



PEACE RIVER
REGIONAL DISTRICT

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Board Update
November 7, 2024



Agenda

- Overview and Update
- What We Heard Report
- Draft RGS
 - Vision
 - Goals
- Next steps

Overview and Update

Work-to-date



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Overview

- Enabled by *Local Government Act*
- Initiated and prepared by a regional district with the involvement of member municipalities
- Help guide long-term growth management and support more coordinated region-wide planning
- Process for preparing an RGS largely left up to each regional district
- Minimum provincial requirements include:
 - 20-year time frame
 - Regional vision statement
 - Population and employment projections
- Member municipalities required to update OCPs within two years of RGS adoption to include a 'regional context statement'
 - Regional context statements sets out the relationship between the RGS and the OCP and are up to the discretion of the local government to do, i.e., can be short or longer

Timeline

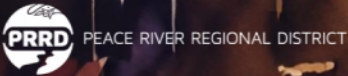


Approach



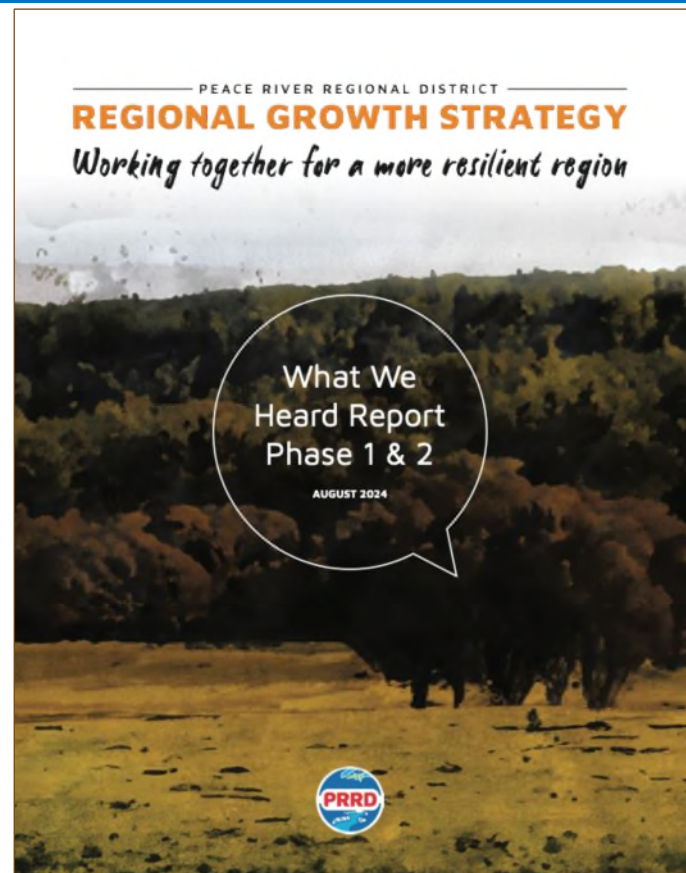
What We Heard Report

Review



What We Heard

- Two rounds of communication and outreach
- September 2023 to August 2024
- Digital and in-person



Round 1

- Introductory survey
- Have Your Say Peace River project page
- Social media posts
- Community Outreach (email and phone)
 - 12 general interest groups (community organizations)
 - 28 stakeholder groups (Agriculture, Chambers of Commerce, etc.)
 - First Nations
- RGS postcard and information pamphlet
- Media release (10 media outlets) and coverage/stories



Round 2

- Outreach materials – Fact Sheets
- Have Your Say Peace River project page
- Community Outreach (email and phone)
- RGS postcard and information pamphlet
- Survey 2 and Community Workbook
- In-person engagement – open houses, stakeholder sessions, community pop-ups



Round 2

- June engagement
 - Farmers Market, Fort St. John Open House
 - Chetwynd Chainsaw Carving Competition Pop-up
 - Tumbler Ridge Open House
 - Stakeholder Session - Fort St. John
 - Hudson's Hope Open House
 - Stakeholder Session - Dawson Creek
 - Prespatou Planning Commission

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY



Join us! Stop by one of these events to share your thoughts about the future of the Region!

