

## **Salmo Official Community Plan (OCP) Update – What Residents Should Know**

The Village of Salmo is updating its Official Community Plan (OCP). The current plan was adopted in 2020, and a new draft plan has been prepared in 2026. The OCP is the long-term policy document that guides how the community grows, where housing and businesses may develop, how infrastructure is planned, and how natural areas are protected.

### **The Big Picture**

The overall vision for Salmo remains largely the same. The community is still planned to remain a small Kootenay village that focuses on quality of life, environmental protection, tourism, and modest growth. The new draft mainly updates information and refines policies rather than completely changing the direction of the community.

### **Key Changes Residents May Notice**

- Updated population and housing data based on the most recent census and housing studies.
- More focus on creating a wider mix of housing options, including smaller homes and rental units.
- Continued support for secondary suites and infill housing within existing neighbourhoods.
- More realistic estimates of how much housing growth the Village can support over time.
- Stronger climate targets that may influence future building efficiency and municipal projects.

### **Housing and Growth**

The draft plan recognizes that Salmo's population has remained relatively stable and that the community is aging. Because of this, the plan encourages housing that works for seniors, smaller households, and people who want to rent. Most future housing growth is expected to happen through infill development within the existing village rather than large new expansion areas.

### **Environment and Water Protection**

The plan continues to prioritize protection of Salmo's aquifer, Erie Creek, and the Salmo River. These areas are critical to the Village's drinking water supply and natural ecosystems. Policies related to wildfire risk reduction, water conservation, and habitat protection remain strong in the new draft.

### **Local Economy**

The plan continues to support small local businesses, tourism, and outdoor recreation. Salmo is also expected to remain a community where many residents commute to nearby towns such as Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson for work.

### **What This Means for Residents**

For most residents, the new OCP will not change day-to-day life. Instead, it helps guide future decisions about development, housing, infrastructure, and environmental protection. It provides a long-term framework that Council and staff use when evaluating new projects and community investments.

### **In Short**

The 2026 draft OCP is primarily an update to the 2020 plan. It keeps the same general vision for Salmo while updating housing data, strengthening climate goals, bolstering the local economy and refining expectations for future growth.