

SURREY'S HOSPITAL NEEDS

PRESENTED TO

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PRESENTED BY

Surrey Board of Trade

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
SURREY BOARD OF TRADE	2
WHO WE ARE	2
OUR MEMBERSHIP	2
WHAT WE DO	2
ADVOCACY	2
SURREY CONTEXT THE DECADE IN SCOPE	3
SURREY'S CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE	4
THE NEXT DECADE'S HEALTHCARE NEEDS	6
OUR ASK TO THE BC GOVERNMENT	8
ASK	8

Surrey Board of Trade

WHO WE ARE

The Surrey Board of Trade is a city-building business organization that supports, promotes, and advocates for commercial and industrial interests for Surrey businesses — the city's economic drivers. With Surrey's rapidly growing significance in the Lower Mainland, the role of the Surrey Board of Trade has never been more important than now to champion a strong, vibrant business community for needed economic and infrastructure assets.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

The Surrey Board of Trade is a powerful link between business, government, and community with a membership representing over 6,000 member contacts and 60,000 employees.

WHAT WE DO

The Surrey Board of Trade provides businesses and organizations with:

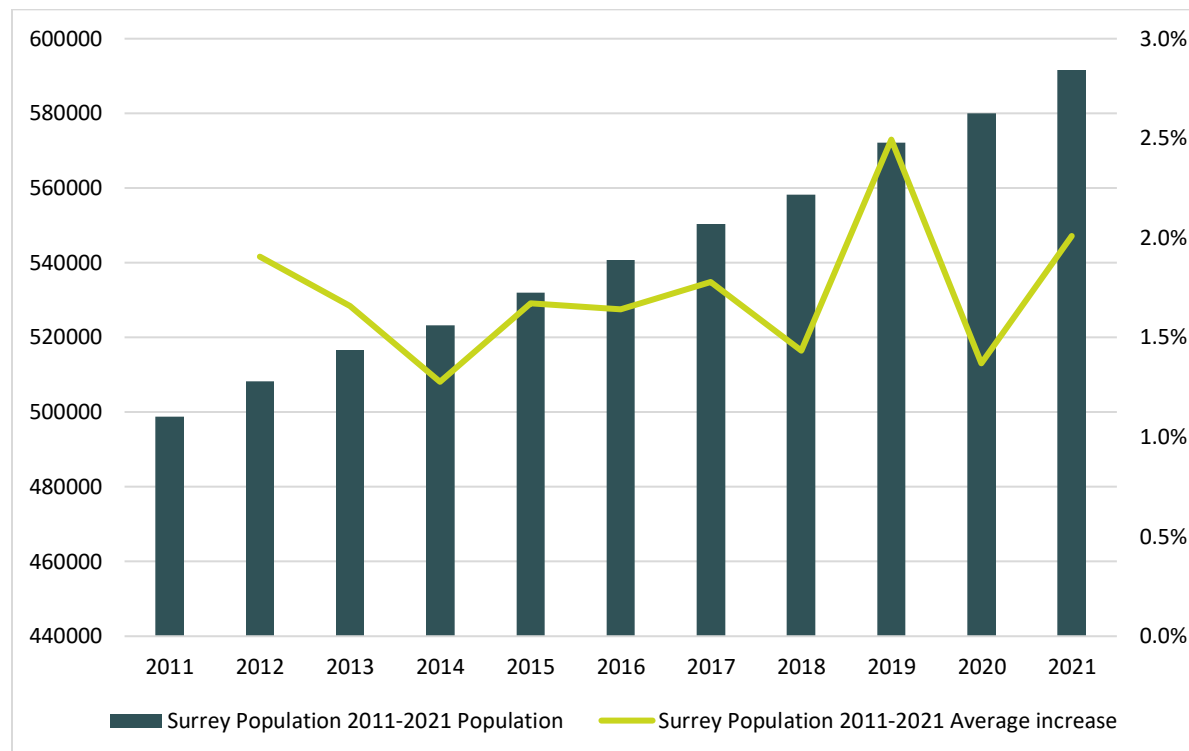
- Economic opportunities
- Business Centre support from start-up to scale up
- Workplace development and education
- International trade
- Government advocacy
- Business connections
- Labour market intelligence

ADVOCACY

As a city-building business organization, the Surrey Board of Trade is an independent voice of business that develops positions on relevant economic topics of concern to our members and the business community at large.

SURREY CONTEXT: THE DECADE IN SCOPE

Surrey is going to be the largest city by population in BC within the next two decades.



Surrey's population has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years, growing by 1,200 to 1,400 people per month. We will surpass Vancouver's population very soon but Surrey's healthcare services do not meet the needs of our workforce.

Surrey is an incredibly diverse city with over 104 languages spoken. Newcomers reside in Surrey due to its affordability, support services, diversity, and economic opportunities. The Federal Government has embarked on an aggressive immigration plan. We anticipate a large number of newcomers moving to the Metro Vancouver region, and more specifically, to Surrey.

SURREY'S CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The healthcare system in BC is complex. Surrey requires many delivery methods to ensure the population has adequate services.

