

Village of Hazelton

Local Survey and Inventories 2014

Data Collection: NDI Intern Team – Summer 2014

Data Analysis: McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.

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ZENO KREKIC COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSULTANT

 KCPC

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1.0 Introduction

The Local Survey is a part in parcel of updating the Village of Hazelton Official Community plan. However, rather than including it with the OCP document it was elected to use the data during the community engagement as a base for policy making and keep it separate. In this way the data can be updated more frequently rather than waiting for the next OCP update.

WHY (collecting local surveys and inventories)?

If we were dealing with natural sciences (engineering, accounting, and such) we would not even dream of having an opinion or making a decision without data; at times extensive and often collected over time and frequently. Consequently, the resulting conclusions are precise as formulas, or at the minimum, based on the best information available.

While in social sciences (planning, managing, governance) we do not have the certainty of formulas, our analysis and opinions gain greatly by having data, and increased exponentially by taking the ownership and responsibility of collecting it locally. The primary reason (why) is to understand the community (Village of Hazelton) compositions, needs and wants.

HOW (we went about collecting information)?

It all started with workshop/focus meeting with the Village Council and Staff. The intent of the meeting was to consider if/how to update the current (circa 1990's) Official Community Plan (OCP). We focused on the things that are important to the community; which resulted in the Indicators Matrix (Appendix A). While the identified indicators (the important things) underpinned the development of the survey some words and phrases continue to resonate:

- Just one more blanket and can stay in bed all day.
- We are more concerned about retaining than growing
- Complacency or Apathy

Comparing to Statistics Canada census this was a modest affair. Appendix B contains a questionnaire, definitions and instructions to surveyors. Most of the work was completed during the first week of June and the first week of July by Northern Development Initiative/UNBC Community Planning interns. Observations by surveyors are included in Appendix C are brief but a very interesting reference points for when/if Council elects to repeat this exercise.

WHAT (we collected)?

In general we collected:

- Demographic data
- Household information
- Employment
- Opinions on some land uses
- Transportation
- Survey of the local commerce (economy)
- Survey of the local public agencies and service providers

The intent of this exercise is to first understand the community. As previously noted appendices contain details; however, what is important to underline is that the results are not intended to be compared to other communities. While comparisons to other communities may have some value, the benefit of having the locally collected data is having a bench mark from which internal comparisons and informed decisions can be made.

For this first edition we have isolated/analyzed the data along the lines of the “Indicator Matrix’. The information we collected is interesting and provided for good bases for some lively discussions during the OCP update community engagements. However; by repeating this exercise it will give the Council and community trends based on facts and objective underpinnings for public policy based decisions.

WHAT NEXT?

First, improve, repeat and stay current. This type of information gains exponentially when repeated to gain trends.

Second, encourage Council and staff to use this as a reference document, and always asking questions about what other information could be useful.

Third, review Indicator Matrix frequently. Even without measuring (survey and inventory) it can give an indication of changing social or economic influences and considerations for a variety of matters Council is tasked with.

