

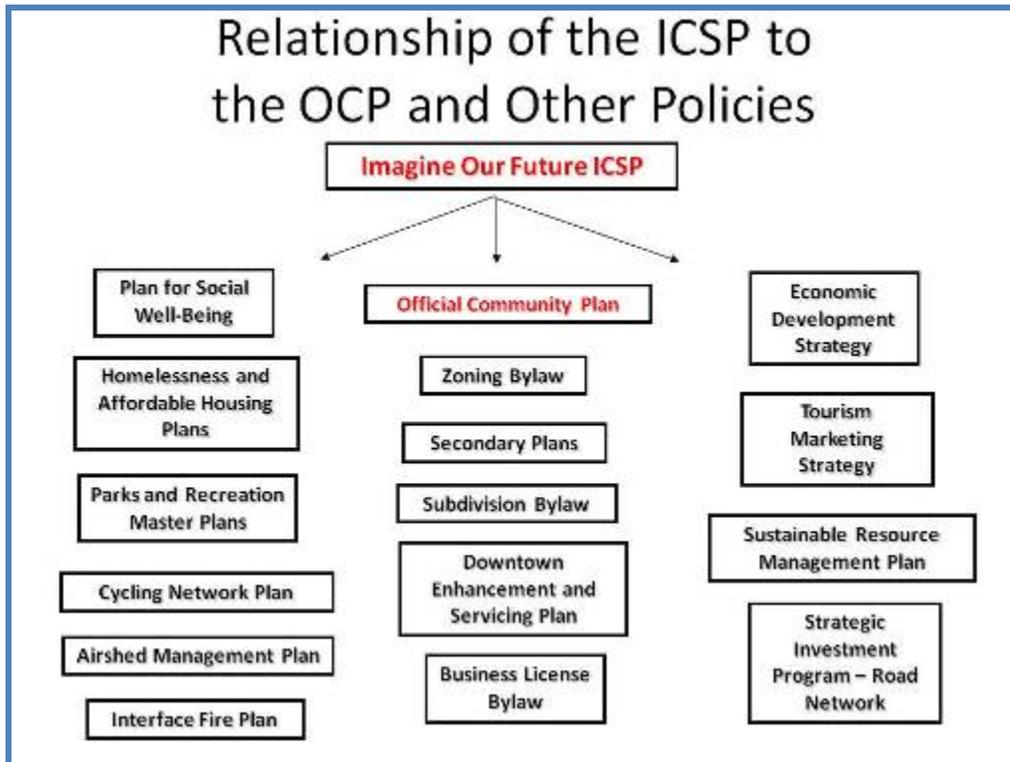
CHAPTER 3 – IMAGINE OUR FUTURE

3.1 Imagine Our Future ICSP

Imagine Our Future is the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) for Williams Lake. An ICSP is a summary of the ideas and desires of the community that is then used to guide short, medium, and long-term decision making based on sustainability principles. Williams Lake has defined “sustainability” as:

“Working towards a future in which our economy, environment, society and governance are integrated in ways that foster vibrant communities, strong economies and healthy ecosystems.”

Imagine Our Future has been identified as the overarching document for the City and provides guidance and directions for all other policies, plans, projects, practices and procedures needed to create a sustainable Williams Lake. An ICSP takes a long-term view, in this case 25 years, and has guided the development of the Official Community Plans (OCP).



3.2 SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

To provide a framework for working towards a sustainable future, Council unanimously adopted a Sustainability Declaration as part of the ICSP process.

The Sustainability Declaration directs that four sustainability principles be applied consistently in the City's decision making process:



We will reduce our contribution to the progressive build-up of materials, and their associated wastes, that are extracted from the Earth's crust. This means that we should work towards the use of renewable, low-impact resources such as solar energy, and not depend on limited resources taken from the earth.



We will reduce our contribution to the progressive build-up of synthetic materials produced by society. This means that we should not create or use manufactured products that the earth cannot easily absorb in an environmentally benign way, but use products such as packaging made out of compostable materials.



We will reduce our contribution to the ongoing physical degradation of nature. This means that we should leave as much of the earth in a natural state as possible, using natural drainage technique, for example, and not damage the earth in a way that cannot be easily regenerated naturally.



We will reduce our contribution to conditions that undermine people's ability to meet their basic needs. This means that, while protecting the earth, resources, and ecological values for future generations, we need to support and maintain socio-cultural and economic systems that promote a high quality of life for people, including food security, affordable housing, and a living wage.

Further, the Sustainability Declaration, signed by City Council on November 3rd, 2009, directs that the following "Principles of Smart Growth" from the ICSP be applied for sustainable community planning and development, which are also directly applicable to the OCP's Policy, Land Use, Greenhouse Gas, and Development Permit Area chapters, and indirectly to other chapters:



1. Create a Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices;
2. Create Walkable ("human-scale") Neighbourhoods;
3. Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration;
4. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place;
5. Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective and using Sustainability Guidelines;
6. Mix Land Uses where Compatible;

7. Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas;
8. Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices;
9. Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Neighbourhoods; and
10. Apply Compact Building Design.

3.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

The ICSP, after extensive consultation with the community, identified ten sustainability strategies, known as Strategy Priority Areas, which reflect the community’s priorities. These have been used to structure the OCP’s policy chapter and to serve as a lens for reviewing OCP policies to ensure that they address these priorities. The strategies, and the desired outcomes of the strategies that the City is working towards, are:



Social Well-Being. Our community members have a healthy quality of life and share a common commitment to the health, well-being and happiness of our children and their families. Community members of all ages, life stages and lifestyles feel connected to the community and their participation in the community is valued. Williams Lake is recognized as one of the most desirable small towns for families to live.

- **Lively Downtown.** Our community’s heart and soul is our downtown – it is a vibrant, distinct and welcoming place for community gatherings and social interactions and acts as the retail, cultural, entertainment, and social centre of the city and it is the principle place for the exchange of locally produced goods and services.



Active and Convenient Transportation. Our multimodal transportation system provides access to people, places, goods and services in a manner that is convenient, safe, affordable, sustainable, efficient, enjoyable, and contributes to the success of all other community priority areas.

- **Affordable Housing and Livable Neighbourhoods.** Our neighbourhoods are friendly, convenient, safe, affordable, sustainable, and attractive, and provide an abundance of opportunities for social interactions with attractive and affordable housing options.



World Class Recreation. Recreation opportunities in Williams Lake are accessible, affordable and innovative, engaging all members of our community, as well as providing for diverse visitor needs.

- **Cherished Local Ecosystems.** Our community is widely recognized as a model for demonstrating how a community can contribute to healthy ecosystems while being economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.



Distinctive Arts and Culture. Our diverse arts, cultures and heritages are recognized and celebrated as integral to our community's identity, attracting new residents and visitors to Williams Lake.

- **Partnering with First Nations.** As a community, we celebrate our cultural diversity and resiliency, and in so doing, we honour and respect the long history, traditional knowledge and unique contributions of First Nations to our way of life in Williams Lake. We support the preservation and cultivation of First Nations' cultures, traditions, resources and land for all generations.



Resilient Economy. Our economy relies on resource-based industries, the strengths and assets of our local community and innovation. We are committed to designing our local economy to fulfill community-held strategic goals for the future and the principles of sustainability, resulting in prosperity for all community members.

- **Local Food and Agriculture.** Our city models a regional food system that is resilient, locally-focused, healthy, and contributes to the overall enjoyment, development and health of our community, its individual members, and our local ecosystems.



To learn more about the ICSP process or to read the ICSP document, visit the City of Williams Lake Website at www.williamslake.ca.