

Planning Vancouver Together

Vancouver Today The City at a Glance

The City of Vancouver is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples, who have lived on these lands since time immemorial.

As a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver has committed to “form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the urban Indigenous community.” This is an ongoing and evolving commitment, and one that is foundational to the long-term success of the Vancouver Plan.

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Planning Vancouver Together

What if, together, we could create a Vancouver where individuals, communities and future generations can thrive?

We are asking for your help in creating the Vancouver we want and need.

Planning Vancouver Together is a strategic planning effort to produce a long-term and actionable city-wide plan. Together, let's create a new Vancouver Plan that sets directions to guide future priorities into 2050 and beyond.

Introduction

About this document

A plan for the future needs to be informed by understanding where we are today — key facts about who lives, works, and plays in Vancouver and trends that are reshaping the city.

Vancouver Today — The City at a Glance provides an overview of the city using a variety of different sources, including the census, which is performed by Statistics Canada every five years. Unless stated otherwise, the data presented is from Statistics Canada.

This background information may be useful as you discuss issues about the Vancouver of today and of the future.

For those who would like more information on key issues for the Vancouver Plan, please see the Reference Guide.

A City on Unceded Territory

Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples, who have lived on these lands for thousands of years. Vancouver is also home to First Nations, Métis and Inuit from across Canada, and Indigenous Peoples from around the world.

On June 25, 2014, Council formally acknowledged that the City of Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. “Unceded” in this context refers to the lack of any treaties between the Crown and local Indigenous Peoples. Neither was the land obtained by purchase or in the rules of war. Thus, the City of

Vancouver and the Park Board operate jurisdiction over lands for which the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples have title and rights.

Vancouver and 95 per cent of B.C. are located on the unceded territories of First Nations. The term serves as a reminder that the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples have never left their territories and will always retain jurisdiction over and relationships with their territories.

This landmark acknowledgment sets the precedent for more involvement from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples in City work and more power-sharing, collaboration and redress.

Additional Resources

The following resources are available for you to learn more about the historical and current relationships the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples have with the land now commonly known as the City of Vancouver:

First Nations’ websites:

musqueam.bc.ca/

squamish.net/

twnation.ca/

Musqueam Place Names Map:

musqueam.bc.ca/our-story/musqueam-territory/place-names-map

Squamish Atlas:

squamishatlas.com

Tsleil-Waututh Nation’s History, Culture and Aboriginal Interests in Eastern Burrard Inlet:

twnsacredtrust.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Morin-Expert-Report-PUBLIC-VERSION-sm.pdf

City resources:

vancouver.ca/people-programs/city-of-reconciliation.aspx

vancouver.ca/files/cov/First-Peoples-A-Guide-for-Newcomers.pdf

The Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples

The following information about the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples is from their respective websites.



x^wməθk^wəyəm
(Musqueam Indian Band)

“We are traditional hə́ŋdəmihə́m speaking people...We have always moved throughout our territory using the resources it provides for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. We remain distinct and our cultural practices are strong, despite the devastating impacts of residential schools, colonial laws banning our ceremonies, and other attempts to assimilate our people. Our lands and waters continue to support our cultural and economic practices while serving as a source of knowledge and memory, encoded with our teachings and laws... To this day, we continue to practice our traditions and culture on a daily basis...x^wməθk^wəyəm people continue to honour our collective responsibilities to keep our culture vital and strong, share our teachings and laws, and work collaboratively to protect our environment while building a vibrant community for all.”

(musqueam.bc.ca)



S_kw_xwú7mesh
(Squamish First Nation)

“The Squamish Nation has existed and prospered within our Traditional Territory since time immemorial. We are Coast Salish people. Our language is the Squamish language. Our society is, and always has been, organized and sophisticated, with complex laws and rules governing all forms of social relations, economic rights and relations with other First Nations. We have never ceded or surrendered title to our lands, rights to our resources or the power to make decisions within our territory... The Squamish culture is rich and resilient. We continue to practice our customs and traditions, which are strongly interconnected with our Traditional Territory. Together with our lands, our customs and traditions are the foundation of who we are as **Skwxwú7mesh**.”

(squamish.net)



səlilwətał
(Tsleil-Waututh First Nation)

“Tsleil-Waututh First Nation: We are the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, “People of the Inlet.” According to archaeological evidence and our oral history, Tsleil-Waututh people have lived in this Traditional Territory for thousands of years. Our ancestors travelled throughout the territory, keeping villages in different locations to live wherever seasonal resources were plentiful. Our lands and waters have shaped our culture and will be central to our way of life for generations to come. We will continue to put the face of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation back on our Traditional Territory, build capacity within our community, and participate on all levels—social, ecological, cultural, economic—in decision making within our lands. It is our obligation and birthright to be the caretakers and protectors of our Traditional Territory.”

(twnation.ca)

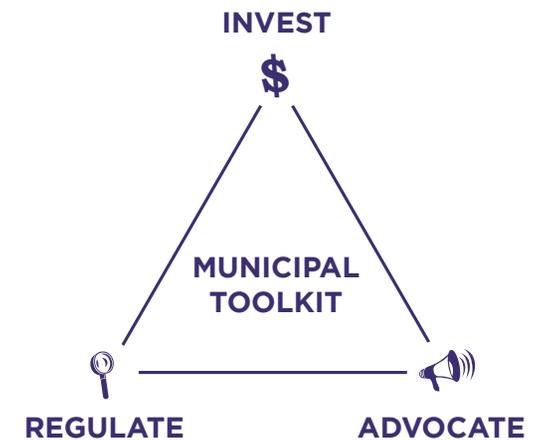
What the City Does

The City of Vancouver provides a wide range of municipal services to residents, workers and visitors. It must also build, maintain and renew the infrastructure and amenities required to provide those services.

Think about your visit to the swimming pool. The City maintains the sidewalks and roads that get you from your home to the pool. The cashiers, lifeguards and cleaning staff help provide the service while at the facility. In the background, the City takes care of the pool building and even the pipes that supply the water, so this experience is available for decades to come.

The City has a limited number of ways to provide these services. Our “municipal toolkit” has three main tools:

- **Invest** City resources (e.g., property taxes or use land to build affordable housing)
- **Regulate** within City powers (e.g., requiring public benefit contributions from development)
- **Advocate** for important issues (e.g., asking senior levels of government to fund public transit).



Who's Involved?

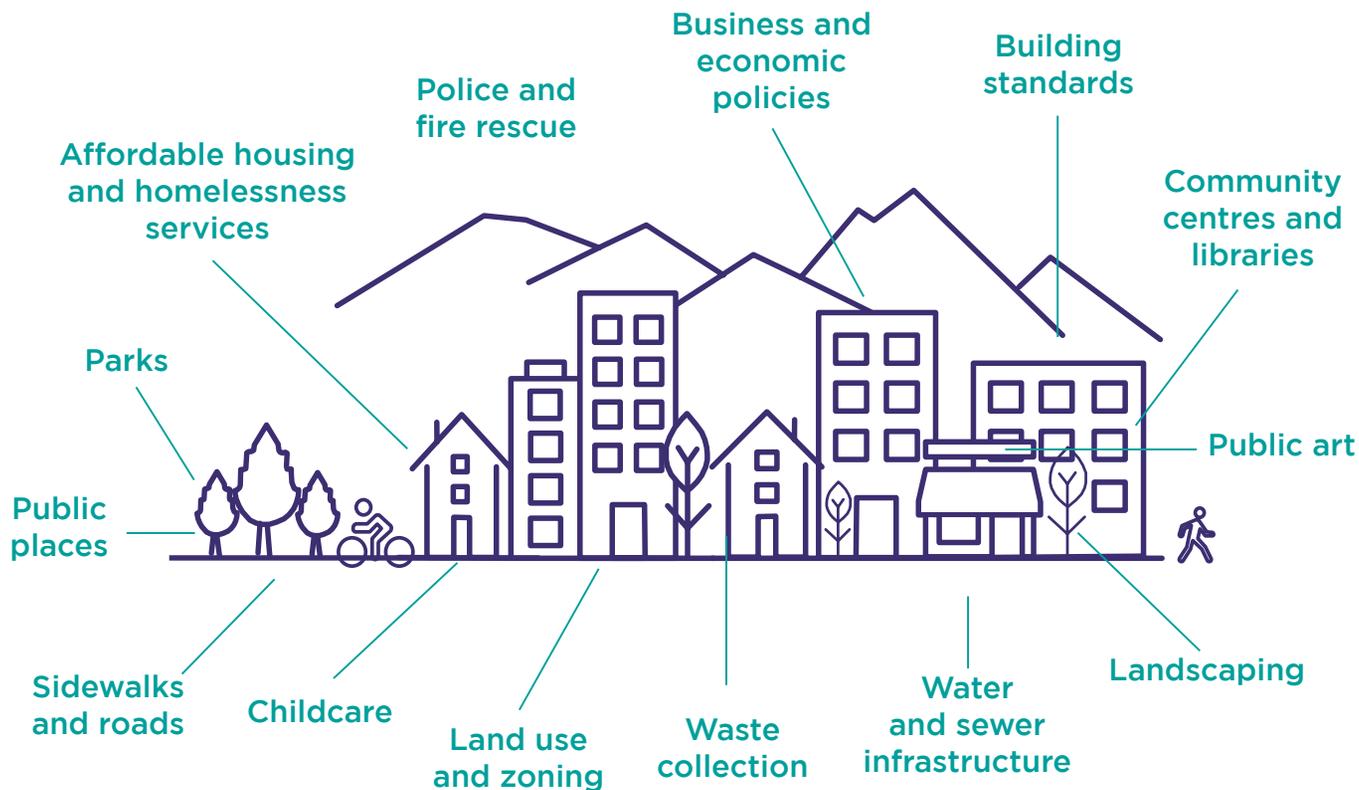
- **City Council:** Made up of the mayor and ten councillors who are elected every four years, Council represents the people of Vancouver and votes on what policies and programs to pursue. Council votes on and implements bylaws.
- **Park Board:** The Park Board is responsible for the care and management of City parks and recreation facilities, and is comprised of seven elected commissioners.
- **Library Board:** Responsible for developing library policy and service strategy, the Library Board is made up of 13 members.

