Engagement objectives

Throughout this process, the objectives of engagement will be as follows:

- Build broad awareness of the RGS and why it matters to everyday life in the Region
- Understand community values, priorities and long-range aspirations
- Identify key issues and trade-offs residents want the RGS to address
- Gather place-specific input from different parts of the Region
- Conduct genuine, inclusive and transparent engagement, including with our First Nation government partners and Indigenous community members
- Build trust, relationships and confidence in the planning process



Key messages for public engagement

The following key messages will serve as the foundation for our communication about the RGS with the public:

Why your voice matters

The RGS is being built with you. Public input will directly shape the Regional Growth Strategy, vision statement and policies. The process will be transparent about how feedback is used and where it influences decisions.

Growth is a regional conversation

Growth doesn't stop at municipal, First Nation and electoral area boundaries. Housing, transportation, agriculture, climate and natural areas are all connected across the Region. This Strategy is about coordinating those connections so communities and neighbours can thrive together and reap the benefits of a regional approach.

First Nation government partnerships and reconciliation are woven throughout the entire process

More than a stand-alone chapter or check-box, meaningful engagement with Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band is woven in from the beginning, in recognition that the new RGS is being developed on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the syilx/Okanagan people.

The trade-offs are real

Residents will be invited to sit in the planner's seat and weigh-in on regional policy related to regional topics, such as housing, protecting the natural environment, preserving agricultural land, ensuring climate resilience, supporting public health, attracting new business and building connected transportation networks, among others. There are no easy answers, and the process is designed to support residents in identifying their priorities.

Planning for 2050 and beyond means acting now

Increasing natural hazard events (extreme heat, wildfires and floods), housing affordability, food security and a growing population are already shaping the Region. The new RGS sets the direction for long-term collaboration on how and where to focus growth that will affect generations to come.

Our commitment to you

Every round of public engagement will be followed by a "What We Heard" report showing how public input influenced the Strategy. Feedback loops are built into every phase.

Shared services, shared savings

Many of the services residents rely on cross jurisdictional boundaries. Regional planning maximizes investment in those shared systems, so every dollar goes further, and no single community bears disproportionate costs.

