



**SHAPING  
OUR  
FUTURE**

# OCP ENGAGEMENT REPORT:

Policy Teams Process and Outcomes

NOVEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

## Introduction

### The OCP project began in December 2019 when Council initiated a Vision and Community Priorities update.

We heard from over 950 citizens, made updates and refinements, then presented an updated Vision and Community Priorities to Council. The next step in the OCP process was to put together a Focus Group of community members from diverse backgrounds and sectors to represent the perspectives of their organizations and networks in the development of the OCP.

In April 2021, the OCP Project Team and Focus Group started to dig a little deeper into the specifics. We engaged a cross-section of the community — ranging from youth and seniors to new Canadians and those struggling day to day — and gathered feedback in a variety of ways to ask, **What’s important to you?**

Then we listened as community members told us what mattered, shared their ideas, and provided examples.

All input received during the engagement process from December 2019 to September 2021 is categorized into five themes and a number of goals that consistently emerged as important to Revelstoke:



### A SAFE, RESILIENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

1) Housing for all. 2) Responsive social and supportive services. 3) Support heritage conservation. 4) Champion the thriving arts sector. 5) Foster cultural and spiritual values.



### VIBRANT CULTURE AND HERITAGE

1) Celebrate natural heritage. 2) Support diverse and accessible recreation. 3) Education and lifelong learning. 4) Food security for all. 5) Advance community health, well being and safety. 6) Engage in the process of Indigenous Reconciliation.



### DIVERSE LOCAL ECONOMY

1) Resilient industries. 2) Invest in local businesses and entrepreneurship. 3) Attract, retain, and support a skilled workforce.



### HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

1) Natural area conservations and stewardship. 2) Access to nature in the City. 3) Healthy watersheds. 4) Wildlife management and connectivity. 5) Learn from Indigenous ecological knowledge.

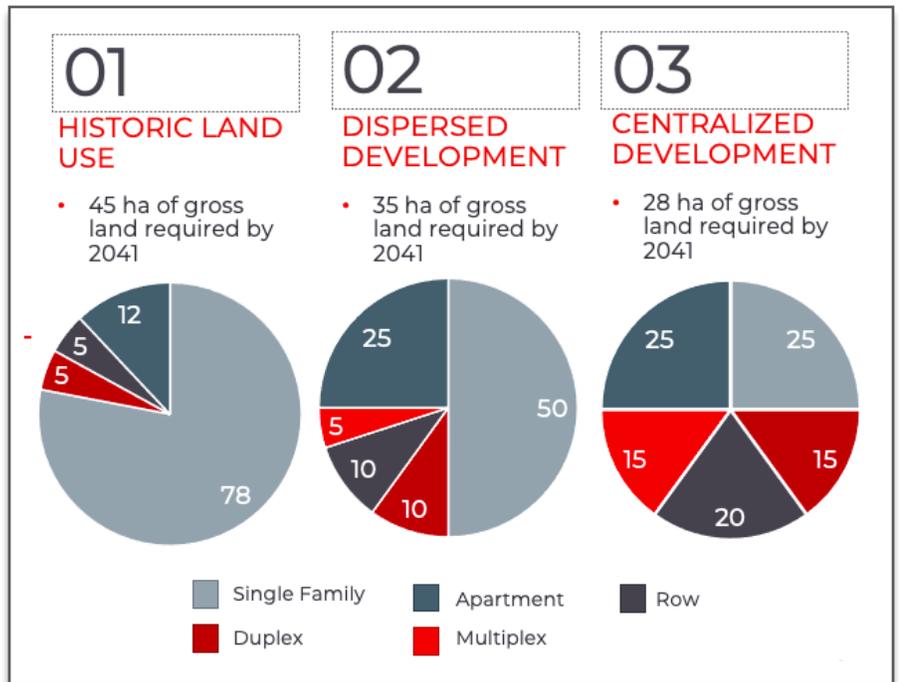


### SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1) Complete, compact communities. 2) Encourage mixed use. 3) Connect parks, trails, and communities. 4) Accessible, integrated transportation options. 5) Shift to carbon neutral. 6) Resilient infrastructure.

**In November and December of 2021, we presented the analysis on housing and growth and discussed it with the public. Here are the key outcomes from that analysis and engagement:**

1. There is enough available land within the boundary of Revelstoke to accommodate the anticipated growth in full-time resident population.
2. Each neighbourhood in Revelstoke will experience different levels of growth between now and 2041 because of infrastructure constraints, available developable land, and proximity to services.
3. There is strong support for the City to promote the missing middle type of housing (townhomes, rowhouses, small apartments) to assist with increased housing choice and affordability for residents.
4. There is support for the City to encourage and incentivize centralized development rather than encourage growth on the fringes which would result in additional infrastructure needs (sewer, water, roads, etc.) and sprawl.



