

Village of Hazelton

Local Inventories: Employment 2014

Strength of the Public and Commercial Sectors

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1.0 Introduction

In the same fashion as for the Local Survey, this inventory was selected from the Indicator Matrix (appendix A). The results in this report are concerned with measuring the strength of public and commercial sectors employment. The results which were collected as part of the inventory are based on interviews and representative of the local economy.

2.0 Public Services

Village of Hazelton is very much a hub for education and health services for the Hazeltons. In fact the economy of Village of Hazelton is driven by these essential services. In this inventory the intent is to identify the relative strength of the public service employment base.

2.1 Wrinch Memorial Hospital

United Church Health Services operates the entire Hospital Grounds, with different organizations operating within the grounds. Northern Health runs the Mental Health building, the BC Government runs the Children and Youth building and Skeena Place is an independent organization which has 6 assisted living units. This is truly a community based facility and very much supported by the Village as well as the wider service area.

In addition to full medical services the hospital grounds also provide accommodation:

- Six (6) permanent residents
- Four (4) temporary- either weekly or term bases
- Six (6) assisted living – frail senior citizens.

Wrinch Memorial hospital is the largest employer in the Hazeltons.

Jobs	Total
Full Time	18
Part Time	38
Casual	56
On Leave	3
Total	115

From the above 7 **reside in the Village of Hazelton.**

2.2 Hazelton Secondary School

Hazelton Secondary School mission is to create a community of lifelong learners who are respectful, responsible, and successful citizens of the society in which we live. The student population is 320 students from Grades 8 through 12. The service area is generally referred to as Hazeltons and includes: two incorporated communities, two unincorporated communities and seven reserves from two separate nations: the Gitxsan and the Wet'su'wet'en).

The total staff of 35 includes:

- 29 full time teachers
- 6 part time teachers

From the above 5 teachers reside in the Village of Hazelton.

2.3 North West Community College

The Hazelton campus provides education opportunities to an average of 80 students per year and up to 200 including off site programs at First Nations communities. Most of the campus students attend to college and career preparations, and the majority of the offsite programs are developed for Trades, First Aid and alike. A very small number of the students reside in Village of Hazelton. At the time of interviews the total was estimated at 5.

The campus has opportunities (high student retention which is in the range of 90% and availability of space) and challenges (transportation for students coming in, including between Hazeltons and First Nations village). The College staff is always looking to improving service such as offering summer/evening/weekend classes and working towards mobile units to run classes, such as welding and a health care worker training unit

The total staff averages vary between 13-15 regular full time staff which does not include instructors who come in to deliver specialized courses.

Six 6 of the regular full time staff reside in the Village.

2.4 Ministry of Forests and Natural Resources

MOFNR facility is located at the entrance to the Village. At the time of the forestry boom the facility employed 3 full time positions. Now the services have been regionalized and there is only one full time employee located in Hazeltons.

This facility also operates a Fire Fighting Unit Crew of approximately 20 firefighters from the region. Recently MOFNR installed two camp style mobile homes to provide temporary accommodation for the fire fighters during the summer fire season.

2.5 Upper Skeena Development Centre

Upper Skeena Development Centre is a registered charity and a non for profit organization, with focus on programs in the community. It concentrates on training and employment opportunities with a focus on agriculture and youth. It also offers employment counselling with a range of services including: re-training, job coaching and counselling, employment workshops, resume, cover letter and needs assessment. The client-base is generally drawn from Hazeltons from Morristown to Cedervale (approximate population of 5500).

The current plans for expansion on the parcel of land commonly referred to as Humming Bird site for a multipurpose training, commercial and residential complex..This intent has been recognised in the current Official Community Plan update by developing land use policies to accommodate for the proposed mixed use including institutional, residential and commercial land uses.

Upper Skeena Development Centre	Jobs	Total
	Full Time	6
Senden Agricultural Centre		
	Full Time	2
	Part Time	3
Total		11

From the above one (1) resides in in the Village of Hazelton.

2.6 Hazelton District Public Library

The Library remains a very important element of the Village and regional community fabric. It is idyllically located between Skeena River and Front St in one of Village of Hazelton owned buildings.

Hazelton District Public Library has 1 full time employee and 7 part time employees. Library programming also depends on 4 casuals and 4 volunteers. Of the above only 1 part time employee resides in Village of Hazelton.

2.7 Village of Hazelton

Village staffing is typical of a small community Local Government office; a very small staff responsible for substantial legal, administrative and servicing responsibilities. Aside from consultants which are contracted out, generally from outside of the Village and the immediate region, there are 6 full time employees, of which 2 reside in the Village.

3.0 Commercial Sector

According to the door to door survey conducted in the first week of July the entire Village's private commercial sector (tax base) consists of 4 retail and 10 service commercial outlets. Once, Village of Hazelton was the main commercial centre not only for Hazelton but to a much larger region. However, with railway and the main highway generally bypassing the Village things have changed over time. Today Village of Hazelton has an end of the road syndrome; which many residents seek as a quality of life. In many ways Village of Hazelton is a destination place.

