

INVEST TOFINO



COMMUNITY PROFILE

February 2024

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Welcome from the Mayor

If you are reading this Community Profile, then you've probably visited Tofino and wondered "What would it be like to live here? Could I relocate my family here, along with my job or my business? Could I start a brand-new business?" Good! Now that you're thinking this way, you need the "411" on Tofino. How many people live here year-round? What kind of work and business opportunities exist? What kind of recreational, cultural, and learning activities are available?

People and place define so much about a community, and perhaps the most important thing to know about Tofino is that it lies within a landscape that has supported people, communities and economies for thousands of years. Our respect and care for the natural world and the people around us has continually been demonstrated and encouraged by the Nuu-chah-nulth people who first inhabited these lands, who still live here and welcome those of us who are newer to this place, and who continue to work hard to flourish and prosper in accordance with the teachings and laws of their ancestors.

Living in the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park, next door to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, and within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is a source of pride for Tofino – residents and business owners alike recognize that thriving in this region means living within the means provided by the natural environment and the social fabric of our communities. This knowledge is reflected well in the Nuu-chah-nulth principles of *iisaak* (respect with caring) and *hishuk'ish tsawalk* (everything is connected).

Long nicknamed "Tuff City" for good reasons, life in Tofino has not been without its challenges over the decades. The entrepreneurial attitude, tenacity, and active lifestyles of Tofitians help us weather stormy winters, persevere to find solutions for affordable housing, and continue to support the amenities and programs that enrich our "after work hours." In fact, for many Tofitians, the lines between work and play are blurry – our jobs, volunteer activities, and social lives are intertwined, making for rich and meaningful lives at any age.

Start a business here and you'll quickly realize that Tofino has one of the most active and supportive small business communities in British Columbia. With over 600 business licences issued annually in a community of 2,000 year-round residents, small independent businesses are truly the backbone of our local economy. Newcomers are welcomed, encouraged to contribute by getting involved in the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Tofino Business Association, or any number of community-oriented non-profits engaged in festivals, arts, culture, heritage, environment, education, and community wellness. We're all in this together, and we know that we aren't truly thriving unless our friends and neighbours are as well.

The next pages will give you the statistics and facts you need as you consider the opportunities that Tofino might have for you. However, the most compelling reasons to consider Tofino cannot be found in words and numbers - visit us, talk with us, then make a purposeful decision about becoming part of our community.

- Former Mayor, Josie Osborne

Location and Lifestyle

Rugged coastline juxtaposed by expansive white sand beaches. An engaged and creative core of 2,500 permanent residents. Nu-chah-nulth culture. Successful businesses. Quality community infrastructure. Unparalleled quality of life. For these reasons and others, the [District of Tofino](#) is the West Coast's premier tourism destination and the ideal location for passionate and creative entrepreneurs to call home.

Despite the remote setting on the northernmost tip of the Esowista Peninsula on Vancouver Island, Tofino has all the amenities that businesses need to thrive. Tofino is at the end of the only Canadian paved road to the open Pacific Ocean, and there are regular flights to Tofino's regional airport. This relative ease of access is demonstrated through the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors who come from around the world to experience Tofino's world-class offerings.

As a resort municipality and established tourism destination, Tofino offers the infrastructure, the resources and the support that visitors, residents and businesses need to thrive and feel at home. Active business associations provide support to local businesses and fiber optic internet has connected Tofino to the digital marketplace since 2016. Tofino boasts an array of businesses and infrastructure including, a hospital, pharmacy, grocery store, gas stations, hardware store, churches and over 100 community organizations and clubs.



“As an iconoclastic town with a long history, a vibrant arts and culture community, high quality infrastructure and a diversified local economy, Tofino has redefined what it means to live at the end of the road.”

History

The West Coast of Vancouver Island and the current site of Tofino have been inhabited by the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations since time immemorial. Of the 14 Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, the District of Tofino is in the Ha-houlthee (traditional territory) of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Just as life in Tofino today is intimately connected to the ocean, the ocean served as the basis for much of the culture and success of the Nuu-chah-nulth people. Prior to European settlement, the Nuu-chah-nulth population thrived on the coast, with multiple nations and village sites throughout the region. The Nuu-chah-nulth people remain a strong presence in the region, and their communities, arts, and beliefs are an important part of Tofino's culture today.

Captain James Cook was the first European to explore the Clayoquot Sound region in 1778 and the first British outpost was established in 1791. The formal settlement of the current site of Tofino took place in the early 20th century and Tofino's first doctor arrived in 1905. The completion of a logging road to Tofino in 1959 increased the local population. In 1971 the establishment of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and the addition of a paved road marked the beginning of Tofino's transition to the world class tourism destination that it is today.



Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

[Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation](#) (TFN) is a [Nuu-chah-Nulth First Nation](#) located primarily in the Clayoquot Sound region. TFN is closely connected to Tofino from social, economic and political standpoints, and the District of Tofino is located in the traditional territory of TFN. As key regional partners, Tofino and TFN work closely together on a wide range of issues including economic development, affordable housing, festivals and public works.

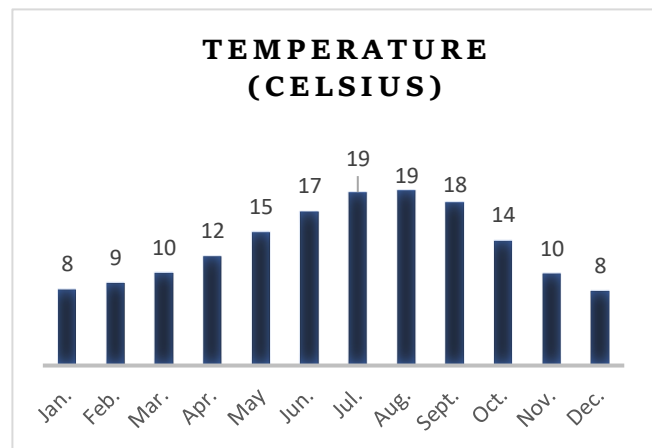
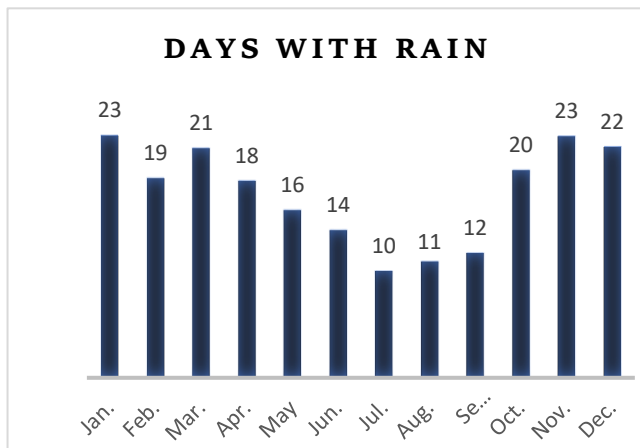
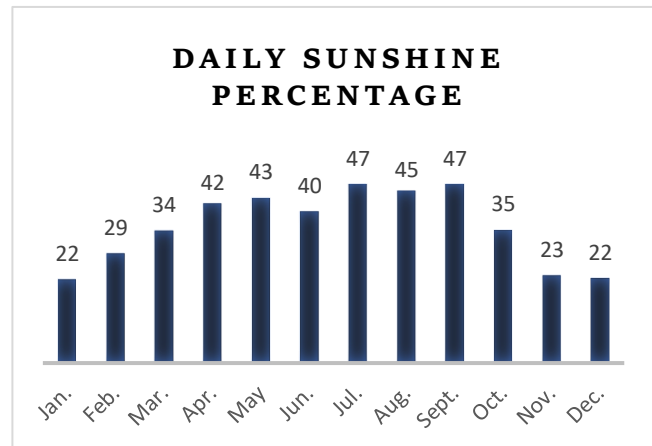
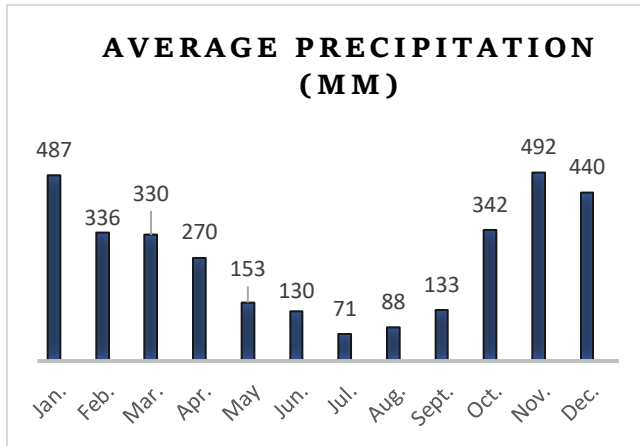


Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation is active in economic development initiatives and are widely considered a best practice example in the aboriginal and cultural tourism sectors. TFN owns and operates the luxury [Best Western Tin Wis Resort](#), and the established the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park in the Kennedy Lake watershed is one of many examples of how TFN proactively seeks to link economic development with environmental protection. TFN also operates run of the river hydro projects that help to move the Nation towards energy and financial independence. The TFN community is well regarded for its artists, carvers and entrepreneurs.

