

## **Purpose**

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, the purposes of the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) are:

- liT to advise the RON on the development and implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy; and
- liT to facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs as they relate to the Regional Growth Strategy.

## **Background**

The *Local Government Act* requires regional districts to establish an IAC when a Regional Growth Strategy is initiated. The *Act* specifies that the role of the IAC is to (1) advise applicable local governments on the development and implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy; and (2) to facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs as they relate to the Regional Growth Strategy. The *Act* also specifies that the membership of the IAC is to include the following: (1) the planning director for the regional district, or another official appointed by the Board; (2) 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; (3) senior representatives of the Provincial government and Provincial government agencies and corporations, determined by the Minister in consultation with the Board; and (4) representatives of other authorities and organizations if invited to participate by the Board.

The RON first adopted its Regional Growth Strategy in January of 1997. Since that time the IAC has provided valuable advice and assistance to a variety of Regional Growth Strategy related initiatives.

In June of 2003 the RON adopted an updated Regional Growth Strategy. Around the same time, the RON Board also confirmed "Growth Management" as Strategic Priority #2 pursuant to its strategic plan, "Strategic Directions 2003-2005". Correspondingly, over the next few years RON staff will be coordinating a wide range of initiatives to enhance regional growth management. Initiatives planned or anticipated include:

- . the review of the Urban Containment and Fringe Area Management Implementation Agreement to address issues regarding the level and type of development that warrants consideration as an urban development on land inside the Urban Containment Boundary and to better coordinate between jurisdictions urban land use and development inside the UCB;
- . the development of an implementation agreement to address issues regarding development on rural land and to better coordinate between jurisdictions rural land use and development outside the Urban Containment Boundary;
- . the development of a common format and level of detail for regional context statements which are to be included in all municipal and electoral area official community plans in the region;
  - . the development of criteria regarding what constitutes an "environmental or public health hazard" that warrants the provision of community sewer and community water services to land designated as Resource Lands and Open Space, Rural Residential or Industrial by the Regional Growth Strategy;
- . discussion regarding the Vancouver Island Highway Implementation Agreement, to identify issues and to develop solutions for the identified issues;
- . the State of Sustainability Project, to assess the region's progress towards sustainability, to make residents aware of the region's progress towards sustainability, and to provide more and better opportunities to involve residents of the region in the assessment;
- . drinking water protection, to consider what role the RON should have in ensuring that there is an

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adequate supply of safe drinking water in the region.

Other regional growth management issues may also be forwarded to the IAC for discussion as a result of Board direction.

The IAC is also required to provide recommendations regarding any municipal or electoral area requests to move the Urban Containment Boundary in between reviews of the Regional Growth Strategy, and to provide advice and comments regarding Regional Context Statement amendments that may be proposed.

## Membership Composition

1. The IAC shall be comprised of a 'resource group' and a 'core group'.
2. The 'core group' of the IAC shall include the following:
  - a. RON: senior staff responsible for electoral area planning, regional planning, and public works and services;
  - b. RON member municipalities: the planning director or equivalent, or another official appointed by the applicable council;
  - c. Members of the 'resource group' relevant to the specific work plan items to be discussed at an IAC meeting, as identified by the Chair of the IAC or an RON staff member responsible for regional planning.
3. The 'resource group' of the IAC may include the following:
  - a. RON First Nations: senior staff responsible for planning and land use management, or another official appointed by the applicable council
  - b. Other RON Local Authorities: senior staff from School District No. 68 and 69;
  - c. Provincial Ministries, Agencies and Corporations: senior staff with responsibilities related to the attainment of Regional Growth Strategy objectives pursuant to the *Local Government Act*;
  - d. Federal Government Departments and Agencies: senior staff with responsibilities related to the attainment of Regional Growth Strategy objectives pursuant to the *Local Government Act*

## Procedures

1. The Chair of the IAC shall be an RON staff member responsible for the Regional Growth Strategy.
2. The 'core group' of the IAC shall meet approximately six times per year. The number of meetings per year and the frequency of meetings may vary according to the work plan for each year.
3. An annual meeting of the entire 'core group' and the entire 'resource group' shall be conducted to review the achievements and challenges experienced in the implementation of the regional growth strategy and to discuss the future regional growth strategy implementation work program.
4. The IAC will meet at the call of the Chair, as required by the work plan.
5. The IAC is not a formal decision making body. It is a forum for the identification, discussion and resolution of issues related to the management of population growth and development in the region. It is expected that the IAC will help the RON to better understand the full range of perspectives that could be taken into consideration in its decisions related to issues concerning regional growth management.
6. The agendas and minutes for meetings of the 'core group' will be circulated to the 'resource group' for information purposes. Members of the 'resource group' may attend meetings of the 'core group' as identified through consultation with the Chair or the IAC or an RON staff member responsible for regional planning.
7. The minutes of IAC meetings will be provided to the RON Board for consideration of receipt.

## Resources

The RON will provide financial and human resources to support the work of the IAC.