Delta Community
Snapshot

Delta Communities in Action
Steering Committee

September 2002

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Delta Communities In Action Steering Committee
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Dear Reader:

As Co-Chairs of the Delta Communities in Action Steering Committee, we would like to say a few words about those who made the *Delta Community Snapshot* project report possible and about the project itself.

This project took about a year to complete and it would not have been possible without the ongoing commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of a large number of people. First, I would like to thank the steering committee, who volunteered countless hours of their time to this project. Second, I would like to thank John Talbot and Associates Inc., the consultant, who prepared the Community Snapshot Report. Third, I would like to thank all those agencies and individuals who contributed information. Fourth, I would like to thank the United Way of the Lower Mainland, who provided funding and other resources for this project. Finally, I would like to thank the BC Hydro Employees' Community Services Fund for covering the cost of printing for the report.

As for the project itself, the Community Snapshot Report highlights 46 indicators that provide information about social conditions and changes occurring in Delta. The report is designed to be accessible to a wide audience and it is intended to raise public awareness about current conditions, facilitate dialogue about future directions, assist in the establishment of community goals and mobilize action where it is needed. While the report addresses a large number issue areas (e.g., education, health, housing, etc.), it is recognized that some issue areas have not been included. In some cases, the information was not readily available (e.g., public transit); while in other cases, it was a conscious decision given budget and time limitations (e.g., the environment). It should be stressed that these issue areas were no less important and it is hoped that they will form part of future editions of this report.
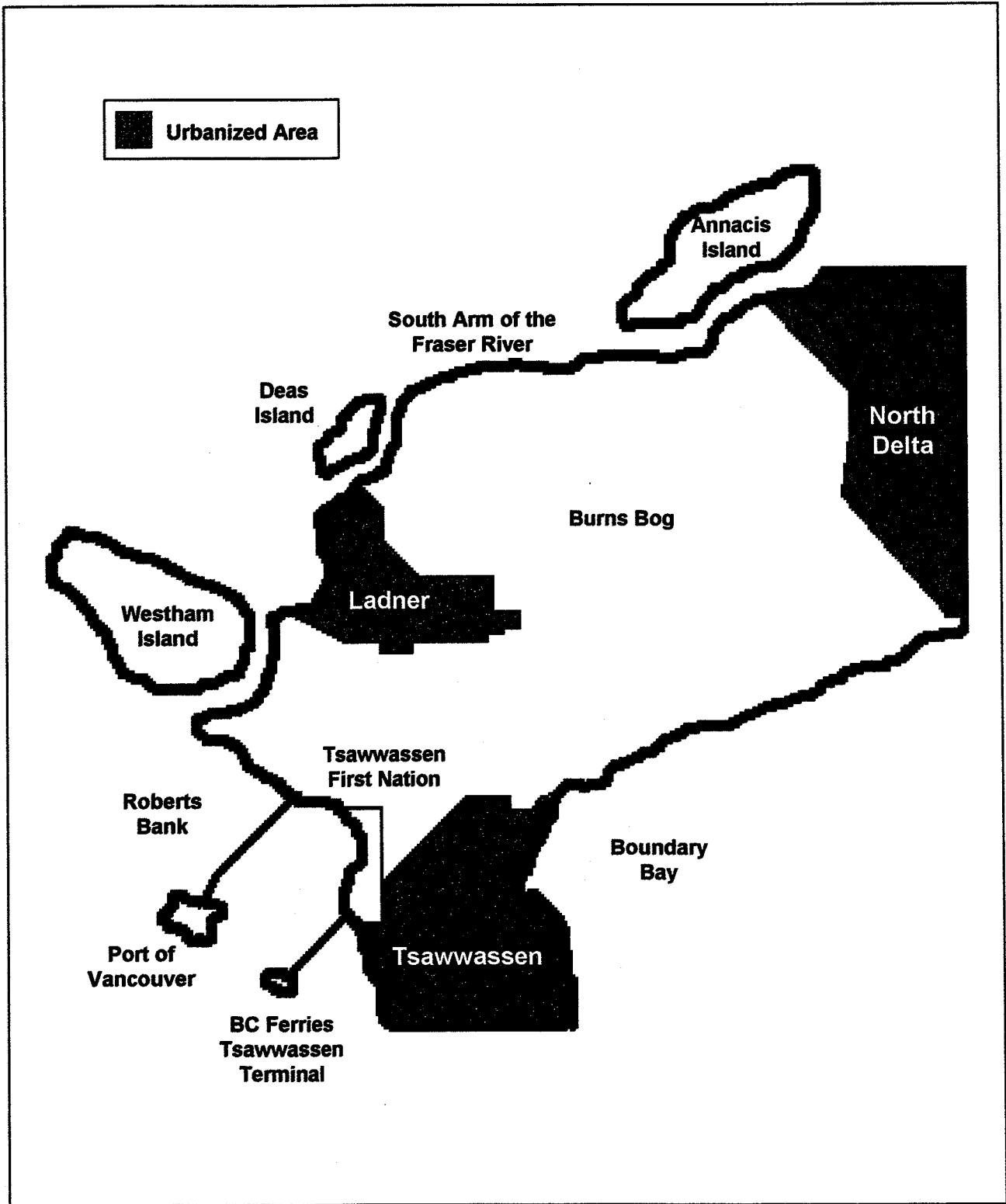
I encourage you to read the Community Snapshot Report, to make your own judgements based on the information contained within it and to discuss it with your friends and neighbours. I also encourage you to attend an important community forum which will be held the week of November 25, 2002. At this forum, an overview will be provided of the report and participants will be asked to identify those issues that they believe are important to them and to form groups in order to more fully discuss each issue. Based on the forum, it is hoped that a number of strategic directions and task groups emerge to address priority issues. Through discussion and agreement as to the issues in Delta, I believe that this report and the forum, along with the other positive developments occurring in the municipality, will prove to be valuable tools in improving the quality of life for all residents.

Yours truly,

Gary Hamblin and Sandra Gebhardt
Co-Chairs, Delta Communities in Action Steering Committee

Map of Delta

Urbanized Area

Annacis Island

South Arm of the Fraser River

Deas Island

North Delta

Burns Bog

Westham Island

Ladner

Tsawwassen First Nation

Roberts Bank

Boundary Bay

Port of Vancouver

Tsawwassen

BC Ferries Tsawwassen Terminal

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Executive Summary

This community snapshot report provides information about social conditions and changes occurring in Delta in order to raise public awareness about them, prompt dialogue about future directions, assist in the establishment of community goals and priorities, and mobilize action where needed.

The report took ten months to complete and was co-ordinated by the Delta Child and Youth Committee and funded by the United Way of the Lower Mainland. A 40-member Communities in Action Steering Committee (appendix 1) worked closely with the consultant to select the indicators, identify potential data sources, collect information and revise the report.

The report contains nine sections and forty-six indicators. Each section starts with its own executive summary which outlines the key findings contained within it and concludes with information regarding community contacts, reference materials and other possible indicators. As for the indicators, each one profiles a specific topic area and contains information as to its importance and the situation in Delta, as well as comparison and historic information to ascertain trends. It also contains information regarding issues, opportunities and assets/resources.

Each indicator is designed to be used separately or in combination. For example, the reader may be interested in a specific topic area such as unemployment or he or she may want to learn more about the economy in general. In the former case, the reader would refer to the specific indicator; while in the latter case, he or she would read the applicable section. He or she would also be referred to related indicators in other sections which could be used to broaden understanding of the subject matter.

The report does not identify priority issues or make recommendations; however, it will be used as the basis for a community forum in which participants will identify the issues that they believe are important and discuss strategies as to how they should be addressed. The forum, which is tentatively scheduled for mid-November 2002, will be an opportunity for residents and service providers to identify common areas of interest in which to work together. In other communities, a similar type of forum was the impetus for dialogue, collaboration and social action planning.

While the report tracks a large number of indicators, it is recognized that some topic areas have not been included. In some cases, the information was not readily available (e.g., public transit); while in other cases, it was a conscious decision given budget and time considerations (e.g., the environment). It should be stressed that these topic areas are no less important and it is hoped that they will form part of future editions of this report.

Many of the demographic and economic indicators are based on 1996 Census data, which raises concerns about their currency. Of note, much of the 2001 Census data will not be publicly available until mid-2002 or 2003. Given this limitation, consideration should be given to regularly updating the report as Census data become available.

The report depends almost exclusively on secondary information, meaning that government agencies, non-profit societies and others collected the information. As such, only those indicators for which information is collected and publicly available are included.

Introduction

What is a Community Snapshot Report?

A community snapshot report highlights a number of measurable indicators in order to provide information about social, economic, environmental, health or other conditions in a community. It can provide a compelling snapshot of a community's livability or quality of life. When published over several years, it can also show changes or trends in community conditions over time.

A community snapshot report can:

•provide a common knowledge base for all;
•raise public awareness about current conditions and prompt dialogue about future directions;
•assist community groups and service providers to plan programs and make the best use of available resources;
•measure the impact of existing policies and programs;
•help funders to set priorities;
•assist in establishing community goals and developing collaborative action plans to achieve them; and
•mobilize action where needed.

While a community snapshot report has many important uses, by itself, it does not change the community conditions that it profiles. Changing these conditions requires community interventions, and specific actions do not automatically follow the reporting or tracking of conditions by way of indicators.

Experience in other communities shows a progression from publishing a community snapshot report to developing and implementing community interventions. After one or more years of publishing a community snapshot report, a community may target specific conditions in which it wants to focus its available resources. The community then uses what it knows about the root causes of the conditions, develops an action strategy with all involved partners and initiates specific community interventions. As such, the publication of a community snapshot report should be seen as an important first step in a larger strategy to creating positive change in a community.

What are indicators?

Indicators are selected variables which provide information on the status of larger systems. For example, the number and percentage of all renter households who paid 30% or more of their gross household income on rent will provide valuable information about the housing situation in a community in particular and about the social well being and economic health of that community in general. When a number of indicators are tracked over time, they can provide information on the direction a system is going: getting better or worse, or staying the same.

Another way of looking at indicators was highlighted in the document Indicators of Sustainable Community (1993), which compared indicators to dials and gauges on an aircraft's instrument panel. It noted that "by designing them carefully, watching them closely and interpreting them wisely, we know the status of our flight and can make good decisions about where we are going." It further noted that "without indicators, we are just flying by the seat of our pants."

The ability of a community snapshot report to assist in creating positive change in a community is thus dependent on the selection and tracking of good indicators. This raises the question of what constitutes good indicators?

According to The Toronto Community Indicator Project (1999), good indicators:

•are easily measurable;
•are easily understood by all people in the community - not just the experts;
•answer questions about the community that residents and service providers agree are important;
•provide information about the community as a whole but may also point out opportunities or challenges specific to a particular geographical area, interest or sector; and
•help identify concerns or issues that the community can actually do something about.

Who needs to be involved?

To successfully prepare a community snapshot report that is reflective of the community and its values and to develop and implement future community interventions, will require the involvement of a wide range of community partners. As such, a collaborative effort is required; one that respects the legislative and resource limitations of the participating partners, while maximizing the contributions that each can realistically and reasonably be expected to make. Given that this report is only the first step in a larger community process in creating positive change, new partners will be identified and recruited, and residents will be invited to play an integral role in the process.

Context for Snapshot

What is the planning context?

Delta had a population of 97,210 people in 2001. Over the past 15 years, its rate of population growth has slowed considerably. Between 1986 and 1991, the population grew by 11.8% from 79,610 to 88,978; while between 1991 and 1996, the population grew by 7.2% from 88,978 to 95,411. During the most recent five year period (i.e., between 1996 and 2001), the population grew by only 1.9% from 95,411 to 97,210. Put another way, Delta's population grew by an average of 0.4% per year during the most recent reporting period.

Delta, along with 20 other municipalities, forms part of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). The GVRD had a population of 1,986,965 people in 2001, of which Delta comprised 4.9% of the regional population. Population growth within the region is guided by The Livable Region Strategic Plan, which establishes growth management targets to 2021. The plan and its targets are designed to achieve a compact metropolitan form, build complete communities, increase transportation choices and protect the Green Zone (which comprises ecologically important areas, farmland, major parks and watercourses). Under the plan, Delta has a modest role to play with regard to both housing and population growth. In fact, its estimated capacity is 39,100 households or 106,000 people.

Between 2001 and 2016, BC Stats PEOPLE Projection Run 26 data projects that the Delta Local Health Area's population will grow by 6.3% or by an average of 0.4% per year. The Delta Local Health Area includes the Tsawwassen Reserve. Of concern, the model being used projects that the Delta Local Health Area may experience negative population growth by 2025. Between 2001 and 2016, the percentage and absolute number of children (0-14) and youth and young adults (15-24) is projected to decrease, while the percentage and absolute number of seniors (65+) is projected to increase. Of note, these projections, which are cited in the population indicators section, are calculated annually and are subject to change, given differing estimates as to future levels of migration and other factors. As such, they should be reviewed on annual basis to ensure current information for planning purposes.

Within Delta, the Corporation of Delta's Official Community Plan establishes the broad directions for the future of the municipality. It deals with the amount, location and type of present and proposed developments in residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, institutional and recreational land uses; their impact on the environment; and the road, sewer and water systems required to support them. Area Plans for each of Delta's three communities (i.e., Ladner, North Delta and Tsawwassen) outline specific objectives, policies and future land uses. Additionally, community profiles have been prepared by the Corporation, which provide extensive comparative data based on the 1996 Census. These documents should be consulted for additional contextual information.

What are some of the recent initiatives occurring in Delta?

During this project, which took place between September 2001 and June 2002, a number of Provincial initiatives were announced or implemented which will have a major impact on many of the social conditions as tracked by the indicators in this report. These initiatives include changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance), the dissolution of the South Fraser Health Region (now part of the Fraser Health Authority), the proposed designation of Delta Hospital as a sub-acute care facility, the imminent closure of the Delta Court House and cuts to the education budget for School District #37 (Delta).

Changes to BC Benefits include a three week job search period during which time applicants are not eligible to receive benefits; reductions to the shelter allowance and support rates for some employable clients; requirements for employable single parents to seek a job when their youngest child turns three; tighter eligibility criteria for subsidized child care; and time limits with regard to the receipt of assistance. For detailed information on these and other changes, refer to appendix 2.

Delta, formerly a member of the South Fraser Health Region along with Langley, Surrey and White Rock, is now part of the Fraser Health Authority, which is an amalgamation of the Fraser Valley, Simon Fraser and South Fraser Health Regions. The new region, with a population of about 1,360,000 people, also includes Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Haney, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody.

The Fraser Health Authority has announced that the Delta Hospital will become a sub-acute care facility and that overnight staffing levels may be reduced in the emergency room, when changes are implemented in six to eight months. In fact, emergency room staffing may be limited to one on-duty nurse and an on-call doctor. Additionally, there may be no acute care beds and only limited surgical services.

As for the Delta Court House, its functions will be relocated to Richmond and Surrey. In a typical year, the court house, with one full-time and one half-time criminal court, handles about 1,500 criminal files. In addition, it handles civil, family, small claims and traffic fines. The Province currently leases the Court House building from the Corporation of Delta for $331,000 per year and the contract runs until June 2004.

Faced with a $2.4 million budget shortfall, the Delta School Board recently eliminated 15 teaching positions and 14 support staff, including custodial and maintenance staff, as well as five English-as-a-Second Language teaching assistants. This does not include 10 teaching positions that are expected to be eliminated as a result of projected declining enrollment. It also reduced the budgets for learning resources by $180,000 and technology by $45,000. These cuts will likely not be limited to the forthcoming school year, as a $3.4 million budget shortfall is projected for 2003/2004 and a $2 million budget shortfall is projected for 2004/2005.

Other changes or initiatives include proposed budget cuts of 23% and job cuts of 1,113 for the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) by 2004/2005 and the Provincial government's new Community Charter. Regarding the former, MCFD is also in the process of developing five Regional Authorities, each with a regional office, under its Community Governance Model. As for the latter, this charter will change the powers and responsibilities of municipalities, including granting them new taxation and regulatory powers.

Methodology

How was this project designed and implemented?

The following methodology (chart 1) identifies the five major steps that were taken to develop this community snapshot report:

Step 1: Formation of a Delta Communities in Action Steering Committee

The first step was the formation of a Communities in Action Steering Committee (herein referred to as the steering committee), which included representation from a wide variety of community groups, government agencies and service providers. This steering committee met on five occasions and it took an active role in selecting the indicators, identifying the potential data sources, collecting the information and revising the report.
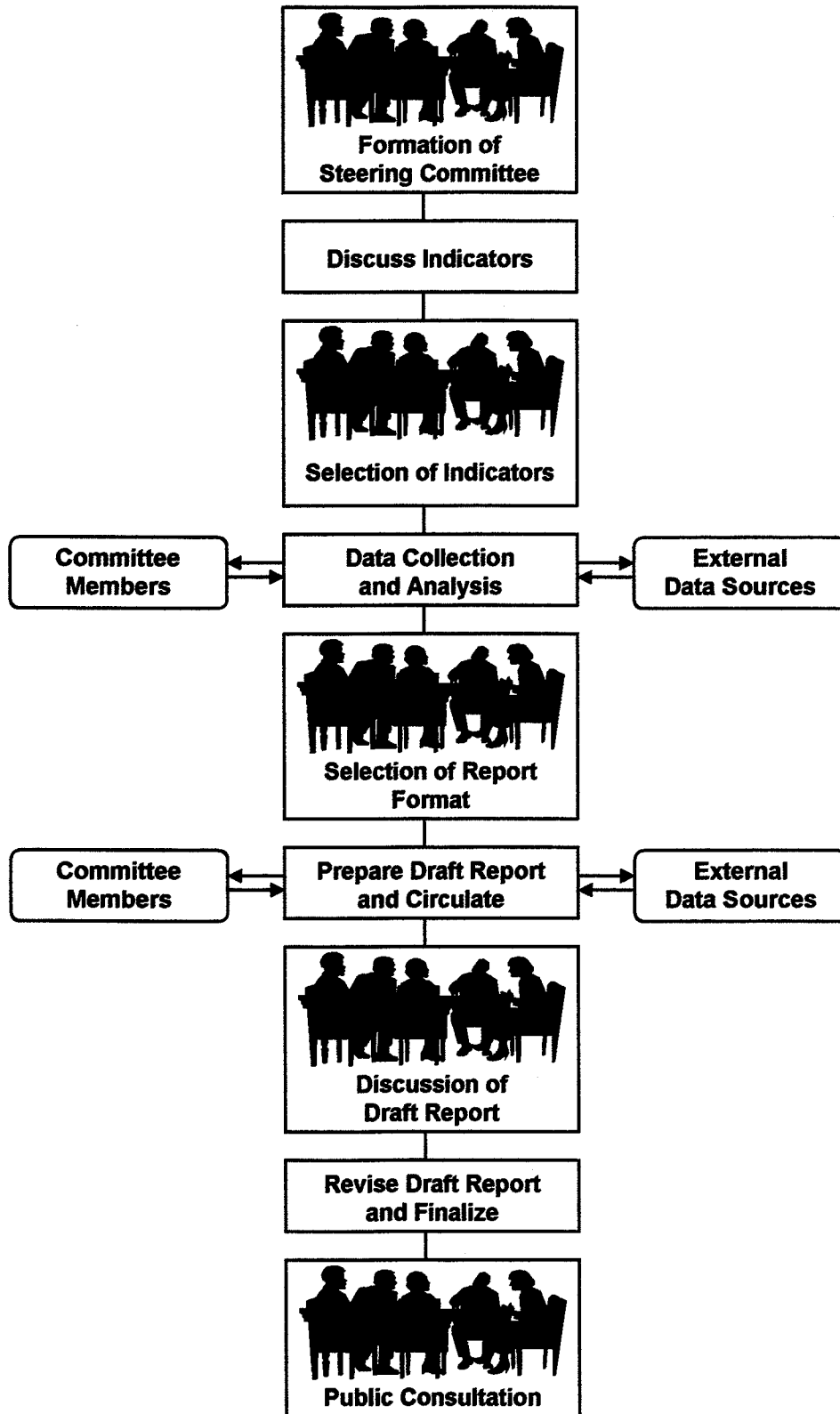
Step 2: Identification of Indicators

Based on a literature review and previous indicator work, the consultant prepared a list of possible indicators for Delta. The steering committee reviewed and revised this list and agreed to proceed with about 50 indicators. Given the difficulty in obtaining information for some indicators, this list was later pared down to the current 46 indicators.

Step 3: Data Collection and Analysis

The consultant, in close consultation with the steering committee, developed a strategy for acquiring the desired data through contact with agencies, groups and organizations that were in possession of the data. These data sources are highlighted as part of the indicator profiles and, where applicable, they include contact information. The most important, extensive and reliable data source is that provided by the Census, which is collected and published every five years by Statistics Canada. The Census highlights a number of indicators by municipality and it enables comparison of data between municipalities and between different years.

Comparative geographical data makes it possible to determine the position of Delta relative to other municipalities, the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Province. For the purposes of this community snapshot report, the steering committee agreed that the two comparison or case study municipalities would be the City of Coquitlam and the Township of Langley. Both of these municipalities have populations which are similar in size to that of Delta. The City of Coquitlam is rapidly urbanizing, while the Township of Langley is predominantly rural. These attributes reflect the dual nature of Delta. Additionally, both comparison or case study municipalities are dealing with issues shared by Delta such as creating more local employment (and reducing the number of commuters), improving public transit, increasing densities while maintaining community character, and reducing reliance on the residential tax base (by encouraging business and industrial development). As for differences, both comparison or case study municipalities have extensive areas designated for future growth and development, a luxury not shared by Delta.

Chart 1: Methodology

Formation of Steering Committee

Discuss Indicators

Selection of Indicators

| **Committee Members** | ← → | **Data Collection and Analysis** | ← → | **External Data Sources** |

Selection of Report Format

| **Committee Members** | ← → | **Prepare Draft Report and Circulate** | ← → | **External Data Sources** |

Discussion of Draft Report

Revise Draft Report and Finalize

Public Consultation

When available, data was collected for the three communities of Ladner, North Delta and Tsaw-wassen. With regard to these three communities, extensive comparative data based on the 1996 Census is available as part of the community profiles, which were prepared by the Corporation of Delta, and are available on its website at: (www.corp.delta.bc.ca/cpd/community_profiles.htm). As for the Tsawwassen First Nation, it has its own indicator profile but is not highlighted elsewhere in this report. In discussions with the Director of Social Services, it was felt that the 1996 Census data is not representative of the band population, given that the reserve incorporates two housing developments which cater to elderly, high income, non-aboriginal people.

Comparative historic data makes it possible to determine trends that may be occurring within Delta and its three communities. For the purposes of this report, the steering committee decided that 1991 and 1996 would act as benchmarks, given that the Census was conducted in these two years. It was also decided that if 2001 Census data is available, that it be used. For indicators not tracked by the Census, the most current data available was used.

Step 4: Discussion of Draft Formats

Before preparing the community snapshot report, it was important to select a report format that would organize the information to be presented. As such, the consultant collected and reviewed formats used in other community impact profiles, report cards and snapshot reports. In some cases, the formats consisted mainly of statistical information (presented in the way of charts and tables) with a minimum of analysis; while in other cases, they were comprised primarily of text. To facilitate discussion by the steering committee, the consultant presented several formats used in other documents and a proposed format.

Step 5: Preparation of the Community Snapshot Report

Based on the preferred format and the information collected from the listed data sources, the draft community snapshot report was completed in June 2002. The report was organized according to nine sections, with between three and nine indicators in each section. The draft report was shared with the steering committee for their comments and suggestions. Applicable sections were also shared with data sources in order to get their feedback, especially with regard to the analysis of the data. Based on all the comments and suggestions received, the draft report was revised accordingly and a final report was completed in September 2002.

What were the limitations?

This project faced a number of limitations which need to be considered when interpreting the findings and making any decisions based on them. First, it relied entirely on secondary information, thus the consultant had little or no control over the accuracy or reliability of this information. When possible, the consultant attempted to validate the information by checking with the Census or other data sources. Second, some of the data sources used different boundaries when collecting information. In most cases, this information was available by municipality but this was not always the case. Third, much of the information provided is based on the 1996 Census, which is at least six years old. Finally, the indicators presented were selected by the steering committee and do not represent an exhaustive listing. They represent what the steering committee felt was important at the time, based on the interests that were involved and the information that was available from secondary data sources.

Population
Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

Delta's rate of population growth has slowed over the past 15 years. Between 1986 and 1991, the population grew by 11.8% from 79,610 to 88,978; while between 1991 and 1996, the population grew by 7.2% from 88,978 to 95,411. During the most recent five year period (i.e., between 1996 and 2001), the population grew by only 1.9% from 95,411 to 97,210 (Statistics Canada, 2002).

With regard to population trends, BC Stats PEOPLE Projection Run 26 data (2001) provides projection information up to 2026 for the Delta Local Health Area (which includes the Tsawwassen Reserve). While this data provides useful information on the future size and composition of the population, it has several limitations. First, base or benchmark figures were calculated prior to the release of the 2001 Census, thus there may be discrepancies between BC Stats and Census figures. Second, projection information is based on a number of assumptions, which may or may not prove correct. Regardless, it provides the most reliable information available on population trends.

Between 2001 and 2016, the Delta Local Health Area's population is projected to grow by 6.3%. Put another way, the area's population is projected to grow by an average of 0.4% per year. Of concern, the model being used projects that the Delta Local Health Area may experience negative population growth by 2025. Between 2001 and 2016, the percentage and absolute number of children (0-14) and youth and young adults (15-24) is projected to decrease, while the percentage and absolute number of seniors (65+) is projected to increase. Regarding the latter, the number of seniors is projected to increase by 78.3% from 11,948 to 21,300.

Delta's family composition and ethnic make-up is also changing. Between 1991 and 1996 (the latest year in which this information is available), the number of lone parent families increased by 20.3% from 2,315 to 2,785; while the number of all families increased by 6.8% from 24,900 to 26,600. As for its ethnic make-up, recent immigrants (i.e., those arriving between 1991 and 1996) accounted for 63.5% of the net population growth that occurred between 1991 and 1996 and most recent immigrants (65.2%) were from Asian countries, with India, Taiwan and Hong Kong being the three largest source countries (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 95-191-XPB).

With regard to the Tsawwassen First Nation, there were 224 band members, of which 153 or 68.3% lived on-reserve in 2000. Between 2000 and 2020, the total band population (i.e., both on and off reserve) is projected to increase by 59.4% from 224 to 357 (PS Turje Community Engineering, 2002).

Highlighted Population Indicators:

Population Growth, Children (0-14), Youth and Young Adults (15-24), Lone Parent Families, Seniors (65+), Recent Immigrants, Tsawwassen First Nation

Population Growth

Why is it important?

Population growth can have both positive and negative impacts.

Positive impacts can include a choice of housing types for different lifestyles and income levels; extension of sanitary sewer systems to unserviced areas; increased property tax revenues; new or upgraded municipal facilities and roads; and revitalization of existing neighbourhoods.

Negative impacts can include congested municipal facilities because of the lag between planning and construction; increasing financial liabilities resulting from the capital needs associated with population growth; loss of agricultural, heritage and/or natural resources; and social issues such as alienation, homelessness and poverty.

What is the situation in Delta?

Delta's rate of population growth has slowed considerably over the past 15 years.

Between 1986 and 1991, the population grew by 11.8% from 79,610 to 88,978; while between 1991 and 1996, the population grew by 7.2% from 88,978 to 95,411. During the most recent five year period (i.e., between 1996 and 2001), the population grew by only 1.9% from 95,411 to 97,210. Put another way, Delta's population grew by an average of 0.4% per year.

Between 1996 and 2001, the communities of Ladner and North Delta and the rural area experienced positive population growth, while the community of Tsawwassen experienced negative population growth.

The community of Ladner grew by 1.3% from 21,085 to 21,360, the community of North Delta grew by 1.7% from 51,230 to 52,115 and the rural area grew by 8.8% from 2,430 to 2,645. As stated, the community of Tsawwassen experienced negative population growth, as its population shrank by 0.4% from 21,170 to 21,090.
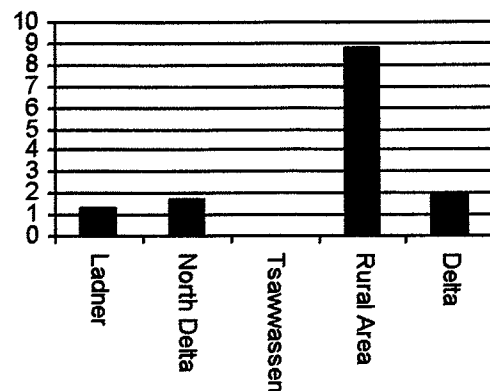
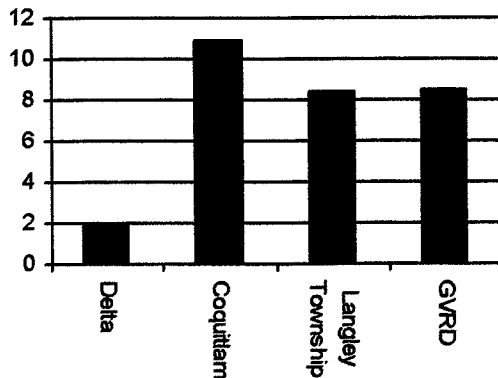■ Percentage change in population growth between 1996 and 2001

In the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Livable Region Strategic Plan (LRSP), the community of North Delta is designated as a growth concentration area. As for the communities of Ladner and Tsawwassen, no physical extensions are currently planned. However, population growth in these two communities may be accommodated through redevelopment – e.g., multi-family development close to Ladner Village and around the Town Centre in Tsawwassen.

Much of Delta's non-urban area is included in the LRSP's Green Zone, which is intended to protect the region's natural resources and establish a long term boundary for urban growth.

How do we compare?

Between 1996 and 2001, Delta's rate of population growth (1.9%) was far lower than for the Township of Langley (8.4%) and the City of Coquitlam (10.9%), as well as for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (8.5%). In fact, Delta's rate of population growth was second lowest among the 17 municipalities (not including electoral areas and villages) that comprise the GVRD; ahead of only the District of West Vancouver (1.3%).

Percentage change in population growth between 1996 and 2001

What are the trends?

Between 2001 and 2016, the population is projected to grow by about 6.3% for the Delta Local Health Area (which includes the Tsawwassen Reserve). Put another way, the area's population is projected to grow by an average of 0.4% per year. Of concern, the model being used projects that the Delta Local Health Area may experience negative population growth by 2025 (BC Stats, 2001).

What are some of the issues?

The availability of developable land is in short supply in Delta. As a result, new single family residential development is severely constrained and this may result in higher prices.

For those looking for single family housing, they may opt to locate elsewhere where the availability is greater and the prices are lower.

What are some assets/resources?

Delta's Community Planning and Development Department sells copies of its Official Community Plan (OCP) and community profiles, which provide an analysis of the 1996 Census information for Delta. It also makes the latter available on its website at: (www.corp.delta.bc.ca/cpd/community_profiles.htm). Copies of the OCP can also be found at all local libraries in Delta.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Community Planning & Development Department. Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Corporation of Delta. Official Community Plan.
•Harris Hudema and Eric Vance & Associates. Economic Development Strategy Plan. Delta: Corporation of Delta, November 1996.
•Statistics Canada. 2001 Community Profiles, 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Children (0-14)
•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Population: Recent Immigrants
•Population: Seniors (65+)
•Population: Tsawwassen First Nation
•Economic: Business Incorporations
•Economic: Housing Starts

Why is it important?

The number of children has planning implications for community facilities, health services, organized sports, parks, schools, etc. An increasing number of children, especially young children, may suggest the need for increased child care, larger numbers of library books to meet the needs of young minds, more active and neighbourhood park space, traffic calming measures, etc. For schools, administrators will need to look at the capacity of existing school buildings, staffing levels and/or transportation requirements. If the number of new students exceed capacity, then capital expenditures for new school buildings may be necessary, and this can take several years for approval and construction to occur.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 5,510 children aged 0 to 4 years in 2001, which accounted for 5.7% of the population. As for children aged 5 to 14 years, there were 14,325 such children in 2001, which accounted for 14.8% of the population. Combined, there were 19,835 children aged 0 to 14 years in 2001, which accounted for 20.5% of the population.

2001 Census information is not yet available for the age groups 5 to 9 and 10 to 14. In the summary statistics published to date, these two age groups have been combined. As such, this indicator profiles children 0 to 14 years.

How do we compare?

In 2001, Delta had a higher percentage of children aged 0 to 14 years (20.5%) than for the City of Coquitlam (19%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (17.4%) but a lower percentage of such children than for the Township of Langley (21.6%).
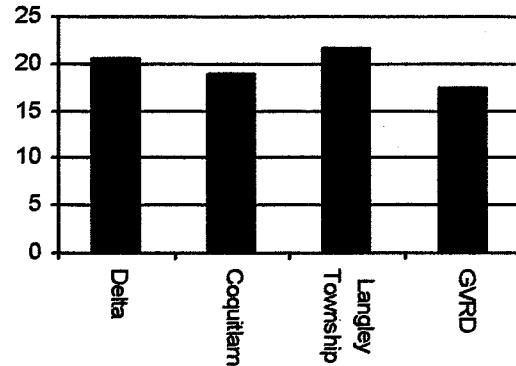
Percentage of the population aged 0 to 14 years in 2001

What are the trends?

In 2001, BC Stats estimated that children aged 0 to 4 years accounted for 5.3% of the population and children aged 5 to 14 years accounted for 13.8% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area (which includes the Tsawwassen Reserve). Combined, in 2001, BC Stats estimated that children aged 0 to 14 years accounted for 19.1% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area.

BC Stats PEOPLE Run 26 data projects that by 2016, the percentage of children aged 0 to 4 years will account for 5% of the population and the percentage of children aged 5 to 14 years will account for 9.9% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area. Combined, children aged 0 to 14 years are projected to account for 14.9% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area.

