

THE NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO DELTA

Delta



How do I learn English
in Delta?



Where do I access
community supports?



What does the local
government do?



The City of Delta acknowledges that we are on the shared, traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the scəwáθən (Tsawwassen), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and other Coast Salish Peoples. We extend our appreciation to these First Nations for the opportunity to enjoy this land together.

Welcome From the Mayor and Council

It is with great pleasure that we extend a heartfelt welcome to each one of you joining our diverse, caring, and vibrant community here in the City of Delta.

Our city is a community that thrives on the strength of its residents and businesses. We are honoured to represent a city that celebrates diversity, inclusivity, and a strong sense of community spirit. Delta is a safe community where people from all walks of life come together to build a shared future, and we are confident that you will find a welcoming and supportive environment here.

Delta boasts not only breathtaking natural landscapes but also a wealth of amenities, services, and cultural experiences catering to various interests and needs. From our dynamic community events to the rich tapestry of culinary delights, you'll discover that Delta is a place that offers something for everyone.

As newcomers, you bring a unique set of experiences, perspectives, and talents that contribute to the mosaic of Delta's identity. We encourage you to explore our city, connect with your neighbours, and engage in the numerous opportunities available to make your mark on this wonderful community.

This guide was created to help you find your way as you start your new life in Delta. Our doors are always open, and we are committed to ensuring that your transition to life in Delta is as smooth as possible. If there is anything you need or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your well-being and success in Delta are of utmost importance to us.

Once again, welcome to the City of Delta. May your journey here be filled with joy, prosperity, and a deep sense of belonging.



(left to right): Councillor Daniel Boisvert, Councillor Jessie Dosanjh, Councillor Dylan Kruger, Mayor George V. Harvie, Councillor Alicia Guichon, Councillor Rod Binder, Councillor Jennifer Johal

How to Use this Guide

Welcome to Delta! Settling in a new country and a new community is not always easy. Many things can be difficult to understand because of the language barrier and differences in cultures, traditions and norms. This guide was developed to make it easier for Delta's immigrants and refugees to settle in our city. The following features were introduced to improve the readability of the guide and make it more relevant to Delta newcomers:

- Information is organized in topics prioritized by Delta immigrants who reviewed a draft guide.
- The guide is focused on local resources and Delta-relevant information.
- The Table of Contents, located at the beginning of the guide and Index at the back can help in finding information more quickly.
- A quick First 10 Steps checklist is included.
- The guide can be found in Delta libraries, City Hall and [online](#).

This guide was developed in 2023-2024. Information is up to date as of March 2024. Some information may change; where possible, online links were included in the guide and readers are encouraged to check them for the most up-to-date information.



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01

About Delta

Delta is a gem found in Greater Vancouver, offering an extraordinary quality of life: breathtaking scenery, wide-open spaces, mild temperatures, and wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities. The population of close to 110,000 residents is spread among three residential areas: Ladner, North Delta, and Tsawwassen. Delta remained an isolated community until the completion of the George Massey Tunnel in 1959 linking Ladner, its administrative centre, to Richmond and Vancouver. In 1986, the Alex Fraser Bridge connected North Delta to New Westminister and Vancouver. At the request of Council, the Government of British Columbia changed the name and classification of the Corporation of Delta to the City of Delta on September 22, 2017.

33%

of Delta's
population are
immigrants

?

Did you know...?

Delta encompasses 180 square kilometres bordered by the Fraser River to the north, the United States border and Boundary Bay to the south, the City of Surrey to the east and the Salish Sea to the west.

Ladner began developing as a farming community in the late 19th century with farms centered around the Chilukthan Slough. The community quickly grew as more farmers came to take advantage of the rich soil of the Fraser Delta. Our village centre in Ladner was the nucleus for this small community and expanded further with the growth of the fishing industry.

Tsawwassen, known more commonly as Boundary Bay prior to the 1950s, was a mixture of resort cabins and subsistence farmers who carved their farms out of the forest. These farmers and permanent residents relied heavily upon Ladner for food, supplies, and secondary schooling. With the opening of the Massey Tunnel, Tsawwassen has since grown into a large and self-sufficient suburban community.

North Delta's community growth began in the decade of the 1900s with the influx of Scandinavian and Japanese immigrants to the area who came to participate in the lucrative fishing industry. Around Gunderson Slough developed a tight-knit community of Norwegian fishermen known as Annieville. Downstream at Sunbury flourished another fishing community of Japanese and Scandinavians that stretched through much of River Road.



Did you know...?

The ecological conservancy area of Burns Bog takes up almost one-seventh of Delta's land mass. Almost half of Delta's land is agricultural. Tilbury Industrial Park and Annacis Island are two of the largest industrial areas in Metro Vancouver making Delta a large, mixed-use municipality.

Delta is becoming increasingly diverse. Over 45% of our population are racialized residents and at least one-third are immigrants. A quarter of our residents have a South Asian background, and we have an increasing number of residents from Syria and Afghanistan. For more details about Delta's demographics, please see Appendix 2 (digital copy only). Delta has a strong history of supporting its diverse residents by providing services and establishing policies aimed to improve community wellbeing. Read about Delta's Social Action Plan and other plans in Appendix 3.



Learn more about Indigenous Peoples in Delta

Visit Tsawwassen First Nation
<https://tsawwassenfirstnation.com/>

Visit Musqueam Indian Band
<https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/>

02

Indigenous Peoples in Delta

Thousands of years prior to Delta becoming incorporated as a municipality in 1879, the area of the Fraser River Delta, was occupied by Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN), Musqueam Indian Band (MIB), and other Coast Salish peoples.

According to archaeologists, human beings occupied the southwest coast of BC since 7000 BCE. It is believed that the Tsawwassen First Nation people were well established in their traditional territory by 400-200 BCE (over 2,400 years ago).

In 1791, Spanish and English explorers arrived in the vicinity of Tsawwassen. By 1858, the colony of British Columbia became official, Tsawwassen lands were pre-empted, and settler families were given parcels of land.

In 1876, the Indian Act was passed into law in Canada. The Act prohibited First Nations from expressing their identities through governance and culture. It replaced traditional structures of governance, while making it illegal for Indigenous Peoples to practice religious ceremonies and have cultural gatherings. First Nations people were restricted from leaving reserve lands without permission from Indian Agents and were denied the right to vote until 1960.

In addition, by 1920, Canada introduced compulsory attendance of Indigenous children at Indian Residential Schools. Indian Residential Schools were operated in tandem

between the federal government and Catholic Church. Children were subjected to harsh living conditions and were not permitted to speak their own languages or practice cultural activities. It is estimated that over 150,000 Indigenous children attended residential schools in Canada and thousands died as a direct result of it.

The last residential school in Canada was closed in 1996. Within the City of Delta, Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band have Treaty lands and Indian Reserve lands, respectively. Newcomers to Delta are encouraged to learn more about TFN and MIB through their websites and public resources to better understand their rich culture and history and recognize their resilience and strength as modern First Nation governments.

The relationship between the City of Delta, Tsawwassen First Nation, and Musqueam Indian Band continues to grow. In 2018, the City of Delta formalized a land acknowledgement that is read aloud at each Delta Council meeting and public events hosted by the local government. The City of Delta remains committed to advancing meaningful Indigenous reconciliation, fostering long-term relationships with First Nations, and promoting inclusivity of Indigenous Peoples living in the City of Delta.

For more information about the history of this land, please see Appendix 1 (digital copy only).