From June 8th until 11th 2024, the Peace River Regional District staff and the supporting consultant team will be travelling between communities throughout the Region. We will be hosting community open houses and attending events within the Region, like the Chetwynd Chainsaw Carving Competition and the Fort St. John Farmers Market.

We invite you to stop by one of our events to say hello to the team and to share your thoughts about the future of the Region!

DATE	LOCATION
Saturday, June 8 th 2024	FORT ST. JOHN 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Fort St. John Farmers Market Festival Plaza, 96th Avenue & 100 Street FORT ST. JOHN 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Pomeroy Sport Centre 9324 96 Street, Fort St. John Room: 1 st Floor Meeting Room
Sunday, June 9 th 2024	CHETWYND 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Chetwynd Chainsaw Carving Competition 2005 John Hart Way, Chetwynd TUMBLER RIDGE 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Tumbler Ridge Community Centre 340 Front Street, Tumbler Ridge Room: #5
Monday, June 10 th 2024	HUDSON'S HOPE 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Hudson's Hope Community Hall 9905 Dudley Drive, Hudson's Hope
Tuesday, June 11 th 2024	DAWSON CREEK 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Calvin Kruk Centre 10401 10 Street, Dawson Creek

Final venues and times subject to change





Community engagement and outreach

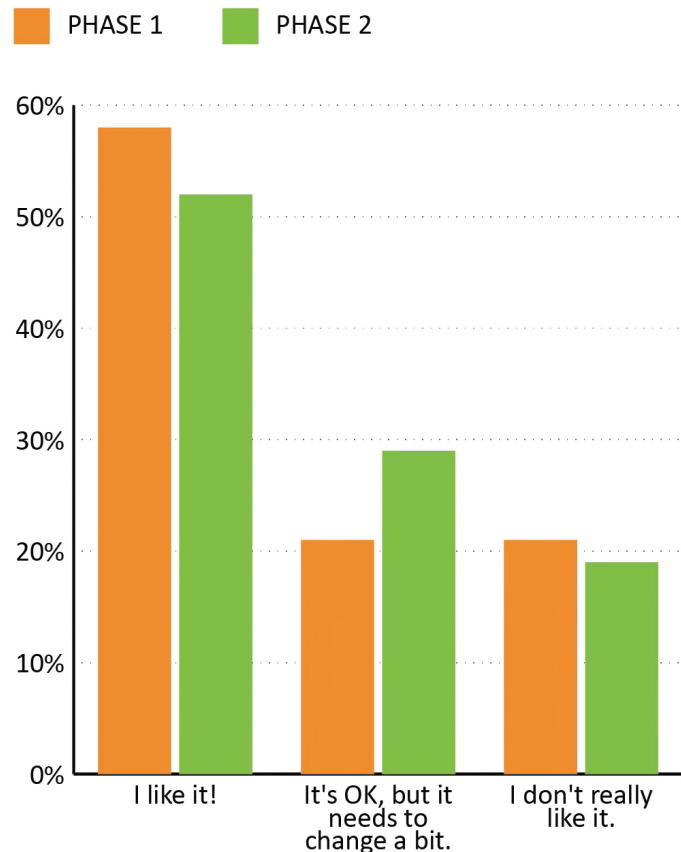
FIGURE 2: RGS Engagement Summary



• Snapshot

Feedback Themes

- PRRD Vision
 - Lots of support for the vision (80% liking it and/or recommending only minor changes)
 - Regional Economy, Housing, Agriculture, Health and Safety remained top four topic areas through both rounds
 - Regional Collaboration topic area added
 - Feedback used to develop refined RGS goals



DRAFT RGS

Vision and Goals



Vision

- The RGS vision statement describes the desired **future** for the PRRD and sets the basic direction for planning, policies, and action
- The vision statement started with an existing vision, taken from the PRRD's Strategic Plan from 2023
- Revisions were made based on feedback from residents through two surveys and community outreach and engagement
- Final Steering Committee input October

Vision

The RGS vision statement describes the desired future for the PRRD and sets the basic direction for planning, policies, and action. The vision statement started with an existing vision, taken from the PRRD's Strategic Plan from 2023. Revisions were made based on feedback from residents through two surveys and community outreach and engagement that was carried out as part of the project.

"The Peace River Regional District is comprised of distinct and unique urban and rural communities. The region is shaped by its roots in agriculture and its culture of independence, resilience, and compassion for others.

