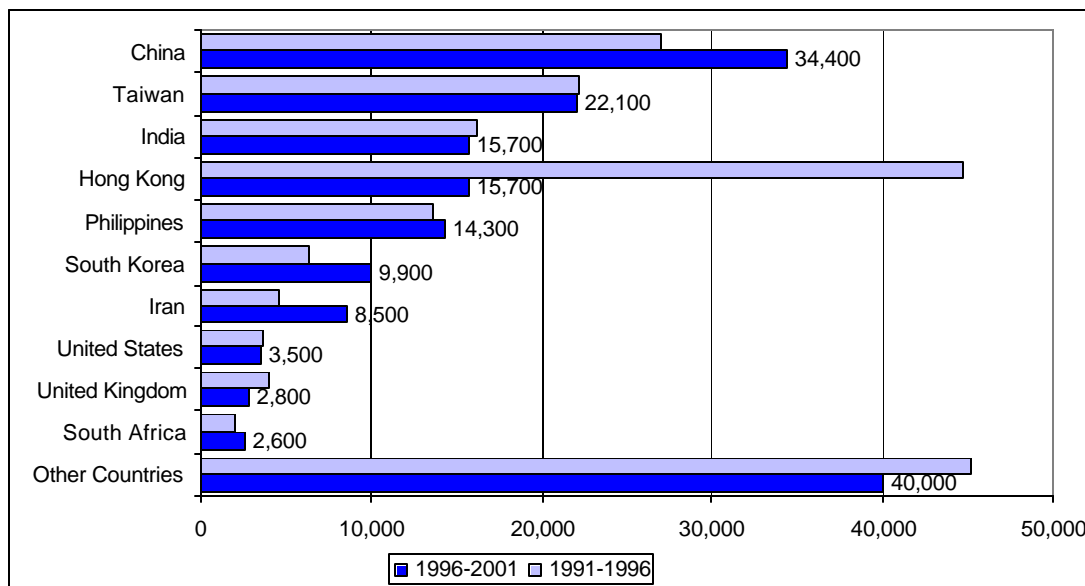


2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #6 – IMMIGRATION

International Migration Continues to Fuel Greater Vancouver's Population Growth and Multicultural Change

According to 2001 Census immigration data recently released by Statistics Canada, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area) received 169,600 additional immigrant residents between 1996 and 2001, raising the region's total immigrant population to 738,500 persons. While the inflow of international migrants into the region was down 20,000 from the record highs posted in the previous 1991-1996 period, regional gains in immigrant residents between 1996 and 2001 were the second highest ever recorded over a five-year period. The decline in regional immigration during the latter part of the 1990's was primarily due to the curtailment of immigration flows from Hong Kong. During the 1991-1996 Census period leading up to Hong Kong's 1997 repatriation with the Peoples Republic of China, Greater Vancouver had received 44,700 Hong Kong immigrants, but levels fell sharply to 15,700 in the five year period following the transfer of sovereignty.

Chart 1. Source Country of Recent Immigrants to Vancouver Metropolitan Area, 1991-1996 and 1996-2001



Statistics Canada indicates that Canada's three largest metropolitan areas (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver) attracted three-quarters of the nation's new immigrants over the 1996-2001 period, while only 6 percent of new arrivals chose to settle outside of Canadian CMAs¹. Overall, Greater Vancouver continued to be one of the most preferred metropolitan destinations sought by many of Canada's recent international migrants. 2001 Census figures show the region ranked second among Canadian CMAs, after Toronto, in attracting new immigrant residents, absorbing 18 percent of the Canadian total.

