#SQUAMISH
2040

PHASE 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY
DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH OCP UPDATE

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

#SQUAMISH 2040

Your Future.
Your Plan.
Our Squamish.

In Phase 1 of Squamish's Official Community Plan (OCP) Update process, community members and stakeholder groups were invited to identify, share and discuss their issues and priorities for the future through a series of activities including: interviews, a public event and questionnaire, and workshops with Squamish Nation members, municipal staff, and students from Howe Sound Secondary. **The following provides an overview of what we heard.**

40	**350⁺**	**701**	**80**	**55**	**30**
Interviews with stakeholder groups	Attended the Public Event	Completed questionnaires	Students engaged in Youth Workshop	Attended the Staff Event	Attended the Squamish Nation Event

KEY THEMES: A few core ideas summarized from all the feedback received...

» **Smart growth:** Squamish is growing rapidly and needs to carefully manage growth to avoid sprawl, create complete neighbourhoods, plan for efficient infrastructure, and develop in a sustainable way. Squamish should be a community where people can live, work, play and shop.

» **Economic development and local jobs:** Squamish needs more well-paying local jobs to ensure we are more than just a bedroom community. We need to preserve lands for industrial and other employment uses to ensure a diverse economy with a focus on sustainability and innovation.

» **Affordable and diverse housing:** Affordability is a key issue and many residents are concerned about being able to afford to stay in Squamish, especially youth, young families, and seniors.

» **Local and regional transportation:** People need safe and accessible ways to get around Squamish and to neighbouring communities. Walkable neighbourhoods, well-connected trails, and better transit options will help to make Squamish more affordable and support a healthy and active community.

» **Sustainable environment and recreation:** Squamish's natural environment is the backbone of our community; it supports recreation, tourism, and the health and well-being of humans and wildlife. We need to preserve the environment and promote sustainability through our economy and our actions.

» **Sense of community:** Residents want to maintain our unique identity and small town feel while creating a stronger sense of place and vibrant, attractive community and downtown core that celebrates local arts and culture.

SQUAMISH IS AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

One thing was clear from the 1,200+ people who participated in Phase 1; Squamish residents care about their community. People genuinely love this place and want to preserve the things that make it special while working to improve affordability and accessibility for current and future residents.

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

The District of Squamish is updating its Official Community Plan (OCP), the District's most important plan for the future, used by staff and Council to make land use decisions, choose among infrastructure investments, and set community service priorities.

OCPs are generally updated every 5-10 years or so. Squamish is in need of an update because our current plan (2010) is out of date: our population and economy is growing faster than anticipated, and we have new and better studies about downtown development, estuary management, community-wide transportation, affordable housing, climate change planning, and more to include in the OCP.
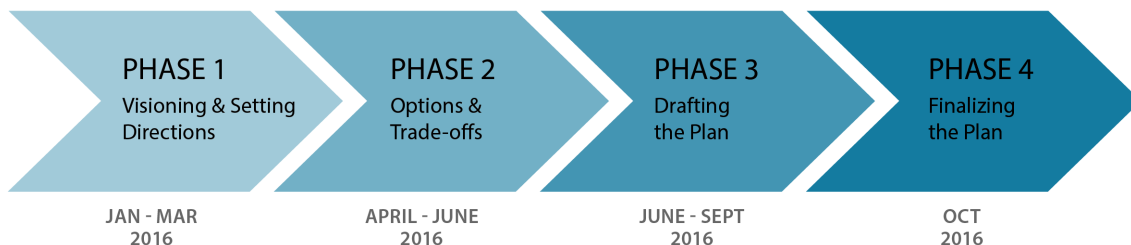
By setting out a clear community vision today in an updated OCP, we can shape our growth in a way that is sustainable and provides a high quality of life for both current and future residents. The OCP also represents a key opportunity to work with the Squamish Nation on areas of mutual interest, such as land and marine planning and resource management, economic development, tourism promotion, municipal services and hazard planning.

To learn more about the OCP update, please visit www.squamish.ca/OCP.

THE OCP UPDATE PROCESS

Over the next year, we are asking residents, business owners and community stakeholder groups to share what they value most about Squamish and to weigh in on how the District can build on our strengths while planning for the future. There will be many opportunities for you to learn more, attend an event and provide feedback throughout the process.

The community engagement process (known as #Squamish2040) is also being guided by a Citizen Advisory Committee, which acts as a sounding board for engagement ideas and helps to encourage community members to get involved in this process.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
Visioning & Setting Directions	Options & Trade-offs	Drafting the Plan	Finalizing the Plan
JAN - MAR 2016	APRIL - JUNE 2016	JUNE - SEPT 2016	OCT 2016

PART 1. WHAT WE DID

From January through February 2016, the District invited the entire community to get involved in Phase 1 of the #Squamish2040 process. The goal was to identify, share and discuss key issues and priorities for the future.

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS IN PHASE 1

Key events are outlined below, along with a description of activities and input collected from each event. This input has been compiled and summarized in Part 3 of this report.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

One-on-one Interviews were held with 40 community groups early on in the process to understand their interest in the project, identify key issues for the OCP to address, understand their organization's goals, and help raise awareness about the project through their networks.

These stakeholders were selected by District staff and the OCP Update Citizen Advisory Committee through a detailed identification process and included a range of recreation organizations, social service providers, business-based organizations, private land developers, industrial/resource-based operations, Squamish First Nations staff and environmental organizations.

Input Received:

Input from these interviews was used to raise awareness about the project and shape the activities and discussion topics used in Phase 1 engagement activities.

QUESTIONNAIRE

A public questionnaire was available from January 12th to February 8th. The questionnaire was available online through the project webpage and paper copies available throughout the community. A number of **project ambassadors** were out at popular community locations to help raise awareness and collect feedback through digital surveys on tablets. A total of 701 questionnaire responses were received (including 630 online and 71 paper submissions).

Input Received:

The questionnaire collected input on the following:

1. **What is your vision for the future?** *Participants shared their ideas by completing the statement "In 2040, Squamish will be _____."*

2. **What are your priorities?** *Participants reviewed a list of key topics, rated how important they were for the OCP to address, and explained why they felt this way. Respondents could also add other issues they felt were important to the future of Squamish.*

3. **Other comments.** *Participants had the opportunity to provide additional/general comments.*

PUBLIC VISIONING EVENT

A public visioning event was held on January 28th at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park from 6-9pm. This interactive drop-in event included a range of activities to share information about the project and gather community input. Approximately 350 people attended this event.

Activities and Input Received:

The public event used a 'passport' to guide participants through the various interactive stations; some stations provided information (shown in grey) while others collected input:

1. **Critical Issues Scrawl Wall:** *Participants identified the most critical issue/topic that the OCP Update must address.*

2. *Planning for the Future (information only). At this information station participants learned more about the Official Community Plan and why it is being updated. Planning staff were available to answer questions.*

3. **Vision Tree.** *People were asked to complete the statement "In 2040, Squamish will be _____." Participants wrote their ideas on a leaf and added it to the 'vision tree'.*

4. *Walk in My Shoes (information only). At this station participants read a short story about a local resident from a different walk of life to see Squamish from a different perspective.*

5. **A Healthy Community (information only).** *At this station participants learned more about community health and considered how we can make Squamish healthier. Staff from Vancouver Coastal Health were available to answer questions.*

6. **What are your priorities?** *Participants reviewed a list of key topics, and voted on the ones that they felt were most important for the future of Squamish.*

7. **Walkabout Map.** *Participants explored a giant map of Squamish and identified places they love today and places that need improvement for the future.*

8. **Engagement Scrawl Wall:** *Participants identified how they want to be notified and involved in the project and brainstormed creative ways to engage even more Squamish residents in the process.*

9. **Feedback Forms:** *Participants were encouraged to review a series of backgrounder papers on 8 key topics and provide more detailed feedback. For each topic, feedback forms asked participants why the topic is important, what the District should do about it, and if there are any good approaches from other cities we can learn from.*

YOUTH WORKSHOP

A youth engagement workshop was held with students at Howe Sound Secondary School on February 25th. Close to 80 students from 3 leadership classes participated in activities with District Mayor, Council and staff to share their ideas for the future of Squamish.