West Coast Climate

Tofino enjoys a temperate climate characterized by mild winters (more so than both Vancouver and Victoria) and relatively warm summers. As a result of Tofino’s location on the westernmost part of Vancouver Island, Tofino is one of the wettest cities in Canada, receiving approximately 3,200mm of rain annually. In comparison to the winter, summer in Tofino is warm and much drier.

For current Tofino weather, please [visit here](#).



Source: Environment Canada, Tofino Regional Airport Weather Data

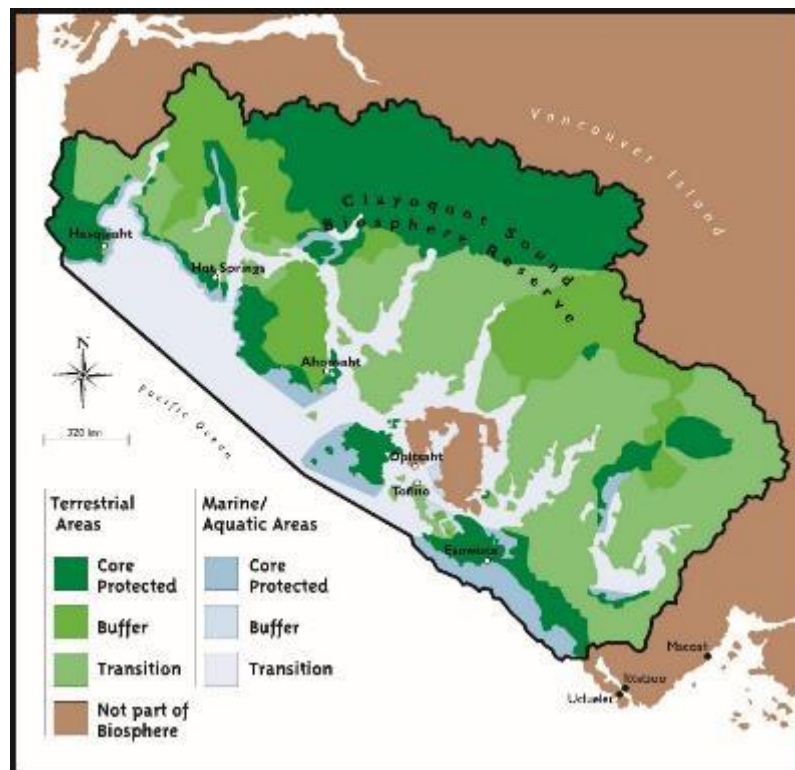
Tofino’s unique west coast climate is embraced by residents and visitors alike. The relatively warm and dry summers attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors who enjoy the area’s many outdoor recreation opportunities. The bustle of summer eventually gives way to a cozy winter season marked by improved surfing conditions, exciting storm-watching, and beach goers clad in rubber boots and rain gear. In Tofino there is no such thing as bad weather – only inappropriate clothing.

Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve

In January 2000, with the support of local First Nations, west coast communities and the Federal Government, Clayoquot Sound was designated as the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The marine and terrestrial components of the Biosphere Reserve provide habitat for many species, a significant number of which are endangered or rare. Clayoquot Sound also provides vital feeding, breeding and staging habitat for resident, migrating and transient populations of birds, marine mammals, fish, terrestrial mammals and other species. While recognizing the significance of local ecosystems, this designation goes a step further to also acknowledge the role local communities play in creating a sustainable future.

Today, the [Clayoquot Biosphere Trust](#) (CBT) manages a \$16 million endowment fund that supports grants, education, and research projects within the Biosphere Reserve region. The CBT is led by of a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of appointments from Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Yuuluʔilʔath and Toquaht First Nations, a representative from the District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Area C, as well as two at-large Directors. This governance structure creates a unique opportunity to bring communities together at the regional scale to discuss issues of shared importance. The CBT inspires a positive future by connecting people and nature through science, research, and traditional ecological knowledge.

Tofino's economy is intimately connected to Clayoquot Sound as it serves as the basis for Tofino's tourism industry and a primary reason why residents choose to live in Tofino. Ensuring the biosphere reserve's future is an integral part of Tofino's plan for sustainable economic growth.



A Sustainable Community

Our Action Oriented Sustainability Vision

Tofino's [*Vision to Action*](#) sustainable community action plan seeks to reduce and eliminate human activities that have a negative impact on the environment while supporting and encouraging actions that foster positive change.

