



Village of Fraser Lake

Annual Report: 2021



Table of Contents

Village of Fraser Lake	1
Welcome to Fraser Lake!	4
Fast Facts	5
Message from the Mayor	6
Village of Fraser Lake Council	9
Background	9
Council Update: 2021	9
Message from the Chief Administrative Officer	12
Message from the Director of Finance	13
Message from the Economic Development Officer	14
Public Works Department	18
Administrative Department	19
Economic Development	20
Capital Projects: 2021 Recap	21
Capital Projects 2021: Highlights	21
2022 Update: Completed Projects	26
2022: List of Capital Projects in Progress	26
2022 Outlook	26
Future Projects	27
Figure (1)- Building Permits Chart 2017-2021	29
Figure (2)- Business Licenses Chart 2017-2021	29
Strategic Priorities 2020-2022	30
Municipal Services and Operations	34
Emergency Services	35
Message from the Fire Chief	35
Responsibilities	36
Emergency Responders: Key Points	37
2021 Highlights	37
2022 Outlook	37
Statistics	38
Figure (3)- Employee Numbers 2021-2022	39
Population Demographics	39

Figure (4)- Fraser Lake Population Chart: 2001 to 2021	39
Figure (5)- Fraser Lake Population Change 2001-2021 (Graph)	40
Figure (6)- Breakdown of Household Size (2021).....	40
Age Distribution and Gender.....	41
Figure (7)- Average Age of Residents (2016-2021)	41
Figure (8)- Gender & Age Breakdown (2021)	41
Funding Agencies:	43
APPENDIX A: Snapshot Report (2019-2021)	attached
APPENDIX B: Financial Statements & SOFI.....	attached

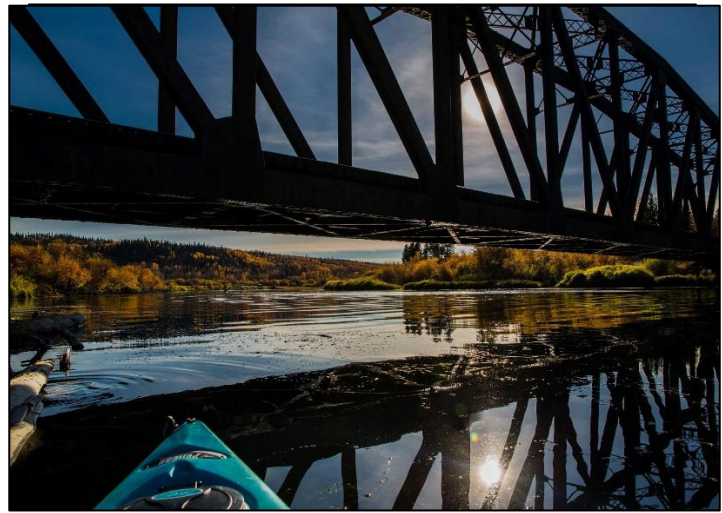
Welcome to Fraser Lake!

The Village of Fraser Lake is located within the Bulkley Nechako Regional District, 160 km west of Prince George in Northern British Columbia. The town is nestled alongside the glistening Fraser Lake, which is overlooked by a range of small mountains and forested area.

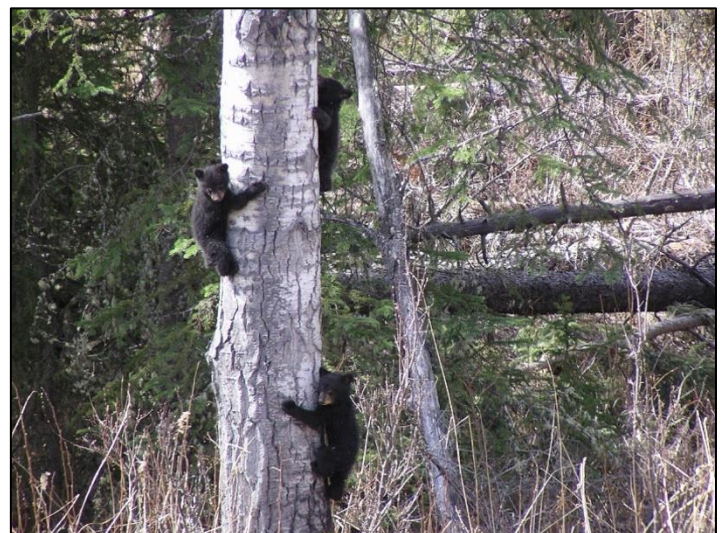
Fraser Lake is the seasonal home to over 1000 Trumpeter Swans each spring, making it an ideal location for birders to visit. Nature enthusiasts enjoy opportunities to view a variety of wildlife and birds, including, Bald Eagles, Pelicans, Waterfowl, Moose, Deer, Caribou, Elk, Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, Cougars, and Wolves.

The area holds 170 lakes within a 100 km radius and is home to some of the best recreational fishing opportunities in Northern BC! Hiking trails located throughout the area and along Mouse Mountain are utilized year-round for walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing

White Swan Park provides a beautiful backdrop for winter and summer activities, including, fishing, outdoor skating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boards. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the park or take your dog for a swim. We also enjoy seasonal events that include our Canada Day celebrations, Family Day, and Halloween fun. Come experience the strong sense of community that exists in this friendly village!



*“Where nature is our
doorstep”*





Fast Facts

Incorporated: 1966

Traditional Territory: Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Stelat'en First Nation, and Cheslatta First Nation.

Population: The municipal population is less than 1,000 people, however, the rural population surrounding the Village of Fraser is considerably larger. Although not everyone resides within our Village, there are many people who call Fraser Lake home. The Village functions as a hub for rural residents who frequent the Village for local services and amenities.

Area: 484 Hectares (1210 Acres)

Average cost of home: \$168,412

Number of Schools: 2

(Mouse Mountain Elementary & FL Elementary Secondary School)

Active Trails: Approximately 20 trails¹ within one hour drive

Average Size of Char: 7-11 pounds

July daily temperature: Historical averages between 19-23 °C

¹ The number of trails is an approximate estimate, as many trails are still currently being mapped throughout the area.

Message from the Mayor



Sarrah Storey
Mayor

We are pleased to present Fraser Lake's 2021 Annual Report. This report offers us an opportunity to share our growth and highlight the Village of Fraser Lake's successes.

We would like to encourage all residents to read this report to learn about the work of your municipal government and celebrate with us another great year for Fraser Lake. The projects completed in 2021 continue to be a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff and council.

While we know its not possible to complete everything on our big "to do" lists in a year or term due to staff capacity and budget constraints, we are pleased with what we have accomplished to date. The projects and plans we have set in motion or completed will benefit Fraser Lake for generations to come.

