

## COTTONWOOD - NON-PLANNING IN SOCIAL SERVICES

The Cottonwood area of Coquitlam is an area of approximately six square blocks bounded by North and Clark Roads and by Smith and Foster Avenues to about Aspen Street. There are five major apartment complexes in the area. The largest of which Cypress Gardens consists of some 20 - 3 story woodframe tenements. The apartments are largely 2 and 3 bedroom units. There are 1300 people living in Cypress Gardens, 900 of them children. Some estimates suggest that about 150 single parents reside at Cypress Gardens alone.

There are no parks accessible to the residents, and no grass playgrounds within the complexes. There are, 3 swimming pools in the area, and a lot of asphalt and concrete, used largely for parking. There are no indoor recreation facilities in any of the apartment complexes. There is one day-care centre in Cypress Gardens, a 3 bedroom apartment which the management of the complex rents out at the usual rent. About 20 children are taken care of.

Cottonwood has been described as the Regional Districts' best argument for public housing - the degree of social breakdown and alienation is reported to be extraordinary. The social agencies are concerned about it on a number of levels and lately, the residents themselves have organized themselves into a tenants organization to ask for, among other things, a freeze on the building of apartments, and adequate day-care facilities.

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