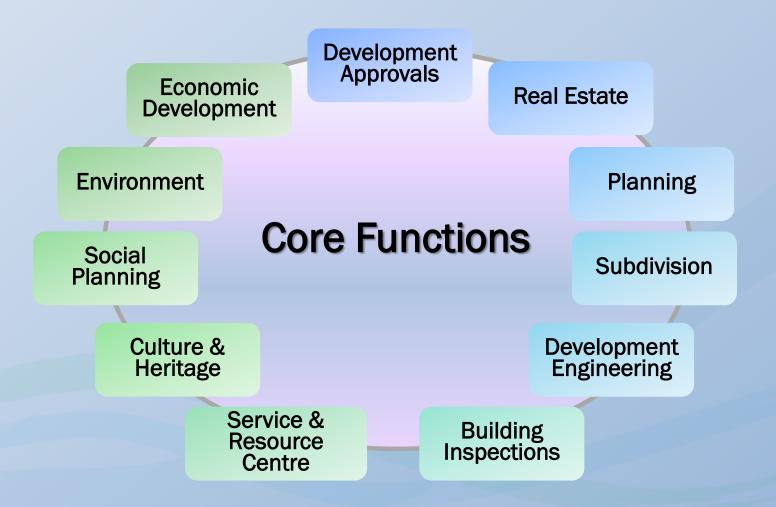
# Planning & Building Overview

# **Community Development**





#### Overview



CITY OF NANAIMO

#### Overview

Director

Subdivision

Real Estate & Business Development Community & Cultural Planning

Engineering & Environment

Building Inspections

**Current Planning** 

Permit Centre & Business Licensing



8 Excluded



64 FTE



### Planning and Building Overview

- OCP Amendment/Rezoning
  - Council / Committee / Community / Staff
- Development Permits
  - -Council / DAP / Staff
- Subdivision
  - -Staff (Statute / Bylaw)
- Building Permits
  - Staff (Building Code / Act / Bylaw)





# Planning & Building Processes



### Community Development Customers

- Different customers for P&D functions / processes:
  - Council
  - Community
  - Realtors
  - Developers
  - Applicants / property owner
  - Special interest groups
  - External government / agencies



### Legislative Framework

- Federal
- Provincial
  - Local Government Act, Community Charter
  - Land Title Act, Strata Property Act
  - Environmental Management Act
  - Building Code, Building Act,
     Homeowner Protection Act
- Other





### **External Governments/Agencies**

- Federal
- First Nations
- Provincial
  - MOTI, MoE, Island Health, Technical Safety, Archaeology Branch, Building Safety and Standards Branch, BC Housing, Port Authority.
- Regional District





# Local Government Planning Processes and Tools

- The Local Government Act provides local governments with land use management authority
- Key planning processes and tools:
  - -Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)
  - -Official Community Plans (OCPs)
  - -Zoning



#### RGS



Regional Level guides direction & location of growth in the region

#### **OCPs**

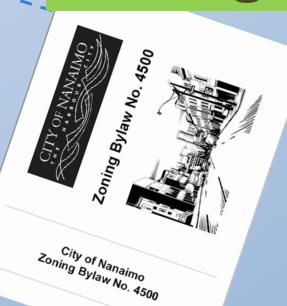
Neighbourhood & Village Plans



#### Community Level-

Sets community priorities & works towards RGS Goals

#### Zoning



#### Site Level

Regulates specific land uses, densities, setbacks



# Similarities Between these Planning Tools (RGS, OCP, Zoning)

- Authority flows from Local Government Act
- All three processes follow procedures set by provincial statute
- Changes to all require adoption of a bylaw
- All impact the rights of property owners
- All send messages as to what kind of community you want



# Similarities Between these Planning Tools (RGS, OCP, Zoning)

- All depend on elected officials to consider a wide range of interests in making land use decisions
- All require that full disclosure of information be made to the public
- All require public hearing process
- All are challengeable in court



#### Regional Growth Strategy

# Increasing Detail

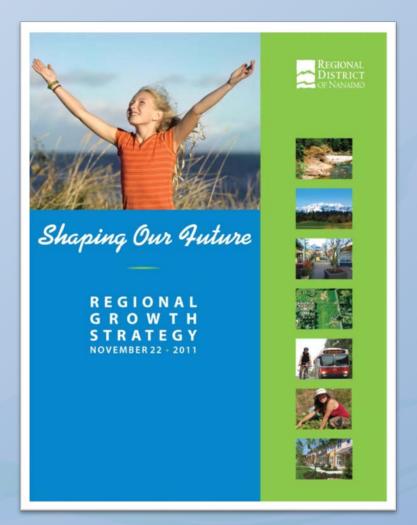


# Regional Growth Strategy

#### The purpose:

To promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources.