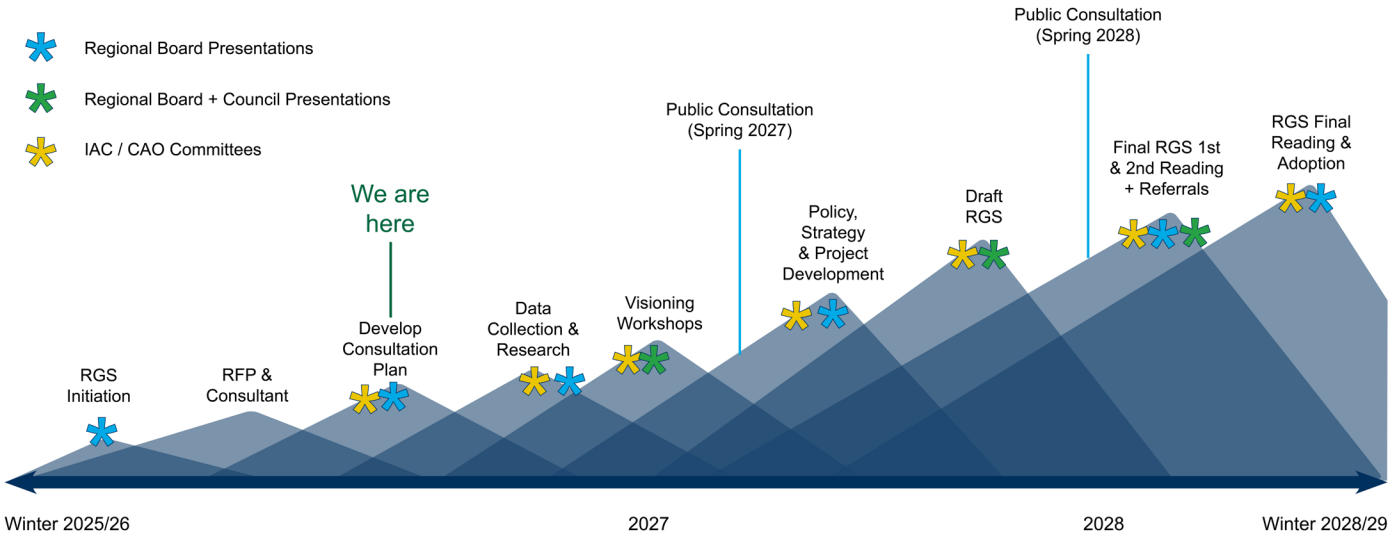
Board and Council touch points

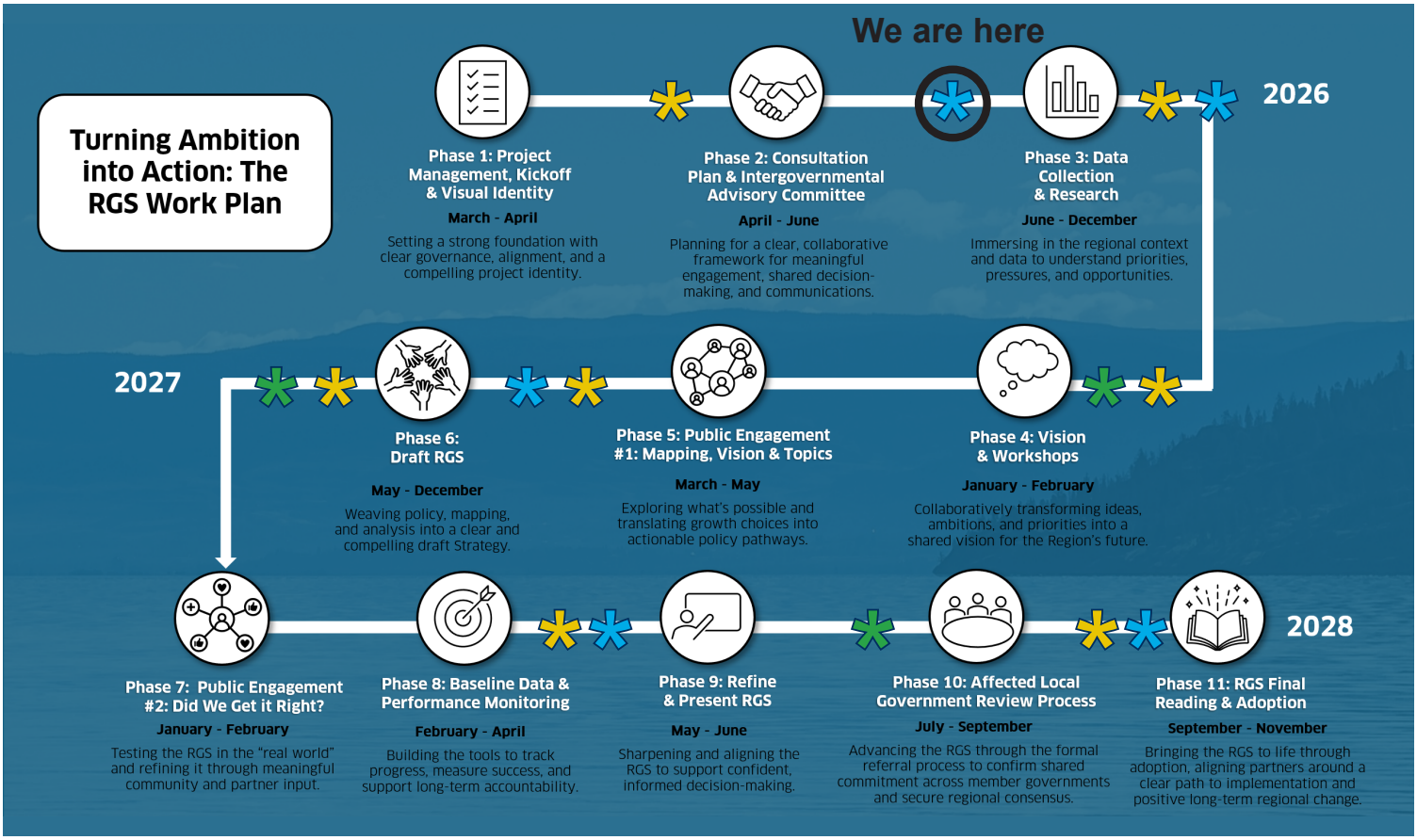
Touch points with the Regional Board and Councils around the Region are planned at key milestones throughout the project timeline. The Regional Growth Strategy Timeline diagram on the next page depicts the key Regional Board and Council presentations, as well as the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC)/ and Chief Administrate Officer (CAO) Committee meetings.