Council, like each of you reading this, is made up of regular people that continually look for the best way to support, protect and grow the community while keeping taxes low. Many decisions are based on staff capacity, the Village budget, our Official Community Plan (OCP), Strategic Priorities and the availability of grant funding. We, like many of you, also get frustrated with how slow things can move, but we also get to see the strain that doing too much at once can cause. We must protect the integrity of the municipality and staff at every decision.

Our strategic priorities set the tone for staff and council. Occasionally, important funding opportunities present themselves. In those instances, Council and staff will consider whether these added opportunities are achievable. The ability to pivot and juggle in a small community, to adjust, are important attributes that contribute to

success. I commend staff for pivoting with us to add to that growth and to make sure we can take advantage of those opportunities that arise.

Thanks to high prices in the lumber market, great staff and contractors, our Community Forest did amazingly well. Not only did it employ a large number of forest workers, it also created a revenue stream that will greatly benefit our community. These revenues will help address some of our aging infrastructure. Some of those benefits will be seen through our projects in 2022. The Community Forest has assisted with the purchase a new fire truck and a new garbage truck. It will also help with the new water tower.

From 2018 on, we dove deep and really looked at and worked hard on addressing aging infrastructure, asset management planning, beautification, advocacy, keeping taxes low, and creating a healthy, stable, sustainable, and prosperous community.

While we appreciate that the roads are what people want to see fixed first, a lot of work must go into planning and a lot of money needs to be found to complete the needed repairs. We continue to work on things to better the community as we work towards the goals of addressing aging infrastructure.

As you can imagine, advocacy plays an important role in having our voices heard. This is one of the most important roles of Council. Being a smaller municipality, it can be more difficult to have our voices heard. That is why we continue to advocate through government forums and collaborations on behalf of our community. This includes supporting and participating in the Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA), North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), Lakes Timber Supply Area Coalition, Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT), and the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) to name a few.

The role of council is to be the voice of our community. We take this seriously. Whether its building resolutions, speaking to Provincial Ministers or Members of Parliament. From complaints or challenges comes solutions and advocacy which can lead to support or grants.

In 2018 the Village received funding from the Province of British Columbia for infrastructure renewal through the Northern Capital & Planning grant in the amount of \$2.6 million. A further \$777,000.00 was received in 2019. In 2021, we have received \$1 million for the arena curling rink upgrade. These are just a few examples of funding that have been received in recent years.

The Northern Capital and Planning funds have been budgeted towards infrastructure repair and replacement projects. It is important to see Provincial funding flowing to northern communities and we are incredibly happy to receive continued support from the higher levels of government. This is an exciting time in Fraser Lake, and we are grateful that we get to share it with you.

Council is looking forward to making continued progress towards our goals in 2022 and we are excited to have a great community to share these successes with. On behalf of Council, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the residents of our amazing community.

Sarrah Storey
Mayor – Village of Fraser Lake

Village of Fraser Lake Council



Councillor Audrey Fennema, Councillor Joe Jenkinson, Mayor Sarrah Storey,

Councillor Kim Watt-Senner and Councillor Craig LePoidevin

Background

The Village of Fraser Lake is governed by an elected Council comprised of a Mayor and four Councillors. Members of Council are elected for a four-year term, with the current term running from November 2018 to November 2022.

Throughout 2021, and with covid safety measurements, Council meetings were able to continue. Regular Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, in Council Chambers at 210 Carrier Crescent. Meetings begin at 5:30 pm.

Council Update: 2021

The world events of 2021 brought both challenges and opportunities to work together as a community. Covid-19 protocols and safety plans continued to address the evolving pandemic situation. The covid responses employed by the Village were designed to comply with public health orders while keeping many of services active and available.

While the physical safety of residents is of primary concern for Council, the mental health impacts of the lockdown was carefully considered within decision-making. Where possible, Council supported community activities that brought joy to our residents and reminders of the wonderful community we share with our family,

friends, and neighbors. The Santa Claus Parade and Mouse Mountain Days were activities offered to the community in a covid safe manner. The Village also continues to support opportunities for healthy activities that could be implemented with covid safety in mind, including investments in new outdoor recreational features. This year Council approved repairs to the wharf, recognizing this feature to be an important amenity that is beloved by the community.

Council would also like to recognize the many contributions of our community volunteers. Friends, family, and community members have continued to support seniors and persons in need of assistance during these challenging times. Some of our volunteers participated in the Community Clean up event along the shoreline and boat launch area, while others worked to maintain the outdoor ice rink on the lake. These activities and this commitment to community were important, and a great demonstration of the commitment of our community members to making our community a thoughtful and embracing place to live. Thank you. On behalf of Mayor and Council, we appreciate your activities to make Fraser Lake a better place to live.

The Community Forest, Asset Management, Tourism, and supporting Healthy Active Lifestyles remain as the strategic priorities for the Village (please see the Strategic Priorities section to view a more detailed description of the recent advancements in these areas). The Community Forest serves as a source of revenue for the municipality and provides the added benefit of supporting local employment. Our vision for the Community Forest is to maximize our use of the available fiber supply, enhance wildlife habitat and support clean water through small tree retention. We have encouraged and supported several innovative approaches to harvesting. As of December 31, 2021, the first 5 year cut plan was completed. As the Community Forest enters the mid-term stage, the focus has shifted to low volume harvesting. In support of wildlife habitat goals, the Village will begin the deactivation of arterial roads to provide megafauna and other species the ability to roam with less human disturbance. In the spring of 2021, the Village planted 880,000 seedlings on the areas that were harvested in 2019 and 2020. During the Spring 2022, an additional 577,000 seedlings were planted. These activities will bring these areas back to a state of productivity.

The Village continues to support a variety of activities that are vital to the built infrastructure and development of our community. Significant capital projects during 2021 included the completion of the Wastewater Lagoon Expansion project, early construction works of the Fiber Optic Network, and development of the conceptual design for a Community Hall. The completion of the Cemetery Drainage Project in 2021 was an important activity that will manage groundwater levels in the cemetery.

Accessibility upgrades at Village office and in the arena support a more inclusive and livable community.

The water distribution system Leak Detection assessment this past summer provided the Village with a health checkup for our water distribution system. This information allows the Village to plan for repairs today and into the future as we advance our asset management processes. Looking to the future, we have completed the planning and design for a water tower replacement. We have applied for funding and await the outcome of our application for this important project. Each of these initiatives work toward design improvements, support system sustainability, and enhance our community's capacity for growth.

