

Ideas make our future.



Social

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

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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...

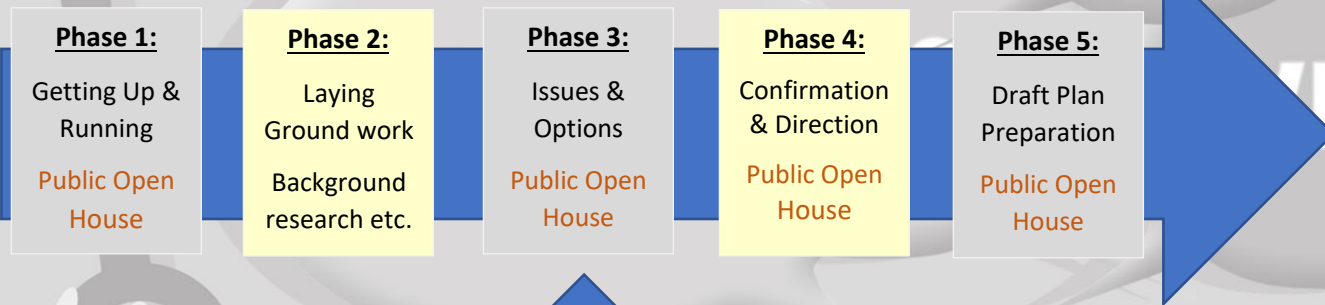
Starting in February this year, the District of Port Hardy began a review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Port Hardy's current plan was adopted by Council in 2011. It is important that the plan be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it continues to reflect the values, vision, and aspirations 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

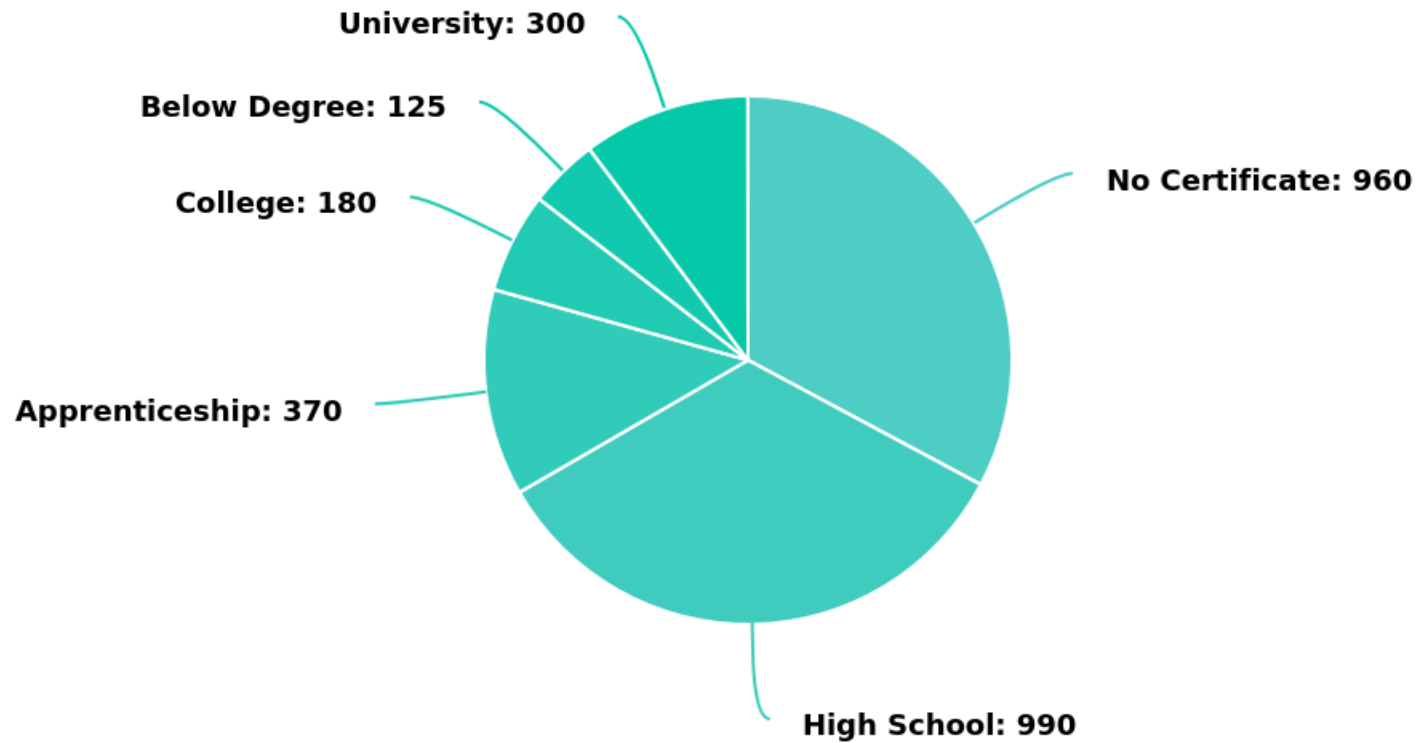
Social Sustainability:

