

Regional Planning 2020 Winter Bulletin

Regional Planning Lab

The Regional Planning Lab is a forum for those located around the region to work together on common land use planning issues. This initiative works towards implementing Priority Project No. 2 of the Regional Growth Strategy Priority Projects Plan.

“This is great platform for knowledge sharing”

*- Regional Planning Lab
Attendee Feedback*

A Regional Planning Lab took place during November 2019 to learn and discuss the approval process for telecommunication towers and the future of 5G communication. This topic links to the Regional Growth Strategy issues areas: Our Food, Our Health, and Our Economy.

Attendees included local, provincial, and federal government staff as well as industry representatives from across the Okanagan. The Government of Canada’s Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED)

the federal institution responsible for licensing, compliance and enforcement of wireless installations, informed attendees on how the cell tower approval process works, the benefits of local land use authorities developing their own consultation and tower siting policy, Aboriginal notification, the requirement to comply with Safety Code 6, and information on upcoming technology such as [5G communications](#).

In addition, Rogers Communications delivered a presentation which included details on wireless site planning from a telecom perspective, next generation of wireless installations, policy and process challenges, and trends in the wireless industry.

It was determined that RDCO could further assist attendees by sharing the information presented and distribute links discussed during the Lab, which include:

- The City of West Kelowna’s [Antenna Siting and Design Criteria Policy](#)

- The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen’s [Communication Towers / Antenna Systems Approval Process](#) and Local & Design Guidelines as well as [Crown Land Policy](#).
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities [Antenna System Siting Protocol Template](#)
- The Government of Canada’s Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems Client Procedure Circular ([CPC-2-0-03](#)), fact sheets on [human health exposure to radiofrequencies](#), [Safety Code 6 regulations](#), and other [FAQ](#).



Regional Housing Needs Assessment

The [Regional Growth Strategy: Priority Projects Plan](#) identified the need for a Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

Access to affordable housing is a growing concern regionally as it is in much of the Province. The provision of affordable housing can come through a wide range of mechanisms and solutions. Given the proximity of Central Okanagan communities and their integration through the transportation network, the supply and demand of the housing market is best considered at the regional level. With the larger regional situation defined, each community's role in the contribution to the solution can be better understood, supporting a coordinated and consistent response toward regional housing goals.

The [Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#) was received and endorsed by the Regional Board on October 28, 2019. The Assessment provides a descriptive analysis of the current housing needs and issues for the entire Central Okanagan, as well as housing highlights for each jurisdiction: [two electoral areas](#), six First Nation reserve lands (including [Westbank First Nation](#) and [Okanagan Indian Band](#)), [District of Peachland](#), [City of West Kelowna](#), [City of Kelowna](#), and [District of Lake Country](#).

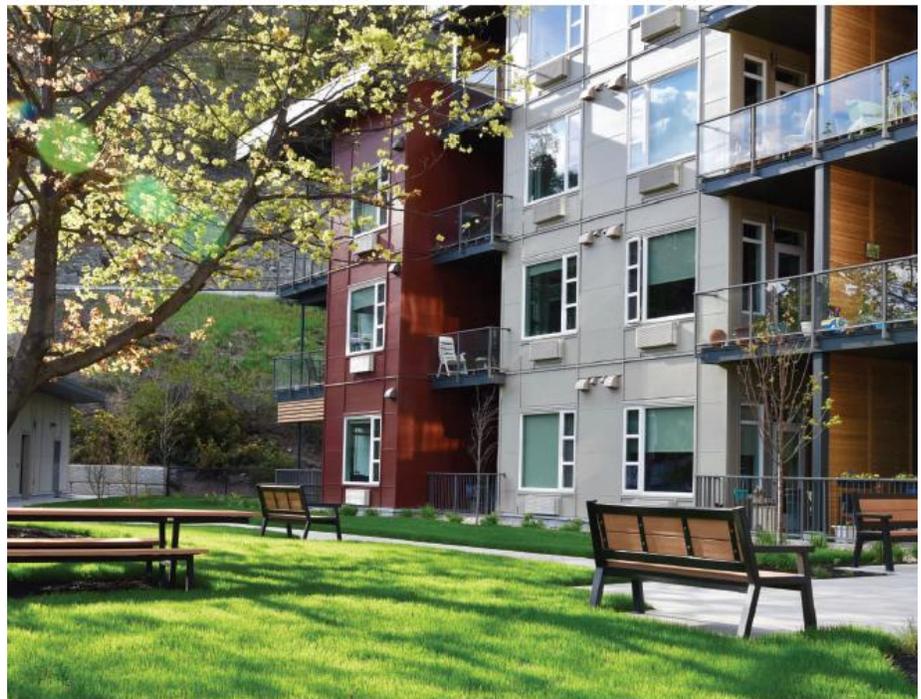
The project used a collaborative process that involved RDCO staff, the Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee, Regional Transportation Plan project team, and Interior Health Authority.

The next step is the completion of a Regional Housing Strategy, which is an opportunity to explore tools and actions that can address the housing needs and gaps identified in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

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REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

NOVEMBER 2019