As such, it is projected that children aged 0 to 14 years will decrease by 4.2 percentage points (i.e., 19.1% to 14.9%) during the 15 year period between 2001 and 2016, while the total number of children aged 0 to 14 years is projected to decrease from 19,582 to 16,256 in the Delta Local Health Area.

What has been written?

In 1999, the Canada/British Columbia Strategic Initiative Program, Human Resources Development Canada and the Ministry for Children and Families jointly funded the Early Years: Investing In Our Future. This project conducted research into early brain development and based on its findings, it emphasized the importance of nurturing care and positive stimulation.

The project referred to the period from pre-conception to age five as the investment phase of child development. It reported that during this phase, children develop language skills, the ability to learn, to cope with stress and to develop healthy relationships with others. As for the period between ages six and eighteen, these years were referred to as the enhancement or remediation phase. The project reported that during this phase, improving child development means strengthening family, community and school capacities to assist children to overcome developmental deficits or gaps.

The project stressed that the amount of money invested in education, health and social programs was inversely related to the potential benefits for children. It noted that there is less public spending in the early years, when the brain is flexible, and more as children age. As such, it reported that investments in early childhood would increase the efficiency of education, reduce the costs of health care and significantly contribute to future productivity.

What are some of the issues?

The projected decline in the number of children aged 0 to 14 years during the 15 year period between 2001 and 2016 could result in school closures in Delta, as well as declining enrollment in child care, clubs, organized sports and other programs and services catering to this age group. It could also result in decreased demand for detached single family housing, as there will be fewer families with young children and more families comprised of empty nesters.

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a Directory of Child and Youth Services for Delta. This directory lists child care, counselling, crisis and emergency help, health, recreation and special needs services, along with contact information. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-9526.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Statistics Canada. 2001 Community Profiles, 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Children & Youth: Child Care
•Children & Youth: Child Poverty
•Children & Youth: Children and Youth in Care
•Health: Low Birth Weight
•Leisure & Recreation: Parks and Open Spaces

Youth and Young Adults (15-24)

Why is it important?

The number of youth and young adults (15-24) has planning implications for community facilities, educational institutions, health services, organized sports, parks, etc. It also has implications for employment and housing. For older youth and young adults, many will take their first steps toward independence by seeking a driver's license, employment or housing of their own. Some will also leave Delta to pursue employment, housing or a post-secondary education elsewhere.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 7,545 youth aged 15 to 19 years in 2001, which accounted for 7.8% of the population. As for young adults aged 20 to 24 years, there were 5,900 young adults in 2001, which accounted for 6.1% of the population. Combined, there were 13,445 youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years in 2001, which accounted for 13.9% of the population.

How do we compare?

In 2001, Delta had a similar percentage of youth aged 15 to 19 years (7.8%) as the City of Coquitlam but a lower percentage of youth than for the Township of Langley (8.1%). It also a higher percentage of youth than for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (6.6%).

As for young adults aged 20 to 24 years, in 2001, Delta had a higher percentage (6.1%) than for the Township of Langley (5.5%) but a lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam and the GVRD (both with 6.8%).
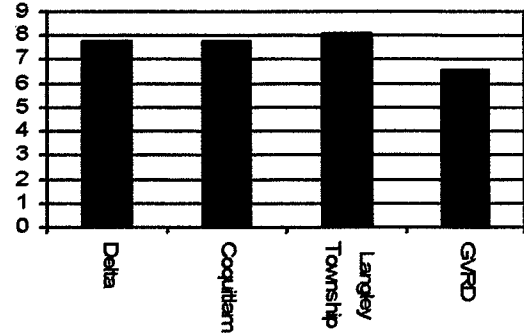
■ Percentage of the population aged 15 to 19 years in 2001
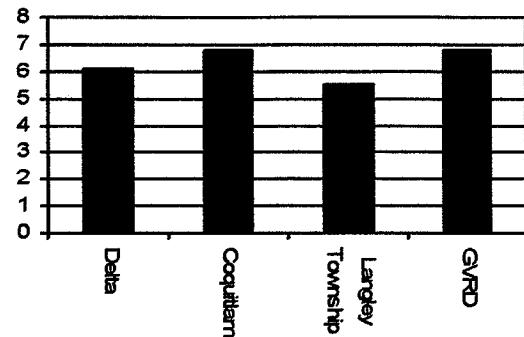
■ Percentage of the population aged 20 to 24 years in 2001

What are the trends?

In 2001, BC Stats estimated that youth aged 15 to 19 years accounted for 7.4% of the population and young adults aged 20 to 24 years accounted for 6.9% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area (which includes the Tsawwassen Reserve). Combined, in 2001, BC Stats estimated that youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years accounted for 14.3% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area.

BC Stats PEOPLE Run 26 data projects that by 2016, the percentage of youth aged 15 to 19 years will account for 5.1% of the population and the percentage of young adults aged 20 to 24 years will account for 6% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area. Combined, youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years are projected to account for 11.1% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area.

As such, it is projected that youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years will decrease by 3.2 percentage points (i.e., 14.3% to 11.1%) during the 15 year period between 2001 and 2016, while the total number of youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years is projected to decrease from 14,606 to 12,115 in the Delta Local Health Area.

What are some of the issues?

The projected decline in the number of youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years during the 15 year period between 2001 and 2016 could result in school closures in Delta, as well as declining enrollment in organized sports, post-secondary institutions and programs catering to this age group.

The projected decline in the number and percentage of youth could also result in a gradual shift in health care spending, away from children and youth and toward seniors.

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a Directory of Child and Youth Services for Delta. This directory lists counselling, crisis and emergency help, health and sexuality, recreation, special needs and street youth services, along with contact information. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-9526.

Deltassist Family and Community Services also provides a Youth Volunteer Directory. This directory outlines volunteer opportunities both in Delta and elsewhere, as well as contact information. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-2042.

The Boys and Girls Club of Delta provides a drop-in program for children and youth (6-18), including pool, television and videos. It also provides structured programs such as cooking, hockey, etc. For more information, call (604) 596-9595 or (604) 946-2027.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Statistics Canada. 2001 Community Profiles, 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Unemployment
•Children & Youth: Children and Youth in Care
•Education: High School Completion
•Education: Post-Secondary Transition
•Health: Suicides
•Health: Teen Pregnancy
•Leisure & Recreation: Parks and Open Spaces
•Participation: Volunteerism
•Public Safety: Youth Crime

Lone Parent Families

Why is it important?

There has been an increase in the number of lone parent families in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). Between 1991 and 1996, the number of lone parent families increased by 30.4% from 51,040 to 66,550; while the number of all families increased by 18.7% from 402,540 to 477,875.

In 1996, the vast majority (83.6%) of lone parent families were headed by females. These female lone parent families had far lower average family incomes than for two parent families and male lone parent families. In fact, in 1996, female lone parent families earned 48.2% of that earned by two parent families and 67.9% of that earned by male lone parent families in the GVRD (Stubbs and Wong, Fall 1999).

As such, lone parent families, especially those headed by females, are far more likely to live in poverty, and children in such families face far greater risk of experiencing negative outcomes and poor living conditions (National Council of Welfare, February 2002).

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 2,785 or 10.4% of all families were comprised of lone parent families in 1996. Of these families, 85.1% were headed by females and 14.9% were headed by males.

The community of Tsawwassen had a far lower percentage (7.6%) of all families comprised of lone parent families than for the communities of North Delta (11.2%) and Ladner (11.7%) in 1996 (Community Planning and Development Department, 1999).

2001 Census information pertaining to families and household living arrangements will not be available until October 22, 2002.
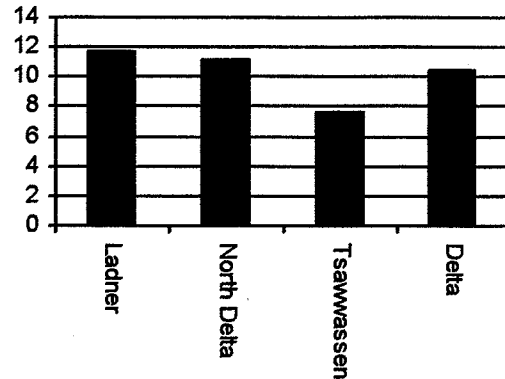
■ Percentage of all families comprised of lone parent families in 1996

How do we compare?

Delta had a slightly higher percentage (10.4%) of all families comprised of lone parent families than for the Township of Langley (10%) but a far lower percentage than for both the City of Coquitlam (13.1%) and the GVRD (13.9%) in 1996.
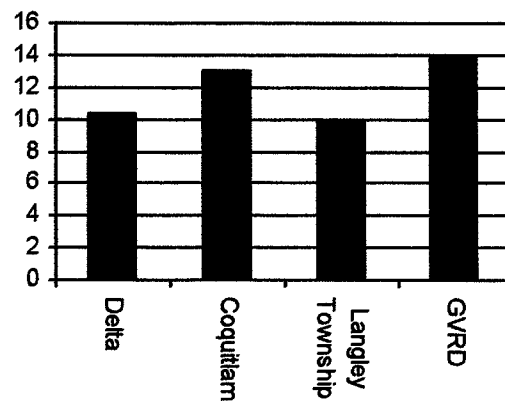
■ Percentage of all families comprised of lone parent families in 1996

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 1996, the number of lone parent families increased by 20.3% from 2,315 to 2,785; while the number of all families increased by 6.8% from 24,900 to 26,600 in Delta. In 1991, 9.3% of all families were comprised of lone parent families; while in 1996, 10.4% of all families were comprised of lone parent families in Delta.

What are some of the issues?

Lone parents, with children to care for and without a partner to help, are often socially isolated. As a result, they seldom participate in most forms of civic engagement (e.g., club attendance, volunteer activities, voting, etc.) (Putnam, 2000). Work outside the home can improve the situation, however, only 51% of female lone parents with children under 16 worked in 1996, compared to 67% of comparable females in two parent families in British Columbia (BC Council for Families, June 1997). Information was not readily available for male lone parents.

What is currently occurring in BC?

Recent changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) will have major impacts on employable lone parent recipients with non-disabled children over three. Whereas in the past, these parents were expected to find work when their youngest child turned seven; they are now expected to find work when their youngest child turns three. They then have two years to find work, after which time their benefits will be reduced (PovNet, April 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

The Ministry of Human Resources offers a child care subsidy to low income families to assist in the cost of child care. For information about this subsidy, as well as eligibility requirements, contact the Employment and Assistance Centre – Delta Surrey/West at (604) 501-3257.

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a number of family support programs funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, including the Family Enhancement Program, the Healthy Families Program and the Outreach Program. For information about these and other programs, phone (604) 591-1185 or (604) 943-8610. It also provides a directory of free and low cost goods and services for the Delta area. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-9526.

Delta Youth Services provides a Family Resource Centre in North Delta for children aged 0 to 6 years and their parents/caregivers. This centre links parents/caregivers to other community services while offering them support, as well as providing their children with playtime activities. Delta Youth Services also provides the Parents and Children Together program, which provides in-home support to new birth mothers to assist them with parenting. For information on these programs and others, call (604) 946-0324.

Where to go for information?

•BC Council for Families (BCCF). Diversity and Change: A Profile of British Columbia Families. Vancouver: BCCF, June 1997.

•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.

•National Council of Welfare. The Cost of Poverty. Ottawa: National Council of Welfare, February 2002.

•Stubbs, Mayling and Jeffrey Wong. Lone Parents Profile for Surrey, White Rock and North Delta. Surrey: Human Resources Centre of Canada, Fall 1999.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Children & Youth: Child Care
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Health: Teen Pregnancy

Seniors (65+)

Why is it important?

In 2001, those persons 65+ represented 12.2% of the population in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). BC Stats PEOPLE Run 26 data projects that by 2016, the percentage of persons 65+ in the GVRD will increase by 3.1 percentage points to 15.3%, while the total number of persons 65+ will increase by 61% from 240,245 to 386,876.

This dramatic increase will have a significant impact throughout the region on facilities, programs and/or services for the elderly, such as accessible and affordable housing, health and long term care facilities, and transportation.

From a community perspective, today's elderly contribute more to charity, participate more often in community organizations and politics and volunteer more often that younger members of society. In fact, retirement once meant withdrawal from civic activity but because of marked improvements in the finances and health of the elderly and the significant growth in free time among persons 60+ (roughly 10 more hours per week between 1975 and 1995) due to early retirement, the elderly are making an active contribution to community life. (Putnam, 2000).

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 10,765 or 11.1% of the population was 65+ in 2001. Of this total, 4,770 or 44.3% were male and 5,995 or 55.7% were female. In this same year, 1,130 or 1.2% of the population was 85+. Of this total, 360 or 31.9% were male and 770 or 68.1% were female.

2001 Census information pertaining to population is not yet available by community for Delta. As such, 1996 information is used to calculate the percentage of seniors by community.

The seniors population is not evenly distributed within Delta. In 1996, the community of Tsawwassen had a far higher percentage of persons 65+ (15.9%) than for the communities of North Delta (6.5%) and Ladner (11.2%)
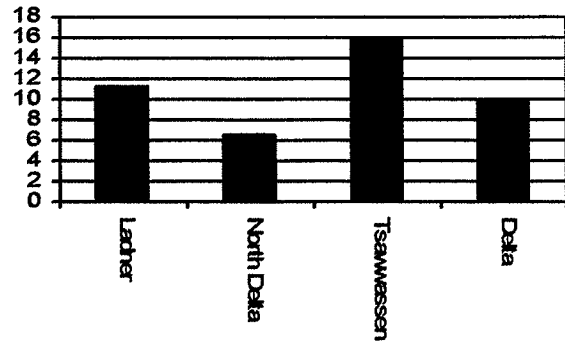
■ Percentage of the population 65+ in 1996

How do we compare?

In 2001, Delta had a higher percentage of persons 65+ (11.1%) than for the City of Coquitlam (9.8%) and the Township of Langley (11%) but a lower percentage than for the GVRD (12.2%).
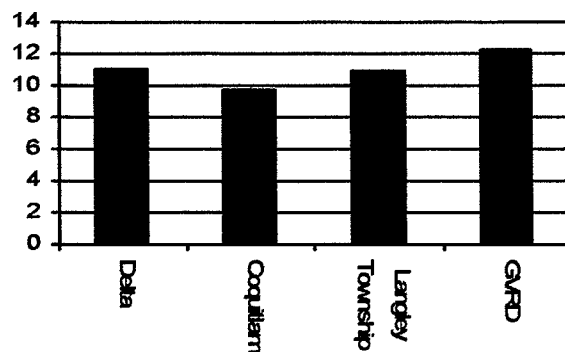
■ Percentage of the population 65+ in 2001

- 18 -

What are the trends?

In 2001, BC Stats estimated that those persons 65+ represented 11.6% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area (which includes the Tsawwassen Reserve). BC Stats PEOPLE Run 26 data projects that by 2016, the percentage of persons 65+ in the Delta Local Health Area will increase by eight percentage points to 19.6%, while the total number of persons 65+ is projected to increase by 78.3% from 11,948 to 21,300.

As for those persons 85+, in 2001, BC Stats estimated that they represented 1.4% of the population in the Delta Local Health Area. BC Stats PEOPLE Run 26 data projects that by 2016, the percentage of persons 85+ in the Delta Local Health Area will increase by 0.9 percentage points to 2.3%, while the total number of persons 85+ is projected to increase by 78.2% from 1,393 to 2,482.

What are some of the issues?

The projected 78% plus increase in the population 65+ and 85+ in the 15 year period between 2001 and 2016 will place enormous strains on those facilities, programs and/or services catering to these two population groups in Delta.

Because of improvements in the finances and health of elderly persons, more are likely to live independently for longer periods of time. As such, housing which enables the elderly to age in place and home support and other services to assist them to live independently will become increasingly important. However, when the elderly can no longer live independently, a range of facility options, including congregate, long term and special care, will need to be available in Delta.

The increasing number of elderly will also place demands on the parks and recreation system, as the elderly call for more passive park space and exercise, recreation and social programs geared to their abilities, interests and needs.

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a Seniors' Services Handbook for Delta. This handbook lists counselling, food, health, home support, housing, recreation and transportation services, along with contact information. For a copy, call (604) 946-2042.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000.
•Statistics Canada. 2001 Community Profiles, 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Housing: Housing Cost
•Housing: Mobility
•Housing: Non-Market Housing
•Leisure & Recreation: Parks and Open Spaces
•Participation: Charitable Giving
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Municipal Voting
•Participation: Volunteerism
•Public Safety: Crime Rate

Why is it important?

Recent immigration (those immigrants arriving between 1991 and 1996) accounted for 63.5% of the net population growth that occurred in Delta between 1991 and 1996. Most recent immigration to Delta was from Asian countries (65.2%), with India, Taiwan and Hong Kong being the three largest source countries.

While recent immigration has helped fuel economic growth during the period in question, it has also placed strains on immigrant support services, including language training. Recent immigrants must cope with a multitude of challenges, including accessing child care, education and health care services; figuring out the currency; finding employment and housing; learning the language; and becoming familiar with the customs, laws and traditions of British Columbia.

## What is the situation in Delta?

Between 1991 and 1996, 4,085 immigrants settled in Delta, which represented 17.8% of the total immigrant population living in the municipality. During this period, the largest immigrant group was from India (1,225 or 30% of the total). The second largest immigrant group was from Taiwan (545 or 13.3%), while the third largest immigrant group was from Hong Kong (315 or 7.7%).

Within Delta, the community of North Delta received the most recent immigrants (2,970 or 72% of the total). The communities of Ladner (585) and Tsawwassen (570) each received about 14% of the total. Of significance, North Delta received a far higher percentage of recent immigrants from Asian and other non-English speaking countries than for either Ladner or Tsawwassen.

2001 Census information pertaining to immigration and citizenship will not be available until January 21, 2003.

How do we compare?

In 1996, recent immigration as a percentage of total immigration was higher for Delta (17.8%) than for the Township of Langley (11.4%) but far lower than for the City of Coquitlam (35.1%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (29.9%).

■ Recent immigration as a percentage of total immigration in 1996
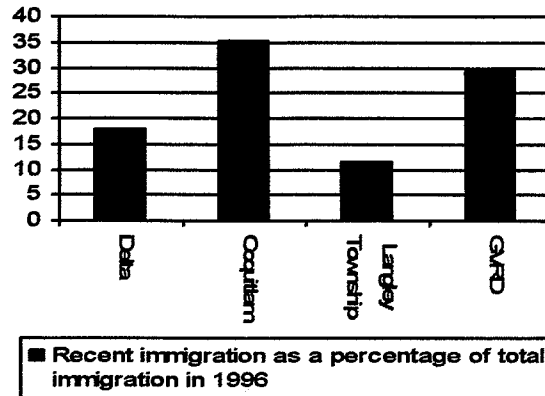
What are the trends?

During the five year period between 1991 and 1996, 4,085 immigrants settled in Delta. By comparison, during the ten year period between 1981 and 1990, 4,485 immigrants settled in the municipality.

What has been written?

Martin Spigelman, who has written extensively on the poverty faced by recent immigrants to Canada, notes that the average total income for recent immigrants is less than half that for non-immigrants. Additionally, he notes that recent immigrants face many barriers, including inadequate English language skills, isolation, systematic discrimination and underemployment in relation to their education levels.

What are some of the issues?

There are limited settlement services in Delta and only one federally funded English language program for newcomers, which targets residents of North Delta and Surrey. As such, it is difficult to access for residents of Ladner and Tsawwassen. School District #37 (Delta) provides "English Language Services for Adults" as part of its Continuing Education Program but the cost can be prohibitive, especially for refugees. Additionally, there are no employment services which focus on the needs of recent immigrants in Delta.

What are some assets/resources?

The Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society provides employment, housing, settlement and other services to residents of Surrey and Delta. Of note, all services are offered in Surrey, thus residents of Delta must travel to access them. For information about services, call (604) 596-7722.

The Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society serves immigrants and refugees in the South Fraser Valley Region, including North Delta. For information about services, call (604) 597-0205.

SUCCESS Surrey-Delta Office assists Chinese immigrants with their settlement and integration into Canadian society. For information about services, call (604) 588-6869.

School District #37 (Delta) provides "English Language Services for Adults" as part of its Continuing Education Program. It also provides an ESL Summer School for children and adults. For the former, call (604) 507-4150 and for the latter call either (604) 594-6100 or (604) 940-5550.

The Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism & Immigration published a Newcomers' Guide to Resources and Services in June 1999. This guide provides information on citizenship and government; the education, health care and legal systems; finding a job; money and banking; etc. For a copy of this guide, call (604) 660-2203.

In addition, a number of faith-based organizations in Delta have sponsored and/or provided settlement assistance to recent immigrants and refugees. For example, Benediction Lutheran and Tsawwassen United partnered to sponsor 10 family groups in the past decade.

Where to go for information?

•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Spigelman, Martin. Unfulfilled Expectations, Missed Opportunities: Poverty Among Immigrants and Refugees in British Columbia. Vancouver: Working Group on Poverty, 1998.
Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996, Census - 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada - Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Education: English-as-a-Second Language
•Housing: Homelessness
•Participation: Civic Participation

Tsawwassen First Nation

Why is it important?

Aboriginal peoples have and continue to experience significant inequalities. They are among those that face the highest levels of poverty, incarceration, suicide and unemployment. With regard to poverty, aboriginal peoples in cities are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty than non-aboriginal peoples (Lee, 2000).

According to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1998): "Aboriginal peoples face discrimination in hiring and employment; they earn about one-third less in wages; they are less likely to hold down full-time, year-round jobs; and they are much more likely to be employed in manual trades such as construction than in white collar jobs."

Additionally, aboriginal life expectancy is seven years less than that of the overall population in Canada, and there are almost twice as many infant deaths among aboriginal peoples (Townson, 1999).

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 1,655 people or 1.7% of the population identified their ethnic origins as being aboriginal in 1996. Of this number, 865 people or 52.3% self-identified themselves as being aboriginal. This represented 0.9% of Delta's population.

As for the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) Reserve, there were 224 band members, of which 153 or 68.3% lived on-reserve in 2000. There were also 61 people referred to as on-reserve others. They included non-aboriginal spouses and children of members, medical staff, police officers, teachers and others. While not eligible to receive status, they are considered members and are served by the TFN.

Of the band members, over 50% were 24 years or younger and only 4.7% were 65 years or older in 1999. This profile is far younger than for Delta, where 34.3% of the population was 24 years or younger and 11.1% of the population was 65 years or older in 2001.

In addition to the band members and on-reserve others, there are a number of people who lease land from the TFN. These lessees are generally older, non-aboriginals with higher incomes who live in condominiums on Tsatsu Shores or in luxury homes in Stahaken Properties.

2001 Census information pertaining to aboriginal peoples will not be available until January 21, 2003. With regard to the TFN Reserve, it is not advisable to use Census information. This information is not representative of the band population, as it incorporates the above two non-aboriginal housing developments.

What are the trends?

Between 2000 and 2020, the total band population (i.e., both on and off reserve) is projected to increase by 59.4% from 224 to 357; while the total on-reserve population (i.e., band members and on-reserve others) is projected to increase by 59.3% from 214 to 341 (PS Turje Community Engineering, 2002).

What are some of the issues?

The TFN is facing a number of issues, including high rates of unemployment, lack of housing and poverty. For example, for the TFN, the unemployment rate was 9.3% for those 25+ and 44.4% for those 15 to 24 in 1996. By comparison, for Delta, the unemployment rate was 5.9% for those 25+ and 14.1% for those 15 to 24 in 1996 (Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 95-191-XPB).

Additionally, in a recent housing survey, of the 62 residential housing units on reserve, 12 units were over-crowded, five units were in need of replacement and one unit was condemned and vacant. As such, 18 units or 29% of the residential housing stock was deemed to be inadequate. Further, seven households, including one special needs member, required housing (PS Turje, 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

The TFN has a band council system, with an administrative staff of about 30 people. It offers a range of social, administrative, cultural, educational and economic services to its members.

Each service, along with a description of it and the name, title, photo and contact information of the person(s) responsible for its operation, are included on the TFN's website. This website can be accessed at: (www.tsawwassen-fn.org).

The TFN recently contracted for the preparation of two reports to address many of the above issues. The first report is a Community Development Plan (2002) which includes population and housing projections, as well as a facility and project listing. The second report is a Home and Community Care Needs Assessment (January 28, 2002). This report is based on a survey on-reserve band members and interviews with outside agencies and it identifies priority areas for home and community care, as well as areas for possible collaboration.

Where to go for information?

•Lee, Kevin K. Urban Poverty in Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, April 2000.
•Naut' sa mawt Resources Group. Tsawwassen First Nation Home and Community Care Needs Assessment. Delta: Tsawwassen First Nation, January 28, 2002.
•PS Turje Community Engineering. Tsawwassen First Nation Community Development Plan, 2002.

•Statistics Canada. 2001 Community Profiles, 2002.
•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census - 100% and 20% Sample Data. Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.
•Townson, Monica. Health and Wealth: How Social and Economic Factors Affect Our Well Being? Toronto: J. Lorimer, 1999.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Children & Youth: Children and Youth In Care
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Leisure & Recreation: Heritage

Who are potential population contacts?

•Yuan Li, Settlement Worker, SUCCESS Surrey-Delta Office, A7 Boardwalk Plaza, 10160-152nd Street, Surrey, BC, V3R 9W3, (604) 588-6869.

•Ruth McDougall, Manager, Population Statistics, BC Stats, Ministry of Management Services, PO Box 9410, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9V1, (250) 387-0337.

•Adam North Peigan, Director of Social Services, Tsawwassen First Nation, #131 N. Tsawwassen Drive, Delta, BC, V4M 4G2, (604) 943-2112.

•Lesley Woodman, Executive Director, Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society, #1107-7330 137th Street, Surrey, BC, V3W 1A3, (604) 597-0205.

•Rosemary Zelinka, Senior Planner, Community Planning and Development Department, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-3380.

What other references were used in this section?

•Cleathero, Jennifer and Bruce Levens. Environmental Scan of the Lower Mainland Region: A Compilation of Socio-Demographic Facts and Trends. Burnaby: United Way Research Services, September 1998.

•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Greater Vancouver Key Facts: A Statistical Profile of Greater Vancouver. Burnaby: Policy and Planning Department, Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2002.

•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Livable Region Strategic Plan. Burnaby: Strategic Planning Department, April 1996.

•The Corporation of Delta. Official Community Plan for Delta and Area Plans for Ladner, North Delta and Tsawwassen.

What are other possible population indicators?

•Number of Family and Non-Family Households
•Number of Persons Living Alone
•Population by Age Groups and Gender
•Population by Ethnicity
•Population by Mother Tongue
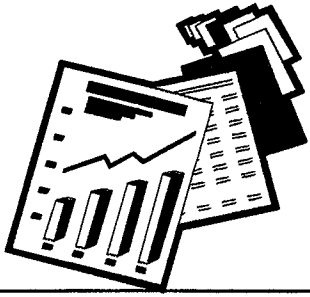
Economic
Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

During the ten year period between 1991 and 2001, Delta's population grew by 9.3% from 88,978 to 97,210. Put another way, Delta's population grew by only 0.9% per year. During this same period, business incorporations increased by 4.4% from 451 to 471 and housing starts decreased by 71.9% from 405 to 114. Given the slow rate of population growth projected for the Delta Local Health Area (which includes the Tsawwassen Reserve) between 2001 and 2016 (i.e., 6.3% or 0.4% per year), business incorporations in the population-driven retail and services sector will likely be slow. Additionally, given the scarcity of developable land available for housing in Delta, housing starts will likely not reach the levels experienced prior to 1991 – e.g., 905 in 1990.

More positively, Delta had a far higher average family income ($67,844) than for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) ($60,438) in 1995 (the latest year in which these statistics are available). A contributing factor to the high average family income in Delta is the high female participation rate in the labour force. In fact, 66.2% of Delta's females (15+) participated in the labour force, compared to 61.3% in the GVRD in 1996.

With regard to dependence on income security, poverty and unemployment, Delta had lower rates than for the GVRD. For Delta's adult population 19 to 64, 2.1% received BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) and 2.2% received Employment Insurance in September 2001. The comparable figures were 3.6% and 2.4% respectively for the GVRD. As for poverty, 10.5% of Delta's economic families (see indicator for definition) were living below Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs and were considered to be in "straitened circumstances," compared to 18.7% of the GVRD's economic families in 1995. Regarding unemployment, 7.4% of Delta's labour force (15+) was unemployed, compared to 8.6% of the GVRD's labour force (15+) in 1996. Additionally, about 25 individuals and 55 families receive food each month from the South Delta Food Bank and over 500 families received a Christmas hamper from the Christmas Bureau in 2001.

In Delta, only 28.5% of the employed labour force (15+) lived and worked in the same municipality, which was a far lower percentage than the average for the GVRD (41.7%) in 1996. Having a large proportion of one's labour force work in a different municipality is a concern, as workers have a tendency to purchase goods and services in the municipality in which they work or on the commute to and from work. As such, income is lost to the local economy.

Highlighted Economic Indicators:

Business Incorporations, Housing Starts, Family Income, Female Participation Rate, Food Bank Usage, Income Security, Poverty, Unemployment, Working and Commuting
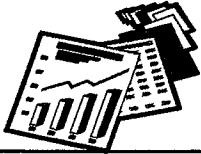
Business Incorporations

Why is it important?

Business incorporations provide one possible source of information as to a municipality's ability or success in creating local employment opportunities. If the number of business incorporations are increasing over time, this may be a positive factor in both creating a more complete community and in reducing income leakages. Other sources of information include building permit values; business licenses issued (both new and renewals); distribution of industrial, office, retail and service floor space; and housing starts.

The creation of complete communities, which is one strategy of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's <u>Livable Region Strategic Plan</u>, offers the possibility of an increased range of opportunities to residents of all abilities by helping to ensure a balanced distribution of employment and housing, a wider choice of housing types, a better distribution of public services and a more effective transportation system. An integral aspect of this theory is the provision of commercial, industrial, office and retail activities in the community from both an employment and service perspective.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 471 business incorporations in 2001 (Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2002).

How do we compare?

Between 1991 and 2001, Delta had a 4.4% increase in business incorporations, which was a lower percentage increase than for the City of Coquitlam (69.6%), the City and Township of Langley (10.9%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (5.1%).
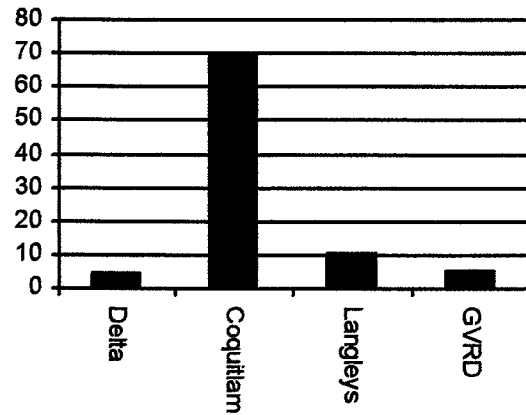
Percentage increase in business incorporations between 1991 and 2001

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 2001, business incorporations increased by 4.4%. After reaching a low of 429 business incorporations in 1998, business incorporations increased by 9.8 in the proceeding three year period.
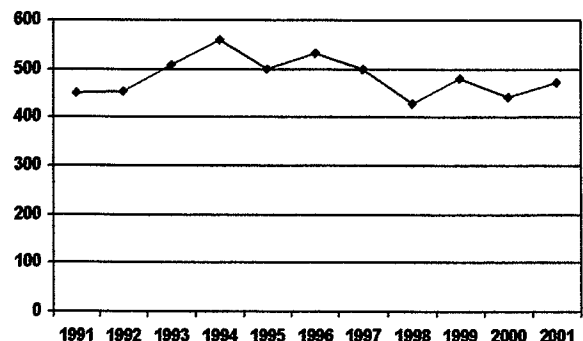
Business Incorporations in Delta: 1991 - 2001

What are some of the issues?

Business incorporations in the retail and service sectors are largely population driven – i.e., they respond to residential development and population growth. Given the slow rate of population growth projected for Delta – i.e., 6.3% or 0.4% per year between 2001 and 2016 (BC Stats, 2001), business incorporations in the retail and service sectors will likely be slow. If this is the case, then increases in business incorporations will be dependent on the "non-population driven" sector which serves regional and national markets.

What are some opportunities?

Delta has two of the largest industrial areas in Greater Vancouver: Annacis Island and Tilbury. Currently, the latter area has ample industrially zoned land for development.

For businesses and industries considering a move to Delta, the municipality is well located in terms of transportation facilities, with access to two airports, ample commercial deepwater river access, two key shipping ports, primary railways and rail ferries, and BC Ferries to Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands (Beltgens, 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit volunteer organization whose purpose it is to create and maintain a prosperous environment for business, commerce and industry. Its Business Information Centre provides resource information to those interested in starting a business in Delta. It provides counselling for those who are just starting out and require help in compiling and filling out business registrations. It also provides a number of programs and services, including business lists and demographic information, monthly networking breakfasts, SuperHost Customer Service Training and a Tourist Visitor Information Centre. For more information, call (604) 946-4232.

In addition to the Chamber, Delta has three other business associations: the Ladner Business Association, the Scott Road Business Association and the Tsawwassen Business Association.

Tourism Delta is a non-profit association formed to represent the interests of tourism related businesses. Its objective is to attract, enhance, improve and promote tourism in Delta, thereby positioning the municipality as a preferred travel destination. For more information, call (604) 948-2098.

DeltaNet.ca, Delta's Internet Directory, provides information about Delta, including an alphabetical listing of businesses by community. This website can be accessed at: (www.deltanet.ca).

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Beltgens, Gerald, The Delta Chamber of Commerce, (604) 946-4232.
•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Greater Vancouver Key Facts: A Statistical Profile of Greater Vancouver. Burnaby: Policy and Planning Department, Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Economic: Housing Starts
•Economic: Working and Commuting
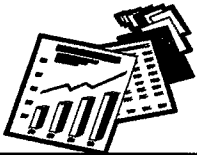
Housing Starts

Why is it important?

