



STAFF REPORT

TO: ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
FROM: BRIGID REYNOLDS, CONSULTING TOWN PLANNER
SUBJECT: REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY (RGS)
MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2025

PURPOSE

To introduce the proposed Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

BACKGROUND

A Regional Growth Strategy is a regional-level plan that guides how a region will grow, where housing and jobs should go, how to protect the environment, and how major services will be coordinated. It is optional, strategic, and must be agreed to by all municipalities. Local OCPs must be adjusted to follow the broad directions set in the RGS.

An RGS is high-level and collaborative. It sets out regional objectives for matters such as:

- Population distribution & housing
- Transportation & major infrastructure
- Environmental protection & hazard management
- Regional economic development
- Industrial & agricultural land protection
- Utilities and public facilities
- Climate action and greenhouse gas targets

Unlike an Official Community Plan (OCP), an RGS is not a land-use bylaw. It doesn't regulate zoning or parcel-level decisions. Instead, it establishes shared regional directions that member municipalities and electoral areas must align with through their own OCPs via a *Regional Context Statement (RCS)*.

On April 16, 2025 the Electoral Area Services Committee passed the following motion:

Recommend to the Board that consideration of the RGS initiation be postponed until the Modernized OCP is complete and adopted.

A RGS Steering Committee has been formed and Town Council directed the contract planner to sit on the Steering Committee. Attached are the adopted terms of reference for the Steering Committee and for the RGS review.

The Modernized OCP Bylaw 4373 was adopted on November 26, 2025.

Council has not directed the APC to provide any recommendations related to this matter so this report and attachments are for information and discussion.

Signed:

Brigid Reynolds

Brigid Reynolds RPP MCIP
Contract Planner

ATTACHMENT 1

Only if you have anything to attached, otherwise delete this page 😊