



# **OUR COMMUNITY CLINTON THE NEXT 25 YEARS A PERSPECTIVE**



**An Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for Clinton**

Prepared by the Fraser Basin Council  
December 2014

**VILLAGE OF CLINTON**



## Executive Summary

**‘Epexyêwtes’ is the Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap), word meaning ‘when it is tomorrow’.**

This phrase perfectly captures the purpose of the community sustainability planning process that took place in Clinton, during 2014. The plan describes a picture of Clinton as it could be in the future based on ‘sustainability thinking’, as envisioned by the residents. As well, this sustainability plan creates a foundation and sets the direction for updating the Village’s Official Community Plan.

The Village Council created a Sustainability Committee early on in the process. As one of its first tasks, the Committee discussed the idea of sustainability pillars and selected those that best suited Clinton. The pillars form the foundation for this plan, as well as being the foundation for the forthcoming updated OCP.

**Several opportunities** were provided for residents to participate in the planning process. The community identified what they value about Clinton and why they live here:

- the friendly caring people – everyone knows you
- the small town atmosphere – safe, quiet, perfect for raising a family
- the natural surroundings and clean air.

**When asked about** what their future vision of Clinton in 2040 would include, the residents identified the following features:

- a larger population – up to 1500 residents
- more economic activity especially small businesses (clothing, groceries, drug store), services, and destination tourism
- better health care – a doctor, dentist, and other health professionals
- better accessibility (sidewalks and businesses) and assisted living for the elderly.

**This future vision** led to four themes on which the plan is based:

- economic diversification
- health and well-being
- growth and development
- local heritage.

**These four themes** were then developed into strategic priorities. They are the key items that need to be pursued in the coming years to help make Clinton more sustainable. The priorities and their respective goal statements are:

- Diversify the local economy through small businesses and tourism.
- Reach a population of 1000 to 1500 people.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle from pre-cradle to grave.
- Embrace historical roots while enhancing community spirit.

**For each priority**, the residents generated a number of actions to pursue the goals, the potential partners, an approximate timeline, and several indicators to help track progress. The plan concludes with a number of suggestions for implementation.

## Acknowledgements

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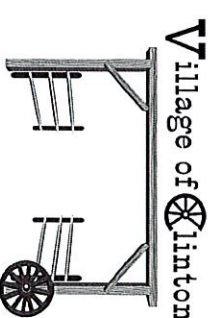
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THE FRASER  
BASIN COUNCIL



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## 1.0 Introduction

*'Epexywtes' is the Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap), word meaning 'when it is tomorrow'.*

This phrase perfectly captures the purpose of the community planning process that took place in Clinton, during 2014.

The first goal of the process was to build a plan for the long term well-being of the community, based on the concept of sustainability, while the second goal was to provide direction for Clinton's Official Community Plan, which will be updated in a subsequent project.

Clinton is a small community of about 650 people. It is located on the southern edge of the broad plateau which occupies much of British

Columbia's interior. The area is the traditional territory of the northern Secwepemc (Shuswap), who have occupied the land since time immemorial. There are two First Nations communities nearby: Whispering Pine and High Bar. The area's landscape offers natural grasslands and forests with a variety of tree species, including Interior Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine, along with numerous rivers and lakes.

The town has its origins in the 1860's, as a road stop on the Cariboo Gold Rush Trail. Some of the original buildings still stand and have been restored. After the gold rush subsided in the late 1800's, settlers established ranches in the early 1900's, many of which still exist today.

Proud of its rich heritage, Clinton is home to one of the longest standing annual events in the province – the Clinton Annual Ball. The Ball was first held on New Year's Day in 1868. Residents dress formally for the occasion, wearing frontier style ball gowns and suits. The Ball is now held annually in May - almost 150 years after the first event.

Ranching is part of Clinton's rich history, and in more recent years, has also become part of the area's tourism sector (eg. guest ranches), in addition to being an important component of BC's agriculture sector. Ranching was followed by the forest sector, with numerous small sawmills established during the 1950's. However, as the forest industry consolidated in the ensuing decades, many small operations closed. The forest sector continues to be important to the area's economy. Clinton maintains its role as the service and retail centre for the surrounding area.

The community has experienced periods of population growth and decline, as evidenced by the Census Canada information shown in Figure 1. As with most communities in the province and across Canada, the proportion of children, youth and adults up to age 64 is declining; while the proportion of those 65 and over is increasing (Figure 2). Clinton can pursue initiatives such as the 'Age-friendly Communities' to help the community become better equipped in meeting the needs of residents as they age.

Generally speaking, the average household income is significantly below that of the province as a whole and appears to be declining relative to the provincial average. In 1986, Clinton's average household income was 77% of the provincial average; in 2006, Clinton's average household income was 58% of the provincial average (Figure 3). Similarly, the level of education achieved by Clinton residents aged 25 to 64 years, while better than in previous decades, is still lower than the provincial average for the same age group (Figure 4). More recently, it is estimated that approximately 85% of Clinton's high school graduates continue on to post-secondary education and training. However, the level of education reported in the 2006 Census reflects two main challenges in pursuing post-secondary education – cost and distance; ie. the lack of local opportunities, the costs associated with pursuing education elsewhere, and limited financial resources due to lower income levels.



