

Attachment 2
2021 Census Release Findings

2021 CENSUS RELEASE FINDINGS

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Population Highlights

Population and Population Growth – Municipal and Urban Area

- 1. Metro Vancouver grew quickly, but slower than the provincial average, between 2016 and 2021:** Metro Vancouver grew by 7.3% between 2016 and 2021, adding 179,394 people during this period. However, BC grew even faster at a rate of 7.6%. Canada grew by 5.2%.
- 2. New Westminster grew quickly between 2016 and 2021:** New Westminster added 7,920 people between 2016 and 2021, growing to 78,916 people by 2021. Its’ 11.2% population growth rate was the fourth fastest among 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities (excluding First Nations Reserves and electoral areas) behind Bowen Island (15.7%), Langley Township (13.1%) and Langley City (11.9%).
- 3. New Westminster is among Canada’s 100 largest census subdivisions population wise:** New Westminster was Canada’s 77th largest census subdivision (i.e., municipality, First Nations reserve, electoral area), the 17th largest in British Columbia and the 10th largest in Metro Vancouver.

Population and Population Growth – Census Tract

- 1. New Westminster now has 16 census tracts instead of 13 census tracts:** Through a census tract exercise that the City of New Westminster completed with Statistics Canada, several larger census tracts in New Westminster from the 2016 Census were split into two: census tract 200.00 into census tracts 200.01 (Port Royal) and 200.02 (most of Queensborough), census tract 202.00 into census tracts

202.01 (Quayside) and 202.02 (Stewardson Way and Downtown west of 8th St), and census tract 209.00 into census tracts 209.01 (Glenbrooke South) and 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights).

- 2. Population grew fastest in some Queensborough census tracts:** Between 2016 and 2021, census tract 200.02 (most of Queensborough) added the most people (1,420), while census tract 200.01 (Port Royal) had the fastest growth rate (41.7%). Although both of these census tracts grew quickly, there were 32 census tracts (out of 534 census tracts) in Metro Vancouver that added more people than census tract 200.02 did.
- 3. Only one census tract in New Westminster saw population loss:** Census tract 203.00 (West End) saw a population decrease of -94 people (-1.9% decrease).
- 4. The most populated census tract is in Queensborough, the least populated one is Connaught Heights:** In 2021, census tract 200.02 (most of Queensborough) had 8,144 residents), while census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights) had 1,761 residents.

Population Density

- 1. In 2021, New Westminster was the second densest census subdivision in Canada (with 5,000+ people):** based on [this table from Statistics Canada](#), New Westminster had the second highest population density of any census subdivision in Canada (with 5,000+ people), at 5,052 people/sq.km, after Vancouver (5,750 people/sq.km) and just ahead of North Vancouver City (4,913 people/sq.km).
- 2. Census tract 206.00 (Downtown between 4th St and 8th St) had the highest population density in 2021, while census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights) had the lowest:** Census tract 206.00 had 12,173 people/sq.km, while census tract 201.00 had 2,429 people/sq.km. Neither of these results is particularly low or high density by Metro Vancouver standards: there were 40 census tracts in Metro Vancouver (out of 534 census tracts) with higher population densities than census tract 206.00 and 165 census tracts with lower population densities than census tract 201.00.

Housing Highlights

The housing data is primarily examined at the household level, although there is population level housing data as well, as households experience housing as a household. As the 2021 Census data on housing is from the long-form census, there is some variability due to sampling and the dissemination area level data on housing is therefore unreliable (high confidence intervals). Therefore, most of the data (cross tabulated and profile data) is analyzed at the municipal level with comparisons to Vancouver CMA, BC, Canada and other Metro Vancouver municipalities, with some (non-cross tabulated) data for New Westminster census tracts (with comparisons to other Metro Vancouver census tracts). Due to random rounding of numbers in different

categories by Statistics Canada to preserve confidentiality, some of the numbers may not add up perfectly. This housing data is only available for private dwellings and not collective dwellings such as shelters or supportive housing.

Dwellings

The 2021 Census found 37,737 total private dwellings in New Westminster, of which 36,099 were occupied by usual residents. Notable housing growth trends include:

1. The 2016 to 2020 period saw more new housing units completed than any other five year period in the 1991-2020 period analyzed; with 4,623 units completed between 2016 and 2020;
2. There were many large notable projects completed during the 2016 to 2020 period, including new buildings in Brewery District, Victoria Hill, Downtown (notably Riversky at 988 Quayside Drive). Queensborough also had a lot of new projects completed this period, including a significant volume of townhome projects.

New Westminster's housing profile continues to shift more towards multifamily housing forms:

3. As of 2021, 70% of households lived in apartments in New Westminster, up from 65% in 1991 and 68% in 2011;
4. The percentage of households living in townhomes in New Westminster increased from 1% in 1991 to 4% in 2011 to 6% in 2021;
5. The percentage of households living in single family homes and secondary suites decreased from 32% in 1991 to 28% in 2011 to 24% in 2021;
6. In 2021, New Westminster (70%) had a much higher percentage of households living in apartments than in the Metro Vancouver (43%). In fact, New Westminster had the highest percentage of households living in apartments of any Metro Vancouver municipality in 2021 (next highest was North Vancouver City at 67%); and,
7. Despite the recent increase in townhomes as a percentage of housing stock, New Westminster still had a relatively low proportion of housing stock as townhomes compared with most of Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies. New Westminster's 6% of households living in townhomes was lower than Canada (7%), BC (8%) and Metro Vancouver (10%).

Occupied Dwellings

- 1. New Westminster had a large number of private dwellings not occupied by usual residents in 2021:** Private dwellings not occupied by usual residents could be occupied by short-term international students, short-term rental tourists, or not occupied at all. Given that the 2021 Census was conducted during a period (May 11, 2021) with strict international, national and provincial travel restrictions due to the pandemic, as well as most post-secondary institutions teaching on-line, it is probable that most of these units were empty. There were a total of 1,638 of these private dwellings not occupied by usual residents in New Westminster in 2021 and 61,213 in Metro Vancouver.
- 2. The majority of private dwellings were occupied by usual residents:** In 2021, 95.7% of New Westminster's private dwellings were occupied by usual residents, compared with 94.5% in Metro Vancouver, 92.3% in British Columbia and 92.0% in Canada. The British Columbia and Canada totals likely include many summer home cabin areas and winter home ski areas, which may have made their percentages lower.

Affordability

- 1. The percentage of households spending 30% or more of their before-tax household incomes dropped between 2016 and 2021:**

This phenomenon was noted across Canada in the Statistics Canada Daily Article and was largely attributed to COVID-19 benefits that boosted incomes in 2020 (2021 Census income is based on 2020 data). In New Westminster, the percentage of households spending 30% or more of their incomes on housing dropped by -1.8 ppt for all households (from 31.3% in 2016 to 29.5% in 2021), by -0.2 ppt for owners (from 24.2% in 2016 to 24.0% in 2021), and -4.3 ppt for renters (from 40.3% in 2016 to 36.0% in 2021).
- 2. However, due to population growth, the number of households spending 30% or more of their before-tax household incomes increased between 2016 and 2021:**

The number of households in New Westminster in unaffordable housing increased by 415 households between 2016 and 2021 (from 10,220 households in 2016 to 10,635 households in 2021), while the number of owner households in this situation increased by 305 (from 4,430 households in 2016 to 4,735 owner households in 2021) and the number of renter households in this situation increased by 105 households (from 5,785 renter households in 2016 to 5,890 renter households in 2021).
- 3. The rate of housing unaffordability (spending 30% or more of before-tax household income on shelter costs) in New Westminster was generally higher than in Canada and British Columbia but similar to Metro Vancouver as a whole in 2021:**

In 2021, 29.5% of all New Westminster households lived in unaffordable housing, which was higher than in Canada (20.8%) and British Columbia (25.2%) but similar to Metro Vancouver (29.6%). In 2021, 24.0% of all New Westminster owner households lived in unaffordable housing, which was higher than in Canada (14.8%) and British Columbia (19.1%) but similar to Metro Vancouver (24.3%). In 2021, 36.0% of all New Westminster renter households lived in unaffordable housing, which was higher than in Canada (32.9%), but slightly lower than in British Columbia (37.6%) and lower than in Metro Vancouver (38.4%).

4. In Metro Vancouver, approximately 1 in 6 renter households were spending half or more of their incomes on housing costs in 2021:

In 2021, 17.6% of renter households in Metro Vancouver (*New Westminster data not available at the time of this memo) were spending 50% or more of their household incomes on housing costs, including 12.7% of subsidized rental housing households and 18.3% of non-subsidized rental housing households. This compared with 10.6% of all owner households, including 15.1% of all owner households with a mortgage and 4.0% of owner households without a mortgage. In total, there were 137,515 households in Metro Vancouver in 2021 spending half or more of their incomes on housing, including 68,135 owner households and 69,380 renter households.

5. There were no census tracts in New Westminster where more than half of all renters lived in unaffordable rental housing (spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs) in 2021:

There were, however, 3 census tracts in New Westminster where more than 2 in 5 renters lived in unaffordable housing: census tract 202.02 (west part of Downtown/Stewardson Way part of Brow of the Hill) (41.1%), census tract 204.01 (south part of Brow of the Hill) (42.9%) and census tract 206.00 (41.3%) (central part of Downtown). In Metro Vancouver, there were 44 census tracts (out of 518 census tracts with data) where had half or more of all renters living in unaffordable housing.

6. In New Westminster (and other geographies), the majority of households struggling with affordability were non-family households (roommate or single households) in 2021:

Out of the 10,635 households in New Westminster living in unaffordable housing in 2021, 6,510 of these households were non-census family households. The highest prevalence of unaffordable housing (30% or more of income spent on housing) was among non-census family households (41.7% of these households lived in unaffordable housing), followed by lone parent families (33.1% of these households lived in unaffordable housing).

7. In New Westminster, there was a large gap in dwelling value for two bedroom dwellings and three bedroom dwellings in 2021:

For example, the median dwelling value for a 3 bedroom low-rise apartment was \$800,000, which was \$240,000 higher than the median dwelling value for a 2 bedroom low-rise apartment (\$560,000). The median dwelling value for a 3 bedroom

townhome was \$820,000, which was \$170,000 higher than the median dwelling value for a 2 bedroom townhome (\$650,000). The median dwelling value for a 3 bedroom mid to high rise apartment was \$700,000, which was \$100,000 higher than the median dwelling value for a 2 bedroom mid to high rise apartment (\$600,000).

8. In New Westminster, more than 1 in 3 single family homes had a dwelling value of \$1.5 million or more in 2021:

In 2021, 34.0% of single family homes in New Westminister without a suite had a dwelling value of \$1.5 million or more in 2021, while 40.2% of single family homes with a suite in New Westminister had a dwelling value of \$1.5 million or more in 2021.

Overcrowding and Bedrooms

1. The percentage of households in overcrowded housing increased in New Westminister (and comparison geographies) between 2016 and 2021:

In 2021, 9.4% of households in New Westminister lived in overcrowded housing, a +1.4 ppt increase from 2016, when 8.0% of households in New Westminister lived in overcrowded housing. Canada (+0.5 ppt increase), British Columbia (+0.7 ppt increase) and Metro Vancouver (+0.8 ppt increase) also saw increases in the percentage of households living in overcrowded housing between 2016 and 2021.

2. The number of households in overcrowded housing increased in New Westminister (and comparison geographies between 2016 and 2021):

In 2021, there were 3,400 households living in overcrowded housing in New Westminister, a +785 household increase compared with 2016, when there were 2,615 households living in overcrowded housing.

3. New Westminister had a higher rate of overcrowded housing in 2021 compared with BC, Canada and Metro Vancouver and among the highest among Metro Vancouver municipalities:

In 2021, 9.4% of New Westminister households lived in overcrowded housing, which was higher than in Canada (5.4%), British Columbia (6.0%) and Metro Vancouver (8.1%). New Westminister had the third highest rate of overcrowded housing among Metro Vancouver municipalities, just behind Surrey (12.1%) and Burnaby (9.9%).

4. More than one in ten households lived in overcrowded housing in half (8 out of 16) of New Westminister census tracts in 2021:

In 2021, the highest rates of overcrowded housing in New Westminister census tracts were in census tract 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill, Kelvin and Moody Park) (15.2% of households in this census tract lived in overcrowded housing) and census tract 200.02 (Queensborough except Port Royal) (14.8%). However, none of New Westminister's census tracts ranked within the top 50 highest census tracts in Metro Vancouver for highest rates of overcrowding, with most of the census tracts with the highest rates of overcrowded housing being located in Surrey.

5. Renter households, particularly with large numbers of household members, were more likely to be living in overcrowded housing in New Westminster in 2021:

In 2021, 13.4% of New Westminster renter households lived in overcrowded housing (2,185 renter households in overcrowded housing), while 6.2% of New Westminster owner households lived in overcrowded housing (1,215 owner households in overcrowded housing). The rates of overcrowding were particularly high among 4 person renter households (47.1% of 4 person renter households lived in overcrowded housing, 490 4 person renter households in overcrowded housing) and 5+ person renter households (69.7% of 5+ person renter households lived in overcrowded housing, 310 5+ person renter households in overcrowded households).