Activities and Input Received:

Students completed a number of activities; some were similar to the public event while others expanded on topics related to the Official Community Plan. Some stations provided information *(shown in grey)* while others collected input:

1. **Vision Tree**. *Students were asked to complete the statement "In 2040, Squamish will be _____." Participants wrote their ideas on a leaf and added it to the 'vision tree'.*

2. **Walk in My Shoes (information only).** *At this station participants read a short story about a local resident from a different walk of life to see Squamish from a different perspective.*

3. **What are your priorities?** *Students reviewed a list of key topics, and voted on the ones that they felt were most important for the future of Squamish.*

4. **Walkabout Map.** *Students explored a giant map of Squamish and identified places they love today and places that need improvement for the future.*

5. **Speaker's Corner Video (information only):** *Several Grade 12 students set up a video display showing a self-directed 4min 'Speaker's Corner' video highlighting what they wished for Squamish2040. This video can be viewed at www.squamish.ca/OCP.*

Following these activities and a slam poem presentation by the Mayor, students participated in a World Café style dialogue session with Mayor and Council as well as District staff. Topic areas discussed included: access to recreation and the arts, transportation, waste reduction and climate action goals, affordable housing, local business and sustainable job creation and working towards Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.

STAFF EVENT

A drop-in event was also held with a range of municipal staff across a variety of departments on February 26th. A total of 55 staff participated in similar activities to the public event to share their ideas for the future as well as their local knowledge and expertise.

Activities and Input Received:

1. **Vision Tree**. *Staff were asked to complete the statement "In 2040, Squamish will be _____." Participants wrote their ideas on a leaf and added it to the 'vision tree'.*

2. **What are your priorities?** *Staff reviewed a list of key topics, and voted on the ones that they felt were most important for the future of Squamish.*

3. **Walkabout Map.** *Staff explored a giant map of Squamish and identified places they love today and places that need improvement for the future.*

SQUAMISH NATION EVENT

An informal drop-in session at Totem Hall was held on March 14th to introduce the OCP process to Squamish Nation members and provide additional opportunities to provide input and discuss the future of Squamish2040. This session was separate from formal Council-to-Council Consultation that is occurring as part of the OCP update process.

Activities and Input Received:

1. **Multigenerational Vision Tree and Kids' Colour Station:** *Participants noted their vision for Squamish in 2040; children attending the event were invited to draw and show what they wanted for Squamish.*

2. ***Critical Issues Scrawl Wall:*** *Participants identified the most critical issue/topic that the OCP Update must address.*

3. ***Walk in My Shoes (information only).*** *At this station participants read a short story about a local resident from a different walk of life to see Squamish from a different perspective.*

4. ***What are your priorities?*** *Participants reviewed a list of key topics, and voted on the ones that they felt were most important for the future of Squamish.*

5. ***Walkabout Map.*** *Participants explored a giant map of Squamish and identified places they love today and places that need improvement for the future.*

PROMOTION AND OUTREACH TO DRIVE PARTICIPATION

The launch of the project and Phase 1 activities were promoted extensively and in advance through the following channels:

- Project webpage and soft launch (posters, e-newsletters, social posts) – launched December 3rd to begin sharing information about the project. Phase 1 engagement events and activities announced in early January.
- Backgrounder papers on the project webpage provided information on key topics.
- Email updates and newsletters sent to the project mailing list.
- Social media: 22 dedicated OCP Facebook Posts, 28 dedicated OCP Tweets and a Facebook Event for the Public Visioning Event with an invite total of 1.3K.
- Quarter page Squamish Chief newspaper ads ran weekly from December to February; Half-page ad in Squamish Reporter (January 1st issue).
- Road and Weather tags ran on MountainFM for the week leading up to the January 28 event.
- Posters and postcards/flyers distributed at key locations throughout the community.
- Press release announcing the launch of the OCP update was issued on December 3.
- Mountain FM interviews were conducted with Mayor Heintzman (Mayoral Monday) and Community Advisory Committee Members (day of event).
- Event listings were included on: Mountain FM, What's On Squamish, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Squamish, Squamish Chief, Squamish Reporter, Squamish Baby.
- Mayor and Council promoted the project and engagement activities through their various social media accounts, activities and networks.
- Community Advisory Committee members promoted the project and engagement activities through their networks

In addition to the online, radio, and print media listed above, project ambassadors helped to raise broader awareness through community outreach. Ambassadors visited the following locations:

- Winter Farmers Market – January 16th and 30th
- Brennan Park Recreation Centre
- Cleveland Ave.
- Save On Foods
- Extra Foods
- Tim Hortons
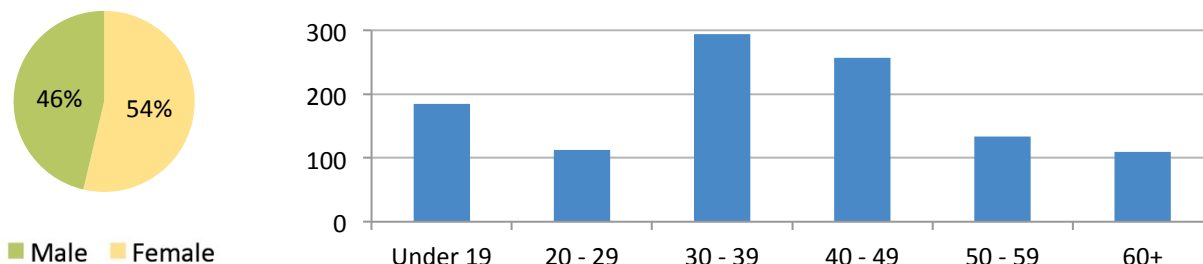- Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- Sikh Temple

A grand prize of a Sea to Sky Gondola Annual Family Pass has been offered to encourage participation. Each time residents contribute to the OCP Update process by attending an event or completing a questionnaire, they are automatically entered to win. The grand prize draw will take place at the conclusion of the OCP Update process, anticipated to be in late 2016.
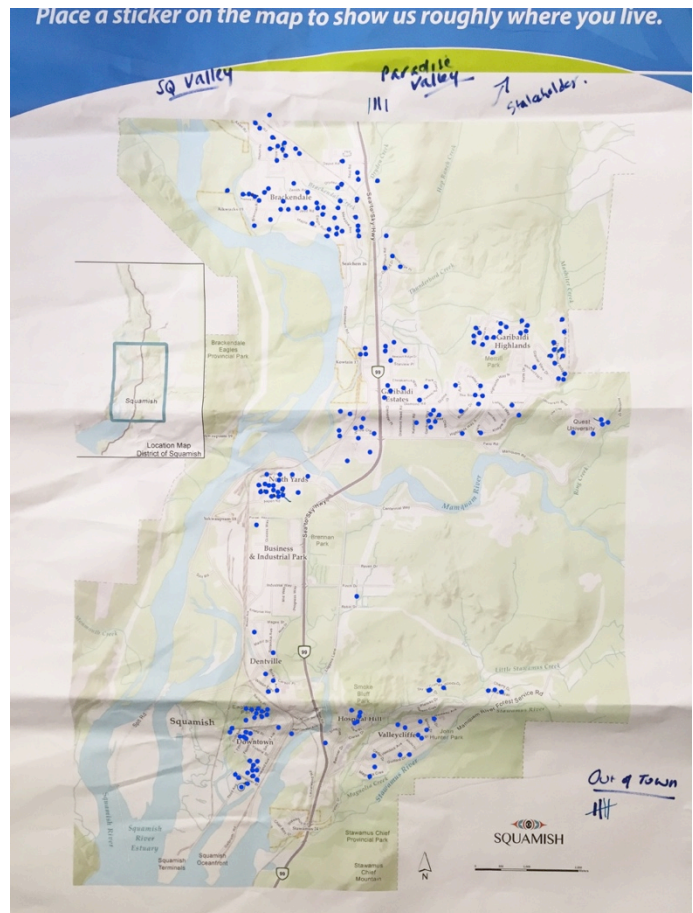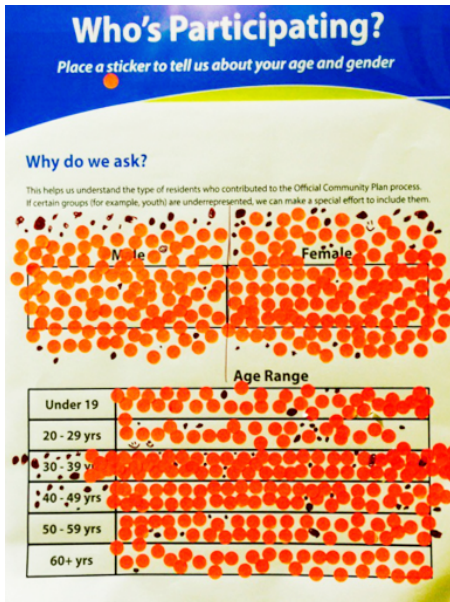
PART 2. WHO PARTICIPATED

Over 1,200 people participated in Phase 1

40 Interviews with stakeholder groups	**350⁺** Attended the Public Event	**701** Completed questionnaires	**80** Students engaged in Youth Workshop	**55** Attended the Staff Event	**30** Attended the Squamish Nation Event

Overall, a broad and diverse range of people participated in Phase 1 engagement activities. Of those who participated, 922 people shared their gender and 1,093 shared their age range.

