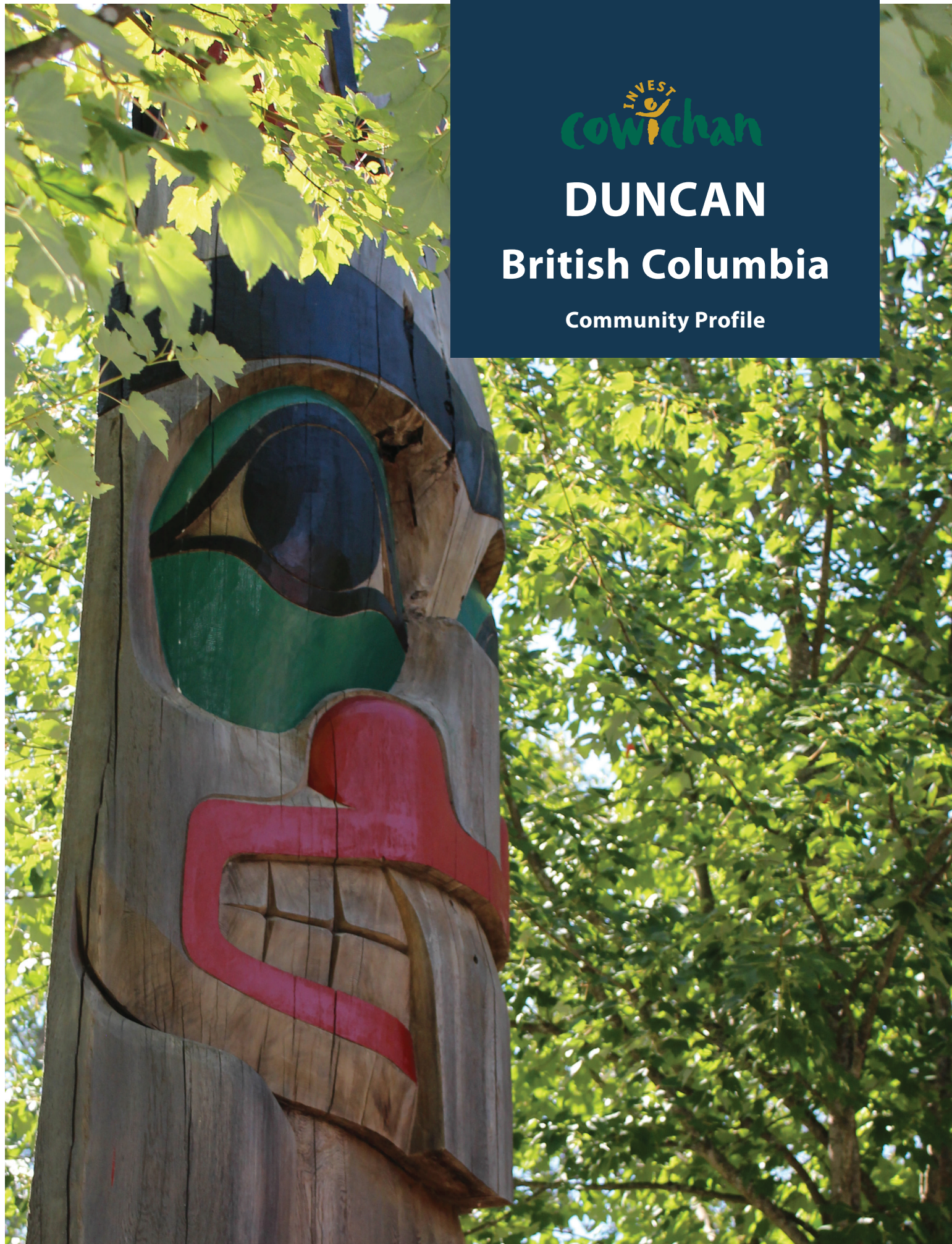




DUNCAN

British Columbia

Community Profile



DUNCAN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Location: Southern Vancouver Island

Key Economic Sectors: Tourism, service industry

Population: 4,932 (2011 Census); 43,252 (market area)*



Duncan is a walkable and senior-friendly community. We have a goal to be one of the most livable small towns in Canada. For business, Duncan serves as the “downtown” for surrounding communities. A lot of companies are setting up here because we’re open and welcoming to investment.

– Mayor Phil Kent

INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

Duncan serves as an economic hub for the Cowichan Region. We provide healthcare, retail and professional services and cultural tourism. We are a major business centre for the fishing, farming, forestry and tourism industries; key drivers of the regional economy.

DOING BUSINESS IN DUNCAN

Duncan has a thriving business community. Advice and resources are available to help you establish or expand a successful business.