-Local Government Act s.428





# Regional Growth Strategy

- A strategic plan
- > A shared vision for sustainable growth
- > An agreement

To take actions that work towards shared social, economic and environmental goals



#### What Is The RGS? ... In Brief

- Agreement between municipalities and electoral areas on how growth is managed
- Covers the Regional District (except Area B)
- . Establishes a vision of how the RDN is to grow
- Sets goals and policies, as well as targets to monitor progress.
- Adopted by bylaw of the RDN Board
- First RGS adopted in 1997
- Current RGS adopted in 2011
- www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy



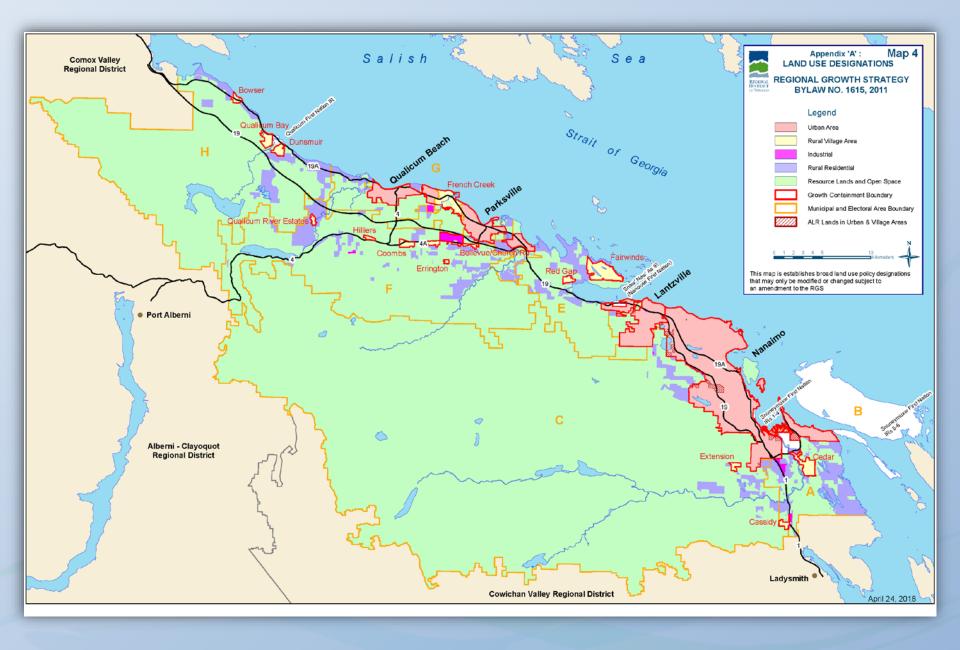
#### What are the benefits?

- Enables coordinated planning among local governments
- Regional thinking improves decisions around transit, transportation, housing, health and wellness, economic development, energy and sustainability.
- Guides development of compact, complete communities with efficient servicing:
  - Reduces GHG emissions
  - Creates places with high quality of life



#### **Growth Containment Boundaries**







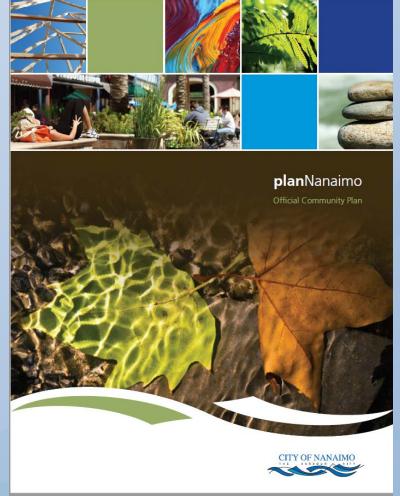
# Official Community Plans (OCP)

