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# Cultural

BACKGROUNDER



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## ***What is an Official Community Plan?***

The Province of B.C. Local Government Act (the Act) states that an OCP is a statement of objectives and policies to guide planning and land use decisions within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government. The “purpose of local government” are outlined in Part 1 of the Act, and include:

- ✓ providing good government for its community;
- ✓ providing the services and other things that the local government considers necessary or desirable for all or part of its community;
- ✓ providing stewardship of the public assets of its community; and
- ✓ fostering the current future economic, social, and environmental well-being of its community.

Provincial legislation (Local Government Act) outlines the purpose, required content and discretionary content of an Official Community Plan (OCP). The purpose of an OCP, under this legislation, is described as a "statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management". For more information on the Local Government Act and official community plans, check out this link and look for **Division 4, section 471:**

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/r15001\\_14](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/r15001_14)

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### ***How does an Official Community Plan (OCP) help us reach our community goals?***

An OCP provides a blueprint for decision-making. All municipal policies, plans, and regulations must be in alignment with the OCP. So, it is a valuable guide to support and coordinate all District activities so that the community moves forward in a coordinated fashion. Once adopted by Council, an OCP does not prevent change to the plan based on emergent issues or new information. In this way, an OCP is referred to as a "living document".

### ***Why is our Official Community Plan (OCP) important?***

The OCP reflects the community's vision, values and priorities for the long term. By setting out a clear path forward today, we can collectively steer toward a coordinated and planned future that is more sustainable, resilient and provides a high quality of life for everyone.

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### ***What is involved in an Official Community Plan (OCP) review?***

An Official Community Plan review is an opportunity for Port Hardy to ensure that the vision and goals for the community are still important to the community. Since an official community plan is a long-term guiding document for the future of a community it is important that everything stated in the plan is still relevant to the community and is based on up to date information. So, we will be hosting a series of events for community members and stakeholders to provide their ideas, hopes and values on a range of topics affecting our community.

### ***About the Official Community Plan review...***

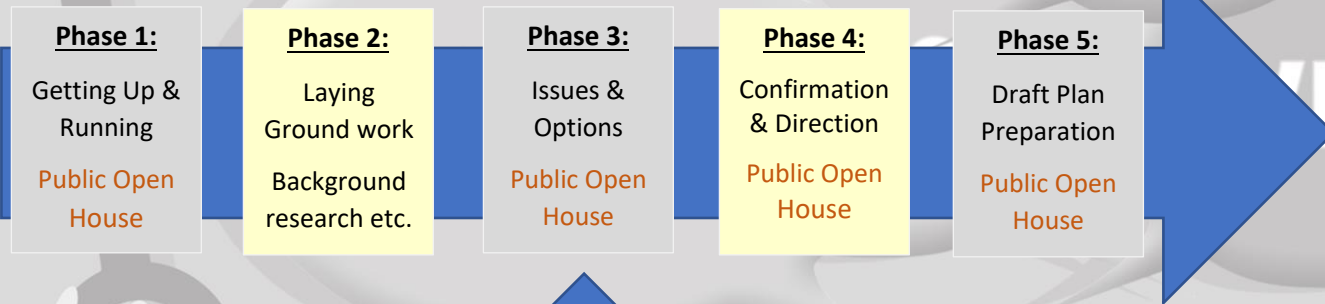
Starting in February this year, the District of Port Hardy began a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Port Hardy's current plan was adopted by Council in 2011. It is important that the plan be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it continues to reflect the values, vision, and aspirations of the community. The review process is anticipated to take just over one year with the adoption of an Official Community Plan in late 2021.

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## Project Arc:

Opportunity for public to provide input & help shape the document through email and written format runs for the entire project & is on top of formal open house & other events



We are here

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### **Key Facts:**

OCPs have a structure that applies to each topic or subject area such as the environment for example. Each section includes a list of one or more goals, and one or more objectives related to each goal, followed by one or more policies. It is important to note that OCP policy is different than regulation, like a zoning bylaw for example. OCP policy is meant to inform decision making rather than regulate both for Council and the community in relation to matters contained in the OCP.

One measure of good policy is that it is capable of being actioned by the District and that the outcomes can be measured. Although this is not always achievable, it is a helpful target.

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## **A Sustainability Lens**

Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A cornerstone of sustainability is the recognition that all aspects of society and the natural environment are interconnected. So, there are four primary realms of sustainability: economic, social, cultural, and environmental. Sustainability planning helps communities realize their visions for a sustainability and provides the framework to integrate sustainability thinking into every day decision-making.

The District of Port Hardy has considered its future through a “sustainability” lens in its current Official Community Plan. Sustainability seeks to identify and speak to economic, cultural, environmental and social components.