A socially sustainable community must have the ability to maintain and build on its own resources and have the resiliency to prevent and/or address problems in the future. A socially sustainable community offers a sense of community, tolerance and respect for cultural diversity, opportunities for cultural, leisure, community and civic activities for all residents, a strong sense of safety and security and a socially inclusive environment with opportunities for all. The high quality of life the District of Port Hardy and the surrounding area provides for its residents is one of the most valuable elements of living in the community for many residents. This high quality of life includes the close proximity to numerous outdoor recreational pursuits, a rural lifestyle, high level of health care and supporting services found within the community, the feeling of community safety for residents of all ages, access to higher level education, recreational services and the relative affordability of living in the community.

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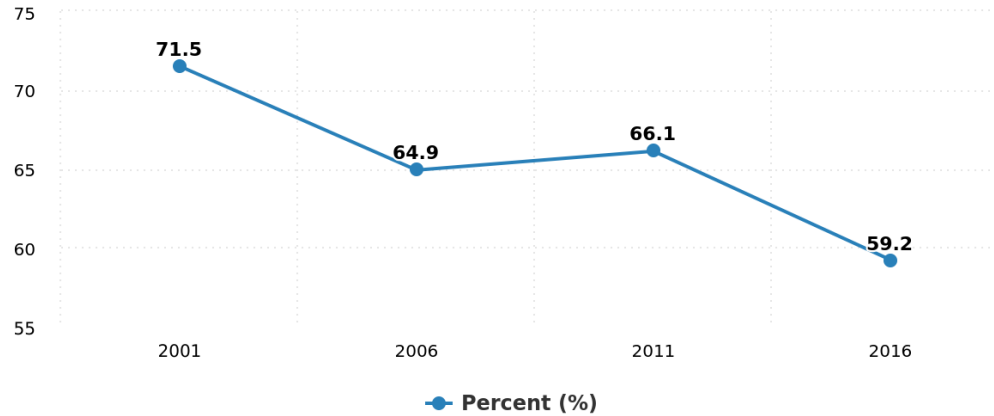
Education



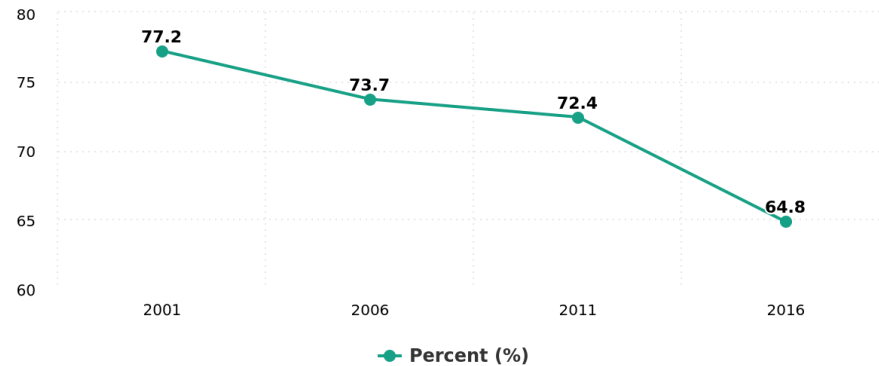
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Employment Rates



