

*Ideas make our future.*



# Environment

BACKGROUNDER



*Ideas make our future.*



## ***What is an Official Community Plan?***

The Province of B.C. Local Government Act (the Act) states that an OCP is a statement of objectives and policies to guide planning and land use decisions within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government. The “purpose of local government” are outlined in Part 1 of the Act, and include:

- ✓ providing good government for its community;
- ✓ providing the services and other things that the local government considers necessary or desirable for all or part of its community;
- ✓ providing stewardship of the public assets of its community; and
- ✓ fostering the current future economic, social, and environmental well-being of its community.

Provincial legislation (Local Government Act) outlines the purpose, required content and discretionary content of an Official Community Plan (OCP). The purpose of an OCP, under this legislation, is described as a "statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management". For more information on the Local Government Act and official community plans, check out this link and look for

**Division 4, section 471:**

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/r15001\\_14](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/r15001_14)

*Ideas make our future.*



### ***How does an Official Community Plan (OCP) help us reach our community goals?***

An OCP provides a blueprint for decision-making. All municipal policies, plans, and regulations must be in alignment with the OCP. So, it is a valuable guide to support and coordinate all District activities so that the community moves forward in a coordinated fashion. Once adopted by Council, an OCP does not prevent change to the plan based on emergent issues or new information. In this way, an OCP is referred to as a "living document".

### ***Why is our Official Community Plan (OCP) important?***

The OCP reflects the community's vision, values and priorities for the long term. By setting out a clear path forward today, we can collectively steer toward a coordinated and planned future that is more sustainable, resilient and provides a high quality of life for everyone.

*Ideas make our future.*



### ***What is involved in an Official Community Plan (OCP) review?***

An Official Community Plan review is an opportunity for Port Hardy to ensure that the vision and goals for the community are still important to the community. Since an official community plan is a long-term guiding document for the future of a community it is important that everything stated in the plan is still relevant to the community and is based on up to date information. So, we will be hosting a series of events for community members and stakeholders to provide their ideas, hopes and values on a range of topics affecting our community.

### ***About the Official Community Plan review...***

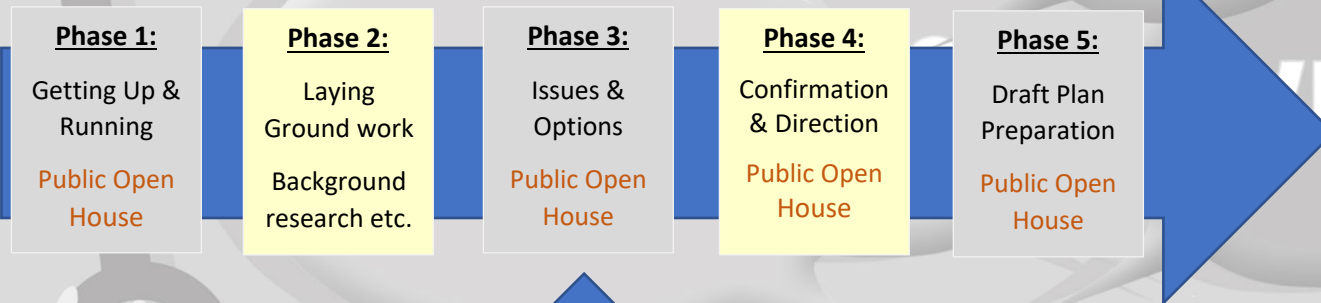
Starting in February this year, the District of Port Hardy began a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Port Hardy's current plan was adopted by Council in 2011. It is important that the plan be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it continues to reflect the values, vision, and aspirations of the community. The review process is anticipated to take just over one year with the adoption of an Official Community Plan in late 2021.

*Ideas make our future.*



## Project Arc:

Opportunity for public to provide input & help shape the document through email and written format runs for the entire project & is on top of formal open house & other events



  
We are here

*Ideas make our future.*



### **Key Facts:**

OCPs have a structure that applies to each topic or subject area such as the environment for example. Each section includes a list of one or more goals, and one or more objectives related to each goal, followed by one or more policies. It is important to note that OCP policy is different than regulation, like a zoning bylaw for example. OCP policy is meant to inform decision making rather than regulate both for Council and the community in relation to matters contained in the OCP.