Canada has 2.55 beds per 1,000 people¹. Surrey falls well below this national average. Canada lags many OECD countries in terms of number of hospital beds per 1,000 people². Below is a comparison of hospital beds versus population (2021 census data). There are many hospitals throughout the Lower Mainland that service the entire Metro Vancouver region.

Number of hospital beds compared to population:

Hospital	Beds	Population
Surrey Memorial Hospital	634	568,320
Abbotsford Regional Hospital	300	153,524
Royal Columbian Hospital	490	78,916
Langley Memorial Hospital	188	166,356 ³
Peace Arch Hospital	146	21,939
Burnaby Hospital	314	249,125
Vancouver Coastal Health ⁴	2,000 acute; 6,700 residential; 270 rehabilitation; 900 assisted living/respite beds	662,248

The Fraser Health Authority recognizes Surrey Memorial Hospital as a regional hospital, however, it does not have the facilities and services required to treat three of the leading causes of sudden death: heart attack; stroke and trauma. Those patients must be transported to other hospitals across a bridge. Unfortunately, if there is a natural disaster that prevents access, there is no hospital south of the Fraser River that can treat heart attacks, strokes, pediatric specialty care or certain types of trauma. This is unacceptable.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/831668/density-of-hospital-beds-canada/>

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.BEDS.ZS?end=2018&locations=OE&start=1960&view=map>

³ Langley City and Township populations combined

⁴ <https://www.vch.ca/sites/default/files/import/documents/VCH-fact-sheet.pdf>

Surrey has historically received less per capita than Vancouver for healthcare. A review of the 2020/2021 audited statements of funding Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and Vancouver Coastal Health show that: FHA received \$2,229 per person. Vancouver Coastal Health received \$3,033 per person.

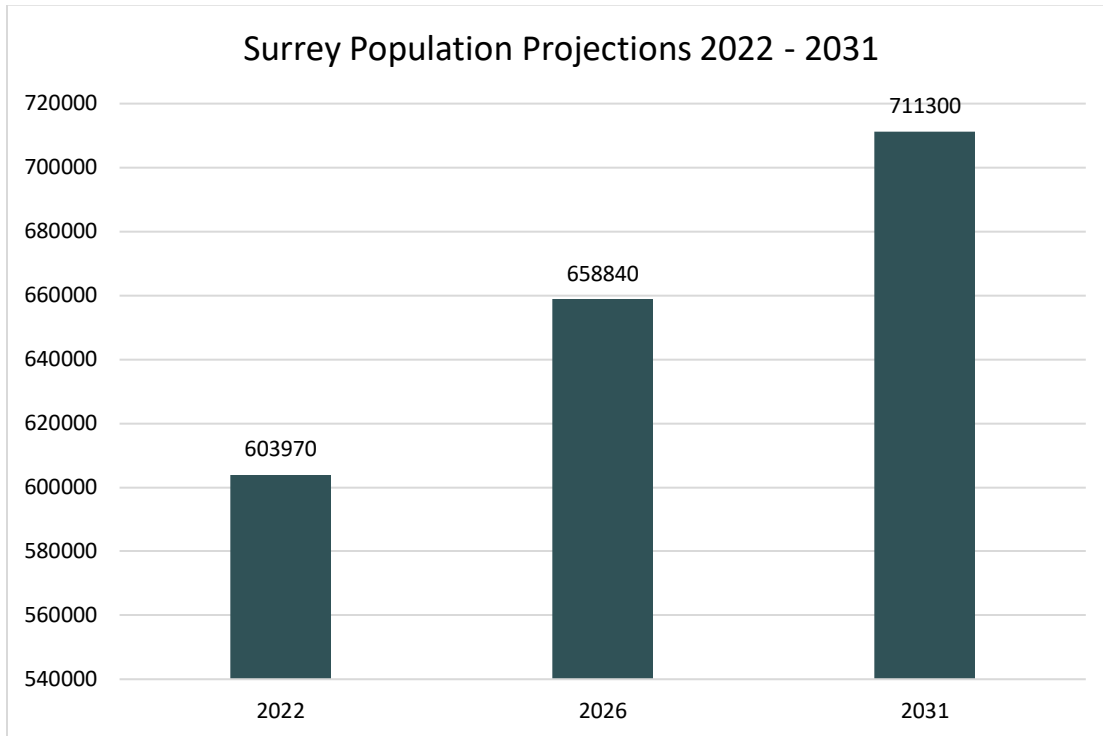
BC Ambulance statistics for 2021 show that 1,376 patients were transferred from Surrey Memorial Hospital to other cities for care. The top three reasons were for heart, stroke, and pediatric specialty care.

Surrey Memorial Hospital is the only emergency room in Surrey. In 2018/2019 it saw 173,397 patients or 7% of all BC's emergency room visits. The emergency room was built with a capacity of 100,000. 26% of these visits, or 44,233, were children.

By comparison, Vancouver has 4 hospitals with their own emergency rooms; Vancouver General Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, UBC and Mount Saint Joseph Hospital. Collectively, they treated 241,173 patients; 4,228 were children. The highest volume of ER patients was treated at Vancouver General Hospital. Their total was 95,823. Additionally, BC Children's Hospital saw 47,387 visits.