- Economic Development Cowichan
- Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce
- Duncan Business Improvement Area Society

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

If you’re an investor, Duncan and its market area offer numerous opportunities. Sectors to consider:

- Business, retail, service businesses
- Commercial / Multi-family residential construction
- Tourism
- Professional services
- Forestry and wood products manufacturing
- Green industry
- Marine manufacturing and services
- Food and beverage processing

* Duncan Market Area includes parts of North Cowichan, Areas D and E, and Cowichan Reserve



GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY PLANNING



Duncan City Hall is the centre of administration for the City's services and businesses. Every four years a Mayor and Council are elected.

In 2013, Duncan adopted an Integrated Community

Sustainability Plan which defines a path towards sustainability to 2040. The Plan identifies four priorities for sustainability. Duncan's goal is to be a carbon neutral, healthy and affordable community with a strong economy. We seek to protect natural resources and support education and leisure needs.

CONSUMER MARKET

The Duncan market area has about 44,000 residents. Many regularly commute to the City for work or recreation.

The population is expected to grow by 1% annual to 2014. This will continue to create an ongoing demand for housing and commercial development.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Duncan has the infrastructure that business requires. There is fibre optics telecommunications, comprehensive coverage for cell phones and good water and sewer systems.

Ample retail and office space is available in the City boundaries, along with light industrial land outside.

COWICHAN TRIBES

With over 4,600 members, the Cowichan Tribes are the largest single First Nation Band in BC with a large population under the age of 35.

Cowichan Tribes owns and operates the Khowutzun Development Corporation group of companies, which includes:

- Khowutzun Forest Services
- Quw'utsun Cultural and Conference Centre

They are a large regional employer and actively partner with business, industry and other governments. Projects include commercial leasing, silviculture, firefighting and cultural tourism and conferences.

The Cowichan Tribes welcome investment enquiries.



EDUCATED LABOUR FORCE

The Duncan market area has a labour force of over 20,000. More than half of residents aged 25- 64 have post-secondary certification.

Compared to the rest of British Columbia, more residents have certification in trades, agriculture, health and education and architecture and engineering. As well, Duncan has a higher percentage of high school graduates.

Projections show the population in the prime working-age years of 25-54 increasing by an average of 1% per year through 2041.

UNIQUE DUNCAN

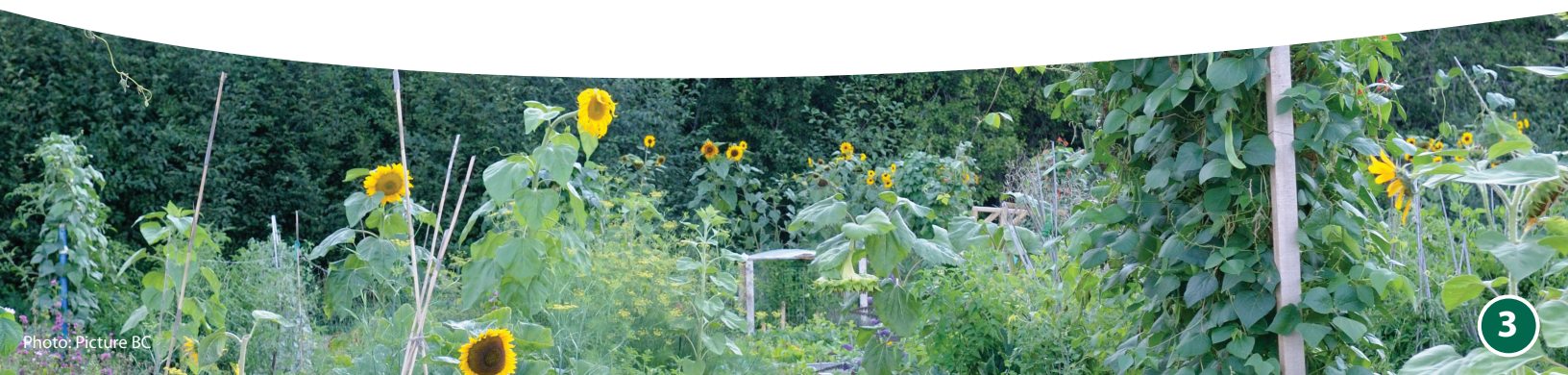
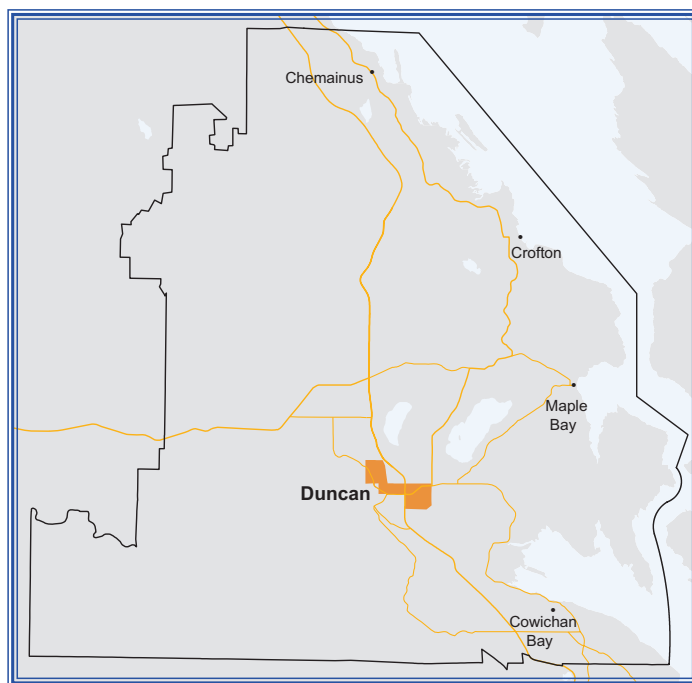
Nicknamed the “City of Totems” (39 in the downtown core), Duncan’s central location has made it a stop off point for thousands of years. Duncan offers great shopping and dining with a year-round Farmer’s Market. As a City, we are incorporating sustainability into all aspects of community planning.