03 Settling in Delta

FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

Housing costs vary by area, which is why it is important to do some research about the neighbourhood before you settle in Delta. Plan to live close to where you will work, and study, or in an area close to public transportation; it will save you time and money and make it easier to connect to your neighbourhood.

Websites like Facebook Marketplace and Craigslist are very popular among people seeking housing but be cautious about what you find and what personal information you give out. *BC's Guide for Landlords and Tenants* explains your rights, such as how to get repaid for emergency repairs or how much notice must be given before an owner can enter your rental suite. Learn more about different types of housing in Appendix 5 (digital copy only).

If you have any questions about renting a home in B.C. or if you have any problems with your landlord, you should contact the Residential Tenancy Branch. Information at the Branch is available in several languages.

Toll-free: 1-800-665-8779
gov.bc.ca/landlordtenant



What is a Social Insurance Number (SIN)?

To access government programs or services and work in Canada it is necessary to have a SIN. This is a 9-digit number issued by Service Canada. Applying for a SIN is free and can be done online, by mail, or at a Service Canada Centre.

For more information and to apply for a SIN online please visit [*Government of Canada's website \(SIN\)*](http://Government of Canada's website (SIN)).

Apply online or visit a nearest centre: Surrey North Service Canada Centre 13889 104th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

You may qualify for subsidized housing

You might qualify to receive rental financial support or lower-cost housing from the government. This is called subsidized housing. Most subsidized housing is available through BC Housing or Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation.

To find out if you can get support, go to www.bchousing.org and search for "Subsidized Housing". Visit [the website](#) or contact BC Housing for information about the programs, call 604-433-2218, Toll-free: 1-800-257-7756

For information about affordable housing options available through [Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation](#), call 604-432-6300, or email: housing.inquiries@metrovancover.org.

While it's unlikely you will get housing right away because there are waitlists, it's important that you sign up for the waitlist for when a suitable unit becomes available!

Housing Co-ops

Co-operative housing is an affordable option that lies between renting and owning. The co-op is a non-profit organization and managed by a board of directors. Residents are members of the co-op and pay monthly housing fees. Co-ops are mixed income communities for people of all income levels. Generally, co-ops house people with low and moderate incomes. Many non-profit housing co-ops receive funding from the senior levels of government to help house its low-income members. The housing cost



Did you know...?

Delta has 23 recreation facilities that provide a variety of activities and programming. They offer a mix of drop-in and registration programs. Recreation facilities include Arenas, Aquatic Centers, Gymnasiums, and Arts & Cultural Centers. Each location has their own hours of operation. Before you visit, ensure you check the hours of that facility and the programs they offer.

You can view all of Delta's recreation facilities at our website: [Parks, Recreation and Culture – facilities](#).

for these units is adjusted to the household's income. This is often referred to as "rent-geared-to-income" or "RGI" or a subsidized housing charge.

*The Co-operative Housing Federation of BC.
Greater Vancouver: 604-879-5111
Toll-free: 1-866-879-5111
Toll-free: 1-877-384-9444
chf.bc.ca*



Checklist: Finding Housing

- You may be asked to fill out an application form when applying for housing.
- Be careful when looking at ads for places to rent. Some people use fake ads to trick you and take your money.
- A landlord may ask to check your credit history and you also may be asked to provide references.
- If you decide to rent a place, you will be asked to sign a Residential Tenancy Agreement and you will be asked to provide rent for the first month and you may need to pay a damage deposit (make sure you get receipts).
- Always read your rental agreement carefully and ask someone you trust to review it.
- Before moving in, check for any damages during a walk through and take pictures.
- If your phone, internet and other utilities are not included in your rent, you need to arrange for these services with various service providers for a separate monthly fee.
- Consider buying tenant's insurance that will pay for damages to your belongings in case of a fire, flood, robbery, etc.
- You need to ask your landlord before making any changes to the unit.
- Your landlord has to provide you with the name/ phone number of someone who can make emergency repairs.

LEARNING ENGLISH

English is one of the two official languages in Canada, but the most commonly spoken language in B.C. and in Delta. For this reason, it is critical to learn English so that you understand what is happening around you and be able to participate in your new community.

There are many ways in which you can start learning it yourself, like watching TV, reading English books, listening to music in English, and by taking any opportunity to practice. There are also many free classes offered by volunteers in your community groups or on social media platforms like Facebook.

Delta School District provides support to newcomers through the program called the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) which offers free English language courses to adult permanent residents. The Government of Canada, through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), provides funding to support this program. The program is free for Permanent Residents and Convention Refugees over the age of 17. It is important to note that it is not for Canadian citizens or refugee claimants. To assess your level of English and learn more about opportunities to learn English, contact the LINC office. The language assessment centre will assess your English language skills via a test. It will help you understand how much you know of the English language.

*Surrey Language Assessment Centre
Address: 7337 137th Street, Suite 202, Surrey
604-507-4150*



Did you know...? Google Translate Can Help

Google Translate has a feature that allows a person to hover over script with a smart phone (camera on) and it will translate the text into their respective language. It is a free and accessible option for navigating your everyday life as you are learning English.

In Delta, Delta Community College (DCC) has a LINC Program in which basic English Language courses are provided to adult permanent residents.

*604-952-2923
LINC@deltaschools.ca
[LINC website](#)*

Learning English at Delta Libraries:

Conversation Circle: Practice Your English this is a drop-in program where you can join fellow newcomers to improve your English through speaking and listening about different topics each week in a safe and friendly space. This program is suitable for all levels of speakers.

The Let's Talk: Games and Fun program providing a safe and friendly space to practice your speaking skills while playing games.
Learn more: 604-594-8155

SETTLEMENT SUPPORTS

Settlement agencies offer programs and services that can help you to settle in Canada. These services can help you register your child in a school, look for a job, make new friends, register for English language classes, help with accessing government/community services, and understand local culture and your rights in Canada. Settlement services are usually free and are often provided by community not-for-profit organizations. Settlement services can often be provided in a language you are comfortable in, i.e., your first language as well as English and French.

If your child attends a Delta School District (DSD) school or you attend English Language Learning (ELL) classes provided by Delta Community College, you can access settlement services through the Settlement Workers in School program offered through DSD.



Did you know...?

BC211 is a free and confidential service that connects individuals to resources and services in their community. Anyone can call or text 211 to access help in over 150 languages (services are available 24 hours 7 days a week).

Information and referrals provided by BC211 include services that assist with food and shelter, mental health and addictions support, legal and financial assistance, support for seniors, and more.

DIVERSEcity

dcrs.ca

Surrey Community Campus

13455 76 Avenue, Surrey

604-597-0205

info@dcrs.ca

Immigrant Services Society of BC

issbc.org

10334 152A Street, Unit 301

604-683-1684

info.surrey@issbc.org

MOSAIC

mosaicbc.org

7134 King George Blvd, Suite 200, Surrey

778-591-9334

info@mosaicbc.org

PICS

pics.bc.ca

7953 120 Street, Unit 3, Delta

604-596-7722 EXT: 145

lipdelta@pics.bc.ca

S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

successbc.ca

15117 101 Avenue, Unit 100, Surrey

604-588-6869

isipsurrey@success.bc.ca

Options

options.bc.ca

13520 78 Avenue, Surrey

604-596-4321

info@options.bc.ca

FINDING WORK

Finding a job is certainly not an easy task, especially when you are in a new country and learning a different culture and language. Having patience, developing strong English language skills, and making connections will take you far.

Luckily there are many organizations in B.C. that can support you in your job search journey. Not all are located in Delta, but most can be reached virtually online or by phone.

