

Guide to Requirements for Housing Needs Reports

Effective April 16, 2019 provincial requirements require all local governments to complete housing needs reports for their communities by April 2022 and every five years thereafter.

Together, the housing needs reports legislation and regulations specify requirements for:

- **Information Collection** - As a basis for determining current and projected housing needs, local governments are required to collect approximately 50 distinct kinds of data.
- **Report Content** - All housing needs reports are required to contain certain content, based on analysis of the information collected, and a standardized summary form.

This guide is an overview of the requirements in each of these areas.¹

The requirements related to housing needs reports are detailed in legislation and associated regulations:

- The *Local Government Act* (mainly Part 14) and Housing Needs Reports Regulation.
- *Vancouver Charter*, Section 27 and Vancouver Housing Needs Reports Regulation.

Links to the legislation and regulations, as well as implementation supports for local governments to meet the requirements, are available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/policy-and-planning-tools-for-housing/housing-needs-reports>

Local governments who are already working on, or who have recently completed a housing needs report (before April 2019), may be considered to have met the legislated requirement for their first report. Please contact ministry staff about whether these transitional provisions could apply to your local government.

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¹ Note: In the event of discrepancy with this document, the meaning of the legislation and regulations prevails.

Required Information (Data Collection)

As a basis for determining current and projected housing needs, local governments are required to collect approximately 50 kinds of data about:

- current and projected population;
- household income;
- significant economic sectors; and
- currently available and anticipated housing units.

In the case of a regional district, this information is required for each electoral area to which the report applies (except for electoral areas with a population of less than 100). In the case of the Islands Trust, the information is required for each local trust area.

Most of the data that local governments are required to collect is provided at: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/group/housing-needs-reports>

The tables below detail each of the required kinds of data, its source and the time frame for which it is required.

Understanding trends is an important part of data analysis. Consequently, local governments are required to collect information on previous as well as current years.

- For data that is available from Statistics Canada, the period for which data will be required will be the previous three Census reports. For other information, the required period will be comparable. Local governments may choose to look further back if information is available.
- Information projections will be required to look at least five years forward.

Population <i>Time Frame: previous 3 Census reports, except marked *</i>	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Total population	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (a) (i)
Population growth [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (b)
Age - Average and median age	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (a) (ii), (iii)
Age - Age group distribution (0-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-64, 65-84, 85+) [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (a) (iv)
Mobility – number of non-movers, non-migrants, migrants	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (a) (x)
Number of individuals experiencing homelessness* (if available)	Homeless Counts	Section 3 (1) (d)
Number of students enrolled in post-secondary institutions* (if applicable)	AEST	Section 3 (1) (c)

Households <i>Time Frame: previous 3 Census reports</i>	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Total number of households	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (v)
Average household size	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (vi)
Breakdown of households by size (1, 2, 3, 4, 5+ people) [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (vii)
Renter and owner households [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (viii)
Renter households in subsidized housing [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 3 (1) (ix)

Anticipated Population <i>Time Frame: next 5 years</i>	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Anticipated population	BC Stats	Section 3 (2) (a)
Anticipated population growth [# and %]	BC Stats	Section 3 (2) (b)
Anticipated age - Average and median age	BC Stats	Section 3 (2) (c), (d)
Anticipated age - Age group distribution (0-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-64, 65-84, 85+) [# and %]	BC Stats	Section 3 (2) (e)

Anticipated Households <i>Time Frame: for next 5 years</i>	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Anticipated number of households	BC Stats	Section 3 (2) (f)
Anticipated average household size (# of people)	BC Stats	Section 3 (2) (g)

Household Income <i>Time Frame: previous 3 Census reports</i>	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Average and median household income (if available)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 4 (a), (b)
Households in specified income brackets (# and %) (if available)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 4 (c)
Renter household income – Average and median (if available)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 4 (f)
Renter households in specified income brackets (# and %) (if available)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 4 (d)
Owner household Income – Average and median (if available)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 4 (g)
Owner households in specified income brackets (# and %) (if available)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 4 (e)

Economic Sectors & Labour Force	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
<i>Time Frame: previous 3 Census reports. Except for *</i>		
Total number of workers	Statistics Canada Census	Section 5 (a)
Number of workers by industry (North American Industry Classification System – NAICS)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 5 (b)
Unemployment rate and participation rate	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (b), (c)
Commuting destination* (within census subdivision; to different census subdivision; to different census division; to another Province/Territory)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (d), (e), (f), (g)

