

Community Well-Being and Resilience



A healthy and complete community supports residents in their well-being and encourages current and future generations to thrive and evolve. A healthy community fosters social development, personal growth, health, and safety of all residents while ensuring that basic needs are met. Basic needs include food security, attainable and appropriate housing, safety, security, as well as age and culturally relevant opportunities for learning, development, creativity, and expression. A healthy community also recognizes and addresses underlying social determinants and health inequities in priority and high-risk groups resulting from differences in social, environmental, and economic conditions. While the City has an important role in fostering a healthy community, partners such as non-profits, service providers, and Fraser Health all play a significant role in ensuring community well-being. Programs and services offered by these organizations assist in ensuring the physical and mental health of Port Moody residents.

Climate change resiliency is a significant factor to a healthy community. The impacts of climate change are being experienced in many communities with increasing frequency and intensity of climate events, and modern realities like frequent flooding, wildfires, drought, and extreme heat have a lasting impact on mental and physical well-being. Climate change and natural hazard events affect priority populations disproportionately, requiring specific care and attention. Prioritizing adaptation and mitigation at all levels of policy, planning and implementation can streamline resources, prevent inconsistencies, and identify strategic co-benefits for health, safety, and equity. Adaptation is essential to reduce the adverse impacts from extreme weather events in the City of Port Moody.

Community well-being is closely tied to and integrated with other OCP policy areas including Built Environment, Transportation, Arts and Culture, Neighbourhood Plan Areas, Natural Environment, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, etc. The policies in the Community Well-Being and Resilience Chapter build off the City's Disaster Response Plan (2014), Climate Action Plan (2020), the Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan (2020), the Tri-Cities Region Food Security Action Plan (2021), the Extreme Weather Resilience Plan (2022), the Child Care Action Plan (2022), the Social Well-being Design Guidelines (2024), and the Port Moody Fire Rescue Master Plan (2025).



Objective 1: Foster community health and wellness through the built environment.

A healthy, equitable, inclusive, diverse community is one where every member, including Indigenous community members, feels safe, respected and included, and share equitable access to key elements that contribute to quality of life such as work, play, access, engagement, and participation.

► Health and Wellness Policies

1. Collaborate with community partners that support human health and well-being.
2. Locate community services and social infrastructure in areas accessible by transit in compact, complete, walkable neighbourhoods to improve access for all segments of the population (e.g., seniors, limited mobility) and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Consider creating opportunities for social connectedness and interactivity in neighbourhood and public space design to improve community resiliency.
4. Strive to provide inclusive resident engagement opportunities by actively coordinating the planning process with relevant community organizations, agencies, neighbourhood associations and volunteer groups.
5. Endeavor to cultivate environments that are culturally safe for Indigenous community members, and where Indigenous values, traditions and perspectives are recognized and respected.
6. Encourage a safe community through effective and equitable emergency planning and response including responses to ongoing and future impacts from climate change.
7. Continue to liaise with the provincial government and other agencies to encourage the development of enhanced local health services and social infrastructure.
8. Consider opportunities for the mitigation of significant negative social and health impacts of design and major infrastructure projects when preparing new neighbourhood and area plans.
9. Encourage the utilization of the City's Social Well-being Design Guidelines to advance multi-residential design that centers resident health and well-being.

i SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Social infrastructure can be physical spaces, services, or programs, and the networks across and within physical and social spaces where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can come together.



Objective 2: Foster equity and inclusion in the community.

Fostering equity and inclusion is crucial for creating a just and harmonious society. By ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background, have equal access to resources, opportunities and public services, cities can reduce inequality and promote social cohesion. Inclusive cities value diversity and embrace the unique perspectives and contributions of all members of the community, regardless of their ability, age, ancestry or place of origin, gender identity or expression, Indigenous identity, religion or socio-economic status.

► Equity and Inclusion Policies

1. Encourage equitable, accessible, and inclusive access to social infrastructure, such as civic facilities, programs and community services and amenities for all residents.
2. Support updates to, and the expansion of, the City's Interim Accessibility Plan (2023) to address continued barriers to access across the city.
3. Actively work toward preventing and eliminating discrimination based on age, race, gender, national or ethnic origin, colour, language, sexual orientation, culture and religious beliefs.
4. Undertake social planning studies and seek funding from senior governments as available and liaise with relevant community organizations and committees as appropriate.
5. Support community-based service groups and organizations that aim to facilitate social connectedness and cross-cultural understanding (e.g., arts, culture, festivals, and events).
6. Advocate for and contribute to poverty reduction to drive action at all levels of government.
7. Explore affordable programs and services to meet the needs of a growing and evolving community and the distribution of these programs throughout the community.
8. Design programs to be inclusive of diverse ethnic and social groups, and participant orientations, and cater to a wide range of abilities and interests.
9. Strive to ensure design treatments and furnishing in publicly accessible private spaces are accessible, durable and do not incorporate defensive or hostile architectural components.
10. Support the City's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Committee in its work to provide advice and recommendations on inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility issues, strategies and initiatives.
11. Support and expand Port Moody's social infrastructure.