WorkBC is a service provided by the provincial government. You can visit the website to search for jobs, learn about different careers, and learn about B.C.'s economy, industries, and job market. Find information about employment services and job training programs available to you. Visit: findyourpath.workbc.ca

Work BC Delta:

11861 88 Ave 3rd Floor, Delta

info-delta-88th@workbc.ca

604-591-9116

Work BC Ladner:

4899 Delta Street, Delta

info-delta-delta@workbc.ca

604-591-9116

Settlement agencies also offer employment workshops and other supports, like mentorship programs. These agencies offer job boards, and many listings can be found online. Do not just send general resumes everywhere and hope to be noticed; it is much more effective to target a specific job and tailor your resume and cover letter to this job posting.



WorkBC Centers provide:

- Planning, support and workshops to help you find a job
- Training to build your skills*
- Work experience*
- Services for people who want to work for themselves
- Help searching for jobs, preparing a resumé, contacting employers, and getting ready for a job interview
- Assistive technology and other supports for people with disabilities
- Financial support to participate in services and to start a job, including childcare, transportation, essential work clothes and tools, and language interpretation*

**once eligibility is determined-subject to approval*



Tips for finding a job:

- 1 Do your homework (learn more about your profession, industries, and companies you want to work for).
- 2 Track your job applications.
- 3 Customize your resume.
- 4 Get the Certifications/Accreditations you need.
- 5 Join a professional association.
- 6 Learn more about the Canadian work culture.
- 7 Work on your communications skills (explore Toastmasters, for example).
- 8 Build your network, i.e., join a professional association, talk to your friends and neighbours.
- 9 Build your LinkedIn profile and schedule information interviews with local professionals.
- 10 If you don't have work experience, consider earning some volunteer hours. Volunteering not only allows you to contribute to the community but also helps you gain valuable skills and references that can be beneficial when seeking employment opportunities.

BANKING

Opening a Bank Account

You can open an account at a bank, credit union, or trust company. Get information about different bank accounts and different companies before you choose. Find out about the kinds of accounts and what the fees are. Sometimes, you can be charged when you put in (deposit), move (transfer), or take out (withdraw) money. Some accounts pay interest on the money in your accounts. Ask questions about banking fees and interest rates.

The two main types of accounts in Canada are:

Chequing accounts: a chequing account lets you use a special piece of paper (cheque) to pay someone. Most Canadians do not write cheques anymore. Most Canadians use online banking and debit cards for everyday transactions and purchases. Some chequing accounts charge monthly service fees. Some charge for different transactions. Most chequing accounts do not pay interest.

Savings accounts: all savings accounts pay interest. Different banks give different interest rates. Most savings accounts do not allow you to write cheques.



Did you know...?

Delta has three geographically distinct urban communities – Ladner (population: 23,047), Tsawwassen (population: 22,160) and North Delta (population: 60,769). Tsawwassen First Nation is a separate Treaty Nation that is located on the Salish Sea and surrounded by Delta on three sides.

Taxes

The government provides public goods and services for the community. Depending on the level of government (municipal, provincial, federal) these services might include roads, parks, community centres, public safety, emergency management, medical care, schools, and defense. Governments charge taxes to pay their bills. Some of these taxes may include:

?

Did you know...?

Deltassist provides free income tax clinics in Delta. The clinic is run by volunteers and supported by the City of Delta. <https://deltassist.com>

1

Consumer Tax

In B.C., a 7% provincial sales tax (PST) and 5% federal goods and services tax (GST) are charged on many goods and services. In Canada, prices displayed in stores almost never include taxes and often you need to add 12% to the shown price. Some people may be eligible for a PST and or GST tax credit when they file their annual federal government income tax return. [Learn more.](#)

2

Property Taxes

Property taxes are paid to the City of Delta by property owners. If you do not own property in Delta, you will not have to pay. The tax covers municipal services such as police, fire/emergency services, parks and recreation, road repairs, and others. [Learn more.](#)

3

Income taxes

All adults living in B.C. should file an income tax return form annually. This process determines how much you should pay on your income and if you are qualified for tax credit and other benefits. The form must be sent to the federal government. [Learn more.](#)

HEALTHCARE

The health plan for the province of B.C. is called the Medical Services Plan (MSP). It pays for basic, medically required health services. These include some doctor visits, medical tests, and treatments. Not all health costs are covered by MSP.

The MSP doesn't include other more specific services like dentists, optometrists, and physiotherapists.

The MSP is for B.C. Residents who:

- Are Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- Are government-assisted refugees
- Are study or work permit holders

Depending on your status in Canada, you may have to wait a certain time period before you are covered under the province's healthcare plan. Additionally if you are an international student, there is a \$75 monthly fee to access the province's healthcare plan.

[Learn more about MSP.](#)



How can I register for MSP?

You need to apply to register for MSP.

1. On your application, make sure you write your name exactly as it appears on other official documents.
2. You should register for MSP as soon as you arrive in B.C.
3. You may have to wait for up to 3 months for your application to be processed. If you do not have MSP, you should buy private medical insurance.
4. If you need medical care in B.C. and you do not have MSP or private medical insurance, you will have to pay all medical costs yourself.

For more information and to register for MSP, contact Health Insurance BC:
City of Delta Area: 604-683-715;
Toll-free: 1-800-663-7100 gov.bc.ca



Healthcare in Delta or in Canada may look very different than where you are from. In Canada, if you have provincial medical insurance such as the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP), it is free to go to a hospital or doctor's office. However, you may have to pay to see a dentist, eye doctor, or for certain medication.

Fraser Health is the health authority that is responsible for hospital services and community-based health services for Delta. If you are going to a service that is offered by Fraser Health and if you do not understand or speak English well enough for a medical conversation, you may request an interpreter who speaks your language or a sign language interpreter. This service may not be available at a doctor's office as they are privately owned and not offered through Fraser Health.

In Canada, a doctor that we see regularly is called a family doctor. To see a family doctor, you will need to call the doctor's office in advance to book an appointment.

- To find a family doctor in the province visit [College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC's Registrant Directory](#)
- If you live in South Delta, visit [the South Delta Division of Family Practice's Registry of Family Doctors - waitlist](#)
- If you live in North Delta, [visit the Surrey/North Delta Division of Family Practice's Registry of Family Doctors - waitlist](#)

If you do not have or cannot find a family doctor, you can go to a walk-in clinic. If it is an emergency, please go to your nearest hospital emergency department (hospital details and locations are described below). You may also call [HealthLinkBC](#) by dialing 811 on your phone. HealthLinkBC provides confidential health information and can connect you with a registered nurse, dietician or a pharmacist. Once you dial 811, you may also say the name of the language you wish to speak to the health professional in if you would like service in a language other than English.



Did you know...?

The Welcome to Canada app can help you. [Welcome to Canada](#) is a free, multilingual mobile app, and it allows newcomers to navigate their settlement journey by delivering trusted, relevant information and personalized recommendations straight to their fingertips. It not only helps those who are already here but those considering and planning to move to Canada.

Delta Hospital

Delta Hospital is part of the Fraser Health Authority and is a primary care, Level II community hospital. Delta Hospital provides a first point of contact and services to the community that help diagnose, treat, and prevent illness and injury. Delta Hospital provides 24-hour emergency services for patients who are in need of immediate care because of a health crisis or urgent medical condition. Delta Hospital is located at: *5800 Mountain View Blvd. Delta, B.C*
Phone: 604-946-1121

In case of emergency, residents in North Delta can access emergency services in Surrey Memorial Hospital: *13750 96th Avenue, Surrey, Phone: 604-581-2211*

To find out more about healthcare services offered in Delta, or in British Columbia please visit [*Fraser Health's Newcomer Guide*](#).