Housing Units – Currently occupied/available	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Total number of housing units	Statistics Canada Census	Section 6 (1) (a)
Breakdown by structural type of units [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 6 (1) (b)
Breakdown by size – # of units with 0 bedrooms (bachelor); 1 bedroom; 2 bedrooms; 3+ bedrooms	Statistics Canada Census	Section 6 (1) (c)
Breakdown by date built (pre-1960; 1961-80; 1981-90; 1991-00; 2001-10; 2011-16; 2017) [# and %]	Statistics Canada Census	Section 6 (1) (d)
Number of housing units that are subsidized housing	BC Housing/ BCNPHA ²	Section 6 (1) (e)
Rental vacancy rate – overall and for each type of unit (if available)	CMHC	Section 6 (1) (i), (j)
Number of primary and secondary rental units (if available)	CMHC, Various	Section 6 (1) (k) (i), (ii)
Number of short-term rental units (if available)	Various	Section 6 (1) (k) (iii)
Number of units in cooperative housing (if applicable)	Coop Housing Federation of BC	Section 6 (1) (l)
Number of Post-secondary housing (number of beds) (if applicable)	AEST	Section 6 (1) (o)
Shelter beds and housing units for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness (if applicable)	BC Housing	Section 6 (1) (p)

² BCNPHA: BC Non-profit Housing Association

Housing Units – Change in housing stocks (past 10 years)	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
Demolished - overall and breakdown for each structural type and by tenure (if available)	Local government	Section 6 (1) (m) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
Substantially completed - overall and breakdown for each structural type and by tenure (if available)	Local government	Section 6 (1) (n) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
Registered new homes - overall and breakdown for each structural type and for purpose-built rental	BC Housing	Section 6 (3) (a), (b), (c)

Housing Values	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
<i>Time Frame: 2005 onward for first report; past 10 years for subsequent reports</i>		
Assessed values - Average and median for all units	BC Assessment	Section 6 (1) (f) (i)
Assessed values - Average and median by structural type (e.g. single detached, apartment, etc.)	BC Assessment	Section 6 (1) (f) (ii)
Assessed values - Average and median by unit size (0, 1, 2, 3+ bedrooms)	BC Assessment	Section 6 (1) (f) (iii)
Sale Prices – Average and median for all units and for each structural type	BC Assessment	Section 6 (1) (g) (i)
Sale Prices – Average and median by structural type (e.g. single detached, apartment, etc.)	BC Assessment	Section 6 (1) (g) (ii)
Sale Prices - Average and median by unit size (0, 1, 2, 3+ bedrooms)	BC Assessment	Section 6 (1) (g) (iii)
Rental Prices – Average and median for all units and for unit size (# of bedrooms) (if available)	CMHC	Section 6 (1) (h) (i)
Rental Prices - Average and median by unit size (0, 1, 2, 3+ bedrooms)	CMHC	Section 6 (1) (h) (ii)

Households in Core Housing Needs	Source of Data	Housing Needs Report Regulation
<i>Time Frame: previous 3 Census reports</i>		
Affordability – households spending 30%+ of income on shelter costs (overall # and % of households)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (a) (i)
Affordability – households spending 30%+ of income on shelter costs (# and % of renter and owner households)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (a) (ii)
Adequacy – households in dwellings requiring major repairs (overall # and % of households)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (a) (iii)
Adequacy – households in dwellings requiring major repairs (# and % of renter and owner households)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (a) (iv)
Suitability – households in overcrowded dwellings (overall # and % of households)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (a) (v)
Suitability – households in overcrowded dwellings (# and % of renter and owner households)	Statistics Canada Census	Section 7 (a) (vi)

Required Content for Housing Needs Reports

All housing needs reports are required to contain the following content, based on analysis of the information collected. In the case of a regional district, this content is required for every electoral area to which the report applies. In the case of the Islands Trust, the content is required for each local trust area to which the report applies.

- The number of housing units required to meet current housing and anticipated housing needs for at least the next five years, by housing type.
- Statements about key areas of local need.
- The number and percentage of households in core housing need and extreme core housing need.
- A standardized summary form.

Note that a regional district *does not need* to include the following content for electoral areas with a population of less than 100.

Housing units required – Current and Anticipated (in 5 years)	Legislation
Number of units needed by “type” (unit size): 0 bedrooms (bachelor); 1 bedrooms; 2 bedrooms; and 3+ bedrooms	LGA: 585.3 (c) (i), (ii); VC: 574.3 (c) (i), (ii)

Households in core housing need <i>Time frame: previous 3 Census reports</i>	Housing Needs Reports Regulation
Core housing need, overall and breakdown by tenure [# and %]	Section 8 (1) (a) (i), (ii)
<i>Extreme</i> core housing need, overall and breakdown by tenure [# and %]	Section 8 (1) (a) (iii), (iv)

Statements about key areas of local need	Housing Needs Reports Regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing • Rental housing • Special needs housing • Housing for seniors • Housing for families • Shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing for individuals at risk of homelessness 	Section 8 (1) (b) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi)

Summary Form	Housing Needs Reports Regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key contextual information (e.g. location, population, median age, unemployment rate, etc.) • Summary of all the required content (tables above) • Summary of housing policies in OCPs and RGSs (if available) • Summary of community consultation, and consultation with First Nations, other local governments and agencies. • Other key housing issues or needs not identified in the required content. 	Section 8 (1) (c)

For more information, please contact ministry staff:

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