- Overarching vision of community development (land use, infrastructure, social, economic, cultural, environmental)
- Sets objectives and policies to guide decisions related to land use and servicing
- Designates land to accommodate for growth and housing needs
- Needs to show consistency with the RGS Regional Context Statement



#### planNanaimo

- Compliments other broad City plans and policies (Transportation Master Plan, Affordable Housing Strategy...)
- Includes Neighbourhood Plans
- Last updated in 2008
- Review scheduled for 2019



planNanaimo

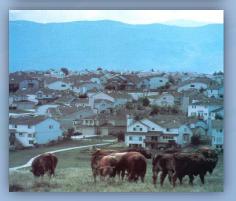


# Official Community Plans (OCP)

- Where do you want to go?
- How are you going to get there? (i.e. what kind and amount of growth)
- Where do you want it?



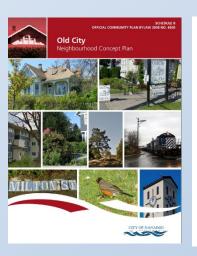


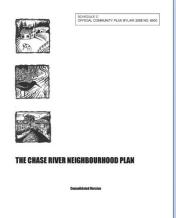


#### **Neighbourhood Plans**

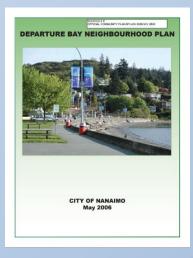
#### 10 Neighbourhood/Area Plans form part of OCP

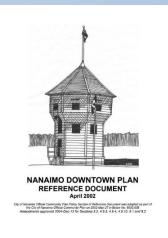




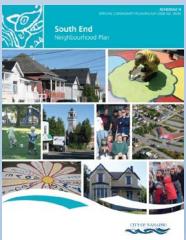


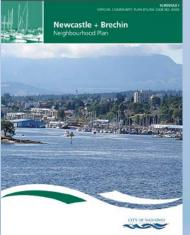


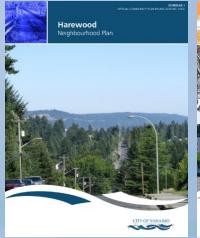














#### Blueprint to help people understand

- What they can do with their property
- What can they expect to happen around them
- What kind of infrastructure will be needed:
  - \* major roads
  - \* water; sewer, where/how much
- Long-range tool typically
   20 30 years
- Needs to be reviewed on a regular basis





# **Expectations & Engagement**

- RGS and OCPs represent community vision for long-term land use patterns and sustainability
- Plans developed with a high level of public engagement
- Guides decision making by City Council





# **Expectations & Engagement**

- Expectations of how these policy documents are used and implemented often differ between community and development:
  - Community expects policies to be implemented to achieve goals including social and environmental
  - Developers may advocate for growth without balancing broader community interests reflected by these plans





# **Zoning Bylaw**

- Implements OCP land use designations and policies
- New bylaws or amendments must be consistent with OCP policy (S.498)
- Primary regulatory tool for managing land use and density
- Within each zone, local government can regulate:
  - Use of land, buildings and structures
  - Density
  - Siting, size and dimensions
  - Parcel areas created by subdivision
- Zoning bylaws must be adopted or amended following certain procedures:
  - Development Approval Procedures Bylaw No. 3892
  - Provincial approvals
  - Statutory public hearing requirements
- Rezoning = Complete discretionary approval





#### **Development Permits**

- OCP's can designate Development Permit Areas (DPAs) for one or more of the following purposes:
  - ✓ Protection of the natural environment
  - ✓ Mitigation of risks caused by development within hazard areas
  - ✓ Form and character of intensive residential, commercial or industrial development
  - Protection of farmland
  - Commercial area revitalization
  - Development in resort regions
  - Promotion of energy or water conservation
  - Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- DPA guidelines set out the conditions for land development
- DPs can impose conditions and vary or supplement a regulatory bylaw
- Design Advisory Panel
- Officers Appointment & Delegation Bylaw No. 7031
- DPA guidelines met = No discretionary approval



