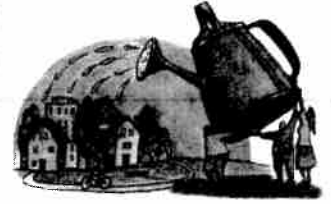


SmartGrowthBC



Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: **Sea-to-Sky Greenbelt Final Report: Phase 1** and www.greenbelt.bc.ca

The Sea-to-Sky corridor is a region that is unique not only within the province of BC but throughout Canada and beyond. It is famous both for its spectacular scenery and as a gateway for outdoor adventurers. However, the very pristine nature that characterizes this region is also attracting more people to live in the corridor and in the next 20 years the population is expected to double. Events such as the 2010 Olympics present a wonderful opportunity for communities within the corridor to make stronger commitments to the principles of 'smart growth.'

While several land use plans exist within the corridor, there is no unifying body able to provide an umbrella for all of the conservation initiatives in the region. Smart Growth BC aims to fill that gap with the **Sea-to-Sky Greenbelt**. The vision of the Sea-to-Sky Greenbelt is to see interconnected protected green space located around communities from West Vancouver up through to Pemberton and beyond to D'Arcy. Through recognition and zoning, the Greenbelt will conserve areas of undeveloped land, wilderness and riparian areas, and agricultural regions by promoting linkages between conservancies, parks, and other protected areas.

Smart Growth BC is proud to present to you the **Final Report of Phase 1 of the Sea-to-Sky Greenbelt initiative**. This report provides an outline of the work undertaken to fulfill the goals of Education and Outreach; a Conservation Lands Gap Analysis; and a Proposed Implementation Strategy. The report gives citizens and decision-makers alike a wealth of information in the form of maps outlining current parks and protected areas, potential future development impacts, candidate areas for protection, and much more. In order to best meet your data information needs, the maps are also provided as PDF documents (both high and low resolution) in the accompanying DVD. In the near future, all of the files will be uploaded to the Sea-to-Sky Atlas hosted by the Community Mapping Network (www.cmnbc.org) and will be available online.

The report concludes with an outline of several opportunities available in the next year or so for implementing the Greenbelt and uses case studies of successful management models employed elsewhere in BC. A recommendation of a NGO-Government partnership for the long-term coordination of the Greenbelt is proposed.

In spite of strong regional planning initiatives, conservation strategies, and the success of a robust tourism industry and resource sector, the Sea-to-Sky region will likely see massive landscape-level changes in the years ahead. The goal of the Greenbelt initiative is to be proactive about future land use conservation rather than corrective about past decisions. It is hoped that future development in the corridor will reflect the Greenbelt vision and that a coalition of NGOs, First Nations, and Government representatives will ensure that a successful implementation plan emerges.

For more information on the Sea-to-Sky Greenbelt please visit our website: www.greenbelt.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Ione Smith
Special Projects Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS
AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING
IN LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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