

2022

COLUMBIA VALLEY'S

# Vital Signs

*Managing Growth*

**CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**



*Vital Signs, taking the pulse of Canadian communities.*

# THANK YOU COLUMBIA VALLEY RESIDENTS FOR LENDING YOUR VOICE.

## What is Vital Signs?

Vital Signs is Canada's most extensive community-driven data program. Spearheaded by Community Foundations of Canada and led by community foundations in Canada and around the world, more than 65 national community foundations and 41 international community foundations produce Vital Signs reports, host "Vital conversations" and more.

Vital Signs uses local knowledge to measure the vitality of a community and support action towards improving collective quality of life. Local data gathered through the program is used to support evidence-based, locally-relevant solutions to improve the quality of life at the community level. Vital Signs aims to inspire civic engagement, provide focus for public debate, and help a range of leaders take action and direct resources where they will have the greatest impact.

## THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS REPORT POSSIBLE:

### Vital Signs Team

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Cover Photo: Columbia Valley Wetlands  
Kootenay Rockies Tourism/Mitch Winton/

### We appreciate the ideas and support from our Community Advisory Committee:

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Theresa Kains  
Deborah Witherspoon  
Lawrie Mack  
Jacqueline Pinsonneault  
Jennifer Moss  
Gerry Wilkie  
Wendy Booth (ex-officio)

## MESSAGE from the FOUNDATION

The Columbia Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) plays a vital role in helping people give back to our communities. We have been able to grant more than \$1.6 million since our inception in 2001 through our stewardship of gifts from citizens and organizations in order to meet a variety of community needs.

The Foundation is proud to present the third Vital Signs report to our communities. In our 2018 report, the predominant issue identified by our residents was the environment. In 2022, our residents expressed concerns around population growth, the increased cost of living and shortage of affordable housing. This has provided the theme "Managing growth—challenges and opportunities" for our 2022 report.

A strong community is a reflection not only of its past, but also its future. We hope this report will continue to inform and guide not only the decisions we make as a Foundation, but those of individuals and other organizations working in support of our community's well-being. As opposed to providing concrete answers, Vital Signs intends to initiate conversations and provide a framework to spearhead new initiatives for our communities. Connecting the Vital Signs issue areas with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals gives our communities specific goals to work towards. Connecting community goals with a global agenda is inspiring.

This Vital Signs report could not have been completed without the contributions of the Vital Signs committee and over 1,000 Columbia Valley respondents. We are extremely grateful to all who participated. The result is a report that provides a portrait of our community at this moment in time. Survey participants shared issues and provided feedback now reflected in this report. As you read, we ask you to consider these reflections, and seek ways you can step forward to help make our communities a better place to live.

Sincerely, **Wendy Booth** Board Chair **Thiloma Hofer** Executive Director

## HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

### READ

Take the time to read this report and ponder what the data means for our community.

### SHARE

Share this report with family, friends, neighbours, co-workers, community leaders and elected officials. This report is available in print or online at [www.valleyfoundation.ca](http://www.valleyfoundation.ca)

### DISCUSS

When you read this report, what surprised you? What stood out? What will the Columbia Valley look like in 2, 5 or 10 years?

### ACT

If you or your organization are motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for action and consider the data when strategic planning. Review the Vital Actions in each Issue Area.

### SUPPORT

There are many worthy organizations in the Columbia Valley that could benefit from your participation and/or financial support.

### CONTACT US

The Columbia Valley Community Foundation knows the issues and the organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help. Contact us at [www.valleyfoundation.ca](http://www.valleyfoundation.ca) or call **250.342.2845**

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# UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS & VITAL SIGNS

In 2015, United Nations (UN) member countries adopted a set of universal goals with the intention of shifting the world toward a more sustainable path by the year 2030. The agenda identifies **17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) that target economic, social, and environmental development. The goals intend to:

- **End poverty,**
- **Protect the planet, and**
- **Ensure that no one is left behind.**

## CONNECTION TO VITAL SIGNS

The work of community foundations already connects to many of the 17 SDGs. As part of an international movement, community foundations have an opportunity to connect our efforts locally to a broader vision of improving the world around us.