Other capital projects intended to improve the built environment and quality of life for residents that were completed in 2021 included: The planning and design for a dedicated water supply line from the water treatment facility to the water tower on Mouse Mountain; The Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan. The opening of the Fraser Lake Villa. Projects that will facilitate economic gains were also carefully considered. Some were a continuation of previous years. Please refer to the capital projects section to learn more details about the projects that were completed in 2021 or are currently in progress. As our capital projects forge ahead, Council has a positive outlook for the continued community development of Fraser Lake this year and into the future!

Message from the Chief Administrative Officer



Rodney J. Holland
Chief Administrative Officer

We are pleased to provide our residents and taxpayers with this Annual Report. This report describes Village operations and capital projects undertaken in 2021. We have also highlighted the financial position of the Village.

The Village Council and staff are proud of our many accomplishments in 2021. Much of our focus continues to be the state of existing infrastructure. Through regular inspection, maintenance, and assessment regimes, we have developed a good inventory and understanding of our systems. We have adopted and implemented structured Asset Management processes to ensure our approach is systematic. The information developed through these processes help guide decisions around what requires immediate attention and what activities can wait. These processes impact both the financial and operational aspects of the Village, as we plan to ensure the viability and sustainability of the Village both today and the distant future. Engages the expertise of professional engineers or other professional has assisted in our planning. Through these activities we better understand our needs. The professional support also builds creditability for our applications for funding from outside sources. Moving forward mean ensuring our community remains healthy, reliable, and sustainable. It is our hope this report will give the reader a high-level view of the accomplishments of the Village in 2021.

Looking to the coming year, we have submitted funding applications to replace our aged water reservoir and to install a designated water line from the Water Treatment Facility to the new water tower. The activation of our fibre optic internet in July 2022 is also an improved service we look forward too. This service will improve support for local business, those working from home, education, and home use of internet. The completion of the Endako Avenue sidewalk is another highlight for 2022. Although there are many areas in the community that need sidewalks, the Endako Avenue sidewalk was in a condition that created hazards for sidewalk users.

We have added a three-year timeline to this report which lists the many accomplishments of the Village over the past three years. A 10-year timeline that begins in 2015 will soon be available on the Village website.

Message from the Director of Finance

The Village of Fraser Lake's Finance Department is responsible for the budgeting process which includes preparation, implementation, and on-going monitoring of the municipality's budget. The Finance Department is responsible for income and expenditure reports and must adhere to PSAB (Public Sector Accounting Board) standards. The Finance Department processes daily financial and accounting transactions, implements, and monitors internal control procedures, calculates, and maintains property taxes, utilities, and business licensing.



Laura McMaster
Director of Finance

2021 continued to present challenges due to the pandemic. Revenue decreased while expenses increased. Monitoring of the budget and adjusting to provide services to the residents became a priority. The municipality did an excellent job as there were no interruptions of the services it provided. Please refer to appendix (B) for key sections of the Village's Statement of Financial Interest (SOFI) report for 2021.

The Finance Department works closely with all departments and Mayor and Council with a focus to provide maximum efficiency and reasonable taxation, while also making provision for future infrastructure and service needs.

Message from the Economic Development Officer

The Economic Development Officer is the link between Fraser Lake business community, not for profit organizations, residents, Council, staff, and other outside government organizations.

The key responsibilities of the position include:

- 🕒 Attracting new and retaining existing businesses, services, and community groups
- 🕒 Resident recruitment activities
- 🕒 Grant writing
- 🕒 Manage Visitor Information Centre / Museum and Community Transportation Service
- 🕒 Manage lovefraserlake.com and Business Façade community programs
- 🕒 Advisory to the local Chamber of Commerce
- 🕒 Liaison with regional and local organizations to promote growth and success of Fraser Lake and the Bulkley Nechako
- 🕒 Engaging the public during events or trade shows. Provide information on entrepreneurship, economic development, tourism, and resources in our community
- 🕒 Improving and updating key economic information, marketing materials, area profile, brochures, and web pages
- 🕒 Provide information to potential community investors



Dave Christie
Economic Development
Officer

2021 Highlights

The impacts and influences of the COVID-19 pandemic persisted throughout 2021. With a year of COVID -19 restrictions already under our belt, many in our community developed strategies on how to best work within the confines of the Public Health restrictions. The wearing of face coverings, washing hands and social distancing became common practice. Most in our community were happy to make the extra effort to make our community work. Children attended school. Adults attended work and restaurants prepared snacks and meals for take out, instead of dinning in. To coin an old cliché, when life hands out lemons, make lemonade. Our community did that admirably.

In 2021, the Village continued efforts to support the function and appearance of our community. In doing so, we conducted sewer main, water main, water tower and fire hydrant assessments. Twenty-six (26) capital projects were completed. Some of those activities included energy upgrades to municipal buildings, repairs to the ice and beaver damaged pilings on the wharf, completion of an array of maintenance projects such as painting, crack sealing, water pump replacement and ice plant component rebuilds. Providing good stewardship of community assets through timely and appropriate action is our goal.

Meanwhile, we took steps to initiate another 12 capital projects. Some of these projects will take several years to complete. Examples include developing the curling rink into a 12-month facility that can function as a community hall. The Village was also successful in one of our applications for funding that enabled the Village to order a new fire engine. We also took advantage of an opportunity to partner with a new Fraser Lake telecom to build a new fiber optic network in our community. Through a partnering agreement, the community's investment will be recovered over time. The importance of this new municipal service should not be understated. We believe fiber optic internet will support our businesses and residents. It also supports our potential for growth.

With the assistance of our Intern, our Asset Management processes were advanced. We have digitized our water, sewer, road, sidewalk, and recreational infrastructure mapping. We have established a solid foundation for our data base. It will continue to build as information is added. This process creates a solid foundations that helps guide asset related decision making.

Our financial staff undertook the arduous task of developing our Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO) process. This is a legislated requirement that has

challenged many municipalities, regardless of size. Following our extreme investment of time, our financial staff have developed a process that tracks the Village's financial obligations relating to infrastructure that has a regulatory cost associated with the disposal of these structures. As much of our infrastructure is old, this is an important advancement.

Regardless of the many challenges in 2021, the Village continues to move forward. It was a productive year that improved the function of the community's infrastructure and created a good foundation for future activities that will continue to build and strengthen our community.

2022 Outlook

As our community transitions out of pandemic routines and into the "new normal", the Village looks forward to the return of "in person" community events. Although our many accomplishments over the past couple of years are important to the sustainability of our community infrastructure, our community is more than just bricks and mortar. Having opportunities for families, friends, and neighbors to gather to strengthen the social bonds that bind us together as a community is exciting. In 2022, we look forward to community events and activities that are not restricted by health concerns. It has been wonderful to see the large number of spectators at hockey and soccer tournaments. Being able to enjoy the game in the company of friends whom we have not seen for some time has been reviving. Community events such as the Indigenous Day and Canada Day celebrations were well attended.

