

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) UPDATE

“OCPizza PARTY” WORKBOOK



A Thriving Squamish

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- » Economic Development & Employment
- » Affordable Housing & Child Care
- » Education & Learning
- » Healthy & Livable Neighbourhoods
- » Arts, Culture & Heritage

#SQUAMISH
2040

WHAT IS AN OCPizza PARTY?

To plan the future of Squamish together, we need to discuss some complex issues, involve lots of people, and consider many different viewpoints.

This “OCPizza Party” format will help you have these important conversations in a way that is more comfortable than a formal workshop and suits your schedule.

Get together with your family, friends, community groups, co-workers, school class, or neighbours!



FOOD IS ON US!

As a thank you for sharing your time and ideas, the District is offering a \$30 reimbursement for hosts who provide food at their OCPizza Parties (for groups of 4 or more).

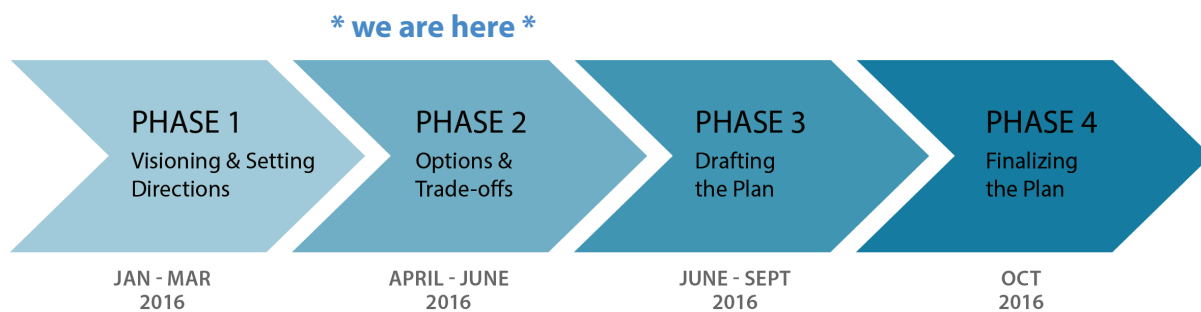
To receive your reimbursement:

- 1. Complete at least 3 topic areas as well as the feedback section and sign-in sheet** (be sure to include your host name and address and participant emails so everyone is entered in the grand prize draw).
- 2. Submit your group's input by May 13th:**
 - » We strongly encourage you to submit your group's input in the online format at squamish.ca/OCP as this will greatly help in analyzing all the feedback received.
 - » You can also submit paper workbooks in person or by mail to:
District of Squamish, 37955 Second Avenue, Box 310, Squamish, BC, V8B 0A3
- 3. Submit your food receipts.** Email planning@squamish.ca with a scan or photo of your receipts. Be sure to include your host name and address.

Submit your workbook by May 13th

INTRODUCTION

The District of Squamish is updating its Official Community Plan, using a four-phase process:



- » **In Phase 1**, community members and stakeholder groups were invited to identify, share and discuss their issues and priorities for the future through interviews, a public event and questionnaire, and workshops with Squamish Nation members, municipal staff, and students from Howe Sound Secondary. Over 1,200 people participated!
- » **Now in Phase 2**, we are diving deeper into specific policy topics and discussing options and trade-offs. Take part in a citizen-led “OCPizza Party” discussion or attend the public workshop to review and comment on some early policy directions.
- » **In Phase 3**, we will use the input received to develop a full draft of the updated OCP and ask for your comments again to make sure we are on the right track.
- » **In Phase 4**, we will finalize the plan and present it to Council for approval.

HOW DO I USE THIS WORKBOOK?

This workbook will help you host an OCPizza Party with people in your community. This format works best with groups of four or more. In the following pages you will see draft policy directions related to a **Thriving Squamish** (there are two other workbooks that focus on a Resilient Squamish and a Growing Squamish).

You will be asked to review initial policy ideas, rate how strongly you support or oppose the idea, and provide comments to explain why your group feels that way.

If you have any questions, please check the Workbook FAQ at squamish.ca/OCP or email planning@squamish.ca. We will update the FAQ as we receive questions.

HOSTING AN OCPizza PARTY

1. Invite

Invite 4-8 people to join you for up to 2 hours of discussion on policy directions related to a **Thriving Squamish**, stressing that the District is really interested in their opinions and thoughts, and that there will be food to fuel the discussion. Propose a time and location that works.

2. Prepare

Ask people to print a copy of the related workbook before the meeting, and to come prepared to talk through the issues and generate some recommendations.