Recent Census results indicate that Asia was the most common origin of Greater Vancouver immigrant arrivals between 1996 and 2001 -- led by the Peoples Republic of China, which contributed 20 percent (34,400 persons) of the region's foreign-born residents acquired over the five-year period. Other significant contributors were; Taiwan (13 percent), India (9 percent), Hong Kong (9 percent) and the Philippines (8 percent). Collectively,

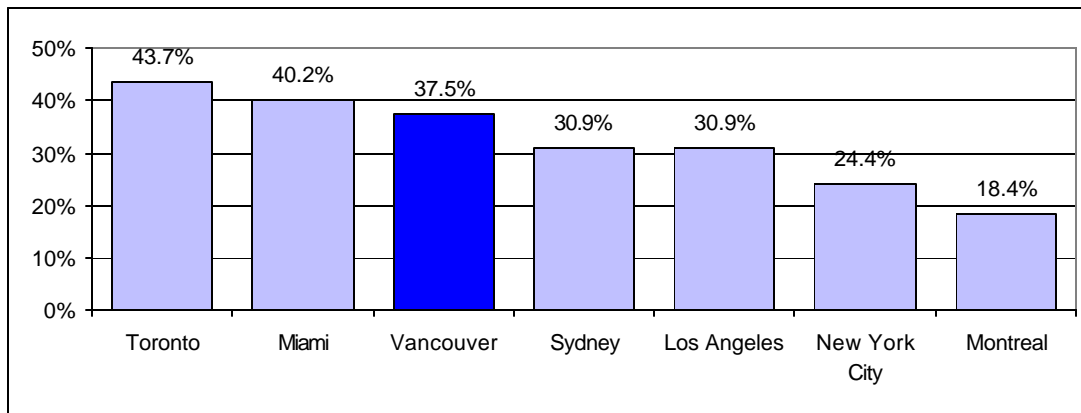
¹ Canada's Ethnocultural Portrait: The Changing Mosaic, Statistics Canada, January, 2003

2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #6 – IMMIGRATION

migration flows from these five countries accounted for 60 percent of the region's total international arrivals since 1996 and 63 percent since 1991.

Greater Vancouver's gains in immigrant residents up to 2001 raised the region's overall ratio of foreign-born residents to 37.5 percent, second to Toronto's 43.7 percent among Canadian CMAs, and considerably higher than Hamilton (23.6 percent) and Windsor (22.3 percent) which ranked third and fourth respectively. According to Statistics Canada, Greater Vancouver is recognized as a multicultural urban centre, ranking third among world-wide international metropolitan areas having significant proportions of foreign-born residents, ahead of such notables as Sydney, Los Angeles and New York City².

Chart 2. Foreign-born Resident as a Proportion of Total Population in Selected International Metropolitan Areas, 2001



International migration has been influential in fueling Greater Vancouver's population growth, particularly over the past decade. Between 1991 and 2001, immigration alone accounted for nearly 75 percent of the region's rise in population. But the impact of international migration extends far beyond increases in the number of residents. The continued arrival of foreign-born migrants has been instrumental in transforming local demographic characteristics including the region's age profile and cultural composition.

The ages of immigrants arriving to Greater Vancouver are typically younger than the average age profile of local residents. In 2001, 35 percent of the region's immigrant population indicated they were below 20 years of age at the time of their immigration to Canada. As a result, international migration fosters a lower regional average age than would otherwise occur in its absence. As well, the inflow of additional foreign-born residents into the region increases its cultural diversification. According to the 2001 Census, Greater Vancouver was home to 37 established immigrant communities -- each having a population in excess of 2,000 people. The Peoples Republic of China represents the largest local immigrant community with 101,800 residents -- 14 percent of the region's total immigrant population. Among the other large immigrant communities are: Hong Kong (86,000 residents or 12 percent), United Kingdom (69,100 residents or 9 percent) and India (67,800 residents or 9 percent).

Where are new arrivals locating?