Official Community Plan notes continuation of the policies for the Second Crossing of Bulkley River and the potential for the lands commonly referred to as DL 103; which is the only green land that is available for any larger commercial/industrial development. The Historic Downtown and the land along the Highway is more or less utilized but with careful planning and land use polices, suffice for a more modest growth.

When the local commerce owners/operators were asked about challenges most frequent responses included:

- Lack of people (customers)
- People going to shop outside of Village
- Need more visitors

That said, all is not doom and gloom. All owners are operators of these businesses and entrepreneurs are mostly optimists. Good things worth noting:

- Things have been getting better.
- Low taxes
- Village of Hazelton has been a good partner/accommodating.

3.1 Employment in Commercial Sector

The commercial sector provides a total of 48 jobs, of which 19 are full time and 29 are part time and casual jobs.

From the total 21 employees and or business owners reside in the Village of Hazelton

3.2 Home Based Businesses

Within the context of the land use policies, home based businesses are a legitimate element of the local economy. From the total number of households interviewed during the door to door survey, 8 had a home based business, 3 of which indicated that this is their primary source of income.

From the total 6 provided services, one sold homemade products and one re-sells goods.

3.3 Summary

Below summaries is indicative of Village dependency on the public sector employment and superimposes on the fact that health and education facilities are essential for a community, in this case the entire region's economy.

Total employment by Type

Sector	Full Time	Part Time and Casual	Total
Public	59	164	223
Commerce	21	34	55
Total	80	198	278

Total Employment by residence

Sector	Total Number of Jobs	Residing in VOH	Residing in Hazeltons
Public	223	16	207
Commerce	55	21	34
Total	278	37	241

Appendix A: Indicator Matrix

Indicator Matrix

Indicators	Measurable Parameters	Looking for What	Why
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q Demographics (# ppl, age, FN) • Q Multigenerational presence • Q Term (contract) employment • Q Employment status/where, include home based business info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population pyramid • Stability/support network/social capital • Effects of Major Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shadow population/reverse ○ Source of employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition • Stability/continuity • What drives local economy....what is necessary for the local economy
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Quantity, quality and vacancies • I Type (SF, MF) • Q Ownership/rent/other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory to determine housing continuum base line • Demand and supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base line for housing and land use policies • Justifications for negotiations
Services (other jurisdictions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Public transport/ taxis • Q Transportation (vehicle ownership/household/taxis/shared arrangements) • I all health facilities • I all emergency facilities • I all education facilities • Q dependency on any/some/all for employment/support....literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this necessity or necessity • Transportation availability/necessity • Education K1 to NWCC & upgrades and daycare..... availability/necessity • Health care: current capacity • Emergency services: needs of community, current capacity • Connectivity 	<p>Conclusions supported by numbers to articulate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are necessities and what are opportunities • Loss of necessities devastating • Keeping necessities provides opportunities.

Revenue Source (taxes and Grants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Annual taxation collected • I Annual grants collected • I MFA/other loans • Q Willing to pay more tax for more services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends • Public opinion on increasing property taxes 	<p>Project means and realistic approach to development plans</p> <p>Determine support/opposition for increasing property taxes</p>
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Water sewer roads • I any other services VOH pays or grants to support. 	<p>Base line for capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support current • To support growth 	Asset management/ deficit
Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I # of comm./ind. Establishments • I Producers/suppliers/merchants • I Business/NP offices/govt • Q Food sources for local population (i.e local shops, surrounding communities) 	Size and strength of the commercial sector	

Appendix B: Observations

Observations- Businesses

Village of Hazelton Business Questionnaire- see excel file for raw data

- 14 business noted of which 13 were surveyed and 1 missed (Trading Post)
- 6 owners live in VOH (46%)
- 10 business (77%) have 4 employees or less
- 4 businesses (30%) would hire more employees if they were available
- 5 businesses plan to either close or downgrade service in next 5-10 years, 2 will possibly expand service

General Observations

- Participants eager to share opinions, appears as though VOH has not attempted to make previous Economic Development contact
- Business owners enjoy the lifestyle and slower pace that Hazelton offers
- Frustration expressed by few business owners over lack of economic development focus and support/advertising to bring in more business/lack of forward-thinking, business focus in VOH
- Agreement that a Chamber of Commerce or some sort of downtown business group should exist, although some participants note that this is the business owners' onus
- Most businesses are experiencing/have experienced difficulty with finding appropriate staff. This can mean a particular skill-set (such as a chef or plumber), or personal attributes such as responsible or motivated. Three businesses note they need a chef and one business is seeking a journeyman/plumber. These businesses would provide more service hours/expand if they could find these employees.
- Businesses also note it is difficult to retain employees/offer competitive wages and have had trainees leave after investing the time into training them.
- Medical services are doing quite well (Clinic and Pharmacy)
- Most common concerns are people leaving the Hazeltons to do their shopping (loss of business), finding and retaining suitable staff, and lack of 'economic growth focus' in VOH