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Planning and Development | Citywide Planning

1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6
citywideplanning@victoria.ca | 250.361.0382

April 22, 2025

Capital Regional District Board
Attn: Kevin Lorette
General Manager, Housing, Planning and Protective Services
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Dear Kevin Lorette:

For consideration of acceptance by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, please find attached a copy of the updated regional context statement for Victoria's draft Official Community Plan.

Background

The City of Victoria is undertaking a comprehensive update to its Official Community Plan (OCP). The update is aimed at providing meaningful solutions to the housing crisis and the climate emergency and is in line with provincial requirements, including the legislative requirement to update the OCP by December 31, 2025, based on the City's Interim Housing Needs Report.

At its regular meeting of April 17, 2025, Victoria City Council passed the following motions to advance the updated OCP to initial bylaw readings and, subsequently, a public hearing:

That Council instruct the Director of Planning and Development to advance the following recommendations from the March 6 OCP Report [as amended]:

- a. Refer the regional context statement, as provided in Schedule B of Attachment A to the Capital Regional District Board for consideration of acceptance.*
- b. Bring forward, for first and second readings prior to consideration at a public hearing, a bylaw that repeals the Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 12-013) originally adopted in 2012 and replaces it with the new Official Community Plan, generally in the form as provided as a draft in Attachment A ("Victoria 2050"), following acceptance or deemed acceptance after the 120-day wait period of the regional context statement by the Capital Regional District Board.*

In addition to the attached regional context statement, the full OCP has been attached for convenience, and a summary of the update is provided below.

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum Nation.

Summary of Updated Regional Context Statement

As the core municipality in the Capital Region, the City of Victoria plays a vital role in achieving the vision and objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The proposed OCP, *Victoria 2050*, embraces a new urban form that accommodates diverse, compact housing to address Victoria's housing needs while continuing to meet the city's employment land needs. Together, these moves meet current and future community needs, support economic development and strengthen the case for transit service improvements across the region.

The policies in *Victoria 2050* support each of the objectives, policies and approaches of the RGS, but the policies addressing the OCP's housing, employment and climate goal posts have an especially direct connection to achieving the following RGS objectives:

- 1.1 Keep Urban Settlement Compact
- 1.2 Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities
- 2.2 Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably
- 3.1 Create Safe and Complete Communities
- 3.2 Improve Housing Affordability
- 4.1 Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity and Mobility
- 5.1 Realize the Region's Economic Potential
- 7.1 Significantly Reduce Community-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Victoria 2050 also provides policy direction to expand the city's functional, connected green spaces and to ensure sustainable, equitable delivery of strong community infrastructure. Proposed OCP policies related to Victoria's community, blue green and mobility networks advance the following RGS objectives:

- 2.1 Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health
- 6.1 Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System

It is our understanding that the CRD Board will consider the updated regional context statement and provide a decision to accept or refuse within 120 days of receiving it in accordance with section 448 of the *Local Government Act*.

If you require further information please contact Lauren Klose, Manager of Community Planning, at lklose@victoria.ca or 778-747-0397.

Sincerely,



Karen Hoese
Director, Planning and Development
City of Victoria

encl:

- Victoria 2050 Regional Context Statement (draft Official Community Plan Schedule B)
- Victoria 2050 (draft Official Community Plan)

cc:

- Curt Kingsley, City Clerk, City of Victoria
- Andrea Hudson, Assistant Director, Citywide Planning, City of Victoria
- Lauren Klose, Manager of Community Planning, City of Victoria
- Kristen Morley, Corporate Officer, Capital Regional District
- Patrick Klassen, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning, Capital Regional District