

Legislative Parameters for the RSS

- 849** (1) The purpose of a regional growth strategy is to promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), to the extent that a regional growth strategy deals with these matters, it should work towards but not be limited to the following:
- (a) avoiding urban sprawl and ensuring that development takes place where adequate facilities exist or can be provided in a timely, economic and efficient manner;
 - (b) settlement patterns that minimize the use of automobiles and encourage walking, bicycling and the efficient use of public transit;
 - (c) the efficient movement of goods and people while making effective use of transportation and utility corridors;
 - (d) protecting environmentally sensitive areas;
 - (e) maintaining the integrity of a secure and productive resource base, including the agricultural land reserve;
 - (f) economic development that supports the unique character of communities;
 - (g) reducing and preventing air, land and water pollution;
 - (h) adequate, affordable and appropriate housing;
 - (i) adequate inventories of suitable land and resources for future settlement;
 - (j) protecting the quality and quantity of ground water and surface water;
 - (k) settlement patterns that minimize the risks associated with natural hazards;
 - (l) preserving, creating and linking urban and rural open space including parks and recreation areas;
 - (m) planning for energy supply and promoting efficient use, conservation and alternative forms of energy;
 - (n) good stewardship of land, sites and structures with cultural heritage value.

Content of regional growth strategy

- 850** (1) A board may adopt a regional growth strategy for the purpose of guiding decisions on growth, change and development within its regional district.
- (2) A regional growth strategy must cover a period of at least 20 years from the time of its initiation and must include the following:
- (a) a comprehensive statement on the future of the region, including the social, economic and environmental objectives of the board in relation to the regional district;
 - (b) population and employment projections for the period covered by the regional growth strategy;
 - (c) to the extent that these are regional matters, actions proposed for the regional district to provide for the needs of the projected population in relation to
 - (i) housing,
 - (ii) transportation,

- (iii) regional district services,
 - (iv) parks and natural areas, and
 - (v) economic development;
 - (d) to the extent that these are regional matters, targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the regional district, and policies and actions proposed for the regional district with respect to achieving those targets.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2), a regional growth strategy may deal with any other regional matter.
- (4) A regional growth strategy may include any information, maps, illustrations or other mater