2.0 Survey

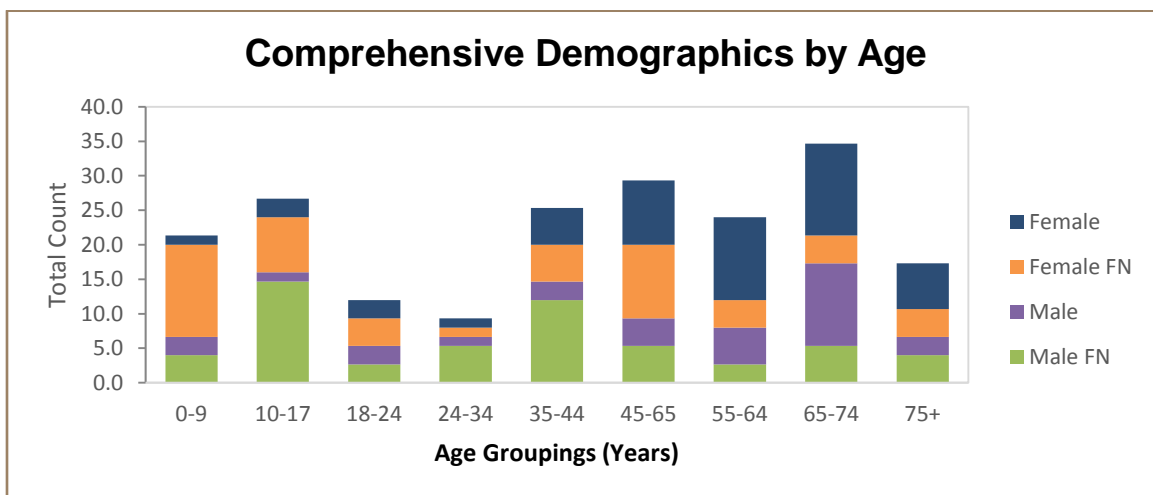
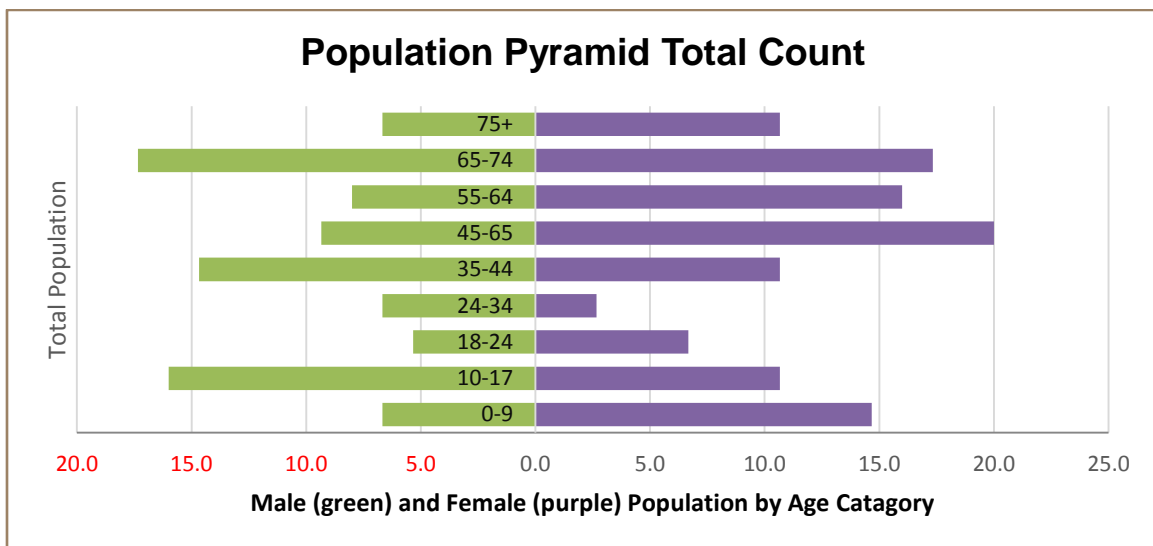
During the first week of June and July of 2014 surveyors accounted 108 dwelling units within the Village boundaries of which 62 responded and 44 were missed:

- 21 Residences with no answer after 4 attempts
- 12 Residences appearing as vacant home
- 6 Residences requesting to not participate
- 5 Apartment complexes (1 complex above BC Liquor, 1 single apt above Sunrise Café, 1 single apt above BC Café, 1 complex behind Uppers Skeena & 1 complex at 1620 Omineca St.)

2.1 Demographic Results

Considering only the dwellings that are not vacant, the total return represents a 33% non-participation rate. This rate is better but very similar to the standard for the area that Canada Census gets (39%). All relative outcomes of the sampling were adjusted by 0.33 to ensure that results reflect the entire population.