3. Host

Host the meeting, ordering your food in advance, and using the structure of this workbook to organize the discussion:

- » **Complete the Sign-in sheet.** Be sure to include your host name and address to receive food reimbursement and the names and emails of all participants so everyone is entered in the grand prize draw to win a Sea to Sky Gondola Family Season Pass.
- » **Decide which topic areas your group wants to discuss.** We ask that you complete at least 3 topics but encourage you to complete more.
- » **Complete the Workbook Feedback Section.** Let us know how this format worked for you.

The key is to have a thoughtful conversation that leads to some consensus about what your group thinks is most essential, and to share ideas on what the policies should say / do.

4. Submit

Make sure that you record your group's thoughts and suggestions as clearly as possible. Don't provide a ton of notes, just the main ideas and recommendations. **We strongly encourage you to submit your group's input in the online format at squamish.ca/OCP** but you can also submit paper workbooks to the District.

Submit your workbook by May 13th and email planning@squamish.ca with a scan or photo of your food receipts along with your host name and address to receive your reimbursement (up to \$30 for groups of 4 or more).

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Here are some tips to help you host a successful OCPizza Party:

- » **Make sure everyone has a chance to say something.** By asking your guests to share their 3 best ideas one-by-one, you're making space for everyone to talk. You can also say, "Bruce, I haven't heard your idea yet. Would you like to share it?"
- » **Reflective time is important.** Where silent time is suggested, we have done this because the best thoughts come from people when they are given time, without being influenced by the views of others. We strongly recommend allowing for the quiet time, to get more diverse and quality input.
- » **Don't be afraid to ask people not to dominate the conversation.** It's ok to gently remind participants that other people need to be able to talk. Say, "Sandra, I know that having a coffee shop downtown really matters to you. We wrote this idea down, now let's hear from others."
- » **It's ok to disagree.** If there's an issue that you can't easily resolve, say: "We don't have to decide today what the answer is. Let's write down both points of view on page 20 of the workbook."
- » **Keep the discussion on-topic.** It's ok to say, "Sandy, thank you for your story about your grandmother. Tell us why this issue is important to you and how it relates to the question we're answering."
- » **Make sure you're capturing people's ideas as well as you can.** When you write something in the workbook or the online form, be sure to say, "Ok I'm writing down the following. Did I get it right?"

SIGN IN SHEET

Host Name(s)	Email Address & Mailing Address (for food reimbursement & prize draw entry)	Age Range (Under 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+)	Gender
--------------	--	--	--------

--	--	--	--

Participant Names	Email Address (to be entered in the grand prize draw)	Age Range (Under 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+)	Gender
-------------------	--	--	--------

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISCUSS?

Select the topics you would like to discuss for a **Thriving** Squamish.

Each topic will take about 15-30 minutes (or more depending on your group discussion). Please complete at least 3 topics, or as many as you like.

A THRIVING SQUAMISH: TOPIC AREAS

Topic Area 1: Local Economy & Employment

Includes policy directions on targets and indicators for employment lands, securing, maintaining and supporting industrial lands, encouraging emerging sectors, and incorporating land designations from the Squamish Estuary Management Plan.

Topic Area 2: Affordable Housing & Child Care

Includes policy directions on housing targets and monitoring, developer requirements and incentives, higher density housing, restriction of larger single family homes, adaptable housing, collaborating for affordable housing and child care, and incorporating child care into neighbourhood planning.

Topic Area 3: Education & Learning

Includes policy directions on lifelong learning, downtown education, collaboration for efficient use of education facilities, and planning for education and associated housing and community amenity needs.

Topic Area 4: Healthy & Livable Neighbourhoods

Includes policy directions on integrating health and safety into the OCP, addressing health inequities, considering health impacts in major projects, monitoring childhood vulnerability, and prioritizing safe routes to schools.

Topic Area 5: Arts, Culture & Heritage

Includes policy directions on improving access and expanding arts, culture and heritage, creating partnerships, enhancing public art, supporting Squamish Nation culture and heritage, and reinforcing the downtown as the arts and cultural centre of Squamish.

TOPIC AREA 1: LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

INTRODUCTION

Once dominated by resource-based industries, Squamish is now using its incredible natural assets and amenities to help diversify the local economy to add to the existing strong industrial and forestry related sectors. New residents and employers are attracted to our relatively fast growing, yet affordable community (in comparison to Metro Vancouver) with a range of emerging sectors in tourism, education, construction, recreational technology, clean energy and public services.

Maintaining a diverse local economy is challenging. Squamish appears to have enough land identified for commercial employment; however, there is a shortage of lands for industrial employment, particularly for medium and heavy industries. In recent years, a considerable amount of industrial lands have been lost to residential development and further loss is a serious concern.

