



Median Age (Updated November 2016)

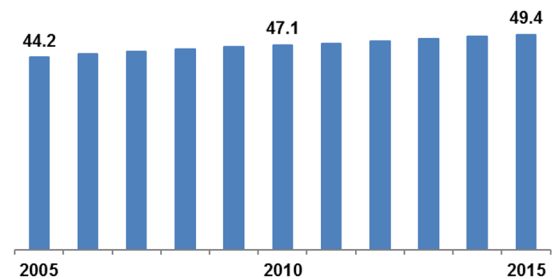
The Island Coastal region had an estimated median age of 49.4 years in 2015. It remains the oldest region in BC, as it has been since about 1998, when it surpassed the Southern Interior.

Population aging is happening in all parts of BC due to a combination of longer lifespans and declining birth rates. Migration patterns are also very influential as popular retirement areas like the Island Coastal and Southern Interior regions have a higher share of incoming migrants in the older age groups, whereas the Major Metros typically attract more younger Canadians as well as international immigrants.

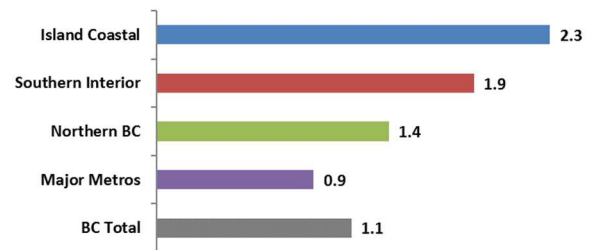
Trends over the last 30 years are consistent with the reputation of Vancouver Island and the Coast as a leading retirement destination. But the population cannot age forever, and at least according to BC Stats, the aging of the Island Coastal region is nearly over.

The regional median age is projected to level off in the next few years, peaking in 2021 at just under 50 years of age before entering a long and slow decline. Other BC regions will continue to get older, particularly those that are currently the youngest.

Island Coastal Median Age (Estimated)



Change in Median Age by BC Region, 2010-2015



Estimated Median Age* by BC Region

Region	Estimated Median Age						Change in Last Year, 2014-2015	Change in Last 5 Years, 2010-2015
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Island Coastal	47.1	47.3	47.9	48.5	48.9	49.4	0.5	2.3
Southern Interior	44.4	44.9	45.2	45.7	46.0	46.3	0.3	1.9
Northern BC	38.4	38.8	39.0	39.2	39.3	39.8	0.4	1.4
Major Metros	39.5	39.8	40.0	40.2	40.3	40.4	0.1	0.9
BC Total	40.4	40.6	40.8	41.1	41.3	41.6	0.3	1.1

Source: BC Stats Population Projections, released August 2016

*Note: The median age is the point where half the population is younger and half is older.

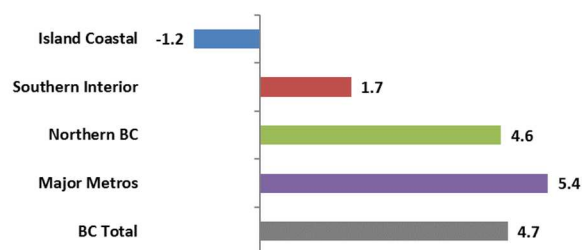
By 2040, if the projections prove correct, the Island Coastal region will have a median age of just over 48 while the BC median is 46. The Southern Interior will have a median of 48, the Major Metros will be 46 and Northern BC will be 44, suggesting regional age profiles across the entire province will converge.

Within the Island Coastal region, the median age ranges from a low of 44 in the RD of Mount Waddington to a high of 54 in the Sunshine Coast RD (see table below).

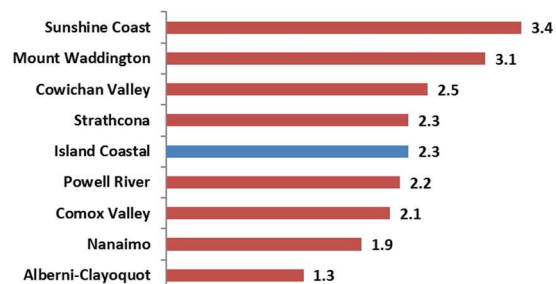
Changes in the median age over the last five years vary across the region. The largest increases are in the Sunshine Coast and Mount Waddington RDs, likely from a combination of incoming 50+ residents and the unfortunate loss of some younger residents. The modest increase in the Alberni-Clayoquot median age suggests the attractiveness of the RD, including Tofino and Ucluelet, to younger residents, as well as fewer incoming retirees than other parts of the region. Note that much better insight into regional population trends will become available when 2016 Census results are released throughout 2017.

Looking ahead, the median age is projected to decline across the entire region, with the largest change in the two RDs that are currently oldest – Sunshine Coast and Powell River.