“The powerful thing about integrating the SDGs with Vital Signs is that individuals and organizations can see how the important work they’re already doing contributes to larger, global issues. In a rural area such as ours, this helps us connect with other organizations, donors and foundations to support one another in solving problems at a much larger scale.”

*Tracey Vavrek, former CEO, Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta*



The grassroots approach of Vital Signs to collect data, spark conversation and inspire civic engagement offers a unique tool to benchmark the progress of well-being in communities against a set of global targets.

In each section of the 2022 Vital Signs report, the issue areas will be linked to a Sustainable Development Goal. We are excited to see where our commitment to these goals lead our Columbia Valley communities as we strive for a better world by 2030.

# METHODOLOGY

Columbia Valley Vital Signs 2022 combines information from a wide variety of credible and reliable sources. This includes the following:

## COLUMBIA VALLEY COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Foundation convened a diverse Community Advisory Committee to provide oversight on survey design. The survey was primarily promoted digitally to efficiently obtain responses from our dispersed geographic region. In addition, survey links were emailed to a wide variety of community groups, clubs and associations who were asked to share with their respective memberships. We attended events throughout the Columbia Valley including the Edgewater Pancake Breakfast, Radium Music on Main, Valley Appreciation Day in Invermere, Flats Fest, and Invermere Seniors Lunch.

The survey was open from July 18–September 5, 2022. In total, 1,151 community surveys were initiated with a completion rate of 63%. Incomplete surveys include participants who were removed as they did not qualify as either part-time or full-time residents in the Columbia Valley.

Following the demographic information collection, part time residents completed an alternate survey. These responses are reflected on page 11.

As an incentive, participants who completed the entire survey were invited at the end of the survey to enter a draw for a helicopter ride for four people. An Invermere family was the lucky recipient.

Many rural areas are considered data deserts, where data that is readily available in more populated centres is not easily accessed. As such, this report contains supplementary data throughout which was obtained through direct contact with the credited organizations. Though this data is not published separately, we still view this data as accurate and reliable.

## Statistical data provided by:

### 2021 CENSUS DATA

Released in iterations during 2022, census data was used to demonstrate changes in the Columbia Valley. Please note that the Vital Signs Team, refers to all data collected under “Columbia Lake IRI” as Akisqnuq First Nation.

### BC COVID-19 SPEAK SURVEY

The British Columbia COVID-19 SPEAK (Survey on Population Experience, Actions, and Knowledge) was primarily a web based survey to understand resident experience, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA DATA CATALOGUE

The BC Data Catalogue acts as a repository for data published by the Province of BC, its ministries and many broader public sector ministries.

## COLUMBIA VALLEY FOOD BANK

A summary of food bank usage was provided by the Columbia Valley Food Bank.

## DESTINATION BC NETWORK STATS

Destination BC reports visitor information centre visitation data on a monthly basis. The data is collected by the individual visitor information centres and reported to Destination BC.

## FACILITY PROFILE, INVERMERE & DISTRICT HOSPITAL

This profile provides an overview of the services provided at the Invermere and District Hospital.

## HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Municipalities and regional districts in B.C. were required to complete housing needs reports by April 2022 and are required to provide updates every five years thereafter. These reports will help local governments and the B.C. government better understand and respond to housing needs in communities throughout B.C.

## LAKE WINDERMERE AMBASSADOR WATER QUALITY MONITORING REPORT

The Lake Windermere Ambassadors direct a Community-Based Water Monitoring and Citizen-Science Education program within the Lake Windermere watershed. 2021 marked the 15th year of lake monitoring since the Lake Windermere Project began collecting water quality data in 2006.

## LIVING WAGE FOR FAMILIES BC

Living Wage for Families BC encourages employers to pay a living wage as well as advocates for government policies that would help families make ends meet.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 6

Data was collected from individual School Success Plans as well as the B.C. government school completion rate reports.

## WILDSAFE BC COLUMBIA VALLEY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Prepared by the Wildsafe BC Community Coordinators, the report reflects activities between April 11 and November 30, 2021 throughout the Columbia Valley.

## COMMUNITY DATA

Many organizations throughout the Columbia Valley provided custom data upon request. We appreciate their efforts in making that available to us.

