



# Comprehensive Community Planning Backgrounder

Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) is a priority for many First Nations who see it as an effective tool to build healthy and sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for their members.

## What is CCP?

CCP is a planning process that is driven, designed and implemented *by the community for the community*. It is an ongoing process that enables a community to plan its development (both present and future) in a way that meets its needs and aspirations. It is comprehensive because it addresses all aspects of community life, such as governance, land and resources, health, infrastructure development, culture, social issues and the economy.

## Why CCP?

Community development that is driven by a community plan strengthens governance, focuses decision-making, aligns priorities with resources and ensures a more cost effective use of resources. It gives a community the framework and process to examine its core values, create a vision for the future and work toward achieving that vision through strategies, objectives and implementation plans. Like all forms of planning, it enhances the probability and capacity for success.



## Role of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), BC Region

INAC is supportive of long-term community-based planning by First Nations. It is a specific commitment that has been made in the department's Sustainable Development Strategy. Supporting First Nations comprehensive community planning will enable the Department to be more responsive to community needs and priorities.

In 2004 the BC Region began working with five First Nations on comprehensive community planning pilot projects to test approaches and to develop planning tools and resources to facilitate community-based planning. The BC Region is now working with over 80 First Nations engaged in CCP and applying the lessons learned to develop the BC Region approach to support First Nation comprehensive community planning.

Our work also includes the development of the *CCP Handbook: Comprehensive Community Planning for First Nations in British Columbia*, the *CCP Delegate Report*, and the *First Nations Communications Toolkit*. Developed in partnership with First Nations, these resources are useful reference tools to support First Nations interested in CCP. For more information on the *Handbook*, the *Delegate Report* and other planning tools and resources please visit our website at: [www.inac.gc.ca/bc/ccp](http://www.inac.gc.ca/bc/ccp). For a copy or for more information on the *Communications Toolkit* please visit:

<http://www.causecommunications.org/spotlight-council-award.php>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Comprehensive Community Planning

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What is comprehensive community planning (CCP)?**

CCP is a planning process that is driven, designed and implemented *by the community for the community*. It allows a community to plan its development (both present and future) in a way that meets its needs and aspirations. It is comprehensive because it addresses all aspects of community life, including governance, land and resources, health, infrastructure development, culture, social issues and the economy.

### **Why would a community want to do CCP?**

CCP is becoming a priority for many First Nation communities who see it as an effective tool to build healthy and sustainable communities that improve the quality of life in their communities. It is a tool that is already being used by many First Nations in BC to achieve short and long-term results that meet the needs and aspirations of their communities. The bottom line is that comprehensive community planning, like all forms of planning, enhances the probability and capacity for success.

### **What are the benefits of CCP?**

Undertaking long term planning helps communities to address current needs and build on existing strengths, while preparing for the future. Community development that is driven by a community plan strengthens governance, focuses decision-making and ensures a more cost effective use of funding. Some benefits of CCP:

- Enables community to define vision for future
- Reinforces community values
- Provides opportunity for community healing
- Exemplifies transparent governance
- Improves decision making
- Improves communication
- Aligns priorities with resources
- Provides for program and administrative efficiencies
- Improves land and natural resource management
- Creates economic opportunities
- Facilitates investments
- Builds capacity

### **Why is Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), BC Region supporting CCP?**

Because First Nation leaders and communities through our Joint Forum process have been telling us that holistic community planning is critical.

INAC is supportive of long-term community planning in First Nations communities. This commitment is reflected in INAC's Sustainable Development Strategy 2004-2006 and departmental plans, including the INAC BC Region Strategic Plan 2007-2010. Supporting the development of sustainable First Nation communities is the goal. Supporting comprehensive community planning is one method that can be used to help achieve this goal and get results for the community.

### **Is it a new program being offered by INAC?**

No. It is not a new program but rather a new approach or philosophy. Supporting comprehensive community planning in First Nation communities will enable INAC to be more responsive to community priorities and needs. It means that INAC will encourage communities to define priorities so that INAC can better align support to allow the community to meet those priorities.

It is an approach that will fundamentally change the relationship and how INAC interacts with and supports First Nations to develop sustainable communities.

### **What is BC Region's approach?**

In 2004 the BC Region has been working with five First Nations on comprehensive community planning pilot projects to test approaches and to develop planning tools and resources to facilitate community-based planning. The BC Region is now working with over 80 First Nations engaged in CCP and applying the lessons learned to develop the BC Region approach to support First Nation comprehensive community planning. Our efforts also include raising awareness of CCP and providing learning and networking opportunities to support First Nation-to-First Nation learning and sharing of best practices.

### **Is there any funding available for community planning, or any program that First Nations can apply to for community planning?**

Since 2007/08, INAC has been able to fund CCP directly through the First Nations Infrastructure Fund, the BC Capacity Initiative, and some aspects of community planning through the Professional and Institutional Development Fund. In addition, economic aspects of planning can be funded through the Community Economic Development Program and the Community Economic Opportunities Program. Other government departments also have funding available that can support elements of community planning. Please use the contact information given below for further information on funding opportunities.

### **Does INAC oversee the development and implementation of CCPs?**

No. A comprehensive community plan is driven and developed by the community and therefore owned by the community. It is not something that government initiates or undertakes. Our role is to support and act as a resource for First Nations developing and implementing CCPs so that they can get the results that they have identified in their plans.

### **Questions?**

If you have more questions about comprehensive community planning, please contact:

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