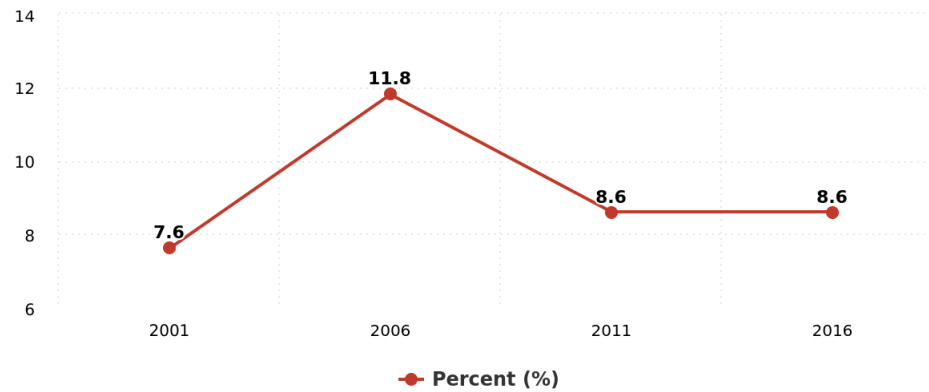
Participation Rates



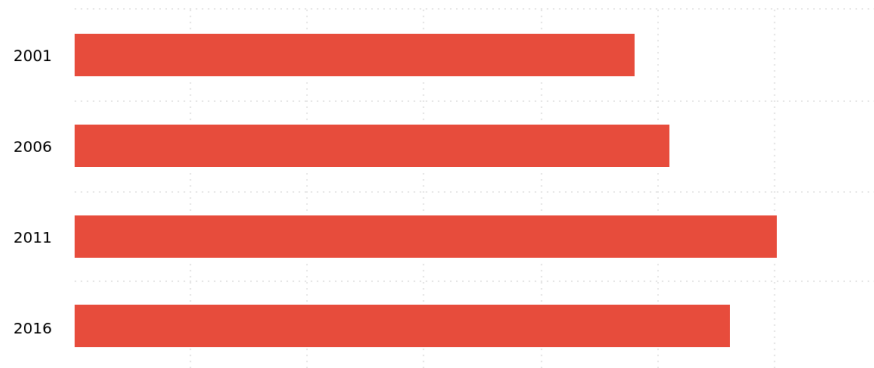
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Unemployment Rates