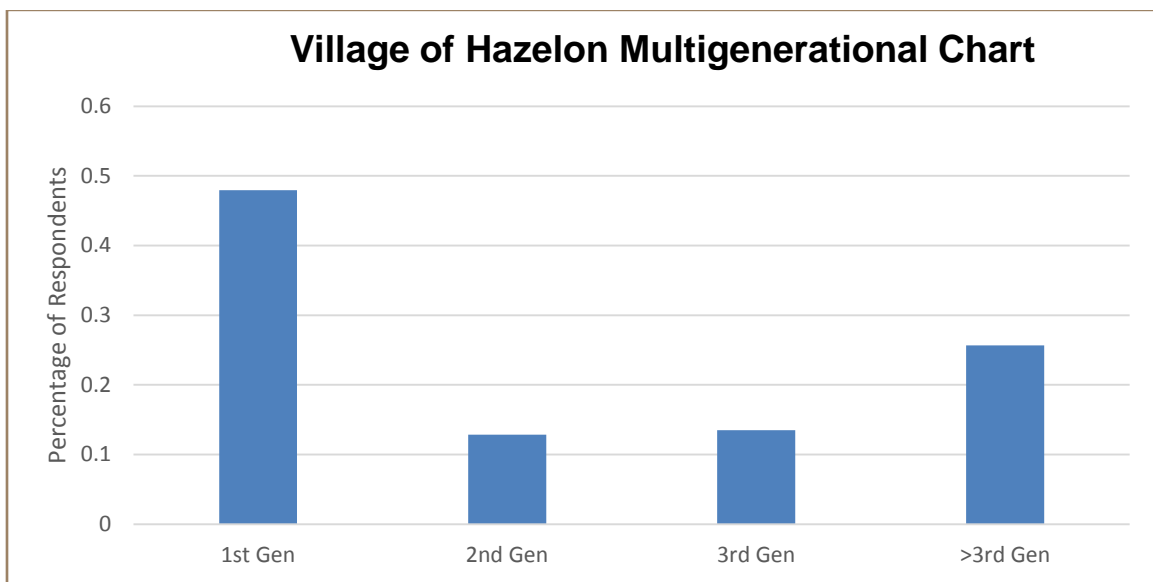
Based on these assumptions, the total population of Village of Hazelton is estimated at 197. The National census put the population in 2006 at 293 and in 2011 at 270. This represents an 8% decline in 5 years, or 0.16% per year between 2006 and 2011. Our numbers suggest a decline of 27% or 9% per year



2.2 Multi-Generational Data

In spite of the economic bust outcomes (10% vacant homes and an annual population decline of nearly 10% over the last decade) the community appears to have survived better than many who found themselves exposed to the similar circumstances. More often than not the word used is resiliency, and the survey premise was that “multi-generational” presence has something to do with that.

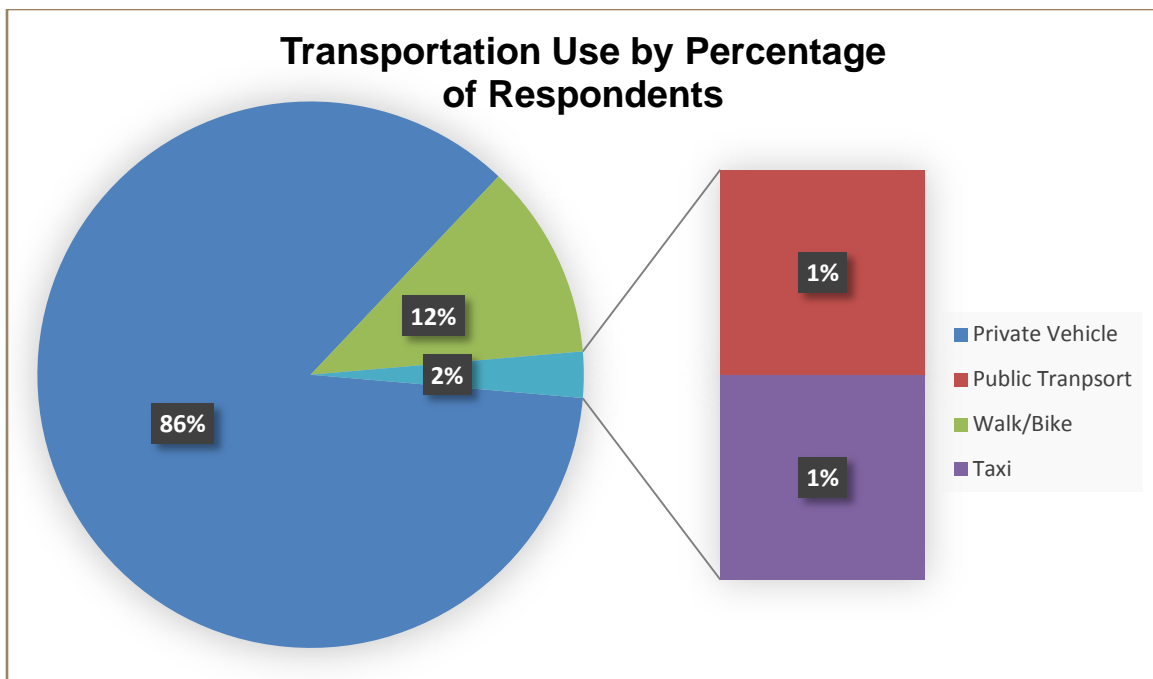
Village Hazleton has a long history which stretches over three centuries. It is also amidst of 7 first Nations communities with Gitnamaax completely interwoven to the point that legal boundaries need to be interpreted on maps. Both the long history of community and sizable presence of First Nations do contribute to the results which show that over 50 percent includes multi-generational presence; however, telling of the desire to stay “home”.



