



Corporate Report

NO: C003

COUNCIL DATE: June 7, 2004

COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: May 31, 2004
FROM: General Manager, Planning FILE: 0650-01
and Development
SUBJECT: Census of Canada Information Related to the
City of Surrey

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information from the 2001 Census of Canada, related to the City of Surrey and to advise Council of the new community information profiles that are now available on the City's website.

BACKGROUND

Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a Census of Canada. The most recent Census was taken in 2001, with the complete and detailed data becoming available to the City during the last few months.

The City of Surrey works in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Regional District (the "GVRD") and other municipalities to acquire a comprehensive set of Census information. In addition to being a very cost effective method of acquiring expensive Census data, this partnership provides a common information base to assist municipalities and the GVRD in co-ordinating addressing regional/local policy issues and analysis.

The City also maintains a historic Census database, dating back to the 1970s, which is used for research and trend analysis.

DISCUSSION

The Census includes a broad array of population information that is used for a wide variety of purposes by the City and is made available by the City, as a community service, to Surrey residents and businesses.

Census data is vital to the City in preparing and updating the Official Community Plan, growth projections and land use plans. As well, the data is fundamental to the planning and design of transportation, engineering utilities, parks, recreation, library and other City services and facilities.

The City receives many inquiries and requests annually for demographic information to assist businesses in preparing marketing plans, to assist community agencies in planning service provision, to assist residents wishing to know more about their neighbourhoods, etc.

Census Profiles on the Surrey Website

To enhance the availability of Census information to the public, a series of Census-based Surrey profiles have

recently been prepared by Planning and Development staff and placed on the City's website (located under *Doing Business – Population/Demographics*, or under *Living In Surrey – Community Development*). These profiles have been organized by geographic area of the City. They allow users to view a citywide profile, a profile of each of Surrey's seven main communities (City Centre, Whalley, Guildford, Fleetwood, Newton, Cloverdale and South Surrey), or a profile of each of 32 sub-areas within the City. As an example, Appendix I contains the profile on the City's website for the community of South Surrey. Boundaries for each of the communities and sub-areas are based on Census boundaries. Although the City has access to the full Census dataset, it would be impractical to include this large volume of data on the website. Therefore, the website profiles are limited to commonly requested Census information that has been summarized into tables and graphs and includes reference maps and definitions to help viewers interpret the information.

The City website also provides a link to the Statistics Canada Census website and to other websites that contain additional information.

Custom Requests for Census Information

More detailed Census information or analysis of Census and other information, is available through the Planning and Development Department. The Department responds to many requests from residents, community organizations and businesses for assistance with Census and many other types of community information. For resident and business requests, the City generally provides complimentary assistance related to information that is readily available. More complex information or analysis requests may be provided on a cost recovery basis, depending on resource availability.

Census Highlights

There are a number of significant highlights evident from the 2001 Census information and in comparing the 2001 Census information with the 1996 Census information.

Surrey within Canada and the GVRD

As of July 1, 2001:

- Surrey had the 11th highest population among Canadian cities (By 2004, it is estimated that Surrey has surpassed the City of Halifax, such that Surrey now has the 10th highest population of cities in Canada).
- Surrey had the second highest population of municipalities in the GVRD with 347,800 residents, second to the City of Vancouver with 546,000 residents and followed by the City of Burnaby with 194,000 residents.
- In addition to population growth, the increase in ethnic diversity is a significant change over the past five years. Surrey's percentage of population with a non-English Mother Tongue, increased from 31% in 1996 to 37% in 2001. This increase is primarily due to an increase in residents with Punjabi as a Mother Tongue, which population in Surrey increased by 15,000 persons over the past five years. Surrey is home to 58% of the residents in the GVRD with Punjabi as a Mother Tongue.
- About 36% of Surrey's population comprises Visible Minorities, roughly equal to the GVRD percentage. By comparison, Visible Minorities make up approximately 49% of the City of Vancouver's population.
- Surrey's average annual household income was \$62,197, slightly higher than the GVRD average. Surrey's average compares to a high of \$120,000 in West Vancouver and a low of \$51,000 in New Westminster. For comparison purposes, Vancouver's average annual income was \$57, 926, Burnaby's, \$55,589 and Richmond's \$60,724.
- Surrey had total labour force of 181,000 and in relation to the GVRD, had higher percentages of trades, primary and processing/manufacturing occupations and lower percentages of management, finance, science and arts-

related occupations.

- About 81,000 Surrey residents travel to jobs outside of Surrey.
- There were about 102,000 jobs located within the City. Surrey residents held about 52% of these jobs and 12% were related to Surrey residents working at home. About 37,000 residents of other municipalities commuted to work in Surrey.
- There were about 0.56 permanent jobs located in Surrey for each Surrey resident in the labour force in 2001.

Surrey Communities

The City of Surrey is divided into 76 Census Tracts and 536 Dissemination Areas. This data has been aggregated into seven communities and selected population characteristics, as of July 1, 2001, have been highlighted for each community as follows:

- The communities within the City that had the highest percentage of Surrey's population growth between 1996 and 2001 were Newton (45%) growing from 71,000 to 91,000 residents and Fleetwood (16%) growing from 37,000 to 43,000 residents.
- The highest percentage of Surrey's seniors (with an age of 65 years or older) live in South Surrey (30%) amounting to 10,500 residents, followed by Newton (21%) or 7,800 residents. Only 7% of Surrey's seniors live in Cloverdale. About 10% of Surrey's population is seniors.
- About 30% of the City's population is 19 years of age or younger. Within the seven communities, the youth population makes up about 30 to 35% of the total population of the community except in South Surrey where the youth make up only 24% of the population.

CONCLUSION

The Census of Canada undertaken by Statistics Canada every five years provides a broad array of information that is very useful in planning and managing the City of Surrey. This report provides some basic information about the City of Surrey that relates to the most recent Census of Canada, completed in 2001. This report also highlights the fact that statistical profiles regarding the City's communities are now available on the City's website.

Murray Dinwoodie
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Planning and Development

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Attachments

Appendix I – Sample Community Profile From the Surrey Website

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Appendix I

Sample Community Profile From the Surrey Website.