There are a number of major development projects in Squamish that have the potential to impact employment including:

- » **The Squamish Oceanfront peninsula** is a former industrial site to be redeveloped as a residential, mixed-use project with significant employment lands. A [Sub Area Plan](#) created to guide this project designates 8.2 hectares of land for employment, including light manufacturing, professional and business offices, and high technology offices.
- » **The BC Rail Yards** are a 37.9-hectare site located next to the Squamish Business Park. The site currently includes a number of medium industrial businesses, but their tenure is not secure, as the Province intends to sell the BC Rail lands as surplus property.
- » **Woodfibre LNG.** The former Woodfibre pulp mill site could potentially be the site of the Woodfibre liquefied natural gas processing and export facility if the development receives final approvals and is confirmed by project proponents.
- » **Garibaldi at Squamish** is a major resort proposed for Brohm Ridge, just outside Squamish.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » Encourages the development of high tech industries, film studios, knowledge-based industries, educational institutions, tourism assets and the airport.
- » Protects the employment and industrial land base to promote a diversified local economy, healthy tax base and stable, well paid labour force and supports monitoring employment and industrial lands to ensure an adequate supply.
- » Supports Downtown as the centre for retail, service, institutional, and office employment.
- » Supports the [Squamish Business Park Sub Area Plan](#) as a location for businesses that increase the intensity and diversity of employment options and discourages retail stores and personal service establishments from areas of the business park.
- » Directs future industrial uses to the Squamish Business Park and BC Rail Park and identifies the BC Rail North Yards as an appropriate area for heavy industrial use.

TOPIC AREA 1: LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

- » Supports expansion of the Squamish Terminals and states that the District will consider truck routes through Downtown to access the terminal. Supports managing the land adjacent to the port in accordance with the [Estuary Management Plan](#).

IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » In Phase 1 of the OCP process, residents stressed the need for well-paying, sustainable local jobs to reduce the need to commute and allow people to live, work and play in Squamish. Residents support a diverse economy including: industrial, renewable energy, resources, rec-tech, tourism, knowledge based industries and high tech.
- » The District needs to provide incentives, remove barriers, and ensure there is enough commercial and industrial land to support local industries and businesses and attract new sectors and companies that reinforce Squamish’s brand and values.
- » Industrial stakeholders have some concerns with residential development next to industrial sites.
- » Squamish business owners face a number of challenges including: staffing shortages, a lack of accommodations for staff, high real estate costs, vacant landlords and limited wayfinding.

Please review the draft policy directions that follow.

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

POLICY DIRECTION: Targets and Indicators for Employment Lands

Targets and indicators for employment lands could be developed and monitored to assess performance over time (including an inventory of employment lands and jobs-to-housing ratio).

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 1: LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

POLICY DIRECTION: Secure Future Industrial Lands

To support a diverse local economy with good jobs, the District could identify lands suitable for a range of industrial uses and/or potential future industrial activity, and provide appropriate land use designations, zoning and policy to ensure these assets are protected into the future. The District could consider industrial land use designations for:

- » *The east side of Loggers Lane between the upper Mamquam Blind Channel and Robin Drive;*
- » *Centennial Way east of the hydro right of way; and*
- » *The Cheekye Fan (upon completion of hazard mitigation that identifies additional industrial land designations).*

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Support Existing Industrial Activities

Lands currently used for industrial activities could be supported through appropriate land use designations and zoning. The District could also work to address compatibility issues where residential development is located next to industrial sites.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 1: LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

POLICY DIRECTION: Encourage Emerging Employment Sectors

The District could look for opportunities to encourage desired economic activities and provide incentives to grow certain sectors such as renewable energy, rec-tech, tourism, film production, education, knowledge based industries and high tech.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Squamish Estuary Land Designations

Objectives and land use designations from the [Squamish Estuary Management Plan](#) could be integrated into the OCP. This would mean that some areas immediately west of the Downtown core (currently designated as Greenway Corridors and Recreation in the OCP), as well as portions of the Mamquam Blind Channel would be available to support further industrial/commercial development.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 1: LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

POLICY DIRECTION: Squamish Business Park

In order to protect industrial land, the District could focus light and medium industrial development in the Squamish Business Park and discourage additional highway commercial or business services in this area. The [Squamish Business Park Sub Area Plan](#) would be updated to clearly define light, medium and heavy industrial uses and identify where these uses should be favoured over commercial uses. This would limit some commercial opportunities in this area but could help to direct these businesses to the downtown instead.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Clarify the Regulatory Framework for Industrial Lands