This year we have already seen significant increases to the number of travelers visiting our Visitor Information Centre. People are ready to get out more. In Northern BC, people are preparing for more camping, more travel and more fun.

This year we have welcomed many new residents to our community. In some cases, these new residents have relocated from large urban centers to enjoy the benefits of small town living and a slower pace of life. In other cases, our new residents have relocated to Fraser Lake on a short-term basis to work on the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline. Each of our new residents bring new ideas and new energy. Welcome.

We have experienced a notable increase in activity in the local real estate market. It has provided opportunities for home sellers and home buyers alike. There seems to be a new optimism in the air. Is it the development of the Artemis Gold Blackwater project, the whispered rumors we are hearing about activities at Endako Mine or the

construction of the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline? These are exciting times. Is this the year for growth in our community?

The Village has another full schedule for capital projects for 2022. We look forward to the “go live” date for the fibre optic internet service. The replacement of the Endako Avenue sidewalk is another welcomed improvement. And the construction of an equipment storage garage at the Public Works yard will ensure our equipment is parked out of the elements when not in use. Each of these developments are expected to have a positive impact for the community.

Public Works Department

The Public Works department is led by Vern Hilman as the Director. The department is responsible for the physical construction, repair, and maintenance of community assets and physical infrastructure. Public Works employees each have a primary responsibility for either water, wastewater, or the Arena. Beyond those responsibilities, Public Works staff are all responsible for the seasonal maintenance activities (grass cutting, snow removal, and making sure that culverts are running). Our Public Works staff need to be versatile. When a water line breaks, or there is a report of a sewage backup, our team of dedicated employees arrive to fix the problem. Some of their work also involves collaborating with contractors, ensuring that the work is being completed to the standards of the contract.

2021 was a busy year for the Village staff, with many projects having been completed during this time. Project highlights include:

- The completion of the 4th sewer lagoon & screening facility project
- The opening of Fraser Lake Villa to new residents
- LED lighting upgrades: Library, Office, Fire Hall, Public Works, Visitor Centre
- Cemetery drainage project
- Wharf repair
- Leak Detection Project: Water lines & hydrants
- Professional Building: Upgrades to interiors (toilets, counters, internet)
- Asset Management advancements in the new centralized database

To view a more detailed listing of projects that occurred this year, please refer to the Capital Projects Recap section, and the progress snapshot found in Appendix A. Thank you to the Public Works team, who performed tremendous work on several repairs, upgrades, and new additions to the physical infrastructure of our community in 2021!

Administrative Department

Sylvia Hendriksen is the Administrative Assistant for the Village of Fraser Lake. Sylvia assists with a variety of projects and records within the office. The key responsibilities of this position include:

- Front Counter
- Payroll
- Accounts Receivable
- Assisting the Director of Finance
- Cemetery Responsibilities
- Record Management
- Assists with the Community Forest Records
- Meeting room bookings

Economic Development



Capital Projects: 2021 Recap

In 2021, the Village completed several large construction projects, including: the cemetery drainage project, the wastewater lagoon expansion project also known as the 4th sewer lagoon, the wastewater screening facility, the library energy retrofit, and the wharf reconstruction. In 2021, the Village also completed a water system leak detection study. In October 2021, construction began on the Fiber Optic Internet network. 2021 also saw the development of the conceptual design for the Community Hall/Curling Rink Project.

With the support of Council, the following projects and achievements listed in the Annual Progress Snapshot were completed or advanced. The 2021 snapshot provides details of VFL milestones and other important highlights across seven broad categories: *Asset Management, Beautification, Economic Development, Emergency Planning, Recreation & Tourism, Seniors & Accessibility, and Quality of Life*. Environmental and ecologically sustainable decisions were made across all categories; therefore, these activities are indicated by a green leaf icon throughout the report. Please refer to appendix A to view the full 2019-2021 progress snapshot report.

Capital Projects 2021: Highlights

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Fiber Optic Network Infrastructure Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership with City West Formed VFL Communications Installation of drop boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that all remaining infrastructure installation will be completed in the summer of 2022
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>From late 2020 to 2021 the Village conducted internet speed tests to provide quantifiable data that represented the need for internet infrastructure improvements. Community members were highly active in assisting with these efforts. In October 2021, the Village of Fraser Lake partnered with City West; a publicly owned telecommunication company based out of Prince Rupert. In October 2021 the installation of broadband infrastructure began across the village. The project is expected to be completed in late summer of 2022.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Water Leak Detection Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracted a regional company to perform specialized testing Fire hydrant assessments Fire hydrant servicing Updated list of hydrants needing repair/ replacement has been compiled 	Project Status: Complete
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>As part of our asset management priorities, a water leak detection assessment was undertaken in the summer of 2021 to determine the location of water leaks in the existing water lines and fire hydrants. Hydrostatic testing occurred in July/ August 2021 to determine where leaks exist. This process assisted the Village in determining the location and size of water leaks. Fire hydrant servicing was performed at the same time. We are happy to report the integrity of our water distribution system is good.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
The 4th Lagoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the 4th Lagoon completed Construction and commissioning of the Screening Facility Project 	Project Status: Complete
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>The Wastewater Lagoon Expansion Project involved the construction of a 4th lagoon alongside the existing wastewater treatment facility. The 4th Lagoon will assist with overflow during periods of heavy precipitation. The project began in 2016 with an environmental assessment. The planning and design phases occurred in 2018. The construction of the 4th lagoon, a wastewater screening facility, and development of a new access road on the site was completed in the summer of 2021.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
The Screening Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of building • Realignment of sewer line plumbing • New access road 	Project Status: Complete
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>The screening facility project, completed in 2021, compliments the larger 4th Lagoon Project. The purpose of the screening facility is to provide environmental protection. The facility removes plastic, cloth, and other non-organic solid materials from the wastewater stream. The Village would like to thank TC Energy for their \$300,000 donation which made this project possible.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Accessibility Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of accessibility accessories to the washrooms in Village facilities. • Installation of button activated doors in the municipal office and the arena (doors assist). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational washrooms are expected to receive updates in 2022
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>Following an accessibility assessment by representatives of Spinal Cord Injury BC. , accessibility upgrades were made to the municipal office and arena in late 2021. These updates were made possible through a generous grant of \$93,500 from the Enabling Accessibility Fund (HRDC). Supply chain issue have impacted this project, however, completion is expected in July 2022.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Library Energy Retrofit Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced all doors and windows to energy efficient versions Added insulation to the attic Upgraded all lighting to LED Wrapped and strapped the exterior walls with insulation Re-siding of exterior 	Project Status: Complete
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>The retrofitting activities in the library began in August. The final upgrades for this project were completed in October 2021. This project will help to reduce energy use in the Library by 16-20 percent.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Wharf Reconstruction Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced 16 pilings Replaced worn deck boards Replaced hand railings Platform shortening 	Project Status: Complete
<p><u>Project Description:</u></p> <p>The wharf sustained damage from ice and beavers that chewed on the wood pilings. This damage affected the structural integrity of the wharf. Repairs were completed as of June 2021. This included the replacement of 16 of the damaged pilings, worn out deck boards and hand railings, and shortening of the lookout platform.</p>		