6. On the other hand, 18.1% of all bedrooms in New Westminster were empty:

While some homes in New Westminster were overcrowded, some were under crowded. According to Census Mapper data from the 2021 Census, 18.1% of New Westminster bedrooms were empty (not occupied), which was lower than Metro Vancouver (23.5%). The highest rates of empty bedrooms were in census tract 200.01 (Port Royal) (27.6%), census tract 208.00 (Queens Park/Glenbrooke North) (26.9%), census tract 209.01 (Glenbrooke South) (26.5%) and census tract 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights) (28.7%). However, these rates were still relatively low compared with some West Side of Vancouver, South Surrey, South Langley and North Shore census tracts, where over 30% of bedrooms were empty in some census tracts.

7. In 2021, New Westminster had a low rate of 3 bedroom and 4+ bedroom dwelling units compared with comparison geographies:

In 2021, 13.8% of New Westminster dwelling units had 3 bedrooms, which was the lowest rate among Metro Vancouver municipalities and much lower than Metro Vancouver (21.7%), BC (26.4%) and Canada (33.3%). In 2021, 12.4% of New Westminster dwelling units had 4+ bedrooms, which was the second lowest rate among Metro Vancouver municipalities (after North Vancouver City – 11.4%) and much lower than Metro Vancouver (26.1%), BC (26.8%) and Canada (26.1%). The most common type of dwelling unit in New Westminster in 2021 had 2 bedrooms (13,415 such units), followed by 1 bedroom (12,280 such units).

Dwelling Condition and Needs for Repairs

1. The percentage of households in New Westminster living in dwellings in need of major repairs decreased between 2016 and 2021:

The percentage of households in New Westminster living in dwellings in need of major repairs decreased from 7.8% in 2016 to 6.8% in 2021 (a – 1.0 ppt decrease), similar to Canada (-0.4 ppt decrease), BC (a -0.5 ppt decrease) and Metro Vancouver (a -0.4 ppt decrease).

2. There was a slight decrease in the number of households in New Westminister living in dwellings in need of major repairs between 2016 and 2021:

The number of households living in dwellings in need of major repairs decreased from 2,560 households in 2016 to 2,460 households in 2021, a decrease of -100 households.

3. The percentage of households in New Westminister living in dwellings in need of major repairs in 2021 was higher than for Canada, BC, and Metro Vancouver:

In 2021, 6.8% of New Westminister households lived in dwellings in need of major repairs, which was higher than in Canada (6.1%), BC (5.8%) and Metro Vancouver (5.3%).

4. The highest rates of living in dwellings in need of major repairs were highest in Brow of the Hill in 2021:

In 2021, 13.8% of census tract 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill, Moody Park/Kelvin) households and 9.1% of census tract 204.01 (south part of Brow of the Hill) lived in dwellings in need of major repairs. Census tract 204.01 had the third highest rate of dwellings in need of major repairs among 530 Metro Vancouver census tracts with data.

5. The rate of living in dwellings in need of major repairs in 2021 was similar for renters and owners in New Westminister:

In 2021, 6.9% of New Westminister renter households (1,125 renter households lived in dwellings in need of major repairs) and 6.7% of New Westminister owner households lived in dwellings in need of major repairs (1,330 owner households lived in dwellings in need of major repairs). The rate of living in dwellings in need of major repairs was notably higher among single family home (without suites) renter households (16.5% of whom lived in dwellings in need of major repairs, 100 of these households lived in dwellings in need of major repairs) and low rise apartment renter households (9.1% of whom lived in dwelling in need of major repairs, 680 of these households lived in dwellings in need of major repairs).

6. A higher percentage of single family homes that were over 100 years old in 2021 were in need of major repairs than other aged single family homes in New Westminister:

In 2021, 13.7% of New Westminister single family homes (without suites) built in 1920 or earlier were in need of major repairs. These older single family homes (without suites) also had a high rate of needing repairs in comparison geographies (10.1% rate in Metro Vancouver, 13.5% rate in BC, and 14.2% rate in Canada). In 2021 in New Westminister, the rate of needing major repairs was much lower for single family homes (with suites) built in 1920 or earlier in New Westminister (7.7%) than for single family homes (without suites). In total, there were 105 single family homes (without suites) and 30 single family homes (with suites) built in 1920 or earlier in New Westminister in need of major repairs. There were also 110 single

family homes (without suites) and 45 single family homes (with suites) built between 1921 and 1945 in New Westminister in need of major repairs.

General Housing Problems

1. Two out of five New Westminister households lived in housing that had one or more problems (affordability, overcrowding, and/or in need of major repairs) in 2021:

In 2021, 41.1% of New Westminister households lived in housing that had one or more problems, which was higher than in Metro Vancouver (39.0%), British Columbia (33.5%) and Canada (29.2%). In total, there were 14,840 households in New Westminister living in housing with one or more housing problems in 2021.

2. There were 8 census tracts in New Westminister in which two out of five or more households lived in housing that had one or more problems in 2021:

Census tracts 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill, Moody Park/Kelvin) (53.1% of households lived in housing that had one or more problems in 2021) and census tract 204.01 (south part of Brow of the Hill) (49.7%) had especially high rates of housing problems. Housing problems were widespread throughout Metro Vancouver, with 207 Metro Vancouver census tracts (out of 530 Metro Vancouver census tracts with data) having rates of two out of five or more households living in problematic housing in 2021.

3. More than half of all lone parent households and roommate households in New Westminister lived in housing that had one or more problems in 2021:

In 2021, 60.1% of roommate households and 54.0% of lone parent households in New Westminister lived in housing that had one or more problems, followed closely by single households (48.2%). Couples without children had the lowest rates of living in problematic housing (24.0%), followed by couples with children (37.6%). There were more single households living in problematic housing (6,410 such households) in New Westminister in 2021 than any other household type.

4. The rate of living in problematic housing (one or more problems) was much higher among renters in New Westminister (and comparison geographies) than for owners in 2021:

In 2021 in New Westminister, 49.9% of renter households (8,160 renter households in problematic housing) and 33.8% of owner households (6,680 owner households in problematic housing) lived in problematic housing. The higher rates of problematic housing among renter households (51.3% rate in Metro Vancouver, 49.4% in BC and 44.9% in Canada) than owner households was also true in comparison geographies (31.5% in Metro Vancouver, 25.7% in BC and 21.3% in Canada).

Tenure

1. The percentage of households that were renters in New Westminister (and comparison geographies) increased between 2016 and 2021:

The percentage of households that were renter households in New Westminster increased from 43.9% of households in 2016 to 45.3% in 2021 (a +1.4 ppt increase). There were also increases in the percentage of households that were renter households in Metro Vancouver (a +1.5 ppt increase), BC (a +1.0 ppt increase) and Canada (a +1.3 ppt increase).

2. As historically has been the case, a higher percentage of households were renter households in New Westminster compared Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada:

In 2021, 45.3% of New Westminster households were renter households (16,360 renter households) and 54.7% of New Westminster households were owner households (19,740 owner households). This renter household percentage was higher than in Metro Vancouver (37.8% of households there were renter households), BC (32.8%) and Canada (33.1%). New Westminster had the third highest proportion of renter households within Metro Vancouver, after Vancouver (54.5%) and North Vancouver City (46.7%).

3. Census tracts in Brow of the Hill, Uptown, and Downtown were majority renter census tracts:

In 2021, there were 5 census tracts in New Westminster that were majority renter census tracts (i.e., 50.0%+ of households were renter households). Census tract 205.01 (south part of Uptown) (where 70.4% of households were renter households) and census tract 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill, Moody Park and Kelvin) (where 70.0% of households were renter households) had the highest rates of rentership. In total, there were 88 census tracts in Metro Vancouver that were majority renter census tracts (out of 530 Metro Vancouver census tracts with data).

4. Younger age groups had much lower homeownership rates than older age groups in New Westminster in 2021:

In 2021 in New Westminster, the lowest homeownership rates were among 15-24 year old led households (9.4% homeownership rate), 25-34 year old led households (35.3% homeownership rate) and 35-44 year old led households (51.4% homeownership rate), while the highest rates were among 85+ year old led households (71.5% homeownership rate), 75-84 year old led households (67.2% homeownership rate) and 65-74 year old led households (65.6% homeownership rate). Higher homeowner rates among older age groups were also notable among the comparison geographies of Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada. The [Statistics Canada Daily Article on Housing from September 2022](#) notes a declining rate of homeownership among most age groups in Canada, especially younger age groups.

5. 25-34 year old led households and 35-44 year old led households in New Westminster and Metro Vancouver had much lower homeownership rates than their counterparts in BC as a whole and Canada in 2021:

In 2021, among 25-34 year old led households, the homeownership rate was 35.3% in New Westminster, 35.9% in Metro Vancouver, 40.2% in BC, and 45.5% in Canada. In 2021, among 35-44 year old led households, the homeownership rate

was 51.4% in New Westminister, 55.3% in Metro Vancouver, 60.0% in BC and 64.1% in Canada.

Condominium Status (i.e., strata titled)

- 1. Almost half of all dwelling units in New Westminister were condominium (strata-titled) (owned or rented) in 2021, much higher than comparison geographies:**

In 2021 in New Westminister, there were 16,899 condominium units, composing 46.4% of all dwelling units, much higher than in Metro Vancouver (32.5%), BC (23.6%) and Canada (15.0%) and the second highest percentage of all Metro Vancouver municipalities (highest was North Vancouver City - 48.9%).

Period of Construction

- 1. In 2021, New Westminister had a much higher percentage of dwelling units built in 1960 or earlier than Metro Vancouver and BC but lower than in Canada:**

In 2021, 18.6% of New Westminister dwelling units were built in 1960 or earlier (6,715 such units in total), which was higher than in Metro Vancouver (11.5%) and BC (12.5%) but lower than in Canada (20.2%). This was the fourth highest percentage of homes built in 1960 or earlier among Metro Vancouver municipalities after North Vancouver District (21.5%), West Vancouver (21.1%) and Vancouver (20.4%). Notably, New Westminister also had an above average percentage of newer housing built between 2016 and 2021, with 11.3% of New Westminister's dwelling units built within this period, slightly higher than in Metro Vancouver (10.5%) and higher than in BC (9.1%) and Canada (6.9%).

- 2. The majority of dwelling units in New Westminister that were built in 1920 or before and between 1921 and 1945 (and are still part of the existing dwelling stock) in 2021 were single family homes (without suites):**

In 2021 in New Westminister, 765 out of the 1,485 existing dwelling units built in 1920 or before and 1,280 out of the 2,250 existing dwelling units between 1921 and 1945 were single family homes without suites.

Age Profile

In 2021, the median age of New Westminister's population was 40 years old, slightly younger than in Metro Vancouver, where the median age was 41 years old. The largest group in New Westminister in 2021 was the 30-49 year old age group, composing 33% of the total population.

New Westminister has a low and declining percent of children and youth, but this population segment continues to grow in absolute numbers:

- 1. In 2021, New Westminister continued to have a low percentage of children and youth (0-17 years old) as a proportion of the population (15% of New**

Westminster's population compared with 17% in Metro Vancouver) relative to Metro Vancouver in 2021. In both Metro Vancouver and New Westminster, children and youth as a proportion of the total population decreased between 2011 and 2021 – in the case of New Westminster from 16% of the population in 2011 to 15% of the population in 2021;

2. **However, New Westminster's child and youth population grew during this period in absolute terms:** New Westminster's child and youth population grew by 1,255 children and youth between 2011 and 2021, with most of this growth occurring during the 2016-2021 period, with 1,095 children and youth added between 2016 and 2021 in New Westminster;
3. **A fast growth rate in child and youth population in the 2016-2021 period was notable and distinct from the trends in comparison geographies:** New Westminster's child and youth population grew by 10% between 2016 and 2021, which was much faster than in Metro Vancouver (2%), BC (3%) and Canada (3%). Among Metro Vancouver municipalities, only Langley Township (11%) and White Rock (11%) had faster child and youth population growth rates between 2016 and 2021 than New Westminster;

The population of seniors has been growing in line with regional growth in the seniors population:

4. In 2021, 16% of New Westminster's population consisted of seniors (65+ years old), which was slightly lower than in Metro Vancouver (17%);
5. The proportion of the population in New Westminster consisting of seniors grew from 13% in 2011 to 16% in 2021, while the proportion of the population in Metro Vancouver consisting of seniors grew from 14% in 2011 to 17% in 2021; and
6. New Westminster added 3,840 seniors between 2011 and 2021.

Households and Families

There following caveats apply to interpreting households and families data:

- Challenges in comparability across Census periods: Some of the data available at the municipal level on families and households varies considerably from Census period to Census period. Therefore, not many comparisons were made between census periods.
- Children of any age: For the 2021 Census data releases at the municipal level, much of the data on children in families was for children of any age, including adult children. The number of households only consisting of adult children was quite large (e.g., 17.2% of families with children in Canada living at home (with parents) had only children 25+ years old living at home) and can distort other statistics such as

family arrangements. For example, 45.9% of the families in Canada where the youngest child living at home was 25+ years old were lone parent families, whereas 12.0% of the families in Canada where the youngest child was less than 2 years old were lone parent families.

