



Regional Collaboration Framework

SCOPE OF WORK

MAY 2018

WORKING DRAFT

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CONTEXT

The Cowichan 2050 Regional Collaboration Framework (the Framework) was initiated by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) in September 2017. The Framework includes three core components, all of which will be expanded upon and further developed as the process moves forward:

- ***Cowichan 2050 – Call to Action***
- ***Cowichan 2050 – Regional Working Group Scope of Work***
- ***Cowichan 2050 – Background***

PURPOSE

The primary role of the Regional Working Group is to support the further development and implementation of the Cowichan 2050 Regional Collaboration Framework, by establishing a forum for Cowichan region local governments and community partners to:

- Build more collaborative regional working relationships;
- Improve communications and information sharing;
- Support more coordinated planning on critical, region-wide issues; and
- Establish clear and measurable indicators of progress around regional livability, sustainability, and resilience.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP PRINCIPLES

The principles of the Regional Working Group include:

- ***Be open.*** Listen and communicate honestly.
- ***Be inclusive.*** Start with learning about each other and recognizing each other's place in the region.
- ***Be patient and flexible.*** Respect the different reasons for coming to the process and different ways of working.
- ***Be transparent.*** Support open and clear discussion process.
- ***Be respectful.*** Recognize resource capacity and organizational mandates.
- ***Be determined.*** Recognize that the regional challenges ahead demand action across a range of scales, communities and sectors.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Local government staff are core members of the Regional Working Group. They will be joined by First Nations, region-serving community organizations (e.g., Our Cowichan, Cowichan Watershed Board, Social Planning Cowichan) and other agencies and levels of government who have an interest in the Cowichan region and are a necessary part of any collective, collaborative action. It is anticipated that while the participation of core members will remain consistent, broader participation will be adaptive and flexible, evolving over time with the topics being addressed. Membership structure will be determined through a future Terms of Reference.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ACTIONS

The Regional Working Group will do their best to carry out the following actions, recognizing that everyone may have resource and capacity limitations:

- Convene Regional Working Group meetings on a quarterly basis, and as required (Regional Working Group meetings will be organized and convened by the CVRD).
- Encourage cross-cultural learning opportunities regarding one another's roles, rights, responsibilities, governance systems, laws, culture and history.
- Develop a guiding Terms of Reference for the Regional Working Group.
- Identify opportunities to coordinate and align planning on Cowichan-wide challenges.
- Explore and harness funding opportunities as a region for projects addressing Cowichan-wide challenges.
- Develop a roadmap and action plan for next steps on areas of potential regional collaboration outlined in the *Cowichan 2050 – Background*.

BACKGROUND

The Cowichan 2050 Regional Collaboration Framework (the Framework) was initiated by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) in September 2017. In part, the project grew out of the CVRD’s 2016 Corporate Strategic Plan, which identified a need for a regional planning strategy or framework to support more “sustainable and coordinated growth and development in the region.”¹

The Framework also grew out of the realization that by 2050, the Cowichan region will be a very different place. While the coming changes are uncertain, over the next 30 years we can expect our population to grow by at least 30%, potentially straining services and increasing development pressures across the region.² It is also clear that the impacts of climate change—many of which are already being felt—will pose more serious challenges in the future, with a warmer, drier climate and more extreme weather events impacting everything from our water supply to our region’s local economy. Climate change is also driving sea level rise, which will hit low-lying coastal areas particularly hard (by 2050, ocean levels are projected to rise 50 cm, or 1.5 feet). Other anticipated changes include significant demographic shifts, a rising cost of living, and an evolving regional governance context as First Nations continue to enhance and expand their land management and governance opportunities.

Developed against this backdrop of change, and within a context of increasing interdependence and complexity, the Framework presents a clear opportunity for the communities of the Cowichan region to begin the process of establishing a new regional approach—one that will enable the Cowichan region to more effectively address current issues, plan for emerging challenges, and achieve significant collective impact. As both a process and a

commitment, it also provides a statement of recognition that Cowichan-wide challenges cannot be effectively addressed in isolation by any one local government or organization.

The Framework includes three core components, all of which will be expanded upon and further developed as the process moves forward:

- **Cowichan 2050 - Call to Action:** A statement of commitment to regional collaboration that grounds the Framework and informs the collective and independent action necessary to protect and steward the Cowichan region going forward to 2050.
- **Cowichan 2050 - Regional Working Group Scope of Work:** This document is intended to provide some structure around how regional collaboration will take place moving forward.
- **Cowichan 2050 - Backgrounder:** A regional “primer” that:
 - Identifies shared regional aspirations;
 - Characterizes regional issues and challenges;
 - Pulls together common and consistent regional planning directions and supporting policy themes from plans and strategies developed by the CVRD, member local governments, and regional organizations;
 - Highlights past, present, and ongoing regional initiatives and programs; and
 - Outlines opportunities for future collaborative action across different regional planning areas.

¹ Under the strategic focus area of “Excellence in Regional Land Use Planning.”

² At least 25,000 more people expected, or the equivalent of adding five new Duncans, which depending on the form and density of development, equivalent land area of adding two Ladysmiths (2,400 hectares).