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Fraser Lake Villa Modular Home Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and design • Installation of in ground utilities: Water, sewer, and hydro • Berm wall along the exterior for privacy • Trailer pad development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding • Signage

Project Description:

The Villa was officially opened in the summer of 2021! Fraser Lake welcomed ten (10) new residents following this development (1 permanent resident and 9 temporary residents). This new and exciting development provides 15 rental lots for residential purposes. These rental properties provide an additional source of revenue for the Village. 2021 activities included landscaping, sewer and hydro connections, and beautification work. The Village of Fraser Lake looks forward to welcoming more new residents into the future!

Project	Recent Advances	Next Steps
Cemetery Drainage Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage Tile • Sump well • Electrical service 	Project Status: Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery Levelling Project is expected to occur in 2022

Project Description:

This project is intended to reduce the groundwater level in the cemetery. The drainage project was completed in the summer of 2021.

2022 Update: Completed Projects

With the support of Council, the following projects have been completed as of June 2022:

- Replacement of the boat launch pilings
- Concrete pads at the boat launch
- Arrival of the new administrative vehicle (Ford F150)
- Installation of concrete picnic table pads at White Swan Park
- Installation of concrete fire pit pad at White Swan Park
- Installation of bear proof garbage dumpster at Fraser Lake Villa Modular Home Park
- Construction of the Public Works equipment storage building
- Completion of the Accessibility upgrades at the Village Office and Arena

2022: List of Capital Projects in Progress

There are several capital projects currently in progress for 2022. The following eight (8) projects are listed as the major developments out of the 43 projects scheduled for 2022,

1. Fiber Optic Broadband Network Infrastructure
2. Endako sidewalk and curbs replacement (Chowsunket to Carrier)
3. Fire Hydrant Maintenance
4. Community Hall/Curling Rink project
5. New 6-10 Bay Equipment Storage Building: Public Works Department
6. Community paving
7. Cemetery Levelling
8. Water Treatment Plant Equipment replacement or update (NTV monitors, chemical pumps, UBT re-build kits)

2022 Outlook

The outlook for 2022 is positive. Our focus remains grounded in the four strategic priorities: asset management, community forest, community beautification and active healthy lifestyles.

Many of the Village activities revolve around maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure for modern day use. We do our best to address these needs in a way that adds to the beautification of our community. Important projects that the Village continues to plan for include water plant upgrades, the curling rink/community hall project, replacement of the water reservoir tower and the construction of a designated water line from the water treatment facility to the new water tower.

Completion of the fiberoptic network is anticipated by September 2022. This new high-speed internet option will support existing business and work to attract new residents and businesses.

The Village is excited to hear about the work on the Coastal Gaslink project by Nadleh Macro. Preparatory works on Artemis Gold's Blackwater Project also provide an optimistic outlook for the future of the region. The Village is hoping for a positive announcement from Endako Mine in the near future.

Community activities will return to in-person community events! After two (2) long years of COVID-19 protocols, a more relaxed and interactive summer is something to look forward too.

Future Projects

The following section outlines three (3) major projects that would make a significant difference for the community. Funding these types of large projects is always a challenge, it can take several years to determine the outcome of applications. Having shelf-ready projects with the design and planning completed are key to obtaining funding. The Village is doing everything possible to advance and maximize the success of these endeavors.

Curling Rink/Community Hall Project

This project supports the strategic priorities associated with tourism and active healthy living. In March of 2021, 1 million dollars was secured from the Federal Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure program. These funds will be used toward the upgrade the curling rink to a multi-use facility that can be used as a community hall. It will provide a modern space for public and private events.

During the planning and design stage of the project, consultations were held with facility user groups in June 2021. Their input has helped inform the design process. This is a two-phase project. Phase 1 involves upgrades to the curling rink facility, including new refrigeration infrastructure, new wall and ceiling coverings, a new concrete floor, and a 700 square foot storage building along the east side of the building. Phase 2 involves a expanded entry vestibule, new washrooms, and a commercial kitchen. Construction for the first phase of the project is planned for the Fall of 2022, depending on contractor availability.

Water Tower Project

The planning and design for a new water tower has been completed. An application for funding has been submitted in 2022. The Village is currently awaiting the outcome of our application, which is to be announced in April 2023.

Designated Water Line Project

This project will improve the consistency of chlorination in the community's drinking water distribution system. It will make certain all parts of the system have consistent levels of chlorination. The project will require excavation of the water line route. While the road is open, storm sewer infrastructure will be installed. This will allow the Village to assist residents to direct basement sump pump discharge into the storm sewer, rather than into the sanitary sewer line.

The roadbed and asphalt surface of the road will be rebuilt along the construction route. The Village's plan is to install sidewalks and catch basins to finish off the project.

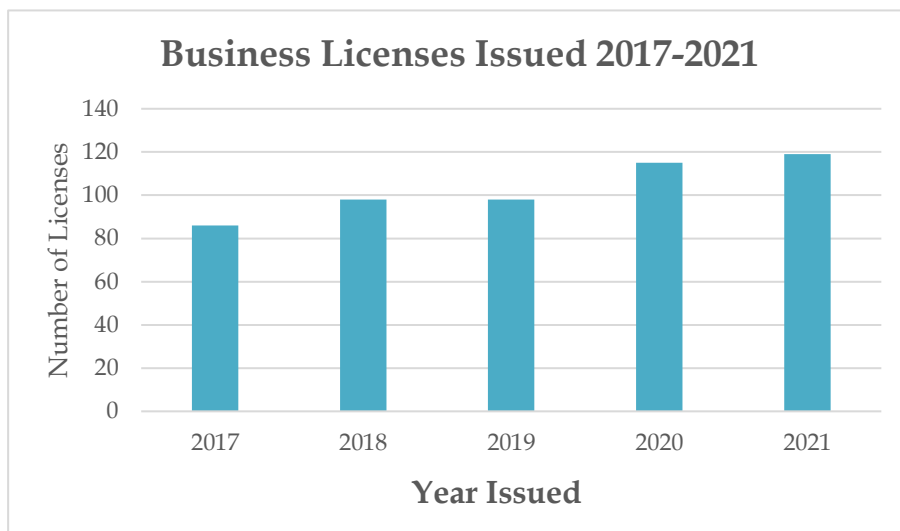
The Village has applied for funding through the Canada Community Building Fund program. The Village is awaiting the outcome of our application and will not be able to move this project forward without substantial funding of this sort.