- Where people actually live: There are some caveats about how the Census collects information about households and families: For example, adult children who are living away from their parental home attending post-secondary institutions but live at their parents' home in the summer are counted as living at home (although this may have been less of an issue in Spring 2021 due to the prevalence of virtual learning due to COVID-19). Also, if a child is in a joint custody household, they will only be counted in the household where they spend most of the time.
- Comparisons between the Census and Population Estimates: Some groups may be undercounted in the Census compared with population estimates to a greater degree than other groups. For example, in Canada, the difference between population estimates for July 2021 and the 2021 Census count was 0.0% for couples without children, -2.3% for couples with children and -7.7% for lone parent families, meaning that lone parent families may be the most undercounted in the Census.
- Average number of children: Average number of children does not count the number of children ever born in a family but rather the number of children currently living at home with their parents or grandparents, regardless of age of child.
- For more information: For more information, please read the [Statistics Canada, Families, Households and Marital Status Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021](#)

Household Type

1. **New Westminster generally had a higher percentage of non-family households and a lower percentage of family households than other comparison geographies in 2021:**

In particular, New Westminster had a lower percentage of couple households (w/o additional persons) with children (20.2% of households in New Westminster compared with 25.3% in Canada, 22.7% in British Columbia and 25.3% in Metro Vancouver), one parent households (w/o additional persons) (6.4% of households in New Westminster compared with 8.7% in Canada, 7.6% in British Columbia and 7.8% in Metro Vancouver) and multi-generational households (2.5% of households in New Westminster compared with 2.9% in Canada, 3.7% in British Columbia and 4.7% in Metro Vancouver). New Westminster had a higher percentage of roommate households (two or more non-census family person households) (6.2% of households in New Westminster compared with 4.4% in Canada, 5.3% in British Columbia and 5.6% in Metro Vancouver) and one person living alone households (36.8% of households in New Westminster compared with 29.3% in Canada, 29.4%

in British Columbia and 29.0% in Metro Vancouver) than most comparison geographies.

2. The largest number of households in New Westminister in 2021 were one-person households, followed by couples (w/o additional persons) without children:

In 2021, there were 13,280 one-person households in New Westminister (36.8% of all households) followed by 8,820 couple households (w/o additional persons) without children (24.4%).

3. New Westminister saw a large increase in the number of roommate households between 2016 and 2021:

Like Canada (14.0% increase in the number of roommate households), British Columbia (22.4%) and Metro Vancouver (24.4%), New Westminister also saw a large increase in the number of roommate households (24.0%) between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, New Westminister had 2,225 roommate households. In 2021, New Westminister had the third highest percentage of households composed of roommate households of any Metro Vancouver municipality (at 6.2%, only behind Burnaby at 6.7% and Vancouver at 7.8%).

4. In 2021, the types of households varied a lot by which part of New Westminister they were in:

For example, the percentage of couple families (w/o additional people) with children were much higher in some more ground-oriented housing areas (e.g., 38.2% of all households in Census tract 200.02 – Queensborough not including Port Royal) and the percentage of couples (w/o additional people) without children were much higher in some areas with newer condos (e.g., 36.0% of all households in census tract 200.01 – Port Royal part of Queensborough). The highest percentage of multi-generational households in New Westminister were in census tract 200.02 (where 12.1% of all households were multi-generational households). Census tract 202.02 (west part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill) had one of the highest percentages of roommate households of any Metro Vancouver census tract (12.2% of households here were roommate households).

Average Number of Children per Household with Children

1. Despite declining fertility rates, the average number of children (of any age, including adult children) living at home at various geographies has remained fairly stable across Census periods:

[Between 2010 and 2020, British Columbia's total fertility rate dropped from 1.45 children per woman to 1.17 children per woman \(Canada also experienced a drop from 1.64 to 1.40 during the same period\).](#) Nonetheless, the average number of children of any age living at home for census families with children stayed the same between 2011 and 2021 in Metro Vancouver (1.7), British Columbia (1.7), Canada (1.8) and New Westminister (1.6).

2. New Westminister had a lower average number of children (of any age) living at home in 2021 than most comparison geographies:

New Westminister had an average number of 1.6 children living at home in families with children at home, which was lower than British Columbia, Canada and Metro Vancouver. Within Metro Vancouver, this number varied from 1.5 in North Vancouver City to 1.8 in Langley District, Surrey, Delta and Anmore.

3. The average number of children (of any age) living at home (in families with children at home) in 2021 was higher in ground-oriented housing areas than in apartment-oriented areas:

In 2021, there was an average of 1.8 children living at home (in families with children at home) in census tract 200.02 (Queensborough except Port Royal) and census tract 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights). In contrast, there was an average of 1.3 children living at home (in families with children at home) in census tract 206.00 (central part of Downtown).

Labour Force Data

The 2021 Census data on the labour force was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various restrictions in place in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada. Most of this data is by place of residence (i.e., for people who live in New Westminister or the specified geography, not necessarily working there).

Labour Force Status and Work Activity

1. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of people who worked in 2020 in Metro Vancouver worked full-time, full-year:

- In 2020, 69.1% of Metro Vancouver residents 15+ years old worked, with 38.9% of the 15+ year olds working full-year, full-time, while 30.2% worked part-year and/or part-time;
- In 2020, the proportion of New Westminister residents 15+ years old who worked (69.1%) was much higher than in BC (62.8%), Canada (63.3%) and Metro Vancouver (64.5%) and tied for the second highest rate in Metro Vancouver (after Bowen Island at 70.3% and tied with Lions Bay at 69.1%); and,
- In 2020, the proportion of New Westminister residents 15+ years old who worked full-year, full-time was 38.9%, much higher than Metro Vancouver (33.9%), Canada (33.7%) and BC (32.1%) and the second highest in Metro Vancouver after Port Moody (39.8%).

2. Among people 15+ years old who worked at some point between January 2020 and May 2021 but did not work full-year in 2020, COVID-19 was the main reason in New Westminister and comparison geographies:

- Among people 15+ years old in New Westminister who did not work full-year in 2020 (but did work at some point between January 2020 and May 2021), COVID-19 was the top reason for not working full-year (23.1% mentioned

- COVID-19), which was also the top reason in Metro Vancouver (23.5%), BC (21.8%) and Canada (23.7%); and,
- The next two most common reasons for not working full-year among New Westminister residents 15+ years old were business conditions (mentioned by 15.1% of this group) and being a student (12.0%).
- 3. Among people 15+ years old in New Westminister who worked part-time in 2020, the main reason for working part-time instead of full-time was being a student:**
- Among people 15+ years old in New Westminister who worked part-time instead of full-time in 2020, the most common reason was being a student (mentioned by 29.2% of this group), followed by personal preference (21.2%) and business conditions (16.5%);
 - Being a student was also the most common reason in the comparison geographies: Canada (31.9% mentioned), BC (27.4%) and Metro Vancouver (31.0%); and,
 - COVID-19 was a relatively small reason for working part-time instead of full-time in New Westminister in 2020, mentioned by only 7.2% of this part-time group.
- 4. New Westminister had a similar unemployment rate to Metro Vancouver in May 2021 but a much stronger labour force participation rate than Metro Vancouver:**
- In May 2021, New Westminister had an unemployment rate of 8.3%, which was similar to BC (8.4%) and Metro Vancouver (8.6%) but lower than in Canada (10.3%); and,
 - In May 2021, New Westminister had a much higher labour force participation rate (69.8%) among the 15+ year old population than Metro Vancouver (65.7%), Canada (63.7%) and BC (63.3%) and the second highest in Metro Vancouver after North Vancouver City (70.0%).
- 5. Compared with other recent census periods, 2021 had high unemployment rates but New Westminister kept a relatively stable labour force participation rate:**
- In May 2021, New Westminister had an unemployment rate of 8.3%, which was much higher than in 2016 (6.0%), 2006 (5.6%) and 2001 (7.7%) and was consistent with other comparison geography trends. 2011 was not examined because the 2011 National Household Survey data was unreliable; and,
 - In May 2021, New Westminister had a labour force participation rate (among 15+ year olds) of 69.8%, slightly lower than in 2016 (70.4%), similar to 2006 (69.3%) and higher than in 2001 (67.0%). This is different from Metro Vancouver (from 66.2% in 2001 to 65.7% in 2021), BC (from 65.2% in 2001 to 63.3% in 2021) and Canada (from 66.4% in 2001 to 63.7% in 2021), where the labour force participation rates have been decreasing.
- 6. In 2021, in part due to COVID-19 restrictions, arts, entertainment and travel related industries were hit especially hard by unemployment:**

- In May 2021 in Metro Vancouver (*data not available for New Westminster), among main industries (2-digit NAICS codes), the unemployment rate was especially high among the arts, entertainment and recreation industry (19.0% unemployment rate) and the accommodation and food services industry (17.7%); and,
- In May 2021 in Metro Vancouver, among more detailed industries (3-digit NAICS codes), the unemployment rate exceeded 20% in several industries such as scenic and sightseeing transportation (32.4%), accommodation services (28.9%), fishing/hunting/trapping (27.4%), air transportation (26.3%) and amusement, gambling and recreation industries (22.8%).

Class of Worker and Self-employment

1. In 2021, New Westminster had the lowest rate of self-employment in Metro Vancouver:

In 2021, 12.0% of New Westminster's workers were self-employed, which was lower than any other Metro Vancouver municipality and lower than Canada (14.1%), Metro Vancouver (16.7%) and BC (17.3%).

2. In 2021, New Westminster had a slightly lower rate of temporary/contract workers than Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies:

In 2021, 12.5% of New Westminster's workers were temporary/contract workers, compared with 13.4% in BC, 13.5% in Metro Vancouver, and 13.8% in Canada.

3. In Metro Vancouver in 2021, the real estate and rental and leasing industry had the highest rate of self-employment among main (2-digit NAICS code) industries:

In 2021, 45.3% of real estate/rental/leasing workers in Metro Vancouver were self-employed, followed by arts, entertainment and recreation (32.1%) and construction (27.2%).

4. There was considerable variation in the rate of temporary/contract employment among main (2-digit NAICS codes) industries within Metro Vancouver:

In 2021, the rate of temporary/contract employment among Metro Vancouver employees varied from 5.3% in finance and insurance to 27.9% in agriculture/forestry/fishing/hunting.

Industry

1. In Metro Vancouver, five main (2-digit NAICS codes) industries had 100,000 or more workers:

- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, there were 163,115 workers in the health care/social assistance industry, 160,590 workers in the professional/scientific/technical services industry, 159,825 workers in the retail

trade industry, 114,600 workers in the construction industry, and 110,765 workers in the education industry;

- In 2021, Metro Vancouver had the fourth highest proportion of workers in the professional/scientific/technical services industry among Canadian urban areas (10.9% of Metro Vancouver workers worked in this industry), behind only Toronto CMA (12.1%), Squamish CA (12.0%) and Calgary CMA (11.1%);
- In 2021, Metro Vancouver was tied with the Toronto CMA for the fourth highest proportion of workers in the real estate/rental/leasing industry among Canadian urban areas (2.6% of Metro Vancouver workers worked in this industry), after resort/retirements communities such as Collingwood CA (3.0%), Wasaga Beach CA (2.8%) and Parksville CA (2.7%).

2. In New Westminster, there were over 5,000 residents working in each of two main (2-digit NAICS codes) industries of health care/social assistance and professional/scientific/technical services:

- In 2021, among New Westminister's 47,565 resident labour force members, 5,820 worked in the health care/social assistance industry, while 5,115 worked in the professional/scientific/technical services industry; and,
- In 2021, 12.2% of New Westminister resident labour force members worked in the health care/social assistance industry, which was the highest rate in Metro Vancouver and higher than in Metro Vancouver (11.1%), but similar to BC (12.0%) and Canada (12.7%).

3. In total terms, the professional/scientific/technical services industry grew more quickly than any other main (2-digit NAICS codes) industry in New Westminister between 2016 and 2021:

- Between 2016 and 2021 in New Westminister, the number of resident labour force members in the professional/scientific/technical services industry increased by +1,040 workers, followed by the health care/social assistance industry (+995 workers) and the construction industry (+725 workers), while the accommodation/food services industry saw the largest loss in workers (-445 workers).

4. The prevalence of health care/social assistance resident labour force members was highest in the Eastern parts of New Westminister:

- In 2021, 14.5% of all resident labour force members in census tract 210.00 (Sapperton) and 14.1% in census tract 209.01 (Glenbrooke South) worked in the health care/social assistance industry, which was the highest in New Westminister and among the higher rates among regional census tracts (although not the highest); and,
- In 2021, the highest proportions of resident labour force members working in professional/scientific/technical services industry was highest in census tract 206.00 (Central part of Downtown New Westminister) (16.7% of the workers who lived there worked in this industry), followed by census tract 200.01 (Port Royal) (15.9%).

