

## Development expected to slow dramatically over the next 25 years

New construction and rapid growth has been the standard in Langley for so long, it's hard for most residents to imagine a different kind of community.

While new homes are still sprouting up rapidly, the pace of growth will slow down dramatically during the next 25 years, according to a new provincial study.

A forecast done in May predicts Langley's annual growth rate will drop to an average of 1.9 per cent between now and 2031. That will still give Langley the largest growth rate of any Lower Mainland community, but it will be a sharp decline from the average of 5.1 per cent yearly that was achieved between the 1960s and 1990s. The projected rate



**Langley Township Mayor Kurt Alberts welcomes slower growth forecasts.**

will give the Langleys a combined population of 199,000 in 2031, up from a current combined population of about

125,000. The Township just announced it had reached a population of 100,000 residents earlier this summer, but the city is much more slow-growing.

The total increase from current population to the projected one will be a 61.8-per-cent jump.

Township Mayor Kurt Alberts won't be sorry to see the growth rate decline.

He pointed out that over the past few years, it has dropped from its highest level to an average of about three per cent per year.

Currently, the Township is concentrating development in the Willoughby area.

*Matthew Claxton,  
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