

City Service

Overview



Riley Park/South Cambie **RPSC**

City Services

The City of Vancouver is a large municipality consisting of 23 distinct geographic communities, with a population of approximately 560,000 people. The City of Vancouver employs approximately 9,000 people to provide services to the people who live, work and visit in Vancouver.

The City provides its residents with a wide variety of public services ranging from ones you see and use everyday, such as our network of streets, community centres and libraries and the infrastructure for supplying water and fire protection, to long-range services such as preparing for earthquakes and other disasters.

Community Services

The City has an extensive network of community-based services. There are over 2000 civic employees that work directly in nearly 100 community facilities (e.g. libraries, fire halls, recreation centre, senior centres, community policing centres).

Police Services

Police services are almost entirely funded by the City through property taxes. In 2003, roughly 20% (\$144 million), of the City's budget was apportioned to police services. An additional \$10 million was contributed by ICBC and other levels of government.

Fire and Rescue Services

Fire and rescue services in Vancouver are provided for and funded by the City through property taxes. In 2003, roughly 10% (\$70 million) of the City's budget was apportioned to fire and rescue services.

Recreational Services

Recreation services in Vancouver are funded by the City through property taxes and capital financing. In 2003, roughly 12% (\$79 million), of the City's budget was apportioned to Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation services. An additional \$9.1 million was raised through capital purchasing to pay for community centres, swimming pools and ice rink upgrades.

Library Services

The City provides a general level of funding to the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) system. The VPL has developed a Strategic Plan to define and prioritize services by determining user needs and defining free core services, in response to the current economic climate of budget restraints.

Clean-up Services

The City of Vancouver garbage, recycling and yard trimmings programs are funded by Solid Waste utility fees that are included as a separate item on property owner's tax notices mailed out in June each year.

For 2004, the total fee for garbage, recycling and yard trimmings collection for a typical single-family home is \$147 per year. The City's 2004 budget for solid waste removal and recycling is approximately \$14,649,000.

Arts and Cultural Services

The City funds a variety of arts programs and cultural activities which are administered through the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Board of Parks and Recreation.

Social Services

Social Planning works with community groups and other civic departments to address critical social issues facing the city. In carrying out this function, staff provide support, advice and information to a wide range of community organizations, provide leadership and facilitation in bringing together key people around a specific problem or issue, and make recommendations to Council regarding civic policy as it relates to a range of social issues and areas of concern including, children and youth, seniors, immigrants, gambling and addiction.

The City is an active partner with other levels of governments in providing other services such as education and health care.

Health Care

Health care services are funded through various levels of government. Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is an "umbrella" organization that governs, manages and delivers programs to citizens of the Coast Garibaldi regions and of Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and Richmond. Health care services ranging from acute care hospitals to community-based residential, home-health, mental health, and public health services.

Alcohol and Drug Services

The City supports the development of a broad continuum of services related to alcohol and drug problems within Vancouver. The City's role in this area is limited to the approval of the location for clinics and related services. Alcohol and drug services are provided throughout the City and are funded the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Children and Families.

Senior Services

There are over 66,000 seniors living in Vancouver, representing approximately 13% of Vancouver's population.

The City supports services for seniors through programs offered at local community centers. Some initiatives for seniors are funded both through the City's Community Services Grants and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's Sharon Martin Community Health Trust Fund.

Education

Schools are primarily funded by the Province. Public schools in Vancouver are administered by the Vancouver School Board (VSB). The Board is governed by 9 trustees, elected every three years during municipal elections. Trustees establish policies and the Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the day-to-day operation and administration.

Multicultural Services

Vancouver is the second largest in Canada with a high percentage of visible minority and immigrant populations. In 2001, 49% of the city's total population was of visible minority background, compared to 44.8% in 1996.

A wide range of services are offered to multicultural groups in Vancouver. The services are funded by various levels of government and non-profit agencies.

Youth Services

Youth services are provided throughout the City in community centers, neighborhood houses and non profit agencies. Services include:

- recreation
- education
- health clinics
- mental health
- counselling
- emergency services
- crisis and help lines
- shelter and housing
- financial assistance
- alcohol and drug
- probation services

Access for People with Disabilities

More than 1 in 10 Vancouver residents have a physical disability.

The City, along with other levels of government and community agencies are active in many areas to improve access for persons with disabilities, including mobility, visual, or hearing impairment.

Child Care Services

The City is an active partner with other levels of government, the community, and parents in the development and maintenance of an affordable, high quality, and comprehensive child care system in Vancouver.

In addition to providing grants to non-profit child care services, Neighbourhood Houses and Family Places, The City also leases land at nominal rates to non-profit care societies, uses development cost levies from new development, and negotiates for child care in new developments as part of the rezoning process.

Special Needs Residential Facilities (SNRFs)

Special needs residential facilities provide housing and support for people who cannot be looked after in their own homes, but they do not require hospital-level care.

For detailed information on City services see the following Fact Sheets:

- 1.3.5 City Services/Facilities and Population
- 5.2.1 Police Services
- 5.2.2 Leisure and Recreation
- 5.2.3 Library Services
- 5.2.6 NIST: Neighbourhood Integrated Services Teams
- 5.2.7 Fire and Rescue Services
- 5.3.1 Arts and Culture
- 5.3.2 Multicultural Services
- 5.3.4 Schools
- 5.3.5 Access for People with Disabilities
- 5.4.2 Alcohol and Drug Services
- 5.4.4 Senior Services
- 5.4.5 Youth Services
- 5.4.6 Child Care Services
- 5.4.7 Special Needs Households and Homes

Sources:

Census Canada, 1996
City of Vancouver Park Board
Vancouver Public Library
Vancouver Social Planning
Vancouver School Board
Vancouver Engineering Services