

 Division Manager	 Director	 CAO
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The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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To: Mayor Darrell R. Mussatto and Members of Council

From: Suzanne A. Smith, Planner 2

SUBJECT: 2016 CENSUS PROGRAM RELEASE: FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS AND  
MARITAL STATUS.

Date: August 31, 2017 File No: 13-6970-01-0001/2017

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2016 Census – Families, Households & Marital Status (Doc #1558982);
2. 2016 Census Release Schedule (Doc #1489706).

**PURPOSE:**

The latest 2016 Census release is now available, consisting of data profiling the families, households and marital status of Canadian communities. This report provides an overview of these demographic trends in the City. As each release of Census data becomes available it is being added to the City webpage [www.cnv.org/statistics](http://www.cnv.org/statistics).

**SUMMARY:**

Across the Metro Vancouver region, the traditional household and family composition is transitioning to reflect an increase in both non-census-family households (single persons or two or more persons sharing a dwelling) and lone-parent households. On the North Shore, the City of North Vancouver is home to the highest proportion of one-person non-census-family households at 38.1%, higher than the regional average of 28.7%. The average household size in the City remains constant at 2.1 (since 2001), similar to the City of Vancouver and lower than the regional average of 2.5. This compares with 2.5 in the District of West Vancouver and 2.7 in the District of North Vancouver.

The City has a lower proportion of couples with children (39.9%) than both the other North Shore municipalities and the regional average (54.7%) and continues to have a higher proportion of lone parent families at 17.9% than the region (15.4%). The City has seen a decline in lone parent families over the past 10 years as compared with other family types with 17.9% in 2016, down from 20.1% in 2006. The absolute number of lone parent families, however continued to increase by 105 over this same period.

Two-person families make up 54.5% of the City's families making it the dominant form of family structure in the City, a trend that continues for the second census period in a row. Across the region the average is lower at 48.2%.

The majority of the City's population (53%) aged 15 and over are married or living with a common-law partner, less than the regional average (56.8%) and significantly lower than the Districts of North (62.9%) and West Vancouver (60.9%).

## **BACKGROUND:**

A Census of the Canadian population is undertaken every five years. 2016 marks the return of the mandatory census long form which was briefly replaced with a voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) in 2011.

The latest Census saw an overall response rate across Canada of 98.4% with 68.3% of respondents using the internet to respond. British Columbia saw the highest response rate by internet at 71.2%.

The first releases of the 2016 Census included the topics of population, average age, dwelling counts and type of dwelling. Staff reports on these topics are available on the City webpage at [www.cnv.org/statistics](http://www.cnv.org/statistics). Key highlights on each are included below for context.

**Population** – In 2016 the City's population was 52,898. This reflects an average annual growth rate between 2011 and 2016 of 1.96%, which was above the Metro average annual growth rate of 1.30%. Over this same period, West Vancouver's population declined at -0.1% per year and the District of North Vancouver's increase slowed to 0.36% per year. Collectively, the North Shore's population has increased on average only 0.68% per year between 2011 – 2016, below the regional annual average of 1.3%.

**Age** – The initial data release provided average age but not median age. This data has been made available more recently. Median age has been used as a key reference in the past, indicating the point at which half of the population is above and half below. The City of North Vancouver's median age is now 42.2, higher than the Metro Vancouver median of 40.9, continuing a historical upward trend in the City.

The proportion of the population in the 0 – 4 age group decreased across the region between 2011 and 2016, from 5.0% to 4.72%. In 2016, the City 0-4 population (4.67%

in 2016) was slightly lower than the regional average of 4.72% and slightly higher than the District of North Vancouver at 4.65%. However, in absolute numbers the City saw an increase of 120 people in the 0-4 age group over 2011 where the District of North Vancouver increased by only 25 and the District of North Vancouver 0-4 population decreased by 120 over the same period.

The population trend across the North Shore, and region as a whole, continues to reveal a plateauing or a decrease in the proportion of population in both the 0 to 14 age and working age group population (15-64) and a corresponding increase in the 65 and over age group. In fact, the absolute number of seniors in the City aged 65 and over grew by 26.8% over 2011. However, the City maintains the highest proportion of working age population on the North Shore with an absolute increase in this population of 6.77% over the 2011 Census figures and higher than the regional average of 4.13%.

Dwelling Counts – Over the last Census period, the City's dwelling count increased to 26,426 dwellings, up from 24,206 in 2011. This reflects a 9.2% increase in dwelling units, slightly lower than the population increase of 9.8% over the same five year period but up from 6.9% in the previous period (2006 - 2011). The average household size in the City has not changed since 2001: 2.1 people per household.