5. The rates of working primarily (or entirely) from home varied significantly by sector:

- In May 2021, 60.1% of New Westminster's professional/scientific/technical services workers, 58.2% of information/cultural workers, and 53.5% of finance/insurance workers worked primarily (or entirely) from home. Also, 58.9% of New Westminster's utility industry workers worked primarily (or entirely from home); and,
- In contrast, only 5.3% of New Westminster's accommodation/food services workers, 9.3% of construction workers, and 9.7% of health care/social assistance workers worked mostly (or entirely) from home.

Occupation and Employment Income

1. In 2020, most Metro Vancouver broad (1 digit) occupation groups had similar or slightly higher before-tax employment incomes than Canada and BC:

- In 2021, the largest three broad occupation groups in Metro Vancouver were sales/services occupations (410,980 workers), business/finance/admin occupations (296,430 workers) and trades/transportation occupations (246,125 workers); and,
- In 2020, the median employment income among sales/services occupations in Metro Vancouver was \$22,400, slightly higher than Toronto CMA (\$21,000), Montreal CMA (\$19,200), Ottawa-Gatineau CMA (\$19,400), BC (\$21,800) and Canada (\$20,600) but slightly lower than Calgary CMA (\$23,400) and Edmonton CMA (\$23,400);
- In 2020, the median employment income among trades/transportation occupations in Metro Vancouver (\$47,200) was slightly higher than in Canada (\$44,400), Calgary CMA (\$46,400) Montreal CMA (\$40,800), Ottawa-Gatineau CMA (\$42,800) and the Toronto CMA (\$37,200) but slightly lower than in BC (\$48,800) and Edmonton CMA (\$53,200);
- In 2020, the median employment income among business/finance/admin occupations in Metro Vancouver (\$49,600) was slightly higher than in BC (\$47,600), Canada (\$48,800) and Montreal CMA (\$46,800) but slightly lower than in Calgary CMA (\$56,000), Edmonton CMA (\$52,800), Ottawa-Gatineau CMA (\$58,800) and Toronto CMA (\$54,400); and,
- These results for the generally in-person occupations of construction and sales/services could have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in 2020, which were much stricter in Ontario and Quebec than in BC, resulting in fewer hours worked in some jobs in those provinces.

Demographics and Work

*diversity x work variable data was not available for New Westminster at the time of this memo

1. Recent immigrants (immigrated in the past five years) continued to have higher unemployment and, in some cases, lower labour force participation

rates than longer-settled immigrants and non-immigrants in Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada:

- In 2021, the labour force participation rate among core working age (25-54 year old) recent immigrants was lower in Metro Vancouver (83.5% among recent immigrants compared with 83.7% of all period immigrants and 88.1% of non-immigrants), BC (84.1% among recent immigrants compared 84.3% among all period immigrants and 86.3% of non-immigrants) and Canada (81.9% among recent immigrants compared with 83.8% among all period immigrants and 86.6% among non-immigrants). Notably, there was a very large gap in all three geographies in labour force participation between core working age recent immigrant males (91.8% rate in Metro Vancouver, 92.3% in BC and 90.8% in Canada) and core working age recent immigrant females (76.2% rate in Metro Vancouver, 76.9% in BC and 73.8% in Canada);
- The core working age population unemployment rates among recent immigrants in all three geographies were also higher than for all period immigrants and non-immigrants: 8.5% of Metro Vancouver recent immigrants were unemployed (compared with 7.9% of all period immigrants and 6.3% of non-immigrants), 8.4% of BC recent immigrants were unemployed (compared with 7.7% of all period immigrants and 6.7% of non-immigrants) and 10.9% of all Canada recent immigrants were unemployed (compared with 9.9% of all period immigrants and 7.7% of non-immigrants); and,
- Despite the overall economically challenging conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Statistics Canada Daily Article [“Jobs in Canada: Navigating changing local labour markets”](#), although the unemployment rate for most groups was higher in 2021 than in 2006 and 2016 (previous Census periods, 2011 not reviewed in this memo due to 2011 National Household Survey data quality issues), the unemployment rate for core working age recent immigrants in Canada in 2021 (10.9%) was similar to 2016 (11.0%) and lower than in 2006 (11.7%).

2. In Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies, the core working age (25-54 years old) labour force participation rate was lower and the core working age unemployment rate higher among Visible Minorities than non-Visible Minorities:

- In 2021, the labour force participation rate among core working age Visible Minorities was 83.4% in Metro Vancouver (*data was not available for New Westminster), 83.9% in BC and 83.4% in Canada, while among core working age non-Visible Minorities, it was 88.3% in Metro Vancouver, 86.4% in BC and 86.6% in Canada;
- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, the core working age labour force participation rate among Visible Minorities varied from 70.6% among people who identified as Arab to 90.7% among people who identified as Filipino. Among people who identified as Black, it was 84.4%;
- In 2021, the core working age unemployment rate among Visible Minorities was 7.8% in Metro Vancouver, 7.7% in BC, and 10.3% in Canada, while among non-

Visible Minorities, it was 6.3% in Metro Vancouver, 6.6% in BC and 7.5% in Canada; and,

- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, the core working age unemployment rate among Visible Minorities varied from 5.5% among people who identified as Filipino to 13.4% among people who identified as Arab. Among people who identified as Black, it was 10.2%.

3. In Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies, the core working age (25-54 years old) labour force participation rate was lower and the core working age unemployment rate higher among Indigenous residents than among non-Indigenous residents:

- In 2021, the labour force participation rate among core working age Indigenous residents was 79.4% in Metro Vancouver, 76.3% in BC and 74.1% in Canada, while among core working age non-Indigenous residents, it was 85.7% in Metro Vancouver, 86.0% in BC and 86.2% in Canada; and,
- In 2021, the unemployment rate for among core working age Indigenous residents was 10.5% in Metro Vancouver, 11.3% in BC and 13.4% in Canada, while among core working age non-Indigenous residents, it was 7.1% in Metro Vancouver, 6.8% in BC and 8.1% in Canada.

4. In 2021, in Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies, the unemployment rates were much higher among youth and young adults than other age groups:

- In 2021, the unemployment rate among 15-19 year olds was 20.3% in Metro Vancouver, 16.8% in BC, and 21.0% in Canada, while the unemployment rate among 20-24 year olds was 14.9% in Metro Vancouver, 14.3% in BC and 18.7% in Canada. By comparison, in Metro Vancouver's lowest unemployment rate age group of 35-44 year olds, the unemployment rate was 6.6%.

5. In 2021, the labour force participation rate was much lower among 55-64 year olds than 45-54 year olds and among 65-74 year olds compared with 55-64 year olds:

- In 2021, the labour force participation rate in Metro Vancouver among 45-54 year olds was 83.9%, compared with 68.9% among 55-64 year olds, 25.7% among 65-74 year olds and 5.5% among 75+ year olds; and,
- Given that there were 296,535 45-54 year olds, 240,655 55-64 year olds, and 67,185 65-74 year olds in Metro Vancouver in the labour force in 2021, the potential loss of workers in the coming years could be quite large.

Income

Income data is complex, and the Statistics Canada, Income Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021, is a useful reference tool. Among the notable features, household income includes all members of a household, so families with children includes income from adult children who live at home. Therefore, the family household incomes for

families with children are possibly higher than they would be for families with just children under 18 years old.

2020 was also an unusual year for income because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated shut-downs and associated special benefits. As a result, trends between 2015 and 2020 should be interpreted with caution. Furthermore, there are some challenges in income reporting (overseas income and hidden income etc.) that may be more prevalent in some municipalities than others that may cause challenges in income comparisons between jurisdictions.

COVID Benefits

1. Almost three quarters of New Westminister residents 15+ years old received some form of COVID-19 government support:

In total, 50,475 New Westminister residents 15+ years old received some form of COVID-19 government support (including increased child benefits, CERB, increased GST credit, etc.) (74.1% of New Westminister residents 15+ years old). This percentage was similar to British Columbia (74.5%) and Metro Vancouver (73.3%) but higher than in Canada (68.4%).

2. CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit) was an especially important source of income for younger adults in New Westminister in 2020:

In New Westminister in 2020, 33.0% of all 15-24 year olds and 32.4% of 25-34 year olds received CERB. Overall, 25.1% of New Westminister residents 15+ years old received CERB, which was similar to Metro Vancouver (25.3%) and Canada (25.1%) but higher than British Columbia (24.1%).

3. The various COVID-19 benefits were most accessible to lower-middle income earners, not the very rich or very poor:

In New Westminister in 2020, 95.3% of fourth decile earners (i.e., bottom 30-40% of income earners) received COVID-19 benefits, the highest of any income group. In contrast, just 37.9% of bottom decile and 28.6% of top decile income earners received COVID-19 benefits. CERB itself benefitted the second decile through fifth decile earners the most in New Westminister in 2020, especially the second decile earners (39.6% of these earners received CERB).

4. Over \$200 million in COVID-19 benefits were given out to New Westminister residents 15+ years old in 2020:

Overall, \$204,800,000 in COVID-19 benefits were given out to New Westminister residents 15+ years old, with the highest payment amount by far coming from CERB at \$151,600,000. \$86.2 billion in COVID benefits were paid out in Canada, with \$12.4 billion being paid out in British Columbia and \$7.2 billion paid out in Metro Vancouver.

5. New Westminister had none of the most Covid Emergency and Recovery Benefits (CERB and other emergency benefits) dependent census tracts in Metro Vancouver in 2020:

Out of the 523 Metro Vancouver census tracts with Covid Emergency and Recovery Benefits data available, no census tract in New Westminster ranked within the top 100 of COVID Emergency and Response Benefits dependent census tracts. Census tract 200.02 (Queensborough except Port Royal) had the highest percentage of 15+ year olds of any New Westminster census tract receiving these benefits (32.3%), but this was far lower than some Metro Vancouver census tracts, particularly near Downtown Vancouver and some parts of Richmond and Surrey (highest in Metro Vancouver was census tract 59.18 – Chinatown in Vancouver – at 40.2%). The least COVID emergency benefits dependent census tract in New Westminster was census tract 202.01 (Quayside area), where 20.6% of 15+ year olds received these benefits in 2020.

Income Inequality

1. Government transfers made a significant difference in decreasing income inequality in New Westminster and elsewhere:

Based on the Gini index (where 0 = completely equal, 1 = completely unequal), in New Westminster in 2020, the adjusted household market income index was 0.41, the adjusted household total income index was 0.32 and adjusted household total after-tax income was 0.28. This shows the decrease in inequality when government transfers and taxes are taken into account.

2. New Westminster was slightly less income unequal than most comparison geographies:

Based on the Gini index for after-tax household income, New Westminster's 2020 score of 0.28 was lower than Canada (0.30), British Columbia (0.31) and Metro Vancouver (0.32). The lowest scores in Metro Vancouver were in Pitt Meadows and Langley City (both with 0.25) while the highest score was in West Vancouver (0.51).

3. For most geographies, the Gini after-tax household index decreased between 2015 and 2020, indicating decreasing inequality:

The Gini adjusted after-tax household income in New Westminster decreased from 0.32 in 2015 to 0.28 in 2020.

4. The richest 10% of households earned approximately four times (3.8 times) as much after-tax household income (adjusted for household size) in 2020 in New Westminster than the poorest 10% of households.

Poverty and low-income:

1. As shown by the differences between the low-income measure before-tax (LIM-BT) and the low-income measure after-tax (LIM-AT), government transfers and taxes reduced poverty:

For example, in New Westminster in 2020, there were 1,920 fewer people classified as poor under LIM-AT compared with under LIM-BT.

- 2. New Westminister's 2020 child and overall poverty rates were below comparison geographies, but seniors poverty rates were above average:**
Overall, 10.1% of New Westminister residents were in low-income based on LIM-AT, which was slightly lower than the 10.8% in BC, 11.1% in Metro Vancouver and 11.1% in Canada. 10.2% of New Westminister children and youth (0-17 years old) were in low-income based on LIM-AT, which was slightly lower than BC (11.4%), Metro Vancouver (11.6%) and Canada (11.9%). However, 16.0% of New Westminister seniors (65+ years old) were in low-income based on LIM-AT, which was slightly higher than BC (13.7%), Metro Vancouver (14.3%) and Canada (15.0%).
- 3. There were 7,900 people in New Westminister living in low-income in 2020 based on LIM-AT:**
This included 1,185 children and youth (0-17 years old) (including 415 early years children 0-5 years old) and 1,940 seniors (65+ years old).
- 4. 2,900 people in New Westminister were lifted out of poverty between 2015 and 2020 based on LIM-AT:**
Also, there were 590 fewer children and youth (0-17 years old) living in poverty in New Westminister in 2020 in comparison with 2015. However, there were 60 more seniors (65+ years old) living in poverty in New Westminister in 2020 compared with 2015.
- 5. Poverty rates for various age groups in New Westminister and comparison geographies fell between 2015 and 2020 (based on LIM-AT):**
The overall poverty rate in New Westminister dropped by -5.3 ppt between 2015 and 2020, while the child poverty rate (0-17 year olds) dropped by -6.6 ppt, the early years child poverty rate (0-5 years old) dropped by -7.4 ppt and the seniors (65+ years old) poverty rate dropped by -2.6 ppt. New Westminister's overall poverty rate drop of -5.3 ppt was similar to Metro Vancouver (-5.3 ppt) and British Columbia (-4.9 ppt) but higher than for Canada (-3.3 ppt).
- 6. Poverty rates saw very large drops in some of the traditionally less well-off parts of New Westminister between 2015 and 2020:**
The largest decreases in overall population poverty rates in New Westminister occurred in census tract 205.01 (south part of Uptown) (-10.1 ppt decrease), followed by census tract 202.02 (Stewardson way part of Brow of the Hill and west part of Downtown) (-9.0 ppt decrease). The smallest decrease was in census tract 208.00 (Queens Park and Glenbrooke North) (-1.6 ppt decrease). No areas saw increases in overall population poverty rates.
- 7. Despite the decreases in poverty rates, the Brow of the Hill and Uptown still had the highest poverty rates for most age groups in 2020:**
In 2020, based on LIM-AT, the highest poverty rates for the overall population were in census tract 205.02 (north part of Uptown) (16.6%) and census tract 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill + Kelvin/Moody Park) (15.8%). The highest poverty rates for

children and youth (0-17 years old) were in census tract 205.02 (19.2%) and census tract 204.02 (16.9%). The highest poverty rates for seniors (65+ years old) were in census tract 208.00 (Glenbrooke North and Queens Park) (24.9%) and census tract 205.02 (24.4%).