While Greater Vancouver received 169,600 new immigrant residents between 1996 and 2001, the absorption of these new arrivals was not uniform among the region's municipalities. New immigrant arrivals typically prefer to initially settle with or near family members and friends or in vicinity of people with similar cultural

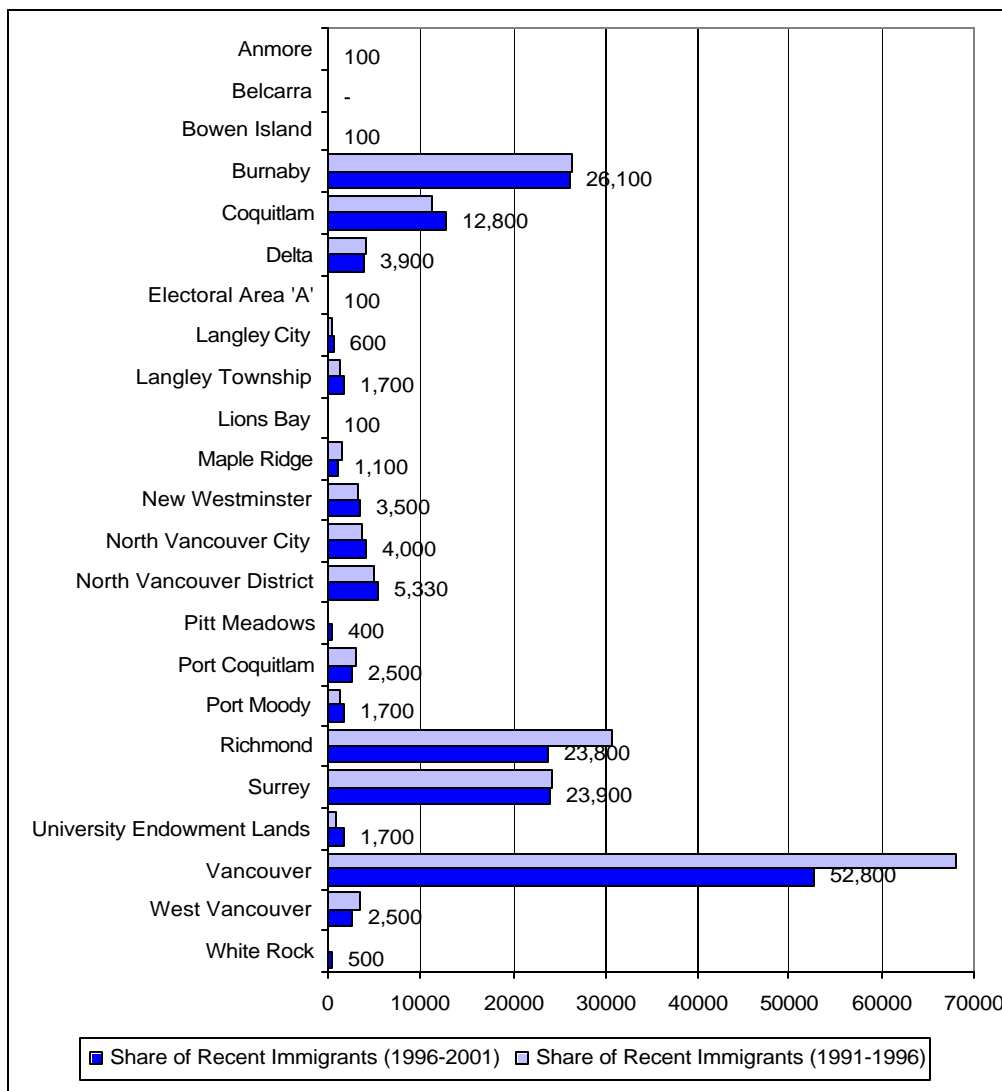
² Statistics Canada 2001 Census; U.S. Census Bureau; Australian Bureau of Statistics

2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #6 – IMMIGRATION

backgrounds. Therefore, communities having existing large immigrant populations tend to attract a greater share of new immigrant arrivals.

It's not surprising that the region's four largest municipalities (Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby and Richmond) have the largest immigrant populations. In 2001, these municipalities were home to 73 percent of the Greater Vancouver's total immigrant population. This in turn contributed to some of the region's largest foreign-born ratios -- lead by Richmond, wherein 54 percent of its residents were born outside of Canada, followed by Burnaby (47 percent), Vancouver (46 percent) and Surrey (33 percent). Collectively, these four jurisdictions attracted 75 percent of the region's new immigrant arrivals over the 1996-2001 period. Vancouver led all local municipalities in attracting 52,800 (31 percent) of the region's new immigrants – a level that was more than double those of Burnaby (15 percent), Surrey (14 percent) and Richmond (14 percent).