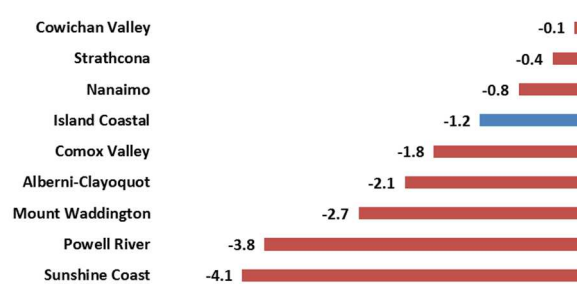
Projected Change in Median Age by BC Region, 2015-2040



Change in Median Age, 2010-2015



Projected Change in Median Age, 2015-2040



Estimated Median Age* by Regional District within Island Coastal Region

Region	Estimated Median Age						Change in Last Year, 2014-2015	Change in Last 5 Years, 2010-2015
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Mount Waddington	41.0	41.1	41.8	42.3	42.8	44.1	1.2	3.1
Alberni-Clayoquot	44.5	44.1	44.5	45.0	45.3	45.8	0.5	1.3
Strathcona	45.2	45.5	46.1	46.7	47.0	47.6	0.5	2.3
Cowichan Valley	45.9	46.4	47.0	47.6	48.0	48.4	0.4	2.5
Comox Valley	47.2	47.5	48.0	48.6	49.1	49.4	0.3	2.1
Nanaimo	48.1	48.4	49.0	49.4	49.8	50.0	0.2	1.9
Powell River	49.9	50.1	50.6	51.2	51.6	52.2	0.6	2.2
Sunshine Coast	50.7	51.1	51.7	52.5	53.2	54.1	0.9	3.4
Island Coastal	47.1	47.3	47.9	48.5	48.9	49.4	0.5	2.3

Source: BC Stats Population Projections, released August 2016

*Note: The median age is the point where half the population is younger and half is older.

Appendix: Geographic Areas

The four BC regions shown in this report are based on amalgamations of regional districts. Note that the Island Coastal boundaries are an exact match for the area covered by the ICET, but the Southern Interior and Northern BC regions do not exactly match the boundaries of BC's other regional trusts (the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the Northern Development Initiative Trust).

Island Coastal

Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox Valley, Strathcona, Mount Waddington, Powell River, Sunshine Coast

Southern Interior

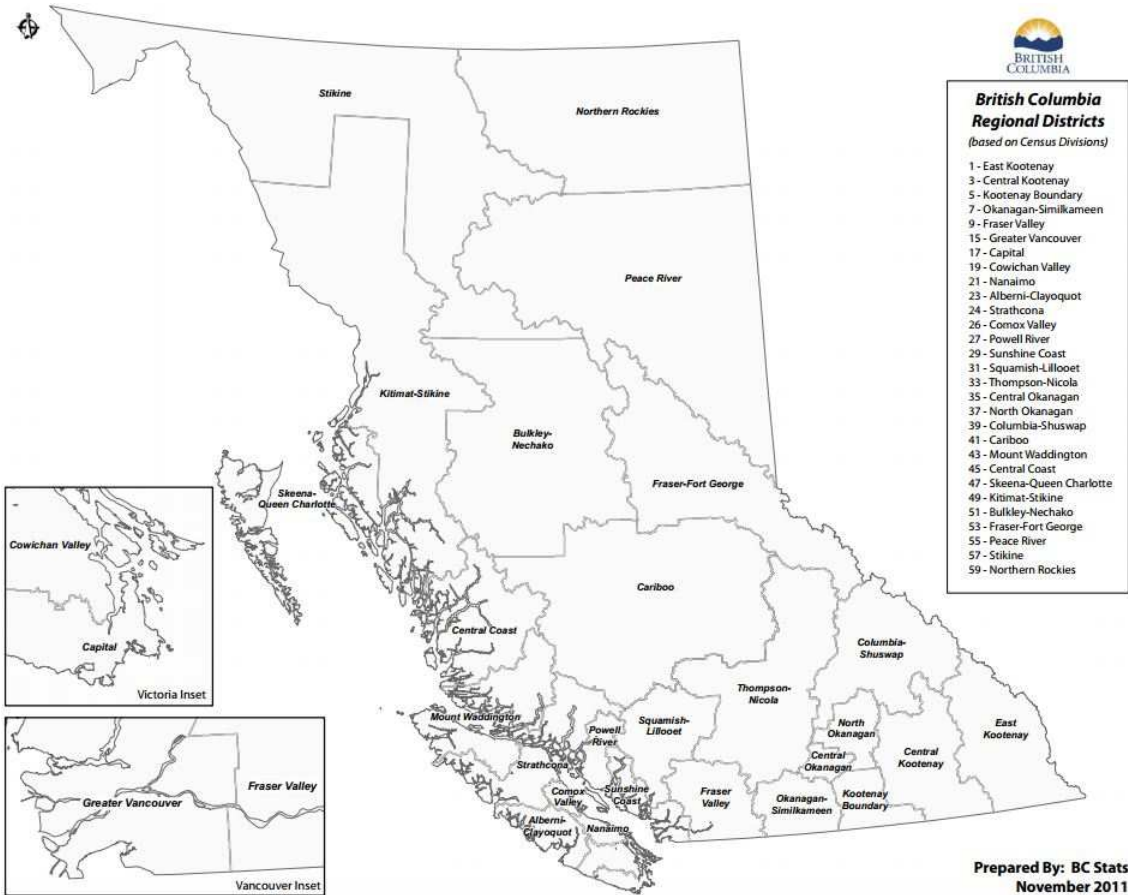
East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Kootenay-Boundary, Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Okanagan, North Okanagan, Columbia-Shuswap, Thompson-Nicola, Squamish-Lillooet

Northern BC

Cariboo, Fraser-Fort George, Peace River, Northern Rockies, Bulkley-Nechako, Stikine, Kitimat-Stikine, Skeena-Queen Charlotte, Central Coast

Major Metros

Capital, Greater Vancouver, Fraser Valley



Prepared By: BC Stats
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