Elected Official Communiques will be used to keep Elected Officials informed at key milestones. These will be concise updates with clear, factual information on project progress, key decisions, completed milestones and upcoming phases. The initial Communique will introduce the project team and meeting structure, outline the project schedule and key decision points and identify immediate next steps.



Regional Growth Strategy Timeline





Committee structure

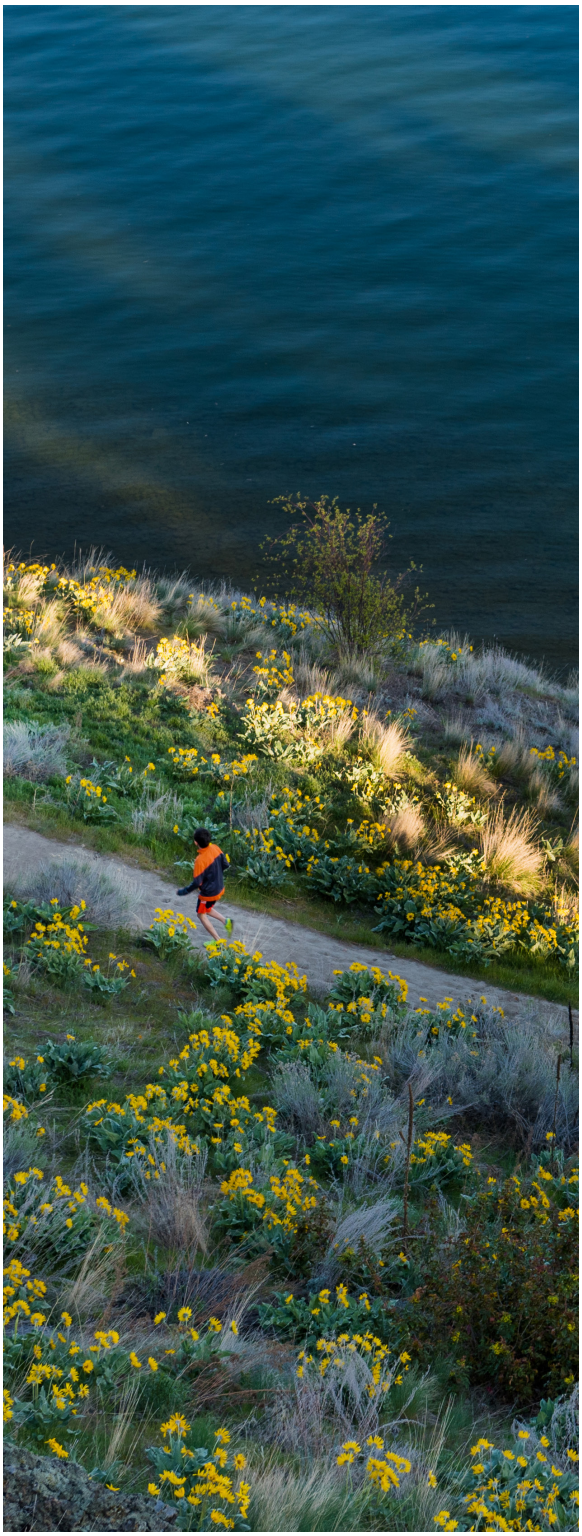
Key deliverables throughout the RGS development will be shared with our member muncipalities and First Nation government partners for review and feedback before they are brought to the Regional Board. This intentional, tiered committee structure is designed to ensure early and ongoing engagement with member governments. The approach ensures efficiencies by utilizing staff-level technical input, while building in key briefings at the Planning Director and CAO level around the Region to ensure buy-in each step of the way.