Participation by gender was fairly evenly split for all activities. There were fewer youth (under 19) who participated in the survey; however, when combined with the youth engaged through the public event and student workshop, this age group was more equally represented.

The range of age groups who participated in Phase 1 is quite similar to the population demographics of Squamish residents (over 15). However, as participation in these events was voluntary, these results are not necessarily representative of the whole community.

We also asked participants at the event to identify where they live. People came from all over Squamish and Brackendale with a few coming from Paradise Valley and other areas outside the District.

PART 3. WHAT WE HEARD

The following provides a summary of feedback received through all Phase 1 engagement activities including the public visioning event, public questionnaire, youth workshop, staff event, and Squamish Nation event.

METHODOLOGY

Engagement activities in Phase 1 used a variety of quantitative and qualitative questions to collect feedback from participants; however, the majority of feedback in this process was qualitative so that the District can get a better idea of what is important to the community and why people feel that way. Qualitative questions included a range of focused questions and broad, open-ended questions to provide an opportunity for input on specific topics as well as more general, uninhibited input.

To analyze the data, a non-partisan approach with third-party researchers was taken. This ensures anonymity of participants and an objective approach during the coding and analysis process.

Each of the engagement activities included a range of activities although most included similar questions. Where activities asked the same questions, this feedback has been combined. Where feedback varied significantly by group, or where certain groups highlighted specific topics, this has been noted in the summaries below.
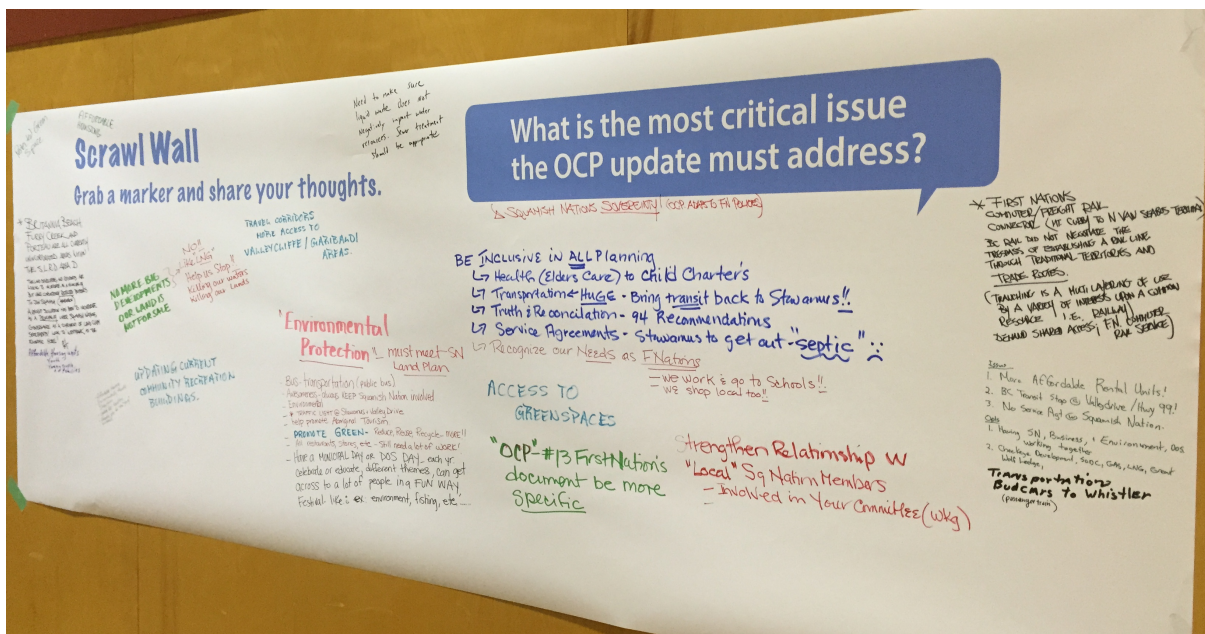
CRITICAL ISSUES

Participants identified their most critical issues or topics for the OCP Update to address. A total of 331 responses were received (310 from the public event, 21 from the Squamish Nation event); the following provides a summary and count of major themes.

As some responses address more than one topic, the total number of comments below may exceed the total number of responses.

- **Economy and "good" local jobs –** Comments focused on creating well-paying local jobs and diversifying the local economy to ensure Squamish is more than just a 'bedroom community.' A total of 24 comments addressed liquefied natural gas (LNG) and all were unsupportive. A number of comments also stressed the need to support industrial lands, education, technology and tourism. *(71 comments)*

- **Getting to/from and around Squamish –** The theme of 'getting around' was frequently raised and comments focused mainly on improvements to local active transportation infrastructure (trails, pathways, sidewalks), road safety for pedestrians, and public transit. Comments on regional transportation focused mainly on public transit options (bus, rail, boat), as well as Highway 99 traffic, speed and impacts to local air quality. *(60 comments)*

- **Affordable Housing –** Affordable housing was another popular theme and comments stressed the need for a range of affordable housing types, affordable rental housing and affordable housing for a variety of ages and lifestyles. *(54 comments)*

- **Growth Management –** Comments addressed the need to balance various aspects of community life (environment/economy, land uses, and industry/nature), prevent sprawl through the creation of 'complete neighbourhoods,' and manage the overall pace of growth, which some people feel is happening too quickly. *(51 comments)*

- **Protecting wildlife and natural areas –** Comments under this theme highlighted the importance of protecting nature/ecosystems with a specific focus on areas such as the estuary, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors. *(26 comments)*

- **Tourism and outdoor recreation –** A few comments showed general support for sustainable tourism but the majority focused on supporting access to nature or specific amenities such as trails. Mixed support was shown for attractions such as Garibaldi at Squamish or the proposed water-themed resort. *(22 comments)*

- **Food, Health and Safety –** A number of comments focused on local food systems and food security. Health comments addressed the need to maintain local care services. Comments related to safety included general community safety, emergency preparedness and flood hazards. *(20 comments)*

- **Civic infrastructure and facilities –** Infrastructure was a common theme with specific comments addressing long-term infrastructure planning, balancing land use/growth with infrastructure, water/wastewater systems and waste management. Several comments also mentioned District facilities with a focus on ice rinks as well as general improvements and expansion to indoor recreation facilities. *(20 comments)*

- **Other comments** *(121 comments)*
  - Waterfront, park and trail access (15 comments)
  - Social equity (13 comments)
  - Downtown revitalization (12 comments)
  - Education, youth engagement and amenities for youth (10 comments)
  - Governance and civic engagement, inclusive planning (10 comments)
  - Support for arts and culture (8 comments)
  - Increasing the sense of community (8 comments)
  - General sustainability (7 comments)
  - Support for various community amenities (6 comments)
  - Other topics (less than 6 comments) included strengthening working relationships with Squamish Nation, taxes/fiscal responsibility, climate change adaptation, greenhouse gas reduction, seniors housing, homelessness, respecting local history, adjacent electoral areas, , general affordability and clean air.
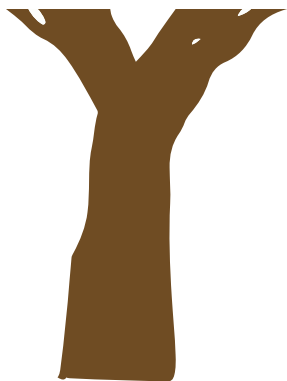
VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Participants share their ideas for the future of Squamish by completing the following statement:

"In 2040, Squamish will be _____."

A total of 1,045 comments were received (309 from the public event, 583 survey responses, 66 student comments, 67 staff comments and 20 Squamish Nation comments). The following provides an overview of key themes, the larger the theme, the more times it was mentioned.

This question was asked via:

Public Event Questionnaire Youth Workshop Staff Workshop Squamish Nation Workshop

easy to get around
multi-use facilities
amazing local
natural beauty fiscally responsible
small town feel
affordable housing
education public space
active transportation all ages/family friendly
business friendly opportunity youth/young adults
a bigger community
progressive local businesses balanced growth
healthy sustainable values/lifestyles industry
diverse economy self sufficient inclusive entrepreneurial affordable
diverse protect the environment
arts sustainable economy renewable energy waterfront dogs
variety of housing
a place to live and work
more commercial services distinct sense of place bedroom community recreation
safe sense of community mixed use regional economy
trails recreation tourism vibrant
food and farming quality infrastructure parks
access to nature/recreation/trails
engagement regional transportation partnerships thriving downtown technology industries

Participants covered a wide range of descriptions for a future Squamish though the most common themes included more opportunities to **live, work, play and shop in Squamish**, being known for **recreation-based tourism**, **protecting the environment**, and having great **access to nature and outdoor recreation**.

