

LANGLEY

Seniors and Seniors' Services

While the overall population of the Langley Local Health Area¹ is projected to increase by 56% over the next two decades, the number of older adults within its boundaries is expected to more than double. The 137% increase in Langley's population 65 years and up exceeds the growth rate for seniors anticipated for the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky area as a whole – 118%

The Langley Local Health Area (hereafter called Langley) encompasses the City and Township of Langley, with the City representing just less than one-fifth of the total population (or 23,600 residents). In 2007 the area's total population of 125,400 accounted for 5.5% of all Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky residents.

This report, along with its companion, **Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky Seniors and Seniors' Services**, provides a summary of current and projected future population figures for seniors, based on Canada's 2006 Census and estimates by BCStats for Local Health Areas in the region. It also offers a preliminary overview of seniors' services, in terms of the approximate number, type and municipal location. For this data, the report draws upon Vancouver Information Services' **Red Book** as the most current region-wide source available. An **Atlas of Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky Seniors and Seniors' Services** accompanies the two reports. It is hoped that this material will prompt further analysis, discussion and planning for the services required to meet the demands of an aging population.

Seniors

For the ten-year period 2007 to 2017, the number of Langley seniors age 65 and up is expected to rise by just over one-half, from 16,100 to 24,800. The area's share of seniors in the region will increase slightly over this period, from 5.7% to 6.1%.

Langley's share of seniors as a portion of its total population in 2007 is a little higher in each age category in Table 1 than the distribution for the region, but this will reverse modestly by 2027, when seniors 65 and up in Langley will account for just under one in five total residents, and the older age groups (75+ and 85+) will make up around 9% and 2% respectively.

Langley adults age 80+ will increase by 23%, from 5,100 to 6,300, with the Local Health Area share of all seniors in this category falling slightly from 4.1% to 3.9%.

Summary

The age distribution of older adults in Langley is very similar to the pattern found across the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky area. However, the projected growth rate for its population over 65 is considerably higher than that forecast region-wide. Langley City has both the highest percentage of low-income seniors and seniors who live alone in the region.

Like most communities, the number of agency listings for Langley is lower than its share of the regional seniors' population. Even when the full scope of services by type and those offered from adjacent communities are taken into account, however, Langley (along with the Howe Sound Local Health Area) has the lowest share of seniors' services in the region. The sizeable increase expected for the seniors' population calls for more services to meet the demands of Langley's aging population.

Table 1: Langley LHA Seniors' Population

	2007		2017		2027		% Change	
		%		%		%	2007-2017	2007-2027
Total Pop.	125,382	100.0	159,751	100.0	195,201	100.0	27.4	55.7
65+	16,112	12.9	24,866	15.6	38,143	19.5	54.3	136.7
75+	8,192	6.5	10,348	6.5	16,819	8.6	26.3	105.3
85+	2,590	2.1	3,636	2.3	4,565	2.3	40.4	76.3

Table 2: Adults Age 55+ by Ten-Year Age Groups, 2007 and 2027

	55-64			65-74			75-84			85+		
	2007	2027	% Chg	2007	2027	% Chg	2007	2027	% Chg	2007	2027	% Chg
Langley	14,213	24,716	73.9%	7,920	21,324	169.2%	5,602	12,254	118.7%	2,590	4,565	76.3%
LM/SS	253,683	413,066	62.8%	144,074	348,151	141.6%	96,917	193,030	99.2%	39,313	69,205	76.0%

BCStats P.E.O.P.L.E 32 Projection Run

Table 2 presents Langley adults age 55 and up in ten-year age groups between 2007 and 2027. The aging of the baby boom generation can be seen in the 65-74 age group, which will experience a significant increase over the next two decades – nearly 170%, compared with 142% across the region.

