

## EXISTING RGS FRAMEWORK

## Key Strategic Area: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL	Imbedded Principles	Strategies	Actions	Report card
<b>Strengthen the Regional Economy</b>	<p>Maintain and grow employment in the region</p> <p>Support the economy through regional infrastructure</p> <p>Sustain an adequate supply of land</p> <p>Diversify</p> <p>Maintain and grow the labour force</p> <p>Reduce poverty</p>	<p>Prepare and adopt a Regional Economic Development Strategy to enhance regional economic sustainability.</p> <p>Maintain and enhance the Metropolitan Core as the economic heart of the region with the target for City of Victoria to achieve a minimum 20% share of the region's employment growth to 2026.</p> <p>Enhance job creation in the Western Communities to achieve a minimum jobs-to-population ratio of .35 by 2026.</p> <p>Expand and diversify the economy of formerly resource-dependent communities in Sooke and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and the region.</p> <p>Ensure long term, affordable supply of water, aggregate and energy.</p> <p>Seek to increase economic activity in forestry and agriculture, including value-added activities.</p> <p>Address shortage of industrial/business land within the urban containment boundary.</p> <p>Seek to include high-value, clean industry and business in the Metropolitan Core and Major Centres.</p> <p>Find ways to attract develop and maintain a highly skilled workforce.</p> <p>Find ways to reduce poverty in the CRD.</p>	<p>Establish an inter-agency partnership to oversee the development of a Regional Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Prepare and establish an implementation agreement to give effect to the Regional Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore potential of region's biophysical attributes</li> <li>• Pursue growth in the new economy (service, high-tech, green, etc.)</li> <li>• Promote advantages offered by Victoria International Airport and existing major employment areas like Keating Business Park, Sidney Industrial Area, Victoria and Esquimalt harbours, and the universities and colleges.</li> <li>• Retain existing business and employment sectors, especially government services, tourism and national defence</li> <li>• Provide for new business attraction with a view to diversification</li> <li>• Identify actions to support agriculture, such as improving access to irrigation water and nutrients, promoting local and export markets for farm products</li> <li>• Streamline regulations to encourage investment and business development</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for primary and value-added natural resource industries, such as forestry, fisheries and aggregates.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Regional Economic Development Strategy prepared but not adopted.</i></p> <p><i>No implementation agreement created</i></p> <p><u>Report on indicators:</u></p> <p><i>Jobs to Population Ratio</i> In 2006, the West Shore had a jobs-to-population ratio of 0.26, with the Urban West Shore's ratio was 0.29. The Growth Management Planning Area overall had a ratio of 0.57. (All numbers count people 15 years or over)</p> <p><i>Share of employment growth within the City of Victoria, Metropolitan Core, Subregions</i> Between 2001 and 2006, 13% of employment growth was within the City of Victoria, while the West Shore had 26% of the growth and the Saanich Peninsula had 11% of the growth.</p> <p><i>Household income distribution</i> In 2005, 85% of households earned more than \$20,000 per year, up 5% from 2000. The number of households making under \$20,000 decreased by 4%.</p> <p><i>Number of Businesses by Size of Firm</i> In 2007, 85% of businesses were 10 or less employees, down 1% from 2001. (Small business development is widely considered to be a key indicator of economic diversity.)</p> <p><i>Annual Unemployment Rate</i> In March 2012, the unemployment rate in the Victoria CMA was 5.3%, down from 6.2% in March 2011.</p> <p><i>Persons in Low Income Constraint</i> Between 2001 and 2006, the number of low income earners decreased by 1.2%, dropping from 14.2%, or 43,290 persons in 2001 to 13.2% or 41,795 persons.</p>
Comments:				The numbers are the most currently available based on 2006 Census, CRD RSS Monitoring Program reports and other Statistics Canada information

## PROPOSED RGS/RSS STRUCTURE AND APPROACH

### Key Strategic Area: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Proposed Guiding Principle(s):** Regional support of the economy can be achieved by establishing sound strategies for land supply, transportation and public infrastructure that serve both urban and rural employment areas and focus on protection of resource lands and enterprise.

GOAL	STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL	SUB-STRATEGIES OR ACTIONS: Each Strategy should have detailed sub-strategies or actions assigned, with actions identified for the CRD to undertake and expectations for municipalities and partner agencies clearly laid out.		
		CRD Commitment	Municipal Commitment	Other Gov'ts, FN and Partner Agencies
<b>Support employment growth in the metropolitan core and major centres</b>	Maintain employment targets <i>Approach: Review employment targets in light of new projection period</i>			
	Establish appropriate regional mechanisms, including land use designations, to protect and enhance the supply of employment lands <i>Approach:</i> - Consider specific employment areas designated in OCPs, such as areas adjacent to working harbours and hospitals (Victoria General and Royal Jubilee), areas served by rapid and frequent transit, Victoria International Airport, Sidney Industrial Area, Keating Business Park, Vancouver Island Technology Park and Department of National Defense.			
	Establish a monitoring program for the demand and supply of employment lands in the region <i>Approach:</i> - Designing a monitoring program, building on the industrial land inventory done in support of the RSS/RGS review			
<b>Foster an attractive and stable investment climate</b>	Protect, innovate and promote investment in critical regional water, waste water, resource management, and parks infrastructure and facilities <i>Approach:</i> - Consider other CRD plans and strategies for direction on CRD infrastructure, including measures for emergency preparedness to protect regional infrastructure from the effects of climate change and natural disaster - Coordinate with Environment and Resources Strategic Initiative			
	Promote land development patterns that support a diverse economy and employment in areas with best access to multiple modes of transportation and public infrastructure <i>Approach:</i> - Coordinate with Managing & Balancing Growth and Transportation Strategic Initiatives - Identify and recommend strategies/actions to remove regulatory barriers to new high-tech and green industry and other creative economic enterprise			
	Participate and collaborate on economic development plans and strategies undertaken by local and provincial agencies across the region <i>Approach:</i> Identify opportunities to participate and collaborate on economic development initiatives			

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<b>Support renewable resource dependent economies</b>	Demonstrate long term protection of the resource land base for renewable resource use  <i>Approach:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review policies regarding access/pricing of public water supplies for agriculture</li> <li>• Undertake a regional food security sub-strategy that, among other things:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establishes targets to increase designated farmland in the region</li> <li>○ Identifies and recommends strategies/actions to remove regulatory barriers to farming</li> <li>○ Identifies strategies/action to increase actively farmed agricultural land</li> <li>○ Addresses the need for farm worker housing</li> <li>○ Emphasizes local food production</li> <li>○ Promotes agricultural viability</li> <li>○ Identifies opportunities for restoring and enhancing agriculture infrastructure</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
	Invest in capital infrastructure and technology that supports resource recovery  <i>Approach:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider other CRD plans and strategies for direction on CRD infrastructure</li> <li>• Coordinate with Environment &amp; Resources Strategic Initiative</li> </ul>			
<b>Support efforts to incorporate commercial/industrial employment sectors into urban fabric</b>	Establish appropriate regional mechanisms, including a new land use designation, to identify and promote enterprise zones  <i>Approach:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify specific employment areas for mixed use development or incubator businesses</li> <li>- Identify strategies/actions to remove barriers to entry for new types of high-tech, green industry</li> <li>- Discourage non-industrial and non-commercial use of DND, Harbour Authority and Airport lands with good accessibility</li> <li>- Look for opportunities to increase housing near or adjacent to employment areas</li> <li>- Coordinate with Managing &amp; Balancing Growth and Transportation Strategic Initiatives</li> </ul>			