Housing starts are indicative of a number of interrelated factors, including a developer's expected return on investment, the availability and cost of developable land, the attractiveness of a municipality to potential home buyers, the price competitiveness vis-à-vis other municipalities and the type of housing. Other factors that can have an influence are the economy, interest rates and transportation systems.

If many or all of the above factors are favourable, housing starts can be expected to be robust.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 114 housing starts in 2001 (Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2002).

How do we compare?

Between 1991 and 2001, all but two municipalities in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) experienced a decrease in the number of housing starts. The two exceptions were the Cities of North Vancouver and Vancouver.

During this period, Delta experienced a 71.9% decrease in housing starts, while the City of Coquitlam and the Township of Langley also experienced significant decreases – i.e., 69.5% and 79.6% respectively. As for the GVRD, it also experienced a decrease, but this decrease was far less severe at 26.5%.

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 2001, the number of housing starts decreased by 71.9%. During this period, housing starts reached a peak of 490 in 1993 and a low of 109 in 2000.

—◆—Housing Starts in Delta: 1991 - 2001
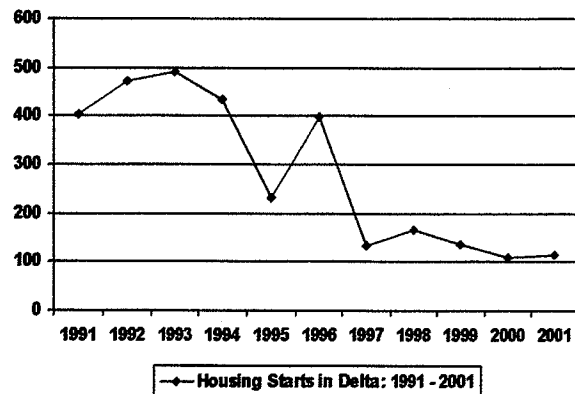
Due to a number of factors, including the low interest rates being offered by financial institutions and the fear that these interest rates may increase in the future, housing sales are brisk in the Greater Vancouver Regional District. This activity, especially if it is projected to continue over the longer term, may result in an increasing number of housing starts in Delta.

What are some of the issues?

Of the approximately 18,000 hectares of land located in Delta, about 9,400 hectares or 52% of it is agricultural and is protected from development under the Agricultural Land Reserve. The remainder is comprised of commercial, industrial, institutional, open space, park and residential land uses.

As such, Delta has a scarcity of developable land that is available for housing. This scarcity was cited by the Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) in its report to Council entitled Housing Policies for Delta (December 21, 2000). In this report, the CSAC stated that "we have very little buildable land." This scarcity may serve to limit future housing starts.

Of note, both the Cities of North Vancouver and Vancouver have a scarcity of developable land, yet both experienced an increase in the number of housing starts between 1991 and 2001. The reason for this increase was due in large part to multi-family housing and small lot development, which was designed and marketed to appeal to a number of different market segments.

Given the fact that 73.7% of Delta's dwellings were comprised of single detached houses in 1996 and given the appeal of this form of housing to families considering a move to the suburbs, multi-family housing and small lot development may be a tougher sell in Delta. However, given the aging population, decreasing family sizes and the increasing number of empty nesters, attractively designed, ground-oriented, multi-family housing and supportive living arrangements may gain wider acceptance.

What are some assets/resources?

In its report to Council, the Community Services Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations to make home ownership more accessible to more Delta residents, including the development of asymmetrical and up-and-down duplexes, freehold row houses and small lot development. It also recommended amendments to the Official Community Plan and the Zoning Bylaw to recognize congregate care and supportive housing. These changes, while making home ownership more accessible and recognizing the needs of an aging population, may also result in increasing housing starts by facilitating higher residential densities.

Where to go for information?

•Corporation of Delta. Official Community Plan.
•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Greater Vancouver Key Facts: A Statistical Profile of Greater Vancouver. Burnaby: Policy and Planning Department, Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2002.
•The Community Services Advisory Committee. Housing Policies for Delta, December 21, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Population: Recent Immigrants
•Population: Seniors (65+)
•Economic: Business Incorporations
•Housing: Secondary Suites

Family Income

Why is it important?

There is strong evidence that higher incomes and social status are linked to better health and social well being. In fact, studies in provinces and cities in all parts of Canada consistently show that people at each step on the income scale are healthier that those on the step below.

One large study of pension data from people across Canada found that men in the top 20% income bracket live on average six years longer than those in the bottom 20% and can expect 14 more years of life free of activity restrictions. Additionally, women in the top 20% income bracket live on average three years longer than those in the bottom 20% and can expect eight more years of life free of activity restrictions (Office of the Provincial Health Officer, November 1995).

How do we measure it?

Average family income is the average of incomes of all members of that family 15+ that were received during the year preceding the Census. Income includes salaries and wages, income from farm and non-farm self-employment, government transfer payments, investment income, retirement pensions, and other money income.

What is the situation in Delta?

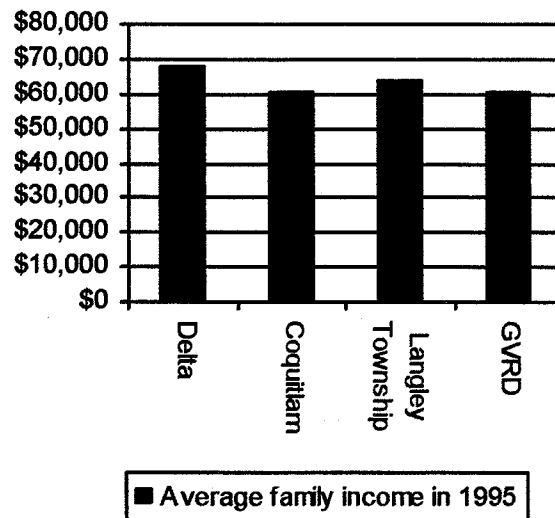In Delta, the average family income was $67,844 in 1995.

With regard to the composition of total income for the population (15+) in Delta, most (81.8%) came from employment income (i.e., salaries and wages). As for the remainder, 8.7% came from government transfer payments and 9.5% came from other income.

Government transfer payments include the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Employment Insurance benefits, Federal Child Tax benefits and other income from government sources. Other income includes investment income (i.e., dividends, interest and other investment income); retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities; and other money income.

2001 Census information pertaining to average family income will not be available until to May 13, 2003.

How do we compare?

Delta had a far higher average family income ($67,844) than for the City of Coquitlam ($60,783), the Township of Langley ($64,061) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District ($60,438) in 1995.

Average family income in 1995

What are the trends?

Between 1990 and 1995, the average family income in Delta increased by 5.9% from $64,054 to $67,844. During the period in question, the consumer price index for Greater Vancouver (which is an indicator of price changes for a variety of goods and services) increased by 17.3%. As such, average family income did not keep pace with inflation.

What are some of the issues?

As part of a strategic planning retreat for Health Canada (December 10-11, 2001), it was reported that average family incomes will likely fall in the coming years for British Columbians. Reasons cited for the likely fall included:

•the projected cuts to the Provincial civil service and Provincially funded programs;

•the decrease in the minimum wage;

•the tightening of eligibility for welfare and other government assistance programs;

•the softwood lumber tariffs imposed by the United States, which are expected to result in 20,000 job losses until Canada and the United States can reach an agreement;

•the current risk of similar tariffs being imposed on the film industry, which is worth about $1 billion annually.

The above reasons are likely to result in falling or stalling average family incomes. Of note, some families will be more impacted than others. These families will include members who belong to the civil service, who are new to the job market, who are on government assistance or who work in the primary sector, especially forestry.

Where to go for information?

•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.

•Health Canada. Strategic Planning Retreat for the BC/Yukon Region. Vancouver: Regional Executive Committee, December 10-11, 2001.

•Office of the Provincial Health Officer. Health Goals for British Columbians. Victoria: Province of British Columbia, November 1995.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Participation: Chartable Giving

Female Participation Rate

Why is it important?

Over the past two decades, there have been particularly sharp increases in the proportion of females with children in the labour force in BC. Between 1976 and 1996, participation by females in the labour force in two parent families with children under age 16 living at home rose from 40% to 62%. During the same period, participation by females in two parent families whose youngest child was less than three rose from 23% to 60% (BC Council for Families, June 1997).

As a consequence, more than 70% of pre-school children (up to age six) find themselves in non-parental care arrangements on a regular basis while parents work or attend school (BC Council for Families, June 1997). As such, the quality of non-parental care has a great influence on healthy child development.

In addition to concerns about the quality of non-parental care, females in the labour force face their own set of challenges. In BC, female family members devote considerably more time than their male counterparts to unpaid work activities, including housework, primary child care, shopping and volunteer activities. This occurs even when females are in the labour force. For example, females in the labour force spent 4.3 hours per day on unpaid work activities, over 1.5 hours more per day than the figure for their male counterparts (BC Council for Families, June 1997).

As a consequence, females in the labour force are more likely to experience anxiety or stress as they try to juggle the demands of family and work, including unpaid work.

## What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 24,895 or 66.2% of females (15+) participated in the labour force in 1996. As for females (15+) with children under age six who participated in the labour force, the percentage was higher at 74.5% in 1996.

Within Delta, the community of North Delta had a higher percentage (68.5%) of females (15+) who participated in the labour force in 1996, than for the communities of Ladner (65.4%) and Tsawwassen (61.4%) (Community Planning and Development Department, 1999).

2001 Census information pertaining to the labour force (including paid and unpaid work) will not be available until February 11, 2003.

How do we compare?

In 1996, Delta had a higher percentage (66.2%) of females (15+) in the labour force than for the Township of Langley (65.6%), the City of Coquitlam (63.7%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (61.3%).
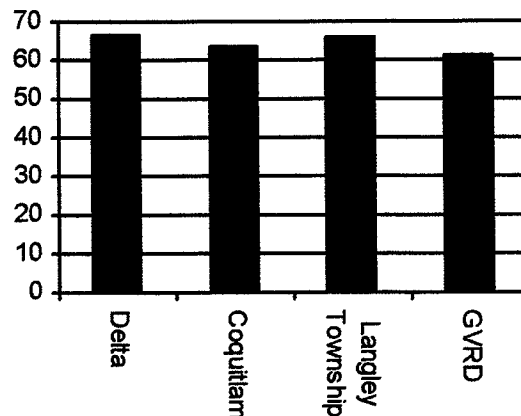
■ Percentage of females (15+) who participated in the labour force in 1996

What are the trends?

The percentage of Delta taxfilers who made a charitable donation declined when comparing 1996 and 1999 figures. While this decline was small (3.2%), it is of concern and should be closely monitored.
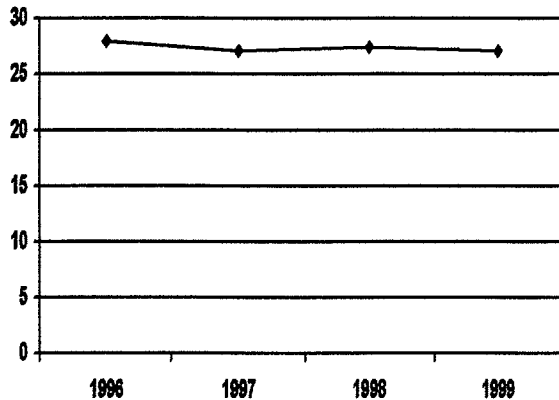
—◆— Percentage of Taxfilers Who Made A Charitable Donation: 1996 - 1999

The Delta Local Health Area has an aging population, as evidenced by the fact that the percentage of the population 65+ is projected to increase from 11.6% in 2001 to 19.6% in 2016 (BC Stats, 2001). Given that taxfilers 65+ donate on average more than twice the amount as taxfilers 25 to 34, it can be anticipated that donations will steadily increase in the future.

An aging population will also benefit planned giving programs. Planned giving is comprised of gifts realized at some future date, as in the case of a bequest or an insurance policy which is left to mature and requires some type of legal instrument (e.g., a will).

What are some of the issues?

With new constraints being placed on community and social services due to recent Provincial cutbacks, charitable giving and volunteering will become increasingly important. For some charitable and non-profit agencies, this support may be necessary to ensure their survival, while for others, it may enable them to maintain existing levels of programs and services.

What are some assets/resources?

In 1999, Delta taxfilers, who reported making a charitable donation, contributed $17,206,000 to charitable agencies and organizations, much of which was spent in Delta.

The Delta Foundation, originally founded by the Rotary Club of Ladner in 1986, holds donations in perpetuity and uses the income earned to support charitable agencies and organizations in Delta. In 2000/2001, it made grants totalling $45,960. For information about the foundation, including information about making a donation or applying for a grant, access its website at (www.deltafoundation.org).

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers. Building Our Communities, December 1999.
•United Way Research Services, United Way of the Lower Mainland, (604) 294-8929.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Seniors (65+)
•Economic: Family Income
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Municipal Voting
•Participation: Volunteerism
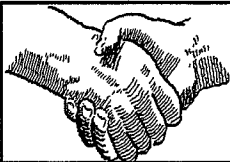
Civic Participation

Why is it important?

Not only do residents contribute volunteer time and make charitable donations, they also support each other and their communities by joining neighbourhood associations, political organizations, school groups and service clubs.

Civic participation promotes interpersonal trust and social bonds among residents and provides a solid foundation for community action on a number of fronts.

How is it measured?

To measure civic participation, the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating asked respondents about their membership and participation in various kinds of community groups and organizations, their voting behaviour during elections, and the extent to which they followed news and public affairs.

What is the situation in Delta?

Civic participation is not tracked at the municipal level by Statistics Canada. If there is a follow-up survey to this community snapshot report, consideration should be given to including one or more questions regarding membership and participation in community groups and organizations in Delta.

Who participates in Canada?

In Canada, membership and participation in community groups and organizations varies with personal and economic characteristics.

The likelihood of being a member or participant was highest among those aged 35 to 64 (over 50%) and lowest among those aged 15 to 24 and 65+ (47%). Membership and participation also increased with education and income. For example, 67% of those with a university degree were members or participants, compared with 40% of those who did not complete high school. Similarly, 62% of households with incomes over $100,000 were members or participants, compared with 33% of households with incomes under $20,000 (Hall, McKeown and Roberts, August 2001).

The following chart shows the civic participation rate as a percentage for males and females in Canada.
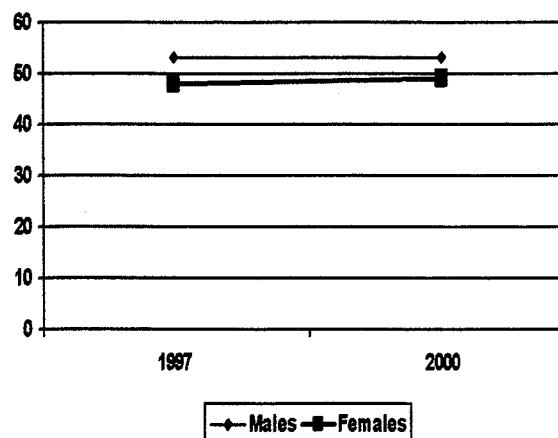
What are the trends?

In Canada, levels of civic participation and time spent participating in civic and voluntary activities have remained relatively constant over the past decade or so. However, the evidence suggests that they are far lower today than existed in the 1960s and 1970s. In America, which usually acts as bellwether for Canada and has tracked such trends for longer periods of time, the evidence is quite conclusive.

Between 1973 and 1994, the number of Americans who took any leadership role in any organization decreased by more than 50%. In 1975/1976, Americans attended 12 club meetings on average per year, whereas in 1999, they attended five club meetings on average per year. Additionally, the average American investment in organizational life fell from 3.7 hours per month in 1965, to 2.9 hours per month in 1975, to 2.3 hours per month in 1985 and 1995 (Putnam, 2000).

What are some of the issues?

From a time perspective, Canadians aged 15+ spent on average 24 minutes or 0.4 hours per day participating in civic and voluntary activities in 1998. By comparison, they spent 132 minutes or 2.2 hours per day watching television in 1998. In fact, Canadians aged 15+ spent on average 5.5 times as much time watching television than participating in civic or voluntary activities in 1998 (Statistics Canada, 1998).

Of further concern, there has been a notable decline in participation in civic and voluntary activities by Canadians with a university degree and households with incomes of $100,000 or more. Between 1997 and 2000, participation in civic and voluntary activities decreased from 74% to 67% for university graduates and from 73% to 63% for upper income households (Hall, McKeown and Roberts, August 2001).

Where to go for information?

•Hall, Michael, Larry McKeown and Karen Roberts. Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, August 2001.
•Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2000.
•Statistics Canada. Overview of the Time Use of Canadians. Catalogue No. 12F0080XIE.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Family Income
•Education: Post-Secondary Education
•Participation: Charitable Giving
•Participation: Municipal Voting
•Participation: Volunteerism
•Public Safety: Crime Prevention Programs
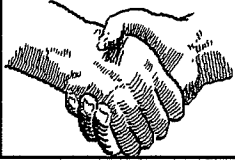
Municipal Voting

Why is it important?

Voting is a basic way for residents to participate in decision-making, particularly at the municipal level.

Municipal governments are entrusted by the public to make decisions for them with regard to residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial and recreational land uses; the allocation of public infrastructure (e.g., parks, roads, sewer and water services); bylaw enforcement; economic development; and stewardship of heritage sites. More recently, some municipalities have taken on expanded roles, including developing policies and plans dealing with cultural and social issues (e.g., affordable housing, child care and multiculturalism) and environmental sustainability. As such, this level of government and the decisions it makes has a major impact on our lives.

Voting is also an instructive proxy measure of broader social change. Compared to demographically matched non-voters, voters are more likely to attend community meetings, to co-operate with fellow residents on community affairs, to make charitable donations and to volunteer (Putnam, 2000).

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 21,803 eligible voters or 39.9% of all eligible voters voted in the municipal election of November 20, 1999.

How do we compare?

In the 1999 municipal election, Delta had a far higher rate of voter turn-out (39.9%) than for the City of Coquitlam (26.9%) but a lower rate of voter turn-out than for the Township of Langley (42.8%).
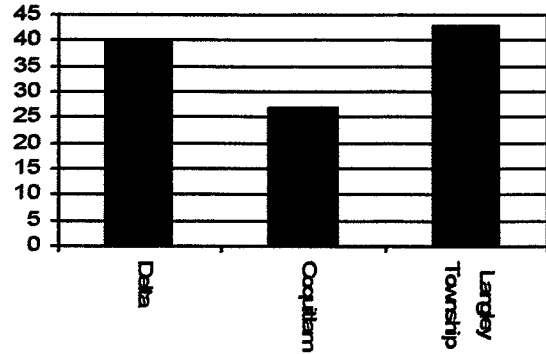
■ Percentage of eligible voters who voted in the municipal election of November 20, 1999

What are the trends?

In Delta, the percentage of eligible voters who voted increased from 32.5% in the 1993 municipal election to 39.9% in the 1999 municipal election.
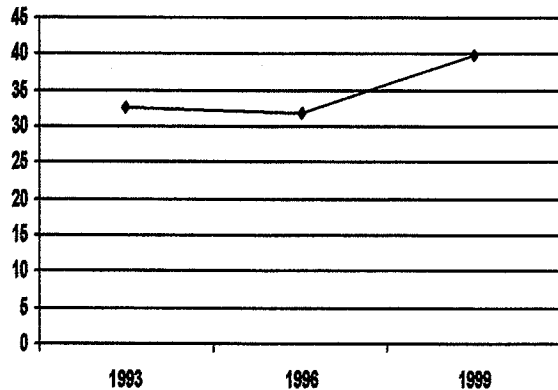
─◆─ Percentage of Eligible Voters Who Voted in Delta: 1993 - 1999

What are some of the issues?

The low rate of voter turn-out is not limited to the recent municipal election, as only 31.8% of eligible voters voted in the 1996 municipal election and only 32.5% of eligible voters voted in the 1993 municipal election.

What are some assets/resources?

The Corporation of Delta publishes a weekly "Delta Page" in the Delta Optimist and the Surrey North Delta Leader. This page lists community events, public hearings and notices, volunteer opportunities, etc. It also posts the minutes from past Council meetings on its website. These minutes are also available by phone at (604) 946-3200. The Corporation of Delta's website is: (www.corp.delta.bc.ca).

Delta Cable provides live coverage of all regular Council meetings and devotes special programming to municipal affairs.

There are four newspapers which provide local coverage of community events, issues and politics in Delta. These newspapers are the Delta Optimist and the South Delta Leader which serve Ladner and Tsawwassen and the Surrey North Delta Leader and the Surrey Now which serve North Delta.

Where to go for information?

•Office of the Municipal Clerk, Corporation of Delta, (604) 946-3220.
•Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Housing: Mobility
•Participation: Charitable Giving
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Volunteerism

Who are potential participation contacts?

•Jennifer Cleathero, Research Associate, United Way of the Lower Mainland, 4543 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC, V6G 4T4, (604) 294-8929.
•Karen Johnson, Volunteer Bureau, Deltassist Family and Community Services Society, 11425-84th Avenue, Delta, BC, V4C 2L9, (604) 946-2042.
•Lynn McPherson, Office of the Municipal Clerk, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-3220.

What other references were used in this section?

•Harvey, Andrew S., Katherine Marshall and Judith A. Frederick. Where Does Time Go? Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, August 1991.
•Patten, Monica. Measuring the Ties that Bind. Ottawa: Community Foundations of Canada, 2001.
•Torjman, Sherri. Strategies for a Caring Society. Ottawa: Caledon Institute for Social Policy, 1998.
•Woolcock, Michael. "The Place of Social Capital in Understanding Social and Economic Outcomes." Isuma: Canadian Journal of Policy Research, Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2001.

What are other possible participation indicators?

•Membership in the Delta Parent Advisory Committee
•Membership within the Major Religious Denominations
•Number of Charitable and Non-Profit Organizations by Category
•Number of Citizen Advisory Committees
•Number of Citizens Attending Regularly Scheduled Council Meetings
•Number of Informal Social Contacts
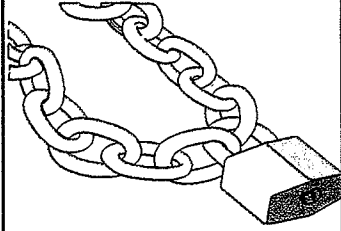
Public Safety Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

In Delta, there were 72 Criminal Code offences reported per 1,000 persons in 2000, a 34.5% reduction since 1991. Additionally, there were 114 youths (12-17) charged with Criminal Code offences in 2000, a 48.6% reduction since 1994. Despite these reductions, data from public opinion polls and victimization surveys indicate that many people believe that crime is on the increase. These studies report that victimization rates decrease significantly with age, while levels of fear of crime increase with age. Additionally, they report that the proportion of females who fear crime is three to four times higher than for males.

In Delta, there are three Community Police Stations. These stations are located in the three communities of Ladner, North Delta and Tsawwassen. While the stations provide crime prevention programs that are unique to their communities, they also have programs in common, including Business Watch, Community Crime Watch and Neighbourhood Watch. For Delta, there were 1,732 businesses registered in Business Watch, 69 volunteers involved in Community Crime Watch and 2,831 households registered in Neighbourhood Watch in 2001. Over the past three years, these programs have experienced modest levels of growth.

Highlighted Public Safety Indicators:

Crime Rate, Youth Crime, Crime Prevention Programs
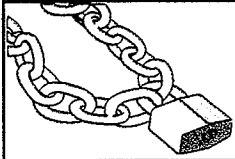
Crime Rate

Why is it important?

In British Columbia, there were 113 Criminal Code offences per 1,000 persons living in jurisdictions served by municipal and RCMP police forces in 2000, a 2.6% decrease from the crime rate in 1999. In fact, the crime rate for jurisdictions served by municipal and RCMP police forces has decreased by 25.7% since 1991.

Given that crime contributes to fear, mistrust and social isolation, as well as negatively impacting property values, a low crime rate is associated with a higher quality of life.

How is it measured?

The crime rate is the number of Criminal Code offences reported for every 1,000 persons. It is often a better measure of trends in crime than the actual number of offences because it allows for population growth.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 72 Criminal Code offences reported per 1,000 persons in 2000.

How do we compare?

In 2000, Delta had a far lower crime rate (72) than for the Township of Langley (90), the City of Coquitlam (104) and the Province (113).
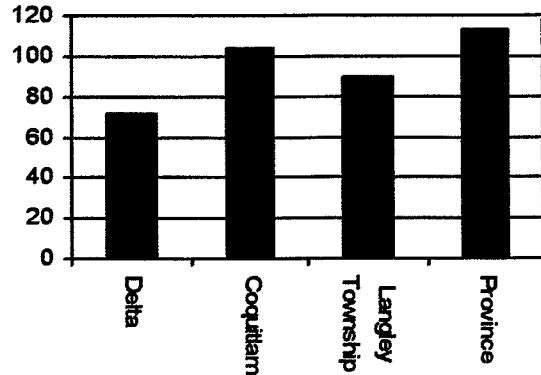
Number of Criminal Code offences reported per 1,000 persons in 2000

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 2000, Delta's crime rate decreased by 34.5% from 110 to 72 Criminal Code offences per 1,000 persons. Of note, between 1999 and 2000, the crime rate actually increased by 2.9%.
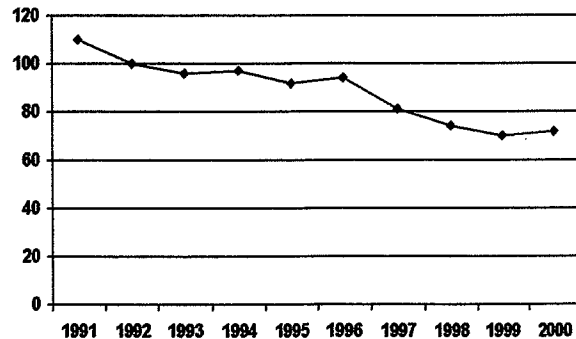
Number of Criminal Code Offences per 1,000 Population in Delta: 1991 - 2000

What are some of the issues?

Despite the decreasing crime rate, data from public opinion polls and victimization surveys indicate that many people believe that crime is on the increase. These studies report that victimization rates decrease significantly with age, while levels of fear of crime increase with age. Additionally, they report that the proportion of females who fear crime is three to four times higher than for males (Ministry of Attorney General, 2000).

As a result of fear of crime, many elderly persons and females limit their activities, especially at night; while others have become virtual shut-ins. Additionally, many charities have limited their door-to-door activities.

What are some assets/resources?

There are three Community Police Stations in Delta. These stations are located in the three communities of Ladner, North Delta and Tsawwassen. While the stations provide crime prevention programs that are unique to their communities, they also have programs in common, including Business Watch, Child Identification, Community Crime Watch, Home Security Visits and Speed Watch. The stations have an assigned police constable and are staffed by volunteers.

To obtain program information or to volunteer, the following contact information applies: Ladner (604 940-4411), North Delta (604 599-7280) and Tsawwassen (604 948-0199).

The Delta Victim Services Program offers support services to those affected by crime and other traumatic events. These support services include crisis intervention, assistance in completing forms, information on court and police procedures, reassurance and support, and referrals to helping agencies. For more information or to volunteer, call either (604) 940-5019 or (604) 946-4411, Local 5240.

Where to go for information?

•Ministry of Attorney General – Public Safety and Regulatory Branch, Police Services Division. Crime in British Columbia: A Summary, 2000.
•Ministry of Attorney General – Public Safety and Regulatory Branch, Police Services Division. Police and Crime Summary Statistics: 1991-2000, 2001.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Population: Seniors (65+)
•Health: Alcohol-Related Deaths
•Health: Drug-Induced Deaths
•Health: Mental Illness
•Public Safety: Crime Prevention Programs
•Public Safety: Youth Crime
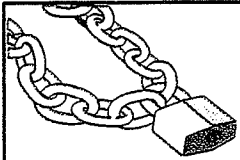
Youth Crime

Why is it important?

In British Columbia, the number of youths (12-17) charged with Criminal Code offences experienced a significant reduction between 1991 and 1999. In fact, the youth charge rate (i.e., the number of youths charged per 1,000 youths) has fallen from 71.9 in 1991 to 36.7 in 1999. Despite this reduction, the public perception is that youth crime is rampant, the result of several high profile crimes involving youth, and this is creating an atmosphere of fear (Police Services Division, 2000). This fear is having a number of negative community consequences (e.g., lower levels of trust, reluctance to get involved, etc.).

How is it measured?

Since it is not possible to identify a crime as one committed by a youth unless the police solve the offence, data on youth crime are dependent on the identification of the offender by the police. As such, this indicator counts the number of youths (12-17) for whom the police have filed a Report to Crown Counsel alleging responsibility for an offence. It does not necessarily imply the swearing of an information against, or the prosecution or conviction of a youth.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 114 youths (12-17) charged with Criminal Code offences in 2000. Of note, this information was not readily available at the community level.

What are the trends?

Between 1994 and 2000, the number of youths (12-17) charged with Criminal Code offences in Delta decreased by 48.6% from 222 to 114.
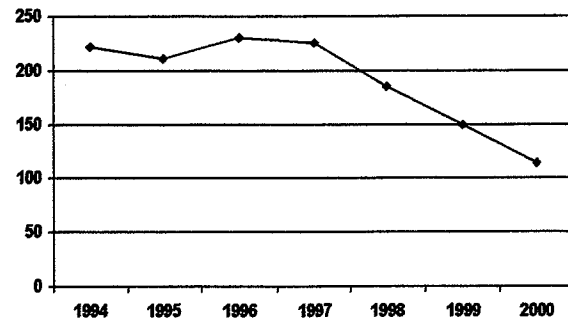
—◆—Number of Youths (12-17) Charged with Criminal Code Offences in Delta: 1994 - 2000

What has been written?

In British Columbia, youths are more likely to be charged with property crime offences than are adults (59% of youths and 45% of adults). As for violent crimes, youths are less likely to be charged with such offences than are adults (21% of youths and 33% of adults). Regarding other crimes, such as arson, disturbing the peace, trespassing and vandalism, youths are slightly less likely to be charged with such offences than are adults (20% of youths and 22% of adults) (Ministry of Attorney General, November 1998).

What are some of the issues?

In a comprehensive survey of youth in custody in British Columbia, conducted by The McCreary Centre Society for the Ministry of Children and Family Development, it was found that these youth are much more likely than others in their same age group to have a serious health problem (e.g., attention deficit disorder, depression, etc.), to have been in government care, to have experienced physical or sexual abuse, to have serious emotional health problems, and to have very high rates of risky behaviours (e.g., alcohol and drug use, smoking, etc.). Of note, custody is the most serious sentence that can be imposed on a young offender and it is reserved for the most serious cases (The McCreary Centre Society, 2001).

The above findings speak to the need to address the underlying causes of youth crime, such as poor parenting, abuse, mental and physical health problems, substance misuse, etc. It also speaks to the need for guidance and support to those who are potentially at-risk of youth crime.

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a Directory of Child and Youth Services for Delta. This directory lists a number of services which could assist those who are potentially at-risk of youth crime, including alcohol and drug counselling, education, health, recreation, rehabilitation and street youth services. For a copy of this directly, call (604) 946-9526.

With regard to street youth services, two programs are available to youth under 19. Operation Go Home (1 800 668-4663) provides services to families of runaway children and youth and to youth who cannot return home; while the Reconnect Program (604 594-3455) assists in locating out-of-home youth and, where appropriate, reintegrating them back to their family or community.

Delta Youth Services offers two programs designed to assist at-risk youth and their parents. The Unloading Zone provides help for youth to deal with anger and other emotions in constructive ways and invites parents to talk about their feelings and learn new ways to deal with their growing children. Options for Children provides alternate community diversion for youth in trouble with the law, as well as transformative justice services for groups. For information on both programs, call (604) 946-0324.

Where to go for information?

•Ministry of Attorney General – Public Safety and Regulatory Branch, Police Services Division, (604) 660-2604.

•Ministry of Attorney General – Public Safety and Regulatory Branch, Police Services Division. Crime in British Columbia: A Summary, 2000.

•Ministry of Attorney General – Public Safety and Regulatory Branch, Police Services Division. "Youth Crimes." BC Crime Trends. November 1998, Issue #2.

•The McCreary Centre Society. Time Out: A Profile of BC Youth in Custody. Burnaby: The McCreary Centre Society, 2001.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Children & Youth: Child Poverty
•Children & Youth: Children and Youth in Care
•Public Safety: Crime Prevention Programs
•Public Safety: Crime Rate
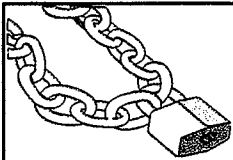
Crime Prevention Programs

Why is it important?

Up until recently, the police primarily relied on a reactive style of law enforcement. That is, they responded to public complaints. In the 1990s, community-based policing – which involves citizens as partners in the process of reducing and controlling the problems of crime, fear of crime and neighbourhood decay – became more widely accepted. As part of this philosophical shift, communities adopted a number of community-based and proactive public safety initiatives. In Delta, this took the form of the Community Police Station Program.

What is the situation in Delta?

The Community Police Station Program is a policing initiative first introduced to Ladner and North Delta in May 1992 and later expanded to Tsawwassen in July 1994. Each station has a team of volunteers, who along with the Station Constable, staff a storefront operation. Together with the community, they focus on crime prevention and awareness, as well as community problem-solving. They also focus on enhancing accessibility to and increasing the visibility of the police and policing services in Delta.

The stations offer a number of crime prevention programs that are unique to their own communities. They also offer a number of programs in common, including Business Watch, Community Crime Watch and Neighbourhood Watch. This indicator will focus on these three programs. Of note, this indicator is not intended to act as a report card; instead, it is intended to illustrate the extent of community involvement in policing services in Delta.