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (new committee)

- Planning Directors around the Region
- Senior planning staff around the Region (local governments and First Nations)
- Interior Health
- Provincial agencies
- Required per LGA

CAO Committee (new committee)

- CAOs around the Region



First Nations engagement

The RDCO recognizes that meaningful engagement with our First Nation government partners is foundational to the development of an RGS that is inclusive, informed and regionally relevant. This engagement is intended to support collaborative dialogue, ensure First Nation's perspectives and priorities are reflected, and strengthen relationships through a respectful, transparent and coordinated approach that aligns with each Nation's governance, protocols and ongoing planning work.

The RDCO will undertake a collaborative and Nation-specific approach to engagement with Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band in the development of the RGS. Engagement will be grounded in respect for governance structures, community protocols and existing relationships. Approaches will be co-developed to align with First Nation processes, priorities and capacity, and to ensure engagement is meaningful, efficient and avoids duplication with ongoing initiatives.

Engagement design will reflect several important factors, including varying staff capacity and timelines, engagement fatigue and the need to demonstrate clear and practical outcomes. Efforts will prioritize accessible, plain-language materials supported by visuals, and will focus on reaching beyond already engaged participants. Clear messaging will emphasize how the RGS relates to day-to-day community priorities and long-term outcomes.

Engagement activities will be scheduled in coordination with First Nations and will respect community calendars and protocols. In general, fall and winter are preferred engagement periods, with avoidance of summer months and holiday closures. Opportunities to align with existing meetings and community events will be prioritized. Major engagement and review activities will strive to include ample notice, and wherever possible, RDCO staff will present materials directly.

The RDCO will provide clear, consistent and transparent communication throughout the process. Materials will be shared in advance through appropriate First Nation channels, with defined timelines for review and feedback. Ongoing updates will be provided through email, summary memos and existing forums, with coordination through First Nation staff for alignment with internal processes when possible.

The RDCO is committed to ongoing collaboration beyond the RGS process, ensuring that feedback is meaningfully reflected in outcomes and that relationships are maintained over time.

Methods and tactics

The following section outlines the specific methods and tactics that will be used for engagement throughout each of the 11 tasks. More detailed event plans will be produced at the outset of each task to provide the project team with operational and logistical details.

Task 1: Project management, kickoff and visual identity: April – May 2026

Objective: Was to establish a strong project management foundation, establish a visual identity that helps the public identify materials that are part of the RGS process and set forth strong graphic standards for future deliverables.

Engagement tactics and methods:
N/A

IAP2 level: N/A

Task 2: Develop Consultation Plan and establish Intergovernmental Advisory: May – July 2026

Objective: This task was about drawing up an effective Consultation Plan for a multi-year process that aligns people, decisions and ideas across a complex regional landscape. This task also established the foundation for collaboration across governments, Indigenous Groups and communities by clarifying roles, expectations and participation pathways.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- IAC Meeting
- CAO Committee Meeting
- 1:1 Meetings with member municipalities and First Nation governments
- Regional Board Meeting
- Elected Official Communique #1 (Briefs that contain clear, factual information on project progress, key decisions, completed milestones, and upcoming phases.)

IAP2 level: Inform, Consult

Task 3: Data collection and research: July 2026 – January 2027

Objective: This task establishes the shared evidence base for the RGS through the production of six thematic reports. The data collection and research will be informed by member government's most recent Official Community Plans and Comprehensive Community Plans. The reports will be based on updated population and employment projections and cover key regional topics such as housing, transportation, natural ecosystems, economic development, agriculture, public health and climate change.

Engagement tactics and methods:

- 2 IAC Meetings
- CAO Committee Meeting
- Regional Board Meeting
- Elected Official Communique #2

IAP2 level: Inform



Working with community to map their vision for the future of their community.

Task 4: Visioning workshops: February – March 2027

Objective: To inform the draft vision, in-person visioning workshops will be held with member municipality and First Nation government councils throughout the Region, as well as the Regional Board. The workshops will be highly interactive, encouraging active participation from all who attend. The workshops will be grounded in draft growth frameworks and spatial concepts that emerge from the data collection and reserach, and will be designed to support informed discussions.

Engagement tactics and methods:

- Visioning Workshop (IAC, CAO Committee)
- Regional Council Workshops
- Regional Board Meeting
- Elected Official Communique #3

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult, Involve

Workshops held during this phase will be highly interactive and supported by compelling visuals that help participants imagine the future of our Region in tangible, place-based ways. Each workshop will begin with a brief presentation to set the context, introduce key ideas and outline the purpose of the session, followed by facilitated, collaborative activities focused on establishing a shared vision.