- **Police Board:** provides civilian governance and oversight of policing with appointed board members.
- **Commissions and Advisory Committees:** These special bodies serve Council by providing advice and making decisions on specific areas. Examples include the Vancouver City Planning Commission, the Renters Advisory Committee and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.
- **City of Vancouver staff:** Overseen by the city manager, City of Vancouver staff contribute to the day-to-day administration of the City's affairs and long-term strategic planning and management.

Also Involved

Vancouver School Board (VSB): The VSB includes nine elected trustees as well as student trustees. They provide education services, including operating schools, hiring teachers, and setting budgets, for Vancouver and the neighbouring University Endowment Lands.

Here are Just a Few of the Services The City Provides:



What are Senior Levels of Government Responsible For?

- Ports, rail, and airports
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Childcare
- Housing
- The Vancouver Charter (this defines what the City of Vancouver has the power to do)

The City of Vancouver often partners with senior levels of government to help deliver important services such as housing and childcare projects.

What Do Regional Agencies Do?

The City of Vancouver works with agencies such as Metro Vancouver (governed by elected officials from each municipality), TransLink, and Vancouver Coastal Health. Together, we can deliver services at a regional level, including:

- Public transit
- Major water and sewer lines that cross city boundaries
- Compost, recycling, landfills
- Air and water quality monitoring

VANCOUVER HAS:



**THE VANCOUVER
LANDFILL AT
BURNS BOG IS
SCHEDULED TO
CLOSE IN:**



Creating a Common Vision For Our Future City

We have an opportunity to create Vancouver's first strategic plan in decades. By establishing a clear vision, we can ensure that the decisions we make today lead us toward a future that we, together, desire and the Vancouver Plan will help unify existing plans and current programs underway.

City-wide strategies, such as the Healthy City Strategy, Culture|Shift and Housing Vancouver, will be building blocks within the Vancouver Plan. City staff will work collaboratively to ensure that input we receive as part of other processes informs the Vancouver Plan, and vice versa.

In the end, the creation of a new Vancouver Plan will identify new priorities that require us to update current policy. Until that time, all existing policies will remain in effect.

Note: Diagram opposite is for illustrative purposes only and does not show all strategies and plans.





The City at a Glance

This Land

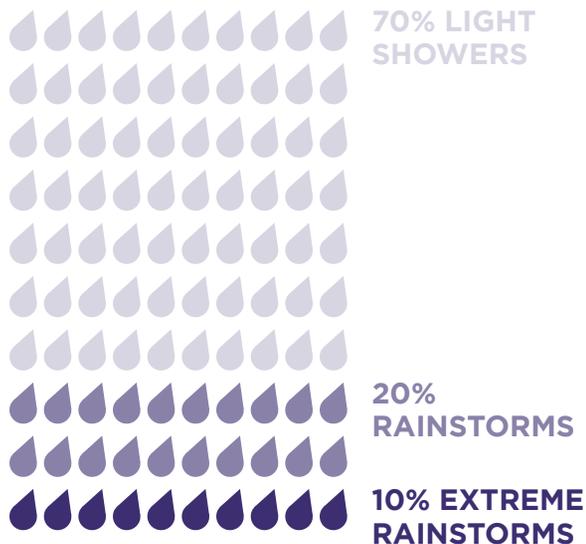
Setting

Vancouver is a coastal city at the foot of the North Shore Mountains, situated between the Salish Sea and the Fraser River. Vancouver sits on the Burrard Peninsula, or Ulksen in the Squamish language, a shallow glacial deposit from the retreat of the last ice sheets 11,000 years ago.

Climate

As a coastal temperate rainforest, Vancouver has a rainy climate and moderate temperatures, which support tall trees and lush green landscapes.

ON AVERAGE, IT RAINS OVER 160 DAYS AND BETWEEN 1,200-1,600 MILLIMETRES A YEAR.



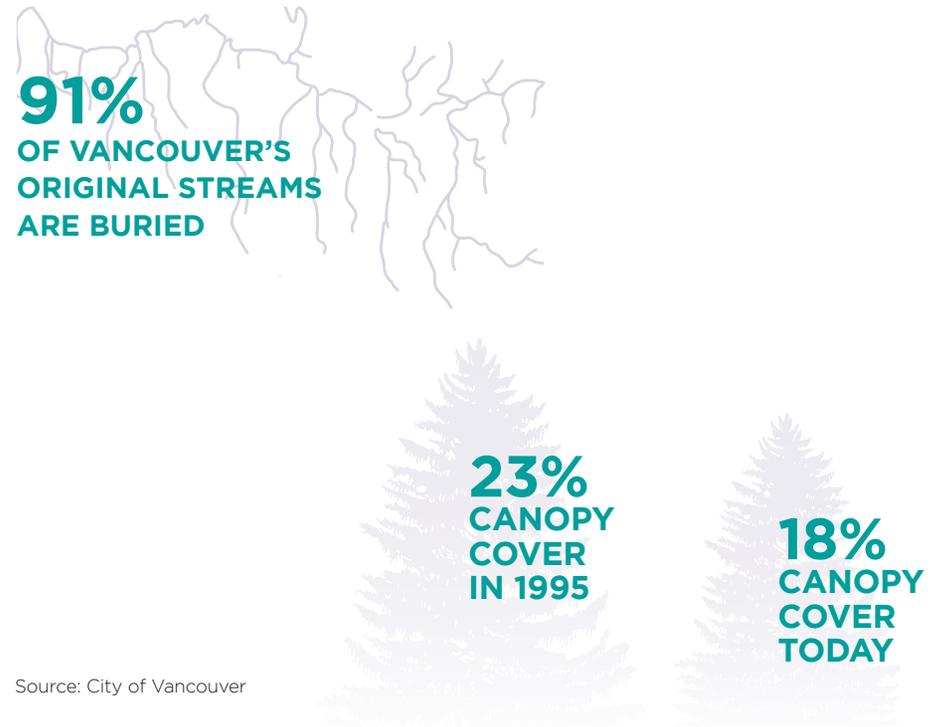
Source: City of Vancouver

Natural Systems

From large natural areas like Stanley Park to small neighbourhood parks, nature takes many forms in the city and its benefits are wide-reaching.

Vancouver is an urban centre integrated with a wild and natural environment. The unparalleled natural beauty of this land is one reason it is rated among the most livable cities in the world.

Environmental stewardship began with the First Peoples who have looked after this land for millennia. We have much to learn from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples and their deep connection to the land and waters.



