

**For Immediate Release
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Comox Valley Population Soars

Statistics Canada released its 2006 Census Report this week, ranking Courtenay as the 4th fastest growing community in British Columbia with a population of over 5000.

“Courtenay was just behind Port Moody, Langford and View Royal,” explained Geoff Crawford, Business Development Manager, Comox Valley Economic Development, “Their population grew by 2,774 residents, a 14.47% increase since 2001. That is significant.”

Courtenay’s percentage growth is significant even when compared to Calgary and Edmonton, cities in the fastest growing Province in the country. “Edmonton grew by 9.65% and Calgary by 12.42%. Courtenay surpassed both.” said Crawford.

Other Comox Valley communities experienced growth with Cumberland increasing by 5%, Comox increasing by 6.5% and rural areas increasing by 2.5%.

Vancouver Island as a whole has seen a surge in its growth. Its growth rate of 6% exceeded the Provincial average and has hit just over 700,000. “Campbell River and Comox Valley account for the only significant population increases in the North-Central Region,” said Crawford.

Long time Valley residents have known what newcomers are just learning; the Comox Valley’s quality of life, services and amenities are second to none. “Coupled with the diverse mix of business, industry and the proximity to larger centres, the Valley is an ideal location for residents and businesses to invest.” said Crawford.

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