Fair Pharmacare

Fair PharmaCare is a program for B.C families who may not have prescription drug health benefits through work. The program helps families pay for medication dispensing fees, and some medical devices and supplies. This program is income-based, if a family has a lower family income then they will be eligible for more pharmacare coverage. In order to be eligible for Fair PharmaCare in BC, you must have MSP coverage (mentioned above) and allow PharmaCare to verify your income with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

To find out more about program eligibility and enrollment please visit [*PharmaCare*](#) website.



**You can call HealthLinkBC
by dialing 811**



Guide for Newcomers on Health Care System

Fraser Health has developed a [*Guide for Newcomers*](#) to help you find your way around our health care system. This guide is for anyone wanting to learn more about our health care system. The guide addresses common questions regarding our health care system and describes specific services within Fraser Health.



South Asian Healthy Living Resources

SAHI (South Asian Health Institute) developed [*many resources*](#) to support people's mental health and wellbeing, including resources for people with diabetes and healthy culturally-appropriate recipes with videos. Information is available in English, Punjabi, and some Farsi.



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Childcare

Childcare is an important part of a community's infrastructure. There are various types of childcare available in British Columbia to meet your family's needs. Whether you need full-time care, part-time care or occasional services, you can explore different options to find the one that best suits you, by visiting the [*Parents' Guide to Selecting and Monitoring Child Care in BC*](#). While there is no specific law on the age that a child is allowed to be home alone, the government suggests that children under the age of 12 should be placed in some type of childcare or have adult supervision. To find daycares available in Delta, visit: [*Options Child Care Resources & Referral \(CCRR\)*](#).

Depending on your family's situation, you might be eligible for full or partial childcare subsidies,

which can help reduce the costs and make it more affordable for you. These subsidies are available throughout the Province to help families in accessing quality childcare.

[*Learn more.*](#)

Sports and Recreation for Children and Youth

The City of Delta offers a variety of recreational programs and activities for children, designed to foster their physical, social, and emotional development. Programs available include sports classes, summer camps, afterschool programs, and more. For more information and how to register, visit: [*Programs and Registration | City of Delta.*](#)



Delta youth between the ages of 10 and 18 can obtain the free Youth Admission Pass



Free Youth Admission Pass

Delta youth between the ages of 10 and 18 can obtain the Youth Admission Pass from the customer service office of any Delta recreation centre by presenting proof of birthdate and residency (e.g., BC Services Card). Passholders are granted free access to all Delta Parks, Recreation & Culture recreation centres and drop-in programs.

Delta's Leisure Access Assistance Program

(LAAP) allows eligible Delta residents (individuals or families) to access drop-in recreational activities (e.g., land and aquatic fitness classes, weight room sessions, public swims, open gyms, and public skating). Eligibility is based on the family net income as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency. You can request a form at our recreational facilities. For more information, [visit Recreation Access / City of Delta](#) or contact Delta's Parks, Recreation & Culture Department at 604-946-3298.

There are grants and subsidies available for families to cover the registration fees if finances are a barrier.

Kidsport Delta provides grants to help cover the costs of registration fees so that all kids aged 18 and under in Delta can access sports. Grants of up to \$600 are administered per calendar year. You can find more information and apply for a grant here: [Apply for a Grant - KidSport Delta \(kidsportcanada.ca\)](#).

Athletics4Kids is a privately funded charity that is available across B. C. for kids ages 5-18 who are currently enrolled in school. Basic registration fees are paid up to an annual maximum of \$450 per child. For more information: [Athletics for Kids \(a4k.ca\)](#).

JumpStart is a program run by Canadian Tire that allows children from the ages of 5-16 years old to access active programs and services. JumpStart can be used for sports team registration, private activity programs and programs run by the Boys and Girls Club (BGC)/ Community Services of Delta and Parks, Recreation and Culture. For more information, please email jumpstart@bgccs.bc.ca, call 604-591-9262, or visit [About / Jumpstart \(canadiantire.ca\)](#).

The Eric Ripplinger Memorial Fund offers complete or partial funding for children ages 6 months to 12 years of age to learn how to swim at any City of Delta Pool. For more information, email access@delta.ca or call Delta's Parks, Recreation, & Culture Department at 604-946-3298.



EDUCATION

The Canadian education system can be divided into three stages: preschool, elementary, and secondary education (also called K-12), and post-secondary education. Elementary and secondary education are available for free through public schools. Some indirect costs might apply (school supplies, participating in extra-curriculum/sports activities), but there are supports available through schools. In B.C., children start Kindergarten when they turn five. Most children go to public schools; some parents may choose to pay for independent/private schools. Homeschooling is also an option as is distributed (distance) learning.

Registering your child in a public school

Children usually attend the public school closest to their homes. To register your child in a public school in Delta, contact the [*Delta School District*](#). When you register your child, you will be asked to provide official documents showing your child's date of birth, your resident status in British Columbia, and your address. You will also be asked to show your child's immunization record. The Province has mandatory vaccine registration to protect children against diseases.

Delta School District

The Delta School District or (DSD37) serves all three communities of Ladner, Tsawwassen, and North Delta. Delta School District's 24

elementary and seven secondary schools provide safe, culturally diverse, and nurturing learning environments.

Delta Settlement Workers in School (SWIS)

The Delta Settlement Workers in Schools program is a cost-free, school-based service for any family member who has immigrated to Canada and needs settlement support. Services offered include completing needs assessments, and connecting to community services.



Additional Supports for English Language Learners

In addition to supports and services available to all students in Delta, the Delta School District also offers services that address cultural and linguistic diversity. This includes services provided by Learning Support Team teachers and multicultural workers. Additional information will be available at your school.



Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary education systems, programs, schools and credentials differ in each province. In B.C., the post-secondary education system has credits that can transfer between different institutions. Colleges can also offer certificate, diploma, and degree programs. Different types of schools offer a variety of education and training options.

Different types of post-secondary institutions in British Columbia include:

- Public Post-Secondary Institutions are authorized under provincial legislation to deliver post-secondary education and training in British Columbia;
- Private and out of province public degree granting institutions are authorized to deliver degree programs in B.C. under the Degree Authorization Act;
- Private training institutions are regulated under the Private Training Act;
- Theological institutions in B.C.; and
- Aboriginal-controlled post-secondary institutes offer courses and programs to adult Indigenous learners.

Learn more about post-secondary education in BC.

GETTING AROUND

People around B.C. are well known for being “outdoorsy” and enjoying activities such as walking and biking. The population of Delta is no different, with many residents biking or walking, especially if their destination is nearby. The benefits are many including helping the planet and exercising at the same time. Remember to pay attention to traffic and obey the traffic signs.

If the place you need to be is a little bit farther from you, public transit is an excellent choice. TransLink provides public transportation around Metro Vancouver and includes services such as Buses, SkyTrain, SeaBus, and the West Coast Express. The official site of TransLink offers helpful resources to move around such as schedules, fares and route information, and also provides information about how to properly use public transit.

There are two bus exchanges in South Delta and a major express bus route along Scott Road in North Delta (the R6 RapidBus).