Source: City of Vancouver

Who Lives Here?

Did You Know?

631,486

PEOPLE LIVE IN
VANCOUVER



HOUSEHOLDS
WITH CHILDREN:

30%

MEDIAN AGE:

41

ON AVERAGE
THERE ARE
2.2 PEOPLE
PER HOUSEHOLD



Vancouver Is One of the Most Diverse Cities in the World



52%

VISIBLE MINORITY

Visible minority groups make up the majority of the city. The most common visible minority population groups are Chinese, South Asian and Filipino.



42%

IMMIGRANT POPULATION

The most common places of birth for immigrants in Vancouver are China, the Philippines and Hong Kong.



46%

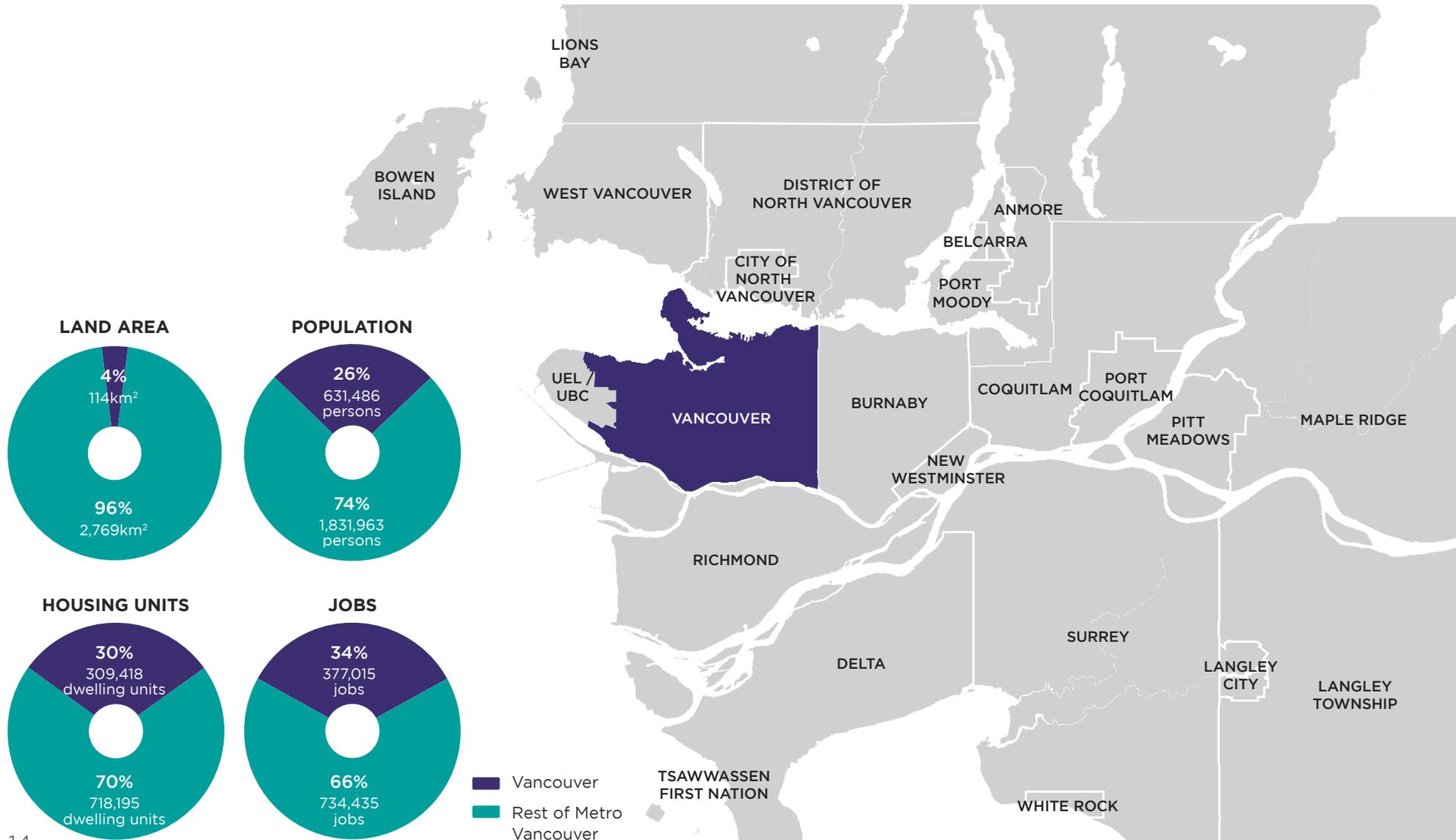
**SPEAK A NON-ENGLISH
MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE**

The original languages of the area now called Vancouver are **hən̓q̓əmiñəm**, **Skw̓xwú7mesh** and **sníchim**. Today, the most common non-English mother tongue languages are Cantonese, Mandarin and Tagalog.

A Growing City and Region

Vancouver is part of the Metro Vancouver region in B.C. Metro Vancouver is made up of a federation of 21 municipalities, one Electoral Area and one Treaty First Nation. As a member municipality, the City of Vancouver supports the Metro Vancouver

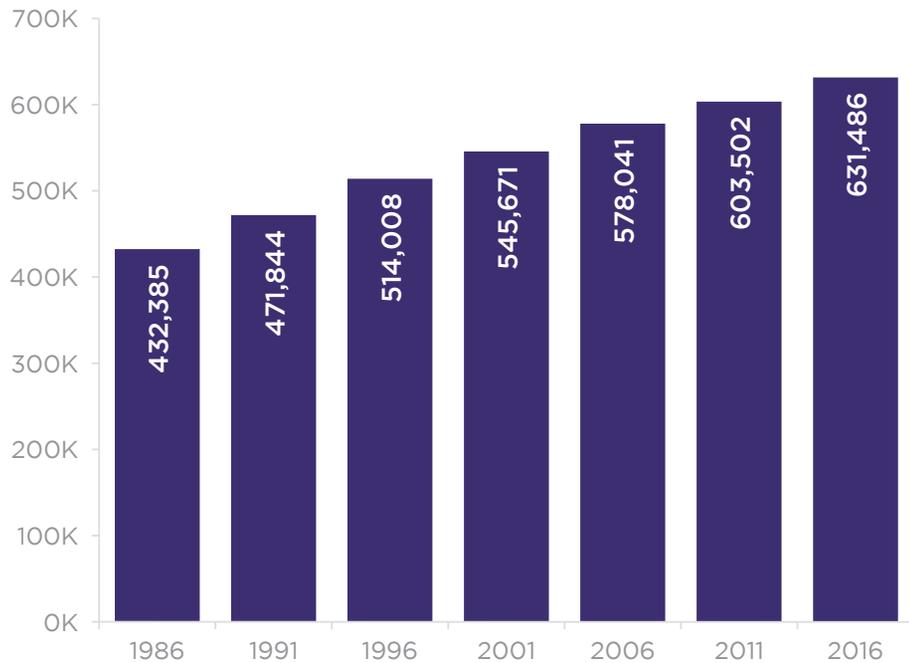
Regional Growth Strategy — Metro 2040 by aligning growth management policies with regional directions through our Regional Context Statement, which has been approved by City Council.



A Growing City and Region

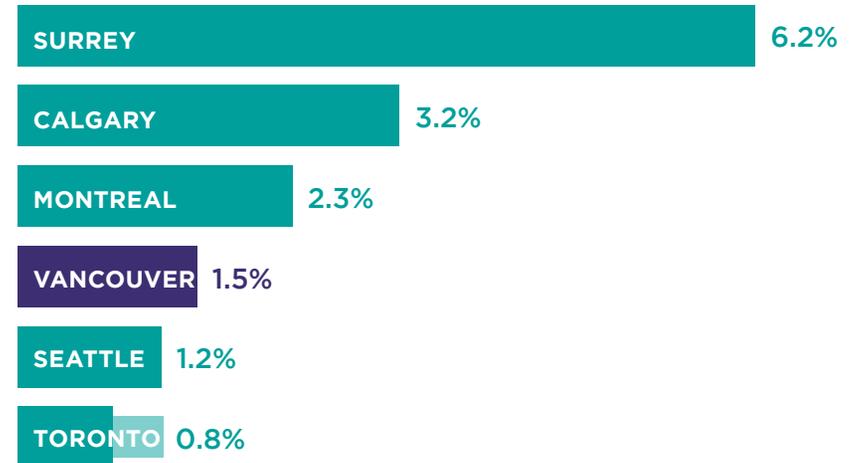
Vancouver is the centre of a rapidly growing region — a region that is expected to grow to about 830,000 people and add more than 345,000 new jobs by 2040. Over the last ten years, this growth has translated into an additional 5,500 or so people per year calling Vancouver home.