Business Watch is designed to establish a liaison between the stations and registered businesses. One of the program's primary goals is to reduce crime in the local business community. To do this, it keeps registered businesses informed about crime prevention initiatives, local crime problems, and revised laws and regulations. By community, there were 1,319 registered businesses in Ladner, 218 registered businesses in Tsawwassen and 195 registered businesses in North Delta in 2001. For Delta-as-a-whole, there were 1,732 registered businesses in 2001.
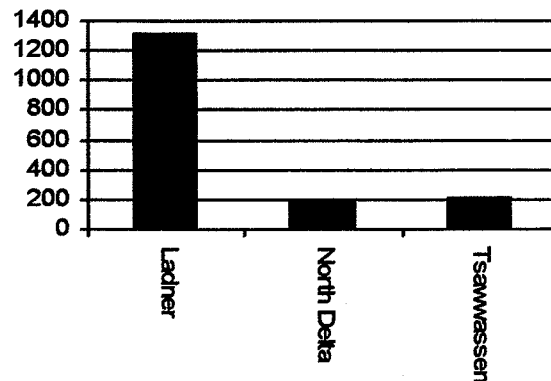
■ Number of registered businesses in Business Watch in 2001

Community Crime Watch involves trained crime watch volunteers in random patrols on Friday and Saturday nights. These patrols target parks and schools and their primary purpose is to provide "eyes and ears for the community" and to report any suspicious activities. By community, there were 37 crime watch volunteers in North Delta and 16 each in Ladner and Tsawwassen in 2001. For Delta-as-a-whole, there were 69 crime watch volunteers in 2001.

Neighbourhood Watch is a police-organized community awareness program aimed at reducing crime in the community. It involves registered households getting to know each other, alerting each other to the potential of crime, looking out for each other and reporting any suspicious activities. By community, there were 1,601 registered households in North Delta, 1,080 registered households in Tsawwassen and 150 registered households in Ladner in 2001. For Delta-as-a-whole, there were 2,831 registered households in 2001.
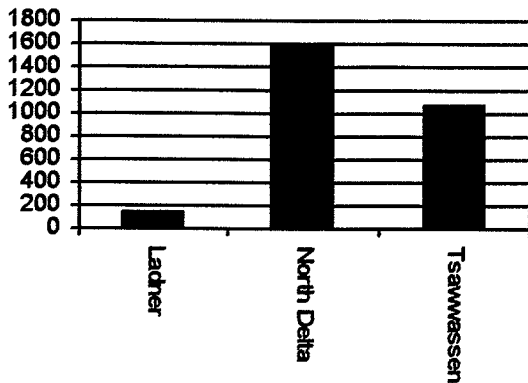
■ Number of registered households in Neighbourhood Watch in 2001

What are the trends?

In general, modest or no growth was reported for the highlighted crime prevention programs in all three communities over the past three years. The only exceptions were the Business Watch Program in Ladner, which increased from 80 to 1,319 registered businesses between 2000 and 2001; and the Community Crime Watch Program in North Delta, which increased from 25 to 37 crime watch volunteers between 2000 and 2001.

What are some assets/resources?

For more information about the three highlighted crime prevention programs and others, as well as volunteer opportunities, access the following websites or contact the listed numbers.

•www.police.delta.bc.ca/Cops/ladcops.html
•www.police.delta.bc.ca/Cops/ndcops.html
•www.police.delta.bc.ca/Cops/tswcops.html

Where to go for information?

•Walter Eng, Station Constable, North Delta Community Police Station, (604) 599-7280.
•Chris Monson, Station Constable, Tsawwassen Community Police Station, (604) 948-0199.
•Jim Poulin, Station Constable, Ladner Community Police Station, (604) 940-4411.

What are related indicators?

•Public Safety: Crime Rate
•Public Safety: Youth Crime
•Participation: Volunteerism

Who are potential public safety contacts?

•Walter Eng, Station Constable, North Delta Community Police Station, 7229-120th Street, Delta, BC, V4C 6P5, (604) 599-7280.

•Chris Monson, Station Constable, Tsawwassen Community Police Station, 1108-56th Street, Delta, BC, V4L 2A3, (604) 948-0199.

•Jim Poulin, Station Constable, Ladner Community Police Station, 5072-48th Avenue, Delta, BC, V4K 1V8, (604) 940-4411.

What other references were used in this section?

•Ministry of Attorney General – Public Safety and Regulatory Branch, Police Services Division, "Crime Rates." BC Crime Trends, Issue #1, June 1998.

•Ministry of Education. "Citizenship and Responsibility." Annual Report 1998/1999.

What are other possible public safety indicators?

•Emergency Response Times
•Municipal Police Cost and Strength
•Number of Mischief and Property Damage Offences
•Number of Motor Vehicle Thefts
•Number of Non-Sexual Assaults
•Number of Residential Break and Enter Offences
•Number of Sex Offences
•Police Case Burden
•Traffic Accident Deaths

Appendix 1: Steering Committee Membership

- Gary Hamblin, Co-Chair, Delta Communities in Action Steering Committee
- Sandra Gebhardt, Co-Chair, Delta Communities in Action Steering Committee
- Linda Bell, Delta Home Support
- Peggy Boon, Delta Home Support
- Gerald Beltgens, Delta Chamber of Commerce
- Sandra Castle, Delta Mental Health Association
- Julie Chadwick, Deltassist Family and Community Services
- Jennifer Childs, Delta Advocates for Community Mental Health
- Cheryl Conant, Delta Mental Health
- Rene D'Aquila, Delta Association for Child Development
- Kathy Guild, School District #37 (Delta)
- Julie Halfnights, The Corporation of Delta
- Constable Collin Hansen, Delta Police Department
- Reverend Carla McGhie, All Saints Anglican Church
- Marion McNeill, Delta Youth Services
- Nancy Macey, Delta Hospice Society
- Pam Mountford, Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program – Delta
- Michelle Ninow, The United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Karen Norman, Options: Services to Communities Society
- Adam North-Peigan, Tsawwassen First Nation
- Ben Phillips, Delta Community Services Advisory Committee
- Reverend Jim Short, Ladner United Church
- Lynn Spence, Deltassist Family and Community Services
- Cathy Stewart, The Fraser Health Authority
- Cheryl Taylor, South Fraser Child Development Centre
- Doug Tindall, Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Carol Vignale, Tsawwassen Resident
- Jan Westell, The Delta Optimist
- Linda Western, The United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Margo Whyte, Canadian Mental Health Association – Delta Branch
- Lesley Woodman, Surrey/Delta Immigrant Services Society
- Doug Woollard, Delta Community Living Society
- Rosemary Zelinka, Delta Community Planning and Development Department

Appendix 2: Changes to BC Benefits

Recent changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) will have far reaching effects for those people who are homeless or living in poverty, single parent families, the unemployed, working parents who are dependent on subsidized child care, and youth who are no longer able or willing to live at home, among others.

These changes, most of which came into effect on April 1, 2002, are briefly summarized below. For more information on these and other changes, access PovNet's website at (www.povnet.org) or the Ministry of Human Resources' website at: (www.mhr.gov.bc.ca).

Application:

People applying for assistance must first complete a three week job search, during which time they are not eligible to receive benefits. For those people who are applying for disability status or who have been discharged from hospital, acute care or continuing care, they do not have to complete the job search but they still have to wait three weeks before being eligible to receive benefits.

Asset Limits:

This refers to the amount of cash or other assets a person or family can have and still be eligible for assistance. People applying for assistance must meet two asset limit tests. As for cash, the maximum is $150 for single people and $250 for all other family units. If a person or family has over the maximum limit and is otherwise eligible, the amount over is taken off the first month's assistance. With regard to the general asset exemption limit test (that applies at the time of application and every month afterwards while in receipt of assistance), the maximum is $1,500 for single people and $2,500 for all other family units. Additionally, one motor vehicle is exempt, as long as there is no more than $5,000 equity in that vehicle.

Basic Rates:

Income assistance comprises two components: shelter and support.

The monthly shelter allowance has been reduced for families of three or more. For a family of three, the reduction is $55 (from $610 to $555); for a family of four, the reduction is $60 (from $650 to $590); for a family of five, the reduction is $75 (from $700 to $625); and for a family of six, the reduction is $120 (from $780 to $660). For each additional person after six, the reduction is $35.

Support rates have been reduced for single parents who are employable and whose youngest child is over three and couples and single people who are employable and who are between the ages of 55 and 64. For the former, the reduction is $51 per month (from $376.58 to $325.58). For the latter, the reductions range from $46.92 per month for a single person (55-59) to $144.84 per month for a couple (60-64).

Crisis Grants:

Maximum amounts were established for crisis assistance for clothing, food and shelter. For clothing, the maximum annual amount is $100 per person or $400 per family, whichever is less. For food, the maximum monthly amount is $20 per person. For shelter, the maximum annual amount is equal to the maximum shelter rate for a single person or family for one month. Cumulatively, the maximum annual amount for crisis assistance is equal to two months assistance (both shelter and support) for a single person or family at the time of the request.

Earnings and Income Exemptions:

People who are employable and people on Disability 1 are no longer allowed to earn extra income without it being deducted from their assistance. People on Disability 2 are allowed to earn up to $300 without it being deducted from their assistance. (In the past, the old exemption was $200 per month and 25% of a person's earned income.) Exemptions for CPP Orphan's benefits, Family Maintenance and Worker's Compensation benefits have been eliminated. This means that these benefits are now deducted dollar for dollar from a person's assistance.

Security Deposits:

People receiving money for a security deposit will have to pay the deposit back at the rate of $20 per month. (In the past, a deposit was repayable when the tenancy ended.) Additionally, they are limited to a maximum of two outstanding security deposits.

Single Parent Work Requirement:

Single parents who are employable are now expected to seek a job when their youngest child turns three. (In the past, they were expected to seek a job when their youngest child turned seven.) During the job search period, they are still eligible for assistance, job placement and training-for-jobs programs, as well as subsidized child care. As in the past, single parents are not required to seek a job if they are caring for a disabled child or if they are temporarily excused from seeking a job.

Subsidized Child Care:

Fewer families are now eligible for the child care subsidy. In fact, the amount of money a family can earn and be eligible for the subsidy was reduced by $285 per month (from $500 to $215). Parents who earn more that this limit may continue to receive the subsidy; however, it will be reduced by 60 cents on each dollar of additional net income.

Work Entry Benefits:

People on assistance will no longer receive money to purchase clothes for work or to cover local transportation costs during the first month of a new job. (For a single parent, the work entry benefit was a one time payment of $200.) Additionally, the transition to work benefit has been eliminated. (For families with children, this benefit paid up to $150 per month for child care and transportation costs incurred during the first 12 months after they went off of assistance and into a job.)

Child in the Home of a Relative:

Children and youth living with relatives who are legal guardians are now considered to be part of that family. Therefore, they are no longer eligible for Child in the Home of a Relative assistance.

Time Limits:

People who are employable are now limited to a cumulative 24 months of assistance every 60 months. After reaching this limit, single people and couples (where both adults are at the limit) receive no assistance and couples with one adult at the limit receive $300 less in assistance per month. For families with children, single parents receive $100 less in assistance per month, two parent families with one parent at the limit receive $100 less in assistance per month and two parent families with both parents at the limit receive $200 less in assistance per month.

Appendix 3: Low-Income Cut-Offs

Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut-Offs:

The following chart outlines the low-income cut-offs for family size and community size in 1995.

Family Size	Cities of 500,000+	100,000 to 499,999	30,000 to 99,999	Less than 30,000	Rural Areas
1	16,061	14,107	13,781	12,563	10,933
2	21,769	19,123	18,680	17,027	14,823
3	27,672	24,307	23,744	21,644	18,839
4	31,862	27,982	27,338	24,922	21,690
5	34,811	30,574	29,868	27,228	23,699
6	37,787	33,185	32,420	29,554	25,724
7+	40,640	35,696	34,872	31,789	27,668

Measuring Poverty:

Each Census, Statistics Canada releases figures on the number of people living below its low-income cut-offs. Many community service agencies and the media interpret these cut-offs as poverty numbers. Consequently, there are headlines stating that 1.5 million children live in poverty in Canada.

This raises the question of where should the poverty line be set? According to David P. Ross and Paul Roberts in their report entitled Income and Child Well Being: A New Perspective on the Poverty Debate (1999), they state that children who live in families with incomes below the low-income cut-offs have poorer health, behaviour and learning outcomes, and they live in considerably worse family and neighbourhood conditions than children in families at higher income levels. They note that this should be of concern in any discussion about the proper level of the poverty line.

In Canada, poverty lines are used primarily to estimate the number of poor people but they are rarely used as a goal for redistribution policies. For example, income assistance rates in all provinces fall well below the low-income cut-offs. Ross and Roberts believe that a poverty line should not only be used as a way to estimate the number of poor people but it should also be used as a threshold below which society will not tolerate income inequality.

Ross and Roberts believe that discussions about establishing the correct poverty line not only divert attention away from the plight of the poor but also away from a debate about the purpose of a poverty line, and of the need to set a floor with regard to income inequality. In their report, they pose the question: "Should a poverty line simply reflect the line of money needed for the physical basics of survival or should it be set at a level that enables people to be socially engaged in their community?" In conclusion, they note that only when 'we' know the objective to be served by setting a floor on income inequality can 'we' define what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

The HYDRECS Fund
The BC Hydro Employees
Community Services Fund

Cover page designed by Jacky **POW**
www.geocities.com/trideas

Prepared by: John Talbot and Associates Inc.

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 1996, the percentage of females (15+) who participated in Delta's labour force increased by 0.9 percentage points from 65.3% to 66.2%.

What are some of the issues?

Given the increasing female participation rate in the labour force, more families are becoming dependent on non-parent care arrangements. This dependency is raising concerns over the availability, cost and quality of that care.

Additionally, for many females, participation in the labour force is not an option. In fact, about 60% of two parent families with younger children less than three years count on two wages to make ends meet in BC (Vanier Institute for the Family, 1998).

What are some assets/resources?

In Delta, there were 3,528 licensed child care spaces as of December 11, 2001. For information about child care facilities and spaces, including contact information and locations, call the Fraser Health Authority at (604) 507-5400 and ask for the booklet entitled Options.

Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program provides free referrals and information to parents seeking child care. It also provides resources, support and training to child care providers in Delta. For information, call (604) 592-8773.

For low income families, a child care subsidy is available to assist in the cost of child care. For information about this subsidy, which is offered through the Ministry of Human Resources, contact the Employment and Assistance Centre – Delta Surrey/West at (604) 501-3257.

Where to go for information?

•BC Council for Families: Diversity & Change: A Profile of British Columbia Families. Vancouver: BC Council for Families, June 1997.
•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Vanier Institute for the Family. From the Kitchen Table to the Board Table, 1998.
•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Economic: Unemployment
•Children & Youth: Child Care
•Participation: Volunteerism
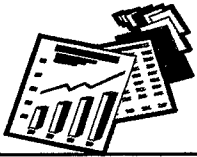
Food Bank Usage

Why is it important?

Children are particularly at-risk from an inadequate diet. Undernourished children have difficulty concentrating and are more likely to suffer from illnesses that cause them to be absent from school. They perform more poorly on standardized tests and poor performance early in school is a major risk factor for dropping out of school in later years. Additionally, evidence has shown that even mildly undernourished children may potentially suffer abnormal brain, cognitive and psychological impairments that, if not corrected, can be irreversible (National Centre for Children in Poverty, 1997).

What is a food bank?

Food banks and grocery programs provide emergency and ongoing food assistance to people in need. They are not intended to ensure that people are adequately fed or have sufficient resources to be free from hunger. On average, households receive a food hamper once or twice per month, with enough groceries to last for about five days.

What is the situation in Delta?

The only food bank in Delta is the South Delta Food Bank, which is operated by Ladner Christian Fellowship. This food bank is located at 5545 Ladner Trunk Road and it operates every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It offers groceries, including canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, etc. In a typical week, it serves about 25 individuals and about 55 families. The service area comprises the communities of Ladner and Tsawwassen, as well as the Tsawwassen First Nation Reserve. To be eligible, an individual must prove that he or she resides in the service area.

Deltassist Family and Community Services, through its Christmas Bureau, provides Christmas hampers to needy families in Delta. To be eligible, one or both parents must be in receipt of employment insurance or income assistance. If working, the family must meet a salary grid. In December 2001, 514 needy families received Christmas hampers in Delta.

Residents of Delta also access food services in Surrey. The Salvation Army operates a soup kitchen which serves about 1,500 people per month, of which about 300 people or 20% are from Delta. Everyone who is hungry or in need is welcome. The Surrey Food Bank enables its clients to visit for a food hamper a maximum of once every fourteen days. In a typical month, it assists about 12,000 people, of which about 650 people or 5.5% are from North Delta. To be eligible, an individual must provide proof of income, an address and a care card for each person in the household.

What are the trends?

Historic information was not readily available for the South Delta Food Bank. As such, no trend could be discerned. With regard to the Christmas Hamper Program, it experienced a 1.8% increase between 1999 and 2001.

In Surrey, The Salvation Army's soup kitchen experienced about a 30% increase in use in the past year; while the Surrey Food Bank experienced a 7.8% increase in use between 2000 and 2001. Additionally, the Surrey Food Bank experienced a 167% increase in use between 1991 and 2001.

What has been written?

In 1997, about 2.5% of Canadians experienced difficulties meeting their food needs, which was double the figure eight years earlier (Health Canada, December 10-11, 2001). In 1999, in British Columbia, almost 2% of the population used food banks. Additionally, it has been estimated that about 40% of food bank users are under the age of 18 (Stubbs, March 2001).

What are some of the issues?

Recent changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) will likely increase food bank usage in Delta. These changes include a three week job search period during which time the applicant is not eligible to receive assistance, reductions to both the monthly shelter allowance and support rates for some clients and time limits for those in receipt of assistance. Regarding the latter, people who are employable are now limited to 24 months of assistance every 60 months.

What are some opportunities?

The Salvation Army is considering a location in Delta. This new location would offer some or all of the free services which are available in Surrey – e.g., emergency clothing, furniture and start-up for fire victims, job training, pro-bono legal services, soup kitchen, etc. (Stonnell, May 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a directory of free and low cost goods and services for the Delta area. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-9526. This directory includes the South Delta Food Bank (604 946-4430), the Christmas Bureau (604 946-9526), The Salvation Army (604 581-3896) and the Surrey Food Bank (604 581-5443).

Where to go for information?

•Health Canada. Strategic Planning Retreat for the BC/Yukon Region. Vancouver: Regional Executive Committee, December 10-11, 2001.
•Sobrino, Robin, Surrey Food Bank, (604) 581-5443.
•Stonnell, Warren, Community Ministries Director, The Salvation Army, (604) 581-3896.
•Stubbs, Mayling. Whalley and Guildford: A Report on Social Issues and Initiatives in Surrey. Surrey: Human Resources Centre of Canada, March 2001.
•VanEssen, Joe, Coordinator, South Delta Food Bank, (604) 946-4430.
•Waller, Ann, Christmas Bureau, (604) 946-9526.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Education: High School Completion
•Education: Literacy
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost

Income Security

Why is it important?

Income security programs play an important role in the incomes of poor individuals and families, as well as buffering non-poor individuals and families against poverty. For those individuals and families that rely heavily on income security programs, they are particularly vulnerable to cuts and/or tightened eligibility criteria with regard to these programs. For those who fail to qualify or who are no longer eligible, the consequences can include food scarcity and homelessness.

How is it measured?

This indicator will highlight two income security programs: BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) and Federal Employment Insurance.

BC Benefits serves adults 19 to 64 who are employable or temporarily excused from looking for employment. It also serves adults aged 65+ who do not receive a federal pension, children under 19 who are living away from home, and children living in the home of a relative.

Federal Employment Insurance provides temporary financial assistance to unemployed individuals while they look for work or upgrade their skills, while they are pregnant or caring for a newborn or adopted child, or while they are sick.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 2.1% of the adult population 19 to 64 received BC Benefits in September 2001. Of note, this figure excludes aboriginal peoples living on reserve, children in the home of a relative, disabled persons and seniors (65+).

In Delta, 2.2% of the adult population 19 to 64 received Federal Employment Insurance in September 2001. As for age groupings, 2% of those aged 19 to 24, 2.5% of those aged 25 to 54 and 1.1% of those aged 55 to 64 received Employment Insurance in September 2001.

How do we compare?

In September 2001, Delta had a slightly higher percentage (2.1%) of its adult population 19 to 64 who received BC Benefits than for the Township of Langley (2%) but a lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam (2.3%) and the GVRD (3.6%).
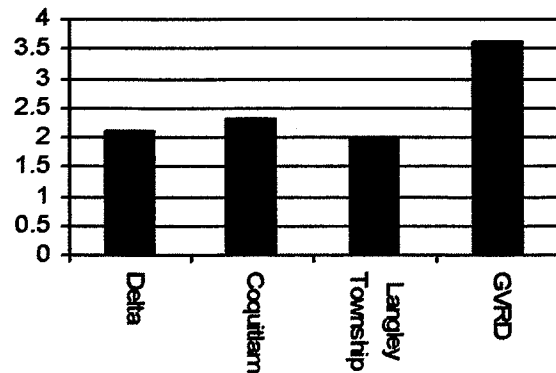
■ Percentage of the population 19 to 64 who received BC Benefits in September 2001

In September 2001, Delta had the same percentage of its adult population 19 to 64 who received Federal Employment Insurance as the City of Coquitlam (2.2%) but a lower percentage than for the Township of Langley and the GVRD (both at 2.4%).
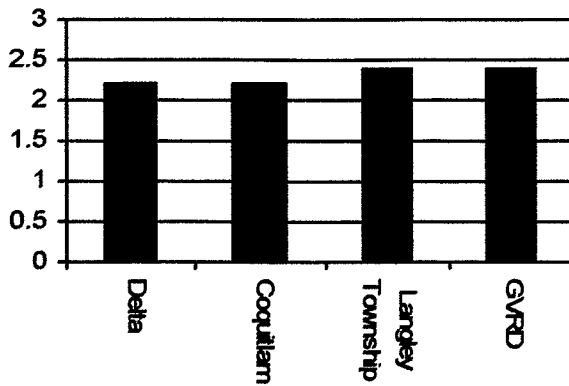
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0

Delta
Coquitlam
Langley Township
GVRD

■ Percentage of the population 19 to 64 who received Federal Employment Insurance in September 2001

What are the trends?

During the four year period between September 1997 and September 2001, the percentage of Delta's adult population 19 to 64 who received BC Benefits decreased from 2.9% to 2.1% (BC Stats, April 2002).

During the same period, the percentage of Delta's adult population 19 to 64 who received Federal Employment Insurance (EI) decreased slightly from 2.3% to 2.2%. Of note, for the four year period in question, the percentage of Delta's adult population 19 to 64 who received EI reached a high of 3.4% in December 1997 and a low of 1.7% in September 2000 (BC Stats, April 2002).

What are some of the issues?

The Provincial government has made a number of changes to BC Benefits, many of which will limit eligibility and reduce benefits (appendix 2). These changes, which are detailed under its new BC Employment and Assistance Program, may result in increased numbers of people living in poverty and widen the poverty gap. The poverty gap measures the dollar amount it takes to raise the average poor individual or family up to Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs (Lee, April 2000).

Federally, Employment Insurance regulations have been progressively tightened through the 1990s and the effect has been that fewer people qualify for benefits and of those that qualify, their benefits do not last as long.

What are some assets/resources?

For information about BC Employment and Assistance, consult the Ministry of Human Resources' website at (www.mhr.gov.bc.ca) or contact the Employment and Assistance Centre – Delta Surrey/West at (604) 501-3257.

For information about Federal Employment Insurance, contact Human Resources Development Canada. For residents of both Ladner and Tsawwassen, contact the Richmond Human Resources Centre at (604) 273-6431. For residents of North Delta, contact the Surrey Human Resources Centre at (604) 590-3346.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. BC Benefits and Employment Insurance Data for Delta. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, April 2002.
•Lee, Kevin K. Urban Poverty in Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, April 2000.
•Ministry of Human Resources. BC Employment and Assistance Initiatives, April 1, 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost

Why is it important?

Many studies have shown a strong association between income or socio-economic status and health and well being. There does not appear to be a cut-off at a particular level of income; instead there appears to be a gradient.

The more income one has, the healthier he or she is likely to be. More income may allow one to eat better, afford better housing and live in a more desirable neighbourhood (e.g., low crime, nearby amenities, well serviced, etc.). Additionally, individuals with more income tend to experience a higher degree of control in their personal and work related lives, which is also associated with one's health and well being.

How is it measured?

The most widely used poverty measure is Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs, which are controlled for community size and family size. These cut-offs are selected on the basis that unattached individuals and economic families with incomes below these limits (appendix 3) usually spend more than 54.7% of their income on clothing, food and shelter and are therefore considered to be living in "straitened circumstances."

What is an economic family?

The term "economic family" is referred to in this indicator profile. Statistics Canada defines an economic family as two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 2,810 unattached individuals (15+) or 36.9% of all unattached individuals (15+) and 2,725 economic families or 10.5% of all economic families were living below the low-income cut-offs in 1995.

2001 Census information pertaining to the low-income cut-offs will not be available until May 13, 2003.

How do we compare?

Delta had a higher percentage of unattached individuals (15+) living below the low-income cut-offs (36.9%) than for the Township of Langley (33.2%) but a lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam (38.8%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (43%) in 1995.
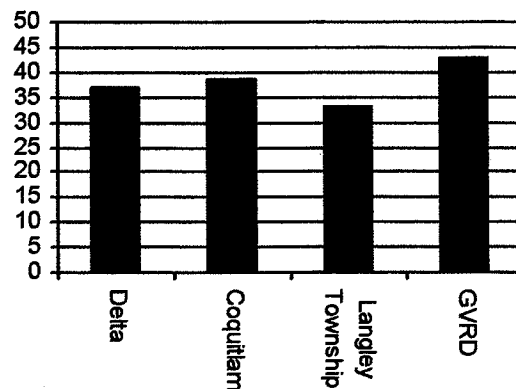
■ Percentage of unattached individuals (15+) living below the low-income cut-offs in 1995

As for economic families living below the low-income cut-offs, Delta again had a higher percentage (10.5%) than for the Township of Langley (7.6%) but a far lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam (19.1%) and the GVRD (18.7%) in 1995.
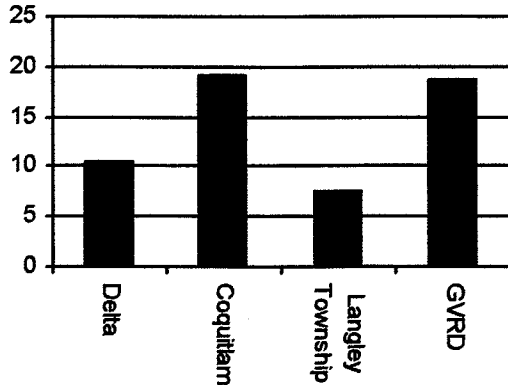
Percentage of economic families living below the low-income cut-offs in 1995

What are the trends?

In Delta, the percentage of unattached individuals (15+) living below the low-income cut-offs increased slightly from 36.2% in 1990 to 36.9% in 1995. As for the percentage of economic families living below the low-income cut-offs, it increased from 6.9% in 1990 to 10.5% in 1995.

Who are most at-risk?

Those groups who are most at-risk of high rates of poverty, as well as deep and persistent poverty, include aboriginal peoples, lone parent families, people with disabilities and recent immigrants and refugees who are members of visible minorities (National Council of Welfare, February 2002).

What are some of the issues?

For adults and children, poverty can mean loneliness and exclusion from cultural, recreational, sports and other activities around which individual confidence, friendships and other positive social relationships are built. For children, this can have far-reaching and long-lasting effects (National Council of Welfare, February 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a directory of free and low cost goods and services for the Delta area. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-9526. This directory includes the South Delta Food Bank (604 946-4430), the Christmas Bureau (604 946-9526), The Salvation Army (604 581-3896) and the Surrey Food Bank (604 581-5443).

Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture provides complimentary facility passes to enable access by those people living in poverty and/or with a disability. In 2001, it provided 6,395 complimentary facility passes to the Ministry of Human Resources and 270 complimentary facility passes to Delta Advocates for Mental Health (Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture, August 2002).

Where to go for information?

•Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture, (604) 946-3293.
•Lee, Kevin K. Urban Poverty in Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, April 2000.
•National Council of Welfare. The Cost of Poverty. Ottawa: National Council of Welfare, February 2002.
•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Sample Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Children & Youth: Child Poverty
•Economic: Family Income
•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Unemployment
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost

Unemployment

Why is it important?

Unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, is associated with poorer health. One Canadian study found that the unemployed had significantly more activity limitations, anxiety, depressive symptoms, disability days, health problems, hospitalization, physician visits and psychological distress than the employed. In this study, most health problems seemed to be associated with the stress of unemployment, not with the lack of income per se (Office of the Provincial Health Officer, November 1995). For youth, especially those who have not completed high school or who have limited job skills, unemployment can lead to despair and disillusionment.

How is it measured?

Unemployment statistics are based on a survey in which people who do not have jobs are asked whether they are actively looking for work. Those who are looking for work are counted as unemployed, and they are included in the labour force. If they are not looking for work, they are not included in unemployment statistics, and they are not counted as part of the labour force. As such, the unemployment rate is calculated as the ratio of the number of people who are unemployed (i.e., actively looking for work) to the total labour force.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, the unemployment rate for those in the labour force (15+) was 7.4% in 1996. There was a notable difference between the male (6.7%) and female (8.1%) unemployment rate. As for youth, in Delta, the unemployment rate for those in the labour force (15-24) was far higher at 14.1% in 1996.

How do we compare?

In 1996, Delta had a higher unemployment rate (7.4%) than for the Township of Langley (5.6%) and the City of Coquitlam (7.3%) but a lower rate than for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (8.6%).

■ Unemployment rate in 1996

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 1996, Delta's unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points from 6.8% to 7.4%.

While 2001 Census information pertaining to unemployment is not available until February 11, 2003, other relevant data suggests that Delta's unemployment rate has likely decreased since 1996. As evidence, total BC Benefits recipients (19-64) decreased from 3.7% in March 1997 to 2.7% in March 2001 and Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries (19-64) decreased from 3.4% in March 1997 to 2.6% in March 2001 (BC Stats, 2002). Of note, some of this decrease may be the result of the fact that EI regulations have been progressively tightened during the 1990s and the effect has been that fewer people qualify for benefits and of those that qualify, their benefits do not last as long.

Additionally, the annualized unemployment rate for the Greater Vancouver Regional District decreased by 1.9 percentage points from 8.5% in 1997 to 6.6% in 2001 (Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2002).

What are some of the issues?

In Canada, the duration of unemployment in the 1990s was longer than for unemployed workers in previous times. The percentage of unemployed workers who were without employment for more than half a year increased by nine percentage points from 14.1% in 1976 to 23.1% in 1998 (Lee, April 2000).

As for those workers who are unemployed in Canadian cities, they are far more likely to live in poverty than workers with full-time, full year jobs. In fact, 49.2% of workers with no annual employment lived in poverty, compared to only 13.2% of workers with full-time, full-year jobs in 1996 (Lee, April 2000).

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta School District's Continuing Education Program and Human Resources Development Canada co-sponsor the Delta Job Finding Club. This three-week job search program is facilitated by qualified instructors and support staff. The program is free of charge and is offered once a month. Services include clerical support, job lead and search strategies, practice and feedback with interviews, and continuous support and follow-up upon program completion. Preference is given to Delta residents who are unemployed and are committed to finding a job. For more information, call (604) 946-6926.

Delta Youth Services offers the Job Start Program, which targets youth 17 to 24 years. This program provides opportunities for unemployed youth to gain work experience and learn new skills with an employer through a wage sharing agreement. For more information, call (604) 591-9262.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. BC Benefits and Employment Insurance Data for Delta. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, April 2002.

•Lee, Kevin K. Urban Poverty in Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, April 2000.

•Office of the Provincial Health Officer. Health Goals for British Columbia: Identifying Priorities for a Healthy Population. Victoria: Province of British Columbia, November 1995.

•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

•Townson, Monica. Health and Wealth: How Social and Economic Factors Affect Our Well Being? Toronto: J. Lorimer, 1999.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Family Income
•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost

Working and Commuting

Why is it important?

Living and working in the same municipality offers advantages both to the individual and to the municipality in question.

From an individual standpoint, living and working in the same municipality may mean less of a commute or no commute at all (i.e., working at home). Studies show that commuting can be stressful and can leave less time for family, leisure and volunteer activities. Commuting can also be expensive, especially if the preferred mode of transportation is a motor vehicle (e.g., financing, gasoline, insurance, maintenance, parking, etc.).

From a municipal standpoint, living and working in the same municipality can decrease income leakages, lessen reliance on the residential tax base and reduce traffic congestion. Of note, in a well-balanced local economy, a high proportion of dollars earned locally are spent locally at local suppliers of goods and services. Buying locally emphasizes the beneficial aspects of the multiplier effect which refers to the recirculation within a municipality of income earned locally. When people work in a different municipality, they have a tendency to purchase goods and services in the municipality in which they work or on the commute to and from work. As such, income is lost to the local economy.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 14,095 residents or 28.5% of the employed labour force (15+) lived and worked in the same municipality in 1996. Of note, 3,770 or 26.7% of the above residents worked at home. Another 30,675 residents or 61.9% lived and worked in a different municipality, while 4,585 residents or 9.3% had no fixed workplace and 180 residents or 0.4% worked outside of Canada.

2001 Census information pertaining to commuting to work will not be available until February 11, 2003.

How do we compare?

In 1996, Delta had a higher percentage (28.5%) of its labour force (15+) that lived and worked in the same municipality than for the City of Coquitlam (24%) but a far lower percentage than for the Township of Langley (34.4%) and the average for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (41.7%).
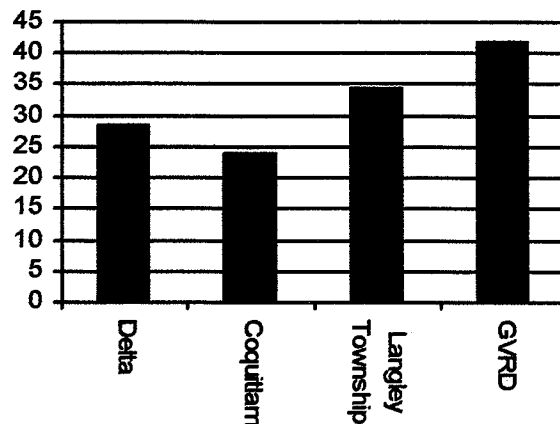
■ Percentage of the employed labour force (15+) that lived and worked in the same municipality in 1996

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 1996, the percentage of Delta's employed labour force (15+) that lived and worked in the same municipality decreased slightly from 28.9% to 28.5%. During this period, the percentage of Delta's employed labour force (15+) that worked at home increased from 6.5% to 7.6%.