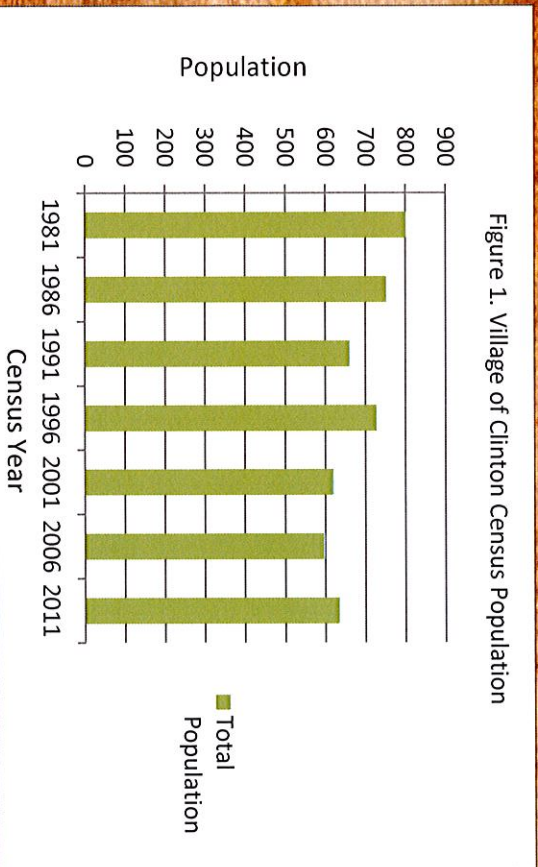


Figure 1 Village of Clinton Census Population

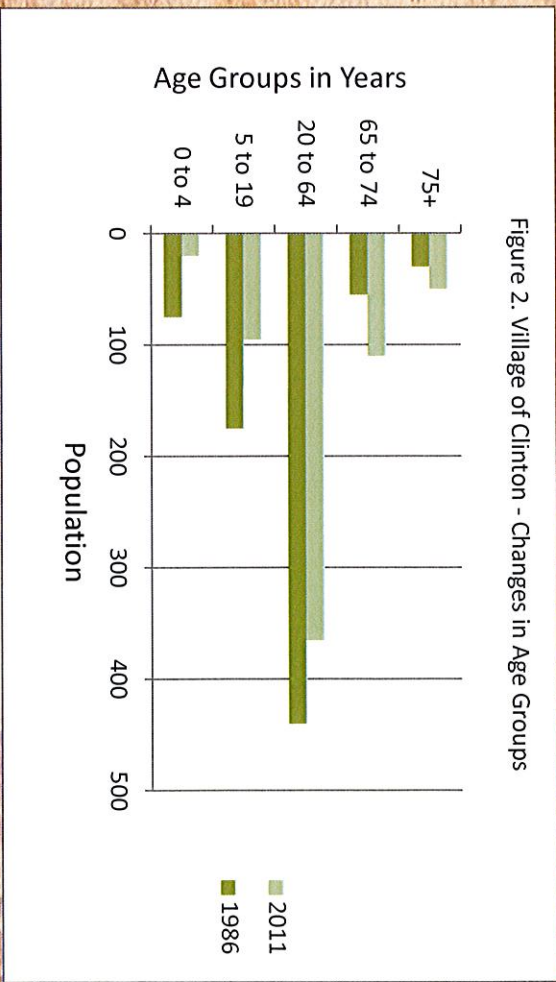


Figure 2 Village of Clinton – Changes in Age Groups

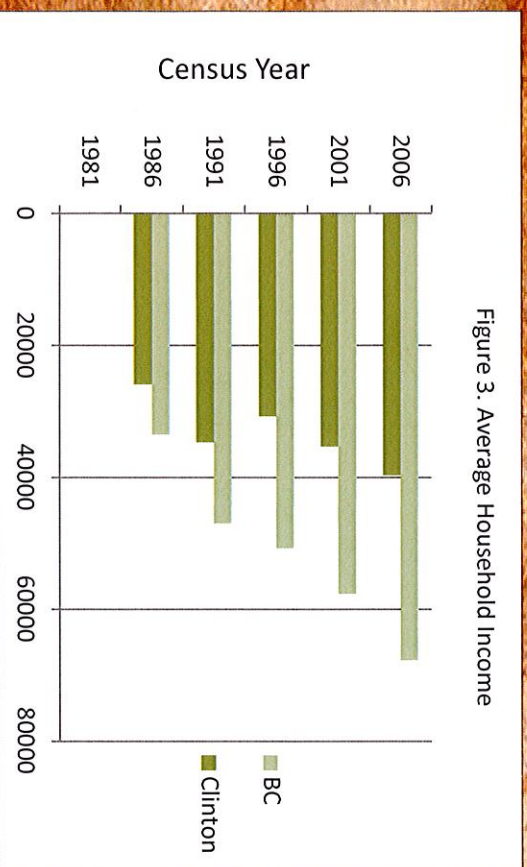


Figure 3 Average Household Income

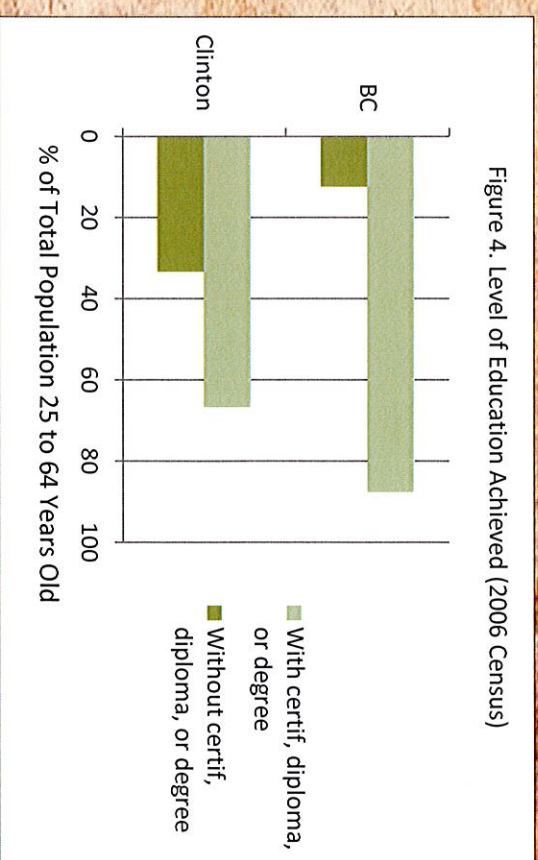


Figure 4 Level of Education Achieved (2006 Census)

While the above information describes a picture of Clinton as it has been in the past, the purpose of this plan is to describe a picture of Clinton as it could be in the future, a future based in 'sustainability thinking', as envisioned by the residents



## Sustainability

The concept of sustainability has been around for several decades. A commonly used definition is adapted from the 1987 Brundtland Commission report, Our Common Future: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland 1987).

In the ensuing decades, the concept evolved and is now commonly described as 'sustainability'. While there are many definitions, common among them are the belief that economic, social, and environmental aspects are equally important to human well-being; that decisions should be based on the long-term; and that future generations' needs must also be considered. Some definitions include governance and cultural elements as well.

The concept of sustainability has become more common place as the global context has changed. Major concerns such as climate change, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the dependence on fossil fuels for energy, drinking water supplies, food security, economic stability, and environmental quality have become more widespread; and have implications for both major urban cities and small rural towns such as Clinton.

Applying 'sustainability thinking' to planning at the local level in BC, began to be more common in the early 2000's; for example in Dawson Creek, Rossland and Whistler. Several years later, this approach was formalized as part of the 2005 Gas Tax Agreement between the federal government, provinces and local governments across the country, known as Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP). In British Columbia, the 2005 Agreement includes the provision that local governments must demonstrate that they are applying the elements or principles of ICSP at the local level, to all forms of planning, in return for receiving their annual per capita funding.