Through projects such as this, the Village will begin replacing substantial amounts of buried infrastructure. With the buried water and sewer lines updated, it then makes sense to repave to the road surface above.

Figure (1)- Building Permits Chart 2017-2021



Figure (2)- Business Licenses Chart 2017-2021

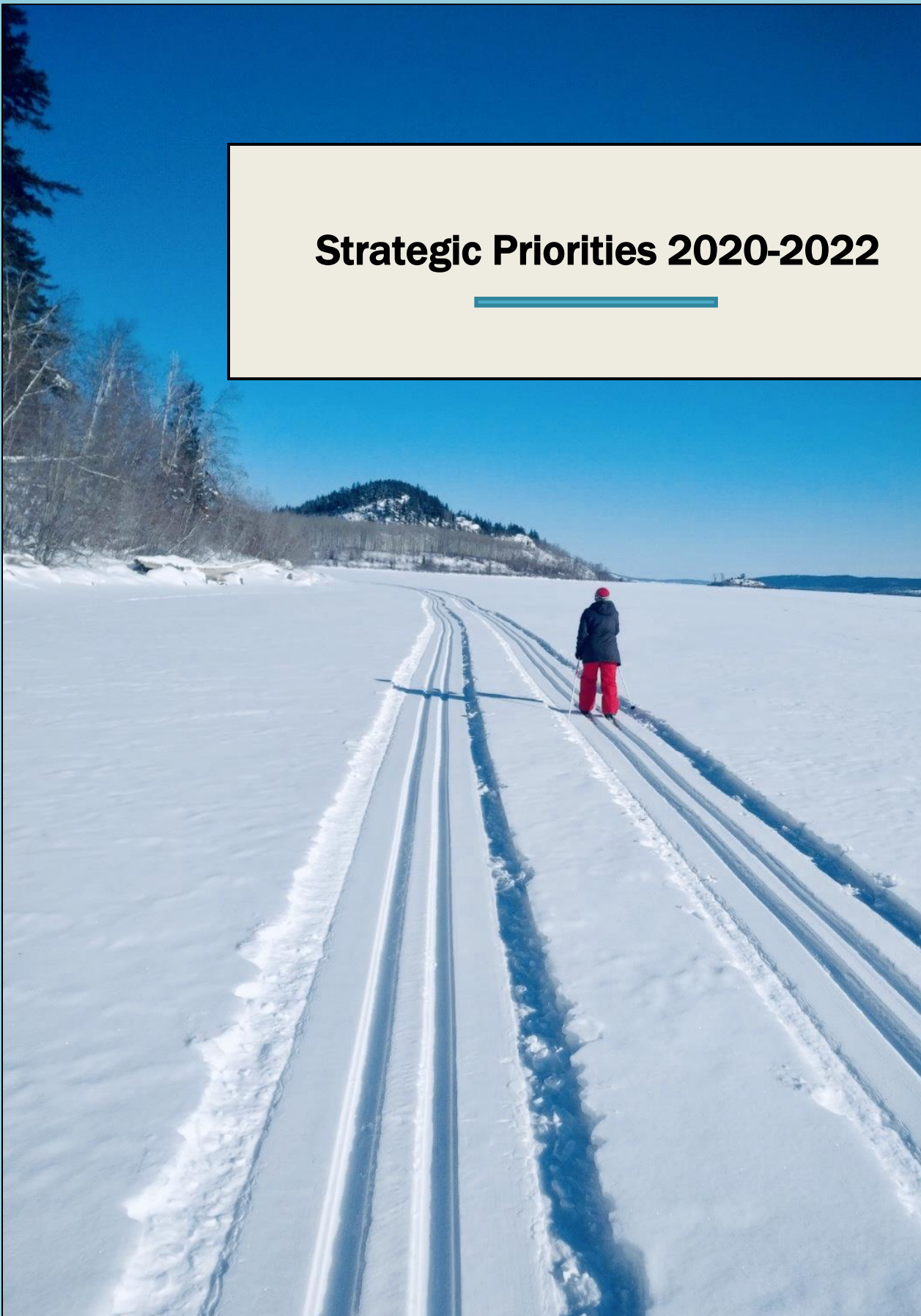


Trends in Local Economic Development

Village Office records show that in 2021, a total of 6 building permits and 119 business licenses were issued. The decline in building permits issued between 2019 and 2021 (refer to figure 1), can be accounted for, in part, by the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic and the increasing cost of construction.

As can be seen in figure (2), the number of business licenses has been steadily increasing over the past five years. Village staff have noticed that more businesses have been increasing their catchment areas to include Fraser Lake. The increase in business licenses can also be accounted for due to more stringent enforcement of licensing requirements. This recent influx in economic development is expected to continue.

Strategic Priorities 2020-2022



1. Community Forest

➤ Actions Taken (2021)

- Continued to place a central focus on marketing (pulp, fiber).
- Harvested approximately 180,000 cubic meters.
- **A total of 880,000 seedlings replanted to replenish future stocks** (a special thank you goes to Summit Reforestation, who through their Blue-Green Planet project donated and planted 180,000 trees).
- Utilized innovative methods of deadfall harvest. Most harvest activities are focused on low volume stands which contain high amounts of blow down.
- Maximized available use of fiber.
- Provided 45 jobs in the forestry sector

➤ Expected Outlook (2022)

As the first cut period is coming to an end at the end of 2021, this will mark the beginning of low-volume harvesting set to begin in 2022. During the mid-term cut period VFL expects to identify stands for commercial thinning and will include the selective harvesting of larger trees, while maintaining a good stock of trees to provide the opportunity for younger trees to reach maturity. This allows VFL to address deadfall and reduce the fuel load for forest fires. The harvesting of deadfall will continue to create jobs associated with the sale of logs, pulp, and biomass materials.