Type of Dwelling - A region-wide shift continues, away from single family dwellings (29% in 2016) and toward higher density ground-oriented dwellings and apartments (71% in 2016). The City has been experiencing this shift to a greater degree for decades and in 2016 single family dwellings made up 12% of the housing stock (down from 15% in 2011) with the other 88% higher density forms. Housing affordability, changing demographics, and lifestyle choices are believed to be contributing factors in this shift from low density to higher density built forms.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Attachment #1 includes a list of tables referred to in the following sections.

According to *The Daily*, produced by Statistics Canada, the 2016 household data provides a portrait of a country where diverse living arrangements have replaced the family models of the past. More people are living alone, as part of a couple without children, or as part of a multi-generational family. This is due to demographic shifts including an aging population and greater ethno-cultural diversity as well as social, economic and legislative changes (same-sex marriage).

### ***Defining Households***

In the City of North Vancouver there were 24,645 private households in 2016. Of these, 55.9% formed one-census-family households (a couple, opposite or same sex, with or without children) and 38.1% were one person non-census-family households (one person with no children) (Table 1, Attachment #1).

### ***Family Structure and Size: One Person Households***

Across the country, one-person households (28.2%) are at the highest level they have been in the country's 150 year history. At the same time the proportion of couples with children has slowly declined by 5% between 2001 and 2016. This is part of the new trend that began in 2011 when one-person households first outnumbered couple households with children aged 24 and under. A similar trend of one-person households is seen in the United States (27.5% in 2012), the United Kingdom (28.5% in 2014), France (33.8% in 2011), Japan (34.5% in 2015) and upwards of 40% in Norway and Germany.

A non-census-family household is defined as either one person living alone or two or more people sharing a dwelling but who are not a family. According to Table 1 in Attachment #1, just over one in three households (33.6%) across the region is a non-census-family household, the majority of which are one-person households (28.7%). In the City of North Vancouver that number is higher, with 42.9% of households classified as non-Census-family households with only one or two persons.

The City has the highest proportion of one-person households on the North Shore at 38.1%, higher than the regional average of 28.7% and nearly double the District of North Vancouver at 19.7%. A one-person household is a household with one person in it and no children. In 2016 the proportion of one-person households in the City decreased slightly to 38.1%.

### ***Census Family Households***

A Census family is defined as a married or common law couple with children, if any, or a lone parent with at least one child. A couple may be of opposite or same sex.

Across the region 62.5% of households are one-census family households with even higher percentages in the District of North Vancouver (75.3%) and District of West Vancouver (68.7%) as compared with 55.9% in the City. In the region less dense municipalities were home to the highest number of one-census-family households including Delta and Langley Township (73% each) and the District of North Vancouver at 75.3%. Among the municipalities with a higher proportion of non-census family households (one or two persons) are the City of North Vancouver (42.9%), New Westminster (43.8%) and the City of Vancouver (46%).

The City has a high proportion of two person family households, which may contain couples without children or lone-parent families with a single child, at 54.5% of households. This is high compared with 48.2% as the average across the region. This is likely attributed to the City's proportion of lone-parent families. The City is on par with the region for three-person families but has fewer large families, with only 17.7% of private households composed of four persons as compared with the District of North Vancouver at 26.9%. Only 1.1% of City residents reported living in a multiple census family household (households that consist of two or more census families).

### ***Couples with Children***

The District of North Vancouver has one of the highest proportions of couple Census families with children at home at 59.9%, on par with most of the tri-cities area including Coquitlam (60%), Port Coquitlam (59.1%) and Port Moody (57%). Both the City of North Vancouver (39.9%) and City of Vancouver (47.3%) have a lower proportion of couples with children than the regional average (54.7%) and a correspondingly higher proportion of couples with no children (42.3% and 52.7%) as compared with the rest of the region (45.3%).

The City still has a significant proportion of lone parent families at 17.9% which, as shown in Table 3, is higher than the other two North Shore municipalities but slightly lower than the regional average of 18.2%. The proportion of lone parent families in the City decreased from 20.1% to 17.9% between 2006 and 2016 in absolute numbers there has been an increase of 105 lone parent families over the same period (Table 4). This suggests that while the number of lone parent families in the City continues to increase the proportion of other family types is increasing at a faster rate. Of the 2,575 lone parent families in the City in 2016, 68% had one child, 26% had two children and 5% had three or more.

As the proportion of lone parent families in the City decreased, the percentage of children in the City aged 0 to 14 living in an intact two-parent family increased from 72.3% in 2011 to 75.4% in 2016.

Meanwhile the number of young adults in the City aged 20 to 34 living with at least one parent in 2016 was 28.9%, this represents an increase of 3.2% over 2011 perhaps indicating a delay in leaving the family home due to the high cost of living including finding appropriate accommodation.