Table 3: Seniors by Five-Year Age Groups

	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Total
Langley	4,426	3,494	3,065	2,537	1,733	857	16,112
LM/SS	78,722	65,352	55,706	41,211	25,411	13,902	280,304
Langley's Share	5.6%	5.3%	5.5%	6.2%	6.8%	6.2%	5.7%

BCStats P.E.O.P.L.E 32 Projection Run

Table 3 and the accompanying graph show seniors in the Local Health Area by five-year age groups in 2007. Adults aged 65-74 make up just under half of all seniors.

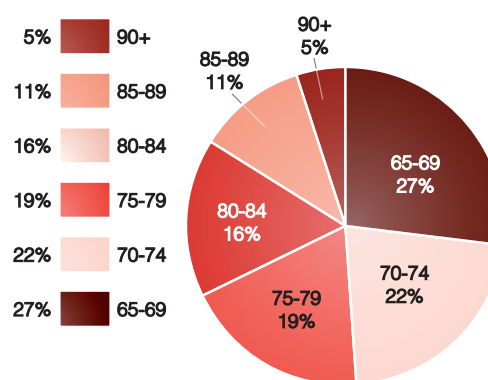
The median age in Langley is currently 39 (half of the population is below this age and half is above). This is expected to rise to 40.7 by 2017 and to 43 by 2027. The corresponding figures for the median age at death are 80.8, 80.3, and 80.4.

Older adults residing on their own are generally more vulnerable and likely to be need of more in-home support services. According to the Census, 43% of seniors (or 1,690 individuals) in Langley City and 38% (2,410) in the Township of Langley who resided in private households lived alone in 2006. Langley City has the highest proportion of live-alone seniors in the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky area.

In 2006, the incidence of low income² among older adults age 65 and up in Langley City was 31.1%, compared with 20.8% for the Lower Mainland. In fact, Langley City has the highest percentage of seniors living in poverty in the region, ahead of Vancouver and Richmond with 26.7% and 25% respectively. In 2006, 1.6% of Langley seniors received the maximum Government Income Supplement (GIS)—1.9% of female seniors and 1.2% of male seniors.

According to the 2006 Census, for which no immigrant seniors' data is yet available, immigrants made up 17.7 % (4,170 individuals) of the population of Langley City and 16.9% (15,885) of the Township. Nearly 17% of the City's immigrants and 15% of the District's immigrants are newcomers who arrived between 2001 and 2006. The majority of the recent immigrants are from Asia. After English, the top languages spoken most often at home are Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Punjabi.

Langley LHA Seniors Age 65+, 2007



Source: BCStats P.E.O.P.L.E. 32 Projection Run, Langley Local Health Area

Table 4: Seniors' Service Organizations by Local Health Area

	Number of Listings	% Share of LM/SS Listings	Number of Seniors in 2007	% Share of Seniors' Pop.
Vancouver	85	45.0	77,297	27.6
Surrey/White Rock	22	11.6	52,747	18.8
Burnaby	18	9.5	28,111	10.0
Richmond	9	4.8	23,132	8.3
Tri-Cities	7	3.7	20,214	7.2
North Vancouver	12	6.3	17,852	6.4
Langley	6	3.2	16,112	5.7
Delta	7	3.7	13,452	4.8
West Vancouver/Bowen Island	6	3.2	11,041	3.9
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	7	3.7	10,153	3.6
New Westminster	5	2.6	8,010	2.9
Squamish/Whistler/Pemberton	5	2.6	2,183	0.8
Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky	189	100.0	280,304	100.0

Information Services Vancouver, Red Book: Directory of Services for the Lower Mainland (2008) and BCStats

Services for seniors

In 2008 the **Red Book: Directory of Services for the Lower Mainland**, published by Information Services Vancouver, contained the names of nearly 190 organizations in the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky area that currently offer services focusing on seniors. (Agencies conducting such services from more than one location are listed more than once in the **Red Book**, so an agency with a main office and two branch locations has three listings, for example.)