Participants highlighted a sense of place that was **larger with a small town feel** and **strong sense of community**. Words like, vibrant, thriving, progressive, outdoorsy, adventurous, natural beauty, mountains, and waterfront capture the essence of many of the comments. Being **suitable for all** was another common theme describing a diverse community that is inclusive of all ages (especially youth and seniors), all stages of life, income levels, interests, and cultures. Many noted more **affordability** and affordable housing as well as a greater **ease of moving around** the community by trail networks, walkable areas and transit.

Highlighting a desire for **local jobs**, participants described a world-renowned community with a **diverse economy** including tourism, technology and education, as well as existing industrial and service sectors. Comments described growth of local and new businesses and a unique and thriving downtown. Being **economically self-sufficient** was a recurring theme, along with the ability to get from sea to city, sea to sky and back again, all with good transit.

Participants also focused on **protecting environmentally sensitive** natural areas, air/water and overall **environmental stewardship**. More general comments about a **sustainable economy, lifestyles and leadership** along with specific topics like green/clean renewable energy highlighted the importance of these values even further.

Group Highlights:

There were a few notable differences between participant groups:

- Survey respondents described an amazing, sustainable community in the future that was quite a lot bigger than today. There also tended to be more negative comments/concerns for the future such as 'too big', 'hard to live in', and 'traffic'.
- Participants at the public visioning event focused on affordable housing, sense of community and creating a 'family friendly' Squamish.
- Students at the youth workshop placed an emphasis on affordable housing, activities and places for youth to hang out (i.e., movie theatre, bowling, outdoor recreation), better local transit, and local jobs/careers.
- Staff comments focused on affordable housing, maintaining a small town feel, community sustainability, access to recreation and nature, and local jobs.
- Squamish Nation participants highlighted transit access, meaningful jobs and training programs, housing and health (healing or wellness centre). Further, participants commented on authentic integration of Squamish heritage, as well as youth and elders working together.

KEY PRIORITIES

Questionnaire respondents and participants from in-person events shared their ideas about community priorities in slightly different ways; however the results were quite similar.

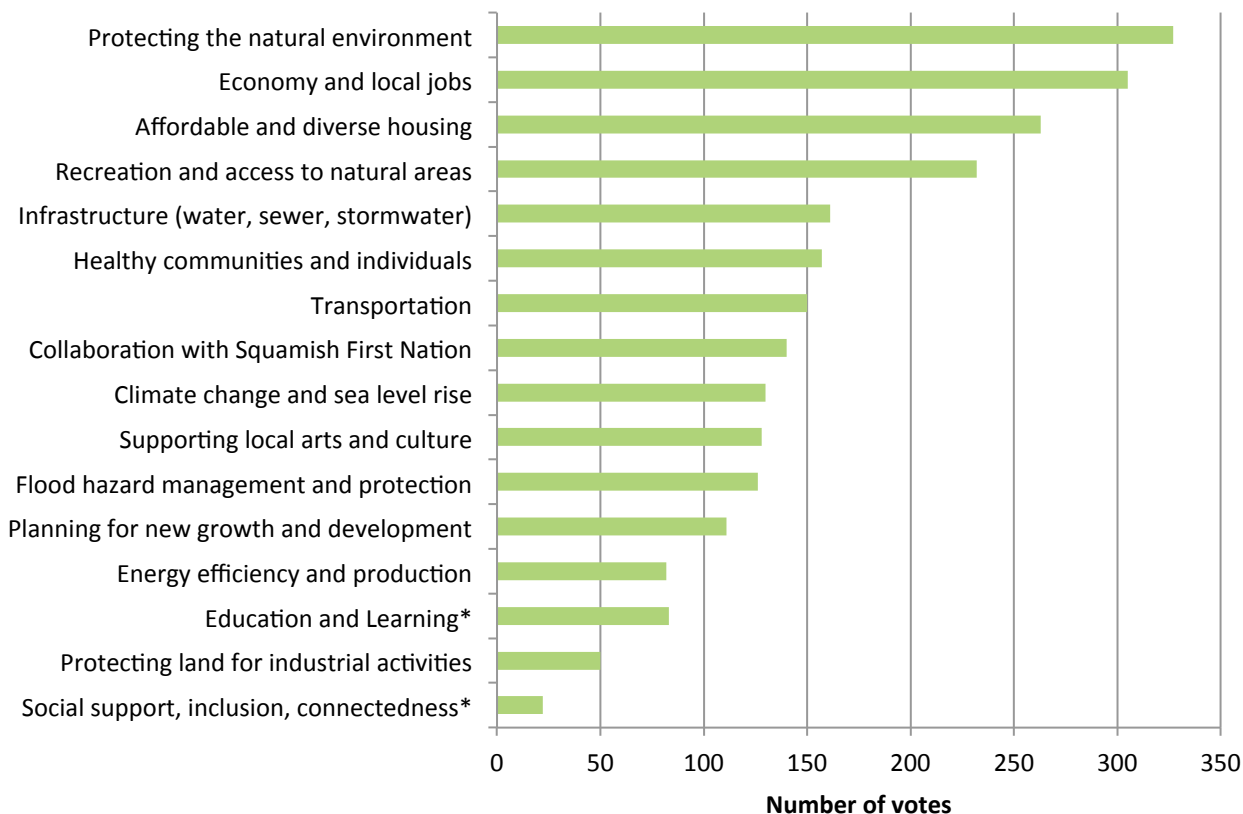**This question was asked via:**

Public Event   Questionnaire   Youth Workshop   Staff Workshop   Squamish Nation Workshop

Overall, the top priorities for the community included:

- Protecting the natural environment
- Economy and local jobs
- Recreation and access to natural areas
- Healthy communities and individuals

- Affordable and diverse housing
- Infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater)
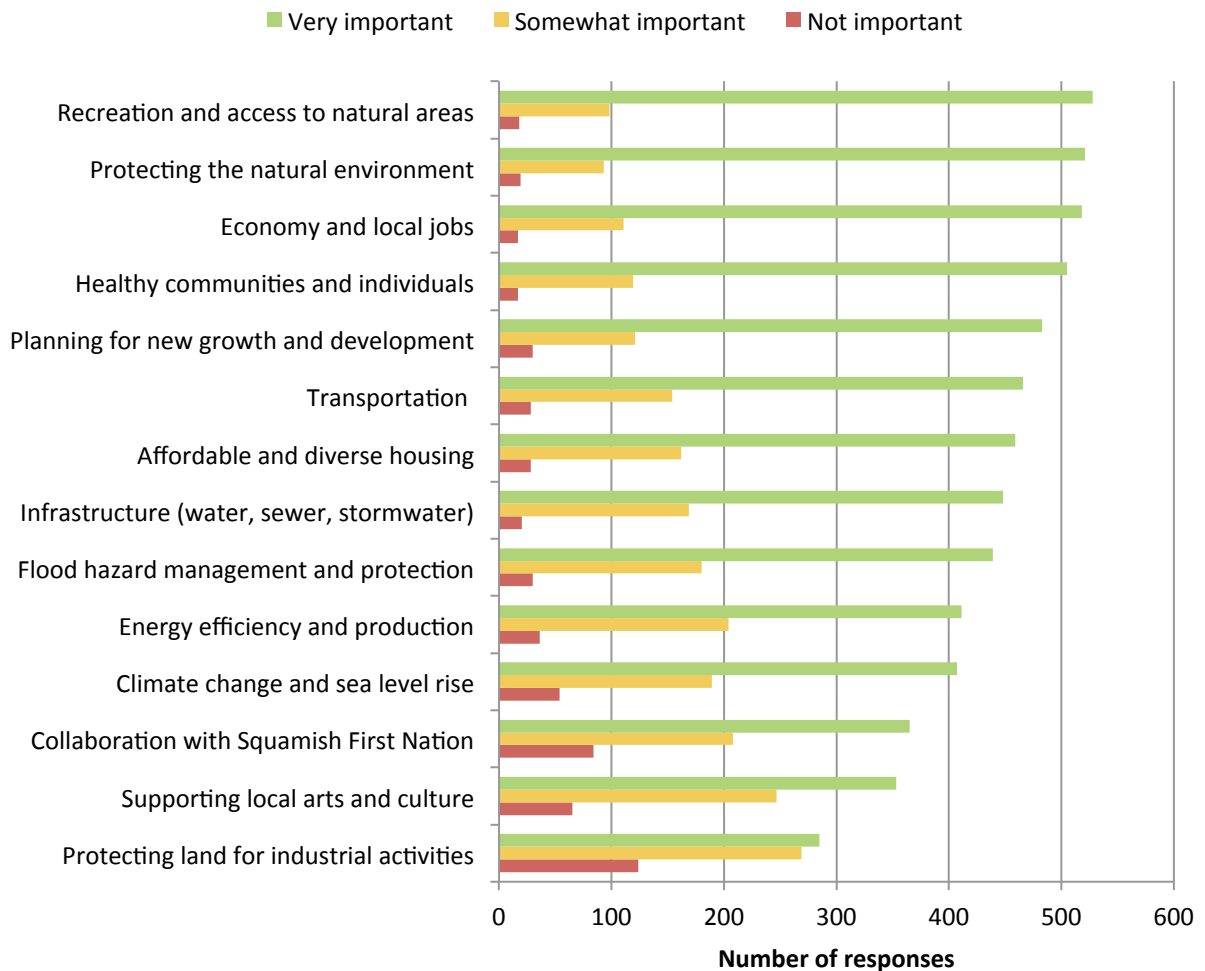- Transportation

