

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, March 21, 2001

SUBJECT:

Status Update on the Capital Enterprise Partnership Proposal

BACKGROUND:

- Oct 11, 2000: Committee-of-the-Whole reviews the findings of Capital Summit 2 and recommends to the Board that staff be authorized to prepare a draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) on the basis of the findings.
- Oct 18, 2000: Regional Planning Committee reviews preliminary project descriptions and implementation options for regional strategies for transportation, economic development and housing affordability (Agenda Item #5). The Committee directs staff to initiate discussions with prospective partners in the three strategic initiatives and report back to the Committee beginning in January 2001.
- Nov 8, 2000: The Board authorizes Regional Planning Services (RPS) to prepare a draft RGS.
- Jan 17, 2001: Regional Planning Committee reviews staff report and discussion paper on management options for the preparation of a regional economic development strategy, and hears remarks from members of the Mayor's Economic Summit Steering Committee working on the Capital Enterprise Partnership (CEP) proposal. The committee resolved that staff continue to participate in discussions regarding the establishment of the CEP and participate in the preparation of detailed terms of reference for undertaking a regional economic development strategy once the CEP is established.
- Feb 28, 2001: The Board authorizes publication and distribution of the *Proposed Regional Growth Strategy for B.C.'s Capital Region* for pre-bylaw review and comment to the end of July 2001.

DISCUSSION:

Since the January presentation to the Committee by representatives of the CEP steering committee, some progress has been made in launching the initiative. Meetings have taken place between representatives of the CEOs committee and mayors, including Chairman Causton,

Mayor Hunter and Mayor Gibson in which funding issues were discussed. A figure in the order of \$35,000 was discussed as a possible CRD contribution to establishing CEP, which would include work to develop an organizational model for the Capital Region tailored from precedents established elsewhere. As well, discussions have taken place with David Anderson regarding federal funding, and positive indications have been received that the CEP initiative could receive in the order of \$100,000 in federal contributions.

Work also is proceeding with formally establishing the CEP Centre, either through incorporation or registration as a society.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee receives this report for information.

Mark Hornell, Acting Manager
Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

W:\RIS\STAFFRPT\final\2001\Mar21sr3.doc