THE NEXT DECADE'S HEALTHCARE NEEDS

Surrey's population will increase significantly over the next decade by 8-9%. It needs to be able to serve the needs of the populations within its borders. Currently, Surrey residents are unable to receive many life-saving treatments at hospitals near them and must travel across bridges to access them.



The new Surrey hospital is projected to have 168 beds, bringing Surrey's total beds up to 802. Although this satisfies the World Health Organization's minimum beds per 1,000 persons in a geographical area, it still fails to satisfy the healthcare services and needs of Surrey. Individuals from other jurisdictions south of the Fraser also utilize Surrey Memorial Hospital.

The new hospital will include:

Inpatient and outpatient care	Surgical services
24/7 Emergency Department	Virtual care
Advanced diagnostics	Pharmacy services
Clinical and other support	Child daycare centre

New Surrey hospital quick facts

168 inpatient beds	A surgical/perioperative suite with five operating rooms
Four procedure rooms	Emergency Department with 55 treatment spaces

The new hospital and BC Cancer Centre will also have a dedicated area for spiritual care and family gatherings.

The new Surrey hospital and BC Cancer Centre will feature advanced diagnostics services including:

- A Medical Imaging Department with three Computed Tomography (CT) scanners and two magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines
- State-of-the-art medical imaging equipment with:
 - A Cyclotron
 - A Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) Scanner
 - Two Positron Emission Tomography (PET) CT Scanners

The new integrated BC Cancer Centre will provide patients and families with better access to care and support, closer to home with:

- An oncology/ambulatory care unit with 50 exam rooms
- 54 chemotherapy treatment spaces
- Six linear accelerators for radiation therapy

The new Surrey hospital and BC Cancer Centre will be a fully digitally equipped, fully electric facility that will be at the forefront of healthcare innovation, technology, and sustainability. The new hospital and cancer centre will integrate digital and virtual health innovation to increase clinical capacity, expand access to care for patients and their families and improve patient outcomes, enabling them to support thousands of additional patients every year.

The BC Government says that with a special focus on general medicine and short-stay surgeries – the areas of greatest projected service demand – the new Surrey hospital and BC Cancer Centre will address the most pressing healthcare needs of our community. **Or will it?**

As it stands, there is no emergency plan that addresses how residents living south of the Fraser will access life-saving services in the event of a natural disaster that affects bridges and tunnel crossings.

We agree with and welcome the BC Government’s investment in Surrey – but there needs to be more consideration to incorporating services into Surrey’s health care eco-system for people who need care for pediatric, heart and trauma services. As it stands, there is no emergency plan that addresses how residents, our workforce, can access these critical healthcare services.

Surrey, despite having more children per capita than any other Western Canadian city, has had a net decrease in pediatric beds over the last two decades. Surrey slumped from 24 to 16 of BC’s 443 pediatric hospital beds. The City of Surrey has BC’s highest birth rate, but it has only gained four new maternity beds in 21 years. The Surrey School District, by comparison, added a 650-student elementary school and a 700-space secondary school in the 2022/23 year alone. As a result of the lack of enough specialized services, last year BC Ambulance transported 1,376 Surrey residents from Surrey Memorial Hospital to other cities for urgent care. The three leading reasons patients were transferred were heart attacks, strokes, and pediatric specialized services.

OUR ASK TO THE BC GOVERNMENT

Surrey is going to be the largest city in British Columbia in the next two decades. This reality will come sooner given Federal Government immigration targets. Many of these immigrants will choose Surrey or other cities south of the Fraser River as their home. The hospitals south of the Fraser do not have the necessary investments to keep up with this population growth.

A city with the second largest population in BC needs to provide treatment for the three leading causes of death - heart attack, stroke, and trauma. Right now, patients can't be treated within the city's borders. Those individuals requiring treatment must travel over a bridge to other hospitals to receive care. This is unacceptable for our workforce and residents. A plan needs to be in place in case access to Royal Columbia Hospital is cut off in the event of congestion or natural disaster preventing ambulances from using the bridges.

Fast-growing Surrey must receive its fair share of health services for heart attacks, strokes, trauma, and specialized pediatric care. It is disappointing that investment on a per capita basis in Surrey, in specialty services and infrastructure, consistently lags the rest of Canada.

Surrey's population has grown by 9.7% since 2016 and yet it remains the only large city in Canada without an Emergency Department funded to treat the three leading causes of sudden death: heart attack, stroke and trauma. These services are still only available north of the Fraser River.

Surrey needs the appropriate investments to be able to save lives and improve our standard of living for our workforce and residents. This leads to vibrant and sustainable economies. The lack of investments in the past have led to congested ERs, overrun pediatric units, and overworked healthcare professionals.

ASK

As the BC Government considers investments in healthcare, they should provide funding for both Surrey Memorial Hospital and the new Surrey hospital to ensure there are enough maternity beds, ER beds, pediatric beds, and that there is the ability for healthcare professionals to treat heart attack, stroke, and trauma.

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