What has been written?

Home businesses are an effective means of encouraging small business development, generating local employment and reducing commuting. According to Frances McGuckin, BC-based business consultant and author of two books on small business, about half of new small businesses in Canada now start in the home. In a recent article, she stated that it is one way to keep start-up costs down and that many home businesses eventually graduate to business/professional space. She also stated that the Township of Langley received a national award for being the most home-based business friendly community in Canada and that it provides a possible model for other municipalities (Wanless, October 23, 2001).

What are some opportunities?

In Tsawwassen and along Scott Road in North Delta, there are many old strip malls that could be redeveloped into professional centres to accommodate small businesses. These centres could offer shared administrative, secretarial and technological support services (Beltgens, 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit volunteer organization whose purpose it is to create and maintain a prosperous environment for business, commerce and industry. For more information about its programs and services, call (604) 946-4232.

The Corporation of Delta permits home occupations as long as they satisfy a number of provisions. It also outlines uses that are or are not deemed to be customary home occupations. For more information, consult the Delta Zoning Bylaw No. 2750, 1977.

Of note, the Corporation of Delta is intending to review and update its home occupation policies and regulations.

Where to go for information?

•Community Planning & Development Department. Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Cleathero, Jennifer and Bruce Levens. Environmental Scan of the Lower Mainland: A Compilation of Socio-Demographic Facts and Trends. Burnaby: United Way Research Services, September 1998.
•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.
•Wanless, Tony. "Entrepreneurial Spirit Finds a Friendly Home in Langley." The Province, October 23, 2001, Sec. B, Pages 1 and 3.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Economic: Business Incorporations
•Economic: Housing Starts
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Volunteerism

Who are potential economic contacts?

•Gerald Beltgens, President, Delta Chamber of Commerce, 6201 60th Avenue, Delta, BC, V4K 4E2, (604) 946-4232.

•Joe vanEssen, Coordinator, South Delta Food Bank, 5545 Ladner Trunk Road, Delta, BC, V4K 1X1, (604) 946-4430.

•Karen Calderbank, Labour and Social Statistics, BC Stats, Ministry of Management Services, PO Box 9410, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9V1, (250) 356-7870.

•Kelly Webb, The Economic Development Committee, 6201 60th Avenue, Delta, BC, V4K 4E2, (604) 946-4232.

•Rosemary Zelinka, Senior Planner, Community Planning and Development Department, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-3380.

What other references were used in this section?

•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Livable Region Strategic Plan. Burnaby: Strategic Planning Department, April 1996.

•Harris Hudema Consulting Group Limited and Eric Vance & Associates. Economic Development Strategy Plan. Delta: The Corporation of Delta, November 1996.

What are other possible economic indicators?

•Distribution of Industrial, Office, Retail and Service Floorspace
•Job Seekers per Job Posting
•Number of Business Licenses Issued (Both New and Renewals)
•Total Income by Quintals (Poorest, Second, Middle, Fourth, Richest)

Children & Youth Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

This section highlights three children and youth indicators that are related to healthy development and a positive transition to adulthood. It also makes reference to other children and youth indicators in other sections of the report, most notably in education and health.

In December 2001, there were 3,528 licensed child care spaces in Delta, with more than half (58.4%) of these spaces located in North Delta and the remainder located in Ladner (24.2%) and Tsawwassen (17.4%). With regard to barriers created by child care related issues, the most often cited barriers were cost of child care, child care being too far away, child care not being available when needed and not knowing where to find quality child care.

In 1995 (the latest year in which these statistics are available), 2,580 children less than 12 or 16% of children in this age category were living below Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs. These cut-offs are a widely used poverty measure and people living below them are considered to be living in "straitened circumstances." By comparison, 26.4% of children less than 12 were living below these low-income cut-offs in the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

In December 2001, there were 92 children and youth (0-18) in government care from Delta and between December 1999 and December 2001, the number of children and youth in care increased by 5.7% from 87 to 92. In the Province, of the about 10,000 children and youth in care in 2000, about two-thirds were children (0-14) and one-third were youth (15-18). Additionally, there was a disproportionate number of aboriginal children and children and youth with severe behavioural, intellectual or physical disabilities in care. Of note, about three-quarters of children and youth taken into care are returned within one year.

Recent changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) may increase child poverty levels, increase the number of children and youth entering care and reduce access to subsidized child care. These changes include the reduction of support payments for recipients; the elimination of earnings and income exemptions; and the tightening of eligibility criteria for child care subsidies.

Highlighted Children and Youth Indicators:

Child Care, Child Poverty, Children and Youth In Care
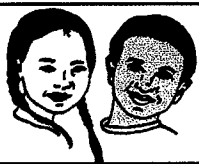
Child Care

Why is it important?

The structure of most families has changed dramatically over the past couple of decades. There are more lone parent families today (primarily headed by females) than ever before, while at least 84% of all Canadian families now have two working adults. Many parents, who in the past would have asked a family member or friend (typically a female) to care for their children informally, now can no longer do so because they are also working. The result is that even greater numbers of families depend on outside care arrangements for their children (Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, Fall 1999).

The quality of care that children receive early in life is the strongest predictor of success when they enter the school system. In fact, high quality early childhood care and education can decrease the likelihood that children will be admitted into special education programs, lower the rate of school failure or drop-out, and reduce juvenile delinquency rates. Additionally, it can increase the detection and treatment of health problems (Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, Fall 1999).

In the Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report (1997), it was stated that "the most important intervention to improve the well being of children, after the reduction of poverty, is the provision of stimulating and supportive child care."

What is "licensed child care"?

Child care services are licensed by the BC Ministry of Health's Community Care Facilities Act.

Under the Act, regulations for group centres and licensed family child care facilities are enforced by licensing officers on staff in health regions. These officers issue licenses, conduct on-site visits to check compliance and investigate complaints from clients or other community members. For licensed-not-required family child care facilities, the only regulatory requirement is that they not exceed two children in care (British Columbia Association of Child Care Services, 2002). The latter providers can register with the Childcare Options Resource and Referral Program. If they do so, they must meet its requirements, which are similar to that of licensing (Mountford, 2002).

What is the situation in Delta?

In December 2001, there were 3,528 licensed child care spaces in Delta, with more than half (58.4%) of these spaces located in North Delta and the remainder located in Ladner (24.2%) and Tsawwassen (17.4%).

**Licensed Child Care Spaces in Delta
December 11, 2001 (Mountford, 2002)**

	N D	Lad.	Tsa.	Total
Child Care Facilities	82	31	26	139
Spaces				
Infant (0-12 m.)	51	18	9	78
Toddler 1 (13-18 m.)	159	57	36	252
Toddler 2 (19-24 m.)	164	57	36	257
Toddler 3 (25-35 m.)	170	57	49	276
3-5 years	411	163	78	652
Kindergarten (4-6 y.)	407	140	105	652
School Age (6-12 y.)	470	241	130	841
Pre-School	228	120	172	520
Total Spaces	2060	853	615	3528

What has been written?

According to the Provincial Child Care Needs Assessment, South Fraser Regional Report (September 1997), 41% of children (0-12) had child care arrangements beyond the primary caregiver. These findings are similar to the Provincial figure of 45%. Of these children, 34% were cared for by relatives in the home, 31% were cared for by non-relatives in the home, 36% were cared for by relatives outside the home and 36% were cared for by non-relatives outside the home. Additionally, 23% of children (0-5) used a child care centre. Of note, the percentages do not add up to 100%, as many families used more than one form of child care to care for their children.

The above report also looked at barriers created by child care related issues and noted that these barriers were more pronounced for those people with lower incomes. In fact, people with lower incomes expressed more concern about the cost of child care (78% compared to 52% for people with higher incomes), about child care being too far away (31% compared to 19%), about child care not being available when needed (22% compared to 11%) and about not knowing where to find good quality child care (22% compared to 0%).

What are some of the issues?

In the above report, the leading child care barrier to finding or retaining a job was the expense of child care, which was mentioned by 66% of respondents in the South Fraser Region.

For those low income families who are reliant on a child care subsidy, recent changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) will mean that fewer families will qualify for this program and of those that do, their benefits will be reduced (PovNet, April 2002). In fact, employed and full-time student parents will see income exemption levels reduced by $285. Additionally, parents not eligible for the full subsidy will see the percentage used for calculating the subsidy increased from 50% to 60% (Mountford, 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

For low income families, a child care subsidy is available to assist in the cost of child care. For information about this subsidy, which is offered through the Ministry of Human Resources, contact the Employment and Assistance Centre – Delta Surrey/West at (604) 501-3257.

Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program provides free referrals and information to parents seeking child care. It also provides resources, support and training to child care providers in Delta. For information, call (604) 592-8773.

Where to go for information?

•British Columbia Association of Child Care Services. Position Paper on the Importance of Child Care Regulations, 2002.
•Campbell Goodell Traynor Consultants Limited. Provincial Child Care Needs Assessment Survey: South Fraser Regional Report. Victoria: Ministry for Children and Families, 1997.
•Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security. Building a Better Future for British Columbia's Kids: Discussion Paper. Fall 1999.
•Mountford, Pam, Manager, Child Care Resource and Referral Program, (604) 592-8773.
•PovNet. "How the Changes to Welfare Affect Children and Youth?" Welfare Fact Sheet #6, April 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Economic: Female Participation Rate
•Economic: Poverty
•Health: Teen Pregnancy
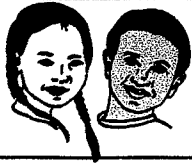
Child Poverty

Why is it important?

Child poverty is a source of risk to the health and well being of children and can limit their life chances. The health problems of poor children begin before birth and continue to place these children at greater risk of death, disability and other health problems throughout their lives.

Poor children are more likely to be in the care of child welfare services, engage in riskier behaviours (e.g., drinking, smoking, taking drugs, etc.), exhibit disorderly conduct, get in trouble with the law, suffer from emotional disorders, and be unemployed as adults (BC Child and Youth Coalition et al., 1999). Additionally, child poverty has a strong association with a lower level of pre-school ability, which is associated with lower test scores in childhood, as well as grade failure, school disengagement and drop-out (Novick, November 1999).

How do we measure it?

The most widely used poverty measure is Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs, which are controlled for community size and family size. These cut-offs are selected on the basis that unattached individuals and economic families with incomes below these limits (appendix 3) usually spend more than 54.7% of their income on clothing, food and shelter and are therefore considered to be living in "straitened circumstances."

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 2,580 children less than 12 or 16% of children in this age category were living below the low-income cut-offs in 1995. As for those children less than 6, 1,230 children or 16.3% of children in this age category were living below the low-income cut-offs in 1995 (The Canadian Council on Social Development, 2000).

2001 Census information pertaining to the low-income cut-offs will not be available until May 13, 2003.

How do we compare?

Delta had a far higher percentage of children less than 12 living below the low-income cut-offs (16%) than for the Township of Langley (10.1%) but a far lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (both at 26.4%).

As for those children less than 6 living below the low-income cut-offs, Delta again had a higher percentage of such children (16.3%) than for the Township of Langley (11.2%) but lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam (25.8%) and the GVRD (26.8%) (CCSD, 2000).
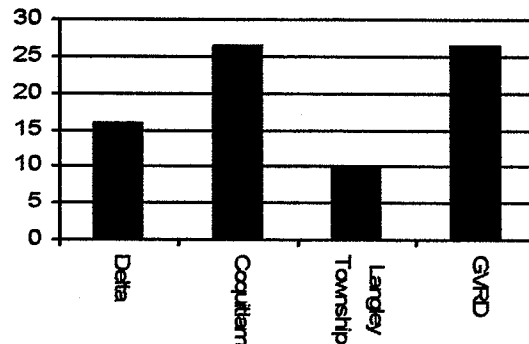
■ Percentage of children less than 12 living below the low-income cut-offs in 1995

What are the trends?

Statistics on the percentage of children less than 12 living below the low-income cut-offs were not readily available for 1990, thus a trend could not be discerned. However, the percentage of economic families living below the low-income cut-offs in Delta increased from 6.9% in 1990 to 10.5% in 1995.

What are some of the issues?

According to a recently released report, it is becoming even more difficult for poor families, especially those receiving welfare, to make ends meet. Between 1997 and 2001, the overall cost of living in British Columbia increased by 5%, while BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) increased by 2%. As such, those families in receipt of BC Benefits lost ground.

In 2001, BC Benefits met only 65% of the minimum monthly cost of living (as calculated by SPARC BC) for a single parent of a young child. Additionally, it met only 61% of the minimum monthly cost of living for a couple with two young children (Goldberg and Long, December 2001).

Percentage of SPARC BC's Estimated Minimum Monthly Cost of Living Met by BC Benefits in 1997 and 2001

	Single Parent of a Young Child	Couple with Two Young Children
1997	70%	62%
2001	65%	61%

This report raises the possibility that poverty, including child poverty, may have increased in Delta since the last Census. Given that shelter costs are generally lower in Delta than for many other municipalities in the GVRD, the increase, if one has occurred, may be more modest than in other municipalities.

Of note, since the release of the above report, recent changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) have seen reductions to the shelter allowance for families of three or more. In fact, for a family of three, the allowance has been reduced from $610 to $555; while for a family of four, the allowance has been reduced from $650 to $590 (PovNet, April 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a directory of free and low cost goods and services for the Delta area. For a copy of this directory, call (604) 946-9526. This directory includes the South Delta Food Bank (604 946-4430), the Christmas Bureau (604 946-9526), The Salvation Army (604 581-3896) and the Surrey Food Bank (604 581-5443).

Where to go for information?

•BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, BC Teachers' Federation and SPARC BC. Child Poverty in British Columbia: Report Card, 1999.

•Goldberg, Michael and Andrea Long. Falling Behind: A Comparison of Living Costs and Income Assistance Rates (BC Benefits) in British Columbia. Vancouver: SPARC BC, December 2001.

•Novick, Marvyn. Fundamentals First: An Equal Opportunity from Birth for Every Child. Ottawa: Campaign 2000, November 1999.

•PovNet. "How the Changes to Welfare Affect Children and Youth?" Welfare Fact Sheet #6, April 2002.

•The Canadian Council on Social Development. "Poor Children in Lower Mainland Municipalities in 1996," The Urban Poverty Project, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Children (0-14)
•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost
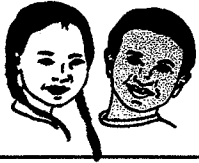
Children and Youth In Care

Why is it important?

Research indicates that children's healthy development is rooted in early experiences and influences. Good physical health and the ability to cope with stress, learn and relate well to others, as well as to have positive self-esteem, are known to be rooted in the earliest experiences in life. Where, how and with whom children spend their time in their earlier years has a major impact on their healthy development.

In infancy and early childhood, children need to establish a secure attachment with nurturing adults. This influences how they relate to others and how they interpret the world around them. Children also need positive sensory stimulation, the absence of which can result in life long developmental problems (Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice, May 1994).

What is meant by "in care"?

If a family is unable to care for a child, child welfare authorities may temporarily or permanently assume responsibility for that child, by authority of the Child, Family and Community Service Act. Children who require this care, custody or guardianship come into the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development and are referred to in the Act as "children in care."

Children come into care for a variety of reasons. Protection may be required due to abuse or neglect, parents may be absent or unable to care for their child, or the child may require medical or other special care of some type (Office of the Provincial Health Officer, May 2001).

For the purposes of this indicator profile, the term "children and youth in care" is used to reflect the fact that many children in care are youth (15-18).

What is the situation in Delta?

In 2001, the number of children and youth (0-18) in care from Delta ranged from a low of 90 in February to a high of 104 in June and averaged 99.1 for the 12 month period in question.

What are the trends?

Between December 1999 and December 2001, the number of children and youth (0-18) in care from Delta increased by 5.7% from 87 to 92.
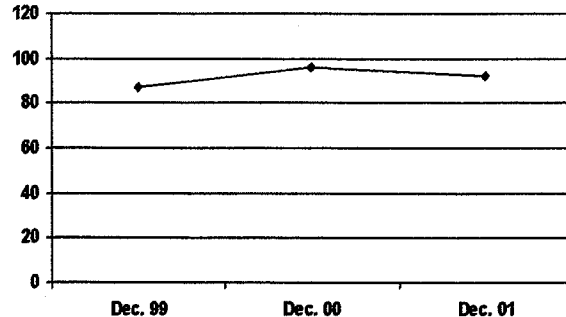
—◆—Number of Children and Youth (0-18) in Care from Delta: December 1999 - December 2001

Provincially, both the number and proportion of children and youth (0-18) in care declined through the 1970s and 1980s, then rose dramatically in the mid-1990s (Office of the Provincial Health Officer, May 2001).

What is the profile of those in care?

In 2000, there were about 10,000 children and youth in care at any point in time or about one percent of the Provincial population under 19. Of those in care, about two-thirds were children (0-14) and one-third were youth (15-18). There were more male than female children in care, except among youth.

There was a disproportionate number of aboriginal children and youth in care, especially among the younger age groups. In fact, about one-third of children and youth in care were aboriginal, whereas only about eight percent of children and youth in the Provincial population were aboriginal in 2000.

There was a disproportionate number of children and youth with severe behavioural, intellectual or physical disabilities. In fact, about one-fifth of children and youth in care had a severe disability, whereas less than one percent of children and youth in the Provincial population had a severe disability in 2000.

Of note, about three-quarters of children and youth taken into care are returned home within one year (Office of the Provincial Health Officer, May 2001).

What are some of the issues?

Given that about 60% of children and youth in care come from families on BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) (Office of the Provincial Health Officer, May 2001), recent changes to this program are of concern. These changes include the reduction of support payments for recipients; the elimination of earnings and income exemptions (e.g., family maintenance, orphan's benefits, etc.); and the tightening of eligibility criteria for child care subsidies (PovNet, April 2002).

The Provincial government is proposing cuts of up to 30% or $460 million for the Ministry of Children and Family Development by 2004/2005. These proposed cuts could result in the loss of more than 1,000 positions. It is also proposing to reduce the number of children and youth in care by allocating more resources toward family development and support programs (Beatty, Nov. 29, 2001).

What are some assets/resources?

The Ministry of Children and Family Development offers a number of programs and services both to assist families and support children and youth. These programs and services are listed on its website at: (www.gov.bc.ca/mcf).

Where to go for information?

•Beatty, Jim. "30% Cut Coming in Children's Ministry." The Vancouver Sun. November 29, 2001, Sec. B, Pages 1 and 8.
•Office of the Provincial Health Officer. What Do Mortality Data Show?: Health Status of Children and Youth in Care in British Columbia. Victoria: Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, May 2001.
•PovNet. "How the Changes to Welfare Affect Children and Youth?" Welfare Fact Sheet #6, April 2002.
•Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice. Yours, Mine and Ours: Ontario's Children and Youth. Toronto: Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice, May 1994.
•Tindall, Doug, Manager, Ministry of Children and Family Development, (604) 501-3237.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Economic: Poverty
•Children & Youth: Child Care
•Children & Youth: Child Poverty
•Health: Teen Pregnancy

Who are potential children and youth contacts?

•Pam Mountford, Manager, Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program, #101-11861 88th Avenue, Delta, BC, V4C 3C6, (604) 592-8773.
•Doug Tindall, Manager, Ministry of Children and Family Development, #150-8338 120th Street, Delta, BC, V3W 3N4, (604) 501-3237.

What other references were used in this section?

•Canadian Council on Social Development. The Progress of Canada's Children. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, December 7, 1998.
•National Council of Welfare. The Cost of Poverty. Ottawa: National Council of Welfare, 2002.
•Ross, David P. and Paul Roberts. Income and Child Well Being: A New Perspective on the Poverty Debate. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, 1999.

What are other possible children and youth indicators?

•Number of Youth on Probation
•Number of Reportable Serious Incidents in Licensed Child Care Facilities
•Participation by Children and Youth in Structured Extracurricular Activities
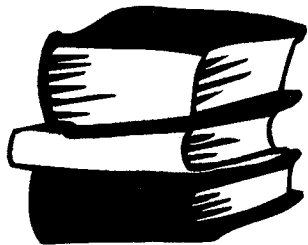
Education
Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

In Delta, 3,355 people or 4.5% of the population (15+) had less than a Grade 9 education in 1996. Grade 9 is a proxy measure for literacy according to Statistics Canada. This rate was far lower than that for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), which had a rate of 7.3% in 1996. As for high school completion, 11,160 people or 15.1% of Delta's population (15+) had completed high school but had not pursued a post-secondary education in 1996. This rate was higher than that for the GVRD, which had a rate of 12.8% in 1996.

With regard to post-secondary education, 2,370 people or 3.2% of Delta's population (15+) had a trade certificate or diploma in 1996. Another 21,220 people or 28.7% of the population (15+) had an "other non-university education only." Additionally, 9,495 people or 12.8% of the population (15+) had a university education without a degree, while 10,150 people or 13.7% of the population (15+) had a university education with a bachelor's degree or higher. Of note, Delta had a lower percentage of its population (15+) who had a university education without or with a degree (26.5%) than for the GVRD (30.5%) in 1996.

For School District #37 (Delta), the Dogwood Completion Rate was 86.1% in 1999/2000, which was far higher than for the Province, which had a rate of 74.6%. Of note, the Dogwood Completion Rate measures the percentage of Grade 8 students who graduate with a Dogwood Diploma within six years. As for post-secondary transition, for School District #37 (Delta), 39.8% of 1998/1999 graduates (the most recent academic year in which comparison data is available) were eligible for university in September 1999 and 18.1% of 1998/1999 graduates registered in all BC universities in September 1999. The latter was higher than for the Province, which had a rate of 15.8%.

With regard to English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) in School District #37 (Delta), 1,392 students or about 8% of all students were enrolled in this program in 2001/2002. Of note, the number of students enrolled in ESL decreased by 12.7% between 1998/1999 and 2001/2002.

Highlighted Education Indicators:

Literacy, High School Completion, Post-Secondary Transition, Post-Secondary Education, English-as-a-Second Language

Literacy

Why is it important?

An individual's education, income and occupation are all indicators of his or her living and working conditions. These indicators are closely related, because on average, individuals with lower levels of education and literacy are less likely to be employed, to have stable incomes and to have jobs which offer higher levels of control and social status (Townson, 1999).

Lower levels of education and literacy are also associated with poorer health. Low literacy can affect health directly – e.g., through misreading prescriptions. In fact, much of the available health education literature requires a level of reading that makes it inaccessible to a large proportion of the population in greatest need of health information (Canadian Public Health Association, 1996). In addition, psychosocial effects linked with low literacy include diminished self-confidence/self-esteem and elevated stress (Townson, 1999).

How is it measured?

Grade 9 is a proxy measure for literacy. The assumption is that individuals with this level of education are literate. Although this is not always true, it is a standard cut-off used by Statistics Canada. Another measure is functional literacy. This measure refers to an individual's ability to do tasks such as reading a telephone bill or using a phone book.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 3,355 individuals or 4.5% of the population (15+) had less than a Grade 9 education in 1996.

2001 Census information pertaining to education and levels of schooling will not be available until March 11, 2003.

How do we compare?

In 1996, Delta had the same percentage of its population (15+) with less than a Grade 9 education as the Township of Langely (4.5%) but a lower percentage than for the City of Coquitlam (5.2%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (7.3%).
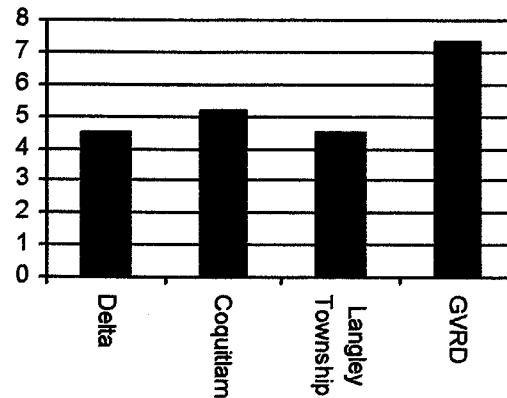
■ Percentage of the population (15+) with less than a Grade 9 education in 1996

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 1996, the percentage of the population (15+) with less than a Grade 9 education in Delta declined by 0.3 percentage points from 4.8% to 4.5%.

Such declines will likely continue into the future, as an older generation with generally lower levels of education is gradually replaced by a younger generation with generally higher levels of education.

What are some of the issues?

According to the results of the 1998 Adult Education and Training Survey, 31.9% of British Columbians were enrolled in adult education and training activities in 1997. In fact, British Columbia had the highest rate of participation in Canada.

While the results are generally positive, the survey raises some real concerns with regard to those individuals most in need of adult education and training. For example, the lower an individual's educational level, the less likely he or she is to enroll in an adult education program. In fact, an individual who did not complete high school is five times less likely to obtain further education. Additionally, participation rates were far lower among unemployed than employed individuals. In fact, about 20% of unemployed individuals participated in job-related education and training activities, compared with 29% of employed individuals (Statistics Canada, 1998).

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta School District provides tuition-free Adult Basic Education courses to individuals in need of upgrading their skills in English, Literacy and Math from Level 1 to Grade 10. Individuals must be at least 19, or 18 and out-of-school for at least one year. The Delta School District also provides Regular and Adult Dogwood Diploma Programs. For more information, call (604) 594-6100.

The Ministry of Human Resources, through its Employability Skills Program, provides a range of labour market support services to improve work-related skills to get a job. These support services can include Adult Basic Education, English Language Training and Literacy Training, as well as academic skills and upgrading. For more information, call the Employment and Assistance Centre – Delta Surrey/West at (604) 501-3257.

Delta Youth Services offers a pre-school reading and storytelling program for children entering Kindergarten and their parents/caregivers to prepare them for school. For more information, call (604) 946-0324.

Where to go for information?

•Canadian Public Health Association. Report on the Health of Canadians. Ottawa: Canadian Public Health Association, 1996.

•Lee, Kevin K. Urban Poverty In Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, April 2000.

•Statistics Canada. Report on Adult Education and Training in Canada: Learning a Living. Ottawa: Human Resource Development Canada and Statistics Canada, 1998.

•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Subdivisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

•Townson, Monica. Health and Wealth: How Social and Economic Factors Affect Our Well being? Toronto: J. Lorimer, 1999.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Family Income
•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Education: High School Completion
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost
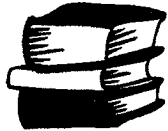
High School Completion

Why is it important?

Economic restructuring and technical innovation have put a new emphasis on the skills needed to succeed in a workplace where information and knowledge have become critical resources. High school completion is now the minimum standard for entry in almost all areas of employment.

Employers expect graduates to be good learners, to communicate clearly, to be self-directed, to think critically and to work well with others. The new workplace also requires individuals to be knowledgeable about technology and to be able to search out and apply information from many sources (Ministry of Education, September 2000).

For those students who do not graduate, many will find themselves trapped in cycles of unstable work and dependency, a situation that often leads to low self-esteem and poverty (Ministry of Education, 1999).

How is it measured?

The Dogwood Completion Rate measures the percentage of Grade 8 students who graduate with a Dogwood Certificate within six years. It is not the inverse of the drop-out rate, as students may graduate after the six year period.

The rate is based on selecting a specific group of students who arrive in Grades 8 through 12 in a School District over a six year period and analyzing the success of those students in obtaining a Dogwood Certificate from the District by the end of the period. For more information about the rate and how it is calculated, refer to the District Information Profile for School District #37 (Delta).

What is the situation in Delta?

In 1999/2000, the Dogwood Completion Rate was 86.1% for School District #37 (Delta). Of note, this rate excludes students enrolled in Distance Education or in the Francophone Education Authority, as well as students enrolled in private schools. It also excludes adult students (20 years of age or older).

How do we compare?

In 1999/2000, the Dogwood Completion Rate was 86.1% for School District #37 (Delta). This rate was far higher than for School District #35 (Langley) (71.8%) and School District #43 (Coquitlam) (78.7%), as well as for the Province (74.6%).
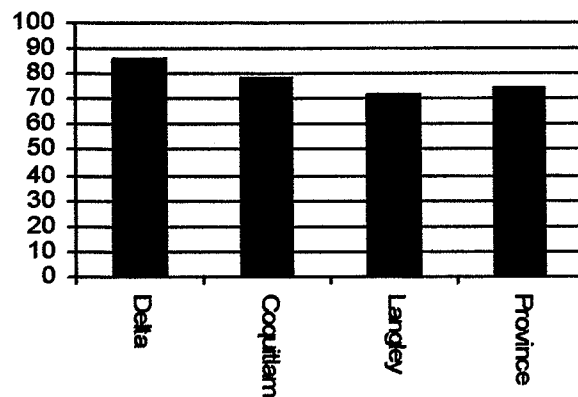
■ Dogwood Completion Rate for 1999/2000

What are the trends?

Between 1996/1997 and 1999/2000, the Dogwood Completion Rate for School District #37 (Delta) increased by 5.7 percentage points from 80.4% to 86.1%. Of note, the rate increased each year for the four year period in question.

What are some of the issues?

Individuals with less than a high school education are over-represented among the urban poor in Canada. According to Kevin K. Lee in his report entitled Urban Poverty in Canada (2000), the average poverty rate among the urban population (15+) was 23.2% in 1996. Individuals with less than a high school education had a far higher-than-average poverty rate of 29.6%, while individuals with a post-secondary education had a far lower-than-average poverty rate of 15.9%.

In other words, individuals with less than a high school education were almost twice as likely to live in poverty as were individuals with a post-secondary education. Of note, the poverty rate for high school graduates was in line with the average for the urban population-as-a-whole.

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta School District provides Regular and Adult Dogwood Diploma Programs. The former requires 52 credits, while the latter requires 20 credits or five courses but may not be accepted by some post-secondary institutions. For more information, call (604) 594-6100.

The Delta School District provides Alternate Programs, which target youth 15 to 18 years. More specifically, it provides Grade 10 equivalency and graduation programs for students experiencing difficulties in regular school programs. Referral is through the School District Special Programs or through the student's secondary school. For more information, call (604) 946-4101.

Where to go for information?

•Lee, Kevin K. Urban Poverty In Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, April 2000.

•Ministry of Education. Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Plan. Revised September 2000.
•Ministry of Education. Performance Plan for 2000/2001-2002/2003, 1999.
•School District #37 (Delta). District Information Profile for School Year 1999/2000. Victoria: Ministry of Education, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Family Income
•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Education: Post-Secondary Education
•Education: Post-Secondary Transition

Post-Secondary Transition

Why is it important?

Economic restructuring is reducing the traditional importance of resource sector employment and raising the prominence of information-based, technological and value-added industries that require higher levels of education.

Given this new reality, post-secondary education and training has become increasingly important and it is now a significant factor in reducing the likelihood that an individual will be unemployed. In fact, the gap in employability has widened based on an individual's level of education. The difference in employment between those with post-secondary education and training and those without has increased from 2.9 percentage points in 1981 to 5.2 percentage points in 1994 (Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, September 13, 1996). This gap may have since widened.
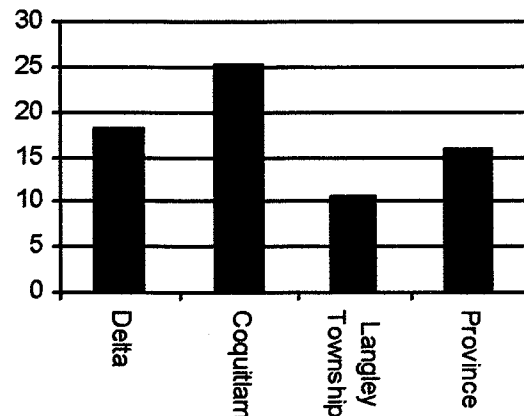
What is the situation in Delta?

In School District #37 (Delta), 39.8% of 1998/1999 graduates were eligible for university in September 1999 and 18.1% of 1998/1999 graduates registered in all BC universities in September 1999.

The difference between the percentage of students eligible for university and those actually registered can be accounted for in several ways. Many enter directly into college academic or career technical programs. Others attend university outside of BC. Still others may temporarily postpone entry and some may abandon their post-secondary education plans altogether.

For those postponing entry, financial and information issues were most often cited. Some students were discouraged by the prospect of the large financial burden of loans and this was particularly true of students from a background of poverty, who were less optimistic about their ability to repay their student loans. Other students were unaware of available information regarding post-secondary institutions – e.g., eligibility criteria, career or program options, financing, etc. (Post-Secondary Transition Review Team, February 1997).

How do we compare?

In School District #37 (Delta), 18.1% of 1998/1999 graduates registered in all BC universities in September 1999. This percentage was far lower than for School District #43 (Coquitlam) (25.3%) but was higher than for School District #35 (Langley) (10.7%) and the Province (15.8%).

Percentage of 1998/1999 graduates who registered in all BC universities in September 1999

What are the trends?

Between 1997/1998 and 1998/1999, the percentage of graduates eligible for university increased by 3.5 percentage points from 36.3% to 39.8% in School District #37 (Delta). During the same period, the percentage of graduates registering in all BC universities increased by 4.2 percentage points from 13.9% to 18.1% in School District #37 (Delta).

What are some of the issues?

In February 2002, the Provincial government eliminated grants to all first year students and granted autonomy to public post-secondary institutions to determine their own tuition fee levels.

Prior to the first change, students with the highest levels of financial need received non-repayable grants in their first four years of study. This policy was developed in 1987 to encourage lower and middle income students to pursue a post-secondary education and to reduce student debt loads.

Prior to the second change, tuition fees had increased by 46% over the past decade in BC, less than half the national average. Additionally, participation rates for post-secondary education in BC had gone from the second lowest to the second highest among Provinces (McFadyen, February 11, 2002).

