



## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### Executive Summary

The mandate of the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition is to provide oversight and leadership in the implementation of various mountain pine beetle mitigation plans. *To work to ensure the sustainable development and resiliency of the region by:*

1. Completing projects that were initiated concurrent with the planning phase;
2. Facilitating the implementation of at least one high priority project from each sector strategy while concurrently strengthening delivery partnerships;
3. Providing leadership and support that enhances the climate for ongoing collaborative implementation of strategies; and
4. Providing advice to the Provincial Government.

The region's local governments have worked together and with the Province and local stakeholders to produce a Blueprint for Action. Consisting of a set of capstone objectives and nine regional strategies, the blueprint describes what must be done to maintain the regions' community and economic strength in the face of changing circumstances.

The OBAC Strategies are directed principally at senior government officials, but also inform community leaders at all levels, policy makers, private sector businesses, funding agencies, residents, First Nations, industry associations, economic development organizations, service providers, and interest groups. We believe the strategies are/will be most successful when/if they are actively discussed, adapted and ultimately owned by the communities and other stakeholders in the OBAC region that are positioned to move forward on the actions proposed. OBAC's role is to facilitate discussion, in partnership with government. As a broadly representative body, OBAC is strategically positioned to facilitate the necessary dialogue and engage collaboratively with other organizations to take the strategies off the page and into the life of the region.

While working to see achievement of the Blueprint for Action, the Coalition will undertake a number of strategically important projects. The 246 actions identified in regional strategies could lead to several hundred projects, however, projects will stem from the Interim Action Plans created with each strategy. These selected actions had *the most potential for immediate implementation and/or were essential for further development* of the Blueprint for Action. The Coalition's role is to champion these actions, by providing oversight, leadership and, leveraging funding and support.

OBAC will actively encourage the appropriate parties to advance all the recommendations and specific actions identified in the strategies. It is understood, however, that this does not mean

that every action will be completed exactly as it is currently described – as work progresses and circumstances evolve, actions are expected to fall into a number of categories:

- a. Addressed through existing initiatives,
- b. Implemented as described,
- c. Intent is achieved, but through different means, and
- d. Deferred or dropped with reasons.

The Coalition will encourage and support pilot projects that promote learning and new processes applicable to communities across the region. The dissemination of knowledge gained will be a required deliverable for approved projects.

**Project Priority 1:**

Complete projects that are already underway and projects for which a financial commitment has been made . Where a financial commitment has been made subject to other funding, the \$ may be reallocated if the project does not proceed within a reasonable time.

**Project Priority 2:**

Invest in member led and OBAC supported projects that are ready to be operational preferably in six months or less and produce measurable results within the fiscal year (projects may continue in subsequent years, but must be showing tangible results). Leveraged funding from outside the region and/or with a federal component is encouraged where possible.

**Project Priority 3:**

Invest in projects that require design and feasibility work, and/or additional in-house resources by OBAC, and that may take more than a year to produce tangible results. Where possible leverage funding from outside the region and preferably with a federal component.

The selection of these projects will be based upon the following guidelines:

- ✓ Consistency with the regional strategies and the broad input they received;
- ✓ Contribution to building long-term partnerships and benefits that strengthen the region's communities and economy;
- ✓ Value and relevance at the regional level;
- ✓ Contribution to the building of long-term capacity in the region;
- ✓ Linkage to provincial strategies, programs and priorities;
- ✓ Positive impact on the region's economic climate, particularly economic diversification and the growth of small businesses;
- ✓ Improvement to the availability, quality or efficient delivery of services;
- ✓ Opportunity to leverage funding and benefits with other initiatives;
- ✓ Availability of partners to participate in project delivery and funding; and
- ✓ The capacity to show measurable progress within defined timelines.
- ✓ Funding available within the OBAC budget