Population in Vancouver (1986-2016)



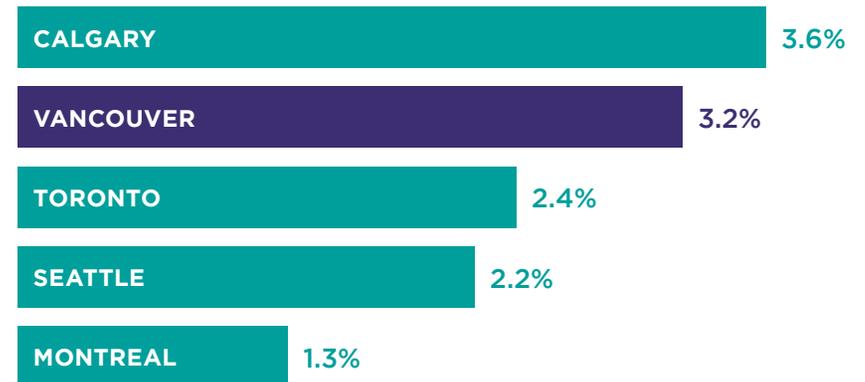
Population Growth in Cities (1986-2016)*

Average annual population growth rate.



Population Growth in Metropolitan Regions (1986-2016)*

Average annual population growth rate.



Source: Statistics Canada, 1981-2016 Census; United States Census Bureau, 1980-2010; Washington Regional Economic Analysis Project, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue MSA vs. Washington Comparative Trends Report: Population, 1969-2016.

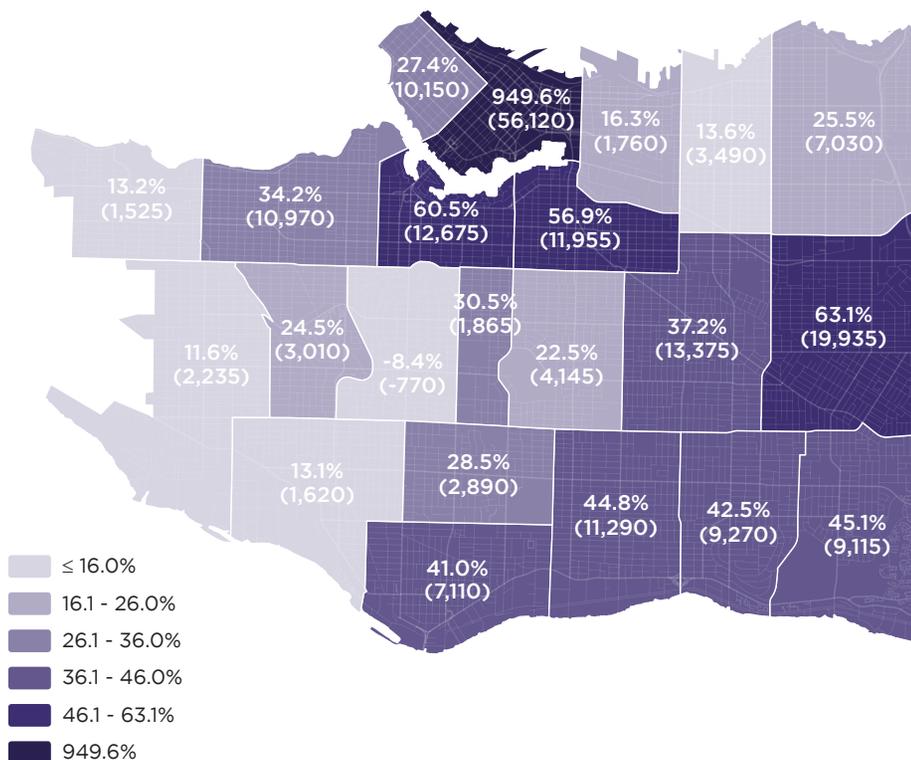
*1986 and 2016 data for Seattle and its metropolitan region are estimates based off best available data between United States censuses, which occur every 10 years.

How has the Population Changed?

Population Change from 1986 to 2016

Since 1986, the population in Vancouver has grown by 46 per cent. Growth has not been evenly distributed across the city. This map shows population growth since 1986 at the neighbourhood level.

46% POPULATION GROWTH FROM 1986 TO 2016

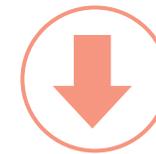


An Aging Population

Like many cities, Vancouver is experiencing an aging population. The baby boom generation, who were born in the years following the Second World War, has already reached or is approaching 65 years of age.



15% OF THE POPULATION IS OVER THE AGE OF 65 AND THIS NUMBER IS INCREASING

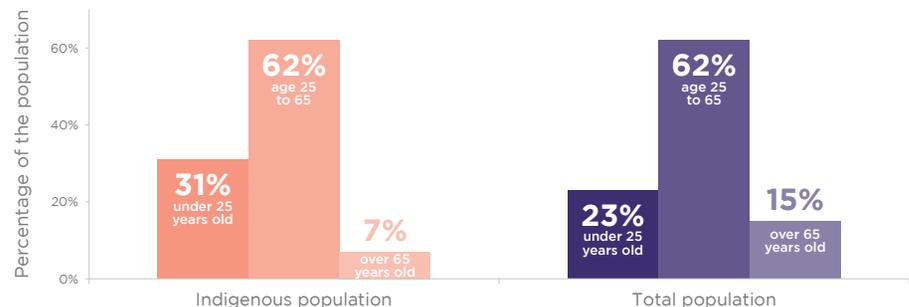


SINCE 1986, THE POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS OLD HAS DECREASED FROM 14% TO 11%

Growth of Vancouver's Indigenous Population

Vancouver's Indigenous population is growing faster than the overall population. From 2006 to 2016 the number of people with Indigenous identity grew 25 per cent; the non-Indigenous population grew 8 per cent.

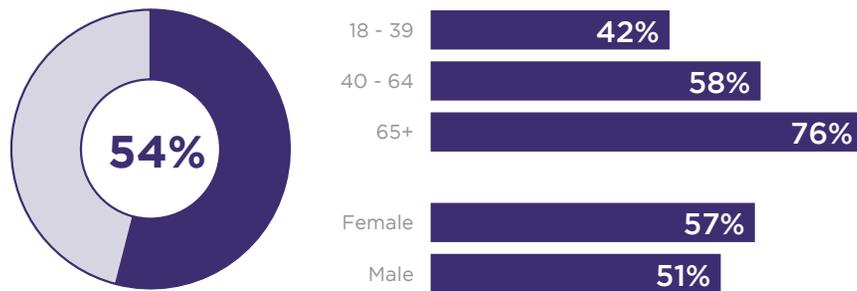
Vancouver's urban Indigenous population is younger than the city's average: 31 per cent of Indigenous people in Vancouver were under 25, compared to 23 percent of the total population; 7 per cent of Indigenous people in Vancouver were over 65, compared to 15 per cent of the total population.



What is the Well-being of Our Community?

Sense of Belonging

In Vancouver, 54 per cent of people surveyed feel a strong sense of community belonging. This sense of belonging is higher among Vancouver's seniors and females.



Source: My Health, My Community

Note: In this survey, people were asked to identify as male, female, transvariant or transgender, or prefer not to answer. The number of transvariant or transgender was too low to report out.