IN-PERSON EVENT RESPONSES

Participants from in-person events (including the public visioning event, youth workshop, staff event and Squamish Nation event) reviewed a list of topics and were asked to prioritize them by voting with six marbles. Each person could vote for up to six different topics or vote more than once for a single topic.

Number of votes

* New topics proposed by participants at the public event. Not everyone at the public event saw these options but they were presented at the youth workshop, staff event and Squamish Nation event.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Questionnaire respondents reviewed the same list of topics but were asked to <u>rank</u> how important the topics were for the OCP to address rather than prioritize them.

Why do you feel this way?

Questionnaire respondents were asked to explain why they felt this way and had the opportunity to add other ideas they felt were important for the future of Squamish.

Participants noted that these topics are important to create a well-planned, affordable and complete community that has opportunities for everyone to live, work and play, especially youth, young families and seniors. These topics also reflect key community values to protect and enjoy the natural environment, promote sustainability and innovation, and celebrate local culture and heritage.

Comments emphasized the need to carefully plan new growth and development to provide for current and future residents without overdeveloping or detracting from the unique character that makes Squamish such a desirable place to live. Participants also stressed that careful and strategic planning is needed to ensure Squamish is more than just a bedroom community to Vancouver or Whistler.

What other issues are important to the future of Squamish?

Questionnaire respondents shared a range of other ideas and comments. These are listed below with the total number of comments shown in brackets.

- Local and regional transportation infrastructure and frequent, affordable, sustainable options to Whistler and Vancouver (boat, rail, highway, transit) (49)
- More accessible and affordable recreation and arts programs/facilities (46)
- Protecting Howe Sound's natural habitat and views (32)
- Sustainable growth development (32)
- More/better public services (law enforcement, healthcare, fire, waste management) (28)
- Attracting more local businesses and economic development (24)
- Community identity and participation, engaged citizens (24)
- Active and public transportation (23)
- Support for local, sustainable jobs (22)
- Activities for youth and families (21)
- Schools and educational opportunities (19)
- Concerns about LNG and heavy industry, fossil fuel use (18)
- Protecting natural attractions (trails, climbing areas, mountain biking routes) (16)
- Concerns about taxes and government spending (15)
- Attract tourism and world class events (14)

- Enhancing community gathering spaces and fostering connections (14)
- Housing diversity and options (13)
- Diverse economy that supports tech and clean energy sectors (13)
- Waterfront development and access (12)
- Community diversity, understanding and inclusiveness (11)
- More local entertainment and year-round/indoor activities (10)
- Social support services for youth, low-income, homelessness (9)
- Transparent, accountable governance (9)
- Attract more industry (including LNG) to support our tax base (8)
- Accessibility and services for seniors and people with disabilities (6)
- Investment in public infrastructure (lights, roads, sidewalks) (7)
- Local history and heritage (7)
- Emergency preparedness (7)
- Revitalizing the Downtown (6)
- Food security (5)
- Protecting our water supply (3)
- Affordable and accessible childcare (3)
- Crime prevention and public safety (3)
- Balance of industry and recreation (1)

COMMUNITY MAPPING

Participants from the in-person events explored a large map of Squamish and identified **places they love today** and **places that need improvement for the future**.

Over 800 comments were received in total (530 from the public event, 38 student comments, 177 staff comments, and 58 Squamish Nation comments). A letter submission was also received from the Squamish Access Society, a non-profit advocating for rock-climbing in the Squamish area. Some comments applied to specific locations while others were more general.

General Comments

General comments emphasized the need to **improve transportation infrastructure** for pedestrians, cyclists and public transit and improving traffic and road safety (crosswalks, bike paths, enforcing speeding laws), particularly on Highway 99. Many also noted that more diverse and convenient regional commuting options are needed, especially to Vancouver and Whistler, by train, boat and public transit. Comments from students specifically highlighted the need for pedestrian, cyclist and transit infrastructure. Squamish Nation participants also focused on transportation access and gaps in service.

As in other activities, participants noted that **housing diversity and affordability** for a spectrum of income levels are major issues in Squamish. Comments varied on appropriate levels of density for housing but most agreed there is a need/demand for housing that is close to green spaces and recreational activities.

The need for **local economic development and sustainable jobs** was raised by numerous participants. Comments suggested Squamish should support growth in tourism, technology, and renewable energy industries, support local businesses/vendors, and provide more accessible shops and services (locations, hours).

Recreation/leisure was another key theme and participants emphasized the importance of preserving and maintaining parks and trails (for hiking, biking, climbing, and skiing) as well as community centres and local arts and culture. These are seen as part of the identity of Squamish. Student and Squamish Nation comments emphasized the need for more activities and places for youth to hang out (like a movie theatre, updated youth centre). The Squamish Access Society emphasized the need for more affordable low-frills campgrounds.

Many participants noted that **sustainability and preservation of the natural environment** are key priorities for Squamish. Participants noted concerns with logging old growth forests, LNG facilities/pipelines, declining fish stocks, flood management and preservation of important habitats, waterways, and dikes. Comments suggested renewable energy

generation, local food production, enforcement of bylaws, and improved facilities in public spaces (such as recycling/composting in public spaces and improved trash/bathroom facilities in natural areas) would help to reduce pollution and promote local sustainability. Students emphasized the need to limit development on forestland and protect views and the natural beauty of Squamish. Protection of the estuary and local rivers was emphasized at the Squamish Nation event.

Comments from District staff also focused on **health and emergency services** noting the need for resilient facilities that are appropriately sized/serviced appropriately for the community and needs for firefighting facilities and equipment. Comments also emphasized green approaches to **waste-water treatment**.
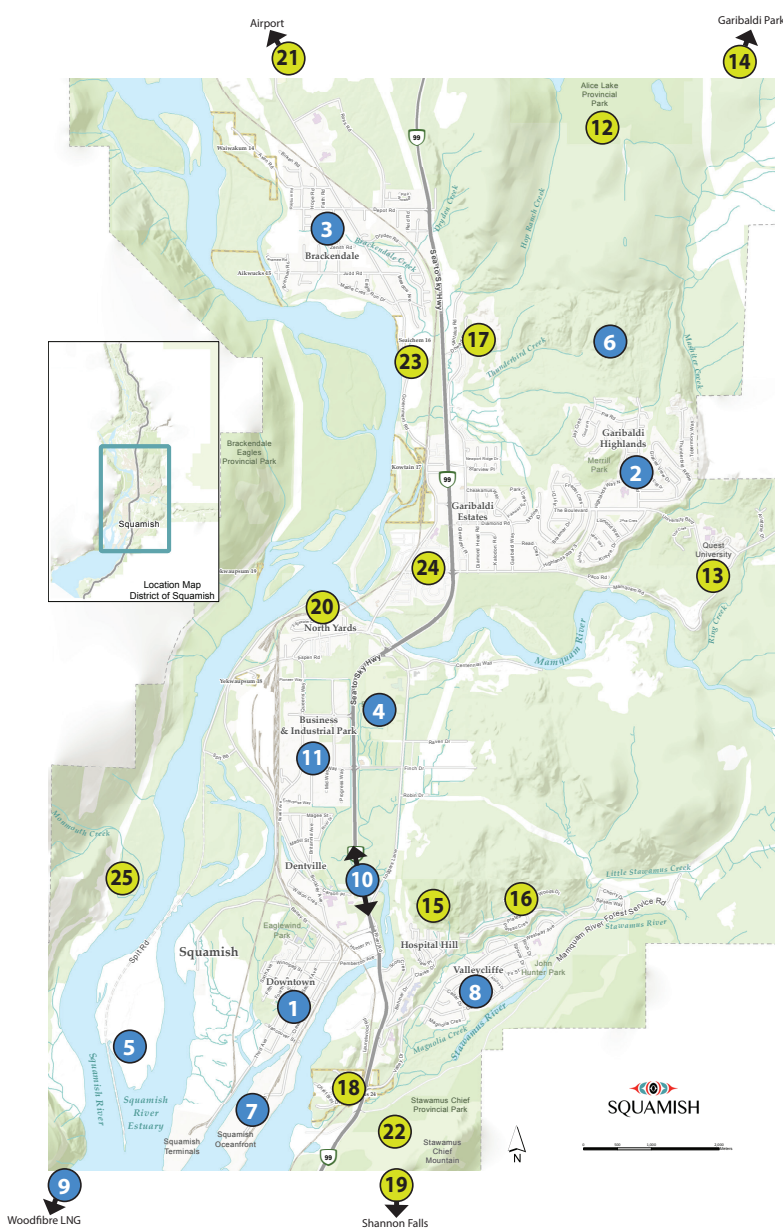
Location-Specific Comments