#### **Development Variance Permits**

- Vary regulations in a development bylaw (e.g. building height, setbacks, parking)
- Cannot vary use or density > rezoning
- Consider localized impacts vs. broader considerations in rezoning
- No public hearing required
- Statutory notification requirement (S.498) and Development Approval Procedures and Notification Bylaw No. 3892
- DVP = Somewhat discretionary approval



#### **Board of Variance**

- Statutory requirement if you have a zoning bylaw (S. 536)
- Independent decision making body appointed by Council
- Must demonstrate minor variance and undue hardship
- Can consider variances to non-conforming uses and building siting



# Other Planning Tools and Projects

- Temporary use permits (TUPs)
- Housing agreements
- Covenant amendments / land use contracts
- Liquor licence applications
- Policy and Bylaw reviews:
  - Updates to Zoning Bylaw 4500 (e.g., cannabis regulations)
  - Parking Bylaw, Sign Bylaw, etc.
  - Collaboration on studies (Climate Adaption Study, Downtown Mobility Study, Neighbourhood Plans, OCP review)



#### Subdivision

#### **Approving Officer**

- Coordinates review and approval of subdivision applications
- Appointed by Council
- Independent decision maker with statutory duties

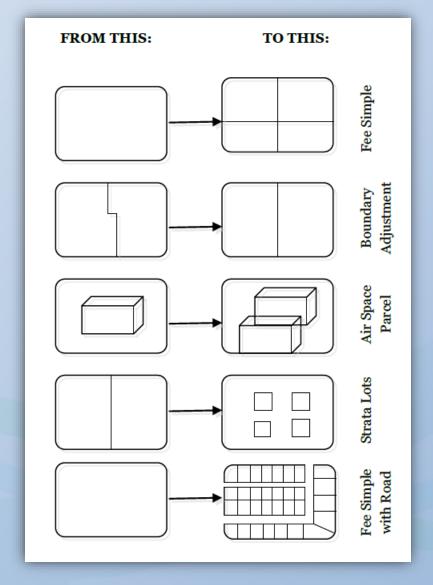
#### **Statutory Authority & Duties**

- Land Title Act
- Local Government Act
- Strata Property Act



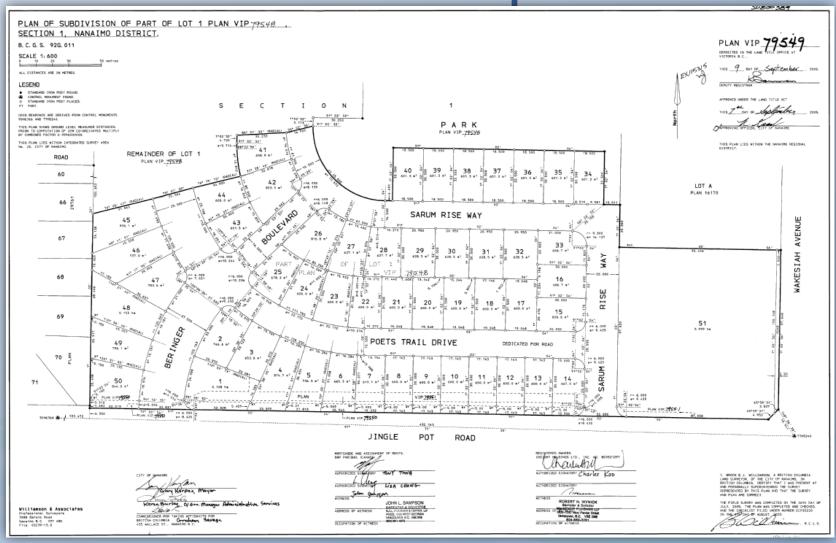


#### **Subdivision**



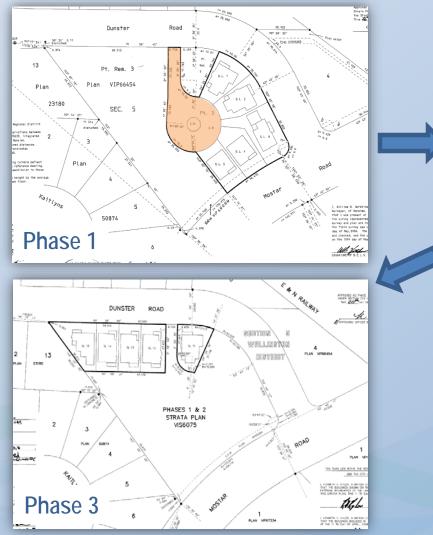


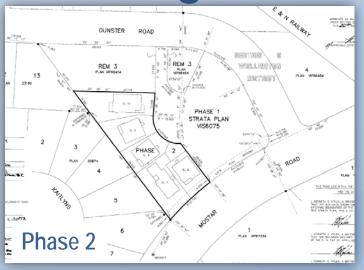
#### Subdivision - Fee Simple

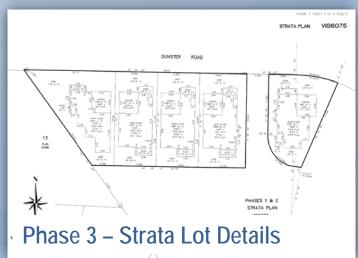




#### Subdivision – Phase Building Strata

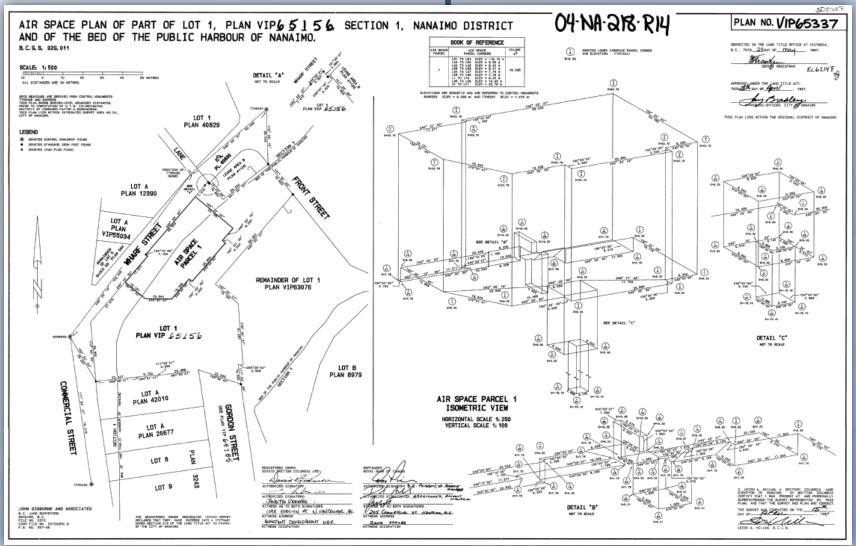








#### Subdivision – Air Space Parcels



### Subdivision – Approval Considerations

### What Does the Approving Officer Consider?

- Existing City policies & bylaws (e.g., Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, etc.)
- Provincial & Federal regulations
- Access & servicing (property & lands beyond)
- Parks and environmental protection
- Natural hazards
- Requirements of external agencies
- Public interest





### Subdivision – Approval Requirements

### **Land Title Act Requirements**

- Provision of highway, access to water (S. 75).
- Time limit for approval, public interest (S. 85).
- Matters to be considered by AO (S. 86).

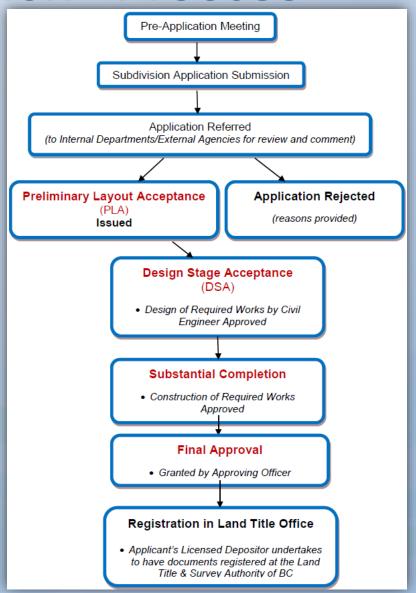
### **Strata Property Act Requirements**

- Phased strata plan approval (S. 222).
- Security for common facilities (S. 223).
- Strata completion