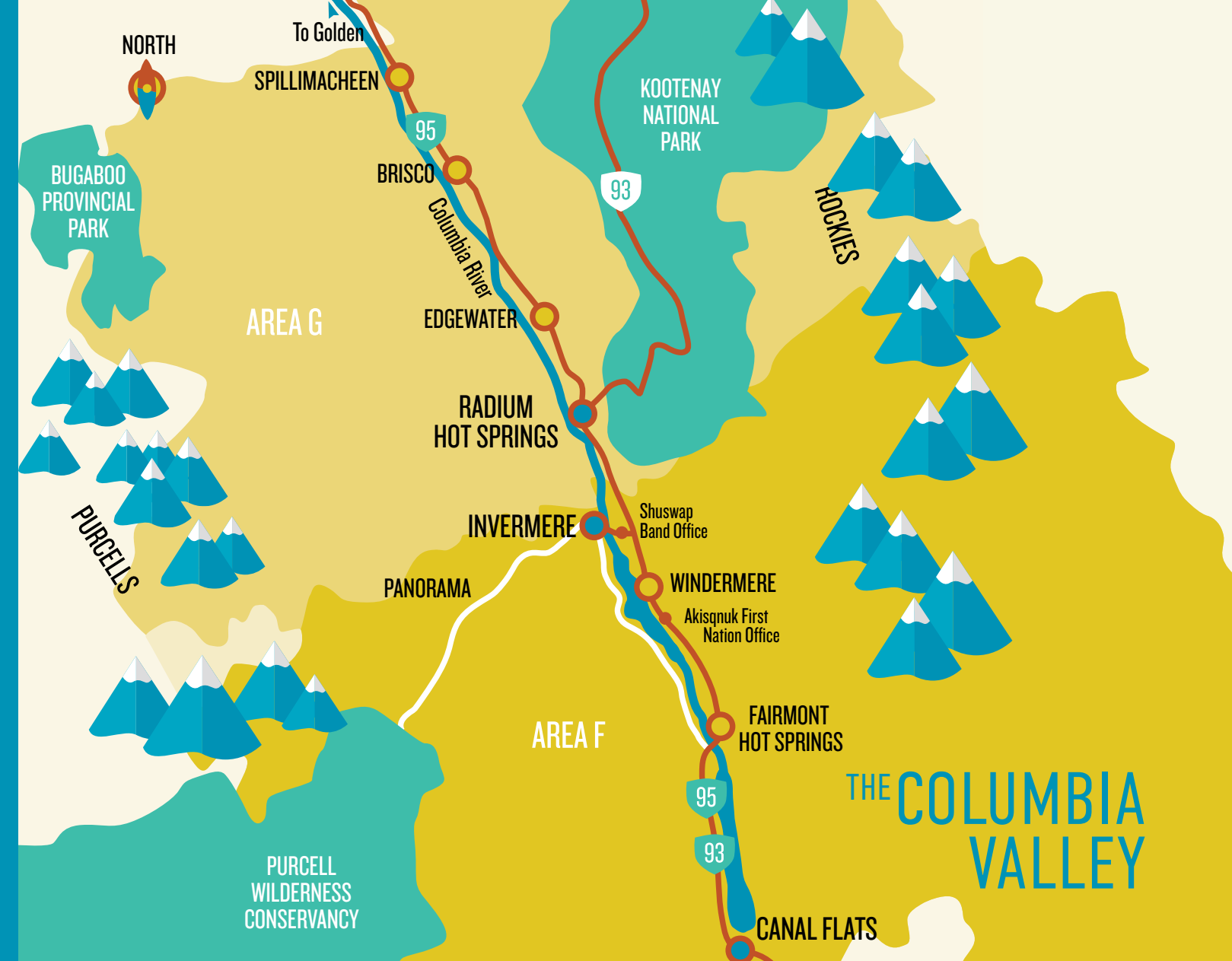


Photo: Salmon Festival Dancers. Kristin McCauley

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Columbia Valley Foundation is located on the unceded shared traditional Territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc people, home to the local communities of Akisqnuq First Nation & Shuswap Band, and the chosen home of the Columbia Valley Métis.