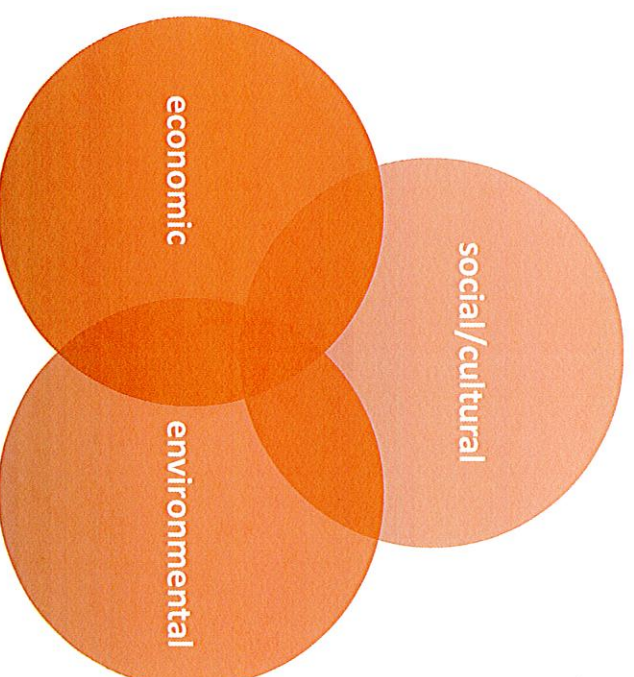


Figure 5 Sustainability Thinking

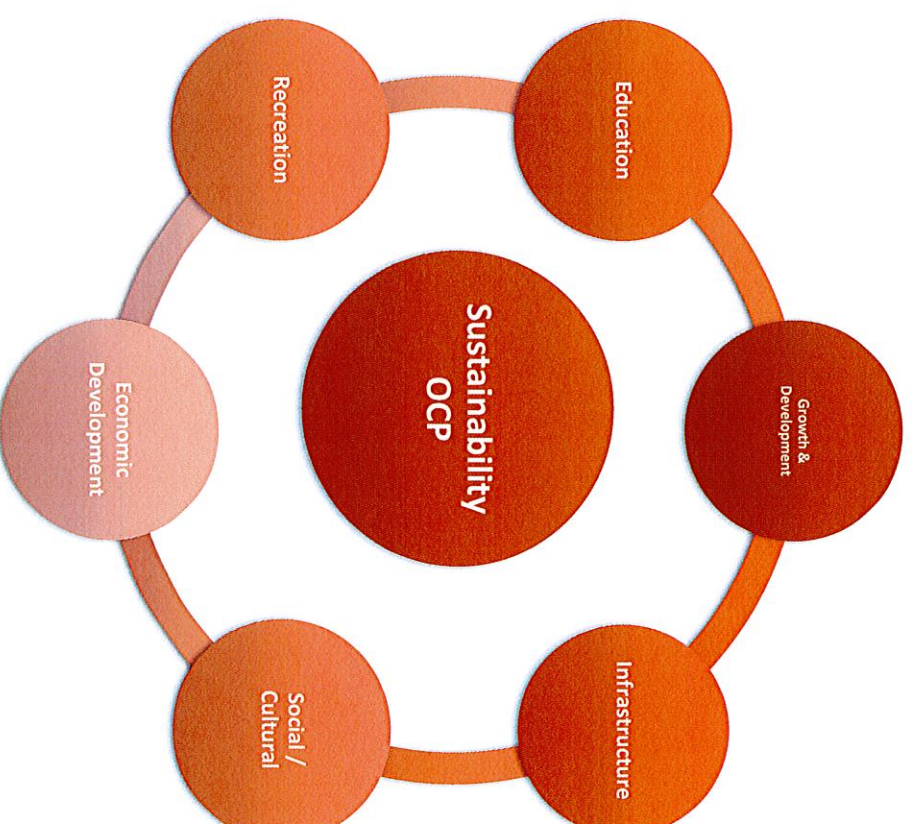
As described by the former Ministry of Community Services (2007), the sustainability planning principles are:

- **Long-term thinking** – planning and/or plans are future oriented to enhance community sustainability
- **Broad in scope**— planning or plans consider the communities' environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability
- **Integration** – planning processes or plans reflect a co-coordinated approach to enhance community sustainability through linkages between different types of plans or planning activities
- **Collaboration** – planning processes engage community members and other partners to support community sustainability (e.g. First Nations, neighboring communities, NGOs, private sector, other levels of government)
- **Public engagement and education** – designing processes that enhance public input into planning processes
- **Implementation** – keeping plans off the shelf and putting them into action
- **Monitoring and evaluation** – setting targets and tracking results to celebrate progress and focus efforts on areas that need the most improvement.

Another commonly used way of explaining sustainability is the use of imagery. For example, there is the picture of a three-legged stool, showing economy, society, and environment as each being one of the three legs, forming the base for the seat which is community well-being. Other common imagery uses pillars, again with economic, social, and environmental pillars as part of a structure, or a series of connected circles. Other images also add cultural and governance legs or pillars.

During this planning process, an advisory committee was created (see Chapter 2.0 Community Participation). During one committee meeting, the community representatives discussed the concept of sustainability, using the imagery of pillars. They identified the pillars and how they envisioned them to apply to Clinton in general, as well as more specifically as the foundation for updating the Village's Official Community Plan (Figure 6).

Figure 6 Village of Clinton OCP Sustainability Pillars





## Community Vision

Vision statements are written with positive and inclusive words, intended as a source of motivation and cooperation for the whole community. Although idealistic by their very nature, vision statements are useful in describing a future in which all residents can see themselves and make a contribution toward it. During the community participation events (see Chapter 2.0), residents described how they envisioned Clinton in the years ahead. The following vision statement is based on their ideas, although broader in scope so that it continues to be relevant over the long term.

***Clinton is a lively resilient community, proud of its rich heritage, while building a sustainable future with its local Secwepemc and neighbouring communities.***



## 2.0 Community Participation

A successful community plan requires input from residents throughout the planning process. As one of the first steps in involving the community, the Village Council chose to establish a Sustainability Committee, to assist the Village and be the voice of the community.

The group consisted of about eight volunteer residents from Clinton, who among them brought a range of skills, knowledge and perspectives. The Village also invited High Bar and Whispering Pines First Nations to participate, with both First Nations providing a representative to be on the Committee.

An orientation was held for committee members in mid-June. One of the tasks was discussing the best ways to involve residents. Another task was identifying what kind of questions needed to be asked, to obtain the input to be used in building the plan.

During the Village of Clinton's Canada Day celebration, the Committee hosted a booth, and later in July, engaged with residents at the Integris Credit Union's sidewalk BBQ, seeking feedback from residents. The Committee wanted to know what residents value most about their community, and why they choose to live here, as well as asking how residents envisioned Clinton several decades from now.

Using large colourful posters and sticky notes, residents were asked to complete each of the two following sentences. From the many ideas, there were several common themes among the replies.



**'The things that I value most about Clinton and that keep me here are ...'**

- the friendly caring people – everyone knows you
- the small town atmosphere – safe, quiet, perfect for raising a family
- the natural surroundings and clean air.