Children Who Are Ready for School



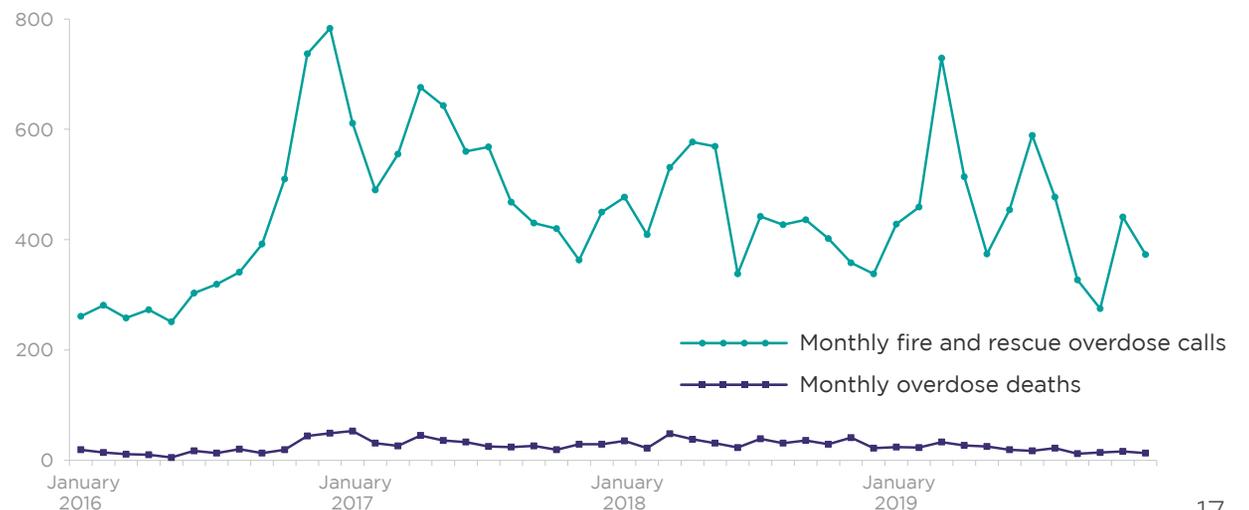
Source: UBC HELP, Early Development Instrument

Overdose Crisis

Vancouver's Overdose Crisis continues to be severely impacted by the mix of a long-standing mental health and public health crisis, and increasingly potent and toxic drug supply. The historically high number of overdoses being responded to has continued to increase in the past two years. Partners in health, public safety, and the community support access to harm reduction and treatment services for people affected by opioid addiction.

Source: Fire and Rescue Services; BC Coroners Service

Monthly Fire and Rescue Overdose Calls and Overdose Deaths

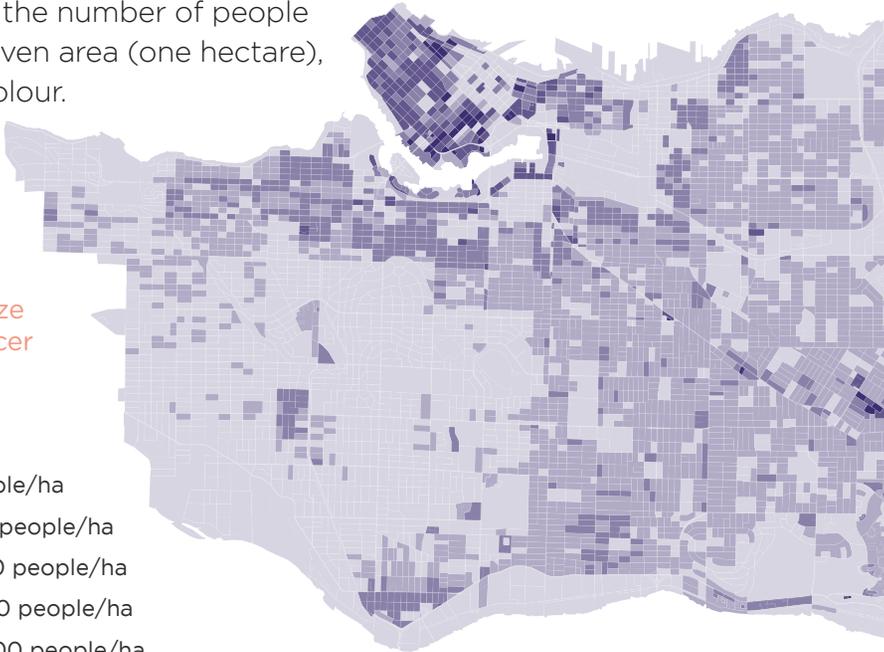
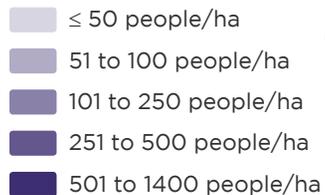


Where do People Live and in What Kinds of Housing?

Population Density

Population density is shown on this map as the number of people living in a given area (one hectare), coded by colour.

A hectare is about the size of most soccer fields.



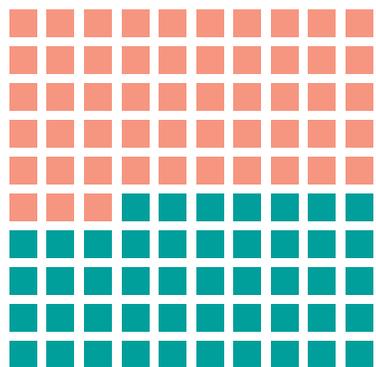
Did You Know?

Detached homes make up 15 per cent of dwelling units in the city and properties with detached homes make up 52 per cent of the city's land area. In Vancouver, properties with detached homes can have a secondary suite and a laneway house.

DETACHED HOUSES MAKE UP:



*Excluding parks and schools; Source: City of Vancouver Parcels and Zoning, 2018

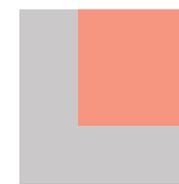


53%
OF HOUSEHOLDS
RENT

47%
OF HOUSEHOLDS
OWN

MEDIAN INCOME OF
RENTER HOUSEHOLDS
\$50,250

MEDIAN INCOME OF
OWNER HOUSEHOLDS
\$88,431



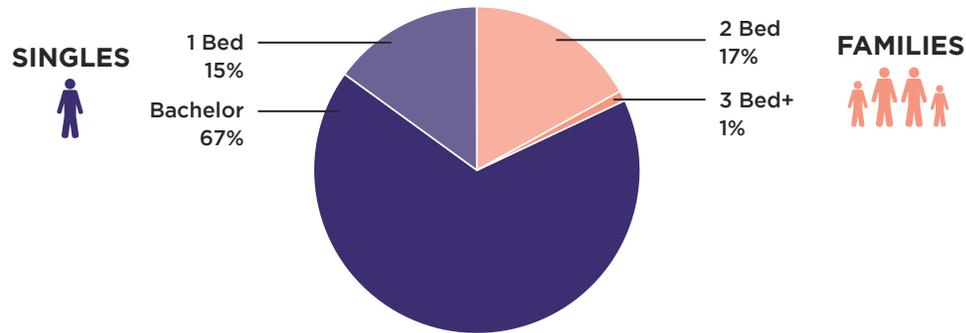
44%
OF RENTER HOUSEHOLDS
SPEND 30% OR MORE OF THEIR
INCOME ON SHELTER COSTS



28%
OF OWNER HOUSEHOLDS
SPEND 30% OR MORE OF THEIR
INCOME ON SHELTER COSTS

Family Purpose-Built Market-Rental Housing Stock

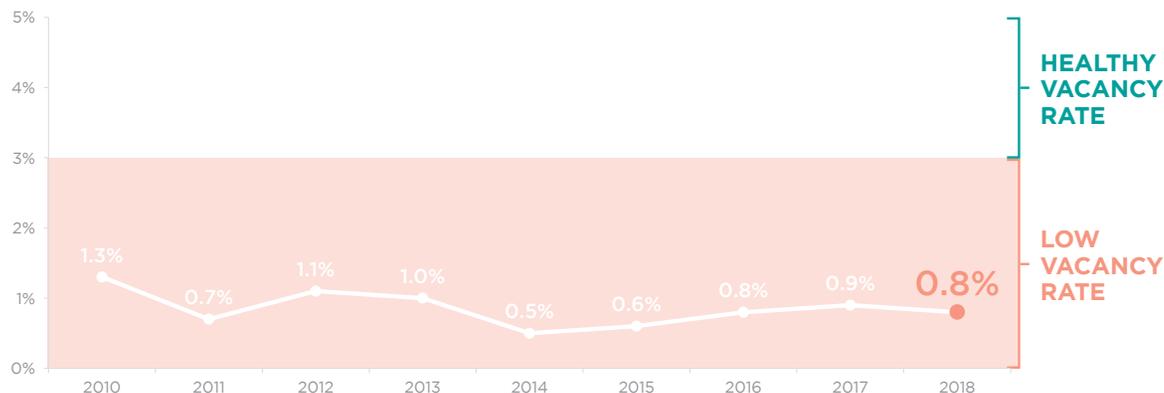
A challenge many families face is finding suitable accommodation at an affordable price, which can necessitate changing neighbourhoods or looking for a different type of housing. The addition of children usually requires more space in the form of additional rooms, which may not be available or affordable.