Reduce and Eliminate:

- The extraction of materials from the Earth's crust
- The build-up of synthetic materials
- The physical degradation of the natural environment
- The negative socio-cultural conditions that undermine people's ability to meet their basic needs

Support and Encourage:

- The efficient use of energy and of renewable energy
- The use of biodegradable materials
- The use of materials produced in tight technical cycles
- The use of fast growing crops
- The use of previously developed lands

The *Vision to Action* plan articulates Tofino's community vision, goals and sustainability objectives, while also determining metrics by which to track Tofino's progress. This community plan is about transformative change as well as incremental improvements. It is a long-term process that fosters a new way of thinking, making decisions and collaborating.

“Nuu-chah-nulth culture, pristine wilderness and our eclectic community of locals carry Tofino's charm and warmth through the rainier months, making life at the end of the road a special and unforgettable experience for all.”

Government

District of Tofino's Mission

Our mission is to provide responsible and effective government that is responsive to community needs, to serve as stewards of the public trust and of public assets, and to proactively foster the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the greater community for today and tomorrow.

Our Vision

Our vision for municipal governance includes:

- Exercising responsible decision making
- Being proactive and collaborative
- Serving as stewards of a strong and diverse economy
- Being resourceful and efficient
- Being recognized as a leader in small community governance
- Being respectful of community and environment

Our Values

Respect: We respect the dignity of our people and land, and celebrate diversity.
Integrity: We act in an ethical and accountable manner.
Service Excellence: We provide innovative, effective and professional public services.
Responsible: We exercise prudence in public spending and communicate results.
Future Oriented: We are forward looking and thinking, and consider the long-term consequences of our actions.

Elected Officials

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| Dan Law | Mayor | dlaw@tofino.ca |
| Al Anderson | Councillor | anderson@tofino.ca |
| Duncan McMaster | Councillor | mcmaster@tofino.ca |
| Ali Sawyer | Councillor | sawyer@tofino.ca |
| Sarah Sloman | Councillor | sloman@tofino.ca |
| Tom Stere | Councillor | stere@tofino.ca |
| Kat Thomas | Councillor | thomas@tofino.ca |

Demographics

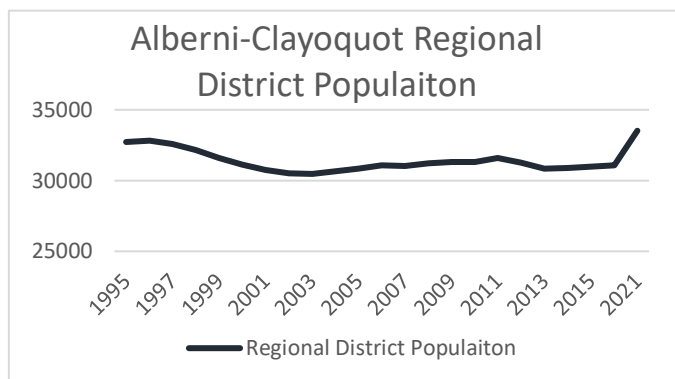
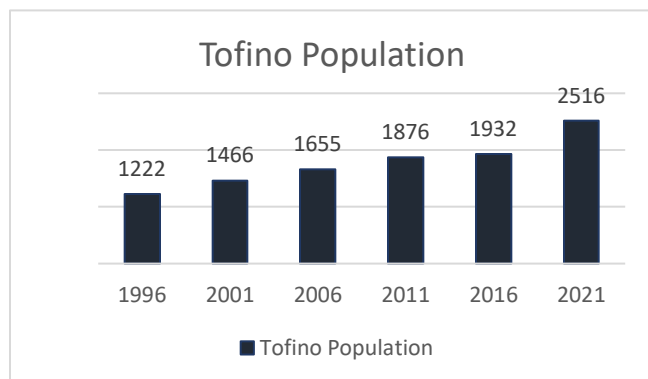
Summary

Tofino has a current population of approximately 2,516 year-round residents and a median age of 36 years old (Statistics Canada – 2016/2021 Census). During the summer, the population swells to many times this size. Tofino’s population growth rate has remained consistently high with an average increase of approximately 28 percent from 2016 to 2021. Tofino’s population is also younger than the provincial median age of 43 years old (Statistics Canada - 2021 Census).

A testament to Tofino’s resilient economy and closely knit community is the community’s positive population growth rate. Unlike other small communities on Vancouver Island, Tofino has shown its economy to be diversified, sustainable and adaptable.

Tofino is growing its tourism industry, capitalizing on emerging sectors such as educational tourism, while also overseeing infrastructure improvements including sewage treatment and attainable housing. It seems likely that Tofino’s population will continue to grow as the local economy becomes even more diverse and sustainable.