We are grateful to work, play, and live on these lands.

### MOTHER TONGUE (PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION)

90% ENGLISH

4% FRENCH

2% GERMAN

1% TAGALOG

Source: 2021 Census

*mountain ranges* Our communities are nestled between the majestic Purcell Mountain Range to the west and the Rocky Mountains to the east. We occupy a portion of the Rocky Mountain Trench, a striking physiographic feature that extends from Montana to the Yukon.

{ 1 }

### VITAL WATERWAY

Our region is located at the headwaters of the Columbia River. Winding uninterrupted through all of our communities, this waterway connects us recreationally, economically, culturally, and environmentally.

This stretch of the Columbia River is the only remaining portion of the Columbia River that is not disturbed by man-made structures (dams and reservoirs)

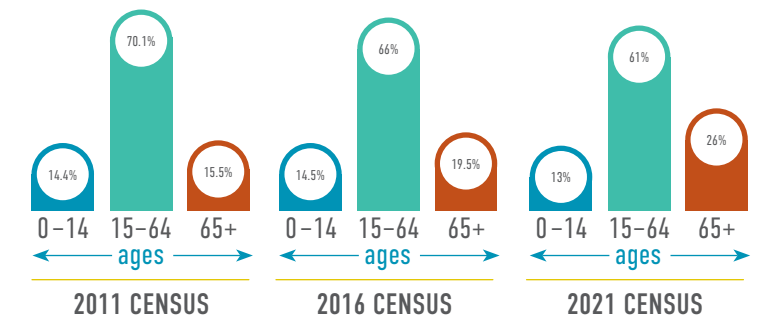
# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

## WHO LIVES HERE

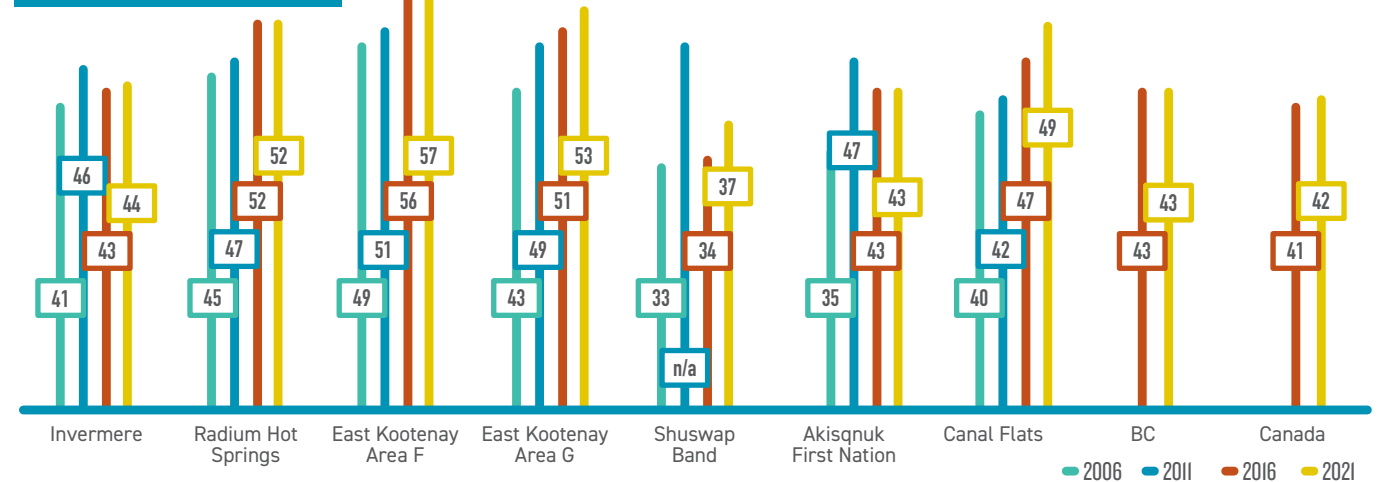
### COMMUNITY POPULATIONS

	2006	2011	2016	2021
Electoral Area G	1,563	1,412	1,462	1,654
Radium Hot Springs	735	777	776	1,339
Shuswap Band	169	293	319	319
Invermere	3,002	2,955	3,391	3,917
Electoral Area F	2,939	2,635	2,726	3,512
Akisknuq First Nation	153	131	140	149
Canal Flats	700	715	665	802
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9,261</b>	<b>8,918</b>	<b>9,479</b>	<b>11,692</b>