- The Ladner Exchange bus loop is located in the community of Ladner. The bus loop is located by Harvest Drive and Clarence Taylor Crescent near Delta City Hall and Delta Hospital. There are buses that link to the SkyTrain (Canada Line) Stations in Richmond. You can use the Canada Line to travel to the airport or Vancouver.
- The South Delta Exchange bus loop is located on 56 Street and 18th Avenue, beside South Delta Recreation Centre. There are buses that link to the SkyTrain (Canada Line) Stations in Richmond. You can use the Canada Line to travel to the airport or Vancouver.
- The R6 RapidBus on Scott Road runs every few minutes and links to the SkyTrain Station in Surrey. On the SkyTrain you can go to other nearby cities, such as New Westminster, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Moody, and Vancouver.



Did you know...?

BC Ferries operates numerous scheduled ferry services from Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal that is located at the southwest end of Highway 17 in Delta. Sailings departing from Tsawwassen provide service to Swartz Bay (Victoria), Duke Point (Nanaimo) and the Southern Gulf Islands.

BC Ferries is one of the largest operations in the world, moving more than 60,000 customers and 23,000 vehicles throughout coastal BC every day.



How to get your compass card for public transit

Compass Cards and Tickets are available online at www.compasscard.ca, at Compass Retailers, SkyTrain and West Coast Express stations, SeaBus terminals, Tsawwassen and Horseshoe Bay ferry terminals, and select Vancouver London Drugs stores. You can also visit the following link to find out more about the compass card and public transit routes. www.translink.bc.ca.

If you are in a rush and you need to get somewhere fast, it is a good idea to keep the number of a local taxi company with you, or download the app for Uber or Lyft. To drive, you must have a valid B.C. Driver's Licence, but you don't necessarily need to own your own car.

You can use your driver's licence for up to 90 days after you move to British Columbia. After that, you should apply for your BC driver's licence. There are different processes for getting a driver's licence in B.C. The process depends on where your original driver's licence is from. Drivers from some countries may be able to get a driver's licence without any extra tests. To find out more visit the following page. www.icbc.com.





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A great way to meet many people and learn more about the Canadian culture is volunteering. Volunteering helps you to connect with your community and to develop skills or gain experience to be better able to find a job. Volunteering is an important part of Canadian life, and has many benefits.

Community organizations throughout Delta are welcoming and looking for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. To find out more, visit our [volunteering webpage](#).

Benefits of Volunteering:



Learn about current issues and what is going on in the community



Feel connected and valued in your community



Meet new people



Boost happiness and improve self-confidence



Gain work experience and possible future references

04

Roles and Services of Your Local Government

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

In Canada, individuals have a variety of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, thought, belief, expression, peaceful assembly, and association. These freedoms mean that you have the right to practice your religion, express yourself freely, and gather with others to protest peacefully.

Canada is also known for its commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms explicitly prohibits discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability. This means that everyone in Canada, regardless of their background, is entitled to equal treatment and protection under the law.

Additionally, Canada is recognized for its progressive stance on gender and sexual identity. Same-sex marriage has been legal in Canada since 2005, and gender identity and expression are protected under the Canadian Human Rights Act. Delta, British Columbia



Did you know...?

Ombudsperson: an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against maladministration, especially that of public authorities.

is a community that values diversity and welcomes people from all backgrounds. Local organizations, such as the [*Delta Pride Society*](#), work to promote and support the LGBTQ+ community in the area.

It is important to note that while Canada has made significant progress toward equality, there is still work to be done. Discrimination and inequality can still occur, and it is important to remain aware of these issues and work towards positive change.

The BC Human Rights Commission was re-established in British Columbia in 2019 to address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in B.C. by shifting laws, policies, practices, and cultures. Learn more: [*Home - BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner \(bchumanrights.ca\)*](#).

Learn more about roles and responsibilities of each level of government and Canada's election system in Appendix 4.

There are Three Levels of Government in Canada:

1

Federal (or national)

- Central level of government in Canada
- Provides social services
- Supports the economy
- Maintains national defence and security
- Establishes criminal law
- Maintains relationships with Indigenous and international governments

2

Provincial

- Establishes provincial laws
- Supports B.C.'s economy
- Provides public services to support citizens
- Manages natural resources
- Builds working relationships with Indigenous Peoples and other governments

3

Municipal

- Provides community planning, bylaws (laws made by a local government that applies to a town, city or region), and essential local services such as clean water, sewer systems, parks and recreation, and fire protection
- Although municipalities are not mandated to provide social services, local governments are increasingly playing a more robust and prominent role in addressing community social needs

CITY OF DELTA: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

One Mayor, six City Councillors and seven school trustees are elected every four years at the City of Delta.

The primary functions of Delta Council include the following:

- Providing good government for its community;
- Providing works, services, facilities, and other things that the City considers necessary or desirable for all or part of its community;
- Providing stewardship of the public assets of its community; and
- Fostering the current and future economic, social, and environmental well-being of its community.
- *[Learn about your city's elected officials](#), watch live meetings, and view the calendar for upcoming scheduled meetings.*

[Get Council news and updates.](#)

Mayor of Delta

This role is held by an elected representative of the City of Delta. Mayor George V. Harvie was re-elected in October 2022 for a four-year term. The Mayor presides as Chair at Council meetings. In addition, the Mayor is a key spokesperson for the City of Delta and works closely as part of Council to set a course of action and chart goals for the safety, health and well-being of the City.

604-946-3210
mayorharvie@delta.ca

HOW TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS IN YOUR CITY

Citizen Advocate

Delta promises openness and transparency. Like an internal ombudsperson, the City has established an internal Citizen Advocate to respond to concerns brought forward by residents about a range of City services, and to provide an opportunity for review.

The Citizen Advocate is empowered to review concerns and enquiries related to decisions made by your local government. They will maintain a record of the nature of concerns and inquiries, and provide recommendations to the City Manager for change as appropriate, ensuring fairness, transparency and accountability.

Note: concerns must be raised within 30 days of the occurrence of the issue.

604-946-3258
citizenadvocate@delta.ca

Let's Talk Delta

Let's Talk Delta is the City's online engagement portal where you can engage in important conversations happening in your community, and stay up-to-date on a variety of active projects from housing, development proposals, community revitalization projects, and social issues. *Visit [Let's Talk Delta](#)* for more information, to register, provide your feedback, and share your ideas.

Advisory Committees

Committees are established to provide advice to Council on specific matters of civic concern. Committees are advisory in nature and function within the authority set out in their terms of reference or by bylaw. Community members are appointed in a voluntary capacity to share local knowledge, expertise and experience to specific areas of civic concern. Learn more about *[Local Committees and Initiatives](#)*.

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk:
604-946-3220
cityclerk@delta.ca



Did you know...?

The City of Delta is home to over 70 parks and prides itself on its natural diversity and wildlife. You can search all Delta parks to see which one best fits what you are looking for before visiting. Delta's parks are free to access and available to all residents and visitors. *[Search all parks](#)*.



We Love Delta – Places to Explore

Delta's three communities offer amazing outdoor adventures, festivals, local shops, restaurants and galleries. To explore events and connect with your community, visit *welovedelta.ca* The website is developed by Tourism Delta with the support of the City of Delta.