Population



Source: Statistics Canada - 2021 Census

First Nations Community Populations:

- Ahousaht: 700
- Hesquiaht (Hot Springs Cove): 52
- Tla-o-qui-aht (Ty-Histanis, Esowista and Opitsaht): 550

Source: West Coast Nest Community Profiles

Number of Private Households

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Total Number of Private Households | 945 |
|------------------------------------|-----|

Source: Statistics Canada - 2021 Census

Population by Age Group

| Age Group | Tofino Count | Tofino % Distribution | Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District % Distribution |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| 14 Years and Under | 320 | 12.7% | 14.8% |
| 15 - 64 Years | 1,445 | 75.3% | 61.1 |
| 65 - 84 Years | 299 | 11.9% | 24.1% |
| 85 Years and Over | 1 | 0.8% | 2.4% |
| Total Population | 2,515 | | 33,521 |
| Median Age | 36.4 | | 46.9 |
| Provincial Median Age | 42.8 | | 42.8 |

Source: Statistics Canada - 2021 Census

Language Knowledge

| Language | Number of People Speaking Language on a Regular Basis at Home |
|--|---|
| English | 2,245 |
| French | 15 |
| Non-official Language | 30 |
| English & French | 70 |
| English & non-official language(s) | 150 |
| French & non-official language(s) | 5 |
| English, French and non-official language(s) | 10 |

Source: Statistics Canada - 2021 Census






Economic Profile

Throughout the 1970s to the early 2000s Tofino transitioned from a resource-based economy to a tourism based economy. Today, tourism is the primary economic driver in Tofino, while traditional forms of forestry and fishing are no longer significant economic contributors. As an international tourist destination with immense natural beauty, Tofino recognizes the importance of preserving the region's natural amenities while continuing to diversify the local economy. Sectors such as aquaculture, education, food, craft industries and creative technology are growing contributors to Tofino's economy and an important part of Tofino's plan for a sustainable and diversified local economy.

The establishment of Pacific Rim National Park in 1970 and the subsequent construction of Highway 4 marked a turning point in the Tofino economy. During the 1980s and 1990s recognition for Tofino as a tourism destination increased and since that time, Tofino has become the West Coast's premier tourist destination.

Much of Tofino's economic success today results from recreational activities such as surfing, sport-fishing, whale watching, wildlife viewing, storm watching and kayaking, as well as cultural activities, food and accommodation. These tourism related services are the main source of income for Tofino residents, as indicated by the high percentage of the total workforce employed in accommodation and food services.

Top Industries as a % of Total Workforce, 2021

| | | | |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|
|  | ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICE | 27.9% | TOFINO |
| | | 4.3 % | B.C. AVERAGE |
|  | CONSTRUCTION | 9.5% | TOFINO |
| | | 8.8% | B.C. AVERAGE |
|  | RETAIL TRADE | 12.9% | TOFINO |
| | | 11.3% | B.C. AVERAGE |
|  | WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES | 6.7% | TOFINO |
| | | 4.1% | B.C. AVERAGE |
|  | PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | 6.7% | TOFINO |
| | | 9.0% | B.C. AVERAGE |

“The economy in Tofino is something very special. It's like the economy used to be in 1950s and 60s without the chain stores and outside influence. To be part of this core group that's forging this, that's fantastic.”

- Cam Shaw,
Chocolate
Tofino

| Labour Force by Industry (NAICS 2017), 2021 Census | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--------|------|
| | Tofino # | Tofino % | ACRD % | BC % |
| Total labour force | 1,630 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Employed in applicable industry | 1,620 | 99.4 | 98 | 98 |
| 11 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 55 | 3.4 | 6.2 | 2.3 |
| 113 Forestry and logging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 21 Mining and oil and gas extraction | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.9 |
| 22 Utilities | 0 | 0 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 23 Construction | 155 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 8.8 |
| 31-33 Manufacturing | 35 | 2.1 | 6.6 | 5.7 |
| 41 Wholesale trade | 10 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| 44-45 Retail trade | 210 | 12.9 | 12.3 | 11.3 |
| 48-49 Transportation and warehousing | 30 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 5.4 |
| 51 Information and cultural industries | 30 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 2.7 |
| 52 Finance and insurance | 0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 3.6 |
| 53 Real estate and rental/leasing | 30 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 2.2 |
| 54 Professional, scientific and tech. serv. | 110 | 6.7 | 4.0 | 9.0 |
| 55 Management of companies and enterprises | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 |
| 56 Admin + support, waste management services | 110 | 6.7 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| 61 Educational services | 80 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 7.3 |
| 62 Health care and social assistance | 125 | 7.7 | 15.8 | 12.0 |
| 71 Arts, entertainment and recreation | 45 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| 72 Accommodation and food services | 455 | 27.9 | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| 81 Other services (excl. public admin.) | 55 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| 91 Public administration | 90 | 5.5 | 6.9 | 5.4 |

Business and Commerce

Tofino's business environment is as closely knit and diverse as its residents. The community's services and supporting infrastructure help passionate, creative and determined entrepreneurs thrive.