### PERCENTAGE of POPULATION BY AGE



### MEDIAN AGE BY COMMUNITY



2021 CENSUS

# 11,692

TOTAL RESIDENT POPULATION

COLUMBIA VALLEY

**23.3%**  
INCREASE FROM 2016

# 51

**MEDIAN AGE OF COLUMBIA VALLEY RESIDENTS**

Provincial Median Age: **43** National Median Age: **42**

2021 Census

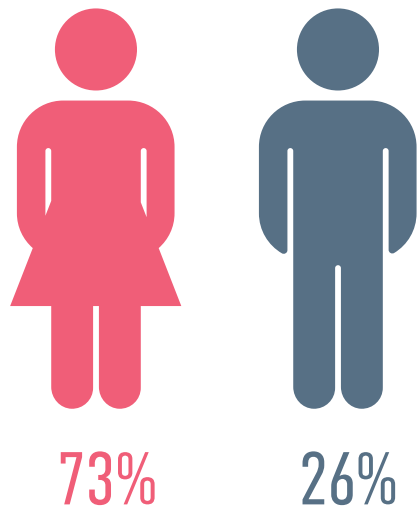
# PROFILE of SURVEY RESPONDENTS

## PERMANENT RESIDENTS

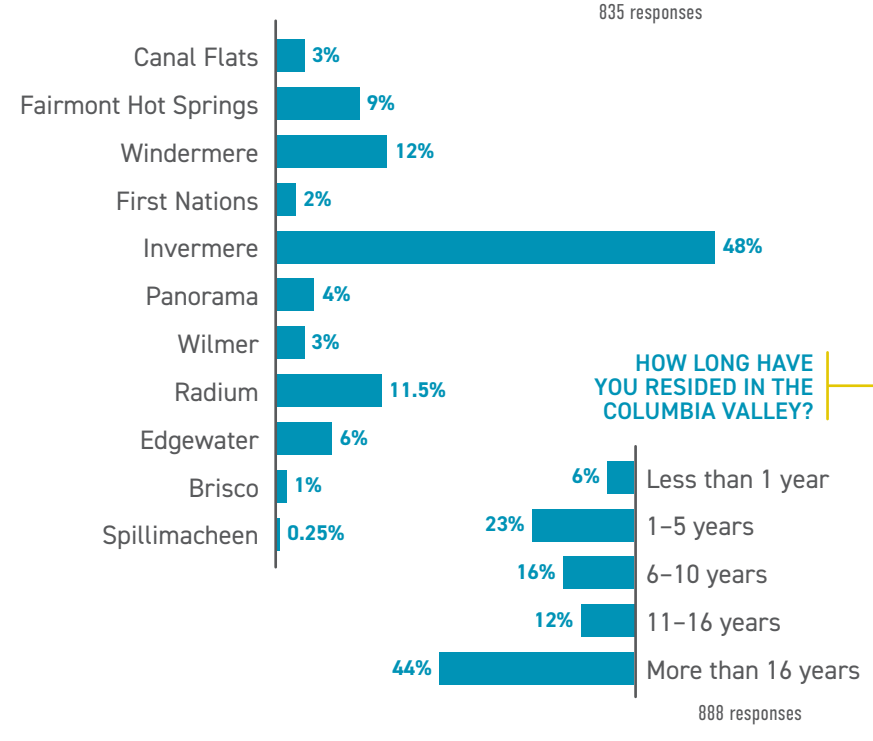
### GENDER 833 responses

Non Binary **0.36%**  