**'My vision for Clinton in 2040 includes ...'**

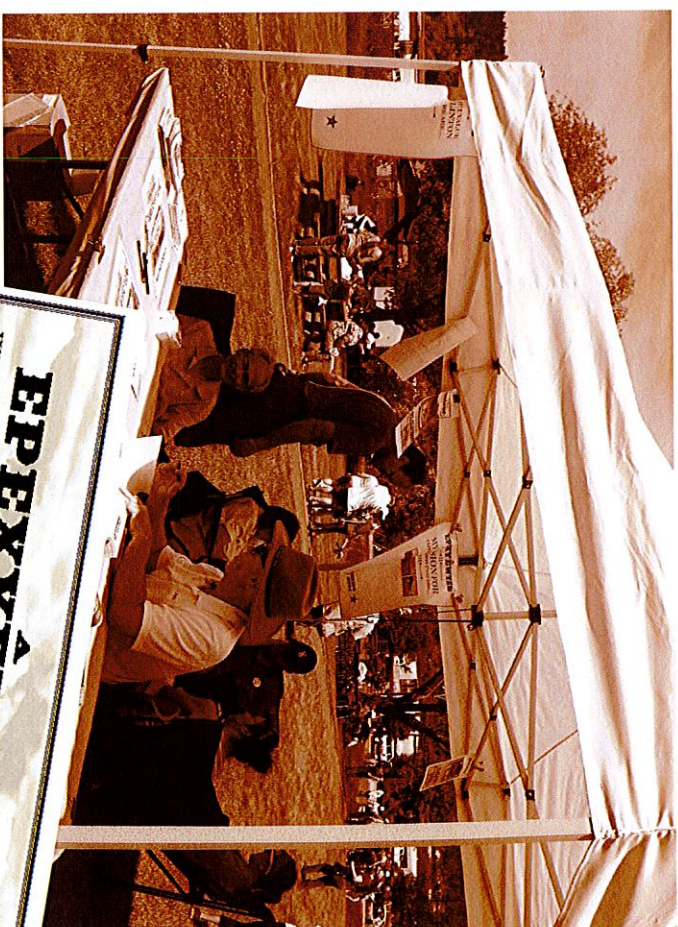
- a larger population – up to 1500 residents
- more economic activity especially small businesses (clothing, groceries, drug store), services, and destination tourism
- better health care – a doctor, dentist, and other health professionals
- better accessibility (sidewalks and businesses) and assisted living for the elderly.

These results were shared in an update posted on the Village's website.

The next community events were organized for the early fall, and involved two methods. First, staff set up a small display one afternoon at a local café. The display included large posters with the results from the July events, as described above. Residents were asked to add further ideas, and/or confirm the feedback received to date. Second, the community was invited to attend an evening workshop at the community hall; the advisory committee members also participated.

The workshop participants reviewed the feedback, and then began discussing priorities, and the actions needed to pursue them, based on the four themes that emerged as being part of community's vision (see Chapter 3.0). The Sustainability Committee met the following morning to review the input, clarify the information, and identify next steps.

An open house for the community was held in early October, followed by a Committee meeting. The purpose was to review and finalize the priorities and actions. The Committee also discussed how to integrate the pillars of sustainability with the priorities and actions (see Figure 6). As well during the October meeting, Committee members began discussion implementation. Chapter 4.0 provides a number of ways that the community and the Village can implement the sustainability plan in the years ahead.







(left to right Harry Liu, Jarred Carrier, Daniela Dyck, Denise Campbell (principal)  
Mayor Rivett, James Belin

adults. The youth valued the small town friendliness and everyone knowing each other, and liked the many outdoor activities available. They would like to see more recreational facilities and activities, trails, better health care, improved services and activities for those with disabilities, additional development and housing, and job opportunities. They also identified improved internet and cellular phone service, an electrical vehicle charging station, and renewable energy sources.

Lastly, several individuals provided detailed feedback by e-mail. The suggestions focused on the features that would attract new residents:

- make Clinton a destination - for example mountain biking and/or local food
- community beautification – create green spaces, gathering spots
- more walking and biking (sidewalks, paths, trails) and a biking/walking friendly culture
- well thought out future development – for example based on walkability
- redeveloping sites and old buildings on the main street
- improvements to existing parks
- street buskers during the summer.

(The detailed input above will be valuable to the Village when it updates the Official Community Plan, as many of the suggestions were site specific.)

One final outreach was organized in mid-October by the Village staff and Committee members for the community's youth. They visited the school, which contains all grades from kindergarten to grade 12. Using the same questions from the summer's outdoor events:

- what do you love about Clinton
- what would keep you here or bring you back,

**the students were asked for their input on the following themes:**

- recreation
- growth and development
- Social
- connectivity and energy
- economic development
- infrastructure
- jobs
- services
- education.



# The Plan



## 3.0 Strategic Priorities

This chapter presents the plan, which belongs to the entire community. It is based on the four themes that were most frequently identified by residents, as being part of their vision of Clinton by 2040.

The four themes (in no particular order) are:

- economic diversification
- growth and development
- health and well-being
- local heritage.

During the workshop, these four themes were identified as strategic priorities; ie. they are the key items that need to be pursued in the coming years to help make Clinton more sustainable. The participants then developed a goal statement for each:

- Diversify the local economy through small businesses and tourism.
- Reach a population of 1000 to 1500 people.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle from pre-cradle to grave.