Business Associations

The [Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Tofino Business Association](#) are both long standing organizations that provide businesses with important resources including: promotional opportunities, business contacts, referrals, seminars and workshops, committee opportunities, a business directory and a speaker lunch program. [Tourism Tofino](#) is the not-for-profit Destination Management Association for Tofino.

Sustainable Economic Development

Tofino strives to develop a diverse and resilient economy that maintains and enhances the natural environment, sustains local livelihoods, promotes human well-being, and supports community development. As such, Tofino has a supportive business culture that encourages community members to buy local, fosters opportunities for learning, research and development in value added industries, and develops year-round tourism offerings that mitigate tourism's impact on the environment and community.

Prominent Business Sectors

Tofino has a wide range of businesses that cater to residents and visitors alike. In April of 2022, there were a total of 622 licensed businesses in Tofino with additional entrepreneurs regularly joining the community. Some successful business sectors in Tofino include:

Accommodations

- Camping
- Bed & Breakfasts
- Hostels
- Motels
- Hotels
- Glamping pods
- Vacation Rentals

Activities

- Surfing
- Paddle-boarding
- Whale watching
- Bear watching
- Bike Rentals
- Cultural Tours
- Boat and Plane Charters
- Sea Kayaking
- Sports Fishing
- Hiking

Shopping & Retail

- Boutiques
- Gift & Art Galleries
- Specialty Food Stores
- Outfitters
- Surf Stores
- Clothing Stores

Services

- Spa & Wellness
- Restaurant & Cafés
- Travel & Transport
- Real Estate
- Wedding & Events
- Construction

Resources

- Fin-fish Aquaculture

Arts, Culture and Wellness

Tofino is home to a variety of cultural amenities and is well known for its galleries, festivals and community organizations.

The **Tofino Community Hall** is used for a range of activities and programs, some of which are offered by the Tofino Parks and Recreation Program. The Hall is also used for public and private special events.

The **Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre** Association further enhances and enriches the cultural well-being of the Tofino community by hosting big-screen movies, small stage productions and cultural events in its 72-seat theatre.

The **Pacific Rim Arts Society** is a highly active arts and culture organization that advocates for the local artisan community and runs special events and festivals to the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

The Tofino community offers three **places of worship** including: St. Columba Anglican, St. Francis of Assisi, and Tofino Bible Fellowship.

Culture and Festivals

Tofino hosts a variety of festivals and special events throughout the year that showcase many unique aspects of Tofino. Some of Tofino's most popular festivals and events include:

- Pacific Rim Whale Festival
- Tofino Public Market
- Tofino Jazz Festival
- Surf's Up, Tofino
- Bruhwiler Kids Classic
- Edge to Edge Marathon
- Tofino Shorebird Festival
- Feast Tofino
- Queen of the Peak
- Rip Curl Pro

Recreation Amenities

The Tofino Recreation Commission is an advisory board to Council that advocates for recreational opportunities for all community members. The Tofino Parks and Recreation Department offers drop in events and activities for people of all ages. Parks and Recreation also leads seasonal camps and events for both adults and children. Popular camps include dinosaur camp, gymnastics camp and SUP camp. Key recreation infrastructure includes parks, playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, a bike park and a skate park.

Health and Wellness

Health and wellness is an important component of life in Tofino. The community has a [hospital](#) with on-call physicians, 5 emergency rooms, 10 acute medical inpatient beds, laboratory services, medical imaging and ambulatory care. Tofino also has a medical clinic and two pharmacies, as well as acupuncture and herbal medicine service providers.

Housing and Neighbourhoods

As a resort municipality, affordable housing is an important issue in Tofino. Residential property in Tofino consists mainly of single-detached homes, although construction of semi-detached homes and row-house units has increased in recent years.