Task 5: Public engagement #1: March – May 2027

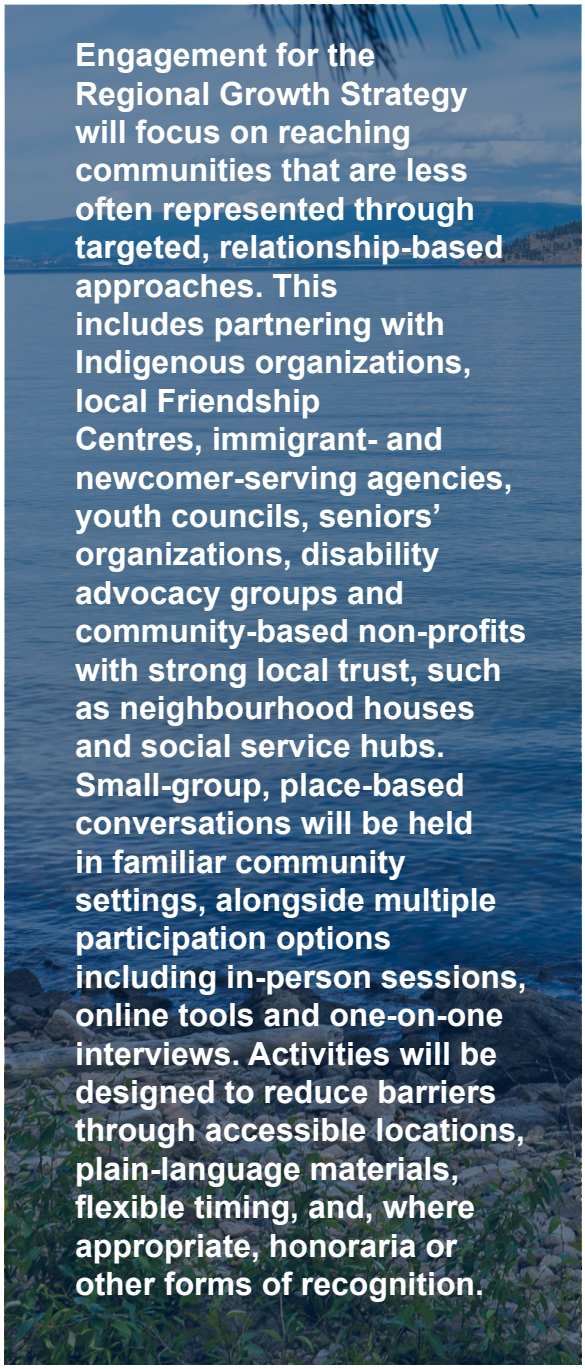
Objective: This task invites the broader community into the regional conversation by sharing the results of the six thematic technical reports, regional mapping and draft vision statement options with the public. Engagement will be focused on helping people understand regional choices, see how growth decisions connect across boundaries and provide informed input at a formative stage. Engagement activities will be designed to be interactive, accessible and future-focused.

Engagement tactics and methods:

- Engagement page on yoursay.rdco.com
- Comment Drop Boxes
- Online Survey
- 2 Workshops
- 4 Ideas Fair Road Show

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult, Involve

The activities during this first phase of public engagement will inspire! Virtual workshops will be designed to be lively, fun and educate about the value of regional approaches to planning. Virtual options will help allow participation from across the Region. Ideas Fairs are engagement events that include a variety of engagement methods such as role playing, community mapping, prioritization exercises – all presented in a lively and celebratory atmosphere. The project team will explore opportunities to align these events with existing community events and will augment with vibrant activities and food.



