

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, April 18, 2001

SUBJECT:

Reaching Agreement on the Regional Growth Strategy - A Review of the Legislation (Presentation by Cynthia Hawksworth and Lois-Leah Goodwin, Ministry of Municipal Affairs)

BACKGROUND:

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:

British Columbia's growth strategies legislation (Part 25 of the *Local Government Act*) is based on an interactive regional planning model that emphasizes horizontal (rather than hierarchical) relationships between levels of government and negotiation, mutual agreement and alternative dispute resolution techniques to resolve disagreements. *BC Regulation 192/98* sets out a variety of dispute resolution options that could be invoked to settle disputes arising from failure to reach agreement on the RGS Bylaw, following the statutory 120 referral to member councils and neighbouring jurisdictions after 2nd reading and public hearing.

At the present time, a RGS bylaw will likely be introduced for 1st and 2nd reading and public hearing in late September, following the review of comments received from the referral of the proposed RGS. Following the public hearing, legislation requires referral of the RGS bylaw to member councils and neighbouring jurisdictions for review. Member councils and neighbouring jurisdictions must respond within 120 of the date of referral with a resolution indicating either acceptance of the RGS bylaw, or non-acceptance along with the reasons for non-acceptance. Early in 2002 the CRD may need to consider options to reach agreement on the RGS bylaw under the dispute resolution components of the legislation.

It seems timely to discuss the options available to resolve disputes under the legislation early in our process. Cynthia Hawksworth and Lois-Leah Goodwin of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will present an overview to the options available under legislation to reach agreement on the RGS. The Ministry has published a report entitled, *Reaching Agreement on Regional Growth Strategies (1998)*, that describes these options in some detail. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

Mark Hornell, Acting Manager
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director
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