Regulatory tools related to employments lands could be improved to increase certainty, reduce conflict and secure future employment opportunities. The District could address areas where OCP designations, zoning and land use suitability do not align and better define permitted uses in industrial zones to improve clarity.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 1: LOCAL ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

INTRODUCTION: AFFORDABLE & DIVERSE HOUSING

Housing costs in Squamish are rising as demand continues to outpace existing supply and new construction. The community is concerned that many residents can no longer afford to purchase or rent suitable housing in Squamish. This lack of affordable housing also impacts local businesses, as employees cannot find suitable accommodations. While there are hundreds of units currently or soon-to-be under construction, they are not yet available and will be unaffordable for many when built.

According to the 2011 Census, the median income for Squamish families was \$77,467; more than a third of homeowners and over half of all renters spent more than 30% of their total household income on housing (meaning their housing was unaffordable). In 2015, Squamish property values grew by 18.5% and average selling prices continue to rise. Average rents in Squamish range from \$1,000 for 1 bedroom unit to \$2,960 for 4+ bedroom unit (2015 Quest University Squamish Housing Survey).

In 2014, the District endorsed the Affordable Housing Framework and established the Housing Task Force in 2015. Squamish has made some progress in expanding secondary suite options; however, the District's affordable housing reserve fund is low and greater changes are needed to address local affordability.

INTRODUCTION: QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

With the growing population of children and families in Squamish, availability of quality, accessible and affordable child care spaces is a core need and is linked to housing as many families require multiple incomes to afford suitable housing. Quality child care supports early childhood development and allows working parents to contribute to the local economy; it is also a factor in attracting and retaining families, employees with children, and businesses in Squamish.

The District recognizes child care as an essential community service and amenity that contributes to social and economic development, improved child development outcomes and overall health and well-being. A number of recent regulatory changes have been made to support existing and new child care facilities such as allowing residential child care facilities in all multi-unit residential zones, increasing the allowable number of children in care, and reducing parking requirements to reduce barriers for the creation of new facilities.

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » Supports the creation of affordable housing options for the community.
- » Encourages a wide range of housing types and tenures to help ensure that people of all ages, abilities, household types and incomes have a diversity of housing choice.
- » Aims to focus multi-family housing and seniors housing in the Downtown.
- » Supports implementation of the [2005 Affordable Housing Strategy](#), including the creation of guidelines for adaptable housing, creation of an affordable housing reserve fund, development of secondary suites, consideration of density bonusing and other development incentives, and policies for “no-net-loss” affordable rental housing and strata conversion.

IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » Squamish’s growing population and limited land base, combined with market pressure from Vancouver and Whistler, is driving up local housing prices. There is also declining support for affordable housing from provincial and senior governments.
- » Housing affordability is a critical issue and many residents are concerned about being able to afford to stay in Squamish, especially youth, young families and seniors. We need a range of affordable housing options to provide for a variety of ages and lifestyles.
- » Squamish currently has low vacancy rates and has experienced rental increases over the past six years and there is a lack of purpose-built affordable housing and rental housing.
- » Non-market and social housing is not typically supplied by the private development sector; Squamish needs a local Housing Authority or Housing Corporation to help provide and manage non-market and social housing.
- » Squamish Nation has identified a need for more off-reserve housing for its members.

Please review the draft policy directions that follow.

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

POLICY DIRECTION: Affordable Housing Options

Creation of affordable and rental housing units should go hand-in-hand with growth in Squamish and should respond to the continuum of local housing needs including emergency shelters, transitional housing, social and subsidized housing, non-market rental housing and affordable market housing. To help achieve this, the District could place a greater emphasis on requiring medium and large developments to incorporate affordable and market rental units as part of rezoning. The District could also identify its affordable housing reserve fund as a top priority for cash amenity contributions from developments.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Affordable Housing Incentives

To encourage the creation of affordable and market rental housing, the District could develop and implement a set of clear policies and incentives. In addition to the community amenity contribution policy that prioritizes affordable housing, the District could allow density bonusing and other incentives to encourage developers to provide on-site affordable or rental housing (including secondary suites) in exchange for additional density, expedited permitting process and/or lower land development fees. This would mean less risk, faster review processes, and reduced costs for developers but would require more District staff capacity and reduce revenue from development applications. This may also result in pockets of slightly higher density where affordable and rental housing is proposed.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

POLICY DIRECTION: Housing Targets and Monitoring

The District could develop an ongoing monitoring system to assess the housing situation in Squamish and identify multi-year targets for affordable housing/unit creation. This could involve annual housing needs surveys and partnerships with other community organizations to establish and achieve affordable housing targets.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Higher Density Housing in Key Locations