Objective 3: Support life-long learning and educational opportunities for residents.

The economic and social well-being of residents is influenced by access to quality education and lifelong learning. Education creates mutual understanding, enriches cultures, enhances life and social skills, and encourages all ages and abilities to thrive and adapt in a continuously changing world. Education systems aimed at fostering accessibility, diversity and sustainability are a vital investment in the sustainable development of a community and its human potential. Port Moody residents have access to several educational opportunities including seven elementary schools, one middle school and two senior secondary schools (Map 2, p. 169). The Port Moody Public Library, PoMoArts and POMO Museum are additional facilities which provide learning opportunities to residents (refer to Chapter 9).

► Life-long Learning Policies

1. Continue to work with School District No. 43 to improve safety and comfort for streets around schools for students, including developing low greenhouse gas emission School Travel Planning.
2. Continue to enhance library services and programs for the development of community health and assess the needs for expanded library services (e.g., new locations, expanded technology).
3. Strive to provide more opportunities for residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to engage in learning activities which may encourage social interaction and reduce isolation.



Objective 4: Be an age-friendly community.

Age-friendly communities support all ages and abilities and incorporate universal and accessible design into the healthy built environment. Age-friendly communities are safe, inclusive, and support older adults to remain independent. In Port Moody, 14% of the population are over the age of 65, while 38% are between the ages of 40 and 64. Ensuring enough affordable and accessible housing for older adults in a rapidly changing housing market is a significant issue paired with the need for inclusive community support, accessibility, communication, and information. The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies the following eight domains in which cities can contribute to healthy, active ageing: 1) outdoor spaces and buildings; 2) transportation; 3) housing; 4) social participation; 5) respect and social inclusion; 6) civic participation and employment; 7) communication and information; and 8) community support and health services.

► Age-friendly Policies

1. Strive to have age-friendly accessibility design consideration incorporated into the public realm with a focus on reducing GHG emissions and reducing risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts (e.g., shade and water access in times of extreme heat).
2. Support accessible and sustainable (e.g., electric vehicle charging) parking provisions and enforcement at key locations, streets, and trails.
3. Collaborate with Fraser Health to explore more supportive care options in Port Moody.
4. Explore the creation of new subsidized and senior-specific housing units in Port Moody that are affordable, resilient to climate impacts and low carbon.
5. Explore the creation of a dedicated Seniors Centre space that could also share space for inter-generational programming.
6. Support and enhance youth engagement processes in providing input into City services, programs, and policy development.
7. Continue to provide opportunities for youth and older adults to contribute and participate in community life through municipal and community organizations and drop-in recreational opportunities.
8. Encourage the provision of adequate on-site outdoor play areas, where possible particularly in densifying areas.



Objective 5: Increase child care quality and accessibility.

Quality child care services are critical for the social and economic well-being of the community including the economy, gender equality, inclusion, healthy child development, and poverty reduction. Provincial governments have the primary responsibility for developing child care policy and programs, however, federal and local governments, local authorities, regional health authorities, and child care providers also have strong roles to play. Local governments can facilitate quality child care through a strong, committed, and comprehensive child care strategy, including space creation targets, progressive zoning policies which accommodate child care, and density bonusing provisions for securing community amenities, including child care facilities, through development.

Child care accessibility is a significant issue including the lack of spaces for infants/toddlers and school age children, location (i.e., proximity to home/school/transit), distribution (i.e., under-served neighbourhoods), and flexibility (i.e., child care during non-traditional hours). Waitlists for child care in the Tri-Cities are currently long, especially for high quality or more affordable facilities. Additional accessibility considerations include high quality staff, adequate staff-to-child ratio, quality of programming, provisions for children with special needs, and access to outdoor play space on-site. High quality child care with well-designed indoor/outdoor space is linked to positive outcomes for children and instills greater confidence for parents.

► Child Care Accessibility Policies

1. Use the 2030 space creation targets to guide child care planning across the following age groups: Infant/Toddler, Preschooler, and School Age.
2. Prioritize the creation of low carbon, climate resilient spaces for infant, toddler, and school age children.
3. Prioritize new child care spaces in neighbourhoods with the highest population and the smallest proportion of spaces.
4. Continue to identify child care as a priority for Density Bonusing, Capital Planning, and future Amenity Cost Charge programs.
5. Prioritize low carbon, climate resilient child care spaces in civic facilities, parks, along transit hubs and on school properties.
6. Collaborate with other public and not-for-profit partners to identify potential land or facilities that could be used for child care social infrastructure.
7. Encourage low carbon, climate resilient child care facilities in the community and support the inclusion of child care space as part of mixed use and multi-residential developments.



Objective 6: Improve child care affordability and partnerships.