## economy

A resilient economy that is inclusive, and attracts investment, business and workers

## environment

A resilient community that grows without negatively impacting a healthy ecosystem & biological diversity

# SUSTAIN - ability

## social

impacts of processes, organizations, and activities on people to maximize quality of life and equity

## cultural

understanding and appreciation of culture & identity while celebrating community heritage



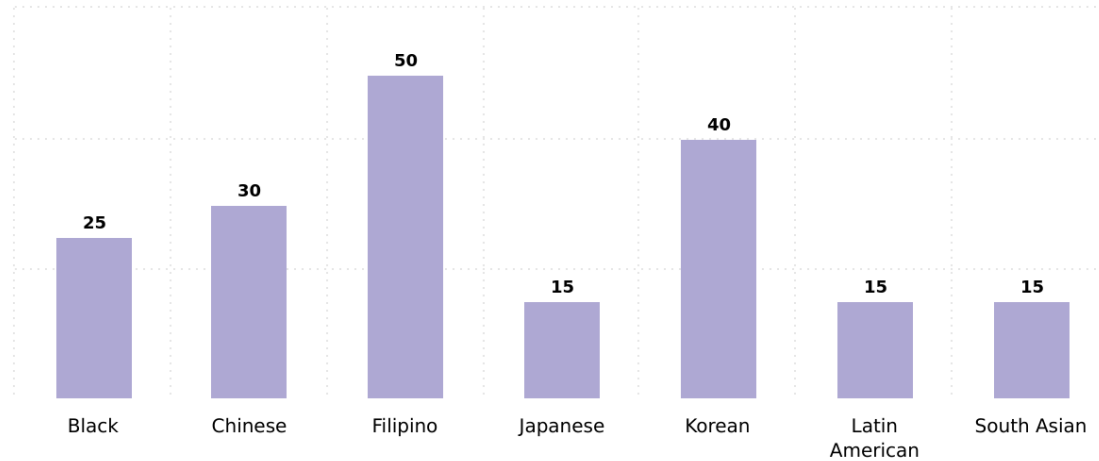
## **Cultural Sustainability:**

The diverse cultural elements of a community, both tangible and intangible, are avenues through which many socio-economic and environmental dimensions of a community are embodied. Key cultural elements in the community can also be used as anchors and focus points for policy and planning efforts to ensure cultural resources are integrated as a component of a community's sustainability.

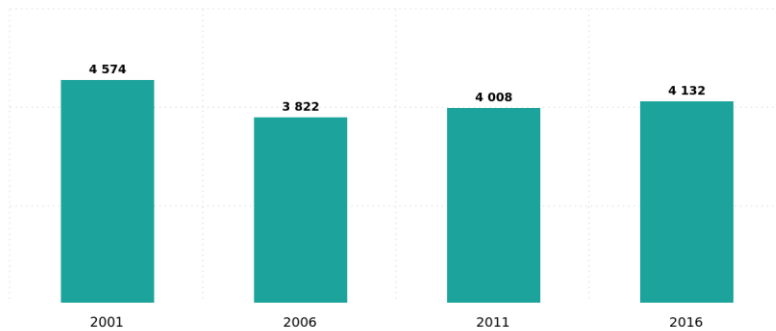
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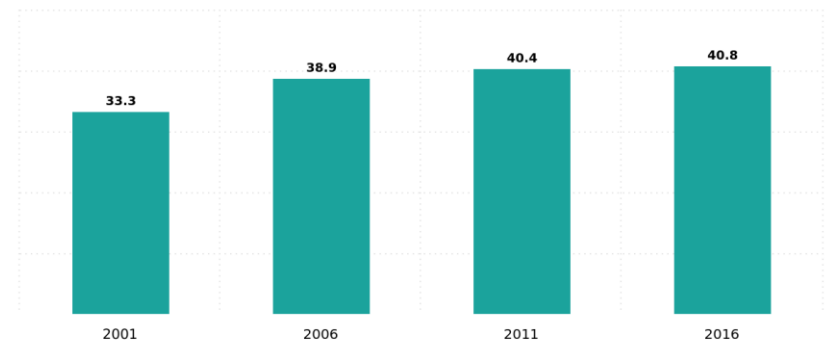
## Visible Minorities