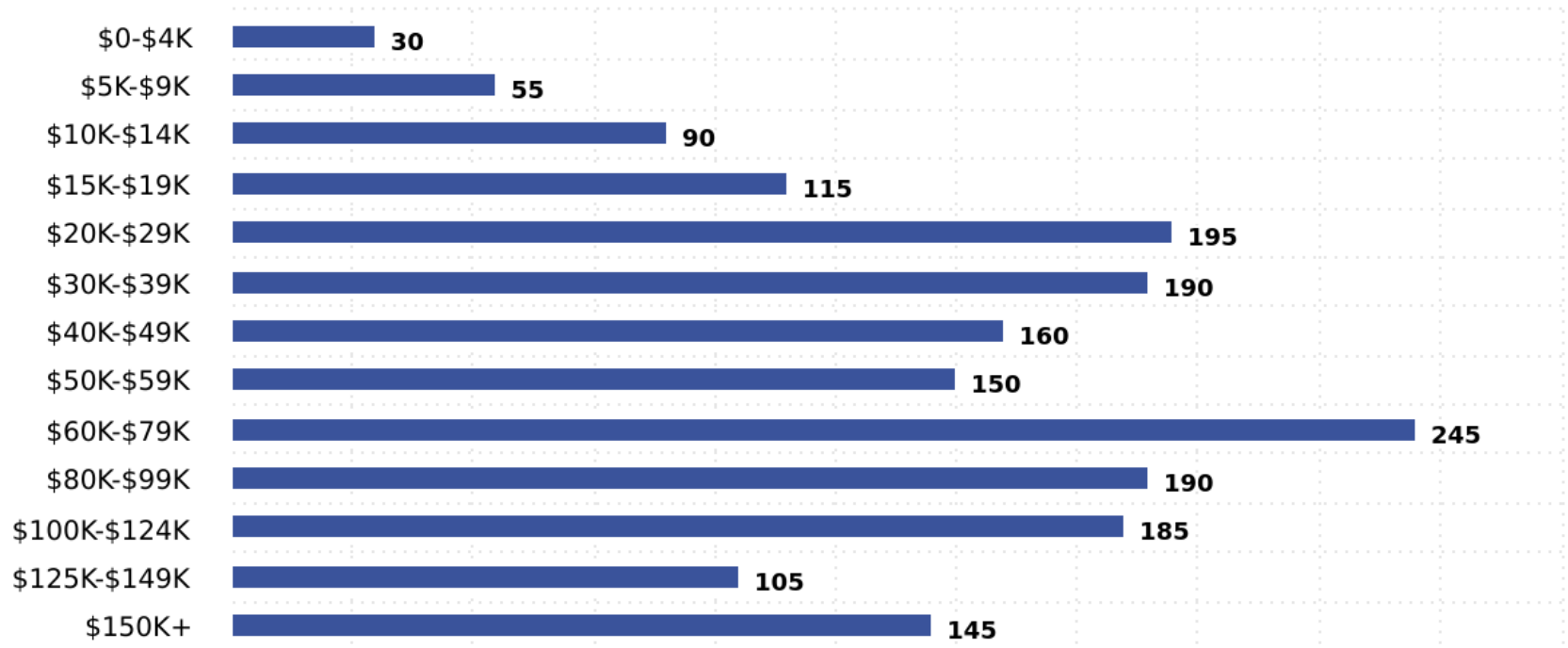
Median Household Income



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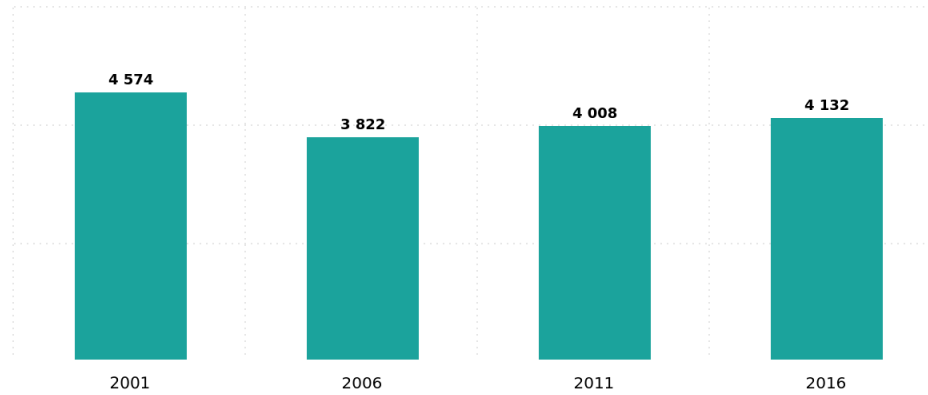
Household Income



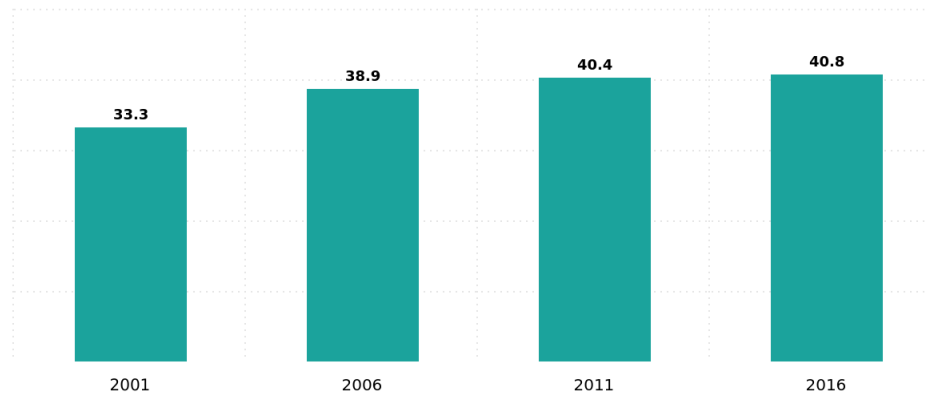
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Population