In response to this issue, Tofino encourages smart growth development that keeps neighbourhoods compact, functional and livable. Ongoing community efforts to develop affordable housing options for residents, staff and seasonal workers, combined with the newly re-incorporated Tofino Housing Corporation will support housing stock diversification.

| Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type | | |
|---|------|------|
| | 2021 | 2016 |
| Total Occupied Dwellings | 945 | 755 |
| Single-detached house | 480 | 410 |
| Movable dwelling | 90 | 60 |
| Semi-detached house | 80 | 75 |
| Row house | 80 | 55 |
| Apartment, duplex | 80 | 70 |
| Apartment | 125 | 90 |
| Other | 10 | 5 |

Source: Statistics Canada – Census 2021, 2016

Tofino’s neighborhoods are functional, livable and offer multi-modal connections to downtown and other neighborhoods. Access to key commercial nodes from neighborhoods is provided by Highway 4 and a multi-use pedestrian and bike path. Most beaches in the Tofino region are publicly accessible.



Education

Early Education

The Tofino Community Children’s Centre is a group day care/out-of-school care facility that offers enriched, quality programming that enables children to learn and grow. The Centre focuses on helping children to master their world through play and exploration.

School District 70 (Alberni)

Tofino falls within the boundaries of School District 70 and the Wickaninnish Community School is located in Tofino (K-7). The closest secondary school is located in Ucluelet, approximately 40 kilometers south of Tofino.

| Wickaninnish Community School Enrollment |
|--|
| 250 |

School District 70 (Feb. 2024)

Educational Tourism

In its continued effort to diversify the local economy, the District of Tofino has focused on developing opportunities for educational tourism.

[West Coast N.E.S.T.](#) (Nature, Education, Sustainability, Transformation) helps people find courses and transformative learning experiences with nearly 100 community organizations on the West Coast, from Hesquiaht in the north to Ucluelet in the south. As a collective of multiple organizations, West Coast N.E.S.T. emphasizes outdoor education and place-based learning experiences that celebrate curiosity and spark meaningful connections by helping people find opportunities to research or study in a spectacular setting.

Research & Educational Initiatives

Throughout the years, Clayoquot Sound has been home to innovative research, monitoring, education and training initiatives funded by a variety of groups, from local government agencies to international students. The Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Trust (CBT) has supported research, as they believe that a better, more sustainable way of life requires knowing how the region’s ecosystems work. The CBT also has a library and conducts the biennial [Vital Signs](#) report that combines social, cultural, economic and environmental information to capture the state of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region and measure the vitality of its communities.

Other research initiatives are being conducted by various non-profit organizations based in Tofino, including [Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society](#), [Cedar Coast Field Station](#), and [Raincoast Education Society](#).

Transportation and Infrastructure

Getting to Tofino

Tofino is accessible by Highway 4 and is approximately 200kms from Nanaimo and approximately 300kms from Victoria. The Tofino Bus provides frequent service from Tofino to major cities around Vancouver Island and the mainland. In addition to road access, there is regular plane service to and from Tofino's regional airport. Flight time from Tofino (YAZ) to Vancouver (YVR) is under an hour. Regular flight service to Tofino is available through Cascadia Air, Harbour Air and Pacific Coastal Airline.

Distance to Major Centers

| Metro Area | Distance from Community |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Vancouver | 281 km |
| Victoria | 315 km |
| Seattle | 512 km |
| Portland | 726 km |

Commercial Airports (Closest)

| Airport Name | # of Runway | Runway Lengths | Hub Status | Distance from Community |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Long Beach Airport | 3 | 1524 m | Commercial | 18 km |
| Nanaimo Airport | 1 | 2012m | Commercial/CFB | 214 km |
| Comox Valley Airport | 1 | 3048m | Commercial/CFB | 234 km |
| Campbell River Airport | 1 | 1524 m | Commercial | 259 km |

Source: BC Ministry of International Trade research, 2015

Note: Flights to international destinations vary seasonally for all international airports.

General Aviation Airports (Closest)

| Name | # of Runways | Runway Lengths | Distance from Community |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Alberni Valley Airport | 2 | 1219 m | 113 km |

Source: BC Ministry of International Trade research, 2015

Note: Flights to international destinations vary seasonally for all international airports.

Ocean Ports (Closest)

| Port Name | Distance from Community |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Port Alberni | 123 km |
| Nanaimo | 201 km |

Source: Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia's BC Ports Handbook, 2014

Customs Ports of Entry (Closest)

| Name | Location | Type (airport/marine road/rail etc.) | Distance from Community |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Port Alberni | 2750 Harbour Rd Port Alberni | Marine | 123 km |
| Nanaimo Airport | 3350 Spitfire Rd Cassidy | Airport | 214 km |
| Cowichan Bay | 175 Ingram St Duncan | Marine | 259 km |

Source: Canada Border Services Agency, 2015

Local Infrastructure

The District of Tofino is undertaking a Liquid Waste Management Plan, which will provide for secondary treatment of wastewater discharge from the community. Garbage and recyclable materials are regularly collected by the Regional District, and there is a recycling depot in Tofino and a bottle depot in Ucluelet. Tofino businesses, residents and visitors have access to mobile phone service and fiber optic internet which delivers internet speeds of up to 940 mbps.