- Embrace historical roots while enhancing community spirit.

Working in small groups, participants discussed the actions that would be needed to pursue the priorities. They were asked to identify who would be involved as a lead coordinating role and as partners; an approximate timeline; potential indicators; and how these actions relate to other sustainability pillars (see the following sections).

As described in Chapter 1.0, the Sustainability Committee had selected the pillars of sustainability best suited for Clinton. Figure 7 below shows these pillars, how they integrate with the strategic priorities identified by the community, the forthcoming update to the OCP and zoning bylaw, and five cross-cutting themes (see Chapter 4 for details).



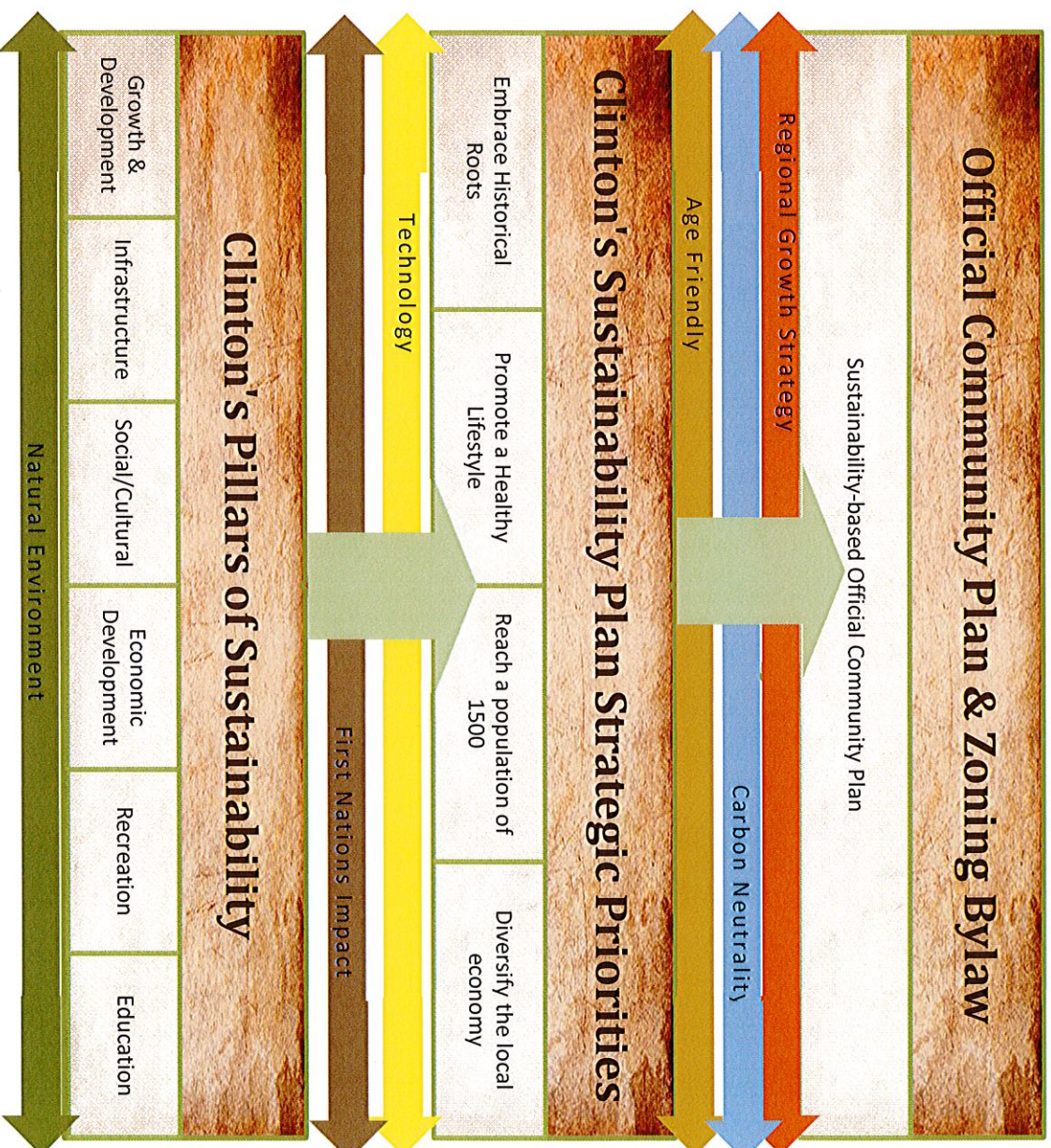
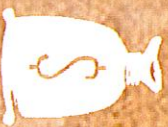


Figure 7 Links between sustainability pillars, four strategic priorities, and forthcoming updated OCP