Median Before-tax Household Income

1. Couples with families with children (of any age) had the highest incomes in 2020:

In New Westminster in 2020, the median before-tax household income for couple families with children was \$133,000, similar to Canada (\$134,000), British Columbia (\$134,000) and Metro Vancouver (\$135,000). New Westminster had a higher median before-tax household income for couple families without children (\$103,000) than Metro Vancouver (\$100,000), British Columbia (\$94,000) and Canada (\$91,000). New Westminster had a slightly higher median before-tax household income for lone parent families (with children of any age) (\$72,000) than Metro Vancouver (\$71,000), British Columbia (\$68,000) and Canada (\$68,000). New Westminster had a higher median before-tax household income for non census families (i.e., singles and people living with roommates, etc.) (\$52,000) than Metro Vancouver (\$50,800), British Columbia (\$48,000) and Canada (\$45,200).

2. The variation between New Westminster census tracts for before-tax median household incomes in 2020 were most notable for couple families with children (of any age):

The highest before-tax median household income for couple families with children were in both census tract 208.00 (Glenbrooke North and Queens Park) and census tract 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights) (both at \$172,000). The lowest before-tax median household income for couple families with children were in census tract 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill + Kelvin/Moody Park), census tract 206.00 (central part of Downtown) and census tract 207.00 (east part of Downtown) (all at \$108,000).

Household Income Groups

1. A lower percentage of New Westminster households were very high income (\$200+k before-tax median household income) than in comparison geographies:

Perhaps partially because of a higher proportion of one-person households (36.8% of New Westminster households had just one person compared with 29.0% in Metro Vancouver), New Westminster had a lower percentage of households in various higher income groups. 8.6% of New Westminster households had a before-tax median household income of \$200k+, compared with 9.8% in Canada, 10.6% in British Columbia and 13.0% in Canada.

2. Very high income households were not evenly distributed through New Westminster census tracts in 2020:

In 2020, 19.4% of households in census tract 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights) were very high income (\$200+k before-tax household income), followed by 17.8% of households in census tract 203.00 (West End) and 16.6% of households in census tract 208.00 (Glenbrooke North and Queens Park). On the other hand, fewer than 1 in 20 households (i.e., less than 5.0%) were very high income in most Downtown, Brow of the Hill and Uptown census tracts.

Income Sources

1. Both market income and government transfers were important sources of income in New Westminster in 2020:

In New Westminster, 74.9% of people 15+ years old had employment income (51,030 people with employment income, while 29.8% had investment income (20,280 people). For government transfers, 15.1% had OAS (Old Age Security) (10,315 people), 5.7% had GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplement) (3,870 people), 18.9% had CPP (Canada Pension Plan) (12,870 people), 9.4% had EI (Employment Insurance) (6,395 people), 10.2% had child benefits (6,920 people), 5.4% had social assistance (welfare) benefits (3,655 people), 2.3% had WCB (Workers' Compensation Benefits) (1,535 people) and 42.1% had a GST/HST credit (28,710 people).

2. New Westminster had a similar percentage of residents 15+ years old who received social assistance compared with other comparison geographies:

In 2020, 5.4% of New Westminster residents 15+ years old received social assistance, compared with 4.1% in Canada, 4.6% in British Columbia, and 4.9% in Canada. The highest rate in Metro Vancouver was in Vancouver (6.2%) and the lowest rate was in Lions Bay and Belcarra (both at 0.8%).

3. Census tracts in Brow of the Hill and Uptown had the highest rates of residents 15+ years old receiving social assistance within New Westminster:

In 2020, 8.9% of census tract 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill and Uptown) and 8.8% of census tract 205.02 (north part of Uptown) residents received social assistance. However, these percentages were much lower than in the Downtown Eastside and surrounding census tracts, especially census tract 58.00 (Downtown Eastside) (36.6%).

Diversity

There are caveats about the analysis of diversity data:

- Due to changes in immigration questions, immigration data from the 2021 Census is not readily comparable with immigration data from the 2016 Census.
- Immigration data from the Census is typically lower than immigration total admissions from the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.
- Some of the diversity cross-tabulations, such as Visible Minority x age, was only available at the metro area level or higher at the time of this analysis.

Visible Minority

- 1. The Visible Minority population grew very quickly between 2016 and 2021 in New Westminster and comparison geographies, while the non-Visible Minority population shrank:**
 - New Westminster added 9,340 Visible Minority residents between 2016 and 2021 (34.3% increase), while losing -1,185 non-Visible Minority residents (-2.8% decrease); and,
 - Metro Vancouver and Canada both saw increases in Visible Minority residents (19.8% increase in Metro Vancouver and 25.6% increase in Canada) and losses in non-Visible Minority residents (-4.3% in Metro Vancouver and -0.4% in Canada) between 2016 and 2021, while British Columbia saw increases in both Visible Minority residents (22.3% increase) and non-Visible Minority residents (1.5% increase).
- 2. Among Visible Minority groups in New Westminster, the number of people who are South Asian grew the most, while Latin American residents grew the most in percentage terms between 2016 and 2021.**
 - Between 2016 and 2021, New Westminster added 2,315 South Asian residents (40.0% growth rate), the largest total numeric growth of any Visible Minority group; and,
 - Between 2016 and 2021, New Westminster's Latin American population grew by 100.8% (+1,285 Latin American residents), the largest percentage growth of any Visible Minority group.
- 3. Metro Vancouver is now majority Visible Minority and New Westminster is very close to majority Visible Minority:**
 - As of 2021, 54.5% of Vancouver Metro Area's population was Visible Minority, one of only two urban areas in Canada (Toronto CMA, at 57.0%, was the other) with a majority Visible Minority population;
 - As of 2021, 46.8% of New Westminster's population was Visible Minority, lower than Metro Vancouver (54.5%), but higher than BC (34.4%) and Canada (26.5%); and,
 - New Westminster's Visible Minority proportion was middle of the pack within Metro Vancouver, much lower than Richmond (80.3% Visible Minority), Burnaby (67.8%) and Surrey (67.1%) but much higher than Bowen Island (6.6%), Belcarra (7.8%) and Lions Bay (11.2%).
- 4. New Westminster's census tracts have a mix of Visible Minority groups:**
 - No Visible Minority group composed more than half of all of the population (i.e., Visible Minority+Non Visible Minority population) of any New Westminster census tract. The highest percentage of the total population belonging to any one Visible Minority group was in Census Tract 200.02 (Queensborough excluding Port Royal), where 33.9% of residents were South Asian residents;
 - The proportions of Visible Minorities by census tract in New Westminster varied from 31.2% of the overall population in census tract 208.00 (Queens

Park/Glenbrooke North) to 83.2% in census tract 200.02 (Queensborough excluding Port Royal); and,

- The largest Visible Minority groups varied across New Westminster census tracts. People identifying as South Asian were the largest Visible Minority group in census tracts 200.02 (Queensborough excluding Port Royal), 201.00 (Connaught Heights), 203.00 (West End), 207.00 (East part of Downtown) and 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights). People identifying as Chinese were the largest Visible Minority group in census tracts 200.01 (Port Royal), 202.01 (Quayside), 202.02 (west part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill), 205.02 (north part of Uptown), 206.00 (Central part of Downtown), 209.01 (Glenbrooke South) and 210.00 (Sapperton). People identifying as Filipino were the largest Visible Minority group in census tracts 204.01 (south part of Brow of the Hill), 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill and Moody Park/Kelvin) and 205.01 (south part of Uptown).

5. In Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada, the Visible Minority population was younger than the non-Visible Minority population in 2021:

- 15.9% of Metro Vancouver's Visible Minority populations, 16.5% of BC's Visible Minority populations and 19.9% of Canada's Visible Minority populations were 0-14 years old. In contrast, 12.3% of Metro Vancouver's non-Visible Minority populations, 13.5% of BC's non-Visible Minority populations and 15.3% of Canada's non-Visible Minority populations were 0-14 years old;
- A higher proportion of people identifying as Black (22.6%) and people identifying as Arab (25.0%) in Metro Vancouver were 0-14 years old than among other Visible Minority groups;
- A lower proportion of Metro Vancouver's Visible Minorities were seniors (65+ years old) (13.3%) than Metro Vancouver's non-Visible Minorities (21.1%); and,
- A higher proportion of people identifying as Chinese (17.7%) and Japanese (16.4%) in Metro Vancouver were seniors than among other Visible Minority groups.

6. In Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada in 2021, the Visible Minority population was more likely than the non-Visible Minority population to live in overcrowded or unaffordable housing, but less likely to live in run-down housing:

- In 2021, 18.6% of Metro Vancouver's Visible Minority population lived in overcrowded housing, compared with 6.4% of Metro Vancouver's Non-Visible Minority population;
- In 2021, 4.6% of Metro Vancouver's Visible Minority population lived in dwellings in need of major repairs compared with 5.9% of Metro Vancouver's Non-Visible Minority population; and,
- In 2021, 26.0% of Metro Vancouver's Visible Minority population lived in unaffordable housing (spending 30% or more of before-tax income on shelter costs) compared with 18.4% of Metro Vancouver's non-Visible Minority population.

- 7. In Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada in 2020, Visible Minorities were slightly more likely to be low income than non-Visible Minorities:**
- In 2020, 13.3% of Metro Vancouver's Visible Minority populations, 12.8% of BC's Visible Minority populations and 13.1% of Canada's Visible Minority populations were low income (based on LIM-AT). In comparison, 8.5% of Metro Vancouver's non-Visible Minority populations, 9.7% of BC's non-Visible Minority populations, and 10.3% of Canada's non-Visible Minority populations were low income; and,
 - Low income rates dropped quickly for Visible Minorities by generation status in Metro Vancouver in 2020: 15.6% of first-generation Visible Minorities (immigrants) were low income, which was higher than for second generation (8.0% were low income) and third generation (5.9% were low income) Visible Minorities. In fact, among second generation and third generation Visible Minorities, low income rates were similar or lower than among second and third generation non-Visible Minorities in Metro Vancouver (8.1% among second generation non-Visible Minorities and 7.6% among third generation non-Visible Minorities).

Immigration

- 1. Almost 2 in 5 New Westminister residents in 2021 were immigrants (from any period of immigration):**
 - In 2021, New Westminister had 29,265 immigrants (from any period of immigration), composing 37.5% of New Westminister's population; and,
 - In 2021, New Westminister's proportion of population composed of immigrants (37.5%) was lower than for Metro Vancouver (41.8%), but higher than for British Columbia (29.0%) and Canada (23.0%).
- 2. New Westminister had a larger proportion of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) than most comparison geographies:**
 - In 2021, New Westminister had 5,050 recent immigrants (6.5% of the population);
 - New Westminister's proportion of the population composed of recent immigrants (6.5%) was higher than Metro Vancouver (5.9%), BC (4.0%) and Canada (3.7%). Only three Metro Vancouver municipalities (Burnaby – 7.7%, Surrey – 7.1%, and Richmond – 6.6%) had higher proportions of recent immigrants among their populations than New Westminister did in 2021.
- 3. About 1 in 20 New Westminister residents were non-permanent residents in 2021:**
 - In 2021, New Westminister had 4,040 non-permanent residents, composing 5.2% of New Westminister's population, which was similar to Metro Vancouver (5.1%) but higher than in British Columbia (3.5%) and Canada (2.5%).
- 4. Recent immigrants were distributed throughout New Westminister in 2021:**
 - Census tracts 202.02 (West part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill) (620 recent immigrants), 200.02 (Queensborough excluding Port Royal) (525 recent immigrants) and 204.02 (north part of Brow of the Hill and

Moody Park/Kelvin) (500 recent immigrants) had the largest number of recent immigrants among New Westminster census tracts in 2021; and,

- Census tracts 202.02 (10.3% of population was recent immigrants) and 207.00 (East part of Downtown) (11.3%) had the highest proportions of recent immigrants of their total populations among New Westminster census tracts in 2021.