These changes will likely result in fewer lower and middle income students pursuing a post-secondary education and higher debt loads for those students that do so.

What are some assets/resources?

The British Columbia Student Assistance Program helps eligible students with the costs of post-secondary studies at colleges, training institutes and universities. It is a needs-based program, which exists to supplement funds available to students through work, assets/savings, and family income/resources. The application form is a one-stop process to apply for two kinds of funding: grants and loans. For information on this program and other forms of financial assistance, consult "Student Financial Aid" as part of the Ministry of Advanced Education's website: (www.gov.bc.ca/aved/).

Where to go for information?

•McFadyen, Summer. Campbell Preparing to Increase Tuition Fees. Vancouver: Canadian Federation of Students, February 11, 2002.
•Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. A Strategic Plan for the Future of BC's College, Institute and Agency System, September 13, 1996.
•Post-Secondary Transition Review Team. Secondary to Post-Secondary Transition. Victoria: Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, February 1997.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Economic: Family Income
•Economic: Unemployment
•Economic: Working and Commuting
•Education: High School Completion
•Education: Post-Secondary Education

Post-Secondary Education

Why is it important?

Constraints on natural resources, economic re-structuring, increased international competition and rapid introduction of new technology are pushing the Province towards an information and knowledge based economy; and this, in turn, is increasing the demand for highly educated and skilled workers. As a result, the middle is disappearing from the labour market.

In the future, lower-skilled, lower-paid jobs will likely be available primarily in the service sector, while more attractive higher-skilled, higher-paid jobs will be available only to those with strong analytical and technical skills and/or those who have the ability to plan, problem-solve and use knowledge to further the goals of their employer. As such, post-secondary education and training will increase the likelihood of finding and retaining a higher-paid job.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 2,370 people or 3.2% of the population (15+) had a trade certificate or diploma in 1996. Another 21,220 people or 28.7% of the population (15+) had an "other non-university education only," of which 15,190 people or 71.6% received a certificate or diploma. Another 9,495 people or 12.8% of the population (15+) had a university education without a degree, of which 4,800 people or 50.6% received a certificate or diploma. Additionally, 10,150 people or 13.7% of the population (15+) had a university education with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Within Delta, the community of Tsawwassen had a far higher percentage of its population (15+) (35.3%) who had a university education without or with a degree than for the communities of Ladner (23.5%) and North Delta (24.2%).
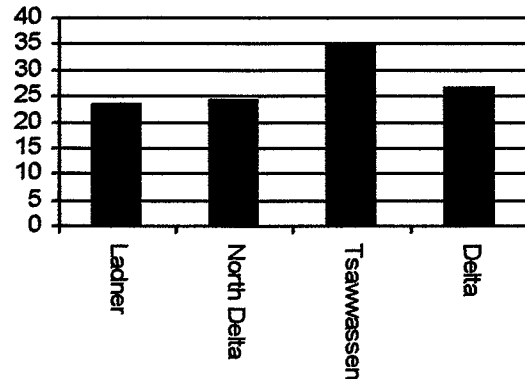
Percentage of the population (15+) who had a university education without or with a degree in 1996

2001 Census information pertaining to education and levels of schooling will not be available until March 11, 2003.

How do we compare?

In 1996, a higher percentage of Delta's population (15+) had a university education without or with a degree (26.5%) than for the Township of Langley (20.5%) but a lower percentage than for both the City of Coquitlam (28.2%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (30.5%).
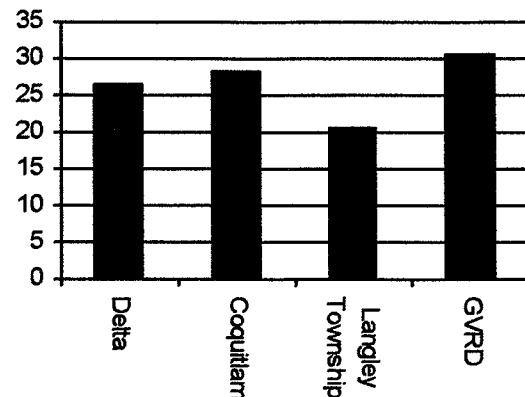
Percentage of the population (15+) who had a university education without or with a degree in 1996

What are the trends?

Between 1991 and 1996, the percentage of Delta's population (15+) who had a trade certificate or diploma remained constant at about 3.2%.

During the same period, the percentage of Delta's population (15+) who had a university education without or with a degree increased by 1.8 percentage points from 24.7% to 26.5%.

What has been written?

Mounting evidence suggests that education increases opportunities for income and job security, and provides individuals with a sense of control over life circumstances, which are key factors that influence health. For example, individuals with a university education in BC are almost two times as likely to report being content or having high self-esteem than those who have not completed high school (Health Canada, December 10-11, 2000).

Additionally, a post-secondary education is one of the most important predictors of many forms of civic participation. In the United States, where this association has been extensively studied, having four more years of education is associated with 30% more interest in politics, 40% more club attendance and 45% more volunteering (Putnam, 2000).

What are some of the issues?

Given that no public post-secondary institutions are located in Delta, students must commute or relocate to attain a college, technical or university education. For those students that commute, the costs include transportation-related expenses and valuable study time. As for those students that relocate, especially those that do not return after graduation, the costs are many, including foregone financial, human and social capital to the municipality.

What are some assets/resources?

The most accessible public post-secondary institutions to Delta are Kwantlen University College and Tech BC. Kwantlen University College has two campuses in Surrey and one in Richmond. It enables students to take their first two years of general university studies and obtain full credit for these courses at other universities. In 1995, it was granted full degree granting status and it now offers eight degree programs. Tech BC, which is located in Surrey, specializes in high-tech education and applied research, including information technology, interactive arts, and management and technology. For information on these and other public post-secondary institutions in Greater Vancouver, consult the "Links to Institution Websites" which can be accessed under "Contacts" as part of the Ministry of Advanced Education's website: (www.gov.bc.ca/aved/).

Where to go for information?

•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Health Canada. Strategic Planning Retreat for the BC/Yukon Region. Vancouver: Regional Executive Committee, December 10-11, 2001.
•Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2000.
•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Family Income
•Education: High School Completion
•Education: Post-Secondary Transition
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Municipal Voting
•Participation: Volunteerism

English-as-a-Second Language

Why is it important?

Over the past three decades, the origin of immigrants to the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) has shifted significantly. In the early 1970s, most immigrants came from Europe, whereas the majority of recent immigrants come from Asia. As a result of the higher proportion of immigrants coming from countries where English is neither the native language or used widely, the overall English language ability of recent immigrants has dropped.

In fact, less than two-thirds of the population in the GVRD claimed English as their mother tongue in 1996 (GVRD Strategic Planning Department, 1997). Mother tongue is defined as the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the Census.

The increasing number of languages in use has implications throughout the region in terms of its impacts on advertising, business, communications, education and services. With regard to education, the increasing number of non-English speaking immigrants has necessitated the need for English-as-Second Language (ESL) training.

## What is the situation in Delta?

In 2001/2002, 1,392 students or about 8% of all students were enrolled in ESL in School District #37 (Delta). Of note, this figure does not include those enrolled in English Language Services for Adults, which is offered as part of the Continuing Education Program.

In 1996, the most prevalent non-English languages in Delta as measured by mother tongue were: Punjabi (5,295 or 5.6%), Chinese (2,525 or 2.7%), German (2,175 or 2.3%), French (965 or 1%), Dutch (765 or 0.8%), Tagalog (735 or 0.8%) and Hindi (605 or 0.6%).

2001 Census information pertaining to language composition will not be available until December 10, 2002.

How do we compare?

In 1999/2000 (the most recent academic year in which comparison data is available), 7.8% of all students were enrolled in ESL in School District #37 (Delta). This percentage was higher than for School District #35 (Langley) (2.9%) but lower than for School District #43 (Coquitlam) (15.6%) and the Province (9.7%).

■ Percentage of students enrolled in ESL in 1999/2000
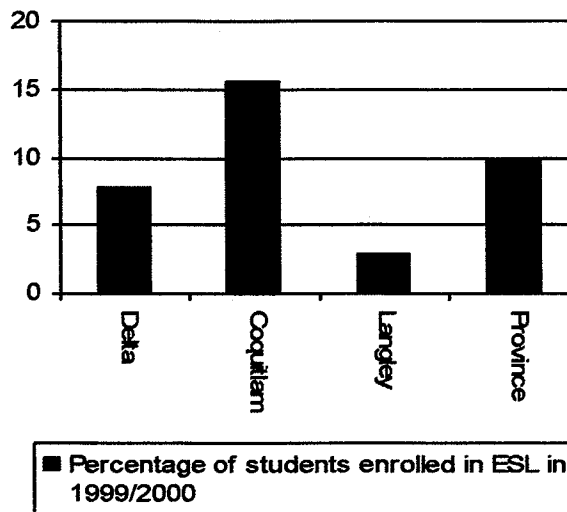
What are the trends?

Between 1998/1999 and 2001/2002, the number of students enrolled in ESL decreased by 12.7% from 1,594 to 1,392 students in School District #37 (Delta).

What are some of the issues?

About 64% of recent immigrants were 20 years or older at the time of immigration (BC Stats, 1997). As such, these immigrants did not or are not benefiting from language training in the schools. With regard to non-English speaking immigrants, some may enroll in English Language Services for Adults or take private tutoring, while others may try to learn English on their own or with the assistance of family and friends. For the latter, accessing government services, achieving employment, enhancing education or skills, expanding social support networks, and integrating into the community will be a far more difficult task.

The Delta School Board recently eliminated 1.2 of 25 full-time equivalent ESL teaching positions and 5.3 full-time equivalent teaching assistant positions in 2002/2003 (Guild, August 2002).

What are some assets/resources?

The Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society (604 597-0205) and SUCCESS Surrey-Delta (604 588-6869) both offer language training, as well as other services to ease the period of adjustment for recent immigrants and refugees.

School District #37 (Delta) provides English Language Services for Adults as part of its Continuing Education Program. It also provides an ESL Summer School for children and adults. For the former, call (604) 507-4150 and for the latter call either (604) 594-6100 or (604) 940-5550.

Delta Youth Services, through its Family Resource Centre, offers family empowerment programs for children 0 to 6 years and their parents/caregivers from the South Asian community. It also offers a pre-school reading and storytelling program for children entering Kindergarten and their parents/caregivers to prepare them for school. For more information about both programs, call (604) 946-0324.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats. English Language Ability of Recent Immigrants, 1997.
•Greater Vancouver Regional District Strategic Planning Department. Greater Vancouver: A Potpourri of Languages, December 1997.
•Guild, Kathy, School District #37 (Delta), (604) 946-4101.
•School District #37 (Delta). District Information Profile for School Year 2000/2001. Victoria: Ministry of Education, 2001.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Children (0-14)
•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Population: Recent Immigrants
•Education: High School Completion
•Education: Post-Secondary Transition

Who are potential education contacts?

•Irene Conroy, Senior Data Administrator, Ministry of Education, PO Box 9150, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9H1, (250) 387-6152.

•Kathy Guild, Director, Special Programs Branch, School District #37 (Delta), 4584 Harvest Drive, Delta, BC, V4K 5B4, (604) 946-4101.

What other references were used in this section?

•Bouchard, Brigitte and John Zhao. "University Education: Recent Trends in Participation, Accessibility and Returns." Educational Quarterly Review. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 1999, Vol. 6, No. 4.

•Cleathero, Jennifer and Bruce Levens. Environmental Scan of the Lower Mainland Region: A Compilation of Socio-Demographic Facts and Trends. Burnaby: United Way Research Services, September 1998.

•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Greater Vancouver Key Facts: A Statistical Profile of Greater Vancouver. Burnaby: Policy and Planning Department, Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2001.

•Greater Vancouver Regional District Strategic Planning Department. Making the Grade: Educational Attainment in Greater Vancouver, April 1998.

•Lipps, Garth and Jackie Yiptong-Avila. From Home to School: How Canadian Children Cope? Ottawa: Statistics Canada, October 14, 1999.

What are other possible education indicators?

•Enrollment in Aboriginal Education Programs
•Enrollment in Career Preparation Programs
•Enrollment in Special Education Programs
•Enrollment in Adult Basic Education
•Enrollment in Job Readiness and Retraining Programs
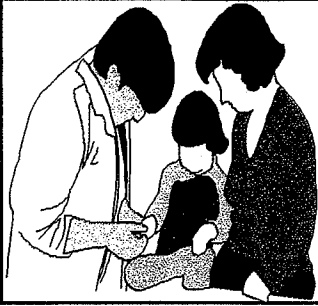
Health
Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

The Delta Local Health Area encompasses the District of Delta and the Tsawwassen First Nation Reserve. It also used to form part of the South Fraser Health Region, which included the Cities of Langley, Surrey and White Rock and the Township of Langley. These and other municipalities (totalling about 1,360,000 people) now comprise the recently formed Fraser Health Authority.

In 1998/1999, there were 25.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females (15-19) in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was far lower than for the Province (40). With regard to low birth weight, in 2000, 4.5% of live births were classified as having low birth weight in the Delta Local Health Area. Again, this rate was lower than for the Province (5.1%).

In 2000, there were 2.58 alcohol-related deaths and 0.16 drug-induced deaths per 10,000 population in the Delta Local Health Area. These rates were far lower than for the Province, which were 4.16 and 0.75 respectively. Additionally, between 1996 and 2000, the number of alcohol-related and drug-induced deaths per 10,000 population decreased for the Delta Local Health Area.

In 2000, there were 0.49 suicides per 10,000 population in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was far lower than for the Province (0.85). However, between 1996 and 2000, the number of suicides per 10,000 population increased for the Delta Local Health Area.

With regard to mental illness, it is estimated that those people with serious mental illness represent about 2% of the population and those people with less severe mental health problems represent about 18% of the population. For Delta, this would mean that there are about 2,000 people with serious mental illness and about 18,000 people with less severe mental health problems.

While there are a number of programs and services to assist and support people dealing with the above health issues in Delta, recent Provincial changes to health and income assistance may result in reduced service levels (through consolidation and rationalization) and increased demand.

Highlighted Health Indicators:

Teen Pregnancy, Low Birth Weight, Alcohol-Related Deaths, Drug-Induced Deaths, Mental Illness, Suicides
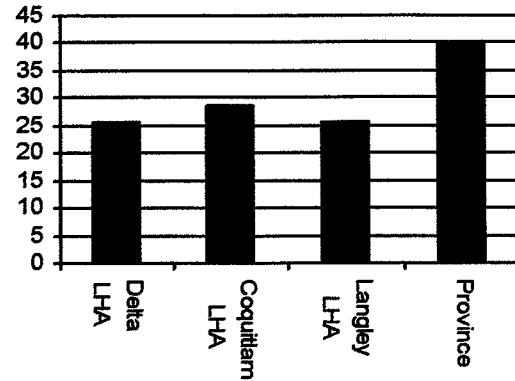
Teen Pregnancy

Why is it important?

Sexual activity among teenagers poses risks such as unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Unintended pregnancies can adversely effect the health and well being of female teenagers and their babies. Teenage mothers are far less likely to complete Grade 12, have greater difficulty obtaining and holding employment (due to limited education and child care requirements), and face far greater stress than females their own age who have not given birth or who remain in school. As for their babies, they are far more likely to be born with low birth weight and suffer birth defects, disabilities and other health problems (Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice, May 1994).

What is the situation in Delta?

In the Delta Local Health Area, there were 92 pregnancies or 25.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females (15-19) in 1998/1999. Of these pregnancies, 27 or 29.3% resulted in live births, four or 4.3% resulted in miscarriages and 61 or 66.3% resulted in abortions.

How do we compare?

In 1998/1999, there were 25.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females (15-19) in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was slightly lower than for the Langley Local Health Area (25.8) and far lower than for the Coquitlam Local Health Area (28.5) and the Province (40).

■ Number of pregnancies per 1,000 females (15-19) in 1998/1999

What are the trends?

Between 1996/1997 and 1998/1999, the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females (15-19) increased from 23.7 to 25.5 in the Delta Local Health Area.
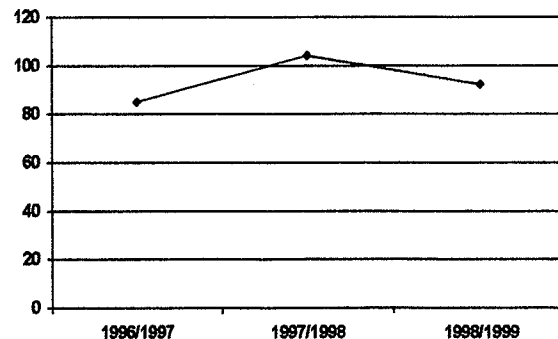
─◆─ Number of Teen Pregnancies for Delta: 1996/1997 - 1998/1999

What are some of the issues?

Regarding risk factors leading to teenage pregnancies, The McCreary Centre Society in its Adolescent Health Survey (1998) of Grades 7 through 12 students in the South Fraser Region, found that about 21% of males and 24% of females (12-19) reported that they had sexual intercourse at least once.

When asked which method(s) of birth control they used to prevent pregnancy the last time they had sex, 53% of sexually active students stated that they used a condom, 35% stated that they used birth control pills and 24% stated that they used no birth control method or used withdrawal (which is generally considered to be an unreliable form of birth control) to prevent pregnancy.

The Delta School District did not participate in the survey; therefore, the results may or may not be representative of students in this District.

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta Health Units in North and South Delta provide individual and free group counselling for pregnant youth. Additionally, they provide planned parenthood clinics. To arrange an appointment, call (604) 507-5402 in North Delta or (604) 952-3550 in South Delta.

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a Pregnant and Parenting Teen program. This program offers individual and group support, lifeskills and parenting information. For information, call (604) 946-2122.

Delta Youth Services provides the Motivated, Independent, Self-Esteem & Self-Worth (MISS) project which provides support to teenagers who are experiencing problems in their relationships. It also provides the Parents and Children Together (PACT) program which provides in-home support for new birth mothers to assist them with parenting. Additionally, it offers the Family Resource Centre in North Delta, which links parents/caregivers to other community resources, as well as providing playtime activities for children and supporting parents/caregivers in a drop-in environment. For information about MISS, call (604) 946-0324; for information about PACT, call (604) 591-9262; and for information about the Family Resource Centre, call (604) 591-9262.

Birthright provides an emergency pregnancy service where females distressed about an untimely pregnancy can get help. For information, call (604) 584-7311. To reach the crisis line, call 1 (800) 550-4900.

Where to go for information?

•Fraser Health Authority, (604) 587-4666.
•Information & Research Management Branch, Vital Statistics Agency. Demographic & Summary of Vital Statistics by Local Health Area. Victoria: Vital Statistics Agency, 2001.
•Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice. Yours, Mine and Ours: Ontario's Children and Youth. Toronto: Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice, May 1994.
•The McCreary Centre Society. Adolescent Health Survey: South Fraser Region. Vancouver: The McCreary Centre Society, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Children & Youth: Child Care
•Education: High School Completion
•Health: Low Birth Weight

Low Birth Weight

Why is it important?

The ability of a new baby to survive and to have a healthy infancy is related to its birth weight. Adequate prenatal growth is a building block for future growth and development. Therefore, adequate birth weight is an indicator of positive development. Babies with a low birth weight have a higher incidence of mental and physical disabilities, and, in extreme cases, death. Low birth weight is also a predictor of health in later life. Studies suggest that low birth weight can increase the risk of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic health conditions (Ministry of Health, 1998).

How is it measured?

Low birth weight is any weight less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds at birth. The following formula is used to calculate the low birth weight rate: number of live births where birth weight is less than 2,500 grams divided by the total number of live births multiplied by 100.

What is the situation in Delta?

In the Delta Local Health Area, 44 live births or 4.5% of all live births were classified as having low birth weight in 2000.

Within the Delta Local Health Area, information pertaining to low birth weight is only available on an intermittent basis at the community level. However, it is known that the incidence of low birth weight is correlated to a number of factors such as limited education, poor health habits (including alcohol and tobacco use), teenage pregnancy and the use of fertility drugs. As such, low birth weight will be more prevalent in low income areas (Townson, 1999). It will also be more prevalent among teenagers who have dropped out-of-school and among older women who have deferred child birth.

How do we compare?

In 2000, 4.5% of live births were classified as having low birth weight in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was higher than for the Langley Local Health Area (4.1%) but lower than for the Coquitlam Local Health Area (4.8%) and the Province (5.1%).
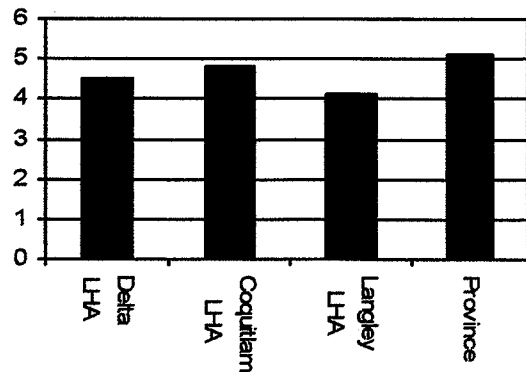
Percentage of live births having low birth weight in 2000

What are the trends?

Between 1996 and 2000, the low birth weight rate averaged 4.8%, reaching a high of 5.9% in 1997 and a low of 4.3% in 1999.
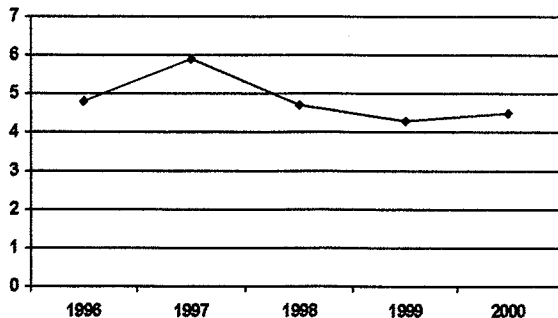
Percentage of Live Births having Low Birth Weight for Delta: 1996 - 2000

What are some of the issues?

Two activities that increase the chances of having a low birth weight baby are alcohol and tobacco use. In fact, females who drink three to five alcoholic drinks per day during pregnancy are twice as likely to have a baby who is small compared to females who do not drink. Additionally, females who smoke are twice as likely to have a low birth weight baby compared to females who do not smoke (Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice, May 1994).

The above evidence speaks to the importance of health education prior to and during pregnancy, especially for young females who are more likely to be engaged in these high risk activities.

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta Health Units in North and South Delta provide individual and free group counselling for pregnant youth. Additionally, they provide planned parenthood clinics. To arrange an appointment, call (604) 507-5402 in North Delta or (604) 952-3550 in South Delta.

Deltassist Family and Community Services provides a Pregnant and Parenting Teem program. This program offers individual and group support, lifeskills and parenting information and on-site, licensed, subsidized child care, as well as various educational options. For information, call (604) 946-2122.

Delta Youth Services provides the Parents and Children Together (PACT) program, which offers in-home support for new birth mothers to assist them with parenting. It also offers the Family Resource Centre in North Delta, which links parents/caregivers to other community resources, as well as providing playtime activities for children and supporting parents/caregivers in a drop-in environment. For information about PACT, call (604) 591-9262 and for information about the Family Resource Centre, call (604) 591-9262.

Healthiest Babies Possible assists females to have healthier babies through education, support and outreach. For information, call (604) 583-1017.

Where to go for information?

•Fraser Health Authority, (604) 587-4666.
•Information & Research Management Branch, Vital Statistics Agency. Demographic & Summary of Vital Statistics by Local Health Area. Victoria: Vital Statistics Agency, 2001.
•Ministry of Health. Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report. Victoria: Ministry of Health, 1998.
•Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice. Yours, Mine and Ours: Ontario's Children and Youth. Toronto: Premier's Council on Health, Well Being and Social Justice, May 1994.
•Townson, Monica. Health and Wealth: How Social and Economic Factors Affect Our Well Being? Toronto: J. Lorimer, 1999.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Economic: Poverty
•Education: Literacy
•Health: Teen Pregnancy

Alcohol-Related Deaths

Why is it important?

Over consumption of alcohol can have adverse health and social effects. Health effects can include cancer of the digestive and respiratory systems, chronic pancreatitis, cirrhosis of the liver, coronary heart disease and psychoses. When abused over an extended period of time, alcohol can directly or indirectly lead to death (Simon Fraser Health Region, 2000).

For pregnant women, alcohol use can result in babies having Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), which can result in mental, physical and other disabilities. Children born with partial FAS can have behavioural or learning problems (Simon Fraser Health Region, 2000). Social effects can include family violence, homicides, motor vehicle accidents, suicides and workplace problems.

What is the situation in Delta?

In the Delta Local Health Area, there were 27 alcohol-related deaths or 2.58 alcohol-related deaths per 10,000 population in 2000. Of these deaths, 19 were male and 8 were female. Information as to age was not readily available.

In the Delta Local Health Area, the standardized mortality ratio for alcohol-related deaths was 0.71 in 2000. In other words, there were 27 alcohol-related deaths and the expected number of alcohol-related deaths based on this area's share of both the Provincial population and the total number of alcohol-related deaths in the Province was 38. As such, the ratio of 0.71 is derived by dividing the number of alcohol-related deaths (27) by the expected number of alcohol-related deaths (38).

How do we compare?

In 2000, there were 2.58 alcohol-related deaths per 10,000 population in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was higher than for the Langley Local Health Area (2.29) but lower than for the Coquitlam Local Health Area (2.61) and for the Province (4.16).
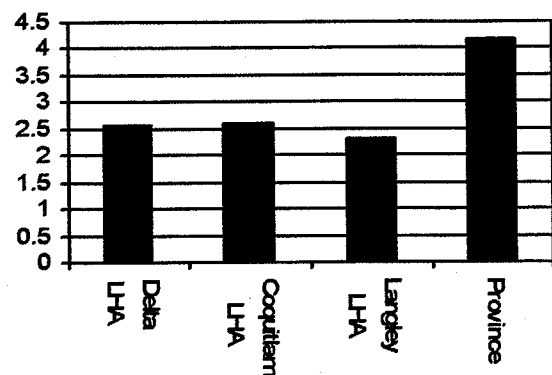
■ Number of alcohol-related deaths per 10,000 population in 2000

What are the trends?

Between 1996 and 2000, the number of alcohol-related deaths per 10,000 population decreased from 3.37 to 2.58 in the Delta Local Health Area.
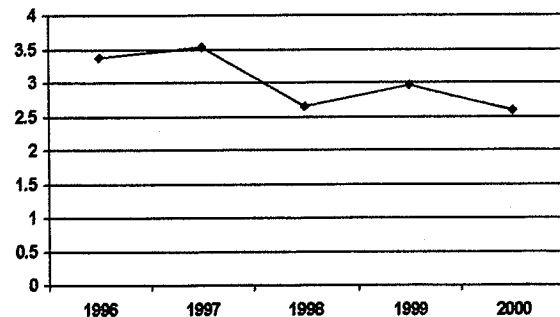
—◆—Number of Alcohol-Related Deaths per 10,000 Population for Delta: 1996 - 2000

What are some of the issues?

Regarding alcohol consumption by youth, The McCreary Centre Society in its Adolescent Health Survey (1998) of Grades 7 through 12 students in the South Fraser Health Region, found that most students (63%) had experimented with alcohol. The percentage of students who had tried alcohol increased with age, rising from 48% of males and 44% of females aged 14 and under to 85% of males and 78% of females aged 17 and over. Among those students who had used alcohol, 43% had their first drink before the age of 13. Additionally, 8% of students had used alcohol on 100 or more days in their life.

The Delta School District did not participate in the survey; therefore, the results may or may not be representative of students in this District.

What are some assets/resources?

Al-Anon is a fellowship of family and friends of alcoholics who meet for mutual help and support to assist people living with the effects of alcoholism. For information, call (604) 688-1716.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a mutual help fellowship of alcoholics. For information, call (604) 434-3933.

Deltassist Family and Community Services' Alcohol and Drug Program provides professional counselling to persons who are either directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse problems. It also provides education, prevention services and treatment. For information, call (604) 591-1185 or (604) 943-8610.

Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society Alcohol and Drug Program provides professional counselling and prevention services for Indo-Canadian and Spanish speaking persons with alcohol and drug misuse problems. For information, call (604) 597-0205.

Astra Treatment Program provides one-to-one and group counselling for young adults (13-19) who are misusing alcohol and/or drugs. For information, call (604) 951-4867.

Where to go for information?

•Fraser Health Authority, (604) 587-4666.
•Information & Research Management Branch, Vital Statistics Agency. Demographic & Summary of Vital Statistics by Local Health Area. Victoria: Vital Statistics Agency, 2001.
•Simon Fraser Health Region. Health Profile 2000. Burnaby: Simon Fraser Health Region, 2000.
•The McCreary Centre Society. Adolescent Health Survey: South Fraser Region. Vancouver: The McCreary Centre Society, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Health: Low Birth Weight
•Health: Drug-Induced Deaths
•Health: Mental Illness
•Health: Suicides
•Public Safety: Crime Rate
•Public Safety: Youth Crime

Drug-Induced Deaths

Why is it important?

The vast majority of illicit drug-induced deaths involve young males. The three leading causes of these deaths are suicide, cocaine poisoning and opiate poisoning (Single et al., 1996). AIDS, acquired through the use of illicit drugs, also accounts for an increasing number of deaths. In fact, about 20% of recent AIDS cases are attributable to injection drug use (Single, June 1999).

Illicit drug use also has social implications, as many users resort to crime (especially robbery and theft) to feed their addiction. With regard to violent crime, while alcohol is a far greater factor, illicit drug use is implicated in about 7% of assaults and about 9% of homicides in Canada (Brien et al., April 30, 2002). Other social costs include family breakdown, homelessness, hospitalization, poverty and unemployment.

What is the situation in Delta?

In the Delta Local Health Area, there were two drug-induced deaths or 0.16 drug-induced deaths per 10,000 population in 2000. Of these deaths, both were male. Information as to age was not readily available.

In the Delta Local Health Area, the standardized mortality ratio for drug-induced deaths was 0.25 in 2000. In other words, there were two drug-induced deaths and the expected number of drug-induced deaths based on this area's share of both the Provincial population and the total number of drug-induced deaths in the Province was eight. As such, the ratio of 0.25 is derived by dividing the number of drug-induced deaths (two) by the expected number of drug-induced deaths (eight).

How do we compare?

In 2000, there were 0.16 drug-induced deaths per 10,000 population in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was lower than for the Langley (0.26) and Coquitlam (0.46) Local Health Areas and for the Province (0.75).
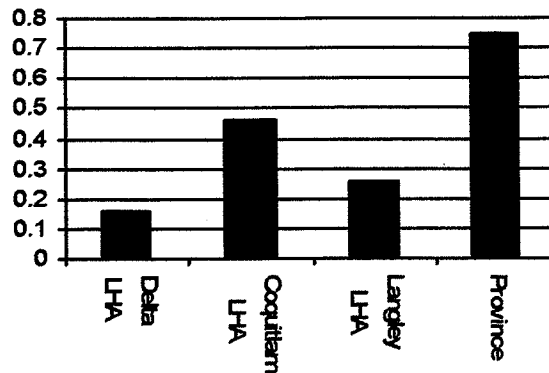
■ Number of drug-induced deaths per 10,000 population in 2000

What are the trends?

Between 1996 and 2000, the number of drug-induced deaths per 10,000 population decreased from 0.5 to 0.16 in the Delta Local Health Area.
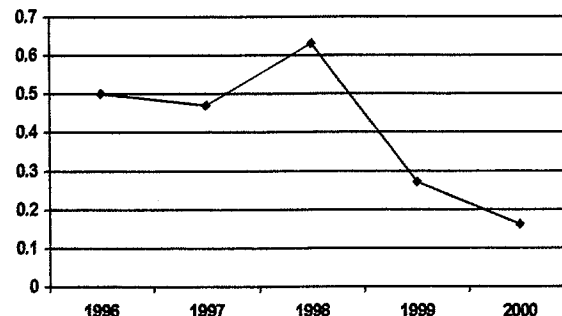
—◆— Number of Drug-Induced Deaths per 10,000 Population for Delta: 1996 - 2000

Who are most at risk?

Rates of illicit drug use (which includes the use of cannabis) are much higher for males (10.1%) than females (4.9%) and rates of use decrease progressively with age from 25.7% for those 15 to 17 years to less than 1% for those 55 years or older (Single, June 1999).

What are some of the issues?

Regarding drug use by youth, The McCreary Centre Society in its Adolescent Health Survey (1998) of Grades 7 through 12 students in the South Fraser Health Region, found that about 40% of them had ever used cannabis and 12% had used it 40 or more times. With regard to other drugs, 12% of students had used hallucinogens, 7% had used cocaine and 5% had used amphetamines.

By comparison, in a multi-site national study of street youth, 71% had used cannabis, 44% had used LSD, 31% had used cocaine, 14% had used tranquillizers, 14% had used speed and 4% had used cocaine (Single, June 1999).

The Delta School District did not participate in the survey; therefore, the results may or may not be representative of students in this District.

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services' Alcohol and Drug Program provides professional counselling to persons who are either directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse problems. It also provides education, prevention services and treatment. For information, call (604) 591-1185 or (604) 943-8610.

Astra Treatment Program provides one-to-one and group counselling for young adults (13-19) who are misusing alcohol and/or drugs. For information, call (604) 951-4867.

Peak House is an eight-week residential alcohol and drug treatment program for young people (13-18). For information, call (604) 253-3381.

Where to go for information?

•Brien et al. Report on the Impact of Crime and Substance Abuse in Canadian Society. Ottawa: Solicitor General Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, April 30, 2002.
•Fraser Health Authority, (604) 587-4666.
•Information & Research Management Branch, Vital Statistics Agency. Demographic & Summary of Vital Statistics by Local Health Area. Victoria: Vital Statistics Agency, 2001.
•Single, Eric. Substance Abuse and Population Health. Workshop on Addiction and Population Health, Edmonton, June 1999.
•Single et al. The Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 1996.
•The McCreary Centre Society. Adolescent Health Survey: South Fraser Region. Vancouver: The McCreary Centre Society, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Health: Alcohol-Related Deaths
•Health: Suicides
•Housing: Homelessness
•Public Safety: Crime Rate
•Public Safety: Youth Crime

Mental Illness

Why is it important?

