City of Kelowna

Population Growth Demographics Trends Projections

Historic Population Growth

- Average Annual Growth Rate 2 to 2.5% (1973 Amalgamation – 2006 Census)
- Average growth rates disguise short term fluctuations
- Population doubled from 50,000 to 107,000
- 1981 1986 growth rate was approx. 0.7%
- 1988 1994 growth rate was approx. 6.0%
- 1996 2004 growth rate was approx. 2.0%

Historic Population Growth



Single Family BP Issuances (1972-2008)



Historic Demographics

Population Data (1981 – 2006)

Year	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Population under 15	19 %	18 %	19 %	18 %	17 %	15.4 %
Population over 65	16 %	18 %	19 %	18 %	19 %	19.5 %
Male / female (%)	48/52	48/52	48/52	48/52	48/52	48/52
Average family unit	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
Average household size	e 2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.26
Total Population	59,196	61,213	75,950	89,442	96,288	106,707

Source: Statistics Canada: Census 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006

Population Trends

- Historical 30 year average annual growth rates of approximately 2.5%
- More recent trends are on the order of 2.1% population growth per year
- Increasing seniors and early retirement population
- Decline in number of children

Population Trends

- Decline in number of young adults (moderated by growth at UBCO and OC)
- Recent increase in adults between 35 55 attracted by employment opportunity
- Decline in average household size (moderated by sharing, blended families, elderly care)

Population Projections

• Assumptions:

- We will all be a year older next year
- Excluding migration, there will not be any more 20 year olds next year than we have 19 year olds this year
- Birth / death rates and aging explain only part of the future
- Migration will continue to be the most important component of population growth

Population Projections

- Death rates will continue to increase and birth rates will continue to fall
- Beginning in 2011 it is projected that for the first time death rates will be higher than birth rates
- Population growth will occur as a result of natural increase and migration of retirees prior to 2011
- Migration alone will be the determinant of growth beyond 2011 due to retirees and younger labour force migrants

Population Projections

- A greater level of amenities and services will continue to attract seniors to the City
- Continued economic growth will attract working age people to new jobs and jobs vacated by retirees
- A short term increase in young adults will result from students attending UBCO and OC
- May be balanced by significant employment and residential growth (due to improved access/new bridge) on the Westside, particularly on First Nations lands

Population Projection



Comparison to Other Regions Source: BC Stats



Demographic Projection

Age Breakdown for RDCO Population (2006 and 2030)



Household Size Projections

- Average household size in 1981 was 2.7
- In 1991 its was 2.4 and in 2001 it was 2.3
- Average household size in 2006 was 2.26
- Average household size is projected to fall to 2.16 by 2020 and to 2.11 by 2030
- The 20 year projected average would be 2.18

Population Projection

- "Projections do not give a precise statement of what the future will bring, but rather, they provide information about what might happen under a set of stated circumstances".
- Projections are intended "to capture the nature and magnitude of the directions of change".
- Projections provide an opportunity to influence the future outcome to match the vision or to "avoid a future that may not be desirable".
- Source: David Baxter, Andrew Ramlo, Elana Rosenberg; Housing the Central Okanagan Regional District's Future Population: Demographics and Demand, 1996 to 2026; Urban Futures Institute and The Land Centre, 1998

Population Projection

- 2009 projected population is over 116,000 people
- Projected population in 2030 will be almost 162,000
- That means there will be almost 45,500 new people in Kelowna by 2030

How do we use demographic trends / population projections?

- At an average household size of 2.18 we will need almost 21,000 new housing units by 2030
- We need to plan where all those people will live, shop, and play
- We need to plan in what type of housing all those people will live
- We need to plan how we will provide services such as roads, transit and other utilities

What's the Goal?

To create an accessible, affordable, complete, liveable and sustainable community for all who choose to live here