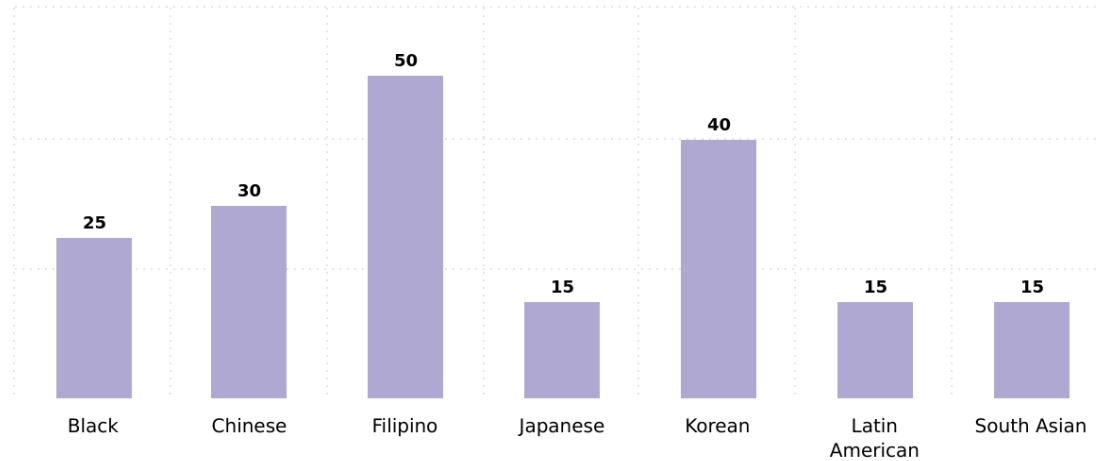
Median Age



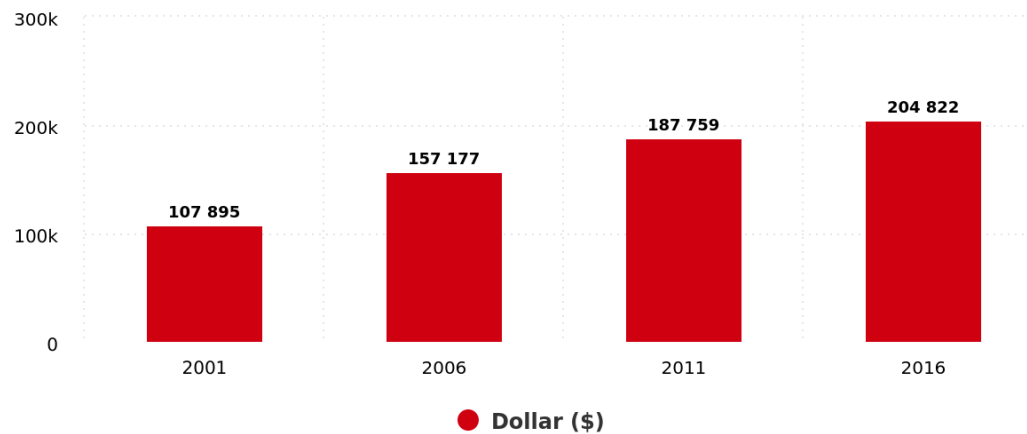
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Visible Minorities



