

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
**Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee  
Meeting of Wednesday, March 16, 2005

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**SUBJECT:**

Development of a Social Sustainability Strategy for the Capital Region – Presentation by the Community Council

**BACKGROUND:**

Feb. 16/05: Mabel Jean Rawlins-Brannan, Executive Director of the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (Community Council), addressed the committee on the topic of working toward the development of a regional social plan. The Committee resolved that the item should be placed on the next agenda for further presentation by the Community Council and discussion.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. John Briggs, President of the Community Council's Board, will make a further presentation on the concept of a plan for regional social sustainability at the meeting, expanding on the points raised by Ms. Rawlins-Brannan at the February 16, 2005 meeting. It should be noted that at this time, the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) does not directly address the question of social sustainability. RGS initiatives to develop more compact, mixed-use and complete communities with improved housing affordability, particularly for moderate income households, increased transportation choice and enhanced economic opportunity nonetheless implicitly bear on the question of social sustainability.

Insofar as it is the intent of the RGS to work toward regional sustainability in the broad sense, it may be appropriate to consider the issue of social sustainability more directly in the five-year review of the RGS, scheduled for 2008. More immediately, the committee could seek the input and advice of the Development and Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) on this proposal.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That Regional Planning Committee:

1. receive this report and presentation for information; and,
2. refer the matter to the Development and Planning Advisory Committee for review and comment.

**RGS CONSISTENCY:**

The question of social sustainability is not directly addressed in the RGS.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A

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Mark Hornell, MCIP  
Director of Regional Planning Services

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

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W.M. Jordan, Executive Director