Tofino is a leader in renewable energy technologies, with several electric vehicle charging stations located throughout the District. In 2008, Tofino was recognized as a SolarBC community due to the efforts of some tourism service operators to harness solar energy to meet increased hot water demands from tourists. Tofino has also been recognized by the Canadian Wood Council for its commitment to using wood products in construction.

There are also well-developed road networks and a pedestrian/bicycle pathway throughout the District. These roads and pathways connect neighbourhoods to Tofino's economic hubs, community services and recreational opportunities.



Utilities

Electric Power

| Provider | Website | Small Service Rate | Medium Service Rate | Large Service Rate |
|---|---|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) | http://bchydro.com | 0.125/kWh | 0.097/kWh | 0.061/kWh |

Source: BC Hydro, 2022

Note: Published rates are estimates only. See individual utility for quotes at required service level.

Network Coverage

| Broadband Coverage | DSL Coverage | Cable Coverage | Fixed Wireless Coverage | Mobility Coverage | Satellite Coverage |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 96.0% | -- | -- | 100.0% | -- | -- |

Source: BC Ministry of International Trade research; Integrated Cadastral Information Society, 2015

Note: Service area definitions are for general information only. Contact individual providers for site planning.

Telecommunications

| Provider | Website |
|------------------------------|---|
| Telus Communications Company | http://telus.com |
| Bell Canada | http://bell.ca |
| Rogers Wireless Inc. | http://rogers.com |

Note: Major providers only on this list. See community for more detail.

Taxation

Property Tax (2022)

| Purpose | Residential | Utility | Business Other | Recreation Non profit |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Municipal | 1.184315 | 26.220580 | 6.939743 | 6.039356 |
| Long Term Debt | 0.019523 | 0.353780 | 0.085019 | 0.081546 |
| Capital and Infrastructure Levy | .650547 | 11.788771 | 2.833023 | 2.717295 |
| Regional District | 0.355402 | 1.243907 | .870735 | .355402 |
| Hospital | 0.146674 | 0.513360 | 0.359352 | 0.146674 |
| BC Assessment | 0.0349 | 0.4662 | 0.1036 | 0.0349 |
| MFA | 0.0002 | 0.0007 | 0.0005 | 0.0002 |
| Library | 0.082779 | 1.500066 | 0.360489 | 0.345763 |
| School | 1.125 | 12.7200 | 3.5200 | 3.5200 |
| Police | 0.1522 | 0.5327 | 0.3729 | 0.1522 |
| Total Rate by Class | 3.5642 | 55.3916 | 15.7908 | 11.9129 |

Source: District of Tofino

Note: Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed value

Corporate Income Tax (2023)

| | General Tax Rate | Small Business Tax Rate |
|------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Federal | 15.0% | 9.0% |
| Provincial | 12.0% | 2.0% |

Source: Canada Revenue Agency

Note: Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed value

Personal Income Tax (2024)

| | Earned Income Rate |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Federal | 15.0% - 33.0% |
| Provincial | 5.06% - 20.05% |

Source: Canada Revenue Agency

Note: Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed value

Sales Tax (2024)

| Sales Tax | Tax Rate |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Federal General Sales Tax (GST) | 5.0% |
| Provincial Sales Tax (PST) | 7.0% |

Source: Canada Revenue Agency

Note: Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed value

Items Subject to Sales Tax (2022)

| Item | GST | PST |
|---|------------|------------|
| Electricity - solely residential | 5% | Exempt |
| Electricity - commercial | 5% | Exempt |
| Natural gas - solely residential | 5% | 7% |
| Natural gas - commercial | 5% | 7% |
| Heating oil - solely residential | 5% | Exempt |
| Municipal water | -- | Exempt |
| Sewage services | -- | Exempt |
| Hazardous waste disposal | -- | Exempt |
| Machinery and equipment - production (qualifying PME) | -- | Exempt |
| Machinery and equipment - non-production | -- | 7% |

| | | |
|---|------|------------|
| Machinery and equipment - pollution control (qualifying PME) | -- | Exempt |
| Machinery and equipment - office furniture/fixtures/equipment | 5% | 7% |
| Building construction materials | 5% | 7% |
| Manufacturers' raw materials | 5% | Exempt |
| Safety equipment | 0-5% | Exempt |
| Standard software | 5% | 7% |
| Custom software (qualifying) | 5% | Exempt |
| Intangible property | 5% | Nontaxable |

Source: Canada Revenue Agency

Note: Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Contact Us

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Invest

