

## 2.6 Regional Context Statement

In accordance with Section 865 of the [Local Government Act](#), this plan must be consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Therefore, all policies in the Electoral Area 'A' OCP are consistent with or complementary to the goals and policies of the RGS. It is recognized that where policies contained in this plan recommend changes to the RGS, that the actions or uses identified by the policies shall not be supported unless the Regional Board supports an amendment to the RGS.

The OCP's response to the eleven RGS Goals is outlined below:

### **RGS Goal 1: Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption**

In accordance with Section 877(3) of the [Local Government Act](#), the Area 'A' OCP includes targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions as well as policies and actions for achieving the targets. This plan also supports the creation of compact, complete communities to reduce automobile dependence and encourage a range of housing types and sizes. In addition, this plan encourages green development and infrastructure, and efficient use of energy and resources.

### **RGS Goal 2: Protect the Environment**

The Area 'A' OCP supports the use of policies and DPA's to provide protection to the plan Area's environmentally sensitive features identified in Section 4.0. The plan includes policies that apply at the time of rezoning, policies which encourage property owners to protect groundwater resources and the environment, and policies which are intended to communicate the community's preference to other levels of government and other agencies.

### **RGS Goal 3: Coordinate Land Use and Mobility**

The Area 'A' OCP supports land use patterns and mobility networks within the Rural Villages and on lands within the Growth Containment Boundary (GCB) which reduce automobile dependency and provide for efficient movement of people and goods. This plan supports the creation of compact communities served by active transportation networks and a multi-modal system of transportation which includes the automobile, transit, rail, air, as well as human powered forms of transportation.

### **RGS Goal 4: Concentrate Housing and Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres**

The Area 'A' OCP supports a range of housing types and sizes, as well as areas for commercial and mixed use development within rural villages. In doing so, the plan provides opportunities for people to live closer to their place of employment and the services which they require on a daily basis; thereby reducing auto dependency and creating vibrant rural communities.

### **RGS Goal 5: Enhance Rural Integrity**

The Area 'A' OCP seeks to enhance rural integrity by supporting agricultural, forestry and environmental goods and services, resource uses, as well as providing opportunities for more efficient use of land by supporting alternative approaches to subdivision and development such as conservation design, clustering, and density transfer.



### **RGS Goal 6: Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing**

The Area ‘A’ OCP supports the provision of affordable housing through policies which provide for the creation of a range of parcel sizes and housing types. In addition, the plan supports the provision of affordable housing as a community amenity.

### **RGS Goal 7: Enhance Economic Resiliency**

The Area ‘A’ OCP supports opportunities for strategic economic development in each of the three core communities in the plan area including Cedar, South Wellington, and Cassidy. The plan supports a new designation titled ‘*Cedar Main Street*’ in Cedar along the historic Cedar Road to encourage strategically placed commercial, residential, and mixed use development to provide local employment, a wider range of housing options, and a variety of additional local services. In South Wellington, the plan supports a transition from low intensity heavy industrial uses towards high intensity low impact light industrial uses which provide more opportunities for local employment and improve its aesthetic appeal. In Cassidy, the plan supports an expansion to the GCB to make Cassidy a more complete community with a broader range of housing types and sizes, local employment, and local services. Cassidy provides a unique opportunity for low impact industrial/commercial development strategically located on a transportation hub with access to rail, highway, and air.

### **RGS Goal 8: Enhance Food Security**

The Area ‘A’ OCP vision states “*In 2033....Electoral Area ‘A’ has become a leader in local food production*”. The plan supports this by including policies and implementation actions which are intended to encourage agriculture and make it more viable. In addition, the plan supports the preservation of the plan area’s agricultural land base for agricultural use and supports uses which are compatible with agriculture and contribute towards making it more viable.

### **RGS Goal 9: Celebrate Pride of Place**

The Area ‘A’ OCP contains policies and implementation actions which recognize and support preservation and enhancement of the plan area’s unique beauty, culture, history, and arts.

### **RGS Goal 10: Provide Services Efficiently.**

The Area ‘A’ OCP supports efficient cost-effective community services by encouraging growth into well-defined compact areas at densities that support the efficient use of land and are capable of funding the long-term maintenance and operating costs of these services. The plan also supports the use of a triple bottom line approach in selecting appropriate servicing options. The plan supports the provision of community water and sewer to areas within the GCB for the purpose of facilitating the additional development supported by this plan. The plan also recognizes that these services may be required outside of the GCB to address health or environmental concerns, but not to facilitate additional development beyond that which is supported without community water or sewer servicing.

### **RGS Goal 11: Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions**

The Area ‘A’ OCP supports ongoing communication and cooperation among jurisdictions. Specifically Section 13.0 establishes a framework designed to facilitate the resolution of issues with interjurisdictional ramifications, as well as other issues which have not yet been identified, through cooperation and consultation.

