



City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

February 20, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Okanagan Mission Residents Association is one of Kelowna's largest and most active community associations in recent decades. OMRA was formed for the following purposes as outlined in our constitution:

- To promote the interests of the residents within the boundaries of the Association including the quality of life of the community members and the quality of the environment.
- To proactively facilitate dialogue and interact with the City of Kelowna and other levels of government, on all matters affecting the present and future quality of life of Okanagan Mission residents including, but not limited to, land use planning, transportation, parks, pedestrian systems, transit, and our air and water quality. The Association will endeavor to ensure the concerns of Okanagan Mission residents are considered in the City's decision-making process, and will strive to ensure that due process is followed on all City matters affecting the residents of the Okanagan Mission area.

Public engagement and consultation for the new Official Community included the "Pick your Path to 2040" engagement process which presented four growth scenarios to the public in mid-2018. Scenarios 3 and 4 focused on shifting density to our urban centres, and reports by City staff dated July 30, 2018 outlined the many benefits of growth Scenarios 3 and 4 based on the public feedback, which included:

- Smaller increases in future infrastructure replacement and maintenance costs. Only 4.5% of the respondents wanted to see higher infrastructure costs in the future which would result from continuing to allow dispersed (sprawl) development in suburban areas.
- More mobility options such as transit and cycling, and more homes closer to employment and amenities were preferred by 60.4%.
- Less need to drive in traffic was preferred by 71% of the public, and a similar percentage reported that the physical health benefits of living near services and amenities were important to them.

Overall, 71.7% of respondents preferred either growth scenario 3 or 4. These two scenarios ranked highest on all major policy indicators, including agricultural protection, financial resiliency, health and safety, climate change mitigation, and travel choices. All of these will greatly impact quality of life for existing residents and voters.

During the recent election, a consortium of community groups asked candidates which growth scenario they supported. Six of the current council members openly supported Scenario 3; one partially supported Scenario 4; one preferred a mid-point between 2 and 3, and one did not respond to the question.

We understand that extensive lobbying is underway at this time with the intention of pressuring council to revoke their selection of Scenario 3 on December 10, 2018, and switch to a new sprawl-oriented Scenario 2.5 which closely resembles Scenario 2. A decision for any of the sprawl-oriented scenarios will cost taxpayers more money in the future and diminish the quality of life for Kelowna residents, as outlined in the July 30, 2018 staff report.

Our next OCP should be focused on achieving the long term benefits of focused growth in our urban core and urban centres. OMRA believes that the overwhelming majority of Kelowna residents who selected Scenarios 3 and 4 in "Pick your Path to 2040" should carry the most weight in deciding the future of our community. As taxpayers, we flatly reject the larger tax increases which will result from Scenarios 1, 2, or 2.5, the increased congestion on our roadways, and the reduced mobility options that would be available to citizens in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Schlamp', written in a cursive style.

Darren Schlamp

President, Okanagan Mission Residents Association