To create permanent and secured affordable housing throughout the community, the District could identify density targets and allow for higher densities and housing forms (such as townhouses and apartments) in appropriate locations, such as areas close to neighbourhood nodes, employment and education centres. The District could support mixed-income housing and inclusionary zoning to provide a range of housing in both new and existing neighbourhoods.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

POLICY DIRECTION: Restriction of Large Lot Single-Family Homes

The District could establish direction for future development to limit the amount of large lot single-family homes and promote smaller, more affordable housing forms and multi-unit developments. This would further incentivize multi-unit developments and could include other approaches such as requiring secondary suites in all new single-family home developments.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Coordination of Affordable Housing Initiatives

The District could facilitate partnerships and support local opportunities to develop affordable housing. This would include supporting the efforts of the Housing Task Force to identify and secure potential affordable housing buildings and sites, working with local stakeholders (in public, not for profit and private sectors) to implement affordable housing initiatives, and ensuring ongoing community engagement and transparency.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

POLICY DIRECTION: Local Housing Authority

The District could develop a local organization or housing authority to plan and manage a range of affordable market and non-market rental housing (that could be achieved through developer incentives). The organization could help coordinate policy and actions between stakeholders, establish priorities and conduct survey work, create eligibility criteria and ensure that affordable units stay affordable in perpetuity.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Age-Friendly & Healthy Housing

The District could develop age-friendly housing policies and establish flexible and adaptable housing guidelines. This could include prioritizing and incorporating family-friendly housing in multi- and mixed-use unit developments, and requiring a minimum percentage of constructed units to offer 2 and 3 bedroom options.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

POLICY DIRECTION: Collaboration for a Quality Child Care System

The District will work with service providers, the School District and senior governments to grow and maintain an accessible, affordable, quality child care system with spaces throughout the community. This could include development of a child care needs assessment to inform a future Child Care Strategy.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Incorporation of Child Care in Neighbourhood Planning

To encourage the creation of licensed child care spaces to meet current and future needs, the District could prioritize and incorporate child care in neighbourhood planning. This could include considerations for child care in all new and renovated municipal facilities as well as density bonusing to encourage developers to create new on-site child care spaces or provide cash contributions to a Child Care Reserve Fund in exchange for relaxing certain regulations (similar to density bonusing for affordable housing).

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?

TOPIC AREA 3: EDUCATION & LEARNING

INTRODUCTION

Education and learning are part of a complete, healthy and thriving community. Access to education is a basic need and essential for building our human capital and supporting Squamish residents in the achieving their personal and livelihood goals and aspirations.

Squamish serves as a 'centre for learning' and a regional hub on the Sea-to-Sky corridor. A young and educated community, Squamish is seeing growth in outdoor recreation and lifestyle sectors, leading-edge technology infrastructure, and higher education and has great potential for further knowledge-based industries.

With population growth comes increases in school enrolment and the need for more education opportunities. From 2006 to 2011, Squamish's population increased almost 15% (double the provincial rate) with the proportion of children (0-5) increasing by 32% and the proportion of youth (under 14) growing by 8%. In 2011, educational services were the 6th largest employment industry in Squamish; the public sector (including health, education and social services) was the largest base employment sector and is projected to have high growth over the next 20 years ([Squamish Employment Lands Strategy, 2014](#)).

The District will promote Squamish as a regional centre of higher learning, providing ongoing and continuing educational opportunities. Currently School District 48 operates 5 elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Several local independent schools and vocational programs provide additional education options. Capilano University and Quest University offer post-secondary education and will continue to receive support from the District. Creation of a new educational campus and partnership is also underway to establish a University of British Columbia Centre for clean energy research and education at the Oceanfront. The important project aspires to incubate and provide training, research and innovation.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » Encourages links between employment and educational institutions.
- » Supports a broad range of education for arts, wood products, and other specialized industries.
- » Supports opportunities to combine tourism experiences with learning and education.
- » Aims to retain and attract new institutional uses Downtown.
- » Improves community livability and local economic resilience through access to education.
- » Work with School District on location, size, type, timing and number of school sites and schools, parks, and joint use facilities which will be needed to accommodate future growth.
- » Work with Vancouver Coastal Health, School District 48, and agencies, non-profits, and private service providers to identify and address social needs in Squamish.
- » Considers opportunities to partner with Capilano University, Quest University, and other institutions to deliver cultural amenities and/or programs.