Key locations included:

1. Downtown
2. Garibaldi Estates to Garibaldi Highlands
3. Brackendale
4. Brennan Park
5. Squamish River Estuary
6. Trails in the Highlands
7. Squamish Oceanfront
8. Valleycliffe
9. Woodfibre LNG
10. Highway 99
11. Business Industrial Park

Other locations included:

12. Alice Lake Provincial Park
13. Quest University
14. Garibaldi Provincial Park
15. Smoke Bluffs Park
16. Crumpit Woods
17. Rockridge Place
18. Stawamus Village
19. Shannon Falls
20. North Yards / Edgewater
21. Squamish Airport
22. Stawamus Chief
23. Government Road
24. Willow Crescent
25. Monmonth Creek

The following provides a summary of comments received for each location.

1. **Downtown -** Overall, participants showed strong support for improving, cleaning up and revitalizing the downtown and recognized this as vital to building a vibrant, social community at the heart of Squamish. Comments addressed accessibility and noted that the downtown should be walkable and road infrastructure leading to and within the downtown core should support all modes of travel. A few comments suggested that Cleveland Avenue should be pedestrian-only and emulate a "Whistler style plaza." Many participants stressed the need for a strategy to attract and support local businesses and increase the variety of shops, services and entertainment to attract more people to the downtown core. An educational as well as eco-tourism focus and a downtown market space with food hub were also identified. Participants noted there is a demand for affordable housing as well as shelter services and low-income housing downtown although opinions were mixed about the right level of housing diversity and density. *(95 comments total – 62 public, 24 staff, 9 Squamish Nation)*

2. **Garibaldi Estates to Garibaldi Highlands –** Most comments addressed safety and connectivity along the highway and to neighbourhoods; suggestions included crosswalks, wider bike lanes, improving connections on the Connector Trail and over the highway, improving traffic congestion and spill over from commercial nodes and adding lights to certain intersections. Participants also noted the need for a local commercial area as well as parks, trails and playground facilities to reduce car travel and create a complete community. Several people noted "The Farm" as an example of a small business that should be encouraged along this stretch of the highway. Other comments expressed concerns with sprawling development and large homes, suggesting Squamish should focus on developing existing areas to preserve natural areas and support sustainable transportation. *(54 comments total – 38 public, 12 staff, 1 student, 3 Squamish Nation)*

3. **Brackendale –** Comments for Brackendale reflect the diverse and evolving needs of the community. Participants highlighted the Art Gallery and Farmer's Institute as important community assets to preserve but noted that more local shops, more parks (for people and dogs), dike improvements, and more housing options were needed. Other comments addressed safety and stressed the need for more street/sidewalk lighting, safe trails connecting Brackendale to Squamish, and better traffic signage, road maintenance and slower traffic. Participants also noted concerns about development and traffic impacts on sensitive areas, especially during eagle season. *(44 comments total – 30 public, 12 staff, 2 Squamish Nation)*

4. **Brennan Park –** Participants noted they would like to see the recreation centre improved and expanded where facilities are at capacity. Suggestions included more classes, upgraded facilities, more community amenities (like meeting rooms,

physiotherapy), more affordable gym access, and events. Some people suggested a need for more traffic management/road infrastructure (lights, school zones, bike lanes) in the area to improve safety while others suggested the area should avoid too many buildings and traffic signals to protect wildlife and natural views. The need to increase the supply of affordable rental units in adjacent neighbourhoods was also noted. *(43 comments total – 30 public, 8 staff, 3 student, 2 Squamish Nation)*

5. **Squamish River Estuary –** Comments stressed that the area and its natural trails are enjoyed by many, and this important wildlife habitat must be protected from any type of development. Participants also noted there is a need for more restoration work in the area. Some suggested the area should have a greater connection to the downtown for greater accessibility. *(35 comments total – 18 public, 13 staff, 3 student, 1 Squamish Nation)*

6. **Trails in the Highlands –** Comments noted the area's well-developed multi-use trail network that provides world-class outdoor recreation but also supports active transportation with trail connections in and out of town. Participants emphasized the need to protect these trails from industry and development and fund their ongoing maintenance and appropriate staging. *(34 comments total – 24 public, 10 staff)*

7. **Squamish Oceanfront –** Participants expressed mixed feelings about the plans for developing the Squamish Oceanfront area. People were generally supportive of improving public spaces, amenities and recreation; however, a number of participants expressed concern about prioritizing development over the protection of natural areas. Others noted they would like to see the plan implemented and the creation of livelier neighbourhood with more shops, meeting spaces, and restaurants, as well as recreation opportunities including more access points to the water. *(28 comments total – 23 public, 5 staff)*

8. **Valleycliffe Neighbourhood –** Most comments noted the lack of a village centre and local amenities (such as shops and services) and the need for streetlights, sidewalks, smoother traffic/vehicle flow and a safe highway crossing for better access and connectivity. Other comments noted concerns about the effect of development on natural areas, trails, and wildlife/fish habitat. *(27 comments total – 17 public, 6 staff, 3 student 1 Squamish Nation)*

9. **Woodfibre LNG –** The majority of comments opposed the Woodfibre LNG project citing concerns related to sustainability, environmental degradation, fish habitat, air pollution, water sports, and declining property values. Several people suggested renewable energy as an alternative for boosting the local economy and creating jobs. Other comments suggested the need for a marine plan and public ferry to Woodfibre for recreational access. *(22 comments total – 16 public, 4 staff, 2 Squamish Nation)*

10. **Highway 99 –** Participants highlighted the important relationship between the highway and Squamish. Many expressed safety concerns for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists both on the highway and crossing the highway. Comments addressed merging and access points and suggested more traffic regulation is needed to manage speed such as better road markings, road maintenance and drainage, traffic signage and a dedicated bike lane. Important areas include:

    - Hwy 99 and Centennial Way (navigation concern)
    - Hwy 99 and Valley Drive (flooding roads)
    - Hwy 99 and Cleveland (many accidents, needs traffic management)
    - Hwy 99 and Harris Road (safe corridor trails needed for cyclists, pedestrians)
    - Hwy 99 and Garibaldi Way (traffic congestion, safety)
    - Hwy 99 and Valleycliffe (high speeds, park and ride facilities)
    - Hwy 99 and Tantalus Rd (needs access to highway)
    - Hwy 99 and Clark Dr (waterfront access to highway)
    (17 comments total – 14 public, 3 Squamish Nation)

11. **Business Industrial Park (Government and Queensway/Pioneer) –** Comments noted that safety in this area could be improved with lighting for pedestrians/cyclists, better traffic signals and signage and that this area should be supported to increase local jobs. Participants noted the need to buffer industrial areas from adjacent residential areas, parking issues (particularly Yekwaupsum IR 18) and the desire for passenger train service/commuter rail stop. *(17 comments total – 8 public, 5 staff, 4 Squamish Nation)*

12. **Alice Lake Provincial Park –** Participants expressed their love for Alice Lake, particularly the accessibility of trails and beaches. A few comments suggested expanding trails and access points to the Highway. *(13 comments total – 8 public, 4 staff, 1 student)*

13. **Quest University –** Participants suggested there is a divide between Quest and the rest of Squamish and that efforts should be made to improve connections and develop amenities in this area while respecting forested areas. *(13 comments total – 8 public, 5 student)*

