



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 8, 2016**

## **REVISED REGIONAL CONTEXT STATEMENT ADOPTED BY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

A revised Regional Context Statement (RCS) that has been amended to gain acceptance by the Metro Vancouver Board has been adopted by Township of Langley Council.

Council approved the revised RCS on November 7, following three years of court proceedings and a dispute resolution process that occurred after the Board refused to accept the Township's initial Regional Context Statement.

In 2011, Metro Vancouver adopted a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) called Metro Vancouver 2040 - Shaping Our Future. The Strategy represents a collective vision for how the region is going to accommodate a projected population increase of one million people over the next 25 years.

Under provincial legislation, all Metro member municipalities, including the Township of Langley, are required to update their Official Community Plans (OCPs) to include a Regional Context Statement that shows how the municipalities' OCPs align with the Regional Growth Strategy.

The Township of Langley submitted its updated OCP and Regional Context Statement to the Metro Vancouver Board in July of 2013. However, the Board refused to accept the Township's RCS, citing four objections that related to land use designations, the use of agricultural lands, and the role of municipalities.

The Metro Vancouver Board took legal action against the Township related to a number of rezoning applications and in March and December 2014, both the BC Supreme Court and the BC Course of Appeal, respectively, ruled in support of the Township.

A dispute resolution process was then undertaken as required by provincial regulations.

"A lot of work has gone into revising this document to ensure it meets both the needs of the Township and the goals of the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy," said Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese. "We are confident that this amended document will be accepted by the Board and we can move forward with our plans to ensure Langley Township continues to grow and thrive, and is an exceptional place that people want to live and work in, while recognizing the value of the Regional Growth Strategy's vision."

The Township revised its Regional Context Statement by incorporating additional language that reaffirms the Township's commitment to the goals and objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy, while recognizing the roles and responsibilities of local government, and confirming the authority and jurisdiction of the provincial Agricultural Land Commission.

The Township's revised RCS also includes a revised map that incorporates amendments previously submitted to Metro Vancouver as being generally consistent.

If the Township's revised RCS is accepted by the Metro Vancouver Board, the dispute resolution process will be concluded.

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