TOPIC AREA 3: EDUCATION & LEARNING

IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » In Phase 1 of the OCP update, residents stressed that Squamish needs to be a complete community with opportunities to live, work, play, shop, and learn.
- » With the growth of post-secondary learning in Squamish, there is a shortage of appropriate housing options for students and staff.
- » Opportunities exist to focus on First Nations culture and heritage with multi-generational learning opportunities.
- » Opportunities exist to integrate Squamish heritage into education, so residents have opportunities to learn about history and heritage.
- » Squamish requires more youth amenities; there are few all-ages options for after-school activities and transportation.
- » There is a need for more post-secondary skills training, such as trade schools as well as ongoing/adult learning opportunities, such as arts programs and facilities.

Please review the draft policy directions that follow.

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

POLICY DIRECTION: Lifelong Learning Opportunities

OCP policy could be expanded to support greater access to lifelong learning for residents of all ages and backgrounds, graduates, First Nations and visitors. This could include formal and non-formal opportunities, from early childhood to adult learning, to improve school readiness and success, enhance universal literacy, and build skills and knowledge. The District could also support more

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 3: EDUCATION & LEARNING

POLICY DIRECTION: Downtown Education

The District will reinforce and maintain the Downtown's role as the vibrant heart of the community, with a variety of housing, culture, shopping, employment, and educational facilities in close proximity. This will include strengthening linkages between the Downtown and Education and Institution precincts on Squamish's Oceanfront and integrating educational opportunities for local and visiting students, including outdoor, environmental, and fine arts programs.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Collaboration for Efficient Use of Education Facilities

The District will collaborate with community partners to identify available infrastructure for enhanced educational opportunities. This could include partnerships and joint-use agreements with the School District and other partners and institutions to maximize efficient use of locally-available resources.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 3: EDUCATION & LEARNING

POLICY DIRECTION: Education & Associated Housing and Amenity Needs

The District will continue to support the build-out and integration of existing and new post-secondary campus lands and facilities (Quest; Capilano; Squamish Oceanfront) and promote their integration within the community. This could include working with academic and training partners and local organizations to create a student work experience or co-op program to support collaboration, joint learning and capacity building between educational institutions. The District could also work with partners to proactively plan for associated housing and other amenity needs such as child care spaces for anticipated growth in the education and learning sectors.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?

TOPIC AREA 4: HEALTHY & LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

INTRODUCTION

A healthy community is one where all residents, regardless of age or ability, have a high quality of life and can truly thrive. Plans, policies and decisions at the District level affect our individual and community health, which is shaped by social, economic and environmental factors. Promoting community health and health equity are key planning and policy considerations for this OCP update. A healthy, safe and livable Squamish can be achieved by:

- » Creating compact, connected and well-planned built environments that support healthy behaviours;
- » Ensuring basic needs are met such as healthy foods and suitable, affordable housing;
- » Promoting active transportation options for increased physical activity and health;
- » Supporting ecological principles that protect and restore environmental health and enable access to recreation and nature;
- » Nurturing a welcoming, inclusive, socially connected and supportive community.

The District has entered into partner/collaboration agreement with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH) to identify key health priorities for Squamish and improve local health outcomes. The OCP update is a core focus of this partnership; a Healthy OCP Background Study was completed to identify gaps and opportunities in the current OCP while a Squamish Health Snapshot was completed to review gaps in community health.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

The current OCP does not explicitly include goals or objectives for community health and has a limited focus on health linkages between land use and the built environment, factors influencing local health, and the importance of social connections. The focus to date has been on quality of life, with the term 'health' used broadly to describe a diverse range of topics related to healthy communities, economies and environments.

- » States the District will strive to enable a high quality of life for its residents, where everyone enjoys a safe, vibrant and healthy community, and has access to education, jobs, public services, culture, recreation and the natural environment.
- » States the District will ensure the protection, restoration and management of aquatic and terrestrial habitats and the maintenance of ecological health for present and future generations. Ecological health includes healthy urban forests and tree management, habitat restoration, riparian area protection and regional air quality maintenance.
- » Encourages strong partnerships with local and regional community groups and organizations to develop a range of housing forms, tenure options, and affordability options to increase socio-economic diversity, maintain a healthy tax base, and support livability.

TOPIC AREA 4: HEALTHY & LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

- » Supports an efficient transportation system to provide safe and reliable local and regional road networks and encourage compact, walkable communities and connected trail networks.
- » Embraces and encourages social and cultural diversity through cultural and artistic events, municipal services, youth programs, and recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life of its residents.

IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » In Phase 1 of the OCP update, over 500 questionnaire respondents identified 'healthy communities and individuals' as a very important topic for the OCP to address; other topics related to health, such as recreation and access to natural areas, affordable and diverse housing and transportation were also ranked as key priorities.
- » Residents also noted the link between healthy people and healthy prospering communities and suggested a need to plan for all ages, especially youth, children and seniors.
- » There are concerns that the highway is unsafe, there is a lack of connectivity, and there are gaps in transportation infrastructure and services;
- » There is a need to strengthen partnerships with all local social and health agencies and work to support low-income housing and amenities and address poverty in Squamish.
- » There is a need for healthy affordable housing and healing and wellness centres.
- » The 2014 My Health My Community survey highlighted positive and negative health attributes for Squamish including: good general and mental health and positive lifestyle attributes like significantly higher physical activity rates and lower chronic disease; however, there was higher reported binge drinking.
- » Squamish is a highly car dependent community (80% commute by car for work or school), and there are opportunities to increase active transportation routes and connectivity to encourage more physical activity
- » There are growing concerns related to early childhood vulnerabilities (particularly social-emotional), which can have long-term impacts on individual and community wellbeing.
- » There is a need for the OCP to include ongoing monitoring to provide consistent tracking for health measures and set targets to achieve/improve community health.

Please review the draft policy directions that follow.

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

TOPIC AREA 4: HEALTHY & LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

POLICY DIRECTION: Integrate Health and Wellbeing in the OCP

A community 'health lens' will be applied to the OCP, with health and well-being embedded in the plan's vision and guiding principles and integrated across relevant policy areas such as growth management, land use, and transportation. The OCP will identify the linkages between plan goals, policies and local health outcomes and show how land use, neighbourhood design, transportation networks, natural environment, local food systems and housing influence community connectedness, mental and physical health, and chronic disease outcomes.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Address Health Inequities in Public Policy

District planning will focus on the social determinants of health and work with health partners to address health inequities and the unique needs of Squamish's population (especially children and youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations). This would involve inclusive public engagement including and involvement of those most affected. OCP policies could emphasize social and cultural participation and prioritize human interactivity and social connectedness in neighbourhood and public space design.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 4: HEALTHY & LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

POLICY DIRECTION: Consider Health Impacts in Major Projects

The District could require a review and assessment of health impacts for major development projects and explore the use of assessment tools such as Health Impact Assessments (HIA) or Healthy Development Index (HDI) in policy decisions. This would add to development information requirements and development review, but would help to identify potential health impacts and mitigation measures to support our healthy community goals.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Integrate Public Safety and Resiliency into the OCP

The District will work with fire, police and emergency managers/responders to maximize safety, security and sense of belonging in local neighbourhoods and the community as a whole. This could include identifying, auditing, and prioritizing areas in the community to improve safety and security in the design of built environments.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 4: HEALTHY & LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

POLICY DIRECTION: Monitor Early Childhood Vulnerabilities

The District will work with early childhood development partners and service providers, the School District, UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) and health authority to continue monitor local child vulnerabilities using the EDI (Early Development Instrument). Collectively, these agencies will work towards community-wide and neighbourhood-specific interventions to reduce childhood vulnerabilities (social, emotional, physical, cognitive). The District will continue to support partners to develop a Children's Charter and incorporate child and family friendly policies in the OCP.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Prioritize Safe Routes to School in Planning

The District will continue to collaborate with the School District, RCMP and stakeholders in planning for walking and cycling to schools, enhance safe routes to local schools and support continued public education. Benefits include improving personal health and recreation, managing congestion, reducing emissions and supporting our town as it grows. This is part of the [District's Active Transportation Plan initiative](#), a key priority to improve local infrastructure, programs, and policies to encourage walking and cycling.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 4: HEALTHY & LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?

TOPIC AREA 5: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

INTRODUCTION

Arts, culture and heritage are key contributors to community livability and well-being and support a high quality of life.

Squamish's rich First Nations history sets the stage for a community that is building a thriving arts, culture and heritage scene. The District seeks to build a strong relationship with the Squamish Nation founded in respect and authentic recognition of Coast Salish traditions, arts, culture and heritage. Partnerships with local cultural associations to support diversity in arts and cultural events is also important so that people of all ages, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, and abilities can enjoy access to a wide range of arts and cultural opportunities.

The District recognizes and encourages the community's unique cultural and artistic identity and the involvement and contribution of local artists and historical organizations. Downtown Squamish plays a special role as the centre and hub for arts and cultural expression; public art, street banners, theatres and other performance spaces, art galleries, and events and festivals are encouraged in an effort to support downtown's role as the social heart and gathering place of the community.