5. New Westminster had concentrations of non-permanent residents in Downtown census tracts in 2021:

- Census tract 202.02 (West part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill) had an especially large non-permanent population of 610 in 2021;
- In census tracts 202.02 (10.2% of population was non-permanent residents) and 206.00 (Central part of Downtown) (11.4%), more than 1 in 10 residents were non-permanent residents in 2021.

6. Syrian immigrants composed a relatively low proportion of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) in New Westminster and Metro Vancouver, especially in comparison with other parts of Canada:

- Syrians composed 10.0% or more of the recent immigrants in 24 urban areas in Canada and 5.0% or more of the recent immigrants in 43 urban areas in Canada in 2021, including 4.8% of Canada's recent immigrants as a whole; and,
- In contrast, Syrians composed 2.2% of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrants and 1.5% of New Westminster's recent immigrants as of 2021.

7. Few Syrian immigrants settled in New Westminster between 2016 and 2021:

- There were 75 recent immigrant Syrian immigrants living in New Westminster in 2021, which was tied for the 8th largest total in Metro Vancouver;
- There were far more Syrian refugees living in Surrey (1,360 Syrian immigrants) in 2021 than any other Metro Vancouver municipality; and,
- 3,380 out of Canada's 63,100 Syrian recent immigrants lived in Metro Vancouver in 2021.

8. The majority of New Westminster's recent immigrants (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) were from Asia, although lower than in most comparison geographies:

- In 2021, 55.8% of New Westminster's recent immigrants were from Asia, which was lower than in Canada (62.0%), British Columbia (68.1%) and Metro Vancouver (71.1%); and,
- In 2021, the five largest source countries for recent immigrants in New Westminster were India (15.8% of recent immigrants, 800 recent immigrants from India), China (10.7%, 540), Philippines (8.8%, 445), Brazil (7.6%, 385) and Eritrea (7.0%, 355). India, China and the Philippines were the three largest source countries for recent immigrants in Metro Vancouver, BC and Canada as well.

- 9. New Westminster had a relatively high proportion of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) from Africa compared with Metro Vancouver and British Columbia:**
- In 2021, 13.3% of recent immigrants living in New Westminster were from Africa, which was much higher than in Metro Vancouver (4.8%) and BC (5.3%), but lower than in Canada (15.6%); and,
 - New Westminster had the fourth largest of recent immigrants (670 recent immigrants from Africa) from Africa of any Metro Vancouver municipality, after Surrey (2,160), Burnaby (1,315) and Vancouver (1,165).
- 10. The majority of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) in Metro Vancouver were economic immigrants:**
- 97,715 of the 154,820 recent immigrants to Metro Vancouver were economic immigrants, composing 63.1% of all recent immigrants. This was slightly higher than in Canada (56.3%) and BC (61.6%).
- 11. Refugees composed a lower percentage of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) in Metro Vancouver compared with other urban areas:**
- In 2021, 12,875 of Canada's 218,430 recent immigrant refugees lived in Metro Vancouver;
 - In 2021, 8.3% of the recent immigrants that lived in Metro Vancouver were refugees, which was a similar proportion to BC (8.1%) but lower than in most other Canadian urban areas and lower than in Canada as a whole (16.4%).
- 12. Recent immigrant (immigrated between 2016 and 2021) refugees in Metro Vancouver (and in comparison geographies) were very young:**
- In 2021, 25.7% of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrant refugees were 0-14 years old. This young age profile was similar to BC (27.1%) and Canada (27.2%). Overall, there were 3,315 0-14 year old recent immigrant refugees in Metro Vancouver in 2021; and,
 - In 2021, 2.3% of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrant refugees were seniors (65+ years old), with 300 recent immigrant refugee seniors.
- 13. A much higher proportion of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrants and immigrants were main working age (25-64 years old) than among the non-immigrant population:**
- In 2021, 73.0% of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrants were of the main working age, compared with 66.9% of all immigrants (any period of immigration) and 49.1% of non-immigrants; and,
 - In 2021, the largest number of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrants were in the 25 to 34 year old age group (57,635 recent immigrants in this age group), followed by 35 to 44 year old age group (36,025 recent immigrants in this age group).
- 14. In Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies in 2021, recent immigrants and non-permanent residents had worse overcrowding and housing**

affordability outcomes than immigrants (as a whole) and non-permanent residents, but better dwelling condition outcomes:

- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, 32.6% of non-permanent residents and 24.7% of recent immigrants lived in overcrowded housing, compared with 15.2% of immigrants as a whole and 9.5% of non-immigrants;
- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, 3.2% of non-permanent residents and 4.0% of recent immigrants lived in dwellings in need of major repairs, compared with 4.8% of immigrants as a whole and 5.7% of non-immigrants; and,
- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, 36.4% of non-permanent residents and 28.5% of recent immigrants were living in unaffordable housing (spending 30% or more of before-tax income on shelter costs), compared with 24.7% of immigrants as a whole and 19.6% of non-immigrants.

15. In Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies in 2020, recent immigrants (in this case, immigrated between 2016 and 2019) had higher rates of low income than earlier immigrants and non-immigrants:

- In 2021 in Metro Vancouver, 14.0% of recent immigrants were in low income (based on LIM-AT), higher than earlier groups of immigrants such as immigrants who immigrated before 1980 (10.6%) and non-immigrants (8.0%).

Religion

1. New Westminister, like Metro Vancouver and BC, had very high rates of no religious affiliation in 2021 compared with Canada:

- In 2021, 46.9% of New Westminister's residents had no religious affiliation, similar to Metro Vancouver (47.1%) and lower than BC (52.1%) but higher than Canada (34.6%); and,
- In 2021, 36,595 New Westminister residents had no religious affiliation.

2. Although Christianity was still the largest religion (other than no religious affiliation) in New Westminister in 2021, there were thousands of residents who were Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh:

- There were 30,345 residents who were Christian, 3,750 who were Sikh, 2,655 who were Muslim, 2,000 who were Hindu and 1,455 who were Buddhist in New Westminister in 2021;
- Nevertheless, in 2021, the proportion of the population that was Buddhist (1.9% in New Westminister compared with 2.7% in Metro Vancouver), Muslim (3.4% in New Westminister compared with 4.2% in Metro Vancouver) or Sikh (4.8% in New Westminister compared with 8.5% in Metro Vancouver) was lower in New Westminister than in Metro Vancouver.

Citizenship

1. Although the majority of New Westminister residents were Canadian citizens in 2021, there were also many residents who were not Canadian citizens:

- In 2021, there were 65,700 Canadian citizens, including 55,065 Canadian citizens 18+ years old, and 12,355 not Canadian citizens in New Westminister;
- In 2021, 15.8% of New Westminister residents were not Canadian citizens, which was slightly lower than in Metro Vancouver (16.4%) but higher than in BC (11.3%) and Canada (8.8%).

2. Downtown New Westminister had a higher rate of residents who were not Canadian citizens than other parts of New Westminister in 2021:

- In 2021, 24.7% of census tract 202.02 (West part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill), 24.5% of census tract 206.00 (Central Part of Downtown) and 21.4% of census tract 207.00 (East part of Downtown) residents were not Canadian citizens.

Indigenous Identity

Results about the Indigenous population from the 2021 Census should be interpreted with caution, as centuries of government mistreatment of the Indigenous peoples may have resulted in reluctance for some Indigenous people to provide certain information in the Census, particularly on-reserve where the Indigenous population is often undercounted (note: there are no reserve lands in New Westminister). Also, the concepts of Indigenous identity in the Census may not fully capture the diversity of Indigenous identities that individuals identify with. Furthermore, over time, some individuals may decide to mention their Indigenous Identity on the Census whereas in previous Censuses, they did not, which makes comparisons between Censuses difficult.

1. In 2021, New Westminister had slightly higher proportion of the population that identified as Indigenous compared with Metro Vancouver but lower than for BC and Canada:

- In 2021, 2,425 residents identified as Indigenous, composing 3.1% of New Westminister's population; and,
- In 2021, New Westminister's proportion of residents that were Indigenous (3.1%) was higher than in Metro Vancouver (2.4%) but lower than in Canada (5.0%) and BC (5.9%).

2. In 2021, just over half of the Indigenous population in New Westminister was First Nations:

- In 2021, the largest groups of the Indigenous peoples were First Nations (1,275 First Nations peoples, 54.5% of the Indigenous peoples and Metis (1,025 Metis peoples, 43.4% of the Indigenous peoples).

3. In 2021, a very low proportion of Indigenous residents spoke Indigenous languages at home in Metro Vancouver (*New Westminister data not available):

- In 2021, there were 675 Indigenous peoples in Metro Vancouver who spoke Indigenous languages at home, composing just 1.1% of the Indigenous population in Metro Vancouver, which was a low proportion compared with BC (2.5%) and Canada (9.9%); and,

- In 2021, the proportion of the Indigenous peoples that spoke Indigenous languages at home in Metro Vancouver was very low (at 1.9% or below for every age group).

4. In 2021, the Indigenous residents in New Westminister included relatively few children compared with other geographies:

- In 2021, there were 330 Indigenous children and youth (0-14 years old) in New Westminister, composing 13.6% of the Indigenous peoples in New Westminister; and,
- In 2021, the proportion of the Indigenous peoples in New Westminister of 0-14 year olds (13.6%) was very low compared with Metro Vancouver (21.1%), BC (24.1%) and Canada (25.4%); and,
- In 2021, there were 210 Indigenous seniors (65+ years old), composing 8.7% of the Indigenous peoples in New Westminister; and,
- In 2021, 8.7% of the Indigenous peoples in New Westminister were 65+ years old, similar to the Metro Vancouver proportion (8.7%) but lower than Canada (9.5%) and BC (9.9%).

Language

Knowledge of English

1. New Westminister had a lower percentage of residents that did not know English than Metro Vancouver as a whole:

In 2021, 2.9% of New Westminister residents did not know English (a slight increase from 2.7% in 2016), which was lower than BC (3.3%), Metro Vancouver (5.4%) and Canada (13.0%*- likely influenced by French not English being the main language in Quebec). New Westminister's percentage was much lower than many other Metro Vancouver municipalities such as Richmond (10.5%) and Surrey (6.8%).

2. Older seniors (75+ years old) were far more likely than other age groups to not know English in New Westminister:

In 2021, 10.9% of older seniors (75+ years old) did not know English, far higher than other age groups other than babies/toddlers/preschoolers (0-4 years old) (9.4%). Among main working age residents (25-64 years old), the rate of not knowing English (1.9%) was much lower, although there were still 905 main working age residents that did not know English in New Westminister. There were 515 older seniors who did not know English.

3. Among the most common languages, people with Punjabi and Mandarin mother tongues were more likely than people with a Tagalog mother tongue in New Westminister to not know English:

In 2021, 0.5% of New Westminister residents with Tagalog as a mother tongue did not know English, for a total of 15 Tagalog mother tongue residents who did not know English. In 2021, 12.6% of New Westminister residents with Punjabi as a mother tongue did not know English, for a total of 355 Punjabi mother tongue

residents who did not know English. In 2021, 15.4% of New Westminster residents with Mandarin as a mother tongue did not know English, for a total of 455 Mandarin mother tongue residents who did not know English.

Language Most Often Spoken at Home

1. **In 2021, 21% of New Westminster residents' language most often spoken at home was not English** (16,400 single responses), compared with 28% in Metro Vancouver.
2. **There were 6 languages in New Westminster other than English which were most often spoken at home for more than 1,000 residents:** The languages spoken most often by more than 1,000 residents included Mandarin (2,205), Punjabi (1,825), Tagalog (1,745), Cantonese (1,520), Spanish (1,040), and Portuguese (1,005).

Mother Tongue

1. **Over two in five New Westminster residents had a mother tongue other than or in addition to English in 2021:** 42.9% of New Westminster residents had a mother tongue other than or in addition to English in 2021, a total of 33,590 residents had a mother tongue other than or in addition to English. This was higher than in British Columbia (32.9%), slightly lower than Canada (45.1% - which was higher than New Westminster largely due to French), and lower than Metro Vancouver (48.8%).
2. **There were 8 languages in New Westminster other than English which were the mother tongue for over 1,000 residents each:** In 2021, there were 3,270 residents with Tagalog as their mother tongue, 2,955 residents with Mandarin, 2,815 residents with Punjabi, 2,645 residents with Cantonese, 1,890 residents with Spanish, 1,410 residents with Korean, 1,325 residents with Portuguese and 1,010 residents with Russian.
3. **Some parts of Queensborough and western New Westminster had much higher proportions of residents with a mother tongue other than or in addition to English:** Census tract 200.02 (Queensborough other than Port Royal) (64.0% of residents had a mother tongue other than or in addition to English), census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights) (51.0%), and census tract 202.02 (west part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill) (52.0%) all had over half of their residents who had a mother tongue other than or in addition to English.
4. **The most common mother tongues other than English varied by census tract:** The most common mother tongues other than English in 2021 by census tract were:
 - Cantonese (census tract 200.01 – Port Royal);
 - Punjabi (census tract 200.02 – Queensborough other than Port Royal, census tract 201.00 – Connaught Heights, census tract 203.00 – West End, census tract 209.02 – tied with Mandarin – Massey Victory Heights);

- Mandarin (census tract 202.01 – Quayside, census tract 202.02 – west part of Downtown and Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill; census tract 205.02 – north part of Uptown; census tract 206.00 – tied with Portuguese – central part of Downtown, census tract 208.00 – Queens Park and Glenbrooke North, census tract 209.01 – Glenbrooke South, census tract 209.02 – tied with Punjabi – Massey Victory Heights);
- Tagalog (census tract 204.01 – south part of Brow of the Hill; census tract 204.02 – north part of Brow of the Hill and also Kelvin area, census tract 205.01 – south part of Uptown, census tract 207.00 – tied with Portuguese – east part of Downtown, census tract 210.00 – Sapperton); and,
- Portuguese (census tract 206.00 – tied with Mandarin – central part of Downtown; census tract 207.00 – tied with Tagalog – east part of Downtown).

