

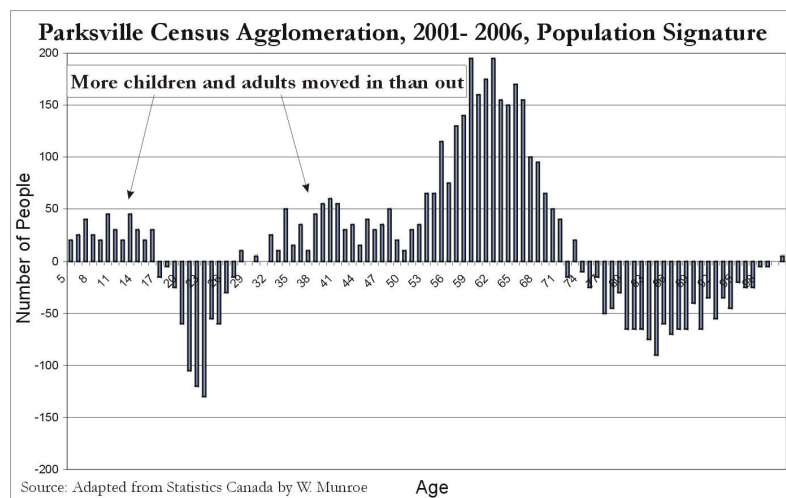
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January 10, 2012

Open letter to all British Columbia School Districts

To whom it may concern,

In February 2012, the 2011 Census results will be released by Statistics Canada. While the census provides total population and dwelling numbers, analysis reveals important information not provided in the census release. For example, my "Population Signature" charts (see example below) show whether communities may be gaining, or losing working families.



This question arose in the Qualicum School District (QSD) as a result of the recommendation to close a high school. Between 2001 and 2006, more families (school aged children and adults 30 to 50 years old) moved into, rather than out of, the Parksville / Qualicum Census Agglomeration (also referred to as Oceanside).

While more retirees moved in than out of this area, the addition of children and adults of working age contributed 4 people for every 5 retirees. What will the 2011 census reveal.

Population analysis provides the foundation upon which social and economic activity can be examined and forecasted. Analyses of the factors influencing the components of population change (births, deaths, and in and out migration by age and sex) allows insights into changing demands on public and private services, including opening and closing of education and health facilities. Indeed, my population and enrolment analysis presentations helped highlight the importance of the changing, fluctuating, age distribution when considering the opening and closing of BC schools.

Since 1996, I have studied population change and its influence on communities, large and small. Having worked closely with Statistics Canada while doing my graduate degree in Ottawa, and having worked for BC Stats as the Population Analyst and provincial expert on migration, I have extensively examined population statistics and the factors that influence population change.

Please accept my invitation to discuss preparations for the 2011 Canada Census and other services.

Yours truly,

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For more information about the changing, fluctuating age distribution (boom, bust, and echo) see www.wminfomatics.com/PopGeog/PGForum/QSDFRIS.html