Mental illness presents serious challenges to the community service and health care sectors in Delta. Mental illness and mood disorders are frequently associated with alcohol and drug misuse, homelessness, poverty and unemployment. In fact, about 8% of total health care spending is devoted to the care and support of people with mental illness.

People with serious mental illness often exhibit inadequate social skills, lack self-esteem and possess low motivation. Additionally, they frequently neglect their health and are often poor and socially isolated. Some turn to alcohol and drugs for self-medication which both masks and adds to the underlying disease. Others do not get the services they require because they tend to resist traditional care and some require assertive case management to remain in the service system (BC Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, June 20, 2000).

What is mental illness?

Mental illness can be viewed as the presence of certain bio-psycho-social conditions that can hinder and/or prevent an individual's ability to realize his or her aspirations. Serious mental illness includes schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression. It can also include serious anxiety disorders such as obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, etc.

What is the situation in Delta?

Various projection tools are used to estimate the prevalence of mental illness. The general rule of thumb is that those people with serious mental illness represent about 2% of the population and those people with less serious mental health problems represent about 18% of the population (Simon Fraser Health Region, 2000).

If this rule of thumb is used for Delta, then there are about 2,000 people with serious mental illness and about 18,000 people with less serious mental health problems.

A more accurate picture of the number of people with serious mental illness is provided by the Adult Mental Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors. Based on its statistics, the proportion of Delta adults (15+) with serious mental illness (not including cognitive disorders and developmental disabilities) totalled about 750 in 1998. This figure is based on those people suffering from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (BC Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, June 20, 2000).

Of note, the above figure is derived by taking the total number of people suffering from schizophrenia (1,486) and bipolar disorder (2,746) in the South Fraser Valley Health Region in 1998 and dividing by Delta's proportion (17.8%) of the region's population in that same year.

What are the trends?

Since 1995/1996, there has been an increase in the number of mental health cases in the South Fraser Valley Health Region (which includes Delta). In fact, the number of adult (15+) mental health cases increased by 46.4% from 3,801 in 1995/1996 to 5,565 in 1999/2000 (BC Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, June 20, 2000).

What are some of the issues?

People with serious mental illness require a number of different types of services and supports that span the health care sector - i.e., community mental health services (including assertive community care, cognitive therapies, housing, out-patient counselling and rehabilitation services), in-patient services, physician services and pharmaceuticals. The absence of some services and supports in Delta, and long waitlists for others, places many people with serious mental illness at-risk. (BC Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, June 20, 2000).

What are some assets/resources?

The Canadian Mental Health Association (Delta Branch) provides a Delta Community Mental Health Resource Directory. This directory lists emergency, mental health centre and rehabilitation services. It also lists advocacy, employment, financial, personal care and support services. To obtain a copy of this directory, call (604) 943-1878.

The North Delta Mental Health Centre is located at 129-6345-120st Street, Delta, V4E 2A6 and can be reached at (604) 592-3700. The South Delta Mental Health Centre is located at 14-1835-56th Avenue, Delta, V4L 2L8 and can be reached at (604) 948-7010.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (Delta Branch) also provides a Mental Health Resource Listing for Youth. To obtain a copy of this listing, call (604) 948-1878.

Where to go for information?

•BC Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors – Adult Mental Health Division. Foundations for Reform: The Mental Health Policy Framework and Key Planning Tools. June 20, 2000.
•Simon Fraser Health Region. Health Profile 2000. Burnaby: Simon Fraser Health Region, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Health: Alcohol-Related Deaths
•Health: Drug-Induced Deaths
•Health: Suicides
•Housing: Homelessness
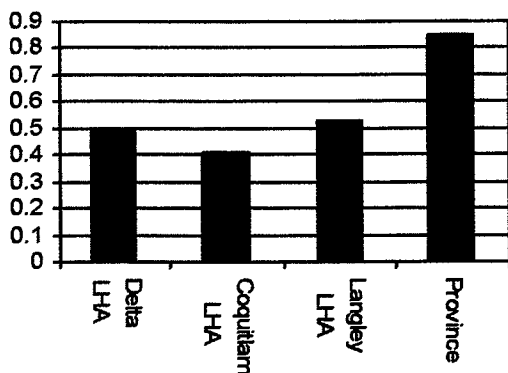
Suicides

Why is it important?

Clinical depression is a prime risk factor for suicide and depression appears to be on the increase, especially among women and youth. Depression is characterized by a depressed mood and/or lack of interest in most things. Symptoms include appetite or sleep disturbance, decreased energy, difficulty concentrating and feelings of worthlessness and/or suicidal thoughts (Statistics Canada, 1999).

What is the situation in Delta?

In the Delta Local Health Area, there were five suicides or 0.49 suicides per 10,000 population in 2000. Of those who committed suicide, four were male and one was female. Information as to age was not readily available.

How do we compare?

In 2000, there were 0.49 suicides per 10,000 population in the Delta Local Health Area. This rate was higher than for the Coquitlam Local Health Area (0.41) but lower than for the Langley Local Health Area (0.53) and for the Province (0.85).

■ Number of suicides per 10,000 population in 2000

What are the trends?

Between 1996 and 2000, the number of suicides per 10,000 population increased from 0.37 to 0.49 in the Delta Local Health Area. During this period, the number of suicides per 10,000 population reached a high of 0.87 in 1997 and a low of 0.46 in 1999.
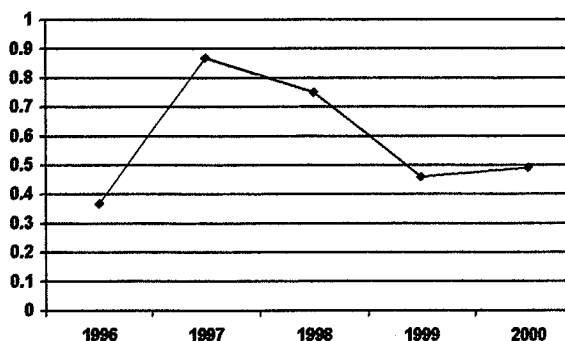
─◆─ Number of Suicides per 10,000 Population for Delta: 1996 - 2000

Who are most at risk?

According to the National Population Health Survey, about 4.3% of Canadians aged 12 and older reported symptoms strongly suggesting that they had experienced at least one major depressive episode in 1997/1988. Depression was most prevalent among those aged 15 to 24, declined in mid-life and was lowest among those aged 65 and older. Depression was also more prevalent among women than men, with almost twice as many women reporting symptoms (Statistics Canada, 1999).

What are some of the issues?

With regard to depression and suicide as they relate to youth, The McCreary Centre Society in its Adolescent Health Survey (1998) of Grades 7 through 12 students in the South Fraser Health Region, found that 8% of them reported feeling emotionally distressed in the month prior to the survey. Additionally, about 17% of female and 10% of male students stated that they had seriously considered suicide in the past year; while 14% of female and 7% of male students had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide.

One explanation for the increase in depression and suicide among youth is social isolation. In the United States, the average youth spends approximately three-and-a-half hours alone each day, which is more time than is spent with family and friends. Additionally, compared with youth in the 1950s, young people reported fewer, shorter and weaker friendships in the 1990s (Putnam, 2000).

The Delta School District did not participate in the survey; therefore, the results may or may not be representative of students in this District.

What are some assets/resources?

The Chimo Crisis Line (604 279-7070) and the South Fraser Regional Crisis Line (604 951-8855) provide telephone counselling for people who are in emotional distress. Of note, help is also available in a number of languages other than English, including: Cantonese (604 278-8283), Hindi (604 596-4357), Mandarin (604 279-8882) and Punjabi (604 596-4357).

Deltassist Family and Community Services' Youth Suicide Prevention Program provides assistance to youth who are at risk of committing suicide. Services include crisis intervention, individual and family counselling, prevention education, and risk assessment and management. For information, call (604) 943-8610 or (604) 591-1185.

Where to go for information?

•Fraser Health Authority, (604) 587-4666.
•Information & Research Management Branch, Vital Statistics Agency. Demographic & Summary of Vital Statistics by Local Health Area. Victoria: Vital Statistics Agency, 2001.
•Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Renewal of American Community. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000.
•Statistics Canada. "Psychological Health-Depression." Health Reports. Winter 1999, Vol. 11, No. 3.
•The McCreary Centre Society. Adolescent Health Survey: South Fraser Region. Vancouver: The McCreary Centre Society, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Youth and Young Adults (15-24)
•Health: Alcohol-Related Deaths
•Health: Drug-Induced Deaths
•Health: Mental Illness
•Public Safety: Youth Crime

Who are potential health contacts?

•Walid Chahine, Manager, Mental Health and Addiction Services, North Delta Mental Health Centre, #129-6345 120st Street, Delta, BC, V4E 2A6, (604) 592-3700 .

•Lois Shoebridge, Director of Mental Health Services, Surrey Central Mental Health, Suite 110, 7525 King George Highway, Surrey, BC, V3W 5A8, (604) 592-4902.

•Cathy Stewart, Manager, Public Health Nursing, North Delta Health Unit, #101-11245 84th Avenue, Delta, BC, V4C 2L9, (604) 507-5402.

•Margo Whyte, Education and Information Consultant, Canadian Mental Health Association (Delta Branch), #13-1835-56th Street, Delta, BC, V4L 2L8, (604) 943-1878.

What other references were used in this section?

•CV Marketing Research. Telephone Survey. Surrey: South Fraser Health Region, March 1998.

•Office of Health Promotion, BC Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors. Health Indicators Workbook: A Tool for Healthy Communities, January 1992.

•Population Health Planning Unit. 1996 Census Data. Surrey: South Fraser Health Region, 2000.

•Statistics Canada. "Personal Health Practices: Smoking, Drinking, Physical Activity and Weight." Health Reports. Winter 1999, Vol. 11., No. 3.

What are other possible health indicators?

•Communicable Disease Cases
•Hospital Utilization Rate
•Immunization Rate for the School Age Population
•Infant Mortality Rate
•Life Expectancy for Males and Females
•Potential Years of Life Lost due to External Causes of Death

Housing Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

In Delta, 2,675 households or 40% of all renter households paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996 and, according to Statistics Canada, these households were considered to have housing affordability problems. By comparison, in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, 46% of all renter households faced housing affordability problems in 1996.

In Delta, the rental apartment vacancy rate was 3% in 2001, which is considered to represent a balanced market between supply and demand. Additionally, average apartment rents have remained relatively stable since 1998, due in large part to this balanced market. In 2001, the average rent for a bachelor suite was $506, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment was $623 and the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment was $796.

For those renters who cannot afford an apartment in the private rental market or who prefer ground oriented rental housing with access to gardens and yards, non-market housing and secondary suites have become increasingly important. In Delta, there were 844 non-market housing units in December 2001. Of these units, 524 or 62.1% were senior, 256 or 30.3% were family and 64 or 7.6% were disabled. As for secondary suites, it is estimated that there are about 3,000 such suites in Delta. Additionally, this form of rental housing is estimated to contribute to about 35% of Delta's total rental housing supply.

In Delta, absolute homelessness (i.e., people living with no physical shelter) does not appear to be a problem at this time. However, homelessness has been documented in other suburban municipalities, including on the North Shore and in Surrey. It may also become more prevalent given changes to BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) and to other government programs. As such, government agencies, service providers and others will need to monitor homelessness in order to ensure an effective response should it become a problem in the future.

In Delta, 39,310 people or 44.4% of the population changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996. Additionally, a far lower percentage of the population changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996 than between 1986 and 1991. This may signal more stable communities in the future as Delta's population ages.

## Highlighted Housing Indicators:

Housing Cost, Vacancy Rates and Rents, Non-Market Housing, Secondary Suites, Homelessness, Mobility

Housing Cost

Why is it important?

Renters in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) face some of the highest housing costs in Canada. As evidence, 46% of all renter households within the region faced housing affordability problems in 1996. Those facing the most severe affordability problems were the elderly (65+), female headed households (both lone parents and elderly single women), low income individuals who live alone and youth (15-24). For these people and others, just paying the rent often leads to stresses and difficult choices about how to use their remaining income. These stresses can have a negative impact on both health and well being.
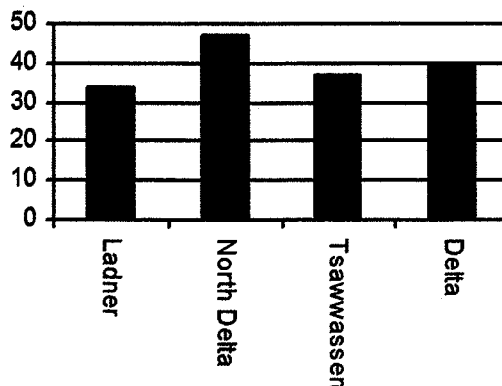
What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 2,675 or 40% of all renter households paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996 and, according to Statistics Canada, these households were considered to have housing affordability problems. The percentage was higher for all youth (15-24) renter households (47.3%), all elderly (65+) renter households (49.3%), all female headed renter households (49.8%) and all elderly single female renter households (56.9%).

Of particular concern, 1,250 or 18.9% of all renter households in Delta paid 50% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996 and, according to Statistics Canada, these households were considered to have serious housing affordability problems.

The communities of Ladner (33.9%) and Tsawwassen (36.8%) had a lower percentage of all renter households who paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996 than for Delta-as-a-whole (40%) and for the community of North Delta (46.8%).

Percentage of all renter households who paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996

2001 Census information pertaining to housing will not be available until October 22, 2002.

How do we compare?

In 1996, Delta had a higher percentage (40%) of all renter households who paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing than for the Township of Langley (37.8%) but a lower percentage of such households than for the City of Coquitlam (43.7%) and the GVRD (46%). It also had a higher percentage (18.9%) of all renter households who paid 50% or more of their gross household income on housing than for the Township of Langley (16.4%) but a lower percentage of such households than for the City of Coquitlam (24.6%).
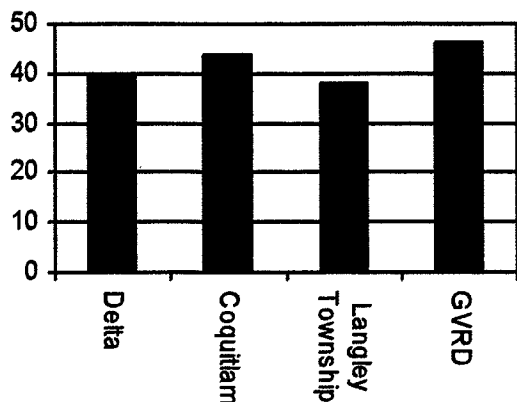
■ Percentage of all renter households who paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996

What are the trends?

Given inconsistencies between the "selection of the universe" for 1991 and 1996, comparisons cannot be made and a trend cannot be discerned. In 1991, the universe included all one-family renter households without additional persons with household income greater than $0; while in 1996, it included all renter households with household income greater than $0. The latter universe is far more inclusive, as it includes one-person renter households.

What are some of the issues?

BC Benefits (now BC Employment and Assistance) comprises two components: shelter and support. As part of the new program, the monthly shelter allowance has been reduced for families of three or more. For a family of three, the reduction is $55 (from $610 to $555); for a family of four, the reduction is $60 (from $650 to $590); for a family of five, the reduction is $75 (from $700 to $625); and for a family of six, the reduction is $120 (from $780 to $660). For these families, finding affordable rental housing has become a more difficult task.

What are some assets/resources?

BC Housing is responsible for the delivery of non-market housing programs. It offers housing assistance to low income households by directly managing non-market housing, subsidizing co-operatives and non-profit societies, providing rent supplements, and administering the HOMES BC construction program. In Delta, there are currently 844 non-market housing units. For information on these units, including development names and locations, application requirements and number of units by bedroom size, refer to BC Housing's website (www.bchousing.org) under the heading: "The Link - Housing Listings."

Where to go for information?

• Community Planning & Development Department. <u>Community Profiles</u>. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
• Gauthier, Bryce. <u>Rental Housing Profile</u>. Vancouver: Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, 2000.
• Research and Corporate Planning, BC Housing, (604) 439-4750.
• Statistics Canada. <u>Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census - 100% and 20% Sample Data</u>. Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

## What are related indicators?

• Economic: Food Bank Usage
• Economic: Income Security
• Economic: Poverty
• Economic: Unemployment
• Housing: Homelessness
• Housing: Non-Market Housing
• Housing: Secondary Suites
• Housing: Vacancy Rates and Rents

Vacancy Rates and Rents

Why is it important?

A contributing factor to rent increases is the vacancy rate. The fewer rental apartments vacant, the less competitive the rental market. Less supply increases demand, which drives up the prices. When prices exceed 30% of a household's gross income, then that household is considered by Statistics Canada to have a housing affordability problem. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation considers a vacancy rate of 2.5% to represent a balanced market between supply and demand (Chow, Nov. 27, 2001).
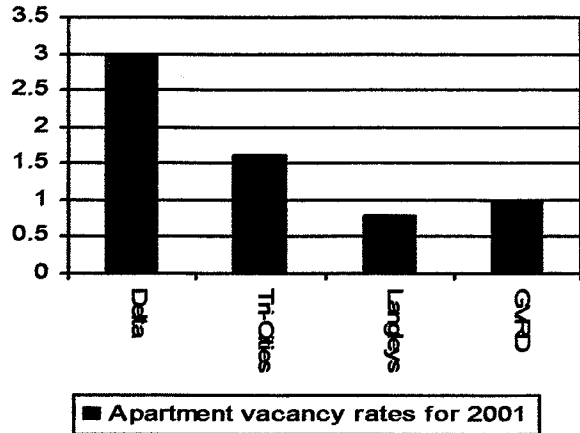
What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, the rental apartment vacancy rate was 3% in 2001. While this is considered to represent a balanced market between supply and demand, it is a sharp decline from the rate of one year earlier (6.1%).

The vacancy rate represents vacancies for all private rental apartments, no matter what the price. Usually, much higher vacancies exist for higher-priced luxury units than for lower-priced family units (Layton, 2000). Of note, the vacancy rate does not include condominium rentals or secondary suites.
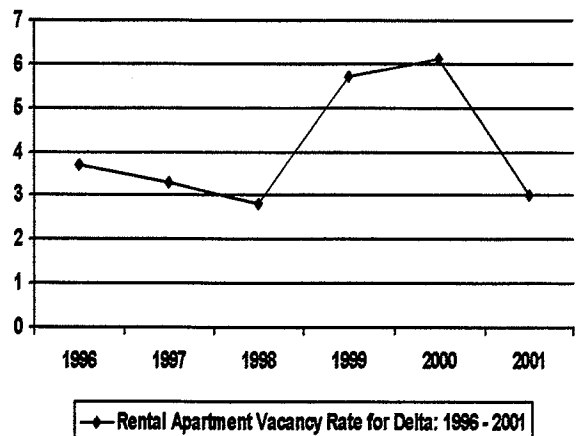
How do we compare?

In 2001, Delta had a higher rental apartment vacancy rate than for the City and Township of Langley (0.8%) and the Tri-Cities, which includes the City of Coquitlam (1.6%), as well as for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (1%). It also had lower average apartment rents for bachelor and one bedroom units than for the two areas in question but higher average apartment rents for two bedroom units.

Apartment vacancy rates for 2001

What are the trends?

Since 1996, the rental apartment vacancy rate has fluctuated widely from a low of 2.8% in 1998 to a high of 6.1% in 2000. The current rate of 3% is lower than the six year average (4.1%) and less than half the rate in 2000. Of note, the rental apartment vacancy rate is more likely to fluctuate in Delta than in other municipalities, given its small number of rental apartments.

Rental Apartment Vacancy Rate for Delta: 1996 - 2001

The rental apartment vacancy rate may continue to decline, as few new apartments or townhouses are built specifically for rental purposes in Delta and as the existing rental housing stock ages and is replaced. The cost of building and operating rental housing exceeds market rents in every major centre in Canada (Layton, 2000). As a result, most new rental housing will be in the form of condominium rentals and secondary suites in Delta, which are considered to be less stable forms of rental housing.

Since 1998, average apartment rents have remained relatively stable in Delta, due in large part to the balanced market between supply and demand. The following chart details the average apartment rents for bachelor, one and two bedroom units for Delta during the four year period between 1998 and 2001.
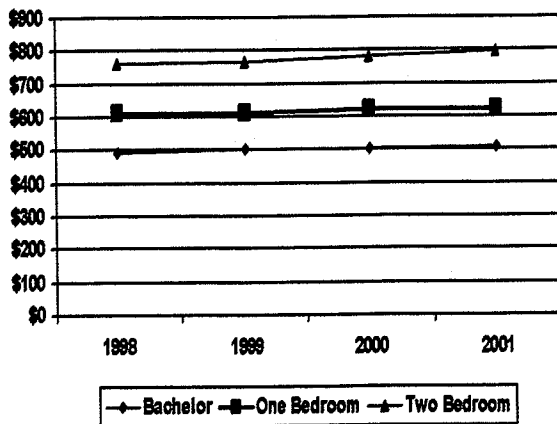
What are some of the issues?

In 1996, the rental apartment vacancy rate was 3.7% (which is considered healthy) and yet 40% of all renter households in Delta paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing. With a lower rental apartment vacancy rate, there may be more pressure on rents to increase, which may result in more renter households in Delta experiencing housing affordability problems.

2001 Census information pertaining to housing will not be available until October 22, 2002.

What are some assets/resources?

The Tenants' Rights Action Coalition provides information to tenants about their rights and suggests ways for them to resolve conflicts with landlords. It offers the Tenants Survival Guide, which is a plain language guide to the Residential Tenancy Act, and a Tenant Hotline (604 255-0546), which provides free information on tenants' rights.

Where to go for information?

•Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Apartment Vacancy Rates and Average Apartment Rents, 2002.
•Chow, Wyng. "CMHC Reports Low Vacancy Rate." The Vancouver Sun, Nov. 27, 2001, Sec. C, Page 1.
•Layton, Jack. Homelessness: The Making and Unmaking of a Crisis. Toronto: Penguin, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Housing: Housing Cost
•Housing: Non-Market Housing
•Housing: Secondary Suites

Non-Market Housing

Why is it important?

In Delta, 40% of all renter households paid 30% or more of their gross household income on housing in 1996 and, according to Statistics Canada, these households were considered to have housing affordability problems. This large percentage of all renter households who experienced affordability problems was not unique to Delta, as 46% of all renter households in the Greater Vancouver Regional District faced similar problems in 1996.

The Federal government, in spite of the above affordability problems, began to phase out its commitment to funding new non-market housing in 1992, totally withdrawing in 1994. This move resulted in the loss of about two-thirds of the previous funding base. Since 1994, the Provincial government has sought to build new non-market housing in partnership with community sponsors and municipal governments. As a result of the new funding realities, non-market housing has fallen far behind demand, as evidenced by the almost 6,600 households that are on the waitlist for non-market housing in the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 844 non-market housing units in December 2001. Of these units, 524 or 62.1% were senior, 256 or 30.3% were family and 64 or 7.6% were disabled. (Of note, there were no non-market housing units catering to single adults.) The majority (612 or 72.5%) of the units were operated by non-profit societies, with the remainder being operated by co-operatives (126 or 14.9%) and government (106 or 12.5%).

Of the 844 non-market housing units in Delta, half (422 or 50%) were located in Ladner, with the remainder being divided almost equally between North Delta (206 or 24.4%) and Tsawwassen (216 or 25.6%). Of note, the non-market housing units in Ladner and North Delta were a mix of disabled, family and senior, while the non-market housing units in Tsawwassen were exclusively senior.

What has been written?

Although the Provincial government's Core Review of BC Housing's operations has yet to be completed, it appears that there has been a shift in emphasis toward "health housing initiatives" which target the "most vulnerable" (with the focus being the frail elderly). In fact, about 3,500 assisted living units will be created in the Province. While this housing is needed, there are concerns that this shift in emphasis will mean far less non-market housing for families, seniors and singles who do not fit within the classification of "most vulnerable." This will be especially true for communities that do not have the capacity to enter into public/private partnerships (Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, Spring 2002).

What are some of the issues?

In December 2001, 376 households were on the waitlist for non-market housing in Delta. Of note, some of these households lived outside of Delta but stated that their preference was to live in Delta. The majority (289 or 76.9%) of households were waiting for family housing. As for the remaining households, 51 or 13.6% were waiting for disabled housing, 34 or 9% were waiting for seniors housing and two or 0.5% were waiting for single women's housing.

Given that BC Housing makes placements on the basis of need and suitable accommodation, it is not possible to determine average waiting times.

What are some assets/resources?

BC Housing is responsible for the delivery of non-market housing programs. It offers housing assistance to low income households by directly managing non-market housing, subsidizing co-operatives and non-profit societies, providing rent supplements, and administering the HOMES BC construction program. For information about BC Housing and its programs, phone (604) 433-1711 or refer to its website at (www.bchousing.org).

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation guarantees mortgages to non-profit organizations for non-market housing, provided they can contribute 15% to 25% of the equity. It also makes up to $75,000 available to help them to develop projects, and it has a staff person available to advise municipalities and non-profit organizations.

Where to go for information?

•Community Planning & Development Department, Corporation of Delta, (604) 946-3380.

•Gauthier, Bryce. Rental Housing Profile. Vancouver: Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, 2000.

•Research and Corporate Planning, BC Housing, (604) 439-4750.

•Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, "BC Housing Core Services Review Could Affect Thousands." Network. Spring 2002.

•Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, "Social Housing Partnerships." Network. Volume 3, Issue 1, January 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Lone Parent Families
•Population: Seniors (65+)
•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Housing: Homelessness
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Housing: Secondary Suites
•Housing: Vacancy Rates and Rents

Secondary Suites

Why is it important?

For tenants, secondary suites provide access to neighbourhoods from which they may otherwise be excluded, offer ground-oriented accommodation without the prohibitive cost of home-ownership, and, in many cases, offer individuals and families a more desirable living space in terms of gardens and yards.

For homeowners, secondary suites provide help with mortgage payments and allow first time buyers the option of home ownership. As for house rich but cash poor seniors, secondary suites offer greater financial flexibility and the comfort of knowing that others are in the house.

For communities, secondary suites can provide increased density, often with minimal environmental impact. They can also offer more inclusive neighbourhoods that make better use of existing municipal infrastructure. On the downside, secondary suites can contribute to parking problems and can overwhelm existing municipal infrastructure and services.

How is it defined?

A secondary suite is usually defined as a separate, self-contained dwelling unit, with kitchen and bathroom, on the same site as the principal dwelling.

What is the situation in Delta?

The Corporation of Delta estimates that there are currently about 3,000 secondary suites, which contribute to about 35% of the total rental housing supply in Delta.

In Delta, secondary suites are not permitted, except in the RS9 zone where coach houses are permitted. In the mid to late 1990s, the Corporation of Delta undertook several reviews of this policy, with a view to legalizing secondary suites. However, there were objectives from residents of single family residential areas who were concerned that duplex neighbourhoods were being created and from secondary suite owners who did not want to bring their suites up to Building Code standards (Delta Community Planning and Development Department, 2002).

What is the situation in the GVRD?

It has been estimated that there are between 54,000 and 70,000 secondary suites in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). This range represents between 19% and 25% of the total rental housing supply in the GVRD.

Planning polices with regard to secondary suites vary across the GVRD's 21 member municipalities. Suites are permitted in most single family zones in eight municipalities, are permitted in certain neighbourhoods or zones in five municipalities and are not permitted in six municipalities. In the case of the latter municipalities, enforcement is by complaint. In four of these municipalities, suites are only permitted if owners live on the premises. Where permitted, suites must comply with health and safety standards, parking requirements, etc. Of note, none of the municipalities are actively working to eliminate secondary suites.

What are the trends?

Given the lack of historic information, no trend can be discerned. However, this form of housing is likely to become increasingly important, as fewer apartments and townhouses are built specifically for rental purposes.

What are the bylaws in Delta?

Secondary suites are not permitted in Delta and are thus vulnerable to closure. The Corporation of Delta has a prioritized enforcement system which gives greater priority to: (1) closing more than one suite in a house or a suite in a multi-family dwelling; (2) closing "obviously rent for profit" suites after complaints by two neighbours; (3) closing suites used by the same household which occupies the main part of the dwelling after complaints by two neighbours; and (4) closing suites after one complaint by a neighbour (Delta Community Planning and Development Department, 2002).

What are some of the issues?

Because secondary suites are not permitted, tenants who live in them often believe that they are not covered by the Residential Tenancy Act, and many are afraid to exercise their rights under the Act. They often believe that they will lose their home if government officials get involved in a dispute. Conversely, homeowners are often caught in a "no-win" situation: building and fire inspectors are unable to appraise the condition of the suite without closing it down and the cost of upgrading the suite to meet Building Code standards can be prohibitively expensive (Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, 1999).

What are some assets/resources?

The Tenants' Rights Action Coalition provides information to tenants about their rights and suggests ways for them to resolve conflicts with landlords. It offers the Tenants Survival Guide, which is a plain language guide to the Residential Tenancy Act, and a Tenant Hotline (604 255-0546), which provides free information on tenants' rights.

Where to go for information?

•Community Planning & Development Department, (604) 946-3380.
•Gauthier, Bryce. Rental Housing Profile. Vancouver: Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, 2000.
•Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, Secondary Suites: A Tenant Survey, 1999.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Poverty
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Housing: Mobility

Homelessness

Why is it important?

The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, in its report entitled Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver (March 19, 2001), defines two types of homelessness: absolute and at-risk.

Absolute homelessness refers to those people who are living with no physical shelter - i.e., on the street, in doorways, in parkades, in parks and on beaches, as well as those people living temporarily in emergency shelters or transition houses. According to the City of Toronto Homelessness Action Task Force (1999), these people are at much greater risk for acute illness, chronic health problems, infectious disease and premature death than the general population. They are also at greater risk for alcohol and drug addiction, mental health problems and suicide.

At-risk of homelessness refers to those people who are living in spaces or situations that do not meet basic health and safety standards, do not offer security of tenure and present affordability problems. According to the BC Ministry Responsible for Housing (1999), these people are at greater risk of acute illness and chronic health problems, and many are only one paycheque or support payment away from joining the ranks of the absolute homeless.

What is the situation in Delta?

Homelessness is not confined to the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Over the past decade or so, absolute homelessness has spread to the suburbs and the ranks of the homeless now include the mentally ill, teenagers, women, and even young children.

In 1999, the BC Ministry Responsible for Housing estimated that the number of absolutely homeless people was between 600 and 1,000 in Vancouver, and that homelessness had become an issue in many of the suburbs. For example, studies on the North Shore (2000) and Surrey (2002) estimated the size of the absolutely homeless population in these areas at 83 and between 150 and 200 respectively.

In Delta, there have been no studies conducted to estimate the size of the absolutely homeless population. The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness recently implemented a 24-hour count of the absolutely homeless population in Greater Vancouver; however, Delta was not included as part of the day time count. The reasons cited for not participating included: lack of identifiable homeless sites, few services where the homeless gather (i.e., drop-in centres, food line-ups and shelters) and no lead agency. Of note, 10 regional mental health transition beds were included as part of the night time count.

As for the size of the at-risk of homelessness population in Delta, more information is known. There were 2,725 low-income families, 2,675 renter households with housing affordability problems and 1,915 individuals who were unemployed in 1996. Additionally, there were estimated to be about 250 people with schizophrenia and about 500 people with bipolar disorder (two forms of severe mental illness) in 1999. Of note, the above categories are not mutually exclusive, meaning that some people may be counted as being at-risk of homelessness more than once.

Other segments of the population that may be at-risk of homelessness include people with disabilities, people with alcohol and drug misuse issues, recent immigrants and refugees, those with criminal justice system involvement and the working poor.

While it is all but impossible to estimate the exact number of people who are at-risk of homelessness in Delta, the above discussion makes it clear that it is likely a substantial number of people. Of note, some people are more at-risk than others, as they may be characterized as having more than one of the above risk factors.

What are the trends?

The literature suggests that homelessness (both absolute and at-risk) is on the rise in the Greater Vancouver Regional District and that shelter and transition beds are not keeping pace with demand. In Delta, there are no reliable estimates as to the number of people who are homeless, or even if homelessness exists. As such, there is no basis to determine if homelessness is increasing, decreasing or staying the same.

What are some of the issues?

There are no shelter beds and only ten regional mental health transition beds in Delta. For those absolutely homeless people (without mental health issues) and those women and children fleeing abuse, they must leave Delta to receive appropriate shelter and other services.

What are some assets/resources?

Deltassist Family and Community Services refers women and children fleeing abuse to transition houses in both Richmond and Surrey. Of note, there are 10 transition beds in Richmond and 52 transition beds in Surrey. It also refers homeless people to shelters in both Richmond and Surrey. Of note, there are eight shelter beds for men in Richmond and 30 permanent shelter beds (20 for men and 10 for women) and 36 cold/wet weather beds (28 for men and eight for women) in Surrey. For more information, call (604) 946-9526.

Scottsdale House offers 10 regional transition beds for people with mental illness who are experiencing a crisis in their lives, which could include homelessness. More specifically, it provides temporary care and shelter to men and women for a period not exceeding 90 days. All clients have their own room and they must be referred by their client therapist, an after hours emergency service, hospital or mental health centre. During the 24-hour count (January 14, 2002), it reported all its beds as full and it received 21 calls for placement. For more information, call (604) 572-9550.

Where to go for information?

•BC Ministry Responsible for Housing. Homelessness, June 1999.
•City of Toronto Homelessness Action Task Force. Taking Responsibility for Homelessness: An Action Plan for Toronto, 1999.
•Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness. Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver, March 19, 2001.
•North Shore Homeless Survey, May 2000.
•The Interim Homelessness Task Force, Community Solutions. Surrey Homelessness Plan. Surrey: Surrey Social Futures, July 2002.

What are related indicators?