Multi-lingual

1. **More than one in four New Westminster residents spoke multiple languages at home often:**

In 2021, 27.3% of New Westminster residents spoke multiple languages at home often, which was higher than in Canada (16.1%) and British Columbia (19.0%) but slightly lower than Metro Vancouver (29.1%). In total, there were 21,335 New Westminster residents who spoke multiple languages at home often, mostly speaking English and non-official language(s) (20,065 residents) at home often.

Education

*Some educational cross-tabulation data was only available at the Metro area level or higher.

Highest Level of Education:

1. **Over 7 in 10 New Westminster main working age (25-64 years old) residents had a postsecondary certificate/degree/diploma in 2021:**

- In 2021, 71.9% of New Westminster main working age residents had a postsecondary certificate/degree/diploma, higher than Metro Vancouver (70.5%), Canada (67.1%) and BC (66.1%); and,
- Rates of postsecondary certificate/degree/diploma achievement within Metro Vancouver varied from 58.3% in Langley City to 82.2% in West Vancouver.

2. **In 2021, New Westminster and Metro Vancouver had lower rates of trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as the highest level of education compared with BC and Canada:**

- In 2021, 6.2% of New Westminster main working age (25-64 years old) residents had a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education, similar to Metro Vancouver (5.9%) but lower than BC (8.1%) and Canada (9.6%); and,
- Rates of trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma within Metro Vancouver municipalities ranged from 3.1% in West Vancouver to 11.5% in Maple Ridge.

- 3. More than 2 in 5 New Westminster main working age (25-64 years old) residents had a bachelor's degree or higher:**
 - In 2021, 42.2% of New Westminster main working age residents had a bachelor's degree or higher, which was slightly lower than Metro Vancouver (43.2%) but higher than BC (35.0%) and Canada (32.9%); and,
 - Rates of bachelor's degree or higher among main working age residents within Metro Vancouver municipalities ranged from 21.4% in Langley City to 61.9% in West Vancouver.

- 4. Just over 1 in 20 New Westminster main working age (25-64 year old) residents had no educational credentials (i.e., not high school education or higher):**
 - In 2021, 6.2% of New Westminster main working age residents had no educational credentials, which was similar to Metro Vancouver (6.6%) but lower than BC (8.0%) and Canada (9.9%); and,
 - Rates of having no educational credentials among main working age residents within Metro Vancouver varied from 2.0% in West Vancouver to 10.8% in Langley City and Surrey.

- 5. The proportion of New Westminster main working age (25-64 year old) residents with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate was above 6 in 10 in every census tract:**
 - In 2021, the percentage of main working age residents with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate ranged from 64.0% in census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights) to 81.8% in census tract 206.00 (Central part of Downtown New Westminster); and,
 - In 2021, the percentage of main working age residents with no educational credentials (i.e., high school or higher) ranged from 2.6% in census tract 209.02 (Massey Victory Heights) to 13.5% in census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights).

- 6. Between 2016 and 2021, the percentage of main working age (25-64 year olds) residents without any educational credentials (i.e., high school education or higher) in New Westminster dropped but the total number without credentials grew:**
 - Between 2016 and 2021, the percentage of main working age residents in New Westminster without any educational credentials dropped from 6.6% in 2016 to 6.2% in 2021 (a -0.4 ppt drop); and,
 - However, due to a quickly growing population, the total number of main working age people in New Westminster without any educational credentials increased from 2,860 people in 2016 to 3,010 people in 2021, an increase of 150 people.

- 7. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of main working people (25-64 years old) with a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level decreased:**

- The number of main working age residents in New Westminister with a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level decreased from 3,205 people in 2016 to 2,995 people in 2021, a decrease of -210 people with this education level; and,
 - This trend was part of a larger national trend, with the number of main working age residents with a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level decreasing by -6,655 people in Metro Vancouver, by – 14,095 people in BC and by – 155,920 people in Canada.
8. **Between 2016 and 2021, New Westminister saw a large increase in the number of main working age people (25-64 years old) with a Bachelor's degree or higher:**
- The number of main working age residents in New Westminister with a Bachelor's degree or higher increased from 15,420 residents in 2016 to 20,510 residents in 2021, an increase of 5,090 residents (33.0% increase); and,
 - This rate of increase in the number of main working age residents in New Westminister with a Bachelor's degree or higher (33.0% increase) was much faster than Metro Vancouver (23.1%), BC (24.2%) and Canada (19.1%).

Highest Level of Education and Gender

1. **In 2021, in New Westminister and comparison geographies, main working age (25-64 year old) women were more likely than main working age men to have a postsecondary certificate/diploma/degree:**
In 2021, the rate of postsecondary certificate/diploma/degree achievement was 75.9% in New Westminister for main working age women compared with 67.8% for main working age men.
2. **In 2021, in New Westminister and comparison geographies, main working age (25-64 year old) men were more likely to have no educational credentials (i.e., high school education or higher) compared with main working age women:**
In 2021, 7.4% of main working age men in New Westminister had no educational credentials compared with 5.0% of main working age women.
3. **In 2021, in New Westminister and comparison geographies, main working age (25-64 year old) women were much less likely to have a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level than main working age men:**
In 2021, 3.4% of main working age women in New Westminister had a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level compared with 9.0% of main working age men.

Highest Level of Education and Age

1. **In 2021, in New Westminister and comparison geographies, the rate of having no educational credentials (i.e., high school education or higher) was much**

higher in older age groups compared with younger age groups (excluding 15-19 year olds as they were still in the process of finishing high school):

In 2021, in New Westminster, 4.7% of 20-24 year olds and 4.1% of 25-34 year olds had no educational credentials compared with 12.7% of 65-74 year olds and 23.7% of 75+ year olds.

- 2. In 2021, in New Westminster and comparison geographies, the rate of having a postsecondary certificate/degree/diploma was much higher among younger age groups than older age groups:**

In 2021, in New Westminster, the highest rates of postsecondary certificate/degree/diploma were among 30-34 year olds (76.4%) and 35-44 year olds (76.0%), compared with much lower rates among older populations: 55.7% among 65-74 year olds and 45.0% among 75+ year olds.

- 3. In 2021, in New Westminster and comparison geographies, the rate of having a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level was higher among 55-64 year olds than the main working age population (25-64 years old) as a whole:**

In 2021, the rate of having a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest education level was higher among 55-64 year olds than the overall main working age population in New Westminster (7.2% among 55-64 year olds compared with 6.2% among main working age population), Metro Vancouver (6.7% among 55-64 year olds compared with 5.9% among main working age population), British Columbia (9.0% among 55-64 year olds compared with 8.1% among main working age population) and Canada (10.4% among 55-64 year olds compared with 9.6% among main working age population).

Education and Diverse Groups

- 1. In 2021, the proportion of Indigenous main working age (25-64 year old) people without any formal educational credentials (i.e., high school or higher) was higher than among the non-Indigenous main working age people:**
 - In 2021, 17.9% of Indigenous main working age people in New Westminster had no educational credentials, compared with 5.8% of non-Indigenous main working age people in New Westminster; and,
 - In 2021, the proportion of Indigenous main working age people in New Westminster (17.9%) with no educational credentials was higher than Metro Vancouver (15.4%) but lower than BC (19.8%) and Canada (22.3%).
- 2. In 2021, the proportion of Indigenous main working age (25-64 year old) people with a post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma was lower than among the non-Indigenous main working age people:**
 - In 2021, 54.7% of Indigenous main working age people in New Westminster had a post secondary credential, compared with 72.5% of non-Indigenous main working age people in New Westminster; and,

- In 2021, the proportion of Indigenous main working age people in New Westminister with a post secondary credential (54.7%) was similar to Metro Vancouver (54.1%) but higher than BC (48.1%) and Canada (49.2%).
3. **In 2021, the proportion of Indigenous main working age people (25-64 year olds) with a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education was higher than among non-Indigenous main working age people:**
 - In 2021, 8.5% of Indigenous main working age people in New Westminister had a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education, compared with 6.1% of non-Indigenous main working age people in New Westminister; and,
 - In 2021, the proportion of Indigenous main working age people in New Westminister with a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education (8.5%) was lower than in Metro Vancouver (10.5%), BC (11.0%) and Canada (11.0%).
 4. **In 2021, the proportion of main working age (25-64 year old) Visible Minorities without any formal educational credentials (i.e., high school education or higher) was lower than among main working age non-Visible Minorities:**
 - In 2021, 5.9% of Visible Minority main working age people in New Westminister had no educational credentials, compared with 6.4% of non-Visible Minority main working age people;
 - In 2021, the rate of having no educational credentials among main working age Visible Minorities varied in New Westminister from 0.0% among Japanese to 16.6% among Blacks; and,
 - In 2021, the proportion of main working age Blacks with no educational credentials was higher in New Westminister (16.6%) than Metro Vancouver (10.8%), BC (10.0%) and Canada (10.4%).
 5. **In 2021, almost three-quarters of all main working age (25-64 year old) Visible Minorities in New Westminister had a post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma:**
 - In 2021, 74.6% of Visible Minority main working age people in New Westminister had a post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma, compared with 69.5% of non-Visible Minority main working age people in New Westminister;
 - In 2021, the proportion of Visible Minority main working age people in New Westminister with a post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma (74.6%) was higher than in Metro Vancouver (71.6%), BC (70.8%) and Canada (72.2%); and,
 - A notable exception to this higher proportion in New Westminister was among New Westminister's main working age Blacks, 57.7% of whom had a post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma, compared with 63.9% in Metro Vancouver, 65.3% in BC and 67.7% in Canada.
 6. **In 2021, in New Westminister and comparison geographies, the proportion of main working age (25-64 year old) Visible Minorities with a**

trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education was lower than among main working age non-Visible Minorities:

- In 2021, 4.2% of New Westminster's main working age Visible Minority population had a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education, compared with 7.9% of the main working age non-Visible Minority population; and,
- This finding was also true among main working age Visible Minorities in Metro Vancouver (3.8% among Visible Minorities vs 8.3% among non-Visible Minorities), BC (3.9% among Visible Minorities compared with 10.4% among non-Visible Minorities) and Canada (4.6% among Visible Minorities compared with 11.5% of non-Visible Minorities).

7. In 2021, a much higher proportion of recent immigrants (immigrated 2016-2021) of main working age in Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies had a Bachelor's degree or higher compared with other groups:

In 2021, 63.4% of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrant main working age population had a Bachelor's degree or higher, which was much higher than among non-immigrants of main working age (35.9%) and also main working age immigrants of other immigration periods, including immigrants who immigrated between 2011 and 2015 (54.3% of whom had a Bachelor's degree or higher).

8. In 2021, a much lower proportion of recent immigrants (immigrated 2016-2021) of main working age in Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies had a trade/apprenticeship certificate/diploma as their highest level of education compared with other groups:

In 2021, 2.7% of Metro Vancouver's recent immigrant main working age population had a trades/apprenticeship certificate/diplomas as their highest level of education, which was lower than other groups, especially non-immigrants of main working age (8.0%).

Education and Labour Force Status

1. In 2021, in Metro Vancouver and comparison geographies, for the core working age (25-54 year old) population, labour force participation rates were lower and unemployment rates were higher among those residents with no formal educational credentials or just a high school education:

- In 2021, the unemployment rate among core working age people without any educational credentials was 13.0% in Metro Vancouver, 13.7% in BC and 15.6% in Canada, while the unemployment rate among core working age people with just a high school education was 9.6% in Metro Vancouver, 9.0% in BC and 11.8% in Canada. In comparison, the unemployment rate among all core working age people was 7.1% in Metro Vancouver, 7.0% in BC and 8.3% in Canada; and,
- In 2021, the labour force participation rate among core working age people without any educational credentials was 68.2% in Metro Vancouver, 67.6% in BC and 64.7% in Canada, while the labour force participation rate among core working age people with just a high school education was 80.1% in Metro

Vancouver, 80.5% in BC, and 79.7% in Canada. In comparison, the labour force participation rate among all core working age people was 85.6% in Metro Vancouver, 85.4% in BC and 85.6% in Canada.