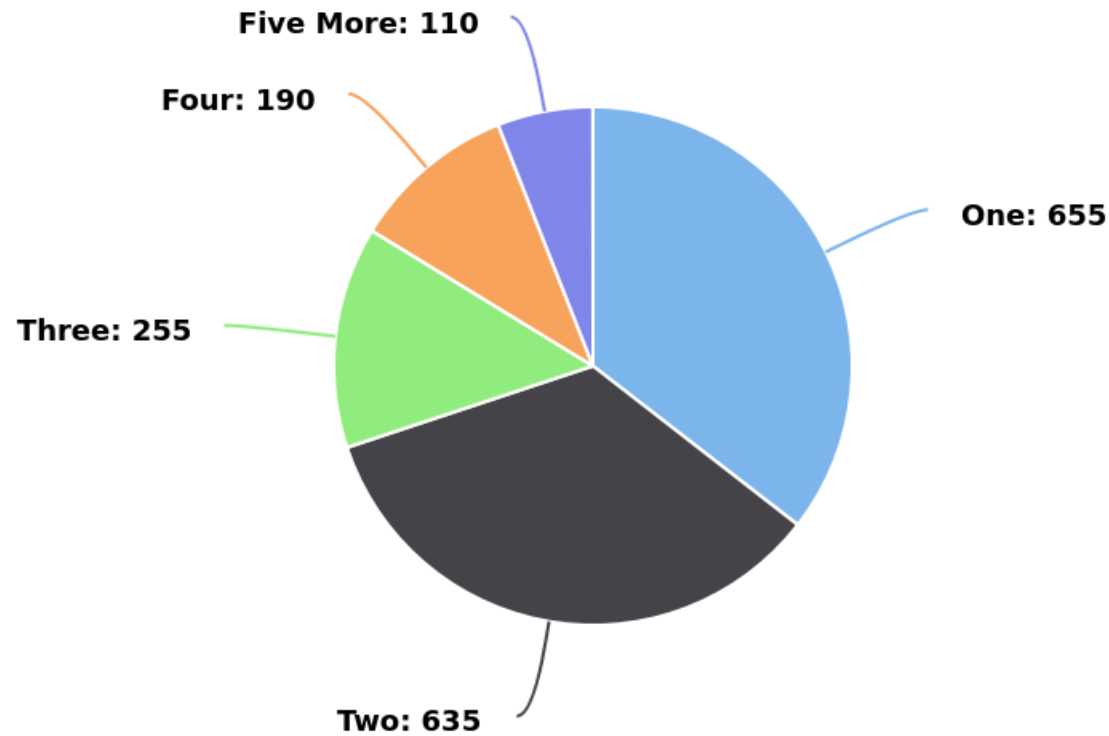
Housing Prices



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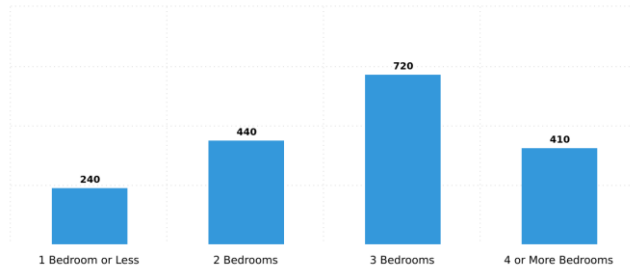


Household By Size

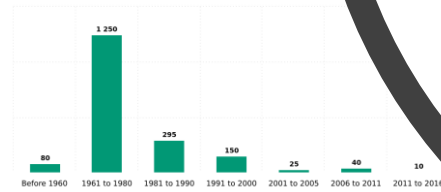


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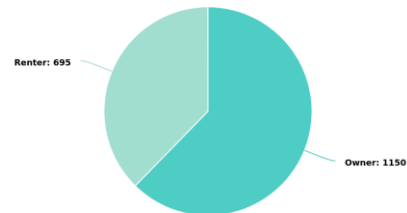
Dwellings by Bedroom