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## Strategic Priority 1

*Diversify the local economy through small businesses and tourism.*

Actions	Suggested Lead Responsibility	Potential Partners	Timeline	Possible Indicators	Related to these pillars of sustainability
Continue to develop partnerships with all orders of government.	Village of Clinton	Whispering Pines FN High Bar FN Area local governments Provincial government Federal government	ongoing	# agreements # joint projects	Social & Cultural
Diversify local agriculture products (eg. hemp, greenhouses, hops).	Agric. organizations	Local producers Govt agencies	5-10 yrs	# new products # new markets	Growth & Dev
Promote the area's four season tourism opportunities.	Clinton & District Econ Dev Society Village of Clinton	Business owners CCCTA/Gold Country Pathways to Gold NDIT	5 yrs	# visitors	Recreation Growth & Dev
Beautify the downtown core by creating a theme, encouraging development of vacant land, recruiting new businesses to occupy vacant stores, and consider clustering antique shops.	Village of Clinton Clinton & District Econ Dev Society	Business owners Investors MCSCD	1-10 yrs	# building permits # business licenses	Growth & Dev Infrastructure
Install an electric car charging station, and become part of the BC network of EV charging stations.	Local business	Village of Clinton Province Fraser Basin Council	5 yrs	Station installed	Infrastructure Growth & Dev
Promote Reg Conn Park, and other local parks and recreation facilities.	Village of Clinton	Econ Devel Society Businesses	1-5 yrs	# users # events	Recreation Social & Cultural





## Strategic Priority 2

*Reach a population of 1000 to 1500 people.*

Actions	Suggested Lead Responsibility	Potential Partners	Timeline	Possible Indicators	Related to these pillars of sustainability
Pursue economic development and diversification, such as value added wood products, shops, and a full service grocery store.	Clinton & District Econ Dev Society Local businesses	Village of Clinton Residents	1-5 yrs	# business licenses	Economic Dev Growth & Dev
Develop new branding for Clinton to promote the community, its lifestyle, features and amenities, to both retirees and young families (eg. K-12 school, health care, municipal services).	Village of Clinton	Clinton & District Econ Dev Society Residents	5 yrs		Economic Dev Social & Cultural Recreation Education
Avoid urban sprawl by supporting the restoration of existing homes and redevelopment of parcels already serviced with full infrastructure (further details during OCP updating process).	Village of Clinton	Private land owners Investors MCSCD	5-10 yrs	Increased pop. Increased density Improved infrastructure	Growth & Dev Infrastructure
Develop Reserve Lands with housing, and connect to existing municipal infrastructure (OCP process).	Whispering Pines FN Village of Clinton	Province/MCSCD Federal/AANDC	5-10 yrs	Increased pop Improved infra	Growth & Dev Infrastructure
Identify an area for future subdivision development, for both rental and owned housing (OCP process).	Village of Clinton	MSCSD Private investors	5-10 yrs		Growth & Dev Infrastructure Social & Cultural
Promote the community's school.	Local school	Village of Clinton Parent Advs Comm Former students and teachers	1-5 yrs	Level of education achieved	Education Recreation Social & Cultural



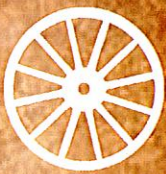


## Strategic Priority 3

*Promote a healthy lifestyle from pre-cradle to grave.*

Actions	Suggested Lead Responsibility	Potential Partners	Timeline	Possible Indicators	Related to these pillars of sustainability
Lobby for health care professionals and facilities (ie. full time doctor, dentist, pharmacy, paid full time ambulance, mental health care, an assisted living facility); and develop an incremental recruitment strategy.	Citizens Village of Clinton	Interior Health First Nations BC Housing CMHC	1-10 yrs	Have the health care professionals and facilities	Growth & Dev Social & Cultural Economic Dev
Promote active living and being an 'age friendly' community.	Community groups	Interior Health Minor sports MCSCD/New Horizons program Village of Clinton	ongoing	Increased rec activities Increased facility use	Education Recreation
Provide education on health and well-being, including a variety of information on different approaches to and components of health.	Interior Health	Village of Clinton Community Groups SD 74 Gold Trail Advanced Ed/TRU	3-5 yrs	Improved knowledge Change in lifestyle	Education Recreation
Pursue local food security, such as greenhouses and organic farming; and promote local purchasing, including information comparing full costs of purchasing locally vs elsewhere (eg. costs of travel).	Local agriculture sector	Cattlemen's Assoc. Farmers Institute 4-H Integris Credit Union Interior Health	2-5 yrs	Local produce sold/bought	Economic Dev Education
Promote local 'participation' (eg. walking-biking-riding trails, recreation activities, fitness programs).	Community groups	Village of Clinton Land owners (trails) Interior Health	3-5 yrs	Avg life span # of participants	Recreation Education