Place of Study

- 1. In 2021, approximately one-quarter of all New Westminister main working age (25-64 year old) residents had their highest post-secondary credential from overseas:**

In 2021, 23.1% of New Westminister main working age residents had their highest post-secondary credential from overseas, slightly lower than Metro Vancouver (24.4%), but higher than in BC (17.2%) and Canada (13.5%).

Commuting and Place of Work

On November 30, 2022, Statistics Canada released data on commuting and place of work. This is based on May 2021 data, which was during the COVID-19 pandemic and may have impacted commuting patterns. Also, the 2021 Census data does not fully reflect a hybrid work place, as people who worked mostly or entirely from a usual place of work (not home) were counted as working at a usual place of work and people who worked mostly or entirely from home were counted as working from home, so there is no data available from the 2021 Census on hybrid work arrangements.

Place of Work

- 1. There was a significant increase in the number and proportion of residents at all geographies working mostly or entirely from home between 2016 and 2021:**
 - The number of New Westminister residents working mostly or entirely from increased from 2,430 people in 2016 to 11,460 people in 2021, an increase of 9,030 people working from home (a 371.6% increase); and,
 - The percentage increase in the number of residents working from home in New Westminister was larger than in any other Metro Vancouver municipality and much larger than in Metro Vancouver (+238.6% increase), BC (+179.8% increase) and Canada (+231.3% increase).
- 2. Conversely, the number of people working mostly or entirely from a usual place of work outside of the home decreased strongly in all geographies between 2016 and 2021:**
 - The number of New Westminister residents working mostly or entirely from a usual place of work outside of the home decreased from 32,985 people in 2016 to 26,540 people in 2021, a decrease of -6,445 people working from a usual place of work outside of the home (a -19.5% decrease); and,
 - The percentage decrease in New Westminister residents working mostly or entirely from a usual place of work outside of the home was similar to Metro Vancouver (-20.3% decrease), smaller than Canada (-21.9% decrease) and larger than BC (-15.1% decrease).

3. **The proportion of workers in large metropolitan areas who worked mostly or entirely from home in 2021 was generally higher than in smaller urban areas:**
 - In 2021, 26.5% of Metro Vancouver resident workers worked mostly or entirely from home, which was higher than most urban areas (12th highest in Canada and 3rd highest in BC), although much lower than the Ottawa-Gatineau (39.7%) and Toronto (35.4%) metro areas.
4. **Despite the increase in working from home, the majority of New Westminster residents still worked outside of the home in 2021:**
 - In 2021, there were 26,540 New Westminster residents working mostly or entirely at a usual place of work outside of the home, 11,460 New Westminster residents working mostly or entirely at home, 5,440 New Westminster residents working mostly or entirely at no fixed workplace (e.g., landscaping services that go from site to site) and 165 New Westminster residents working mostly outside of Canada;
 - The proportion of New Westminster residents who worked mostly or entirely at home in 2021 (26.3%) was similar to Metro Vancouver (26.5%), higher than in Canada (24.3%) and BC (22.6%), and in the middle of the pack among Metro Vancouver municipalities, being much lower than some North Shore and Tri-City municipalities such as Belcarra (43.8%) but much higher than some Fraser Valley municipalities such as Langley City (15.1%).
5. **In some census tracts of Metro Vancouver in 2021, more than 2 in 5 resident workers worked mostly or entirely from home:**
 - Most of the census tracts in Metro Vancouver where more than 2 in 5 resident workers worked mostly or entirely from home were in the City of Vancouver;
 - There were six census tracts in New Westminster where more than 3 in 10 resident workers worked mostly or entirely from home: census tracts 200.01 (Port Royal) (where 33.9% of residents who worked mostly or entirely from home), 202.01 (Quayside) (32.6%), 206.00 (Central area of Downtown) (30.6%), 208.00 (Queens Park/Glenbrooke North) (31.2%) and 209.01 (Glenbrooke South) (31.4%).

Commuting Mode

1. **In all Metro Vancouver municipalities, the number of commuters dropped between 2016 and 2021:**
 - Partially as a result of more people working mostly or entirely from home and partially due to higher unemployment (5.8% rate in 2016 vs 8.6% rate in 2021 in Metro Vancouver), the number of residents commuting decreased between 2016 and 2021 in Metro Vancouver (-180,650 commuters in 2021 compared with 2016, a -15.6% decrease), BC (-219,455 commuters, a -10.5% decrease), Canada (-2,830,430 commuters, a -17.8% decrease) and New Westminster (-5,775 commuters, a -15.3% decrease). This was true throughout Metro Vancouver municipalities.

2. **Public transportation and active transportation commuting decreased more quickly than car commuting between 2016 and 2021 in most geographies:**
 - Between 2016 and 2021, the number of car driver commuters from New Westminster decreased by -1,270 commuters (-5.9% decrease), the number of car passenger commuters increased by 325 commuters (+25.7% increase), the number of public transit commuters decreased by – 4,665 commuters (-39.4% decrease), the number of walking commuters decreased by – 295 commuters (-12.8% decrease), the number of biking commuters decreased by -70 commuters (-18.9% decrease) and the number of other mode commuters increased by 195 commuters (42.9% increase);
 - The decrease in public transit commuters was also large in Metro Vancouver (-38.1% decrease between 2016 and 2021), BC (-36.5% decrease) and Canada (-49.2% decrease); and,
 - The percentage decrease in biking commuters was larger in most geographies than the decrease in walking commuters, including New Westminster (-12.8% decrease in walking vs -18.9% decrease in biking), Metro Vancouver (-19.8% decrease in walking vs – 33.1% decrease in biking), BC (-14.6% decrease in walking vs – 28.4% decrease in biking) and Canada (-23.4% decrease in walking vs – 37.6% decrease in biking).
3. **Although the majority of Metro Vancouver resident commuters commuted by car in 2021, Metro Vancouver still had a relatively high rate of sustainable transportation (transit, biking and walking) commuting compared with other urban areas in Canada:**
 - In 2021, 23.2% of Metro Vancouver’s commuters commuted by sustainable transportation, lower than only Wood Buffalo (30.0%).
4. **Although the majority of New Westminster resident commuters commuted by car in 2021, New Westminster still had a relatively high rate of sustainable transportation commuting relative to other Metro Vancouver municipalities and comparison geographies:**
 - In 2021, 29.7% of New Westminster resident commuters commuted by sustainable transportation, which was much higher than Metro Vancouver (23.2%), BC (17.8%) and Canada (14.0%) and among Metro Vancouver municipalities, only lower than Vancouver (41.3%) and similar to North Vancouver City (29.8%).
5. **In New Westminster and comparison geographies, the proportion of commuters who commuted by walking was far larger than the number of commuters who commuted by bike:**
 - In 2021, there were 2,015 New Westminster residents who commuted by walking compared with 300 New Westminster residents who commuted by biking; and,
 - In 2021, 6.3% of New Westminster resident commuters commuted by walking compared with 0.9% who commuted by biking. Similarly, the proportion of Metro Vancouver (6.4% commuted by walking vs 1.9% by biking), BC (6.5% walking vs

2.0% biking) and Canada (5.2% walking vs 1.1% biking) resident commuters who commuted by walking was much higher than the proportion that commuted by biking.

- 6. Although the majority of commuters from every New Westminister census tracts were car commuters, the percentage of sustainable transportation commuters was relatively high in Uptown, Brow of the Hill and Downtown:**
 - In 2021, the highest rate of sustainable transportation commuting among New Westminister residents were in census tracts 206.00 (Central part of Downtown) (41.0%), 202.02 (West part of Downtown and Stewardson Way part of Brow of the Hill) (37.1%) and 207.00 (East part of Downtown) (36.2%);
 - Census tract 200.01 (Port Royal part of Queensborough) (7.5% sustainable commuting) had a much lower rate of sustainable commuting than any other part of New Westminister; and,
 - There were 32 census tracts out of 530 Metro Vancouver census tracts with commuting data available that had half or more of all commuting residents commuting by sustainable transportation, mostly in the City of Vancouver.

- 7. In New Westminister in 2021, young adult commuters were much more likely to use sustainable transportation than other age groups:**
 - In 2021, 52.1% of New Westminister residents 15-19 year olds and 49.1% of 20-24 year olds who commuted used sustainable transportation to get to work; and,
 - 15.8% of New Westminister residents 15-19 years old who commuted used active transportation (walking or biking) to get to work, the next highest group was New Westminister residents 75+ years old commuting to work (13.0% used active transportation).

- 8. Among large industry classifications (with 1,000+ workers), construction and transportation and warehousing workers in New Westminister were more likely to use cars to get to work than other groups in 2021:**
 - In 2021, 81.5% of New Westminister residents working in construction and 81.4% working in transportation and warehousing used a vehicle to get to work; and,
 - The rate of using a vehicle to commute among construction workers was also high in Metro Vancouver (88.8% vehicle commuting rate), BC (91.8%) and Canada (94.8%).

- 9. In Metro Vancouver in 2021, people who took a vehicle (driver or passenger) had higher median employment incomes (before-tax) than people using other modes to get to work:**
 - The median employment (before-tax) 2020 income of resident commuters in New Westminister who took a vehicle to work was \$48,000, compared with \$30,200 for public transit users and \$37,600 for active transportation users.

- 10. 3 in 10 New Westminister residents who commuted within New Westminister used active transportation (walking or biking) to get to work in 2021:**

- In 2021, 30.7% of New Westminister residents who commuted within New Westminister used active transportation to get to work, compared with 1.9% of New Westminister residents who commuted to other municipalities within Metro Vancouver. This disparity was similar to Metro Vancouver, where 18.5% of commuters within a municipality used active transportation compared with 1.7% of commuters to another municipality.

Commuting Origin and Destination

- 1. Three-quarters of New Westminister resident commuters commuted to another municipality in Metro Vancouver in 2021, which was much higher than the regional average:**
 - In 2021, 76.6% of New Westminister resident commuters commuted to another municipality in Metro Vancouver, compared with 51.7% of Metro Vancouver resident commuters as a whole who commuted within their own municipality; and,
 - In 2021, 22.4% of New Westminister resident commuters commuted within New Westminister, which was much lower than Vancouver resident commuters who commuted within Vancouver (67.2%) and Richmond resident commuters who commuted within Richmond (60.7%).
- 2. Queensborough based commuters were less likely to commute to a workplace in New Westminister than other New Westminister resident commuters in 2021:**
 - 15.9% of commuters from census tract 200.01 (Port Royal) and 16.6% from census tract 200.02 (rest of Queensborough other than Port Royal) commuted to a workplace within New Westminister.
- 3. The most common commuting origins for New Westminister workers were New Westminister, Surrey, Burnaby and Vancouver:**
 - In 2021, there were 5,940 New Westminister workers who commuted from New Westminister, 4,445 who commuted from Surrey, 2,810 who commuted from Burnaby and 2,330 who commuted from Vancouver.
- 4. The most common commuting destinations for New Westminister residents were New Westminister, Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Surrey:**
 - In 2021, there were 5,940 New Westminister residents who commuted to New Westminister, 5,930 who commuted to Vancouver, 5,515 who commuted to Burnaby, 2,465 who commuted to Richmond and 2,080 who commuted to Surrey.

Commuting Duration

- 1. In 2021, New Westminister had a lower percentage of commuters with short commute times than comparison geographies:**
 - In 2021, 16.7% of New Westminister resident commuters had commutes of less than 15 minutes, which was the fourth lowest among Metro Vancouver

municipalities and less than Metro Vancouver (20.7%), BC (31.8%) and Canada (32.0%); and,

- In 2021, two New Westminister census tracts had 2 in 10 or more commuters with short commutes (less than 15 minutes): census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights) (24.5% of resident commuters had short commutes) and census tract 208.00 (Queens Park and Glenbrooke North) (23.2%).

2. In 2021, New Westminister had a similar proportion of very long commutes to Metro Vancouver as a whole:

- In 2021, 8.5% of New Westminister resident commuters had commutes of 1 hour or longer, which was similar to Metro Vancouver (8.2%) but higher than BC (7.2%) and Canada (7.1%). Nonetheless, it was much lower than in some other municipalities such as Bowen Island (23.6%), Anmore (18.6%) and Maple Ridge (13.1%); and,
- Among census tracts, census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights) (4.1% had long commutes of 1 hour or longer) had the lowest proportion of resident commuters with very long commutes, while census tract 204.02 (Kelvin area and North part of Brow of the Hill Area) (11.8%) had the highest proportion of resident commuters with very long commutes.

3. In 2021, the majority of New Westminister resident commuters had commutes of between 15 and 45 minutes long:

- In 2021, 33.3% of New Westminister resident commuters had commutes of 15-29 minutes long, while 28.6% had commutes of 30-44 minutes long.

Time Leaving for Work

1. In 2021, the most common leaving time for work among New Westminister resident commuters was between 7 am and 7:59 am:

- In 2021, 7,925 New Westminister resident commuters started their commute between 7 am and 7:59 am, followed by 6,750 commuters who started their commute between 8 am and 8:59 am and 5,530 commuters who started their commute between 6 am and 6:59 am.