### ***Marital Status***

As shown in Table 6 in Attachment #1, in 2016, 53% of the total population in the City aged 15 and over were either married (42.9%) or living with a common-law partner (10.1%). Married couples, at 43%, continue to constitute the largest group in the City. Common-law couples (10%) continue to grow as a proportion, but at a slower rate than married couples. The remaining 47% were not married and not living with a common-law partner, including those who were single (never-married), separated, divorced or widowed. The number of singles declined in proportion from 31 to 30% over the last census period but increased 925 in absolute numbers.

### **NEXT STEPS:**


The initial release of Census information in August included data on Language however it was subsequently removed by Statistics Canada due to an error in the computer program analysis for that data set. Staff will report out on Language data for the City as soon as it becomes available.

The next release of Census data by Statistics Canada is Income in September 2017. The remaining Census topics, including immigration and commuting patterns will be released later in the fall (Attachment #2).

Staff will provide an Information Report to Council as each release becomes available. The information will also be made available to the public on the City's website. Customized, cross-tabulated data for each of the City's neighbourhoods will be ordered as the full dataset becomes available. This will be coordinated through Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities.

An updated Community Profile summarizing all of the data will be compiled when the releases have been completed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

  
for S. A. Smith, MCIP, RPP  
Planner 2

SS:eb:

# 2016 Census – Families & Households

Attachment #1

**Table 1. Private Households by Household Type – North Shore & Metro Vancouver, 2016**

	Total	One-Census-Family Household		Multiple-Census-Family Household		Non-Census-Family Household (1 Person)		Non-Census-Family Household (2+ Persons)	
		#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
City of North Vancouver	24,645	13,785	55.9	280	1.1	9,395	38.1	1,185	4.8
District of North Vancouver	31,115	23,430	75.3	770	2.5	6,140	19.7	785	2.5
District of West Vancouver	16,930	11,635	68.7	335	2.0	4,655	27.5	310	1.8
City of Vancouver	283,915	146,025	51.4	7,145	2.5	110,020	38.8	20,720	7.3
Metro Vancouver	960,895	600,775	62.5	37,595	3.9	275,455	28.7	47,065	4.9

\*Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 2. Average Number of Persons in Private Households (1996-2016)**

	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Average Household Size	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1

\*Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 3. Couple Census Families in Private Households by Family Size, 2016**

	Total Couple Census Families	Couple, No Children		Couple, With Children		Lone Parent Family	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
City of North Vancouver	14,355	6,065	42.3	5,725	39.9	2,570	17.9
District of North Vancouver	24,985	8,725	34.9	13,035	52.2	3,230	12.9
District of West Vancouver	12,330	5,125	41.6	5,525	44.8	1,685	13.7
Vancouver	160,855	71,270	44.3	63,945	39.8	25,640	15.9
Metro Vancouver	679,365	260,290	38.3	314,380	46.3	104,695	15.4

\*Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 4. Lone Parent Families in the City of North Vancouver (1996-2016)**

	Sex of Parent	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	% Change 1996-2016	% Change 2011-2016
Lone Parent Families	Male	285	355	440	n/a	460	61%	n/a
	Female	1,545	1,720	2,030	n/a	2,115	37%	n/a
	Total	1,825	2,075	2,470	2,355	2,575	41%	9%

\*Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 5. Census Families in Private Households by Size (2016 Census)**

	Total	2-Person Families		3-Person Families		4-Person Families		5+ Person Families	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
City of North Vancouver	14,355	7,830	54.5	3,405	23.7	2,540	17.7	595	4.1
District of North Vancouver	24,985	10,715	42.9	5,785	23.2	6,715	26.9	1,775	7.1
District of West Vancouver	12,335	6,140	49.8	2,680	21.7	2,660	21.6	855	6.9
Vancouver	160,855	88,590	55.1	35,480	22.1	28,685	17.8	8,105	5.0
Metro Vancouver	679,365	327,260	48.2	158,785	23.4	145,805	21.5	47,510	7.0

\*Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 6. Population 15 years and Over by Marital Status (2006 – 2016)**

	2006		2011		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population Aged 15 and Over	38,870	-	41,670	-	45,820	-
Single	14,425	37%	12,725	31%	13,650	30%
Married	16,375	42%	17,525	42%	19,660	43%
Living Common-law	3,760	10%	3,900	9%	4,650	10%
Separated	1,455	4%	1,380	3%	1,460	3%
Divorced	4,325	11%	3,915	9%	4,165	9%
Widowed	2,300	6%	2,220	5%	2,235	4.90%

\*Source: Statistics Canada



## 2016 Census Program Release Schedule

Release Date	Release Topic
February 8, 2017	Population and Dwelling Counts
May 3, 2017	Age and Sex Type of Dwelling
May 10, 2017	Census of Agriculture
August 2, 2017	Families, households and marital status Language
September 13, 2017	Income
October 25, 2017	Immigration and Ethno-cultural Diversity Housing Aboriginal Peoples
November 29, 2017	Education Labour Journey to Work Language of Work Mobility and Migration