Prefer not to say **0.72%**

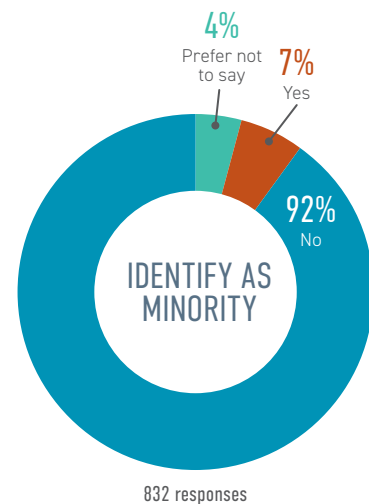
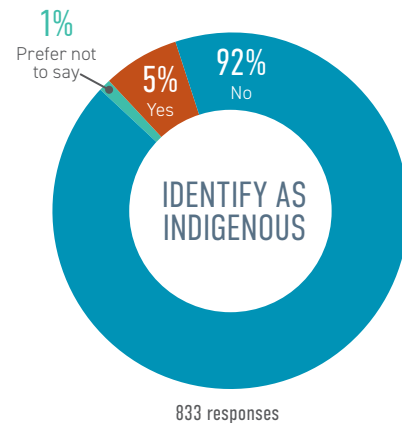
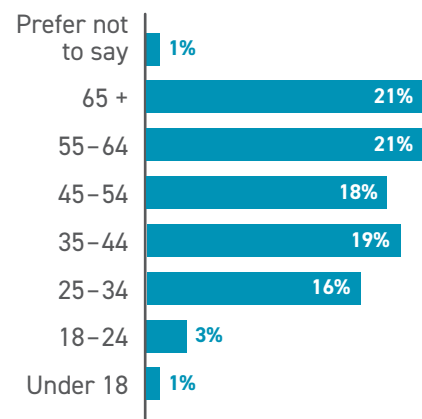
833 responses



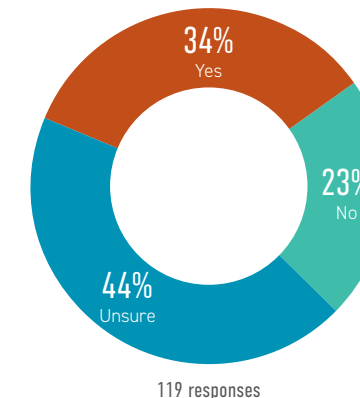
### LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS 835 responses



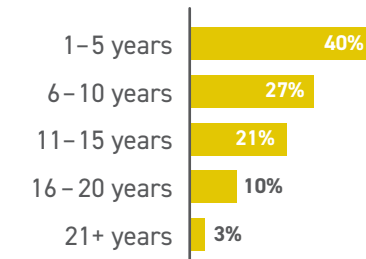
### AGE 835 responses



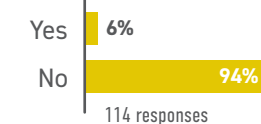
### DO YOU PLAN ON MOVING TO THE COLUMBIA VALLEY PERMANENTLY?



