

# Report to Council



**Date:** March 20, 2023  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** 2022 Community Trends Report: A Changing Kelowna – Findings from the 2021 Census  
**Department:** Policy and Planning

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Policy & Planning Department dated March 20, 2023, with respect to the 2022 Community Trends Report.

## **Purpose:**

To introduce the 2022 Community Trends Report titled "A changing Kelowna – Findings from the 2021 Census".

## **Background:**

The annual Community Trends Report (CTR) is in its eighth year of publication. This report is one of several research reports produced annually by the Policy and Planning Department. The CTR topic changes annually in response to major trends occurring provincially, nationally, and beyond.

The CTR is not meant to establish formal recommendations. Ultimately, its aim is to understand the nature of larger trends and how they might impact the local community in the years ahead. The intent is to explore the topic and issues related to it and set the stage for the City's possible path towards new planning projects or other initiatives that may be needed in response. This allows for early consideration of where policy attention and action may be directed in the future.

## **Discussion:**

Over the course of 2022, Statistics Canada made several releases of results from the Canada-wide Census of Population that was conducted in 2021. Many of these results appeared in local media and those headlines will at this point come with no surprise: Kelowna is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, with a population that is getting younger.

This year's Community Trends Report takes a closer look at these figures to better understand these changes and what they might mean for the Kelowna of the future. For example: Why is Kelowna getting younger? Where are the people moving to Kelowna coming from? Where in Kelowna are they settling and what might their housing, transportation, workplace, and recreation needs be?

The Census of Population is conducted every five years. The results of each census, when published, are usually compared to the census from five years prior – a relatively short amount of time. A typical time horizon for city planning work, however, is 20 years. The City's Official Community Plan looks ahead to 2040. Therefore, to look forward for this year's Community Trends Report, we also look backwards to the Kelowna of 2001, investigate the results of five different censuses over the time period of 2001 - 2021, to unpack and explore how the City has changed in 20 years.

**Conclusion:**

When looking at changes in Kelowna over the past 20 years, as compared to other cities throughout BC, the changes are significant. In some cases they are unexpected and may challenge widely held beliefs about the city. This serves as a reminder that while looking to the past to help understand the future is necessary, unexpected change will occur in the future. A resilient Kelowna is one that can navigate and respond to the unexpected in a way that accommodates all of its citizens. The 2022 Community Trends report is contained in Attachment 1.

**Internal Circulation:**

Development Planning  
Partnerships Office  
Real Estate  
Social Development

Submitted by:

Robert Miles, MCIP, RPP, Long Range Policy Planning Manager

**Approved for inclusion:**



D. Noble-Brandt, Department Manager of Policy and Planning

Attachment 1: 2022 Community Trends Report: "A changing Kelowna – Findings from the 2021 Census"