

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE OF RECREATION AND PARKS BC we have learned about planning done by communities within our sector. Another important example of planning is what we've done as a sector: the creation of our sectoral strategic plan, *The Way Forward*.

Intended to "...stimulate cooperation, galvanize new energy and inspire a deeper commitment to fulfilling our vision for the future ..." *The Way Forward* coordinates stakeholders, assets, programs and initiatives and proposes a definitive action plan to guide us through the next decade. In addition to being a strategic plan for the sector, *The Way Forward* is also a valuable planning aid for all stakeholders within our sector, and a resource for the partners and organizations with whom we work. *The Way Forward* is both a plan and a planning tool.

For each of us, the sectoral strategic plan can be used to support the creation of our own strategic plans. *The Way Forward* provides a philosophical framework for the basis of planning, providing examples of vision and mission statements that can be emulated or serve as a foundation from which to create your own. The Plan's overall framework of healthy individuals and communities, and sustainable environments and economies can be easily adopted and adapted as a framework at the local level. Similarly, the Strategic Result Areas (SRAs) can be used as examples and guidelines for identifying and setting your own SRAs.

The development of *The Way Forward* follows a common strategic planning format that can serve as a model when engaging in your own process. The Trends section will help you to identify likely shifts at the local level and provide an environmental context within which to base a plan. A series of Performance Indicators are identified under the four areas of the Framework (Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities, Sustainable Environments, and Sustainable Economies). Every one of these indicators is applicable at the local and organizational level as a performance measure and means of evaluating progress in your own community and organization.

As we work with external partners and organizations, the sectoral strategic plan provides a comprehensive overview of our sector, our history, common goals, and priorities – all valuable information that will increase their understanding of, and help them better align themselves with, our sector.

For senior government, *The Way Forward* is a tool that illustrates how our sector's goals align with theirs and showcases our contemporary role as a province-wide leader and strategic partner in enhancing individuals' quality of life, in building healthy communities, in protecting our environment, and in supporting the economy. The proposed action plan demonstrates the proactive and collaborative measures we are taking, as a sector, to move forward in meeting our common goals and outlines the role government can play in making this happen.

The Way Forward is a valuable guide and resource for our sector as we collectively, and individually, plan for the future and work toward fulfilling our shared vision of a high quality of life for all in British Columbia.

An electronic version of *The Way Forward*, and related tools and resources, can be accessed from the BCRPA web site at: www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about_bcrpa/sectoral_strategic_plan.htm

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250.591.1976 • jessica@shawbiz.ca • gemelladesign.ca • 310 Fitzwilliam St. Nanaimo