With a strong regional economy, residents enjoy a high quality of life with a broad array of services and diversity of affordable housing options for all life stages.

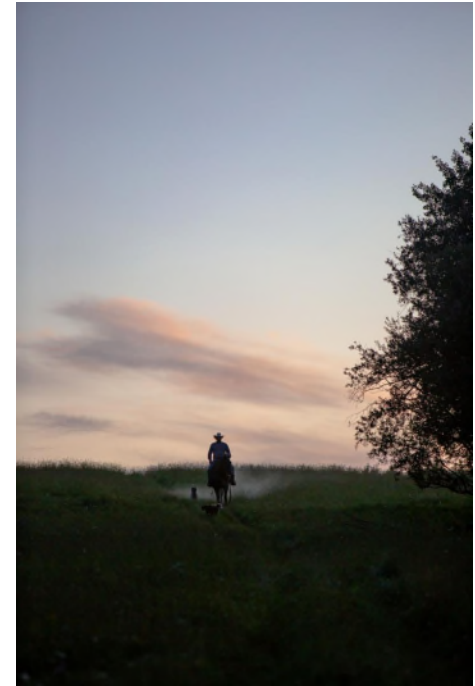
Moving forward, the Peace River Regional District will provide effective and responsive regional services that meet the needs of all. We will build strong collaborative relationships with all residents and First Nations in our region, and we will engage and involve all residents and communities as we move towards a bright, prosperous, and healthy future."

Vision

“The Peace River Regional District is comprised of distinct and unique urban and rural communities. The region is shaped by its roots in agriculture and its culture of independence, resilience and compassion for others.

With a strong regional economy, residents enjoy a high quality of life with a broad array of effective and responsive regional services.

Moving forward, we will continue to build strong collaborative relationships with all residents and First Nations in our region. And we will engage and involve all residents and communities as we move towards a bright, prosperous and healthy future.”



Goals

- Draft RGS to be organized around nine policy goals which were developed through community engagement and outreach
- Each of the goals will be supported by a series of related policy objectives
- All goals are interconnected

Goals

The RGS is organized around nine policy goals, which were developed through community engagement and outreach and in consultation with PRRD member municipalities and the RGS Steering Committee. Each of the policy goals is, in turn, supported by a series of related policy objectives.

At the core of this RGS is a commitment to broad-based, long-term sustainable development. The balancing of social, economic, and environmental dimensions of this commitment are clearly expressed in the nine core policy goals. It is important to recognize that the goals are all interconnected, highlighting both the complexities and challenges that come with regional planning, but also the potential to strengthen and enrich regional relationships through collaborative action.

- 1. Community Building**
Support compact, complete urban communities, maintain rural character, and offer choice and affordability in housing.
- 2. Economic Strength**
Encourage a diverse, resilient, and prosperous economy that builds on regional strengths.
- 3. Agriculture and Food**
Support agriculture and protect farmlands in the PRRD.
- 4. Living Well**
Foster safe, healthy communities that support a high quality of life for all.
- 5. Infrastructure and Services**
Provide efficient, cost-effective services that contribute to regional wellbeing and health.
- 6. Ecosystem Health**
Protect the air, water, and lands on which we all depend.
- 7. Transportation and Mobility**
Collaborate with partners to provide an accessible, safe, and efficient transportation system for people and goods.
- 8. Climate Resilience**
Adapt and ensure the PRRD is prepared for a changing climate.
- 9. Regional Collaboration**
Coordinate and collaborate with residents, PRRD member municipalities, rural communities, and other levels of government, including First Nations and Metis, to achieve shared goals and address common issues.

24 | PRRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. XXXX, 2025

Goals



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PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

What's Next?

Where are we going?



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Next Steps

- Draft RGS – February 2025
- **Coordinated Implementation Framework – March 2025**
 - **RGS Actions:** phasing, responsibilities, and key planning considerations
 - **Regional Context Statements:** outlines procedure and requirements to ensure consistency between the RGS and OCPs
 - **Regional Long-range planning:** support the alignment of the RGS with other long-range plans and initiatives in the PRRD
- Member municipality presentations and referrals - March
- Board presentation – April 2025
- Bylaw and implementation support – May 2025



Thank you

Questions?