2. Asset Management

➤ Actions Taken (2021)

- All spatial files collected by the Public Works department have been integrated into the centralized database system (MuniSight)
- Data acquisition and geolocation of Village assets is being performed on a continuous basis within the new database
- The creation of an internal filing system for digitized historical maps and records
- Group training sessions to learn the new system (12), and individual software training sessions (8) were conducted with staff beginning in late 2021 up until April 2022
- The early stages of criteria development for condition assessments commenced

- Began the research and development of the Asset Retirement Obligations Policy
- The Asset Management Policy and Strategy were adopted in late 2021

➤ **Expected Outlook (2022)**

The asset inventory mapping is expected to continue growing as time permits for staff to update details within the online database. Village Staff have been working on creating templates and customized criteria for application towards assessments on asset conditions and levels of service. As of date, seven charts have been developed to assist with the relative condition assessments in the centralized system (sewer line, water mains and valves, buildings, sidewalks, paved roads, and hydrants). It is expected that in the spring of 2022, staff will have the opportunity to perform assessments for specific segments of the sidewalks, sewer line, and roads within the new system. These pilots will help inform the process and methods moving forward for use with other asset categories. For more details on the current state of asset management in the Village, please refer to the Village of Fraser Lake Asset Management Progress Report 2021/2022 and the corresponding Asset Network Maps.

3. Tourism

➤ **Actions Taken (2021)**

- Shop Local campaign: “*Fraser Lake is Open*” signs along the highway
- Annual tourism studies performed to investigate the catchment areas and demographic trends. This assists with determining key locations for targeted advertising
- EDO Christie joined the advisory committee of the Northern BC Tourism Committee Association. The focus of the group is to enhance tourism in the North

➤ **Expected Outlook (2022)**

In 2021, the Village received an increase in tourists following the events of 2020. The Visitor Information Center records show that 1100 visitors visited in 2021. It is estimated that this number only accounts for 30% of the visitors overall

(approximately 3,650 tourists). As covid restrictions continue to lift, we expect the number of tourists to increase even higher for the summer of 2022.

4. Health and Active Living

➤ Actions Taken (2021)

- Encouraged trail users to log their hike routes through the *All Trails* App.
- Outdoor concrete chess and ping pong tables were installed in 2021 at White Swan Park and Kin Park.
- The Village supported any sports that were allowed by the public health orders in 2021. This included minor hockey, slow pitch baseball, curling, bottom spiels, and pickleball tournaments.
- The sledding hill adjacent to the Skateboard Park has continued to be built up with soil and landscaping each year.
- The re-opening of the wharf
- Trail improvements included the renaming of trails and the installment of 90+ signs. The new wayward signage provides a map of the system at every trailhead.
- New paddleboards were available for rental use starting in 2021.
- A rebranding of the equipment rental program resulted in the “Our Equipment, Your Adventure” slogan. The idea behind this program and rebranding is to encourage locals to try new outdoor activities. The program also encourages tourists to use the equipment and create their own adventures while visiting the area.

➤ Expected Outlook (2022)

The Village is expecting more recreational activity to occur this year. An updated tennis/basketball/pickleball/street hockey court was well used into the autumn season after opening in 2021. This was a collaborative project between the Village and the School District. The White Swan Dock Project began in late March (2022). Upgrades to the boat launch and docks facilitates a greater ease of access and visibility for boats. These new upgrades are expected to generate more activity and interest from locals and tourists this year. Additionally, now that covid restrictions have been lifting, it is expected that community groups will also begin to rekindle, such as the Fraser Lake Walking Group, Fraser Lake Hiking Club, and the Fraser Lake Outdoor Club. The Village is in the process of submitting a federal grant

application to the Active Transportation Fund. This funding would facilitate the development of an active transportation plan for Fraser Lake that would focus on trails, bikes, and sidewalks.

Municipal Services and Operations

Services provided by the municipality include:

- Legislative (bylaws, policies, and procedures)
- Fire protection
- Fire Inspection
- Building permits and inspection
- Bylaw enforcement
- Business licensing
- Planning services
- Street and sidewalk maintenance, construction, and reconstruction
- Snow removal
- Drainage system maintenance
- Street lighting
- Parks maintenance
- Recreational services
- Cemetery operations
- Collection authority for taxation
- Sanitary sewer collection system, operation, maintenance, and construction
- Water system operation

Emergency Services



Message from the Fire Chief



Joe Pacheco
Fire Chief

Our goal for Fraser Lake Fire Rescue is to continue implementing the BC structure fire fighter training playbook and provide training to deliver the highest level of service possible. Certification based training will ensure consistent training standards to firefighters. It also provides greater efficiencies and cooperation with other fire departments within the mutual aid agreements.

The Village of Fraser Lake developed a Wildfire Fuel Management Fire Smart program to assist the Village to reduce the risk to homes due to the impact of wildfires. The Village of Fraser Lake also developed an Emergency Program for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The program has provided EOC team members and training to staff members and local volunteers. This training will provide greater capacity for the response and recovery from emergency events.

Responsibilities

- Emergency medical first responders
- Protection, control, and extinguishment of fires
- Protection of life and property
- Inspection of all commercial buildings
- Enforcement of all municipal laws
- Emergency Planning
- Animal Control
- SPU Training and Wildfire control

- Mitigation and education
- Life and Safety Program
 - Providing fire safety education to seniors and youth

Emergency Responders: Key Points

Number of Police Officers: 5

Number of Fire Fighters: 1 Full Time

Number of Volunteer Fire Fighters: 18

Ambulance Services:

Fraser Lake is served by a 24-hour ambulance service, employing 10 staff at the paramedical (advanced life support) level. The station has two ambulance units that are staffed 24-hours per day.

2021 Highlights

- Response to covid-19
- FLW supply chain maintenance
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020-21)
- Improvements to Firehall and equipment (ongoing)
- Community wildfire prevention work

2022 Outlook

- A new fire engine truck is expected to arrive in August
- A new parking lot area is being considered for the Firehall
- Plans for handheld equipment upgrades

Statistics



Figure (3)- Employee Numbers 2021-2022

Number of Employees (2021-2022)

2021	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time staff members (15) • Summer Students (9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time staff members (16) • Summer Students (6)