14. **Garibaldi Provincial Park -** The majority of the participants expressed concerns about the proposed Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) ski resort (1 person was in favour). Participants suggested the development went against community values to preserve natural areas, provide quality housing and jobs, and develop in a way that is sustainable with minimal impact on the environment. Comments stressed that the park is a "ski touring wonderland" and that the priority should be preserving and enhancing access or turning it into a biosphere. One group noted that if the proposed resort development goes ahead, the District should safeguard and enhance opportunities for alpine access. *(11 comments total – 10 public, 1 Squamish Access Society)*

15. **Smoke Bluffs Park** – Participants noted they appreciated the various activities in the area (rock climbing, dog walking, trails) and it should be protected. One group recommended the District maintain a long-term ambition to acquire the remaining privately owned parcels that contain rock-climbing assets and protect both east and west banks of the Blind Channel north of the Highway 99 road bridge for habitat, not permitting any further construction in this area *(11 comments total – 6 public, 4 staff, 1 Squamish Access Society)*

16. **Crumpit Woods** – Participants noted the area's natural beauty, views, great trails and easy access from the downtown. Comments suggested better advertising and a few amenities in public spaces (like picnic tables and washrooms) would help more people to enjoy the area. Participants also noted the need for environmental monitoring and protection from erosion in the new hillside subdivisions. *(9 comments total – 8 public, 1 Squamish Nation)*

17. **Rockridge Place** – Most comments expressed concerns about developing in a floodplain, threats to trails, a lack of sustainable, affordable housing and potential gated community development. One person supported housing in the area and another suggested the need to connect the Wonderland bike trail to the end of Tantalus Rd. *(9 comments total – 8 public, 1 Squamish Nation)*

18. **Stawamus Village** – Comments focused on loss of transit access and need for improved connectivity, housing garbage/recycling and servicing infrastructure. *(8 comments – 8 Squamish Nation)*

19. **Shannon Falls** – Participants praised Shannon Falls for its recreational value and growing network of trails and bike routes. Comments suggested improvements to parking, bike path/walkway connections from the Gondola, direct highway access to the Gondola site for southbound travellers, and integrating more interpretive elements/signage while preserving the natural environment. One group recommended the area south of Shannon Falls to Murrin Park (on both sides of the highway) be zoned as a Forest Outdoor Recreation Reserve, possibly as part of the proposed Squamish community forest. *(7 comments total – 5 public, 1 Squamish Nation, 1 Squamish Access Society)*

20. **North Yards / Edgewater** – Participants noted they liked the trails and park equipment in this area. Comments also suggested the need for a small coffee shop/grocery/deli and more parks in this area. *(6 comments total – 6 public)*

21. **Squamish Airport and surrounding area** – Comments debated whether the airport should be expanded or not; some suggested expansion may be a good opportunity to increase local jobs. Squamish Nation members expressed concern about flight paths

and training activities over adjacent Waiwakum village (IR 14) and also noted the need for access to traditional fishing areas from the dike, as well as better wayfinding for visitors looking for camping. *(6 comments total – 3 public, 3 Squamish Nation)*

22. **Stawamus Chief Provincial Park** – Comments noted the Chief and nearby campground is a big draw for people. Due to its popularity, parking and climbing access have become issues. One person suggested running the highway underground between the Chief and the Highlands and building parks and trails on top. *(5 comments total – 5 public)*

23. **Government Road** – Comments noted the need for a dedicated pedestrian walkway and/or cycling route to ensure safety. *(4 comments total – 3 public, 1 student)*

24. **Willow Crescent** – Comments suggested a need for more dog parks and better access to Brennan Park and the Downtown from Government/Mamquam Roads. One comment praised Amblepath for being a well designed community. *(4 comments total – 4 public)*

25. **Monmouth Creek** – Participants noted the great trails, beautiful waterfall, and opportunities for canyoning during the summer. Comments suggested a need for salmon habitat restoration and limited public access as this area is bear/cougar territory. *(4 comments total – 4 public)*

Other location specific comments (with 1-3 comments each):

- Squamish Landfill – need to divert more waste from the landfill and provide better barrier to keep animals out
- South of Mamquam River – well-maintained multi-use trails
- Squamish River – provide pedestrian crossing at one or more points to allow access to recreation assets
- Murrin Park – love the trails in this park
- Powerhouse Plunge Forests – a unique place to hike and bike
- Robin Drive – bike path well designed and maintained
- Adventure Centre – potential to build an overpass to better connect the centre with the downtown.
- Downtown access road/Government (old highway) – road flooding, paving needed
- Mamquam Road – keep this area industrial, opposed conversion of the site to a camping area due to poor location and lack of walkability
- Mamquam River – more hatcheries and enhancements for improving fish stocks
- Loggers Lane – need more streetlights; preserve the wetlands
- Carson Place – create an on and off-leash dog area; don't remove 'wildlife on highway' signs
- Lake Lovely Water and Tantalus – need better access to these areas
- Discovery Trail at Finch and Commercial Way – need a safer bicycle crossing

- Paradise Valley Road – dirt roads need better maintenance or paving, roads flood past Midnight Way; concerns about Garibaldi at Squamish water issues for residents
- Cheekeye Development – looking for affordable housing, rental, townhouse and apartment
- Cheekeye debris hazard – need for barrier protection of 3 Squamish Nation villages and community of Brackendale
- Waiwakum village – only 1 access in (Axen Road)
- Tantalus Road – lots of traffic and traffic laws broken, need crosswalks or roundabouts
- Marine facilities – protect and enhance community and tourism access
- Darrell Bay – maintain ferry infrastructure for emergency access
- Willow Creek and Amble path – parking issues

HOW TO ENGAGE SQUAMISH

Participants at the event identified the best ways to keep people informed about the project and brainstormed creative ways to engage even more Squamish residents. The following provides a summary and count of major themes.

This question was asked via:

Public Event

How do you want to be notified? *(173 comments)*

Participants covered all the major approaches to communicating and connecting, though **Facebook (46 comments)** and **email (39**) received the most mentions. More specific ideas for Facebook included connecting through groups, launching a new page specific to engagement "Squamish Speaks" and the use of Facebook events. Ideas for email included newsletters and setting up email groups for various topics.

The next most popular ideas included **newspapers (20)** and other social media like **Twitter/ Instagram (18)**. Ideas for newspapers included articles about events and the people involved.

Other ideas with multiple mentions included; community gatherings (9), posters in social spaces (7), the District of Squamish Website (6), radio (5), booths at events (3), signage around town (2) and mail (2).

Finally, a few cross cutting approaches were recommended such as highlighting one aspect of the update each week across various types of media.

Creative Ideas to Engage Squamish Residents *(156 comments)*

Events (59 comments) were the most popular way to engage residents about the OCP update. Most comments recommended visioning events like the public launch event; other approaches included town hall meetings, 'pop-up' events/booths in unique places, piggy backing on large events such as Logger's Sports or Wind Fest, or hosting smaller events like neighbourhood block parties, school groups and small chats.

Other ideas included **incentives/contests** (12) such as "frequent but small lotteries with creative prizes", increased **communication of events and general issues** (8) by going out to where people are, 'Reddit' style engagement, as well as more traditional approaches like billboards and notices in newspapers. Comments also included surveying, social media and ensuring that feedback is shared and acted on.

FEEDBACK ON KEY TOPICS

Participants at the public visioning event reviewed backgrounder papers and provided detailed feedback on 8 key topics. The following provides a summary of key ideas for each of topic.

This question was asked via:

Public Event

Economy and Jobs *(45 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• Local jobs • Live, work and play in Squamish • Reduce need to commute (more long-term jobs) • Land use, to meet industrial needs • Strong economy, renewable energy, resources, Rec-tech, tourism and knowledge based industries	• Ensure enough commercial and industrial zoning to support industries • Provide incentives and reduce barriers to attract desired sectors • Develop economic development working groups/partnerships	• Entry level lower than market rent model for business spaces • Washington and Oregon port towns, industrial land management • Energy Systems-Colwood, Dawson Creek • Nelson, Smithers, Markham –ON, New Zealand-Tourism, Downtown Vancouver – access to jobs/amenities

"I want to work and live in this town without having to commute. I want the local economy to stay resilient when there are shifts in global outlooks."

A Growing Town *(19 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• Want a sense of community with its own character, not suburb • Need to manage development/growth for what we want • Ensure a vibrant downtown and access	• Provide incentives and reduce barriers to develop downtown, job creators • Policy that reflects these desires • Focus on a few compatible economic sectors and incentivize • Thoughtful consistent zoning for industry, complete neighbourhoods, development boundary • Affordable housing programs • Beautify the public realm	• European mountain towns/villages, concentrated live/work areas and preserving surrounding land • Bend, Oregon for transition from logging to tourism • Lynn Valley/Deep Cove • Tourism Features - Hope/Duncan/Gibsons

"Growth is important - it needs to rollout in a well considered, sustainable way. I'm interested in keeping Squamish a vibrant, complete community, rather than a bedroom community for Vancouver."