Task 6: Develop draft RGS: June 2027 – January 2028

Objective: The draft RGS brings together the vision, regional mapping, and engagement outcomes into a single, integrated document. This task translates earlier analysis and dialogue into a clear strategy that has the capacity to guide long-term decision-making while remaining adaptable to local contexts. This task is focused on production of the draft RGS but includes meetings with the various committees to test and affirm the content as it is being developed.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- 2 IAC Meetings
- 2 CAO Committee Meetings
- Regional Council Presentations and Regional Board Meeting
- Elected Official Communiques #4 and #5

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult, Involve

Task 7: Public engagement #2: February – March 2028

Objective: Task 7 focuses on validating the Draft RGS and confirming that it reflects what has been heard, is clearly understood, and functions as a practical regional framework. Engagement will be interactive and allow participants to engage with topics and sections most relevant to them.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- Online Survey
- 2 Online Workshops
- 2 Open Houses

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult, Involve

The second phase of public engagement will focus on reporting back by confirming what we heard and how it has been integrated into the Draft RGS. Clarity of information will be paramount. We will design materials that are clear, graphically rich and compelling. Online workshops will open with a presentation highlighting the key components of the Draft RGS, followed by a live visual note-taking session using an interactive digital whiteboard tool, with the potential for graphic recordings to capture the richness of those conversations. Open Houses will be held in a drop-in format, with food and entertainment to incentivize attendance and create a welcoming atmosphere.

Task 8: Develop baseline data for dashboard performance monitoring: April – May 2028

Objective: This component will include developing regional performance monitoring metrics to help the Region track and report on progress at achieving the vision.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- IAC member input and review

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult

Task 9: Refine and present final RGS for 1st and 2nd Reading: April -July 2028

Objective: The RGS will be presented to the Regional Board for 1st and 2nd Reading. The refined and final RGS will be shared with the IAC and CAO Committees for feedback before bringing the final RGS to the Regional Board.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- IAC Meeting
- CAO Committee Meeting
- 2 Regional Board Meetings
- Elected Official Communique #6

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult

Task 10: Affected Local Government referral process: August – October 2028

Objective: The RGS will be referred to affected local governments for a resolution of support, in accordance with legislative requirements.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- Elected Official Communique #7
- Council Meeting presentations

IAP2 levels: Inform, Consult

Task 11: RGS final reading and adoption: October – December 2028

Objective: The final RGS will be brought to the Regional Board for final reading and adoption.

Engagement tactics and methods:
- IAC, CAO Committee meetings (if required)
- Regional Board Meeting
- Elected Official Communique #8

IAP2 levels: Inform

Engaging in both urban and rural contexts

The geographic scope of this project requires thinking about engagement in a way that honours both urban and rural contexts across all member governments. This means balancing methods and tactics that work well in more densely populated areas with those suited to smaller, more distributed communities.

In rural areas, residents are less likely to travel to a centralized event, so bringing engagement to local communities and aligning activities with existing gatherings, networks and seasonal rhythms is critical to achieving meaningful participation. In more urban contexts, engagement can leverage higher foot traffic, density, existing civic infrastructure and can help reach a broad and diverse audience.

Across both contexts, this Plan focuses on meeting people where they are by using a mix of in-person and online methods, working through trusted local connectors, and providing multiple, accessible ways for people to share input. Attention is given to reaching underrepresented voices and acknowledging regional dynamics, including the perceived tension between urban and rural priorities. This balanced approach is intended to build trust, improve participation and result in a Regional Growth Strategy that reflects the full diversity of perspectives across the Region.

Specifically, this Plan will:

Meet people where they are

Rural residents are less likely to travel to a central open house. “Piggybacking” on local existing community gatherings (e.g., agricultural fairs, fall suppers, hockey nights, farmers markets, etc.) is often more effective than standalone planning events.

Work through trusted local connectors

Rural communities often have strong informal networks such as agricultural associations, rural school communities, churches and recreation clubs. Identifying and working through those connectors builds credibility faster than cold outreach. These networks will be identified through snowball sampling as we move throughout the project, in addition to interested audiences mapping done at the outset of the project.

Acknowledge the urban/rural tension directly

In many regional districts, rural residents feel that regional planning is driven by urban priorities and that their concerns get treated as secondary. In contrast, urban residents can worry that rural residents wield disproportionate influence on a per person basis. Naming that tension openly and demonstrating that the RGS genuinely needs both urban and rural input to be credible goes a long way toward building trust.

Use asynchronous and low-barrier methods

Online surveys, comment drop boxes at local stores and post offices and extended comment periods give people flexibility to participate on their own time. A simple, well-designed postcard survey mailed directly can generate strong response rates.