In 2011, Duncan had 1,800 employed residents—but 4,200 jobs were physically located here. We’re the business and service centre for our market area, in which 18,650 people were employed.

DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS

If you’re seeking approval to develop in Duncan, the the process can take a little as two months. The City’s **development review** includes preliminary design, revisions, and a final design. The City will work with developers and investors to ensure the approval process is as seamless as possible.

Duncan Market Area



LIVING IN DUNCAN

Duncan is centrally located and less than an hour from Victoria and Nanaimo. You'll find it easy to adjust to the Duncan way of life and soon feel at home in our charming, vibrant and welcoming community. With our mild climate, active community groups and countless opportunities for relaxation and fun, Duncan delights year-round.

HEALTHCARE

The Cowichan District Hospital provides a full range of diagnostic and acute care services.

Duncan also has two medical clinics and a good selection of general practice physicians, chiropractors, physiotherapists, optometrists and other professionals.

TRANSPORTATION LINKS

Road: The Trans-Canada Highway connects Duncan to Victoria, Nanaimo and beyond.

Bus: Regional bus service with regular connections to Nanaimo and Victoria

Air Service: Passenger flights available from Nanaimo Airport (50 km) or Victoria International Airport (60 Km). Float planes can be chartered into nearby Cowichan Bay from Vancouver or Seattle.

Ferry: Regular ferry service to the mainland and USA is available from Nanaimo and Victoria.

HOUSING

Duncan is well-serviced and in a beautiful region, yet homes are large and affordable. As of 2013, the average assessment for a single family home was \$247,450. Rents for a 3 bedroom unit were approximately \$900 in Spring 2014.

Use the **B.C. Government's Cost of Living Calculator** to find out more about costs in Duncan.

EDUCATION

Duncan has excellent public schools, including Cowichan Secondary School, middle schools and several elementary schools.

There are also private preparatory, Waldorf and Christian schools. Vancouver Island University has a regional campus in the City.

Duncan has a public library, with computers, internet, research help and a world languages collection.



RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Whatever your tastes in recreation, you will probably find it in Duncan. Here's an idea of what's available within a 20 minute drive from downtown:

- The Island Savings Centre, with an ice arena, is one of 5 recreation centres in the region. The Aquatic Centre has waterslides and waves. Lawn bowling, tennis courts, sports fields, a splash park and bowling are also available.
- The Cowichan Theatre, the largest performance venue in the region
- Six golf courses
- A year round Saturday farmer's market, community gardens, farms and vineyards
- The Trans Canada and other hiking trails
- Water skiing, ocean and fresh water fishing and kayaking on the ocean or the Canadian Heritage recognized Cowichan River
- Festivals like the Summer Festival, Island Folk Festival, Aboriginal Festival of Film and Art and Cowichan Exhibition

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Economic Development Cowichan
www.discovercowichan.com
 +1 250-746-7880

City of Duncan
www.city.duncan.bc.ca
 +1 250-746-6126

Duncan Business Improvement Area Society
www.downtownduncan.ca
 +1 250-715-1700

Cowichan Tribes
www.cowichantribes.com
 +1 250-715-1700

[A number of select demographics can be found by clicking here.](#)