2.3 Mode of Transportation

We anticipated that the majority of the Village population use private vehicles for transportation.. Nevertheless it deserves effort and attention to have the facts and advocate for better public transportation. While this is easier said than done and the scope of this work does not include analysis of public transportation, it suffices to note that what is available today falls short from the expectations.

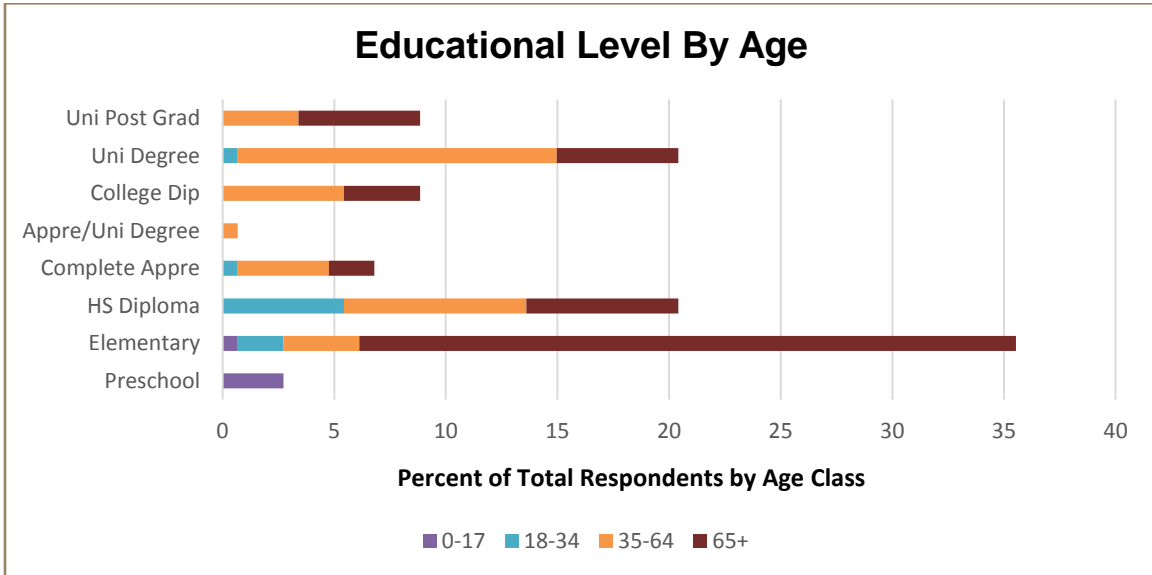
At the outset we were interested to know the frequency of hitchhiking and the correlation between home ownership and vehicle ownership. On the former (hitchhiking) we failed, probably because of the stigma of declaring unsafe nature of hitchhiking, and therefore hidden Nevertheless is persistent method of transportation and even an occasional drive in the area will see hitchhikers on the road. On the latter (dependency on a private vehicle) proved that to own a car is a necessity.