Source: CMHC Rental Market Survey, 2018

Vancouver Has a Very Low Vacancy Rate

Vancouver renters today are facing extremely low vacancy. Vancouver's rental housing vacancy rate continues to sit below 1 per cent, which is well below a healthy rate range of 3 to 5 per cent.



Source: CMHC Rental Market Survey, 2018

Homelessness

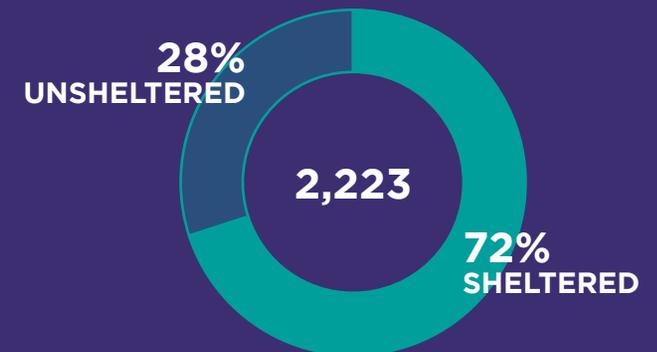
Vancouver's homeless population is increasing, but so is the proportion that are sheltered.

The absolute numbers of people who are experiencing homelessness has increased from 1364 in 2005 to 2,223 in 2019. However, the proportion of sheltered homeless has increased from 57 per cent to 72 per cent over the same period of time.

2005:



2019:



Source: City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver

Where do People Work and in What Kinds of Jobs?

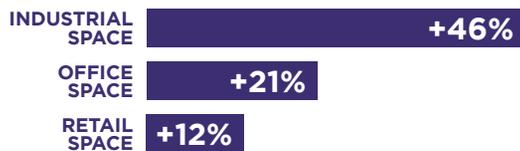
Did You Know?

THERE ARE
377,000
JOBS IN VANCOUVER

The largest sectors in Vancouver are: professional, scientific and technical services; healthcare and social assistance; accommodation and food services; and retail.



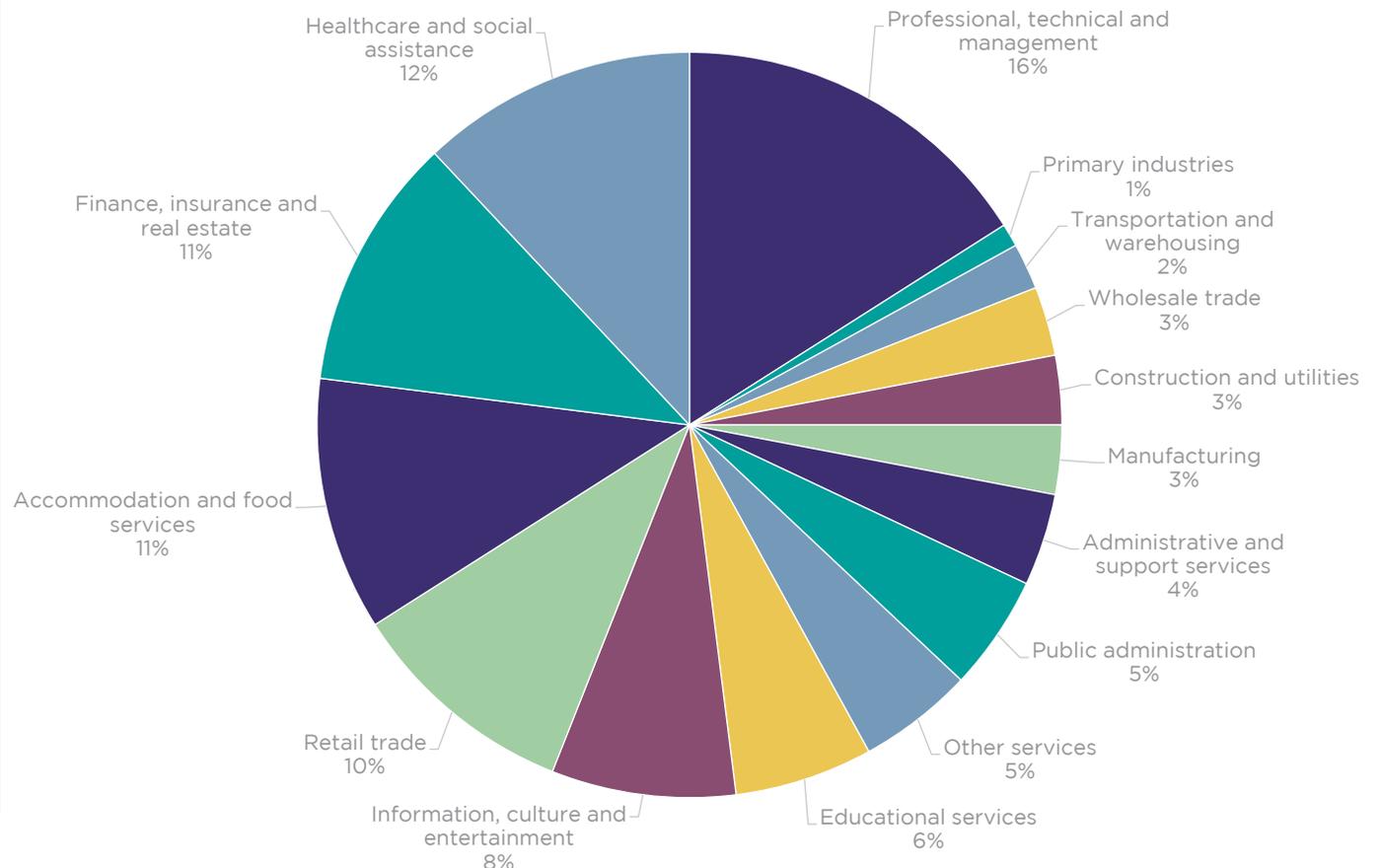
Over the past four years, net asking rents have increased for office space, retail space and industrial space.



Source: CoStar

Distribution of Jobs (2016)

Vancouver has jobs in a wide variety of sectors. No single sector accounts for more than 16 per cent of total jobs.



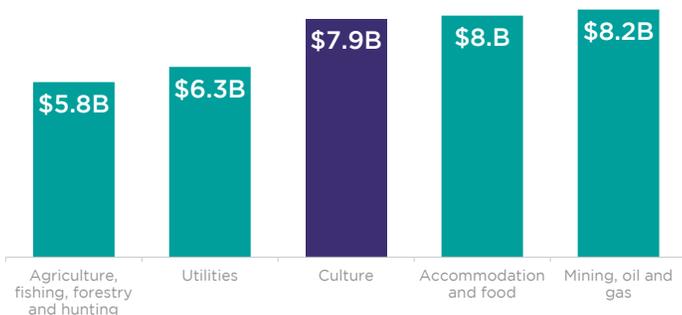
The Non-Profit Sector in B.C.

The non-profit sector contributes \$6.4 billion to B.C.'s GDP and community non-profits alone account for 86,000 jobs in the Province.



Economic Impact of the Culture Sector in B.C.

The creative industries and cultural sector are critical to economic prosperity. In B.C., the cultural sector represents 2.7 of our GDP, approximately \$7.9 billion.



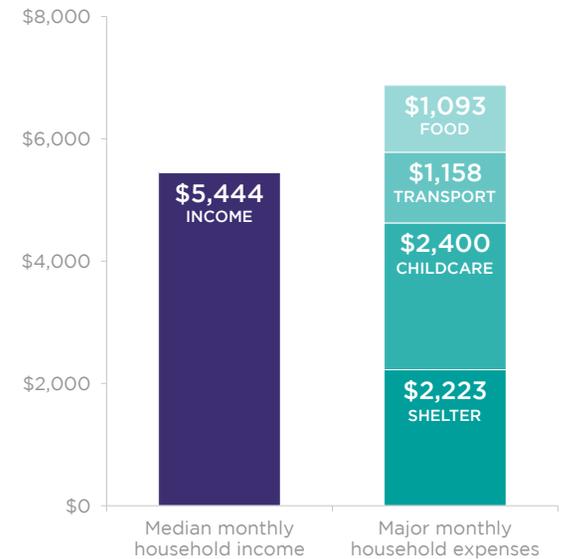
Are Incomes Keeping Up with Expenses?