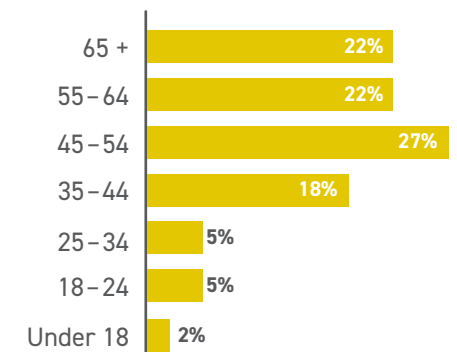
### IF YES, WHEN? 73 responses



### WILL SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN COME WITH YOU?



### AGE 125 responses

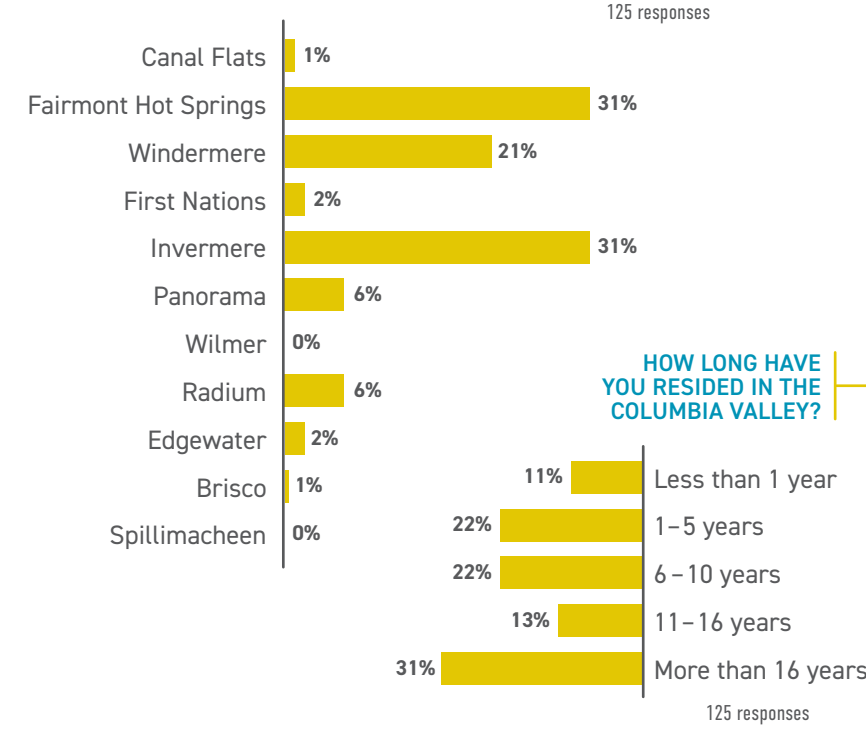


# PROFILE of SURVEY RESPONDENTS

## PART-TIME RESIDENTS

The Vital Signs Community Survey provides us a unique opportunity to check in with our part time residents. These results can give us insights into their future intentions and help us plan accordingly.

### LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS 125 responses



**3,885**

42%

**2ND HOME OWNER PROPERTIES**

Number of non usually occupied residences in the Columbia Valley

Source: 2021 Census

### TOP 5 ACTIVITIES OF PART-TIME RESIDENTS IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY

- 83%** NON-MOTORIZED WATER SPORTS
- 82%** RELAXING
- 63%** SHOPPING AT LOCAL BUSINESSES
- 41%** GATHERING WITH NEIGHBOURS
- 38%** DOWNHILL SKIING

# ENVIRONMENT



## COLUMBIA VALLEY RECYCLING

Source: RDEK

### TOTAL RECYCLING IN TONNES



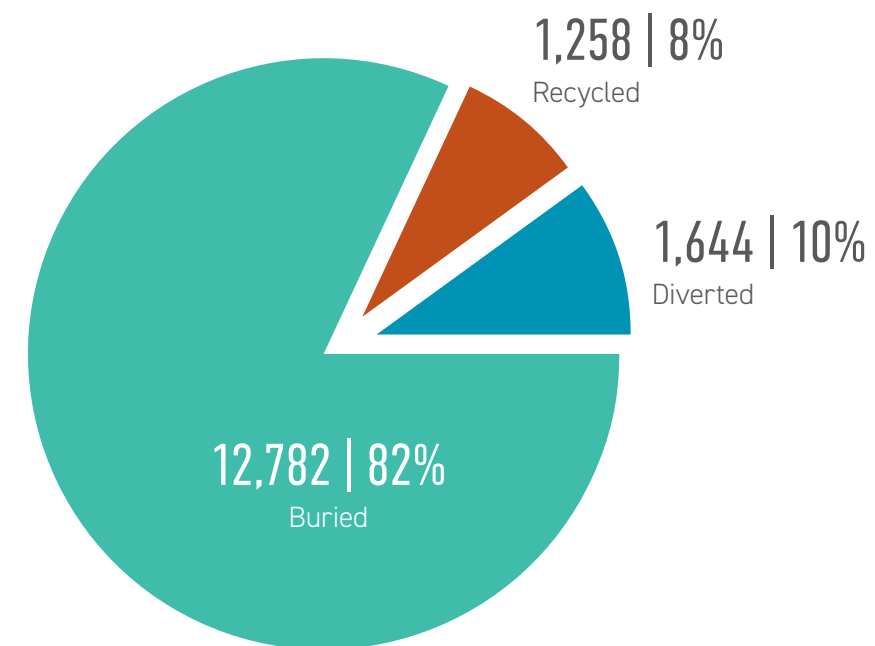
### TOTAL WASTE BURIED IN TONNES



“ I am very concerned about climate change and realize that we are all dealing with this issue. I would also emphasize the need to promote reconciliation and better understanding with our Indigenous neighbours. ”