Recognize seasonal realities

Agricultural and rural communities have seasons that dictate when people are available. Trying to engage fruit growers during harvest can produce poor results. Building the engagement calendar around rural rhythms shows that the process is designed to be inclusive.



To inform this Plan, informational interviews were held with member governments and Interior Health to learn about how they would like to be engaged, and what has worked well in each community. Key themes and feedback form each interview are listed below.

District of Lake Country

- Official Community Plan engagement in Lake Country has just completed. It included open houses, pop-ups, community workshops, online surveys and a let's talk website.
- For Lake Country residents, it will be important to make the distinction between engagement for the new RGS and the recent OCP engagement.
- Identify opportunities to coordinate communications regionally, while maintaining municipality-specific relevance.
- Specific tactics were shared, including the use of Facebook as the primary engagement platform and direct mail, particularly postcards, as an effective outreach method.
- Partnerships with social service providers and non-profits can support outreach to harder-to-reach populations.
- There is an opportunity to engage with the Youth Council.
- Success is defined by reaching voices not previously engaged. Emphasis should be placed on the quality of input rather than overall participation numbers.

City of West Kelowna

- This project presents a strong opportunity to highlight the value and benefits of a regional approach.
- Existing collaboration among municipalities is working effectively, particularly in emergency communications. Strong inter-municipal relationships are evident among west side communities.
- Public open houses and online engagement are the most effective formats in this community. A combination of in-person and online engagement is preferred wherever possible.
- Engagement with youth through high schools has been successful, with teachers integrating materials into educational activities.
- Pop-up engagement formats have been less effective in this context.
- Engagement activities have been successfully hosted at the new City Hall.

City of Kelowna

- Through recent engagement, residents have expressed concerns related to growth, crime and safety, and the capacity of community services.
- Engagement has been effective for tangible, project-based initiatives but has been more challenging for higher-level, policy-oriented work.
- Successful engagement approaches extend beyond surveys, with interactive events and pop-up formats proving effective.
- There are opportunities to strengthen communication and outreach through collaboration and by leveraging City of Kelowna channels.

Interior Health

- Equity is a core principle guiding Interior Health's approach to engagement.
- There are strong opportunities to enhance collaboration across municipalities as growth continues to blur boundaries, supported by existing networks such as engagement liaison roles with local governments and Geographic Medical Health Officers.
- Partnerships with non-profits and service organizations can further expand outreach.
- Targeted engagement with key groups is important, including youth (where school-based projects have been effective) and seniors, who are highly engaged and vocal.
- Elected Official communiqués would support consistent communication and information sharing.

District of Peachland

- Digital and traditional communications channels are effective, including Facebook, monthly newsletters, e-notifications, and surveys (which are well utilized, including an annual citizens survey).
- Established community events - such as the annual Rubber Duckey event and the June 2027 Community BBQ hosted by Mayor and Council - present strong opportunities for in-person engagement.
- Communications should be concise and written in clear, accessible language.

Central Okanagan Electoral Area East and West

- In-person, community-based engagement is critical and should be supported by early and transparent processes to build trust among rural residents, who may perceive decisions as predetermined.
- Targeted outreach to key stakeholder groups, including agricultural operators, community associations and stewardship organizations is essential to ensure diverse voices are reflected.
- Engagement content should focus on key topics such as growth management in rural contexts, infrastructure realities, wildfire risk and environmental constraints, transportation and relationships to municipalities.

Westbank First Nation

- Capacity and timing constraints should be considered, including staff availability, competing priorities and engagement fatigue, with a preference for four to six week lead-in times for feedback and review.
- Engagement should clearly connect to day-to-day impacts to improve relevance and understanding.
- A mix of methods is effective, including one-on-one conversations, small group discussions and presentations, supported by accessible language and clear visuals.
- Efforts should target a broad range of community members, including youth, Elders, residents and advisory groups.

