

## **Backgrounder: Regional Planning Terms & Definitions**

Regional Growth Strategy (RGS): a long-term strategy developed by member municipalities and the regional district, to meet common social, economic and environmental goals. In accordance with Provincial Legislation, under the *Local Government Act*, a regional growth strategy details how communities have agreed to work together to enhance regional quality of life and social well-being. Focus areas of the CRD's RGS include:

- Managing and balancing growth
- Environment and resources
- Housing and community
- Transportation
- Economic development.

Within these areas, policies exist around the following initiatives:

- Keeping urban settlement compact
- Protecting the integrity of rural communities
- Protecting regional green and blue space
- Managing natural resources and the environment sustainably
- Building complete communities
- Improving housing affordability
- Increasing transportation choice
- Strengthening the regional economy

The RGS ensures compatibility among the various Official Community Plans (OCP) in a region, and links these plans and actions with those of other organizations and levels of government. A RGS is not an OCP done at a larger scale: instead it provides a framework for the individual OCPs within the region.

**Official Community Plan (OCP):** created by a municipality to define its goals and development plans. An OCP dictates public policy in terms of transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing. OCPs typically address a broad range of topics, and cover a long-term time horizon.

**Regional Context Statement:** outlines how the municipality's OCP is consistent with the RGS; or how it is not consistent and will align with the RGS over time. According to the *Local Government Act*, each member municipality is required to submit a Regional Context Statement to the CRD Board within two years of the adoption of the RGS. The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area communities do not require Regional Context Statements, as their entire OCP must be consistent with the RGS.

**Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area (RUCSPA):** a defined area that includes the lands designated in OCPs primarily for urban development. The RGS proposes that the majority of future development that requires municipal sanitary sewer and water services take place within the RUCSPA. Urban development in this context includes attached housing, detached and duplex housing, commercial, industrial and large scale institutional and utility designations.

**Urban Settlement Areas:** areas of more intensive land use and higher overall densities within the RUCSPA. In order to maintain the boundaries of the RUCSPA, the District of Central Saanich's OCP provides for municipal servicing for a variety of uses, including residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and other urban uses within the boundaries of the Urban Settlement Area, as illustrated in their OCP Land Use Plan.