

Our City, Our Voices.



reimagine
NANAIMO

HOW WE CARE



Nanaimo is home to many and we all have different needs from our community. Everyone needs a place to live, food to eat, and to experience a sense of belonging in their community. How we care for the community and for one another is vital to Nanaimo being a livable city for today and for future generations.



We are on a journey of reconciliation

Reconciliation recognizes the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As territories and requires a thoughtful journey, working together for betterment of all people in the region.



Housing is a core need

Everyone should have a home where they can feel safe and secure. With affordability decreasing, many are stretched to find housing that meets their needs.



Social supports are needed for well-being

Local agencies are working together to provide low-cost or free resources including mental health and substance abuse services, food, housing, legal aid, and more to those in need.



We're working on inclusion and accessibility

Our City should fairly accommodate citizens of all ages, abilities, and walks of life. The City's Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness is working to move us towards a more inclusive Nanaimo.



Safety is important for all

The feeling of personal safety is critical for our well-being. Reducing crime rates and public disorder and creating safe public spaces for all are ongoing goals.

STAT SNAPSHOTS

25%

of both renters and homeowners who participated in the affordable housing survey felt they struggle to cover basic needs after paying for housing¹

14%

of residents spend more than 30% of their income on housing²

68%

of residents own their home and the ratio of people renting is on the rise¹

425

is the minimum number of persons experiencing homelessness in Nanaimo in 2020, significantly up from the 2016 Point in Time Count of 174³

2.4%

is the estimated rental vacancy rate in 2019, with prices increasing¹ (a healthy vacancy rate is around 3%; lower rates limit options and increase prices)

4.6%

was the 2019 unemployment rate in Nanaimo⁴ (this rate has likely increased due to COVID-19)

References:

¹City of Nanaimo Land Inventory and Capacity Analysis, 2020

²CMHC Market Rental Report, 2019

³Point in Time Count, March 2020

⁴State of the Nanaimo Economy, 2020

WHAT DO OUR PLANS SAY NOW?

- ▶ Encourage social enrichment to create a socially sustainable community that nurtures a caring, healthy, inclusive, and safe environment and empowers all citizens to realize their aspirations.
- ▶ Use safe design principles and encourage a community that enhances personal safety for all.
- ▶ Create an environment that encourages an inclusive community with diverse neighbourhoods.
- ▶ Encourage the development of child, youth, elderly, and disabled-friendly public spaces and facilities.
- ▶ Support the development of social services, education facilities, and affordable and accessible health programs and facilities throughout our City.
- ▶ Work with other service providers and senior levels of government to put support services in place for residents in need of assistance.
- ▶ Identify barriers to inclusion and accessibility and work to remove these.
- ▶ Support an adequate supply of housing types that address the needs of all members of the community.

OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ The City is working to actively engage with local Indigenous groups on Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.
- ▶ Social planning is aligning high-level social policies with concrete directions and actions towards change.
- ▶ Programs are being developed for early intervention and prevention of root causes of social challenges.
- ▶ Our [Affordable Housing Strategy](#) identifies more housing options including a wider range of residential uses, innovative housing forms, and varied tenures.
- ▶ Policies encourage better access to childcare.
- ▶ The City has established an [Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness](#) to promote social and political equity.
- ▶ Our society is taking steps towards a more equitable and inclusive society, but there is still much for us to learn and improve upon.



Nanaimo's annual Pride Parade & Festival began in 2016 and is a celebration of inclusion, love, and diversity in our community.

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Social issues are diverse, complex, and interconnected, requiring time, effort, and collaboration for progress to be made.
- ▶ Nanaimo has consistently low vacancy rates, making it more challenging for some to find housing.
- ▶ There is a growing population of people experiencing homelessness which is compounded by the opioid epidemic that has swiftly become a major health crisis.
- ▶ Ongoing population growth puts pressure on the housing supply in our City.
- ▶ It can be difficult to evenly distribute the benefits of economic growth.
- ▶ Childcare spaces continue to be challenging to secure, and it can be difficult to increase spaces at the right time in the right places they are needed.



Nanaimo has a growing population diversity which will only strengthen its cultural dynamism and attraction to others who may wish to live, work, and invest here.