



## Community Services and Facilities

The average household income in Dunbar is higher than the city average. The area is also less ethnically diverse. The Vision recognises this, and that Dunbar has many desirable, usable services and facilities. However, it also identifies a number of areas needing attention.



## 15. Services and Facilities

### Services and Facilities that the City Provides

Dunbar Community Centre serves the Dunbar/Southlands local area, and meets the Park Board goal of providing one community centre for approximately every 20,000 people. It has sport, recreational, and social programs for a wide range of residents from infants to seniors. Swimming pools serving Dunbar residents are Lord Byng Pool and Kerrisdale Pool. Kerrisdale Ice Arena is the nearest ice rink. The Vancouver Public Library operates the Dunbar Branch Library.

### Special Needs Residential Facilities

The term “Special Needs Residential Facilities” (SNRFs) means various types of group housing for people who need some form of support or assistance in their living place. They include the frail elderly, people with severe physical disabilities, battered women, children in care, mentally handicapped people, and the terminally ill. The City’s zoning permits SNRFs in all residential zones. Within Dunbar there is only one SNRF – Blenheim Lodge, with 100 beds for seniors. This represents 2% of the SNRF beds in the city, lower than Dunbar’s share of city population (4%), and lower than its share of population 75 years of age and older (4%). Most Dunbar residents who require special needs housing must move out of the area. The main reason for the lack of special needs housing is the high land cost, which makes it difficult for the agencies and non-profit groups who operate these homes to locate in Dunbar.

### Non-City Services

Most health and social services are funded by the Province, and provided either directly by Ministries or through various agencies. The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board is responsible for health and community care services, including many for seniors. The West Main Health Unit at 43rd Avenue and West Boulevard, one of five health units in the city, serves Dunbar.

## Approved Vision Directions

### 15.1 Home Support for People with Needs

More volunteer services should be provided to allow people with special needs and seniors to remain in their own homes to the degree possible. Support %: 88/11/2

People’s ideas...

- seniors information network to help with home maintenance; renters helping seniors on contract; practical experience opportunities for UBC nursing students

### 15.2 Special Needs Residential Facilities

There should be more housing specifically for seniors and people with special needs who cannot live in their own homes.

Support %: 71/20/9

People’s ideas...

- intermediate care and full care seniors facility
- group homes for people with head injuries, battered women, other identified needs
- make SNRFs affordable through: including with another development (through bonussing); incorporating with future library redevelopment

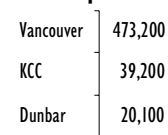
### 15.3 Library

If and when the library needs to expand or rebuild, opportunities to optimize the use of its site should be investigated, such as: combining the library with other community needs (SNRF, social housing); or relocating the library to the Community Centre site and redeveloping the existing site.

Support %: 71/16/13



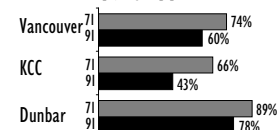
### 1991 Population



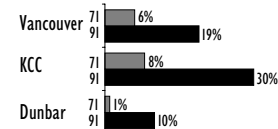
### 1971 - 91 Population Growth



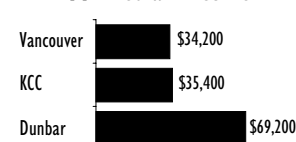
### English Mother Tongue 1971 & 1991



### Chinese Mother Tongue 1971 & 1991



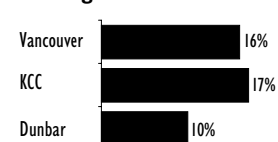
### 1991 Median Income



### Low Income Households 1991



### Single Parent Families



### **Paying for Services and Facilities**

The City pays for the services and facilities involved in policing, recreation, libraries, and so forth, mainly through property taxes. Some new sources of funds – user charges and development cost levies – are now being pursued by the City. The CityPlan direction on City finances is to continue to be cautious about increasing City spending. Generally speaking, new services will need to be paid for by redirecting funds now spent on other items, or in other areas. There are also usually more requests for funding for new facilities than can be funded in any one period, so there is often a waiting period of years before a facility is expanded or rebuilt.



Health services in the community

### **15.4 Youth Services and Involvement**

There should be more focus on the youth of Dunbar — their needs and their ability to contribute to the community. This should include:

- recreational and casual social things to do, and places to “hang out,” particularly at night
- anonymously available health information and counselling
- more youth involvement, including helping other groups in the community

Support %: 80/14/6

People’s ideas...

- under 19 club showcasing local youth talent
- program to hire local youth
- youth newspaper, youth artists festival
- recognition of drug-alcohol use problem; out-of-school counselling

### **15.5 Community Health Services**

There should be a health clinic that provides all the needed health services in one place, provided by a combination of private practitioners and public health programs.

Support %: 63/23/14

People’s ideas...

- fund facility through development bonus; sell library site and move library to community centre site; community fund-raising

## **16. Safety**

Dunbar has the lowest rate of crime to property and persons of any local area in the city. While recognizing this, the Vision includes some proposals to further enhance community safety.

For several years, the Vancouver Police Department has been moving in the direction of “community-based policing” that emphasizes partnerships with community residents in crime control.

Initiatives that the community can become involved in include Block Watch (Dunbar has 40 Block Watch captains), block parents, police visita-

tion program to community centres, school liaison officers, citizens’ crime watch, and speedwatch.

### **Community Policing Centres**

There are 20 neighbourhood safety offices operating in various areas of the city outside Dunbar. They are supported by the community and staffed mainly with local volunteers. Every office has a neighbourhood police officer assigned to work with the local population. He or she assists in the enhancement of community health by providing visible and accessible services that are sensitive to the needs of the neighbourhood. The offices are governed by an advisory group and receive some financial support from City and Provincial government grants. However, their existence is dependent on community resources.

## **Approved Vision Direction**

### **16.1 Community Crime Prevention**

There should be more community participation in crime prevention programs like Block Watch. A community policing centre should be established.

Support %: 88/9/2

People’s ideas...

- block parties to get to know neighbours; better communication with VPD; community policing centre in community centre or in new development through bonussing



Community participation in crime prevention programs