Chart 3. Municipal Distribution of Recent Immigrants, Vancouver Metropolitan Area, 1991-1996 and 1996-2001³



³ Historical Census population figures were used for the 1951-2001 populations while the projected population over the 2001-2026 period were derived by adding the net population growth for 2001-2026 (as reported in BC Stats P.E.O.P.L.E. 26) to the 2001 Census results.

2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #6 – IMMIGRATION

While Vancouver was the most popular landing spot for new immigrant arrivals, the city's overall regional share was down from 36 percent recorded between 1991 and 1996. The latest census figures indicate that many of Greater Vancouver's new immigrants are increasingly making their first home in areas outside the regional core, particularly in suburban municipalities that include Coquitlam, Port Moody, the Langleys and North Shore. The growing attraction for regional suburbs is largely due to increasing numbers of ethnic minorities moving from core municipalities into the outlying areas where housing prices are more affordable. Rising preferences for regional suburbs among the established immigrant residents is in turn drawing an increasingly higher proportion of new immigrant arrivals into the suburbs as well.

All current regional forecasts indicate that immigrant inflows from abroad are likely continue at high levels in the decades to follow. And as the Greater Vancouver's immigrant population rise, so will its prominence as a multicultural mosaic. If this is indeed the case, then immigration will certainly play a significant role in shaping Greater Vancouver's future population growth, development patterns and overall demographic profile.

The prospects for strong levels of international migration going forward will undoubtedly present a mix of challenges for local governments in terms of adequate and affordable housing, education, health care, transportation and settlement services for multicultural and ethnic communities. One of the strategies of the GVRD's *Livable Region Strategic Plan* is the provision of an equitable distribution of public social and cultural services and facilities to meet the pending challenges that lie ahead.

2001 CENSUS BULLETIN #6 – IMMIGRATION

Table 1. Population by Immigration Status, 2001

	GVRD	Anmore	Belcarra	Bowen Island	Burnaby	Coquitlam
Total Population by Immigrant Status	1,967,475	1,345	680	2,955	191,385	111,425
Non-permanent Residents	29,165	-	-	30	3,975	1,285
Non-immigrant Population	1,199,760	1,100	585	2,260	96,725	68,850
Immigrant Population	738,550	245	100	660	90,690	41,295
Percent Foreign-born	37.5%	18.2%	14.7%	22.3%	47.4%	37.1%

	Delta	Greater Vancouver Subd. A	Langley City	Langley Township	Lions Bay	Maple Ridge
Total Population by Immigrant Status	96,365	7,810	23,405	86,225	1,375	62,385
Non-permanent Residents	415	800	210	675	15	230
Non-immigrant Population	70,130	3,645	19,565	72,210	930	51,820
Immigrant Population	25,820	3,365	3,630	13,335	435	10,335
Percent Foreign-born	26.8%	43.1%	15.5%	15.5%	31.6%	16.6%

	New Westminster	North Vancouver City	North Vancouver District	Pitt Meadows	Port Coquitlam	Port Moody
Total Population by Immigrant Status	53,805	43,925	81,675	14,660	50,800	23,730
Non-permanent Residents	775	835	1,270	60	230	220
Non-immigrant Population	37,745	28,140	55,725	11,720	37,170	17,120
Immigrant Population	15,280	14,950	24,680	2,880	13,405	6,395
Percent Foreign-born	28.4%	34.0%	30.2%	19.6%	26.4%	26.9%

	Richmond	Surrey	Vancouver	West Vancouver	White Rock
Total Population by Immigrant Status	163,395	345,780	539,630	40,855	17,325
Non-permanent Residents	1,720	3,015	12,480	735	125
Non-immigrant Population	73,375	228,040	279,510	25,345	13,225
Immigrant Population	88,305	114,725	247,640	14,775	3,980
Percent Foreign-born	54.0%	33.2%	45.9%	36.2%	23.0%