2.4 Education

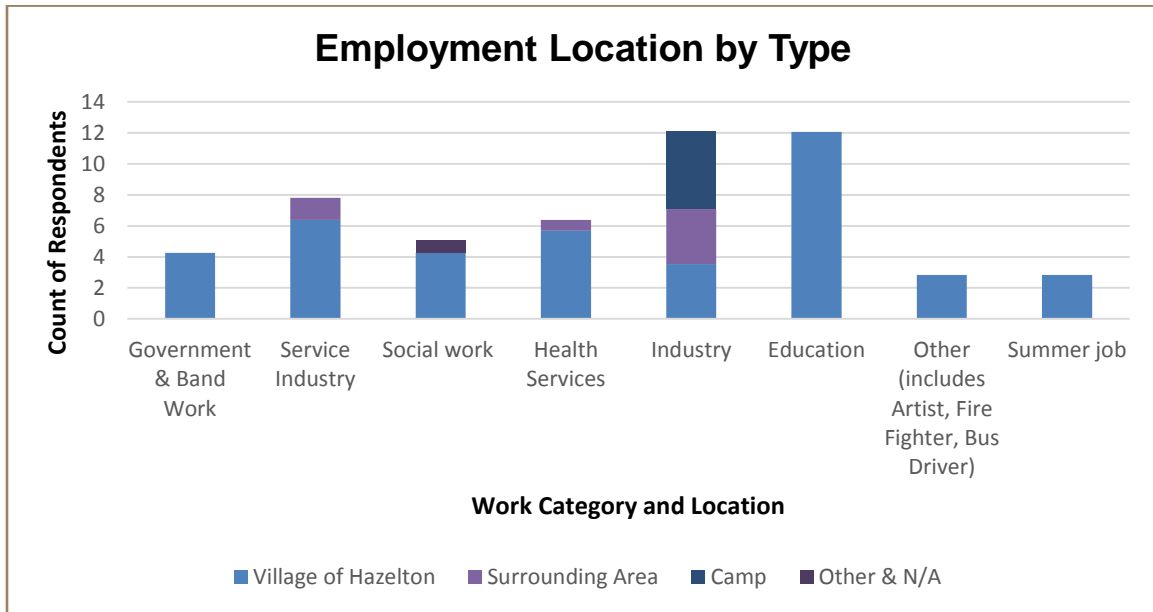
At the outset we were interested in finding out how many are at, or below, the basic education threshold (literacy). In the end we were not able (or comfortable) asking this question and elected to stay with some basic measurements.

We were not surprised to see a high number of college and university graduates. But we were surprised at the number of Post Graduate degrees. Most of these are PHDs who chose the community to retire and for the quality of life.