## Policy Teams Process and Outcomes

The first phase of policy development for the OCP

### Policy Team Recruitment

In October 2021, the OCP Focus Group was asked to identify stakeholders who have the capacity to participate, represent diverse backgrounds and experience, and have an interest in the OCP development.

Lists of potential members were compiled based on criteria that aimed to achieve a diversity of professional and personal backgrounds and expertise, as well as a range of age, gender and ethnicity. A key focus was to also ensure perspectives of vulnerable citizens were represented either by people who work closely with them or who have lived experience. Final membership was diverse according to most criteria, except ethnicity.

A total of 32 Revelstoke citizens participated in the initial policy draft for the OCP: 11 Focus Group members, plus 21 additional community members.



#### POLICY TEAM: SAFE, RESILIENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

<b>Focus Group Members</b>	Stephanie Melnyk <b>Chair</b>
	Sheena Wells
	Melissa Hemphill
<b>Community Members</b>	Melissa Jameson
	Linda Chell
	Vivian Mitchell
	Steven Hui



#### POLICY TEAM: VIBRANT CULTURE AND HERITAGE

<b>Focus Group Member</b>	Carol Palladino <b>Chair</b>
	Cathy English
<b>Community Members</b>	Anita Hallewas
	Jan Morehouse
	Robyn Goldsmith



**POLICY TEAM: DIVERSE LOCAL ECONOMY**

Focus Group Members	Kevin Dorrius	<b>Chair</b>
	Roberta Bobicki	
Community Members	Aimee Schalles	
	Alan Mason	
	Carolyn Gibson	
	Shannon Van Goor	



**POLICY TEAM: HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS**

Focus Group Member	Giles Shearing	<b>Chair</b>
	Kent Christensen	
Community Members	Hailey Ross	
	Amy Clarke	
	Gilles Lussier	
	Pat McMechan	



**POLICY TEAM: SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS**

Focus Group Members	Jane McNab	<b>Chair</b>
	Meg Tabor	
	Connie Brothers	
Community Members	Fraser Blythe	
	Kim Vinet	
	Adrian Giacca	
	Tom Robson	
	Mike MacNeil	



## Policy Development Process

Between August and November, the Project Team researched and reviewed a number of resources:

- 2009 OCP
- Revelstoke Sustainability Plan
- Other Revelstoke master plans and documents
- Policy ideas and best practices gathered during the spring/summer public engagement phase
- Recently updated OCPs from other BC municipalities
- Best-practice policies from the Plan H team of Interior Health.

From the research, policies that align with the Revelstoke vision, community priorities, lenses and goals were compiled into workbooks for the Policy Teams.

Policy Teams were organized according to the five themes identified in the engagement process. Each team met between four and six times in February and early March.

*“An estimated 400 volunteer hours were committed to complete this work.”*

### Outcomes

Each Policy Team worked independently to identify items that had consensus, items that needed clarification or revisions (with suggestions), and missing policies or actions. Five master workbooks were submitted to Development Services.

The workbooks were used to create the first OCP draft which was reviewed with senior administration to identify potential issues:

- items that are not appropriate at an OCP level but better suited to a master plan or strategy
- realistic ability to implement the policy and action recommendations from the policy teams
- any missing policies or actions that should be added.

This approach ensured community members had direct influence on the draft OCP.

### Key Lessons from the Policy Team Process to Draft the OCP

- An additional one to two weeks for the process would have been helpful.
- Some Policy Team members found the time commitment difficult to balance with other commitments and responsibilities (jobs, families, other volunteer commitments, etc.).
- Some Policy Team members would have preferred more background information on other City documents and strategies related to the OCP.
- The lens review task resulted in great discussion for some policy teams while others struggled with it. It was suggested examples on how to use the lenses would have been helpful for some.
- A number of Policy Team suggestions were operational and not OCP policy (i.e. hire an environmental coordinator or a qualified environmental professional); these will be important for implementation.
- Policy Teams identified important additions for the OCP that may have otherwise been missed.
- Many participants acknowledged the complexity of policy development — how one section of policy influences and impacts another — and the challenge of reconciling these issues. Several participants commented they had a new-found empathy for the daily work and challenges for planning staff!
- The Policy Team Chairs were crucial for ensuring a well-run team process.
- Policy Team participants valued the respectful dialogue that occurred while discussing the policy sections — especially when different perspectives were presented.
- There are now over 30 community members who have been directly involved in helping shape the draft OCP document, providing a diversity of perspectives and expertise.
- The Project Team is awed by the amount of time, thoughtfulness, and expertise the policy team members provided to this task. The outcomes have exceeded expectations.

## Next Steps

City administration and the OCP Focus Group will prepare for public sessions to present and hear feedback on the draft OCP. This engagement is anticipated in early May 2022; talkrevelstoke.ca and the City social media channels will announce dates and times. City administration anticipates presenting to Council in June 2022 for First Reading.