Table 4 presents the **Red Book** listings of seniors' organizations for LHAs in the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky area. Close to half of the listings (85, or 45%) are located in Vancouver, a sign of the city's role as seniors' service hub for the region. The table also gives a rough indication of the current match between the size of the seniors' population and the number of seniors' agencies in the various communities. Only in Vancouver does the share of seniors' agencies significantly exceed the city's share of the region's population over 65.

With six agency listings, or 3.2% of the total, Langley's proportion of services represents just over half its share of the region's seniors' population (5.7%). This puts in Langley in step with most communities in that the number of seniors' services falls below their propor-

tion of the region's seniors' population. In the Tri-Cities, Richmond, and Surrey/White Rock this mismatch is even more pronounced.

The seniors' agencies and branch operations based in Langley each provide one or more types of service. Table 5 ranks these services by type. (For the classification of services used in this research, see **Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky Seniors and Seniors' Services**.)

Langley's seniors' services include advocacy, counseling and assistance, in-home support services and information, directories and referrals. There are two listings for multi-activity programs, the most commonly offered seniors' service across the region, but several other kinds of services for older adults are not available locally.

Some seniors' organizations offer services in other communities, across Metro Vancouver, the Lower Mainland/Southwestern BC or province-wide. For the distribution of this full scope of services across Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky municipalities, see Table 8 in the companion report, **Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky Seniors and Seniors' Services**. As that table shows, the existence of agencies serving Langley seniors from adjacent municipalities increases the number of services offered to 12. However, the difficulties many older adults experience with transportation need to be taken into account.

Table 5: Seniors' Service Listings by Type

	LM/SS	Langley	% of Langley	% of LM/SS
In-home Support Services	58	3	25.0%	5.2%
Advocacy	15	2	0.0%	13.3%
Counseling and Assistance	46	2	16.7%	4.3%
Multi-Activity Program	97	2	16.7%	2.1%
Health Support Services	50	1	8.3%	2.0%
Information, Directories, Referral	37	1	8.3%	2.7%
Education and Training	12	0	0.0%	0.0%
Financial Assistance	4	0	0.0%	0.0%
Transportation (excluding HandyDart)	13	1	8.3%	7.7%
Ethno-cultural Service Focus	38	0	0.0%	0.0%
Language Services	23	0	0.0%	0.0%
Total	335	12	100.0%	3.6%

Information Services Vancouver, Red Book: Directory of Services for the Lower Mainland (2008)

Langley Red Book Listings

Multi-Activity Programs

BC Old Age Pensioners' Organization
Langley Senior Resources Society

Advocacy

BC Old Age Pensioners' Organization
Langley Coalition Against Abuse of Seniors

Counseling & Assistance

Ishtar Transition Housing Society
Langley Senior Resources Society

Health Support Services

Langley Senior Resources Society

Information, Directories & Referral

Langley Senior Resources Society
Transportation
Langley Senior Resources Society

Endnotes

¹ The BCStats' PEOPLE Population Projections in this report are based on Local Health Areas (LHAs) which form part of larger regional Health Service Delivery and Health Authority Areas. The Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky area is composed of Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities, and the following LHAs: Burnaby, Coquitlam (including the Tri-Cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, as well as the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra), Delta, Howe Sound (including Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton), Langley (City and Township), Maple Ridge (including Pitt Meadows), New Westminster, North Vancouver (City and District), Richmond, Surrey (including White Rock), Vancouver, and West Vancouver-Bowen Island.

² The terms poverty line and low income here refer to the measure most commonly used as a proxy for poverty--Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs). These define an income threshold, based on family expenditures, below which families or individuals spend more than the average on basic necessities. The LICO figures cited here are based on income before tax.

Sources: Statistics Canada 2006 Census; BCStats, P.E.O.P.L.E. 32 Projection Run and 2006 Census, Socio-Economic Profiles and Profiles of Immigrants and of Diversity in BC 2006; and Information Services Vancouver, Red Book Directory of Services (2008)

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