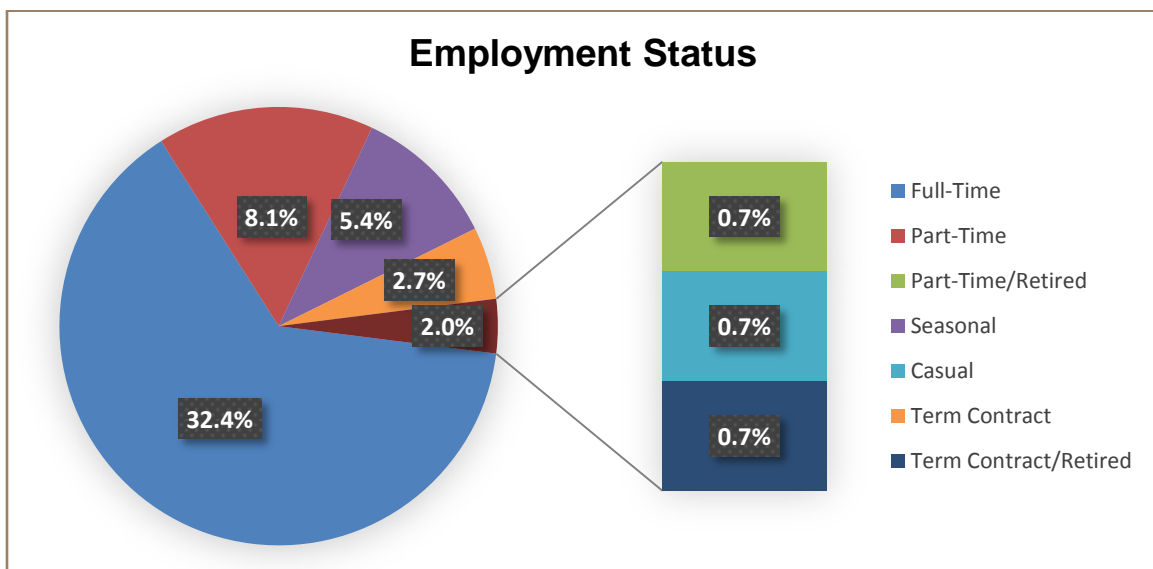


2.5 Employment

For the purposes of this survey we were primarily concerned with sectors (type) of employment and location. With respect to the former, how many are employed in public sector; and with respect to latter, to measure mobility of the village residents within the Hazelton region. Relating to the employment statistics outside of the Village, it was of interest to ascertain how many are working in camps or on a regular (weekly) shifts in the neighboring communities.

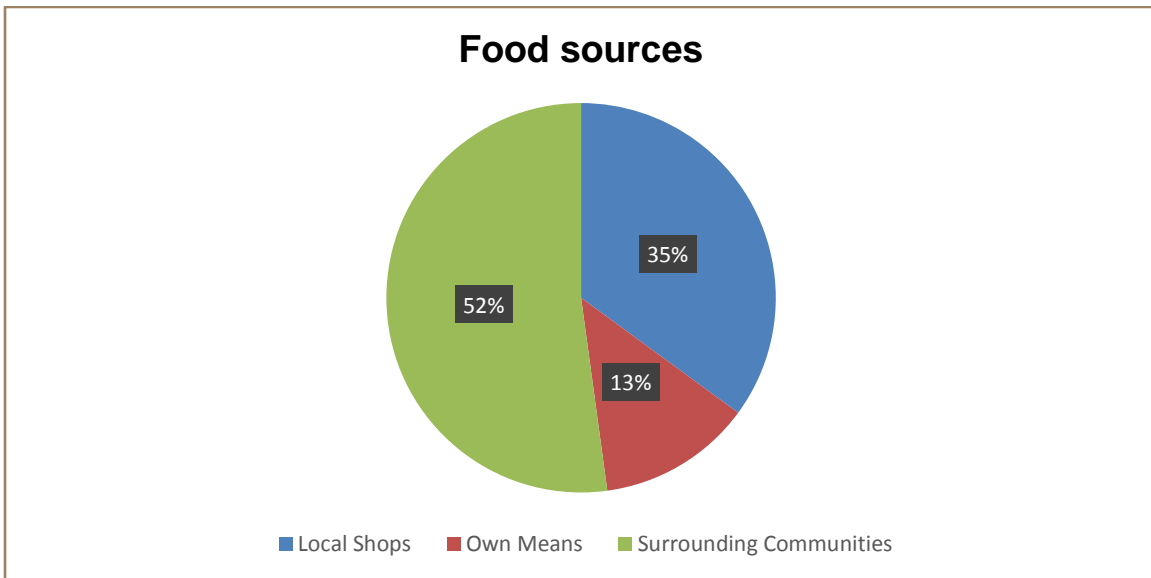
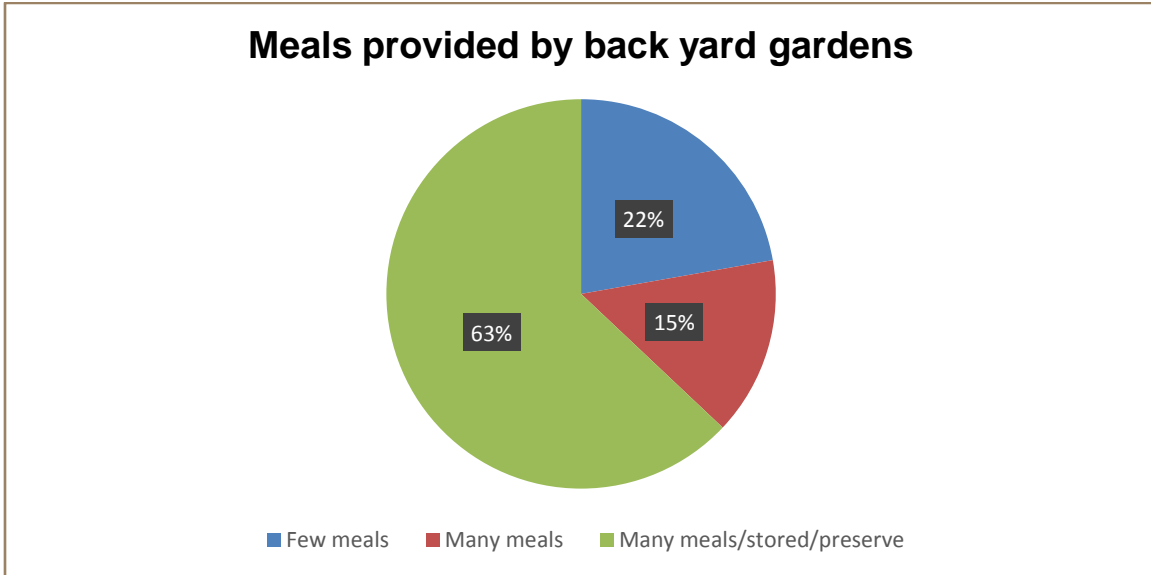