One measure of good policy is that it is capable of being actioned by the District and that the outcomes can be measured. Although this is not always achievable, it is a helpful target.

*Ideas make our future.*



## **A Sustainability Lens**

Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A cornerstone of sustainability is the recognition that all aspects of society and the natural environment are interconnected. So, there are four primary realms of sustainability: economic, social, cultural, and environmental. Sustainability planning helps communities realize their visions for a sustainability and provides the framework to integrate sustainability thinking into every day decision-making.

The District of Port Hardy has considered its future through a “sustainability” lens in its current Official Community Plan. Sustainability seeks to identify and speak to economic, cultural, environmental and social components.

## economy

A resilient economy that is inclusive, and attracts investment, business and workers

## environment

A resilient community that grows without negatively impacting a healthy ecosystem & biological diversity

# SUSTAIN - ability

## social

impacts of processes, organizations, and activities on people to maximize quality of life and equity

## cultural

understanding and appreciation of culture & identity while celebrating community heritage



*Ideas make our future.*



## **Current Environmental OCP Goals:**

- ✓ Support greater access for residents and visitors to ocean, rivers, parks, trails and outdoor recreational opportunities;
- ✓ Maintain healthy water systems (Quatse River, Tsulquate River and Hardy Bay) in order to provide ecological resources and services for future generations;
- ✓ Promote awareness towards marine and land based wildlife and their importance to the local environment, culture & economy;
- ✓ Ensure that there is a continued strong connection between the environment, local culture / society and economy;
- ✓ Protect the natural environment through efficient use of Port Hardy's pristine world class natural resources and amenities;
- ✓ Ensure all Port Hardy residents continue to have a safe and sufficient supply of drinking water;
- ✓ Grow in a manner that respects the surrounding natural environment and is valued and viewed as an integral component of the Port Hardy community;
- ✓ Decrease the energy demands and greenhouse gas emissions from both the District and the community at large where energy is obtained with methods that minimizes and mitigates negative impacts on the environment;
- ✓ Ensure the continuation of fresh, clean and safe air to breathe; and
- ✓ Ensure the negative impacts of land use and development are minimized, and that land and resources are used efficiently used.

*Ideas make our future.*



## **Current Environmental OCP Objectives:**

- 4.1.1 To pursue climate change adaptation measures to ensure long-term decisions are congruent to climate change trends and patterns.
- 4.1.2 To pursue climate change mitigation measures to contribute to the global objective of bringing Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in the atmosphere to a level of 350ppm.
- 4.1.3 To support sustainability-based sectors and processes.
- 4.1.4 To achieve a high-level of awareness, understanding and support to sustainable energy management practices and climate action initiatives.
- 4.1.5 To use energy-based solutions to manage climate action impacts and increase the economic viability of the region.
- 4.1.6 To use resource management to manage climate action impacts and increase economic viability of the region.

*Ideas make our future.*



## Questions for consideration:

### OCP Goals:

1. Which GOALS need to be kept and why?
2. Which GOALS need to be deleted and why?
3. Which GOALS need to be modify and why?

### OCP Objectives:

1. Which OBJECTIVES need to be kept and why?
2. Which OBJECTIVES need to be deleted and why?
3. Which OBJECTIVES need to be modify and why?

*Ideas make our future.*



## **Questions for consideration:**

1. What are the most significant issues or trends that impact positively or negatively to achieving the District's environmental policy and how can they be overcome?
2. How active of a role should the District take with respect to the pursuit of environmental sustainability and why?
3. How can the existing OCP policies be more effective in addressing environmental issues within the District?
4. What resources, collaborations and partnerships are important and achievable with regard to environmental sustainability in the District.
5. What are the key environmental issues and outcomes must the OCP address?