Recent community-based initiatives and installations such as the Biennale in Squamish, the Legacy Canoe Shed and the creation of the heritage Turtle Trail have renewed a focus on funding and integrating public art and heritage in the community. New arts amenities for Squamish will be guided by the recently adopted Public Art Policy and managed by the Public Art Committee. Grass-roots initiatives by local arts organizations are also facilitating the creation of new art space.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » Supports and encourages social and cultural diversity and celebrates cultural and ethnic diversity through events, festivals, and activities
- » Aims to protect the community's legacy of diverse historical assets and supports the conservation of heritage buildings and places of cultural significance.
- » Encourages partnerships with Squamish Nation and regional heritage groups to consult on sites or locations of special interest or importance to cultural identity or history.
- » Supports and promotes the development of festivals and community events that will build Squamish as a tourist destination.
- » Considers public art an integral component of new developments. Supports development of a public art policy (completed) and a policy for the provision of public art through the development process and donations (underway).
- » Considers the development of a Heritage Management Plan to increase awareness, appreciation, and protection of the District's built and natural historical assets.
- » Considers the establishment of a Council committee, or partnership with a local heritage society, to assist with heritage conservation matters in the municipality.

TOPIC AREA 5: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » Squamish residents would like artistic and cultural activities to be more accessible and affordable.
- » There is a need for additional dedicated arts, culture and heritage facilities to support local artists and engage residents.
- » There is a desire to support local artists through public art projects and to see authentic integration of Squamish Nation heritage by working with youth and elders

Please review the draft policy directions that follow.

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

POLICY DIRECTION: Inclusive & Creative Community

The District will develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy to establish strategic direction, goals and roles/responsibilities of all partners in fostering a creative community. This could help to improve access and inclusive participation in arts, culture and recreation, and promote affordable, culturally and age-relevant arts programs and experiences. Local arts and culture could also contribute to our unique community identity and encourage cross-cultural understanding while creating a stronger sense of place and vibrancy.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 5: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

POLICY DIRECTION: Cultivate Strong Partnerships

The District will support creative strategies, practices and partnerships that encourage and deliver arts and culture amenities, events, festivals, and activities. This could include partnerships with local art groups such as the Squamish Arts Council, Squamish Historical Society, Public Library, and local educational institutions with a focus on leveraging funding and contribution opportunities.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Enhance Public Art

The District will reinforce public art as a vital community amenity and economic driver and promote the value and benefits of community participation and access to the arts. This would include continued implementation of the recently adopted Public Art Policy and support for the Public Art Committee as they manage secure funding, select, commission, install and maintain art in public places.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 5: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

POLICY DIRECTION: Expand and Integrate Arts, Culture and Heritage

The District will work to program and integrate art into public facilities and buildings, parks, outdoor recreation facilities, plazas, trails, capital projects and other public infrastructure. This could include integrating local arts, culture and heritage into District-led recreational and tourism promotion, branding and economic development initiatives. Arts funding could also be incorporated as part of the community amenity contributions, as well as municipal capital projects and associated budgets.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

POLICY DIRECTION: Support First Nations Culture and Heritage

The District will support authentic and meaningful integration of First Nations arts, culture and heritage by collaborating with the Squamish Nation. This includes recognizing and promoting sites and locations of special cultural or heritage importance and honouring and incorporating the principles and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) to raise community awareness of and facilitate engagement on reconciliation and renewed relationships.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

TOPIC AREA 5: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

POLICY DIRECTION: Reinforce Downtown as the Arts and Cultural Centre

The District will maintain and celebrate valued heritage elements and resources within the Downtown and establish arts and cultural facilities to reinforce Downtown as the arts and cultural centre of the community. This would include updating District policies and implementing the [Brand Action Plan](#) recommendations to create a Buskers Policy and downtown public plaza.

Level of Support: (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

Your Comments:

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on early policy directions. If you know of any others who may be interested, please help us spread the word!

Save the Date - Public Workshop

Join us on **May 9th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Brennan Park Recreation Centre.** The workshop will focus on reviewing the same policy directions as this survey but provide an opportunity for deeper discussion with other community members.

Submit your workbook by May 13th



We strongly encourage you to submit your group's input online at squamish.ca/OCP. This will greatly help in analyzing all the feedback received.



You can also drop off your completed workbook in person or by mail to:

District of Squamish, 37955 Second Avenue, Box 310, V8B0A3



Don't forget to submit your food receipts:

If you hosted a group meeting with 4 or more people, email planning@squamish.ca with a scan or photo of your food receipts. Be sure to include your host name and address.