Population Demographics

Statistics Canada Census Data

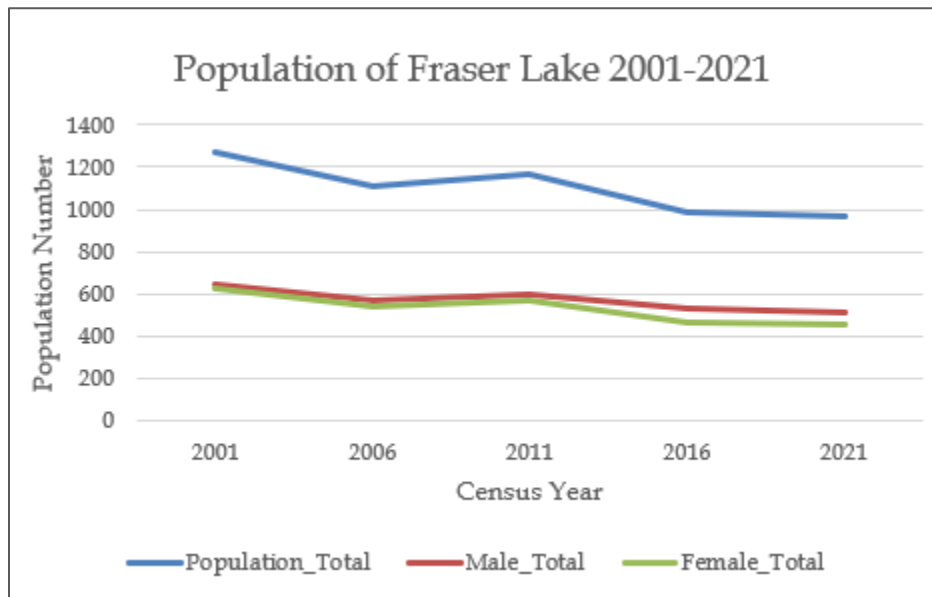
According to the Statistics Canada Census for 2021 the population of Fraser Lake has decreased by 2.3% from 988 to 965 persons between the years 2016 to 2021. The Official Community Plan recognizes the Village of Fraser Lake as an important service center. The municipal population is less than 1,000 people; however, the population which looks to Fraser Lake as its service center is considerably higher considering the rural population, and local First Nations communities. The catchment area (Electoral Area D) has increased by 9.2% from 1472 to 1607 persons since 2016.

Figure (4)- Fraser Lake Population Chart: 2001 to 2021

POPULATION GROWTH	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Fraser Lake	1268	1113	1167	988	965
Electoral Area D	1715	1682	1734	1472	1607
Regional District Bulkley-Nechako	40,856	38,243	39,208	37,896	37,737

Sources: Statistics Canada. Census Profile 2001-2021

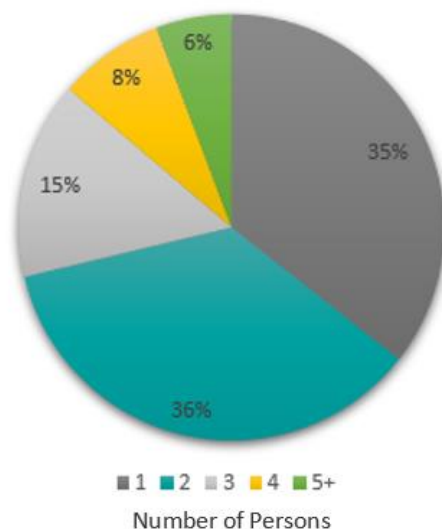
Figure (5)- Fraser Lake Population Change 2001-2021 (Graph)



(Source: Canadian Census Analyzer; Statistics Canada, 2022)

- The Canadian Census results for 2001 to 2021 reveal that the population of Fraser Lake showed a slight decline from the previous census collection but has generally remained stable since 2016. The population percentage change was recorded as -2.3%.

Figure (6)- Breakdown of Household Size (2021)



- Average Household Size= 2.2

Age Distribution and Gender

Figure (7)- Average Age of Residents (2016-2021)

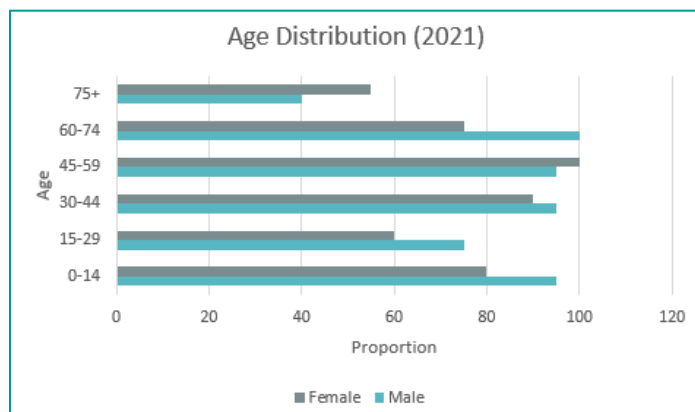
Average Age of Population: 2016-2021

Year	Total Population	Female Population	Male Population
2016	41.4	42.5	40.4
2021	42.9	43.7	42.2

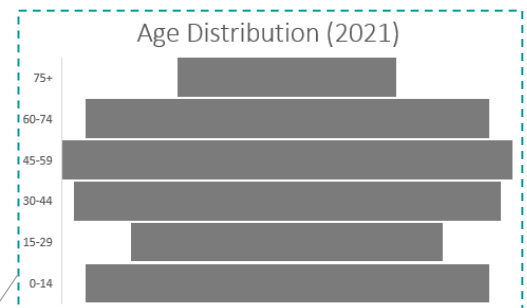
(Source: Canadian Census Analyzer; Statistics Canada, 2022)

Population Pyramid

Figure (8)- Gender & Age Breakdown (2021)



(Source: Statistics Canada, 2022)



- The 2021 census data shows that the population distribution in Fraser Lake has a strong percentage of residents within the 30-44 and 45-59 age cohorts.
- The average age of residents in Fraser Lake was found to be 42.9
- Women represented 46.6% of the population in 2021.
- Men represented 53.3% of the population in 2021.

Summary

↓	The age cohort 0-14 represented 18.72% of the population in 2016. In 2021, this dropped slightly to 18.13% of the population.
↓	The age cohort 15-29 represented 16.19 % of the population in 2016. In 2021, this decreased to 13.98% of the population.
↑	The age cohort 30-44 represented 16.70 % of the population in 2016. In 2021, residents in this category increased to 19.17% of the population.
↓	The age cohort 45-59 represented 22.26 % of the population in 2016. In 2021, the number of residents in this category decreased to 20.20% of the population.
↑	The age cohort 60-74 represented 16.70 % of the population in 2016. In 2021, the number of residents in this category increased to 18.13% of the population.
↑	The age cohort 75+ represented 8.6 % of the population in 2016. In 2021, the number of residents in this category increased to 9.84% of the population.

Funding Agencies:

The Village of Fraser Lake is thankful for the generous support provided to our community from the following funding agencies and levels of government. Without this support, many of our initiatives that work to strengthen the economic health and sustainability of our community would not be possible. We would like to thank:

- the *Federal Government* for their funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canada Summer Jobs, Heritage Canada
- the *Provincial Government* through programs such as the Northern Development and Capital Fund, the COVID restart fund, strategic gas tax funding managed through UBCM and the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and the Rural Dividend Fund
- *Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)*
- *Nechako Kitimaat Development Fund*
- *Regional District Bulkley- Nechako*
- *Northern Health*
- the *United Way of Northern British Columbia*
- *Fire Chiefs Association of BC*
- *Fire Smart of BC*
- *Red Cross Canada*
- *Summit Reforestation*, and
- the many companies and individuals who have supported Village initiatives such as our Canada Day celebrations

Thank you.