## Population



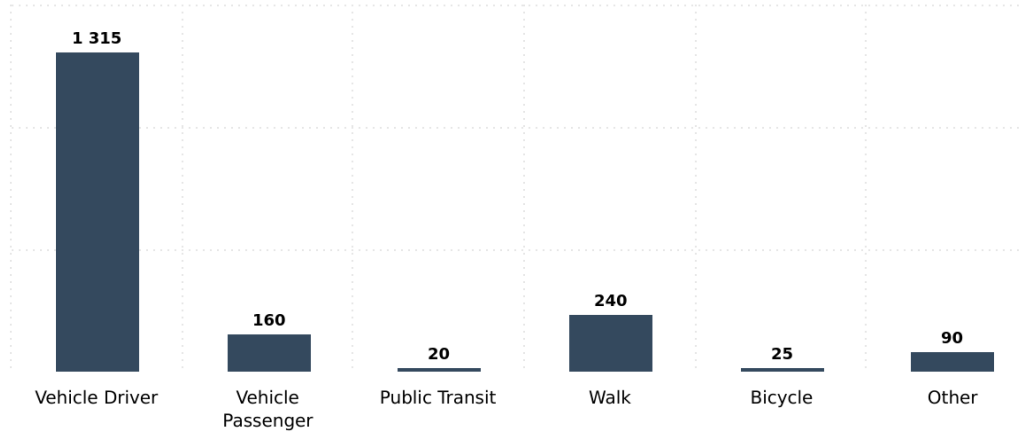
## Median Age



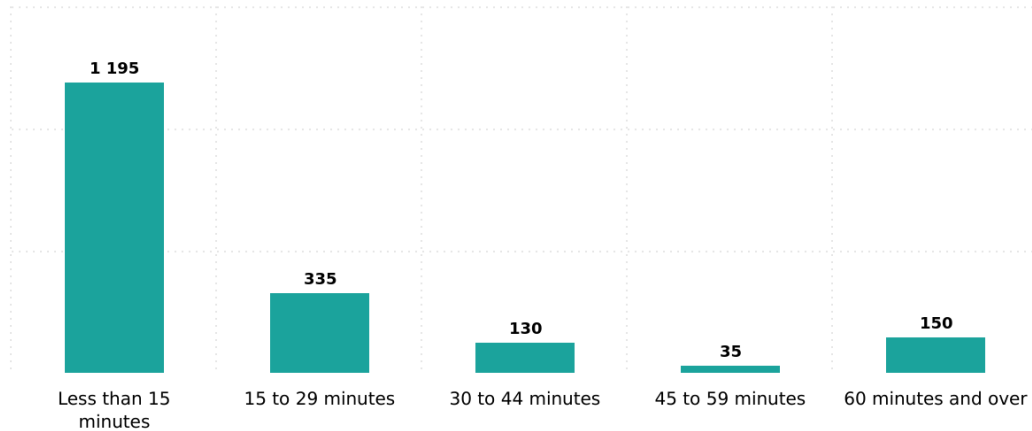
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## Modes of Transportation



## Commuting Duration



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## **Current Cultural OCP Goals:**

- ✓ Continue to support community diversity and enhance the thriving cultural assets found within Port Hardy;
- ✓ Foster cooperation and partnership opportunities between the District and neighboring First Nations;
- ✓ Acknowledge Port Hardy's roots and the Kwakiutl, Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw and Quatsino First Nations' history and heritage;
- ✓ Encourage a wide variety of opportunities for people to interact and support community diversity, arts and culture;
- ✓ Create a centrally located thriving arts and cultural hub within the Port Hardy community;
- ✓ Enhance historical and cultural attributes important to the community of Port Hardy and ensure these attributes are acknowledged, celebrated and preserved;
- ✓ Continue to support and enhance existing traditions and celebrations (e.g. Filomi Days); and
- ✓ Ensure cultural elements in Port Hardy are used as focal points for policy and planning efforts to make certain cultural resources are integrated as a component of Port Hardy's path towards sustainability

## **Current Cultural OCP Objectives:**

- 6.1.1 To create a recreation system that connects community parks, trails and open space.
- 6.1.2 To advocate and promote multiple trail uses within Port Hardy and the surrounding area.
- 6.1.3 To achieve an integrated approach towards the utilization of parklands, open spaces and wilderness areas.
- 6.2.1 To ensure existing and future recreation facilities are centres of activity and serve the interests of the community.
- 6.2.2 To leverage existing recreational opportunities to the long-term development of marine-based activities.
- 6.3.1 To strengthen the District of Port Hardy's relationship with neighbouring First Nations and building bridges of diversity and cultural understanding.
- 6.3.2 To establish a community that is supportive of Arts and Heritage.

## **Current Cultural OCP Objectives:**

6.3.3 To protect unique heritage features.

6.4.1 To encourage and support youth participation and opportunities for developing youth leadership skills in municipal and community organizations, programs and events.

6.4.2 To create an environment of continual life-long learning.



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## **Questions for consideration:**

### **OCP Goals:**

1. Which GOALS need to be kept and why?
2. Which GOALS need to be deleted and why?
3. Which GOALS need to be modify and why?

### **OCP Objectives:**

1. Which OBJECTIVES need to be kept and why?
2. Which OBJECTIVES need to be deleted and why?
3. Which OBJECTIVES need to be modify and why?

## **Questions for consideration:**

1. What are the most significant issues or trends that impact positively or negatively to enhancing cultural diversity and vibrancy and how can they be overcome?
2. How can the existing OCP policies be more effective in addressing the broad range of cultural issues and opportunities in Port Hardy?
3. What resources, services, and priorities are important and achievable with regard to cultural issues in Port Hardy.
4. What are the key cultural issues and outcomes must the OCP address and how do they relate to the various community cohorts (e.g. seniors, youth, etc.)?
5. What are the key challenges and opportunities regarding mobility and accessibility for all residents?