### **Local Government Act Requirements**

 Subdivision and Development: Requirements and Related Matters (Division 11

### **Subdivision - Process**





### **Subdivision - Process**

### **Preliminary Layout Acceptance**

- "Shopping list" of subdivision conditions
- Valid for 12 months
- Protection from change in bylaws
- Real Estate Development Marketing Act

### **Design Stage Acceptance**

Prior to construction of works

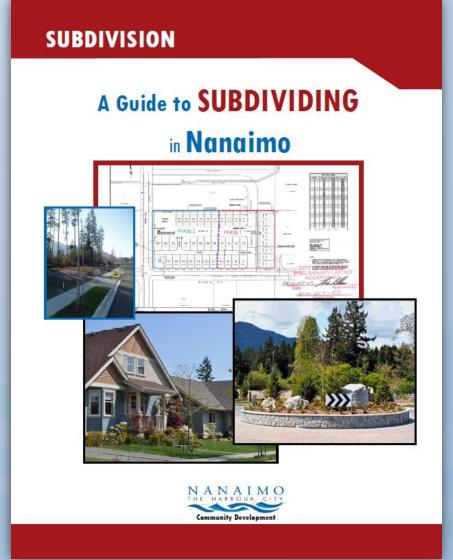
### **Final Approval**

- After construction of subdivision works
- Following completion of PLA conditions
- Time limit for approval
- Reasons for rejection





### Subdivision – Process Guide





### **Subdivision - Statistics**

	2015	2016	2017	2018
New single dwelling lots created	178	346	227	319
Active Preliminary Layout Acceptance (PLA) and Renewals	89	73	79	61
Total single dwelling lots in active PLAs	1,037	672	566	560

#### **Park Dedication through Subdivision**

	2015	2016	2017	2018
New park created	9.62 ha	2.47 ha	2.17 ha	2.02 ha
Cash-in-lieu received	\$96,500	\$123,450	\$216,965	\$453,637



#### **Welcome Home**

A Citizen's Guide to Constructing One- and Two-Unit

**Residential Dwellings** 

in Nanaimo







#### **Home Suite Home**

A Citizen's Guide to

Secondary Suites

in Nanaimo



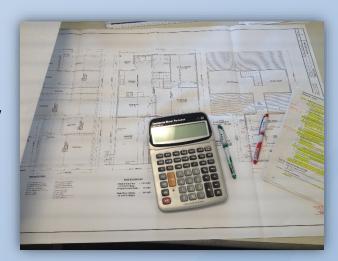


- We have two streams of applications Residential (single family/duplex) and Commercial/Multi-Family/Industrial/Public
- The Building Inspections Section receives approximately 1,400 permit applications a year and performs over 13,000 inspections annually
- Our team is made up of
  - Manager
  - Two Supervisors
  - Four Inspectors
  - Three Residential Plan Reviewers
  - Three Commercial Plan Reviewers
  - One Permit Centre Building Official for general inquiries and plan intake.
  - Three admin staff + the switchboard operator



#### Residential

- Plan intake, and documentation review
- Site inspection to review onsite conditions and provide comments to plan reviewer



- Preliminary review letter provided to applicant
- Permit assigned to Building Official for review
- Supervisor final review and issuance of permit



#### Commercial/Multi-Family/Industrial/Public

- Plan intake and documentation review
- Site inspection to review onsite conditions and provide comments to plan reviewer
- Referrals sent to Fire Department/Engineering/Planning
- Permit assigned to Building Official for review
- Referral comments, code compliance issues and any additional clarification requested by Building Official in preliminary review letter.
- Construction agreement created to house bonding for Landscape/Works and Services/community contributions/public art.
- Supervisor final review and issuance of permit



#### **Field Review**

- Inspections at predetermined intervals to ensure compliance with Building Code and bylaws
- Collect professionals field reviews on complex buildings
- Coordinate Engineering/Planning/and Fire Department

approvals at final inspection

 Issue Occupancy Certificate and close out file



#### **Record Keeping/File Management**

- Inspection records recorded electronically in real time
- Paper work accepted during course of construction scanned and filed at permit close out
- Bonding released if appropriate at permit conclusion or placed in hold back if maintenance period required