CITY DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

The Office of the City Clerk

604 - 946 - 3220
cityclerk@delta.ca

Finance

604 - 946 - 3230
finance@delta.ca

Parks, Recreation & Culture

604 - 952 - 3000
prc@delta.ca

Corporate Services

604 - 946 - 3255
corprateservices@delta.ca

Property Use & Compliance Bylaw Enforcement

604 - 946 - 3340
bylawenforce@delta.ca

Mayor's Office

604 - 946 - 3210
mayorharvie@delta.ca

The Office of the City Manager

604 - 946 - 3212
citymanager@delta.ca

Delta Police

(non emergency)
604-940-5019
deltapolice.ca

Human Resources

604 - 946 - 3246
hr@delta.ca

Development

604 - 946 - 3380
development@delta.ca

Engineering

604 - 946 - 3260
engineering@delta.ca

Communications & Engagement

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook
[@CityofDeltaBC](https://www.facebook.com/CityofDeltaBC)

Fire & Emergency Services

604 - 946 - 8541
fire@delta.ca

The Office of the City Clerk

If you would like to know about attending council meetings or speaking at a public hearing contact the office of the City Clerk. If you would like to address Council on any matter email Mayor-Council@delta.ca.

Finance

If you need to pay a utility bill, property taxes, or purchase a dog licence, contact the Finance department.

Parks, Recreation & Culture

If you would like to learn more about program registration opportunities for community recreation, aquatics, and fitness programs and services for your entire family, please contact Delta PR&C Administration.

Corporate Services

The department provides internal services, such as developing policies, providing legal supports, working to reduce corporate carbon footprint, and liaising with community partners on social issues.

Property Use & Compliance Bylaw Enforcement

The Property Use and Compliance department is responsible for the enforcement of bylaws, issuing business licences, and for the City's animal control services.

Human Resources

If you are interested in career opportunities with the City, please visit the City's career page (www.delta.ca/careers) or for additional information you can contact the Human Resources department.

Development Department:

If you would like to redevelop a property, apply for a building permit, or have questions about City's land use planning policies, contact the Development Department.

Engineering

In addition to other services (garbage, recycling trees), Engineering responds to public inquiries and processing service requests/preparing public permits related to highway uses, tree cutting, lawn watering, hydrant use, special events, and filming.

Communications & Engagement

Connect with us! Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @CityofDeltaBC
Website: Delta.ca
Online Engagement Portal: letstalk.delta.ca

Fire & Emergency Services

In addition to responding to fires and emergency calls, the department is responsible for fire prevention (educational community services) and emergency management, ensuring that the city is prepared for an emergency or natural disaster.

Delta Police

Please call 911 if you have an emergency, including if you or a family member is a victim of crime, including violence or threats of violence, fraud, damage to property or have traffic or general community concern. The police are here to help and problem solve. For other concerns, call the non-emergency number.

CITY'S SUPPORTS FOR RESIDENTS

- **Free Seniors Bus program:** *The Delta Seniors Bus program* is a free transportation service for seniors 65 and older living in Delta. The bus makes curbside stops to pick up and drop off seniors who have booked the service. It offers easy access to local medical services, appointments, recreation centres, shopping locations, and other community amenities within Delta. You can even take the Delta Seniors Bus to visit friends in Delta!
- **Leisure Access Assistance Program:** The City of Delta's Leisure Access Assistance Program allows eligible, low-income Delta residents (individuals or families) to access drop-in land & aquatic fitness classes, weight room sessions, public swims, open gyms & public skating. The Leisure Access Assistance Program determines eligibility for recreation & leisure subsidy based on the family net income as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency. For more information regarding the Leisure Access Assistance Program, please contact 604-946-3298.
- **Free Admissions:** Providing *free recreation facility admission for youth* between the ages of 10 and 18 (Youth Admission Pass) and seniors.
- **Seniors Support Coordinator:** Delta's Seniors Support Coordinator connects people ages 50+ to services and resources in the community, and provides information on health and wellness, housing choices, and government options, as well as assists in filling out government forms, finding resources, accessing information, and connecting you with community services. The Seniors Support Coordinator is available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30am – 4pm. To book an appointment call 604-787-1242.
- **Free Counselling Services:** the City provides funding to Phoenix Society to provide limited counselling and intervention services to alcohol and drug addiction and recovery for Delta residents and family. To schedule a counselling session with a Registered Counsellor please call 778-522-5160.
- **Free Counselling and Other Programming for Youth in Crisis:** the City works with Delta Police to support youth in crisis by providing free counselling and prevention services to at-risk youth.



Did you know...?

The *You Matter to Delta Guide* provides a list of emergency supports of different types to population groups. These resources include housing, heat-related, and substance use resources for anyone who may need to access them.

**Did you know...?**

The City of Delta provides over \$600,000 to local agencies to support residents, including seniors, low income families and youth. The City also waives over \$2 million per year in property taxes for more than 70 non-profit community organizations in Delta.

05

Additional Services & Resources in Delta

Libraries in Delta

Public Libraries are a great way to access all kinds of information and gain new insights. Through Delta's libraries, you will have access to over 100,000 items, and much more online. With a Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) card, you will be able to access materials from a collection shared between the 25 libraries of FVRL. In addition, with a library card, you can access materials through a larger network called InterLINK.

Settlement Workers at Your Library: FVRL partners with various immigrant serving agencies to provide settlement services in libraries in Delta. Services are offered several times a month and are available in various languages. Call each location to learn more.

Library Locations

- *George Mackie Library* (North Delta)

8440 112 Street
Delta, BC V4C 4W9
604-594-8155

- *Ladner Pioneer Library*

4683 51 Street
Delta, BC V4K 2V8
604-946-6215

- *Tsawwassen Library*

1321A 56 Street
Delta, BC V4L 2A6
604-943-2271

Community Food Supports

There are community supports available should you or someone you know need to access free and low-cost community food in Delta. The Feeding Delta Brochure provides information about community food programs that may be able to assist you in a time of need. The brochure is available in English, Arabic, and Punjabi.

Azure Place – Delta Transition House

Azure Place is a Transition House located in the City of Delta for women and children fleeing violence. The home is located in an unidentified location and provides a safe home environment for women and their families who need a short-term place to stay during a time of crisis. Azure Place is funded by BC Housing and operated by W.I.N.G.S (Women in Need Gaining Strength), a non-profit organization serving women through Metro Vancouver. Women are able to call the shelter directly or be referred by anyone in the community.

Azure Place - Delta Transition House
PO Box 33044 Nordel, Delta, BC V4C 8E6
604-957-1556

Douglas J. Husband Discovery Centre

The Douglas J. Husband Discovery Centre is an accessible space for dialogue and discovery about our community's past, present, and future. Featuring authentic objects, digital experiences, and fascinating stories, all are welcome to engage with Delta's storied history.

Learn by using the touchscreens in our galleries and creating new land forms in our sand table. Watch our water table demonstrate how the region of Delta was formed over 9000 years and use a wand to activate the animals in the habitat theatre.



Social Services in Delta

You can find more about social service agencies in Delta by visiting Delta's [*Social Planning webpages*](#). Information about Delta's agencies, services and programs is available in various forms, including an inventory of hundreds of Delta's agencies, business association, service clubs, and housing co-ops listed in alphabetical order.

BGC - Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC

Through a wide range of activities, including physical and social recreation, arts-based programs, academic support, and leadership development, the Clubs provide participants with a sense of belonging, a sense of success, and positive relationships with adults and their peers. Among other services, the Clubs offer early years services, summer camps, and counselling for youth and families who may experience difficulties. Visit: www.bgcbc.ca or call 604-879-6554 for more information.

Deltassist

Deltassist provides a wide range of community-based social service and health programs for children, youth, families, adults, and seniors. Deltassist provides a large number of children, youth and family programs that address parenting, substance use, mental health issues for children and youth, domestic violence, and seniors counselling. Deltassist also offers emergency food programs, which assist low-income Delta residents who are in crisis situations by providing pre-packaged food hampers or vouchers.

