

# **Population Trends**

## **in the Douglas College Region**

Environmental Scan Background Paper  
for Developing a College-Wide Master Education Plan

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## Summary

- Population in the Douglas region (north of the Fraser River, Burnaby to Maple Ridge) and adjacent areas is growing. Demographic trends are favourable for Douglas College.
- Local population is becoming increasingly multicultural

## Lower Mainland Population Growth

- The provincial government estimated metro Vancouver's population at 1.97 million in July 1998. It projects 2% annual growth of 30 - 40,000 each year for the next decade (equivalent to everyone in metro Victoria moving to Vancouver over the next ten years.)
- The Greater Vancouver Regional District hopes to curb suburban sprawl by directing most of the new population growth to the Vancouver - Coquitlam corridor and north Surrey. (Whether the municipalities will cooperate with this plan is another matter.)
- Greater Vancouver's growth has been fueled by international immigration. Immigration accounted for over three quarters of the region's growth between 1991 and 1996, with three quarters of the immigrants coming from Asia.

### Home Language is Other Than English Selected Municipalities

Municipality	1991		1996	
Burnaby	21	%	40	%
New Westminster	7		14	
Coquitlam	10		23	
Port Coquitlam	6		11	
Port Moody	5		9	
Maple Ridge	2		4	
Surrey	13		23	
Vancouver	39		50	
GVRD average	18		28	

## Age Structure (British Columbia)

- School age population in B.C. will grow for the next 25 years.
- "Over the next 20 years, the number of persons aged 18-24 in BC will increase dramatically, from 363 thousand to 457 thousand. With this demographic change being combined with increased participation rates in post-secondary learning that are taking place presently, the demand in the BC post-secondary learning system by 18-24 year olds is likely to be much stronger in the next ten years than seen in the past ten years." (Source: CEISS draft environmental scan)
- Age structure is such that approximately 75% of the existing work force will still be in the workforce fifteen years from now.
- "During the 1990's and beyond in terms of pure demographics, there will be the greatest increase in demand for skills upgrading, retraining and lifelong learning for the core working age population aged 25 - 55." (Source: CEISS draft environmental scan)

## Douglas College Region and Adjacent Areas

- One in every eight British Columbians (almost half a million people) lives in the Douglas College region (the four school districts north of the Fraser River, from Burnaby to Maple Ridge).
- Over the past decade, the Douglas region grew by 120,000. This is more than the equivalent of the entire population of Kelowna moving to the Douglas region.
- The population in the Douglas region is fairly typical of the BC average. The distinctive difference is the rapid and large growth in multicultural diversity over the last decade.

### Population Projections

The following projections were made by the BC government in June 1997. They are now viewed as a little optimistic, but the general trends should hold.

#### Summary

The total population in the local school districts will grow by 20 - 90% over the next 20 years, depending on the school district. While the overall number of 18 - 24 year olds will grow, the growth pattern is different than for the total population. The 18 - 24 population will grow dramatically in the more suburban areas, but will hold steady or decline in the older settlements.

#### Total Population (all ages)

Population in the Douglas region will grow by two thirds over the next 20 years.

The growth will be:

157,000 in the Tri Cities  
 104,000 in Burnaby  
 39,000 in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows  
28,000 in New Westminster  
 328,000 growth (on a base of 497,000 in 1998)

In addition, over the next 20 years:

226,000 growth in Surrey  
 117,000 growth in Vancouver

### Twenty Year Population Projection, 1996 - 2016

All Ages  
 (in thousands)

	Douglas School Districts					Adjacent School Districts			
	Burnaby	N West.	Coquitlam	M. Ridge	Total	Surrey	Delta	Vancouver	Total
1991	163	45	144	62	414	269	92	492	853
1996	179	49	175	73	476	320	98	543	961
2001	198	55	207	83	544	372	103	582	1,057
2006	226	62	246	93	627	429	107	611	1,147
2011	255	70	288	103	715	486	110	638	1,234
2016	283	77	332	112	804	546	113	660	1,319
Growth	104	28	157	39	328	226	15	117	358
1996-2016	58%	65%	90%	53%	69%	71%	15%	22%	37%

#### Population Age 18 - 24 Years

The young adult population will grow by 50% over the next two decades in the Douglas region, with over half the growth coming in the Coquitlam school district:

Growth in 18 - 24 population	15,000	Coquitlam school district
	5,000	Burnaby
	4,000	Maple Ridge
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>New Westminster</u>
	24,000	Total growth

Even though Vancouver's total population is growing, the number of 18 - 24 year olds will drop. In contrast, this age group in Surrey will grow by 23,000.

**Twenty Year Population Projection, 1996 - 2016  
Age 18 - 24 Years  
(in thousands)**

	<b>Douglas School Districts</b>					<b>Adjacent School Districts</b>			
	<b>Burnaby</b>	<b>N West.</b>	<b>Coquitlam</b>	<b>M. Ridge</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Surrey</b>	<b>Delta</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>Total</b>
1991	20	5	15	5	45	26	10	56	92
1996	21	5	16	6	48	27	10	59	96
2001	17	5	19	7	48	33	10	53	96
2006	18	6	24	9	57	38	10	48	96
2011	20	6	28	10	65	45	10	45	100
2016	26	7	31	10	72	50	9	50	109
Growth	5	2	15	4	24	23	-1	-9	13
1996-2016	24%	40%	94%	67%	50%	85%	-10%	-15%	14%

First Nations

**Aboriginal Population  
Greater Vancouver Regional District  
1996**

Municipality	
Burnaby	2,500
Coquitlam	1,240
Port Coquitlam	715
Port Moody	350
New Westminster	1,375
Maple Ridge	1,085
Vancouver	10,965
Other locations in GVRD	10,760
Subtotal	29,180
Reserves	
Katzie 1	160
Other	1,800
Subtotal	1,960
<hr/> Total	31,140

Education Data

## Grade 12 Enrolment Projection

Ministry of Education projection of Grade 12 enrolment (September) made in 1997:

### **Douglas College School Districts**

1992	4,750	
1994	5,030	
1996	5,300	
1998	5,700	+8% from 1996
2000	6,140	+16%
2002	6,670	+26%
2004	7,010	+32%
2006	7,650	+44%

## Educational Attainment

Douglas region resembles the BC average in terms of the highest level of schooling of the adult population. Maple Ridge is the least educated district in the Douglas region.

### **Educational Attainment of the Adult Population**

<b>School District</b>	<b>High School Grad or Higher (incl. degree)</b>	<b>University Degree</b>
Burnaby	71%	16%
New Westminster	72%	14%
Coquitlam	74%	13%
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	69%	8%
Douglas Region	72%	14%
<i>Metro Vancouver</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>17%</i>
<i>BC Average</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>14%</i>