## Strategic Priority 4

*Embrace historical roots while enhancing community spirit.*

Actions	Suggested Lead Responsibility	Potential Partners	Timeline	Possible Indicators	Related to these pillars of sustainability
Encourage building façade improvements, based on the heritage theme; inventory heritage landmarks and buildings; and consider establishing a local heritage registry (all to be formalized through the updated OCP).	Village of Clinton	First Nations MCSCD Archeology Br Gold Country CCCTA	ongoing	Increased tourism Improved facades	Economic Dev Growth & Dev Infrastructure Social & Cultural
Further develop the heritage theme, and continue to promote heritage attractions.	Clinton Museum Community groups	MCSCD Archeology Br Gold Country CCTA Community groups Residents	2-5 yrs	Landmarks established Increased tourism	Economic Dev Education Growth & Dev
Promote the Gold Rush Trail by identifying and promoting the Mile Posts; and partnering with the Barkerville Historic Society.	Village of Clinton	Gold Country CCCTA Pathways to Gold Barkerville Historic Soc. Village of Wells	2-5 yrs	Increased tourism	Economic Dev Education Recreation
Continue to research and share the rich history of the founding families and residents, such as Billy Barker.	Seniors group	Clinton Museum First Nations Family descendants	5-10 yrs	Increase tourist stay by 1 day # of repeat visitors	Education Social & Cultural
Research, share the history, and strengthen the cultural connections among the Chinese, European and First Nations residents.	An advisory group of representatives from each culture	First Nations Village of Clinton Clinton Museum Residents	1-5 yrs	Civic pride Community prosperity	Education Social & Cultural
Keep Clinton's history alive.	Local schools Village of Clinton	Seniors and elders Community groups First Nations Province/MCSCD	Ongoing	Residents including youth know their history Increased tourism	Education Social & Cultural



## 4.0 Implementation

One of the most challenging parts of any planning process is implementing the plan. Simply put, implementation is the 'doing' phase of the planning process. It requires community members to work together, to put the plan into action. Although the Village of Clinton provides a 'home base', the plan belongs to the community. Everyone's help will be needed at some point – individual volunteers, youth, adults, seniors, community organizations, businesses, and government agencies – in addition to the municipality.

As the community participation phase was drawing to a close, a number of ideas were discussed about how to implement the plan.

### A Coordinating Body

The Sustainability Committee could be continued as an overall coordinating body and as a committee of Council. The committee would ensure an ongoing direct link to the municipality, as well as coordinate future projects and initiatives across community organizations and government agencies.

As with the current volunteers, the committee would consist of individuals with a range of skills, backgrounds, and perspectives, to readily reflect the

pillars of sustainability chosen by Clinton. The mix of individuals will also help the committee and the broader community to incorporate a number of cross-cutting themes, identified during the process, in the projects and decisions in the years ahead. These themes are:

- First Nations impact
- technology
- carbon neutrality – reducing the local carbon footprint
- compliance with the Thompson Nicola Regional District's Regional Growth Strategy
- the natural environment
- age-friendly, and
- health.





## Financial Resources

Implementation involves the practical concern of how to pay for various projects and initiatives over the years ahead. It is anticipated that financial resources would be pursued for each project as needed, by the suggested lead coordinating body and partners, as part of organizing any particular project. Generally speaking, funding may be obtained through one or a combination of the following:

- applications to relevant provincial and federal funding programs
- local fund raising
- corporate sponsorships
- foundations
- local government budgets, and
- in-kind donations of labour, materials, equipment and expertise.

## Official Community Plan

As previously identified, one of the main purposes for the sustainability planning process was to provide the foundation for updating Clinton's Official Community Plan (OCP), followed by an update to the zoning bylaw. The residents have identified what they value about their community and their vision for its future. While the OCP process will generate many more details, the following actions from this sustainability plan are directly related to and provide direction for the forthcoming process of updating the OCP (eg. land use designations, zoning, development permit areas):

- Develop a multi-use trail system.
- Beautify the downtown core by creating a theme, encouraging development of vacant land ...
- Avoid urban sprawl by supporting the restoration of existing homes and redevelopment of parcels already serviced with full infrastructure.
- Develop Reserve Lands with housing, and connect to existing municipal infrastructure.
- Identify an area for future subdivision development, for both rental and owned housing.
- Pursue local food security...
- Encourage building façade improvements, based on the heritage theme; inventory heritage landmarks and buildings; and consider establishing a local heritage registry.





## **Village Decision Making**

Some of the action items presented in Chapter 3 will fall within the Village's jurisdiction and responsibility. Many local governments in BC have developed tools to assist with formal decision making related to their sustainability plans. These tools - sustainability checklists and reporting formats – are intended to assist staff in presenting information and recommendations to elected decision makers. Generally speaking, the tools help staff and Council to determine whether a particular proposal or activity will move the community toward or away from, its sustainability goals.

While many examples are available from large urban centres, a number of small towns in BC have also developed these approaches. Several examples from small municipalities are provided in Appendix A; these could be adapted to suit the Village of Clinton. Appendix A also contains guidelines for healthy built environments, which also serve as a type of checklist to assist decision making.

## **Communication**

A key part of implementation is keeping everyone informed - volunteers, other orders of government, project partners and the community in general. The Village's website or a stand-alone website could readily be the central point for information. The coordinating committee could organize quarterly or annual updates for the web page and local media. As projects get underway in the coming years, it will be important to remind residents that these projects are all part of the sustainability plan and Clinton's journey in becoming a sustainable community.

An important related component is celebrating success! For example, a community event could be held as part of the annual update. The event would be an opportunity to celebrate all contributions and achievements – whether big or small – in implementing the plan. Taking the time to celebrate will help maintain interest and enthusiasm over the long term.



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## Appendices

**Appendix 1.** Example of Sustainability Checklist: City of Nelson Sustainability Checklist

**Appendix 2.** Example of Reporting Format excerpt from Imagine Kimberley – Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

**Appendix 3.** Healthy Built Environment Linkages: Provincial Health Services Authority