"I moved here in part because I like the small town feel."

Local Systems *(18 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• Transportation on the highway, active transportation and appropriate industrial truck routes • Growth and aging infrastructure, impacts on environment • Resilient systems including food	• Access grants for infrastructure improvements • Expand downtown core • Connect town by trails/paths, lobby for regional transit • Explore industrial road alternatives – not estuary • Infrastructure planning, for core needs • Protect lands for food/industry	• Whistler/Vancouver transit systems • See Campbell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo for estuary protection • Brackendale – complete neighbourhood hubs • Vancouver/ Copenhagen for active transportation • Whistler for infrastructure management

Affordable and Diverse Housing *(15 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• For affordable housing to be able to live, work and age in Squamish • Lack of rental units and appropriate land use • To maintain the sense of place and community Don't want to be a community of recreation homes	• Start a housing authority such as Whistler • Support developers/ landowners to build more affordable housing • More mixed use developments and townhouses near amenities • Incentives	• Portland, Oregon – affordable housing • Whistler – Housing Authority/Banff • Germany, mixed use homes for all ages • Scotland, local land sponsorship

"I am in my 20s and I want to afford a home in Squamish when I am in my 30s. At the rate that Squamish is growing and developing, I am afraid that this will not be possible. "

Recreation Assets and Access *(12 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• Primary attractions for residents and visitors • To maintain and create a healthy community • Recreation facilities are at capacity • Accessing nature	• Invest mostly in outdoor access and amenities, maintenance or recreation • Invest in recreation facilities, create a financial reserve to hold contributions from others • Land use to preserve areas/access • Incentives to developers	• Boulder Creek, CO • Salt Lake – Ogden, UT • Penticton/Osoyoos – water recreation • North/West Vancouver for facilities/fields • Rocky Point, Port Moody – marine activities

Natural Environment *(12 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• Environment is highly valued and there is development pressure • Healthy water, land and air is important for life and economy • Natural hazards such as flooding, but also natural protections (estuary)	• Monitoring the health of our environment • Improve habitat /corridor mapping and wildlife assessment capability • Partner with developers and NGOs for no net loss • Enforcement and communication of bylaws • Understand natural hazards – climate change	• Canmore, AB – wildlife corridors • Traffic circles on Hwy 99, California for carbon reduction

"The environment is the backbone to Squamish and the reason most of us are here. It is the love of the great outdoors that holds us here - I'm fascinated by this area"

Climate Change *(9 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• The changes will impact us all from skiing to fish, to flooding etc. • Opportunity for solutions and grow our economy • Global issue and we have to do our part	• Encourage active transportation and transit especially on Hwy 99 • Waste management/ Composting • Support clean/green energy and oppose GHG intensive industry • Create more complete neighbourhoods with amenities and density to support it	• Look to Europe - Holland, Germany, Denmark • Bring experts to Squamish • Victoria, BC has many complete villages with essential services

A Healthy and Learning Community *(9 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• Healthy people create a successful and vibrant community • Highway is unsafe	• Plan for all ages especially youth, children and seniors • Supporting low income, poor housing and amenities • Increase trail access from all homes with circle loops • Partnerships and working groups with all local social/health agencies	• Leeds UK - Exercise on prescription for older population • The Healthy Cities / Healthy Communities movement • Park City, Utah • Canmore, AB • See Whistler, Lynn Valley, Deep Cove.- good feel, family oriented, aesthetically pleasing

"Healthy people create a healthy and prospering community."

Arts and Culture *(9 feedback forms completed)*

Why is this important?	What should the District do about it?	Approaches from other cities we can learn from
• There is a legacy of art and many initiatives to improve access to arts and culture.	• Facilities and space for arts and culture • Inclusion in planning and marketing materials	• Canmore, AB • Vancouver Cultural Centre

"Squamish is full of many talented visual + performing artists, many of which struggle to find a way to share their art without costing them money."

OTHER COMMENTS

Survey respondents had the opportunity to provide additional/general comments related to the OCP Update. A total of 201 responses were received; the following provides a summary and count of major themes.

This question was asked via:

Questionnaire

As some responses address more than one topic, the total number of comments below may exceed the total number of responses.

- **Governance issues** – A variety of comments addressed governance issues including the need to stop tax increases, hire a Town Manager, make Council meetings more accessible to the working public, prioritize key issues, and take a bold stance on long-term visioning. *(36 comments)*

- **Sustainable growth and development** – Comments stressed the importance of sustainable growth to avoid sprawl and develop attractive, pedestrian-friendly areas. A number of people expressed a strong desire to develop the oceanfront area to its full potential including parks, water access, marine industry, hotels, businesses, housing and tourism services. A few comments suggested new development should include minimum green energy and rental market standards. *(34 comments)*

- **Protect and enhance outdoor recreation and natural areas** – Comments under this theme highlighted the importance of protecting natural areas as well as the need to create, maintain and improve existing recreation infrastructure such as bike parks, the Sea-to-Sky trail and multipurpose trails. *(33 comments)*

- **Slow growth and development**: Comments under this theme emphasized the need to slow growth in order to preserve the small town character of Squamish. Participants raised concerns about becoming a "bedroom community" or "another Whistler." Other concerns included resort projects like Garibaldi at Squamish, waterfront development, and the development of natural areas. *(31 comments)*

- **Livability, affordability and housing** – Comments stressed the need for affordable housing, including rental and subsidized housing, and many participants expressed fears about not being able to afford to live in Squamish or raise a family. Numerous people suggested the need to create policies to prioritize local ownership and affordability. *(27 comments)*

- **Community identity and pride** – Many participants expressed pride for the "Spirit of Squamish" and the area's natural beauty and abundant outdoor opportunities. A few comments suggested a need to build even stronger community connections, such as a Proud of Squamish Citizens volunteer group. *(27 comments)*

- **More community amenities** – Comments suggested there is a need for new community amenities in Squamish, particularly for youth, seniors and families. Suggestions included ice rinks, swimming pools, parks, and a new recreation centre. *(26 comments)*

- **Strong governance and community engagement** – Comments under this theme emphasized support for Council, their vision and the opportunity to engage in the OCP planning process. *(25 comments)*

- **Transportation and connectivity improvements –** Comments emphasized the need for better connectivity within Squamish and between Vancouver, Squamish and Whistler by car, rail, and water. The majority of comments focused on sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and transit although other issues such as parking, pedestrian and cycling safety, and traffic congestion were also raised. *(24 comments)*

- **Economy and Jobs** – Comments emphasized the need to support local businesses and attract companies that reinforce Squamish's brand. Participants noted the need for more local jobs to reduce long commutes for those working out of town. Tourism was a major theme as well as local start-ups, TV and film industries, renewable energy and industrial jobs. *(21 comments)*

- **No LNG and renewable energy** – A number of comments identified concerns with Woodfibre LNG and heavy industry citing climate change, environmental degradation, and impact on tourism, branding and the economy. Participants suggested renewable energy, clean-energy start-ups and carbon neutral operations as alternatives. *(18 comments)*

- **Comments about the questionnaire/wording** – A few respondents addressed topics and wording in the questionnaire and noted it was difficult to prioritize topics, as they are all important for the future of Squamish. *(12 comments)*

NEXT STEPS

There will be many more opportunities for Squamish residents, business owners and community stakeholder groups to get involved and share their ideas for Squamish2040.

Input from Phase 1 will be used to create a draft vision and goals for the plan, which we will bring back to the community for review and comment in Phase 2 to make sure we're on the right track. Feedback on community priorities will also be used to guide discussions on key topics in Phase 2.

PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT

Join us in Phase 2 as we dive deeper into early policy directions and discuss key options and trade-offs for updating the Official Community Plan:

- **Host or attend an OCPizza Night Party.** Get together with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbours to discuss the future of our community – with food! These citizen-led discussions will be guided by questions in a workbook designed to help you have a conversation about the future of our community in a way that is more comfortable and suits your schedule. As a thank you, the District is offering a $30 gift certificate to support hosts in offering food and beverages at their discussions.

    These workbooks will also be available online for individual input for those who would rather not attend an in-person discussion.

- **Attend a Public Workshop.** Similar to the OCPizza Night workbooks, this workshop will provide an opportunity to participate in a group dialogue on key topics. Join us on May 9th at the Brennan Park Recreation Centre from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Sign up for project updates at www.squamish.ca/OCP and stay tuned for details on upcoming activities and events.