#### What else do we do?

- Respond to complaints of illegal construction and take appropriate action
- Work with owners to bring properties into compliance, and if required take
  properties forward to council for notices on title to reduce liability and make those
  with an interest in the property aware of bylaw/code contraventions
- Take properties forward for remedial action if they pose a risk
- Review business Licence referrals to ensure that the use proposed is appropriate for the building type and construction.
- Assist Bylaw Services and Fire Department with inspections on existing buildings.
- Act as a record keeping repository
- Educate and provide interpretations on Building Code, Building/Zoning Bylaws
- Demo permits
- Sign Permits
- Swimming Pool permits
- Temporary Structures
- Renovations/alterations/additions
- Irrigation Permits
- Secondary Suite Compliance





- Respond to complaints of illegal construction and take appropriate action
- Work with owners to bring properties into compliance, and if required take properties forward to council for notices on title to reduce liability and make those with an interest in the property aware of bylaw/code contraventions
- Take properties forward for remedial action if they pose a risk
- Review business Licence referrals to ensure that the use proposed is appropriate for the building type and construction.
- Assist Bylaw Services and Fire Department with inspections on existing buildings.
- Provide referrals to Planning and Subdivision
- Act as a record keeping repository
- Educate and provide interpretations on Building Code, Building/Zoning Bylaws
- Demo permits
- Sign Permits
- Swimming Pool permits
- Temporary Structures
- Renovations/alterations/additions/Tenant improvements
- Irrigation Permits
- Secondary Suite Compliance
- Occupant load calculations



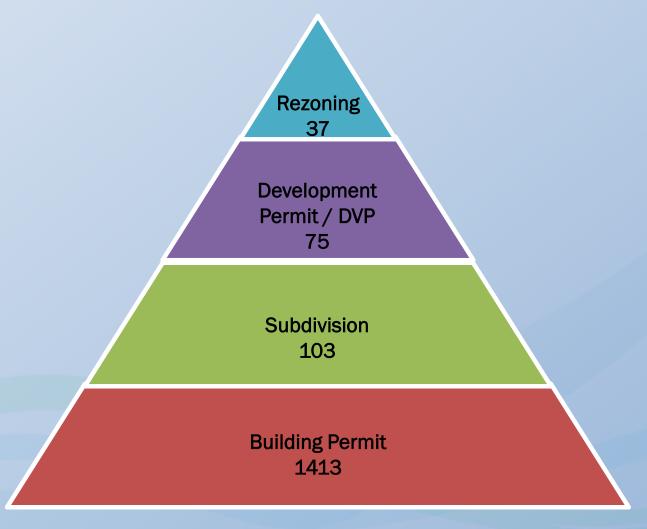


# **Permit Processing Times**

SECTION	TARGET WEEKS	2015	2016	2017	2018
►BUILDING PERMIT					
SFD	3	4.2	4.3	4.5	5.4
▶PLANNING					
Rezoning	32	28.8	37.8	31.7	38.2
Development Permit (F&C)	12	15.7	15.9	19.7	24.6
Development Variance Permit	6	6.5	5.9	6.9	7.4
SUBDIVISION					
PLA	8	8.1	12	16	15

