



City of Revelstoke Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2020

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SHAPES NEW OCP VISION AND PRIORITIES

Revelstoke - BC - The City of Revelstoke is pleased to be moving forward with the Official Community Plan (OCP) update after Council supported amendments to the Vision and Priorities on [July 14, 2020](#). These amendments were initiated by gathering community feedback through the Vision Check-In process which involved numerous surveys and public engagement events in the last quarter of 2019. After finalizing these results and presenting to Council on [February 13, 2020](#), a Focus Group* was assembled and presented options for the amended Vision and Priorities.



The City’s OCP was last updated in 2009 and though typically planned for 20 years, Revelstoke’s growth and shift presents new challenges such as an increase in development interests and affordability which require addressing in OCP amendments. With a focus on Revelstoke ‘today’, its future, and the community as a whole, staff combined feedback from both the public engagement and the [Focus Group results](#) to develop the final revised Vision and Priorities as follows:

<p>OCP Vision Revelstoke will pursue a sustainable mountain community by balancing environmental, social economic and cultural values within a local, regional and global context. Our rich heritage and stunning natural environment inspire us to be forward thinking, inclusive, resilient and welcoming. We will create a supportive, vibrant community for those that live, work and visit here today and in the future.</p>	<p>Community Priorities To achieve the future we envision, our community priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of housing options and affordability; • Environmental protection and stewardship; • Climate change action; • Personal and community economic growth and stability; • A responsive and caring social support system; • Opportunities for lifelong learning; • Fostering of diverse cultural and spiritual values, and, • A range of recreation and activities for residents and visitors.
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An explanation of the amendments to both the Vision and Priorities can be found in the most recent [report to Council](#) from Development Services (see pg 4 & 5).

Director of Development Services, Marianne Wade stated: *“We are very pleased that we had a robust engagement process with the public and had the opportunity to vet it through a Focus Group of stakeholders that helped shape a Vision and the Priorities to best reflect our community and its future. Engaging the community from the grass roots and listening to our residents is vital to shaping the OCP into what our community wants, and it was important that we take the time to gather this information.”*

Mayor Sulz commented, *“Staff did a thorough job in gathering community feedback which solidified the interest of Council to support the OCP Visions and Priorities amendments. We commend the in-depth process they have accomplished and keeping this moving forward, especially through challenging times with the current pandemic.”*

Moving forward, the next steps for the OCP updates include various studies as well as further public engagement to help refine the Community Priorities which will inform policy under the following four identified themes that will be used to organize the OCP:

- Growth Management (housing, development, infrastructure, financial tools, economic development and affordability)
- Natural Environment (conservation, protection, access)
- Culture (arts, heritage, programming)
- Community (sense of community, education)

A final re-write of the OCP update is aimed to be completed by 2022.

**The Focus Group is combined of various community stakeholders including:*

- *Advisory Planning Commission*
- *Environmental Advisory Committee*
- *Economic Development Commission*
- *Social Development Committee*
- *Tourism Initiatives*
- *Collective Impact Leadership Team*
- *Chamber of Commerce*
- *Youth Advisory Committee*

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