Of interest was also the security/longevity of employment. The result below indicates that 2/3 of the total number who responded to this question had a full time job.



2.6. Activates affecting land Use Regulations

Provision of food in northern communities due to isolation and distance to stores produced a self-sufficiency (gardens, keeping of small life stock, hunting and fishing). All of these activities are land based activates and it behooved us to first prove (as per bellow results), and then to incorporate provisions in the land use regulations (OCP and Zoning Bylaw) to permit such uses.



Also worth noticing:

- 43.5 % of the respondents indicated they have back yard gardens (27/62)
- 85.5% of respondents favor the allowance of backyard chickens (53/62)

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.

<p>Revenue Source (taxes and Grants)</p>	<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>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<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 	<p>Asset management/ deficit</p>
<p>Commerce</p>	<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) 	<p>Size and strength of the commercial sector</p>	

Appendix B: Instruction to Surveyors

Instruction to Surveyors

14.05.30

Village of Hazelton Local Survey and Inventories: Instructions to surveyors

Use common sense.

Interview can be done in person or over the telephone.

Use resources in VOH office for introductions.

Travel in pair unless absolutely secure to go solo

Completed questionnaire must be kept in a safe and confidential manner. Arrange in VOH office.

Walk away from any type of challenge. Carry a supply of Tanalee business cards.

If you discover ambiguities in the questionnaire collect competing data and contact me and/or Brad immediately.

If you discover a pattern or something of interest/new, collect on a side and communicate to me and/or Brad.

Appendix B: Definitions

Definitions

Aboriginal Descent: Self-declared, includes all nations and metis. We are not interested in membership.

Primary Resident: Typically referred to as “head of household”. Use common sense to find:

- Multiple/extended households
- Necessity due to the lack of rental accommodation.

Stability: We are looking if community is balanced or exposed to in migration and out migration.....or perhaps stagnant.

- Permanent: full time....on Driver License....
- Occasional: from time to time and less than 6 months
- Temporary: first time/one time and less than 3 months

Employment type: we are seeking if employment is in:

- Primary Sector = producing
- Secondary sector = selling or commercial services
- Tertiary Sector = Employment depending wholly or partially on support by (any) level of government.

Student Status: Inclusion of Upper Skeena, Learning Shop and GWES is to determine how many depend on upgrading and basic literacy education. This could be a sensitive topic. Use common sense and judgment.

Use of Transportation: The basic intent is to find dependency of public transportation and other type of transportation. Definitely concentrate on hitchhiking.

Appendix B: Questionnaire

Village of Hazelton Census Questionnaire – Demographic Data

Instructions: Questions are to be asked by the interviewers who will then populate the form, each row represents one resident of the household (no names to be used). Criteria for each of the columns are provided in the corresponding text box.