What we heard – reporting back

A critical part of meaningful engagement is ensuring that people who take the time to participate are told what was heard and how it influenced the RGS. Following each phase of engagement, the project team will prepare a What We Heard report that summarizes who participated, the key themes and ideas that emerged, and areas of both agreement and divergence across the Region. These reports will be written in plain language, posted publicly on the project website, and presented to the Board. The What We Heard Reports will be published on the project website, with key outcomes or infographics included on social media. What We Heard report findings will be shared with the various Committees and will be public record through agendas and minutes. Where input has directly shaped a policy direction or led to a change in the draft RGS, this will be clearly noted. Where feedback could not be accommodated, the reasons will be explained. This commitment to transparency and closing the loop is fundamental to building trust with the public and demonstrating that engagement is genuinely informing the process, not just fulfilling a procedural requirement.



Evaluating success

Evaluating the effectiveness of the Consultation Plan and engagement is an important part of delivering a process that is credible, inclusive, and continuously improving. Rather than assessing engagement only at the end of the project, the project team will reflect on what is working and what could be strengthened after each phase, with findings used to adjust the approach as the process unfolds.

Evaluation will draw on both quantitative and qualitative indicators. On the quantitative side, the team will track participation numbers across different methods and geographies, reach of project communications such as website visits, social media engagement and media coverage, and the number and diversity of organizations and community groups involved. On the qualitative side, the team will gather feedback on whether participants felt the process was accessible, that their input was genuinely considered, and that they were kept informed throughout. Brief feedback forms at events, online surveys, and direct conversations with community organizations will contribute to this picture.

Equally important is continual improvement. After each engagement phase, the project team will debrief to assess what methods worked well, where gaps in participation were identified, and whether any communities or perspectives were underrepresented. This will help ensure that engagement builds on the strengths of earlier rounds and addresses any shortcomings.

A summary of engagement evaluation findings will be included in each What We Heard report, ensuring transparency with the public and the Board about both the reach of the process and its limitations.

Appendix A - LGA excerpts

Consultation during development of regional growth strategy

434 (1) During the development of a regional growth strategy,

(a) the proposing board must provide opportunity for consultation with persons, organizations and authorities that the board considers will be affected by the regional growth strategy, and

(b) the board and the affected local governments must make all reasonable efforts to reach agreement on a proposed regional growth strategy.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a), as soon as practicable after the initiation of a regional growth strategy, the board must adopt a consultation plan that, in the opinion of the board, provides opportunities for early and ongoing consultation with, at a minimum, the following:

(a) its citizens;

(b) affected local governments;

(c) first nations;

(d) boards of education, greater boards and improvement district boards;

(e) the Provincial and federal governments and their agencies.

(3) In adopting a consultation plan under subsection (2), the board must consider whether the plan should include the holding of a public hearing to provide an opportunity for persons, organizations and authorities to make their views known before the regional growth strategy is submitted for acceptance under section 436 *[acceptance by affected local governments]*.

(3.1) The minister may make regulations respecting the procedure to be used for hearings under subsection (3).

(4) A failure to comply with a consultation plan under subsection (2) does not invalidate the regional growth strategy as long as reasonable consultation has been conducted.

(5) For certainty, at any time during the development of a regional growth strategy, additional regional matters may be included under section 429 (3).

Intergovernmental advisory committees

450 (1) A board

(a) may establish an intergovernmental advisory committee for its regional district,

(b) must establish an intergovernmental advisory committee for its regional district when a regional growth strategy is initiated, and

(c) must establish an intergovernmental advisory committee for its regional district if

(i) there is a proposed amendment to the regional growth strategy, except in relation to an amendment under section 437 *[minor amendments to regional growth strategies]*, and

(ii) the committee established under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection no longer exists.

(2) The role of an intergovernmental advisory committee is

(a) to advise the applicable local governments on the development and implementation of the regional growth strategy, and

(b) to facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs as they relate to the development and implementation of the regional growth strategy.

(3) The membership of an intergovernmental advisory committee is to include the following:

(a) the planning director of the regional district, or another official appointed by the board;

(b) the planning director, or another official appointed by the applicable council, of each municipality all or part of which is covered by the regional growth strategy;

(c) for the purposes of an intergovernmental advisory committee established in the Metro Vancouver Regional District, the planning director of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority or another official appointed by the board of directors of that authority;

(d) senior representatives of the Provincial government and Provincial government agencies and corporations, determined by the minister after consultation with the board;

(e) representatives of other authorities and organizations if invited to participate by the board.



Regional District of Central Okanagan

Future ready. Region strong.

Regional Growth Strategy

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