Learn more: www.deltassist.ca

Deltassist

South Delta 202 – 5000 Bridge Street, Delta, BC V4K 2K4 | 604-946-9526

Deltassist

North Delta 9097 – 120 Street, Delta, BC V4C 6R7 | 604-594-3455

REACH

REACH offers a variety of child development programs designed to meet a wide range of needs. These include services for children & youth with or without a diagnosis who can

access professionals with expertise and knowledge in a variety of areas, including Early Childhood Educators, Speech Language Pathologists, Behavioural Consultants, Child Development Consultants, Occupational Therapists, Infant Development Consultants and others with extensive experience supporting families and children. REACH follows a family and person centered philosophy. Programs are available in Delta, Surrey, and Langley BC. Visit www.reachchild.org

REACH Child and Youth Development
5050 47 Avenue, Delta, BC V4K 0C8
604-946-6622 | info@reachchild.org

Play & Learn Centre

11425 84 Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2L9
info@reachchild.org

Delta Community Living Society (DCLS)

DCLS supports people with developmental disabilities and their families with residential, community inclusion, and family and employment services. Services include four staffed residential homes, six community inclusion (sometimes called day program) programs, one customized employment office, and an administrative resource centre. Additional residential supports include a community living program which supports ten people to live independently in their own apartments, and a home sharing program where over 60 people are supported to live in a contracted family home. Additional programs include recreation, life skills, family support, and art and training for youth who are transitioning from school to adult life.

Visit: www.dcls.ca.

1 – 3800 72 Street Delta, BC V4K 3N2
604-946-9508 | dcls@dcls.ca



06

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

THE HISTORY OF THE LAND & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

What does the term Indigenous mean?

A: The term Indigenous means originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native. Indigenous Peoples in Canada are comprised of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

What is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)?

A: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a framework for reconciliation, healing and peace, as well as harmonious and cooperative relations based on the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination, and good faith. The federal and provincial governments have passed laws that embrace the principles of UNDRIP.

Does the City of Delta have a land acknowledgement?

A: Yes, the City of Delta co-developed a land acknowledgement with Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band. The land acknowledgement is delivered at the start of Council Meetings and is read out at the opening of public events. The text of the acknowledgement is included below:

“Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on the shared, traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the cəw̓áθən (Tsawwassen), x̣ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and other Coast Salish Peoples. We extend our appreciation to these First Nations for the opportunity to hold this meeting here today.”

You probably heard that Indigenous Peoples have been in Canada ‘since time immemorial’. What does it mean?

A: According to archaeologists, human beings occupied the southwest coast of B.C. since 7000 BCE. It is believed that Tsawwassen First Nation people were well established in their traditional territory by 400-200 BCE (over 2,400 years ago).

We’ve heard about colonization. How did it start?

A: In 1791, Spanish and English explorers arrived in the vicinity of Tsawwassen. By 1858, the colony of British Columbia becomes official. Tsawwassen lands were pre-empted; settler families were given parcels of land.

When we talk about the Indian Act, what does it mean for First Nations?

A: In 1876, the Indian Act came into power in Canada. The Act prohibited First Nations peoples and communities from expressing their



identities through governance and culture. It replaced traditional structures of governance with band council elections. It made it illegal for First Nations peoples to practice religious ceremonies and have cultural gatherings. To learn more about the Indian Act, please visit the [*Government of Canada's website*](#).

What was the impact of residential schools?

A: In 1920, Canada introduces compulsory attendance of Indian children in schools. It is estimated that over 150,000 Indian, Inuit and, Métis children attended residential schools in Canada and thousands have died as a direct result of it. The last residential school was closed in 1996.

The impacts of residential schools continue to be felt generation to generation. In 2021, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc uncovered 215 unmarked graves of children at the site of a former Indian residential school in Kamloops. Subsequently, more unmarked graves of children have been discovered at Indian residential schools across the country. To learn about the history of Indian residential schools and ongoing

work to advance Indigenous reconciliation, please visit the [*Government of Canada's website*](#) for more information.

What are Treaty lands? What are reserve lands?

A: On April 3, 2009, Tsawwassen First Nation ratified the first urban First Nations Treaty in B.C. It reconciled TFN's Aboriginal rights and title and restored their right to First Nation self-government, protected in the Canadian Constitution. The Treaty provides TFN with municipal, provincial, and federal types of jurisdiction over a land base of 724 hectares.

A reserve is a parcel of land, that was created by the Indian Act, where legal title is held by the Crown (Government of Canada), for the use and benefit of a particular First Nation. First Nations were moved from their villages in their traditional territories on to these created reserves. For example, Musqueam Indian Band's IR #4 is located within the City of Delta, in addition to their reserve lands, IR #2 and IR #3, located in Vancouver and Richmond (Sea Island), respectively.

APPENDIX 2

DELTA'S DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE CENSUS 2021

Population

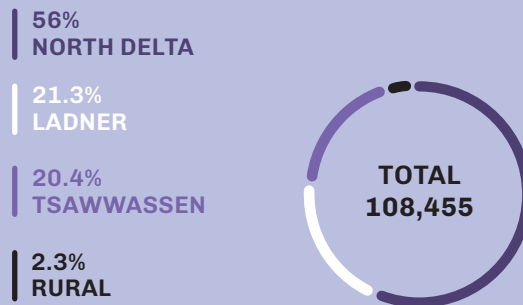
According to the 2021 census, there were 108,455 residents in Delta. This is a 6.1% increase from the 2016 Census; the North Delta community recorded the greatest increase in population growth between 2016 and 2021, increasing by 8.5% over this period. North Delta is now home to 56% of Delta's total population.

Immigrants

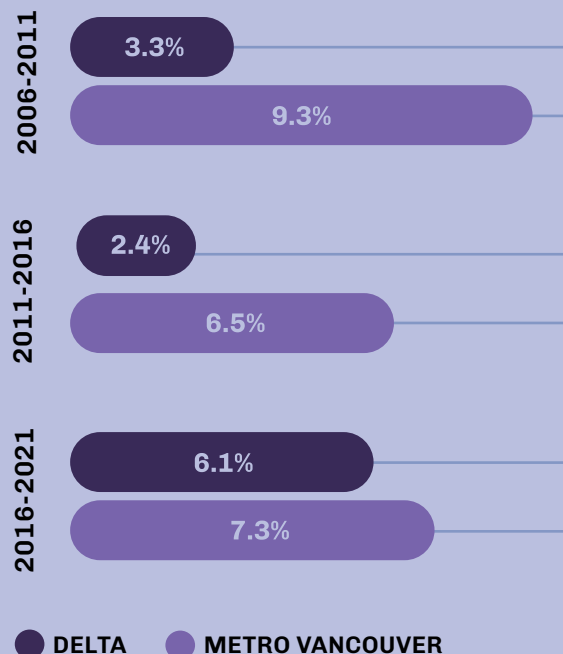
In 2021, 33% (35,555) Delta residents were immigrants. Among immigrants, 4,325 arrived between 2016 and 2021. These recent immigrants made up 12.2% of the immigrant population. The top three places of birth among recent immigrants living in Delta were India, China, and the Philippines. While most immigrants continue to come from India (46.8%), immigration from Syria to Delta saw the largest percentage increase from 1.2% to 5.4%.