An Estimate of Major Monthly Expenses for a Family of Four

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN VANCOUVER:

\$65,327
annually or

\$5,444
monthly



Shelter: \$2,223/month. This is the median rent for a three- or more bedroom home in Vancouver.¹

Childcare: \$2,400/month. This is the average cost of having one three- to five-year-old (\$1,000 a month) and one 0-3 year old (\$1,400 a month) in licensed, full-day childcare in Vancouver.²

Transportation: \$1,158/month. This is an estimate of spending on public and private transportation for households in B.C.³

Food: \$1,093/month. This is an estimate of the monthly food costs for a family of four in Vancouver.⁴

1 Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation

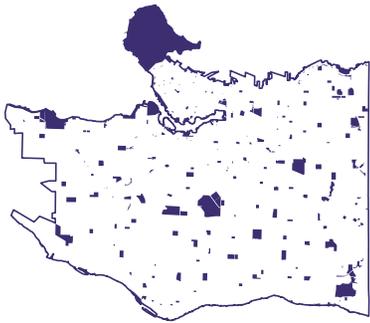
2 Childcare Fee Review - West Coast Child Care Resource Centre

3 Statistics Canada, Household Spending in BC, 2017

4 BC Centre for Disease Control

Where do People Play, Socialize and Learn?

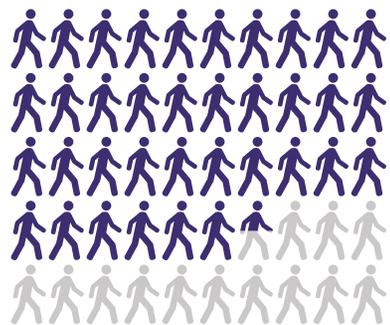
Did You Know?



THERE ARE
242
PARKS

TOTALLING OVER
1,452 HA

Source: VanPlay: Inventory and Analysis, 2018



73%
OF VANCOUVER
RESIDENTS LIVE
WITHIN A FIVE-
MINUTE WALK
OF A PARK OR
GREENSPACE

Source: City of Vancouver; Vancouver Parks Board; Design Workshop Analysis

The Seawall

The Seawall is the world's longest uninterrupted waterfront path. The 28-kilometer Seaside Greenway is an uninterrupted pathway that includes the Stanley Park Seawall and extends from the Vancouver Convention Centre to Spanish Banks Park. Perfect for a walk, cycle, or jog, it is the most popular recreational spot in the city.

AT 28 KM
THE SEAWALL IS THE
WORLD'S LONGEST
UNINTERRUPTED
WATERFRONT PATH

Source: City of Vancouver

Outdoor Recreation

THE PARK SYSTEM
INCLUDES:

166
PLAYGROUNDS

150
MULTIPURPOSE
SPORTS FIELDS

119
BALL DIAMONDS

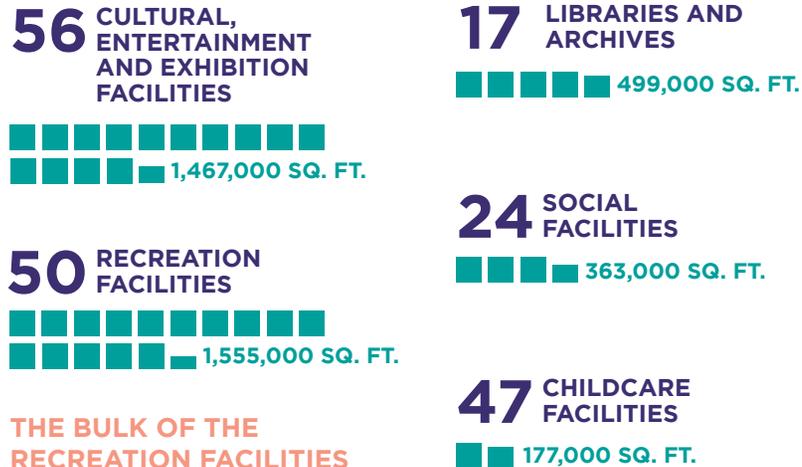
36
DOG OFF-LEASH
AREAS

1,000
COMMUNITY
GARDEN PLOTS

Source: City of Vancouver

City-Owned Community Facilities

Community facilities, such as community centres, pools, libraries and neighbourhood houses support social, physical and cultural well-being. These community hubs provide a platform for people to gather and participate, get active and engage with their community.

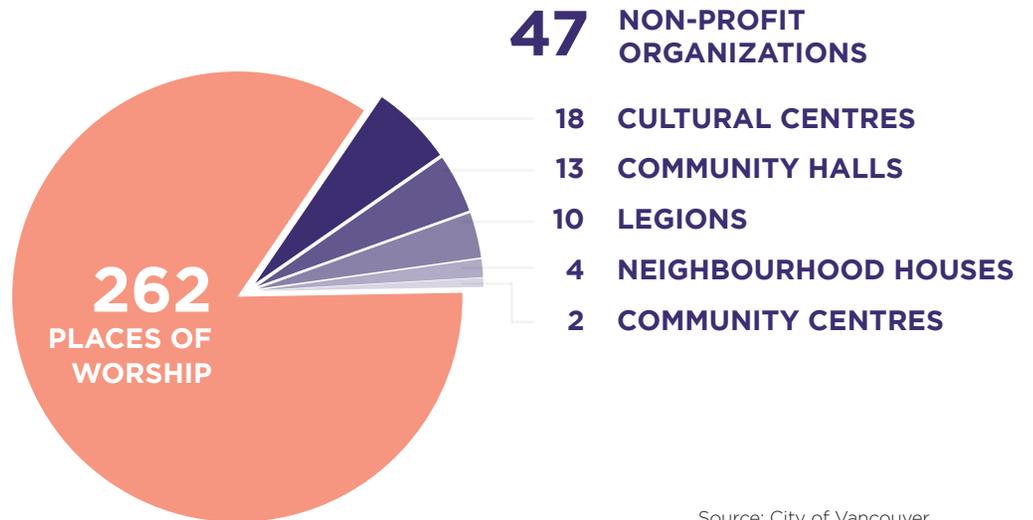


THE BULK OF THE RECREATION FACILITIES WERE BUILT BETWEEN 1945 AND 1980

Source: City of Vancouver

Community Serving Spaces

Community serving spaces are affordable spaces that support important programs and services, including childcare, cultural programs, kitchen and food programs, shelters, recreational programs and non-profit programs and services (e.g., Girl Guides, martial arts). This graphic shows the number of community serving spaces not owned by the City, which includes Places of Worship and Non-Profit Organizations.



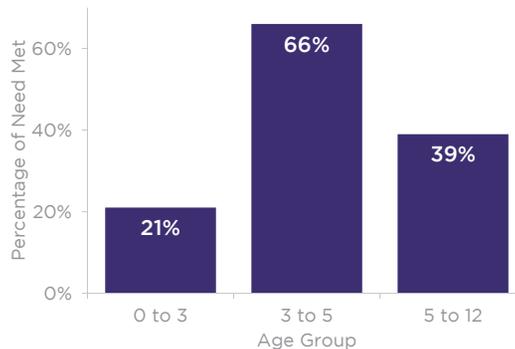
Source: City of Vancouver

Childcare

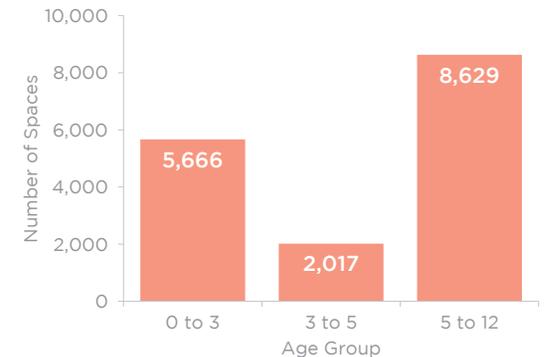
Quality licensed childcare improves healthy outcomes for children, supports the workforce participation of parents, and helps to equalize outcomes between disadvantaged children and their peers. However, for most Vancouver families, quality, licensed childcare is not only unaffordable, but also hard to find.