Many families struggle to afford the high cost of child care. These difficulties are exacerbated for low income families, families with multiple children, recent immigrants, families with children with special needs, foster families, and families where parents do shift work.

Child care involves dedicated relationship-building and collaboration between and across jurisdictions. The Tri-Cities have a long history of collaboration and currently work together on child care.

► Child Care Affordability and Partnership Policies

1. Lobby senior governments for increased funding and pursue partnership opportunities.
2. Provide tax exemptions to not-for-profit child care providers where available.
3. Facilitate partnerships with School District No. 43 to:
 - a. ensure child care is part of all new or renovated school spaces;
 - b. facilitate use of school spaces and grounds for child care operators; and
 - c. support the move to an enhanced role for School District No. 43 in child care.



Objective 7: Achieve greater food security and related development and programming in Port Moody and the Tri-Cities.

Food security is the physical, social, and economic access to food that is nutritious, safe, and personally and culturally acceptable. Food security increasingly has a focus on sustainably and locally produced food and recognizes Indigenous food sovereignty. Food security is a continuum of experiences across emergency and non-emergency levels of hunger, malnutrition, or under-nutrition. While local governments have limited direct control over reducing poverty, they are often the first level of government to respond to inadequate food security when residents are unable to meet their immediate food needs. Assessing local food systems provides an understanding of food security within the boundaries of a municipality to improve food security for residents. Local community partners are often essential allies for local governments in working towards greater food security within a community.

► Food Security Policies

1. Support Metro Vancouver's Regional Food System Strategy and Regional Food System Action Plan.
2. Collaborate with Tri-Cities and Metro Vancouver on new initiatives to minimize food waste in residential, commercial, and institutional areas.
3. Support the Tri-Cities Food Council and implementation of the Tri-Cities Food Security Action Plan.
4. Work collectively towards a low carbon, decolonized and food-secure Port Moody.
5. Integrate, develop and enhance new and existing policies, bylaws, and other planning and strategy documents to reflect additional household and community food security elements. This includes policies that encourage food processing facilities, community kitchens, cold storage, and testing labs that help support agricultural viability.
6. Develop and adopt low carbon resilient food security-conscious design guidelines for the private (residential, commercial, and industrial zones) and public realms (parks and open spaces, community, and recreation facilities) by improving walkability and easy access to healthy food sources, urban agriculture, and food sharing.
7. Encourage community gardens and other food assets in new urban development (including rooftop gardens, vertical farming, urban agri-tech, and other food friendly infrastructure).
8. Identify potential sites for new and expanded community gardens, vertical farming, urban farming, and other methods (high tech and traditional) to expand and increase access to opportunities for growing food within the urban environment.
9. Consider a year-round indoor farmers' market and/or pop-up markets.
10. Explore opportunities to promote agricultural awareness and the importance of agricultural industry to highlight connections to the well-being of Port Moody residents and food/agricultural-related businesses.



Objective 8: Respond to climate impacts and natural hazards and protect human health.

Current projections show that as the climate changes, Port Moody can expect hotter, drier summers; warmer winters with more rain from fall to spring; more extreme precipitation events; and sea level rise, which is conservatively expected to rise 0.5 metres by 2050 and 1 metre by 2100. Port Moody can also expect to experience cascading climate change impacts such as wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat. Past and ongoing GHG emissions are expected to increase the intensity and frequency of these climate impact events in the City and around the Province. Therefore, the community must be prepared for and be able to respond to these impacts to ensure safety, health and livability.

All community members, including Indigenous community members, are not impacted to the same extent by climate change. Marginalized groups may be disproportionately impacted by climate change and have fewer resources to support preparedness and adaptation. Other community members are more vulnerable to extreme heat such as seniors living alone, children, pregnant women, lower income individuals and households, and those with preexisting medical conditions. Long term preparedness, including efforts to mitigate risks and plan effectively, ensures communities are protected, able to respond to climate-related events, and recover quickly.

► Climate Resilience Health Policies

1. Identify and prepare public properties to act as emergency support centres as needed (e.g., cooling centre/extreme weather response centre).
2. Continue to inform and facilitate community education about preparedness across hazards and build stronger connections with community associations and businesses with the aim of improved preparedness for extreme weather events.
3. Build partnerships and collaborate on connecting those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change to available services (e.g., access to inclement weather shelters).
4. Continue to collaborate with surrounding First Nations to plan for emergency response and preparedness operations.
5. Retrofit City-owned facilities, infrastructure, parks and public lands for extreme weather events.
6. Encourage opportunities for retrofitting existing buildings to find cooling solutions for occupants.
7. Increase education and outreach of extreme weather events and resources available to assist.
8. Update the hazardous lands development permit areas (DPA) to include additional resilience requirements based on localized risks (e.g., cooling, filtration, and ventilation, geohazards, flood protection, green infrastructure, FireSmart methods, drought-tolerant landscaping, and water conservation features).
9. Conduct a coastal flood risk assessment to update flood construction levels and consider establishing a Coastal Development Permit Area.