Religion

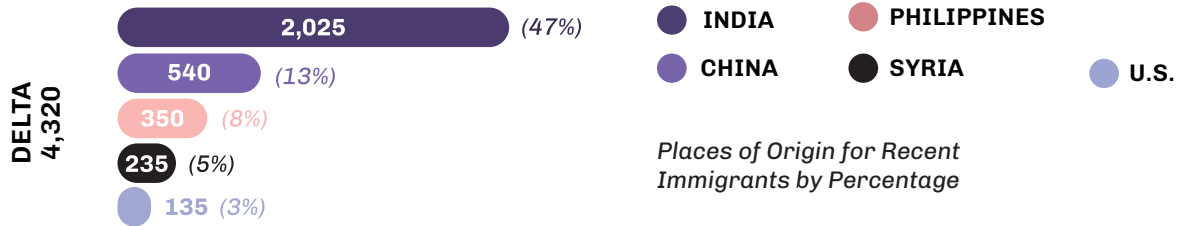
In 2021, the largest religious group in Delta was Sikh, with about 19,240 persons representing 17.9% of the total population. The second-largest was Catholic, with about 12,870 persons representing 12% of the total population. The population who declared no religion and secular perspectives numbered 42,995 persons, representing 40.1% of the total population.



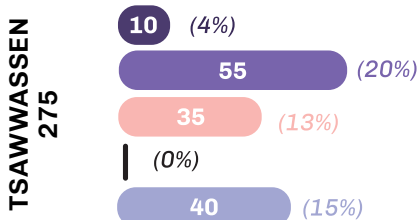
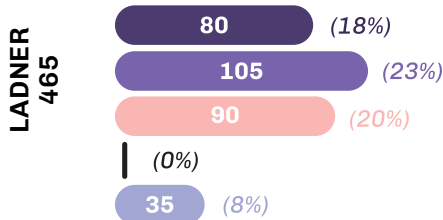
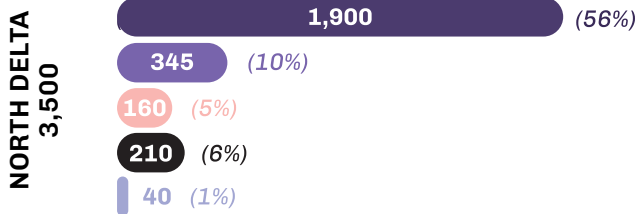
Percentage of Population by Delta's Communities



Population Growth by Percentage (2011 - 2021)



Places of Origin for Recent Immigrants by Percentage



Racialized groups

Note: Data on “racialized groups” is measured by the “visible minority” variable.

In 2021, the largest racialized group was South Asian, with about 27,990 persons representing 26.1% of the total population. The second-largest was Chinese, with about 9,660 persons representing 9.0% of the total population. The third-largest was Filipino, with about 3,700 persons representing 3.4% of the total population. North Delta has the highest number of racialized residents.

APPENDIX 3

MUNICIPAL SOCIAL PLANS & POLICIES

The City of Delta applies a collaborative and intersectional approach to many social planning processes from policy development and service delivery to providing funding to local community agencies and advocating to senior levels of government. The following social plans identify community needs to improve the quality of life for all residents, and are approved strategies for healthy, equitable and vibrant communities.

Delta's Social Action Plan

Delta's 2023-2028 Social Action Plan was endorsed by Council in March 2023. It outlines 190 actions under seven key themes that aim to enhance social supports in our community, strengthen the City's social fabric, and make Delta a more equitable and welcoming city.

Delta's Poverty Reduction Strategy

In 2021-2022, the City of Delta conducted a Poverty Reduction Needs Assessment and developed an Delta's Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan to better understand the unique needs of Delta residents, and identify actions that will reduce poverty and improve community well-being.

Delta's Child Care Strategy and Action Plan

In the fall of 2020, the City of Delta completed a Child Care Needs Assessment and developed a Child Care Action Plan that outlines concrete actions to increase child care spaces in Delta and enhance the quality and accessibility of child care in Delta.

Delta's Housing Action Plan

In November 2021, Council endorsed Delta's 5-year Housing Action Plan. The Plan outlines seven strategies aimed to improve the availability and affordability of housing in Delta.

Delta's Accessibility Plan

The City of Delta's Accessibility Plan was adopted by Council on June 19, 2023. It was developed in consultation with the City's Mobility and Accessibility Committee, with additional input from the Delta Police Department and Delta School District.

APPENDIX 4

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Each level of government makes laws. The Canadian (federal) government makes laws for the country, provincial and territorial governments make laws for their province or territory (like British Columbia), and municipal governments make laws for their city (like Delta). Canadian citizens have the right to vote for all levels.

Canadians elect officials that best represent them by voting. General elections in B.C. are every four years. Elections can happen early if the elected party decides to have one

A **vote of confidence** is a motion that the legislature approves and consents to be ruled by the governing prime minister or provincial premier and the incumbent Cabinet.

sooner, or if it loses the Legislative Assembly's confidence.

One of the most important laws in Canada is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Canadians have the right to speak freely, practice religion, live and work anywhere in Canada, and participate in peaceful political activities.

The House of Commons is the centre of political power in Canada. The Prime Minister, head of the federal government, and their Cabinet (committee of ministers) receive their authority through the confidence of the House. Allocation of seats in the House of Commons to provinces, and the procedure for drawing constituency boundaries within provinces occurs every 10 years. The current government is a Liberal minority, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected across the province. The Lieutenant Governor invites the political party with the most MLAs to form government. The leader of that party becomes the Premier.

The party with the second highest number of MLAs becomes the official opposition. The opposition, along with MLAs from other parties, hold the governing party accountable by questioning decisions and presenting alternatives.

A member of Parliament (MP) is elected to represent a federal electoral district, or "riding" in the House of Commons. As elected representatives, MPs are responsible for legislating in Parliament, representing their riding and political party, and servicing their

constituents. MPs have different roles and levels of influence. They hold office until Parliament dissolution – typically four-year terms – and can be re-elected any number of times.

The next federal election depends on many factors, including the confidence of the House of Commons, party agreement and four-year fixed election cycle. B.C. was the first province in Canada to establish fixed election dates. While general elections are scheduled to take place every four years, they can occur before a scheduled date if the government calls an election or loses the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.

Government of Canada

Government of British Columbia

Discover your legislature

Roles of the provincial government

Municipalities and regional districts



Why Vote?

Every Canadian citizen has the right to vote in free and fair democratic elections for officials that best represent them. Those elected to serve on Delta Council make decisions on services that impact Deltans' daily lives such as parks, recreation programs, animal and bylaw services, waste and organics collection, land development, and police and fire services. The Delta Board of Education makes decisions on maintaining a school system that reflects local priorities by setting plans, policies and an annual budget.

Learn more about elections in Delta
[604-946-3220](tel:604-946-3220) | elections@delta.ca

ENDNOTES

- i. PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.
- ii. Province of British Columbia. Government 101. Howe Governments Work.
- iii. British Columbia's Newcomers' Guide.
- iv. British Columbia's Newcomers' Guide.
- v. The Canadian Encyclopedia. House of Commons.
- vi. The Canadian Encyclopedia. House of Commons.
- vii. The Canadian Encyclopedia. Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts.

The Newcomer's Guide was developed with assistance from Applied Planning students from Langara College. In the spring of 2023, the students conducted the preliminary research and collaborated with local agencies including, but not limited to, Fraser Health, Delta School District, Fraser Valley Regional Library, and local non-profit organizations. This Guide was further developed by the Social Planning Team with the support of community partners, the internal Delta's Social Planning Working Group and guidelines of Sedgwick Strategies. The guide was designed by Eva M Designs.



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