Source: City of Vancouver

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDCARE NEED MET



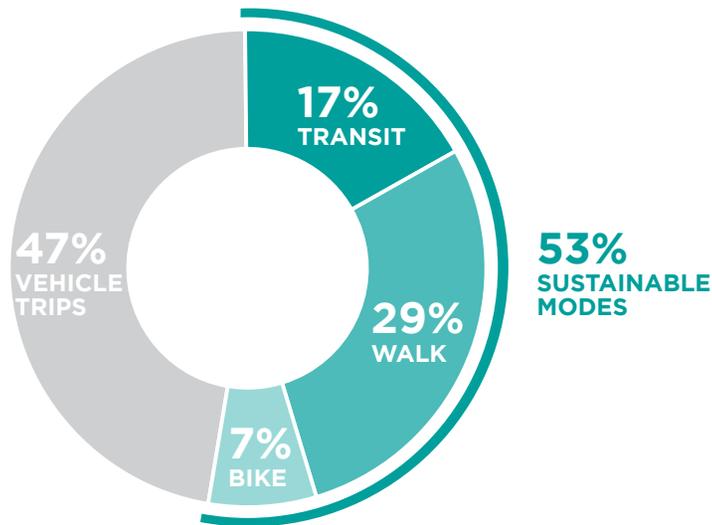
SHORTFALL OF CHILDCARE SPACES



How do People and Goods Move Around?

Sustainable Mode Share

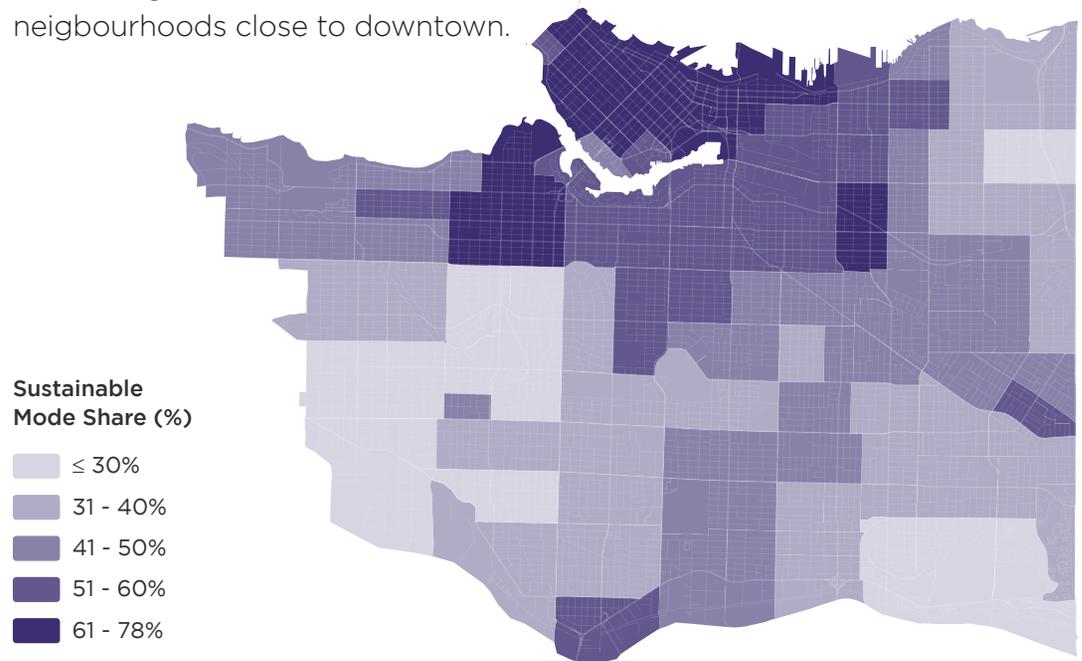
In Vancouver, 53 per cent of trips are taken by sustainable modes. Sustainable modes of travel include walking, biking and cycling.



Source: Vancouver Panel Survey, 2018

Sustainable Mode Share Varies Across the City

Sustainable mode share for trips to work is highest downtown and in neighbourhoods close to downtown.



Did You Know?

SHARED BIKES:



Source: Vancouver Panel Survey, 2018

SHARED CARS:



SENIORS MAKE UP:



Source: VPD Traffic Fatality Data, 2011-2018; VGH Traffic Injury Data, 2011-2018; Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Commutes from Outside of Vancouver

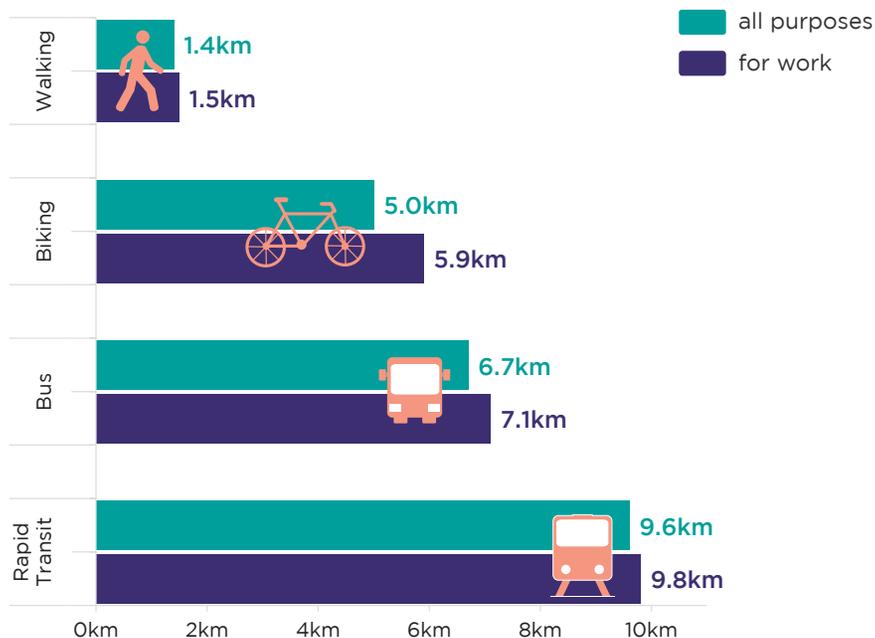
Many people commute into Vancouver from all across the region. In 2016, there were nearly 160,000 commuters from outside of Vancouver destined for Vancouver.

BETWEEN 2006 AND 2016, COMMUTES FROM OUTSIDE OF VANCOUVER SAW A:



Distance Travelled by Mode

On average, people travel the shortest distance by walking and the longest by public transit.



Source: City of Vancouver, Transportation Panel Survey, 2018

Port of Vancouver

Goods movement relies on connections to and from the Port and other destinations. The Port of Vancouver is Canada's largest port and the third-largest port in North America.

IN 2018:

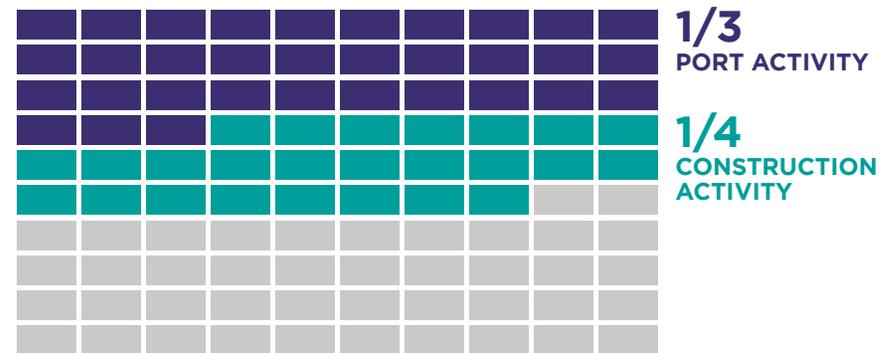
147 MILLION TONNES
MOVED THROUGH THE PORT

VALUED AT \$200 BILLION

Source: Port of Metro Vancouver

Trucks Entering Vancouver

One-third of trucks entering Vancouver are related to Port activity, and construction-related vehicles account for another quarter.



Source: Transport Canada, BC Ministry of Transportation, TransLink, 2008



Conclusion

Before we talk about the future, we need to understand where we are today. This document provides some key facts on current conditions, demographics and trends in Vancouver. We hope that this supports your conversations about the Vancouver Plan.

Please get involved and share your voice at vancouverplan.ca.

Share your voice and find out more at
vancouverplan.ca

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