

The Sustainable Region Initiative

**Presented to Village of Belcarra
May 27, 2002**

Context

- Over a decade since “Choosing Our Future”
- LRSP and AQMP review due 2001
- Established sustainability approach, GVRD Board resolution July 27, 2001
- Council of Councils, September 22, 2001
- Are We on the Right Track? January 17, 2002
- Series of conferences, presentations etc., January onwards

The what and why of sustainability

■ What is Sustainability ?

- Integrating economic, social and environmental perspectives to meet current needs while not compromising the ability to meet future needs

■ Why Sustainability ?

- It is comprehensive/ relevant in dealing with community issues; current and future focus; large overlap with our mandates; global movement; motivating

Key characteristics

- The three legged stool

- Integrating environmental, economic and social dimensions; the triple bottom line

- Beyond the horizon

- Short term to inter-generational analysis

- Waste not, want not

- Eco-efficient, cyclical processes, within limits

- Core social values

- What kind of community do we want to sustain?
- Enduring prosperity

A three-level approach

- GVRD as a sustainable organization (adjusting business practices and corporate policies)
- GVRD mandates (plans and services) reviewed and amended to conform to sustainability principles
- GVRD as a partner with business, community groups, other governments and agencies, and the public in advancing regional sustainability

Challenges and Opportunities

■ 'Sustainability don't play'

- Redirect to 'what kind of Vancouver/GVRD do we want and how do we sustain it'

■ Role of GVRD

- Within mandate - to deliver services; beyond mandate to facilitate coordinated approach
- Beyond the mandate - facilitating role; partners accept and endorse and looking for leadership;

Even More Challenges and Opportunities

- Conventional approach time consuming
 - Not a fixed plan with a fixed timetable
 - Harvest the crops that grow, sow the seeds for next season; focus on results
- Distracting media events
 - Treat as sustainability issues

Broad Approach

■ Phase 1

- Raise profile through events, conferences and media
- Engage phase one partners
- Harvest results and develop framework and interim principles, goals and some strategies

Broad Approach

■ Phase 2

- Engage broader public; focus on specific themes, e.g. economic development, transportation, air
- Confirm goals, develop strategies, plans, projects and processes
- Monitor, measure, harvest, report, celebrate

Targets and Goals

■ Immediate Board

- Endorsed direction, draft vision and goals

■ Short term

- Aligned business practices and working culture
- Stream of exemplary projects and processes
- Working partnership & engaged public
- Confirmed vision and set of integrated regional plans, policies and strategies

■ Long term

- Broad aligned urban regime

Next Steps

- Municipal Council briefings,
 - Direction for local community involvement
- Partners conferences
 - May 23, SRI (Environment) - Smartgrowth
 - June 6, SRI (Social) - United Way
 - June 13, SRI (Economic) - Business Council of B.C.
- Council of Councils - May 25
- GVRD Board reports - July 26
- Phase 2 - Fall 2002 to Spring 2003

Our Request to You

- Council/staff engagement
 - Process to identify your values, goals, and issues and appropriate responses
- Community engagement
 - Process to identify and engage groups in your community

Working together for

A sustainable region

in

A better world