Usual number of household residents: _____

Resident (No Names)	Age	Gender	Aboriginal Descent	Indian Band/FN	Relationship	Perm. Res.	Length	Res. Location	Employment	Employment Location	Student Status	Education Level	Transport.	Dependency	Literacy
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															

Age 1: 0-9 years 2: 10-17 years 3: 18-24 years 4: 25-34 years 5: 35-44 years 6: 45-54 years 7: 55-64 years 8: 65-74 years 9: 75 and over	Gender 1: Female 2: Male	Aboriginal Descent 1: Yes 2: No	Part of an Indian Band/FN 1: Yes 2: No	Relationship to Primary Resident 1: Primary Resident 2: Immediate Family 3: Other relative 4: Not related	Permanent Resident 1: Recent 2: 2 nd Generation 3: Multiple Generation	Length of Residence 1: Less than 1 year 2: 1 to less than 2 years 3: 2 to less than 5 years 4: Five years or more	Permanent Resident Location 1: Northern BC 2: BC other 3: Canada other 4: USA 5: Other	Employment 1: Full-time 2: Part-time 3: Seasonal 4. Term Contract 4: Unemployed 5: Homemaker 6: Retired 7: Student 8: Other
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Employment Location 1: Hazelton or local villages 2: Surrounding Communities (Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat) 3: camp location 4. other	Student Status 1: Elementary 2: Secondary School 3: Post Secondary 4: Apprentice	Education Level 1: Elementary only 2: Some High School 3: High School Diploma 5: Some Apprenticeship 6: Completed Apprenticeship/Trade 7: Attended College (not completed) 8: College Certificate/Diploma 9: Some University 10: University Degree 11: University Post Graduate	Usual Transportation (to and from work/school/other) 1: Private Vehicle 2: Public Transit 3: Walk 4: Bike 5: Taxi 6: Band Transport 7: Other	Are you dependent on others for financial support? 1: Never 2: Sometimes 3: Always	Literacy: can you read and write? 1: Yes 2: No
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Appendix C: Observations

Observations

Village of Hazelton Census Questionnaire

- Part E – Tax question too difficult for participants to apply a number for each item. Instead, participants chose which items they thought were important by checking the box. This means that each check is equal in value (no check is more important than another). Additional comments and concerns were recorded below.
- The survey was unable to capture those who buy fish illegally. A few participants noted that they buy fish from First Nations in the area but do not consider this as food by their “own means”.
- Part B - Childcare Information question likely not answered accurately. This is due to the wording “childcare facilities” and we suspect some residents did not think that family/friends would fall under childcare facilities. We later re-adjusted the wording so that residents understood better, however; it is possible a large number of participants who use family/friends for sitting were not recorded.
- Question 6 does not have category to capture those who shop once every 2 or 3 weeks (assuming weekly means once a week and monthly means once a month). This response was written down so that Brad can determine how to categorize.
- Some confusion over what counts as a home based business. Jobs like hosting Tuperware parties or those who took calls for contract work at home (but do not have a home office) were written down for Brad to determine how to categorize.

Village of Hazelton Census Questionnaire – Demographic Data

- The primary mode of transportation question likely not accurate as people did not report hitchhiking or most people named their vehicle as their mode, although they would also walk etc. Children were also noted as using a vehicle as their primary mode (if participant provided this answer) although they do not drive.

General Observations

- Response generally good, only a couple houses we spoke to did not want to participate.
- A large number of retired professionals with post-graduate education (including Europeans). These residents commonly moved here for work in the hospital and then stayed to permanently reside. Others came to retire because they enjoy the natural beauty and lifestyle.
- A large percent of participants are concerned with youth not having enough activities, including concerns over youth drinking or getting into trouble. Residents would like to see recreation activities for youth (skate board park, parks, swimming pool, etc.) or other organized activities.
- A large percentage of participants would like to see money put towards recreation. Something such as a pool would benefit seniors, youth and families.
- Desire for downtown clean-up/beautification. Including burying power lines.

- Desire for a shuttle bus between the three villages (Old Hazelton, New Hazelton and South Hazelton).
- Concern over being enough facilities for an ageing population (shuttle bus and recreation activities).
- Desire to see more effort put towards attracting and supporting new businesses.
- Desire to see more effort put towards attracting tourists (signage, advertising).
- Some residents seem satisfied with the way things are in general and some noted they would not like to see major changes as there is a desire for natural beauty and quiet to be maintained.

***More detailed observations noted on Hardcopies of surveys.