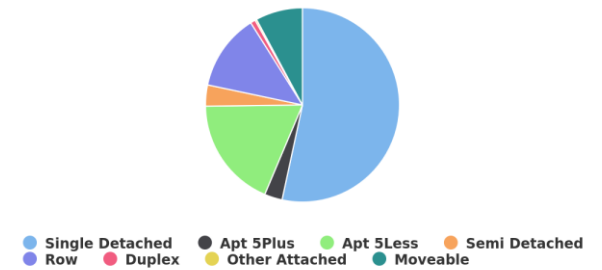
Construction Period



Home Ownership



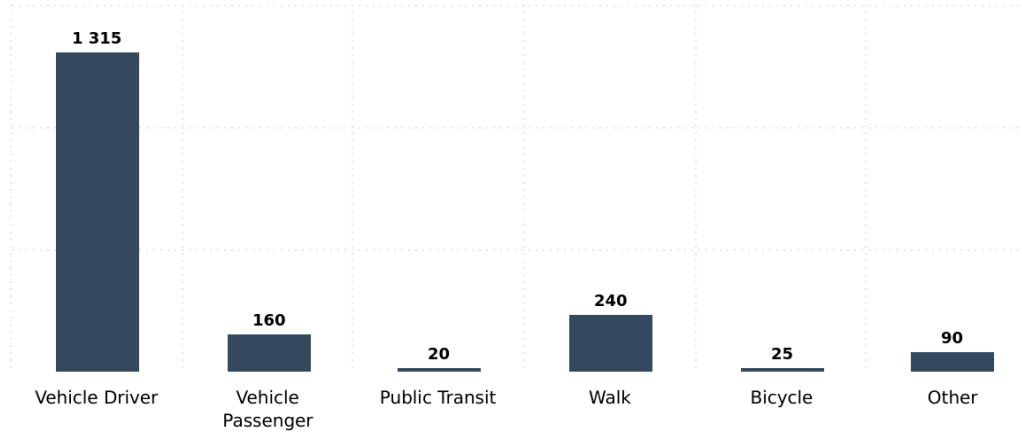
Housing type by Structure



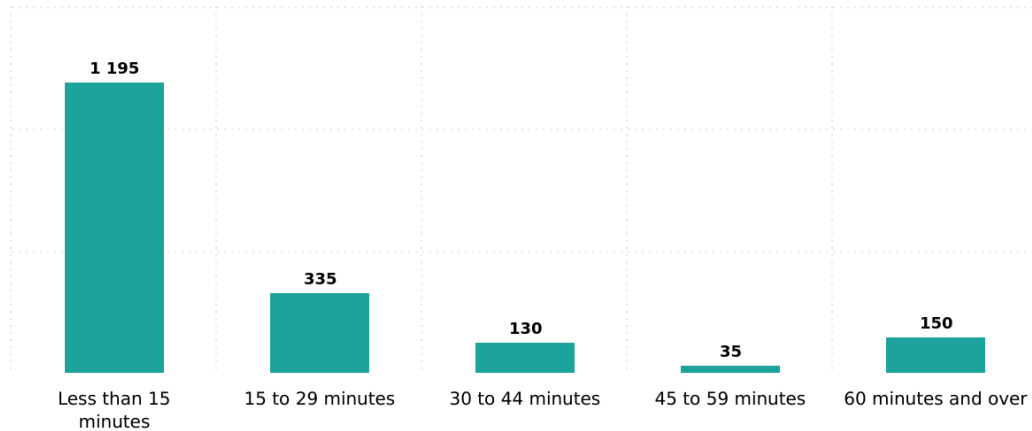
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Modes of Transportation