•Economic: Food Bank Usage
•Economic: Income Security
•Economic: Poverty
•Economic: Unemployment
•Heath: Mental Illness
•Housing: Housing Cost
•Housing: Non-Market Housing

Mobility

Why is it important?

Changing residence can have a destabilizing effect on communities. Often, new residents or those that change residence frequently are less willing to participate in the life of a community. New residents are less likely to have supportive networks of friends and neighbours, to join in organized activities or to vote in municipal elections (Putnam, 2000). Additionally, those children that change schools, especially those that do so frequently, have lower math scores, more grade failures and higher levels of behavioural problems than those children who stay put (Ross and Roberts, 1999).
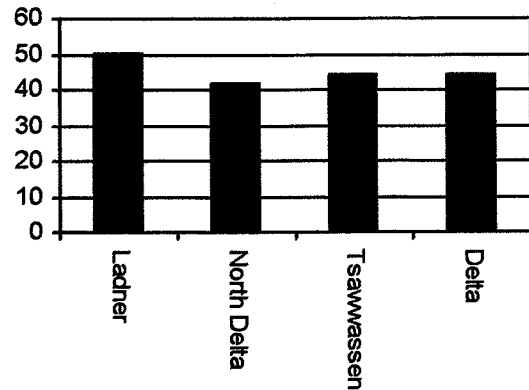
What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, 39,310 people or 44.4% of the population changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996. Of those that changed their place of residence, 16,830 people or 42.8% moved within Delta.

The communities of North Delta (42.1%) and Tsawwassen (44%) had a far lower percentage of their populations that changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996 than for the community of Ladner (50.3%).

Of those that changed their place of residence, the community of North Delta had a lower percentage (37.1%) of its population that moved within the community between 1991 and 1996 than for both the communities of Tsawwassen (47.6%) and Ladner (48.5%).

2001 Census information pertaining to mobility is not available until December 10, 2002.

■ Percentage of the population that changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996

How do we compare?

Between 1991 and 1996, Delta had a far lower percentage (44.4%) of its population that changed their place of residence than for the Township of Langley (52.3%), the City of Coquitlam (56.1%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (56.2%).
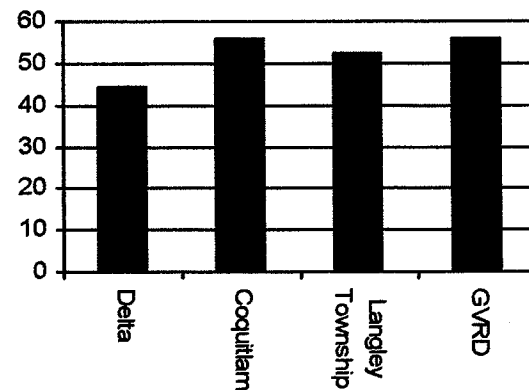
■ Percentage of the population that changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996

- 90 -

What are the trends?

In Delta, a lower percentage of the population changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996 (44.4%) than between 1986 and 1991 (50.5%). This may signal more stable communitis in the future as the population ages. Of note, less than 30% of British Columbians aged 65+ changed their place of residence between 1991 and 1996 (BC Stats, 1998).

What has been written?

Delta Council has received the recommendations of the Community Services Advisory Committee, which call for more accessible, adaptive, affordable and supportive housing in Delta. This housing may enable the elderly to age in place, incorporate lifetime home design and make home ownership more attainable to young families through small lot development and sharing of a house with the elderly, possibly earning "sweat equity" through services to the elderly (December 21, 2000). These recommendations may enable more people to remain in their home and within their community.

What are some assets/resources?

Delta has a number of programs and services operating to welcome newcomers.

The Welcome Wagon program provides information about businesses and community services in Delta. Its website can be accessed at: (www.welcomewagon.ca).

The Information Centre provides information about and referral services to community and social service organizations in Delta. It can be reached at (604) 946-9526.

The Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society (SDISS) and SUCCESS Surrey-Delta provide information and services to recent immigrants and refugees. SDISS can be reached at (604) 597-0205 and SUCCESS can be reached at (604) 588-6869.

Where to go for information?

•BC Stats, Finance and Corporate Relations. Mobility and Migration between 1991 and 1996, June 1998.
•Community Planning & Development Department, Community Profiles. Delta: Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon and Shuster, 2000.
•Ross, David P. and Paul Roberts. Income and Child Well Being: A New Perspective on the Poverty Debate. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, 1999.
•Statistics Canada. Selected Characteristics for Census Divisions and Sub-Divisions, 1996 Census – 100% and 20% Data. Statistics Canada – Cat. No. 95-191-XPB.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Participation: Charitable Giving
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Municipal Voting
•Participation: Volunteerism
•Public Safety: Crime Prevention Programs
•Public Safety: Crime Rate

Who are potential housing contacts?

•Tammy Bennett, Research and Planning, BC Housing, Suite 1701-4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4S9, (604) 439-4750.

•Erin Goodman, Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, 2681 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V5K 1Z5, (604) 255-3099.

•Rosemary Zelinka, Senior Planner, Community Planning and Development Department, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-3380.

What other references were used in this section?

•Canadian Public Health Association. Position Paper on Homelessness and Health. Ottawa: Canadian Public Health Association, 1997.

•Cleathero, Jennifer and Bruce Levens. Environmental Scan of the Lower Mainland Region: A Compilation of Socio-Demographic Facts and Trends. Burnaby: United Way Research Services, September 1998.

•Greater Vancouver Regional District. Greater Vancouver Key Facts: A Statistical Profile of Greater Vancouver. Burnaby: Policy and Planning Department, Greater Vancouver Regional District, 2001.

•Ram, Bali, Y. Edward Shin and Michel Pouliot. Canadians on the Move. Statistics Canada and Prentice Hall Canada Ltd. Catalogue No. 96-309E.

•The Corporation of Delta. Official Community Plan for Delta and Area Plans for Ladner, North Delta and Tsawwassen.

What are other possible housing indicators?

•Housing Price Index
•Number of Dwellings by Dwelling Type
•Period of Housing Construction
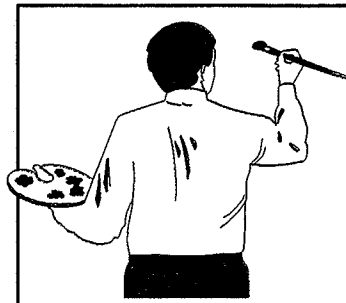
Leisure & Recreation Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture offers both arts and crafts and performing arts classes. In fact, it offered 26 arts and crafts classes with 1,118 registrants and 22 performing arts classes with 2,898 registrants in 2001. It also offers community concerts and concerts in the park, which attracted an estimated 2,500 spectators in 2001. In addition to these programs, there are about 50 groups and organizations operating in the arts and cultural field in Delta. These groups and organizations involve hundreds of people as performers, players and presenters and appeal to audiences both within and outside Delta.

The focal point of heritage interpretation and preservation efforts in Delta is the Museum and Archives. This facility operates year-round and offers exhibitions, public and school programs; research resources and services; and outreach activities. In 2001, 57,320 people attended the Museum and Archives or participated in one of its public, outreach or school programs. Regarding heritage preservation, the Corporation of Delta has designated six heritage buildings and its two heritage inventories contain 188 buildings, including 62 in Ladner, 23 in Port Guichon (part of Ladner) and River Road West, 25 in North Delta, 12 in Tsawwassen and 66 in the rural areas.

In Delta, there were 531.21 hectares of municipally operated parks and open spaces or 5.48 hectares per 1,000 population in 2001. Of this total, 17.51 hectares or 3.3% was local park space, 78.73 hectares or 14.8% was neighbourhood park space, 61.04 hectares or 11.5% was community park space, 121.56 hectares or 22.9% was municipal park space and 252.37 hectares or 47.5% was park reserve land. By comparison, Delta had a much higher rate of municipally operated parks and open spaces per 1,000 population (5.48 hectares) than for the Township of Langley (2.29 hectares) but a lower rate than for the City of Coquitlam (6.19 hectares) in 2001.

In addition to municipally operated parks and open spaces, the Greater Vancouver Regional District operates Boundary Bay and Deas Island Regional Parks in Delta. Combined, these parks comprise about 253 hectares. Although private property, many residents of Delta also take advantage of the walking trails and wildlife opportunities afforded by Burns Bog. This ecologically sensitive area comprises almost 2,800 hectares and has been the subject of numerous studies regarding its future use, including as park space.

Highlighted Leisure and Recreation Indicators:

Arts and Culture, Heritage, Parks and Open Spaces

Arts and Culture

Why is it important?

Arts and cultural activities are associated with community betterment and a high quality of life. The benefits can include a better understanding of the different cultures present within a community, enhanced community pride and spirit, and increased social interaction and togetherness. Benefits can also include leadership and volunteer opportunities.

From an economic standpoint, arts and cultural activities can attract new businesses, encourage commercial and real estate projects, and foster tourism. In fact, in a study of 142 businesses, most agreed that cultural amenities were important quality of life factors in their location decisions (Canadian Parks/Recreation Association, 1997). Additionally, employment in the arts and cultural field is labour intensive, unlike many high technology activities.

What is the situation in Delta?

The Corporation of Delta co-ordinates, funds, shares and/or supplies the following arts and cultural facilities in Delta: the Firehall Centre for the Arts, the Tsawwassen Arts Centre and the Longhouse at the South Delta Recreation Centre. The first two facilities are operated by the Delta Arts Council and include gallery, performance and teaching space; while the latter facility is operated by the South Delta Artists Guild and includes a gallery and workspace. Of note, the operating groups pay facility rental for use of these spaces.

In addition, the North Delta Recreation Centre includes gallery and display space and the South Delta Recreation Centre includes the Lapidary and Pottery Studios.

The other major facility is the Genesis Theatre, which is owned by School District #37 (Delta) and is operated in partnership with the Corporation of Delta. This partnership agreement allows for the co-operative use of the theatre.

With regard to programs, Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture offers both arts and crafts and performing arts classes. In fact, it offered 26 arts and crafts classes with 1,118 registrants and 22 performing arts classes with 2,898 registrants in 2001. It also offers community concerts and concerts in the park, which attracted an estimated 2,500 spectators in 2001.

In addition to the above facilities and programs, there are about 50 groups and organizations operating in the arts and cultural field in Delta. These groups and organizations involve hundreds of people as performers, players and presenters and appeal to audiences both within and outside Delta. For example, the Academy West Schola Cantorum Choirs hold between five and six performances per year with an audience of about 2,000 per year; Deas Island Dance holds four performances per year with an audience of about 1,500 per year; and the Delta Youth Orchestra holds six performances per year with an audience of about 1,800 per year.

What are the trends?

Given the number of groups and organizations in the arts and cultural field in Delta and the large number of groups and organizations who do not record attendance or who do not track this information over time, no trend could be discerned.

What has been written?

In 2000, the Corporation of Delta commissioned a needs and preferences study of leisure and recreational services. A total of 787 residents (18+) participated in the study and just over a third (35%) of respondents stated that a family member had visited a local performing arts theatre in the year prior to the survey. Families with children (45%) were more than twice as likely to have visited a theatre than adult-only households (22%). Additionally, just under a third (32%) or respondents stated that a family member had visited a local arts studio or gallery in the year prior to the survey. Women (40%) were far more likely than men (23%) to have visited an arts studio or gallery.

By community, respondents from South Delta were more likely to have visited a performing arts theatre, arts studio or gallery than were respondents from either Ladner or North Delta.

With regard to satisfaction levels, just under a third (31%) of respondents stated that they were satisfied with the amount and variety of arts programs in Delta. About a quarter (24%) were dissatisfied and a quarter (25%) felt that they did not know enough about the programs to offer an opinion.

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta Arts Council publishes an Arts and Cultural Guide for Delta, which lists about 50 groups and organizations in the arts and cultural field, along with contact information. To obtain a copy of this guide, call (604) 596-1025.

The Arts, Culture and Seniors Sub-Committee of Delta's Parks and Recreation Commission directs policy and practice in the arts and cultural field in Delta. For more information about the sub-committee and its work, call (604) 943-2130.

Where to go for information?

•Canadian Parks/Recreation Association. The Benefits Catalogue. Gloucester, Ontario: Canadian Parks/Recreation Association, 1997.
•Delta Arts Council, (604) 596-1025.
•Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture. Delta Parks and Recreation Needs and Preferences Study, January 31, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Leisure & Recreation: Heritage
•Leisure & Recreation: Parks and Open Spaces
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Volunteerism

Why is it important?

Heritage interpretation and preservation can lead to improved community pride and spirit. These emotions are often reinforced by visitors who express interest in the host's way of life. This interest can revive lost cultural traditions and provide a market for local handicrafts. Heritage interpretation and preservation can also retain a community's unique sense of place, allow for architectural diversity in the built environment and foster emotional security in people by maintaining links with the past.

Additionally, heritage interpretation and preservation can lead to economic opportunities. The improvement of a community's quality of life (i.e., the attractiveness of a particular community as a place to live and work) associated with heritage preservation, may be a factor in a firm's decision to establish, expand or relocate in that community. Heritage interpretation and preservation can also foster tourism and retain tourists in the community for longer periods of time.

What is the situation in Delta?

The focal point of heritage interpretation and preservation efforts in Delta is the Museum and Archives. This facility operates year-round and offers exhibitions, public and school programs; research resources and services; and outreach activities.

Ongoing public programs include developing an appreciation of heritage objects; holding field trips, heritage walking tours, lectures and workshops; offering spring break and summer programs for children; and participating in community festivals and heritage activities. In 2001, 54,525 people attended the Museum or participated in one of its public or outreach programs.

School programs are geared to Grades K to 7 and include aboriginal pre-history and community history from the time of the first settlers. Other programs include appreciating heritage buildings, celebrating multiculturalism and exploring history through archival records. In 2001, 2,375 students visited the Museum and Archives.

The Archives houses both private and public records, including municipal records, which are available to the public to support their research into the past. In 2001, 420 researchers used the Archives.

The Corporation of Delta has designated six heritage buildings, including the McKee Seniors Centre and the Museum and Archives in Ladner, two heritage buildings at Deas Island, the Oliver Barn at the intersection of Highways 10 and 91, and the privately owned Patterson House on Ladner Trunk Road and 72nd Street. This level of legal protection means that these buildings cannot be demolished.

The Corporation of Delta's two heritage inventories list 188 buildings, including 62 in Ladner, 23 in Port Guichon (part of Ladner) and River Road West, 25 in North Delta, 12 in Tsawwassen and 66 in the rural areas. (These two inventories include the above six municipally designated buildings.) Owners of buildings appearing on the inventories are eligible for incentives such as zoning relaxations to preserve them under the Corporation's heritage policies; however, the buildings are not afforded legal protection as in the case of designation.

Additionally, there are a number of archaeological sites in Delta, most of which are aboriginal in origin.

What are the trends?

Between 1999 and 2001, attendance at the Delta Museum and Archives, as well as for its public, outreach and school programs, increased by 182.8% from 20,267 to 57,320 people.
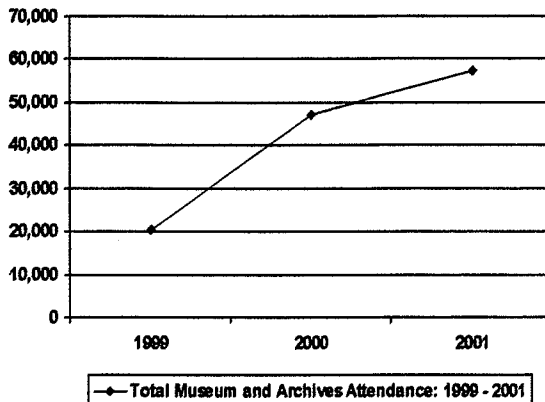
—◆—Total Museum and Archives Attendance: 1999 - 2001

What has been written?

In 2000, the Corporation of Delta commissioned a needs and preferences study of leisure and recreational services. A total of 787 residents (18+) participated in the study and just over a third (34%) of respondents stated that a family member had visited the Museum and Archives in the past year. The proportion was highest among Ladner respondents (45%) and lowest among North Delta respondents (29%).

A third (33%) of respondents stated that they were satisfied with the amount and variety of heritage facilities and programs that were available in Delta. Another quarter (25%) were dissatisfied and approximately a fifth (22%) felt that they did not know enough about the programs to offer an opinion.

What are some of the issues?

Given Provincial government cutbacks to community services, funding for heritage facilities and programs may become more of an issue in the future.

What are some assets/resources?

The Delta Heritage Advisory Committee advises Council on heritage related matters as they relate to Delta. For information about the advisory committee and its work, contact (604) 946-2669.

The Delta Museum and Archives is operated by the not-for-profit Delta Museum and Archives Society. For information about the society and its work, contact (604) 946-9322.

The Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture Leisure Guide, which is distributed three times per year to all households in Delta, contains a section on programs and services offered at the Delta Museum and Archives.

The Corporation of Delta has a brochure outlining its heritage policies and programs (April 2001). It also maintains two heritage inventories: Delta's Rural Heritage (1998) and Delta's Urban Heritage (2000). For more information, contact the Community Planning and Development Department at (604) 946-3380.

Where to go for information?

•Cheadle, Laura. Program Information and Attendance Figures, Delta Museum and Archives, February 6, 2002.
•Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture. Delta Parks and Recreation Needs and Preferences Study, January 31, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Leisure & Recreation: Arts and Culture
•Leisure & Recreation: Parks and Open Spaces
•Participation: Volunteerism

Parks and Open Spaces

Why is it important?

Parks and open spaces are important contributing factors to the quality of life in communities. They assist in conserving plants and trees; they contribute toward controlling air, noise and water pollution; they are used as a means of gaining exercise; they link neighbourhoods and provide non-mortorized access; they offer opportunities for recuperation, relaxation and release from stress; and they provide a place to meet, play and socialize.

Parks and open spaces also increase property values in their vicinity and are a major factor in the migration and relocation decisions of both households and businesses. Both the availability of nearby nature and an individual's degree of involvement with it contribute to neighbourhood satisfaction levels (Canadian Parks/Recreation Association, 1997).

What is the situation in Delta?

In Delta, there were 531.21 hectares of municipally operated parks and open spaces or 5.48 hectares per 1,000 population in 2001. Of this total, 17.51 hectares or 3.3% was local park space, 78.73 hectares or 14.8% was neighbourhood park space, 61.04 hectares or 11.5% was community park space, 121.56 hectares or 22.9% was municipal park space and 252.37 hectares or 47.5% was park reserve land.

With regard to public park facilities, Delta has 112 ball diamonds, 85 sports fields (including a synthetic turf field under construction), 70 tennis courts, 45 playgrounds, four outdoor lacrosse courts, three lawn bowling greens, two spray parks and one skateboard park (with one under construction and another being planned). Additionally, it has 60 kilometres of trails. Of note, these facilities include regional park and school assets.

In addition to municipally operated parks and open spaces, the Greater Vancouver Regional District operates Boundary Bay and Deas Island Regional Parks in Delta. Combined, these parks comprise about 253 hectares.

Although private property, many residents of Delta take advantage of the walking trails and wildlife opportunities afforded by Burns Bog. This ecologically sensitive area comprises almost 2,800 hectares and has been the subject of numerous studies regarding its future use, including as park space.

How do we compare?

Delta had a higher rate of municipally operated parks and open spaces per 1,000 population (5.48 hectares) than for the Township of Langley (2.29 hectares) but a lower rate than for the City of Coquitlam (6.19 hectares) in 2001. Of note, comparison information was not readily available for the Greater Vancouver Regional District.
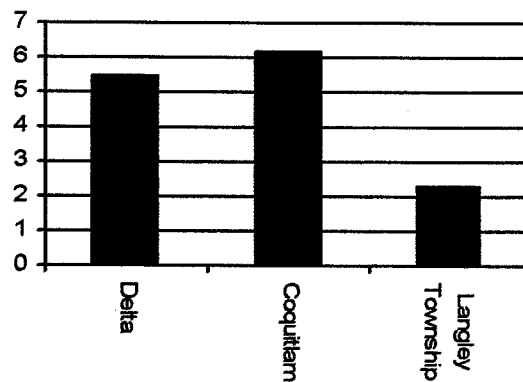
■ Number of hectares of municipally opeated parks and open spaces per 1,000 population in 2001

What are the trends?

In Delta, municipally operated parks and open spaces (not including regional parks) increased from 417.76 hectares in 1989 to 531.21 hectares in 2001 or by 27.2%. During this period, Delta's population increased by 13.7%. Stated differently, there were 4.86 hectares of parks and open spaces per 1,000 population in 1989 and 5.48 hectares of parks and open spaces per 1,000 population in 2001. Of note, parks and open spaces are projected to increase by 7.04 hectares or 1.3% between 2001 and 2002.

What has been written?

In 2000, the Corporation of Delta commissioned a needs and preferences study of leisure and recreational services. A total of 787 residents (18+) participated in the study and the vast majority (90%) had visited a park and/or had used the local trail system at least once in the year prior to the survey. In fact, park users estimated that they, and members of their households, had visited a park an equivalent of about once a week.

Additionally, the majority (67%) of respondents felt that parks, recreation, culture and heritage services had a significant positive impact on the quality of life in Delta. The majority (79%) were also satisfied with the way parks and other outdoor facilities were maintained.

What are some of the issues?

Seniors will comprise an increasing proportion of Delta's population in the future. In fact, between 2001 and 2016, the proportion of seniors is projected to increase from 11.6% to 19.6%, while the total number of seniors is projected to increase by 78.3% from 11,948 to 21,300 (BC Stats, 2001). This shift will result in increasing demands for more passive and less physically demanding leisure activities. As such, there may be increased demand for arts, social and spectator events, as well as leisurely activities such as bird watching, golf and pleasure walking (Balmer, 1993).

What are some assets/resources?

Partners in Playgrounds is a community program intended to accelerate the replacement of neighbourhood playground equipment in parks to meet current standards. Between 2001 and 2005, the Corporation of Delta has agreed to allocate $300,000 per year to cover replacement costs, and it is actively encouraging community groups, corporate sponsors and residents to co-sponsor specific playground projects. Recent initiatives include path, safety and signage improvements to Watershed Park. For information about the program or to make a donation, call (604) 952-3540 or (604) 946-3285.

Additionally, efforts through the Millennium Trail Initiative will link parks and open spaces in Delta with that of other communities located along the Fraser River.

Where to go for information?

•Balmer, Ken. "Macro Trends Prescribe Canada's New National Vision for Recreation and Parks." Leisure Watch Canada. Volume 2, Number 3, 1993.
•BC Stats. PEOPLE Projection Run 26. Victoria: Ministry of Management Services, 2001.
•Canadian Parks/Recreation Association. The Benefits Catalogue, 1997.
•Crockett, Don, Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture, (604) 946-3293.
•Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture. Delta Parks and Recreation Needs and Preferences Study, January 31, 2000.

What are related indicators?

•Population: Population Growth
•Leisure & Recreation: Arts and Culture
•Leisure & Recreation: Heritage

Who are potential leisure and recreation contacts?

•Laura Cheadle, Director of Operations, Delta Museum and Archives, 4858 Delta Street, Delta, BC, V4K 2T8, (604) 946-9322.
•Don Crockett, Parks Design Technician, Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-3293.
•Julie Halfnights, Municipal-Wide Services Analyst, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 952-3540.
•Matt Rogers, Chair, Delta Heritage Advisory Committee, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-2669.
•Rosemary Zelinka, Senior Planner, Community Planning and Development Department, The Corporation of Delta, 4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta, BC, V4K 3E2, (604) 946-3380.

What other references were used in this section?

•Community Planning and Development Department. Heritage Polices and Programs. Delta: The Corporation of Delta, June 2001.
•Delta Heritage Advisory Committee. A Driving Tour of Delta's Rural Heritage. Delta: BC Heritage Trust, Delta Chamber of Commerce and The Corporation of Delta, 1999.
•Ladner Healthy Community and Delta Museum and Archives. Walking Tour of Ladner Village.

What are other possible leisure and recreation indicators?

•Number of Community Celebrations and Festivals
•Number of Hectares of Bicycle Paths and Walking Trails
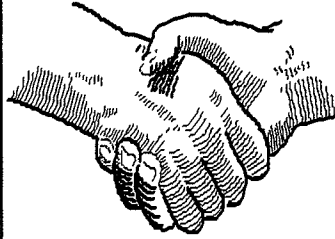
Participation Indicators Section

Executive Summary:

The participation indicators highlighted in this section contribute to a community's social capital, which is defined as the features of social organization such as networks, norms and trust that facilitate co-operation and co-ordination for mutual benefit (Putnam, 2000). Social capital can also be defined as the ties that bind us to one another – i.e., the formal and informal social networks within a community (Patten, 2001). It is created when community members come together out of a shared purpose that goes beyond personal benefit or gain.

The basic idea of social capital is that one's family, friends and peers constitute an important asset, one that can be called upon in times of crisis, enjoyed for its own sake and leveraged for material gain. Those communities endowed with a rich stock of civic associations and social networks are in a stronger position to confront poverty and vulnerability, to resolve disputes and to take advantage of new opportunities (Woolcock, 2001).

In Delta, there are relatively high levels of charitable giving and volunteerism when compared to other municipalities in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). In fact, Delta had the fourth highest percentage of taxfilers who made a charitable donation in the GVRD in 1999, behind only North Vancouver, West Vancouver and White Rock. Additionally, 51% of respondents involved in a 1999 survey of 787 residents aged 18+ in Delta stated that they had participated in volunteer activities in the year prior to the survey.

While there are many positives with regard to the participation indicators highlighted, there are also a number of concerns and issues, as well as several unknowns. The percentage of taxfilers who made a charitable donation in Delta declined by 3.2% between 1996 and 1999 and the number of new volunteers registering with Deltassist Volunteer Bureau declined by 18.1% between 1996/1997 and 1999/2000. Further, Canadians aged 15+ spent 5.5 times as much time watching television than participating in civic or voluntary activities in 1998. Finally, only 39.9% of eligible voters voted in the 1999 municipal election in Delta. There are also several unknowns, as many participation indicators are not tracked at the municipal level by Statistics Canada or other organizations, meaning information is extremely limited. As such, consideration should be given to including participation and social capital questions as part of any follow-up community survey.

Highlighted Participation Indicators:

Volunteerism, Charitable Giving, Civic Participation, Municipal Voting
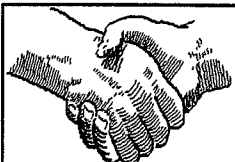
Volunteerism

Why is it important?

In British Columbia, nearly one-third of the population or about one million people aged 15+ volunteered for a charitable or non-profit organization between November 1, 1996 and October 31, 1997. These volunteers contributed a total of 169 million hours, or the equivalent of more than 88,000 full-time, year-round jobs. In fact, British Columbians contributed more hours during the year on average (169) than volunteers in any other province (Saunders, 2000).

These volunteers are essential in developing, improving and sustaining charitable and non-profit organizations. Volunteers are involved in everything from coaching and teaching youth, to fundraising, to providing meals and transportation to the disabled and seniors, to serving as board members. These and many other activities benefit a wide range of organizations, the community-at-large, and the volunteers themselves.

What is the situation in Delta?

In 1999, 51% of respondents involved in a survey of 787 residents (18+) in Delta stated that they had participated in volunteer activities in the year prior to the survey. The percentage was higher for respondents from Tsawwassen (57%) than for respondents from Ladner (52%) and North Delta (48%). When asked how important volunteering was to them, 28% of respondents stated that it was very important to them and 43% of respondents stated that it was somewhat important to them. The percentage of respondents who stated that it was very important to them was higher for respondents from Tsawwassen (33%) than for respondents from Ladner (32%) and North Delta (24%) (Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture, 2000).

In Delta, the Deltassist Volunteer Bureau registers and refers volunteers to over 50 agencies in Delta. In 2001, there were 317 volunteers on file. Of these volunteers, 218 or 68.8% were female and 99 or 31.2% were male. The majority (183 or 57.7%) were adult, while the remainder were youth (75 or 23.7%) and seniors (59 or 18.6%). As for community, higher percentages of volunteers resided in North Delta (125 or 39.4%) and Ladner (114 or 36%) than resided in Tsawwassen (78 or 24.6%). In 2001, volunteers contributed on average between three and four hours per week (Deltassist Volunteer Bureau, 2002).

In addition to those volunteers referred by the Deltassist Volunteer Bureau, many community groups and organizations recruit and develop their own volunteers. These groups and organizations include the Boys and Girls Club, the Corporation of Delta, the Delta Hospice, Delta Hospital, Delta Youth Services, the Lions, the Rotary, the SPCA and sports associations.

What are the trends?

Between 1996/1997 and 1999/2000, the number of new volunteers registering with Deltassist Volunteer Bureau declined by 72 volunteers or 18.1%.

Number of New Volunteers Registering: 1996/1997 - 1999/2000
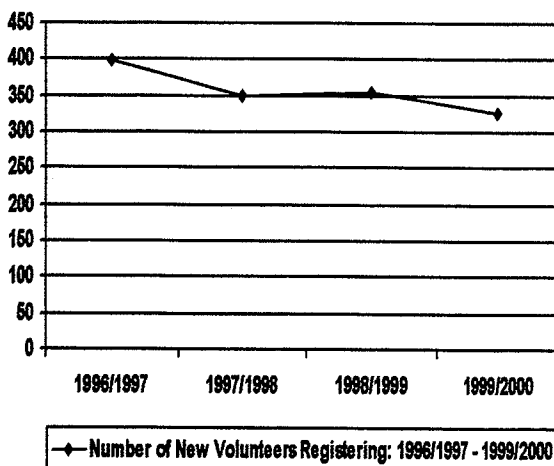
What are some of the issues?

In Canada, the nature of volunteering is changing, with an increasing number of hours being contributed by a declining number of volunteers. In 2000, just over 6.5 million Canadians volunteered their skills and time to groups and organizations between October 1, 1999 and September 30, 2000. This was almost one million fewer volunteers than the estimated number of volunteers that volunteered their skills and time in 1997 (Hall, McKeown and Roberts, 2001).

In Delta, no comprehensive study has been undertaken to determine trends in volunteering. The statistics from Deltassist Volunteer Bureau report that fewer new volunteers have registered over the past four years. Given the importance of volunteering to the work of charitable and non-profit organizations in Delta, consideration should be given to such a study, as well as to the development of strategies to increase volunteerism.

What are some assets/resources?

The Deltassist Volunteer Bureau offers a wide variety of volunteer placements for residents, as well as recruiting volunteers for community groups and organizations in Delta. It can be reached at (604) 946-2042.

The Corporation of Delta's website lists volunteer opportunities. These listings include: the Adopt a Street Program (604 946-5334), the Kennedy House (604 594-2717) and McKee House (604 946-6712) Seniors Centres, the Leisure Friend Program (604 946-3288) and the Police Victim Services Program (604 940-5007).

The Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture Leisure Guide, which is published three times per year and distributed to every household in Delta, lists contact names and phone numbers for 250 volunteer clubs and organizations in Delta.

Where to go for information?

•Delta Parks, Recreation and Culture. Delta Parks and Recreation Needs and Preferences Study, January 31, 2000.
•Deltassist Volunteer Bureau, (604) 946-2042.
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What are related indicators?

•Population: Seniors (65+)
•Participation: Charitable Giving
•Participation: Civic Participation
•Participation: Municipal Voting
•Public Safety: Crime Prevention Programs
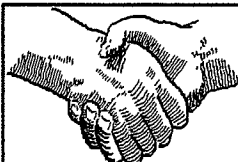
Charitable Giving

Why is it important?

Charitable organizations reflect society's commitment to help those who are in need. They create a culture of concern and caring, and appeal to those people who share that concern. Charitable organizations raise money from the general public, from businesses and corporations, and from organized philanthropies and religious institutions.

In British Columbia, the charitable sector, which consists of non-profit organizations that are registered under the Income Tax Act to receive donations which can be claimed as tax credits, continues to grow. In August 1999, there were 10,240 charitable organizations in the Province, which represented an increase of more than 1,900 charitable organizations since 1991 (Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers, December 1999).
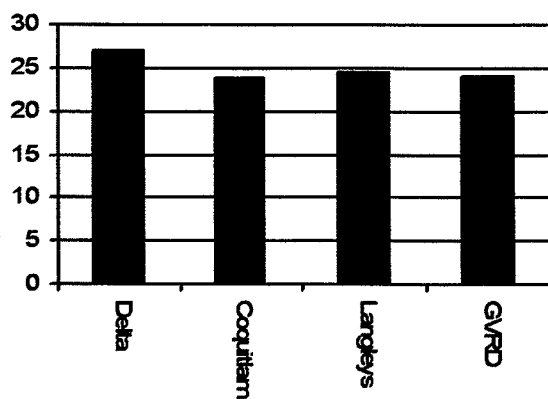
How do we measure it?

The most reliable indicator of trends in charitable giving is provided by the annual report from Revenue Canada on donations claimed for T1 tax returns. However, it should be noted that tax return data underreports the actual individual support for charitable organizations, as many donors do not claim their donations because they did not receive a receipt (as in the case of many small donations), did not keep receipts, did not recall many small donations, or may have not been aware of the tax benefit that is available. Taxfiler data shows that less than one in four taxfilers claim a charitable donation for credit. Nevertheless, the consistency of the reporting means that it is still the best indicator of changes in charitable giving.

What is situation in Delta?

In Delta, 18,440 taxfilers or 27% of all taxfilers made a charitable donation in 1999. The average age of charitable donors was 51 and the average donation increased with each age group. For example, the average donation was $540 for those aged 25 to 34, while the average donation was $1,200 for those aged 65+ (United Way Research Services, 2002).

How do we compare?

In 1999, Delta had a higher percentage of taxfilers who made a charitable donation (27%) than for the City of Coquitlam (23.8%), the City and Township of Langley (24.6%) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (24%). In fact, Delta had the fourth highest percentage of taxfilers who made a charitable donation in the GVRD, behind only North Vancouver, West Vancouver and White Rock (United Way Research Services, 2002).

■ Percentage of taxfilers who made a charitable donation in 1999