

# Amending the RGS

## Possible Change:

*The process for making changes to the RGS will be explained and included in the updated RGS. A clear and transparent process will be used when changes to the RGS are considered.*

### What is meant by a “clear and transparent amendment process” for the RGS?

A transparent public process is inclusive of everyone and is open to public scrutiny. This ensures that all concerned would be informed of and involved in decisions that affect the sustainability of the region.

### Why is this important for a sustainable region?

The ability to participate in public processes is important as there is a strong desire by many community members to be directly involved in making key decisions that support sustainability. To participate effectively there must be easy access to information on both the process in question and on the particular item being decided upon. Otherwise, unfamiliarity with the process can lead to apathy and a sense of disempowerment.

A report on public participation by the B.C. Auditor General stated “that the vast majority of Canadians would feel better about government decision-making if they knew that governments sought input from the average citizens on a regular basis.”

To ensure consistency, fairness and transparency, there should be some general requirements for each amendment proposal such as following the same decision making process, using the same notification process, clearly stating how the public will be consulted, and following the same formal adoption process. All of these steps should be clearly identified in the RGS.

### How can the RGS ensure that amendments follow a fair, transparent and consistent process?

Amendment to the RGS could be by “bylaw only”, to ensure a consistent process for all changes regardless of where the amendment originates and for greater public scrutiny of changes. For bylaw amendments, a consultation strategy would have to be developed for each amendment and each RDN Board member would vote on the bylaw.

The RGS could also clarify when amendments may be considered “minor” and not subject to the regular bylaw amendment process. The definition of “minor” and the process for these amendments would also be included in the RGS.