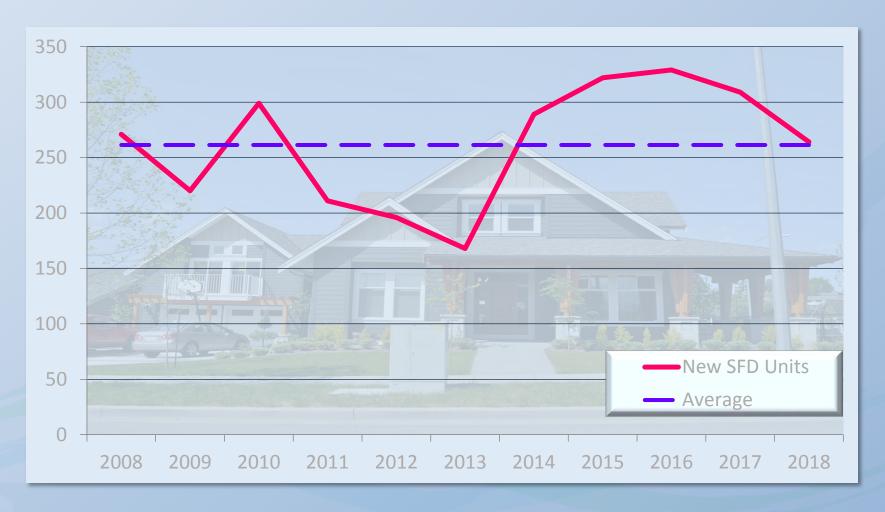


# **Applications by Type 2018**



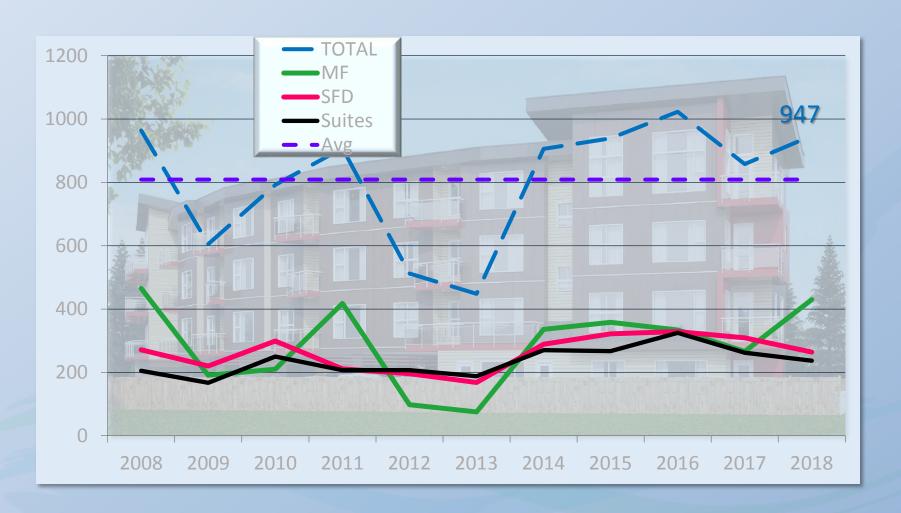


# New Single Dwelling Units Created



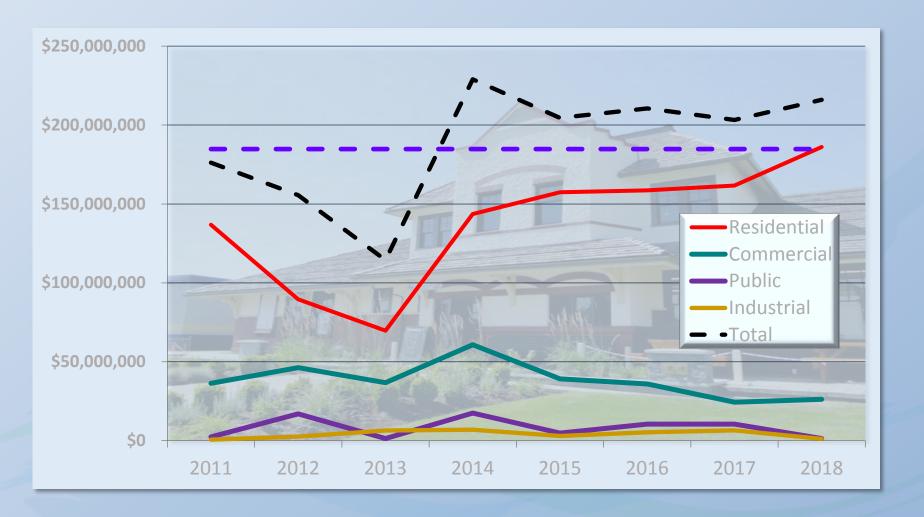


## Residential Units by Type





## Construction Value by Permit Type





## **Operational Issues**

- Provide excellent customer services while addressing legislation and regulatory environment.
- Almost all issues are service related:
  - Processing times
  - Level of review
  - Level of standards
- Complexity
- Liability
- Retention and attraction of qualified, experienced staff





## Strategy for Improvements

- Meet with industry to identify their concerns
- Identify processes improvements / schedule
- Define / document Approval Process in advance
- Update bylaws







Questions?

