



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING



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WHAT IS IT?

Comprehensive Community Planning is an **inclusive process** that looks at the **big picture** and establishes a **shared vision that the whole community** can work towards achieving. The process brings community members, staff, and leadership together to address key areas such as health, education, culture, housing, land use and development, jobs, and governance. A Comprehensive Community Plan (or CCP) includes both a vision and a plan for action, and helps the community answer five basic questions:



WHY DO IT?

Developing a CCP provides staff and leadership a chance to engage members in planning their future. This process gives everyone a chance to participate in shaping the future of their community. By working together everyone gains new skills, feels **more committed to the outcomes**, and often strengthen their sense of trust and confidence in each other. Chief and Council in particular benefit from a **clearer understanding of members' priorities**, and are better able to determine priorities and clarify important decisions.



- ▶ *Where have we been?*
- ▶ *Where are we now?*
- ▶ *Where do we want to go?*
- ▶ *How do we get there?*
- ▶ *Have we arrived?*

HOW TO DO IT?

A CCP has three key requirements:

✓ **Be strategic:** The planning process should be smart and resourceful. Member engagement needs to be both effective and meaningful and result in strategic priorities and actions.

✓ **Be participatory:** Effective CCPs are created by the whole community. This includes on- and off-reserve members, youth and Elders, and Chief and Council.

✓ **Be flexible:** Timelines can change and evolve, along with funding and resources. An effective CCP planning process requires a clear work plan, but also must be able to adapt to new realities.



WHO ARE WE?

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EcoPlan is a small, Vancouver-based firm of planners and environmental professionals specializing in community and strategic planning. We work with First Nations to help create and implement CCPs, while developing community skills and capacity along the way. ***We don't presume to have the answers, instead we specialize in helping communities find their own solutions and priorities.*** We know every community is unique and we work closely with members, staff and leadership in developing their CCP and making sure it fits the community context.

Over the years, we have worked on almost a dozen CCPs in BC and Ontario. Three of our CCPs—Musqueam Indian Band, Animiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek and Kwikwasutinux Haxwa'mis First Nations (KHFN)—have been recognized with both provincial and national planning awards, including the first national planning award ever won by a First Nation in Canada (KHFN).