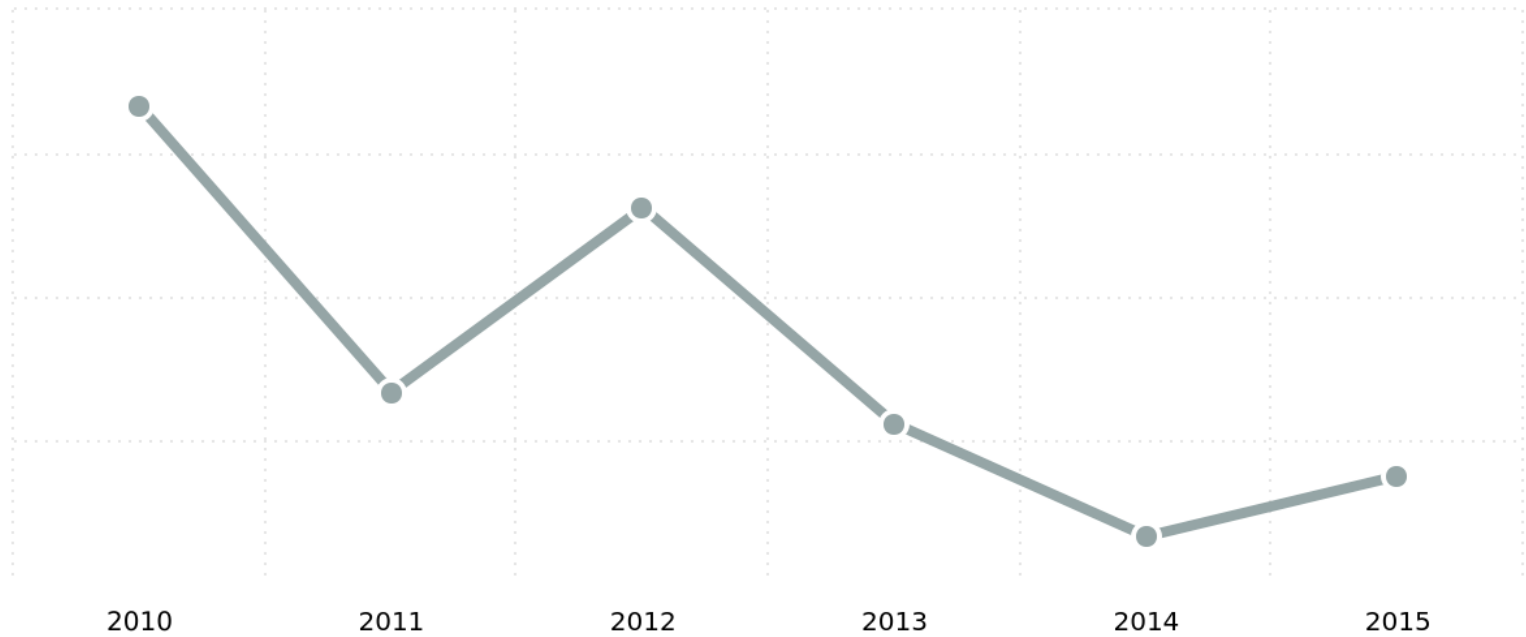
Commuting Duration



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Crime Severity Index



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Current Social OCP Goals:

- ✓ Maintain the rural and coastal North Island character of Port Hardy;
- ✓ Ensure residents of Port Hardy continue to have access to both extended year round recreational and complete educational opportunities;
- ✓ Ensure Port Hardy remains a safe community where residents of all ages are active and healthy;
- ✓ Ensure that there are comprehensive and holistic “cradle to grave” healthcare services and facilities made available including mental health and addiction services;
- ✓ Provide increased access to locally produced goods and foods;
- ✓ Promote diversified housing typologies that are affordable and accommodate the current and future needs of residents of all ages and demographics;
- ✓ Ensure the creation of walkable neighbourhoods that are interconnected and allow for fluent flow between the different nodes of the community; and
- ✓ Ensure the community of Port Hardy is meaningfully engaged in all planning processes to harness the expertise and knowledge found within its citizenship.

Current Social OCP Objectives:

- 5.1.1 To support the provision of providing sound primary healthcare services for the community, including alternative health and wellness practices.
- 5.1.2 To encourage the development and adoption of policies that contributes to the reduction and prevention of air pollution.
- 5.1.3 To minimize risks to life and property from natural hazards and disasters such as floods, erosion and slides.
- 5.1.4 To minimize the bioaccumulation of human-made products and compounds into the surrounding biosphere.
- 5.2.1 To provide opportunities for citizens to contribute positively to the community through volunteering, the provision of leadership development and support and the empowerment of community members to identify needs, set priorities and pursue a common vision.
- 5.2.2 To support and participate in collaborative networks of community service providers to meet, share information and facilitate access to services such as childcare, health care, education, public safety, social services, culture and heritage.

Current Social OCP Objectives:

- 5.3.1 To provide residents of Port Hardy with the opportunity, knowledge and resources to produce, acquire, eat, enjoy and celebrate affordable and nutritious local food.
- 5.4.1 To ensure the availability of a range of housing typologies and tenures to meet the diverse needs of the community of Port Hardy.
- 5.4.2 To encourage pedestrian friendly residential developments.
- 5.4.3 To provide affordable and attainable housing opportunities.
- 5.4.4 To make age-friendly housing a priority to accommodate an aging population.
- 5.4.5 The District will work with other governmental and non-governmental partners to promote a per capita continual reduction in residential GHG emissions within the District of Port Hardy by 50% to the year 2020; and 100% by 2050.
- 5.5.1 To direct growth to established centres and amenities;
- 5.5.2 To encourage sustainable development that enhances and benefits the community.

Current Social OCP Objectives:

- 5.5.3 To protect the natural environment, including aquatic ecosystems (lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams), environmentally sensitive areas and rare species.
- 5.5.4 To achieve a high-level of public engagement, awareness and understanding of community planning and the implementation of the community vision.

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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 achieving a healthy and resilient community and how can they be overcome?
2. What are the key factors for making Port Hardy more livable for everyone and why?
3. How can the existing OCP policies be more effective in addressing social issues within Port Hardy?
4. What resources, services, and priorities are important and achievable with regard to social sustainability in Port Hardy.
5. What are the key social issues and outcomes must the OCP address?