-Survey respondent

### TOTAL TONNAGE & PERCENTAGE OF WASTES BURIED, RECYCLED & DIVERTED



## 3,685

NUMBER OF VISITS TO RE-USE SHED AT COLUMBIA VALLEY LANDFILL (2021)



Photo: Lake of the Hanging Glacier. Destination BC/Kari Medig

\*Re-use shed was closed for a significant portion of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions

# HUMAN WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

Source: 2021 Columbia Valley Wildlife Report



# 228

REPORTED BEAR SIGHTINGS

60 Invermere 24 Radium 144 Area G & F



AVERAGE BIGHORN SHEEP  
KILLED ANNUALLY BY  
MOTOR VEHICLES

# 10

**14 KILLED**  
WINTER 2021/2022

**60% MORTALITY RATE**

due to motor vehicles

POPULATION

**250** **140**

HIGH  
2003

LOW  
2021



**1990** REQUESTS MADE TO  
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO  
REDUCE FROM 90-70 KM/HR

**2022 SEPTEMBER**  
REDUCTION TO 70 KM/HR

Herd counts performed every two weeks

Highway monitoring performed by Shuswap Band, Akisqnuq First Nation and Ktunaxa First Nation

## REPORTS TO WILDLIFE ALERT REPORTING PROGRAM (WARP)

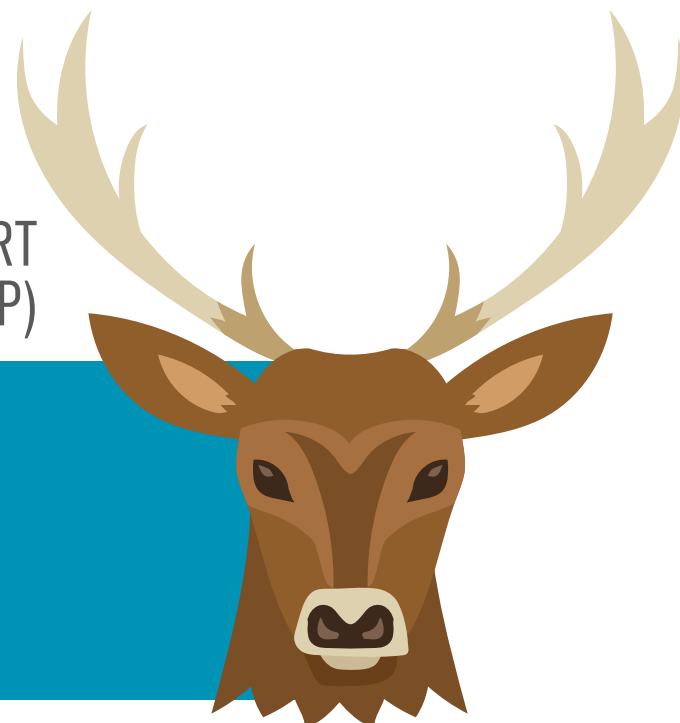
**60** Black Bear Reports

**4** Grizzly Bear Reports

**52** Deer Reports

**3** Cougar Reports

**0** Coyote Reports



Garbage bins cannot be put out the night prior to garbage collection to prevent attracting animals. Bins put out too early are tagged with a sticker to encourage future compliance.

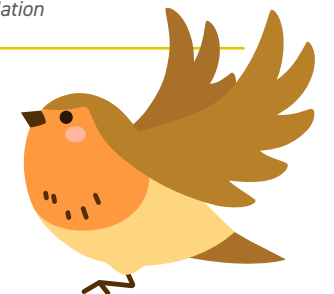


# 174

Bins tagged in  
Invermere &  
Radium

Source: Wildsafe BC

## BANK SWALLOWS



Bank Swallows are an at risk species, they have experienced a **96% population decrease** in the past 40 years.

In 2020 the Columbia Valley was home to 96 active Bank Swallow Colonies.

Source: Wildsight

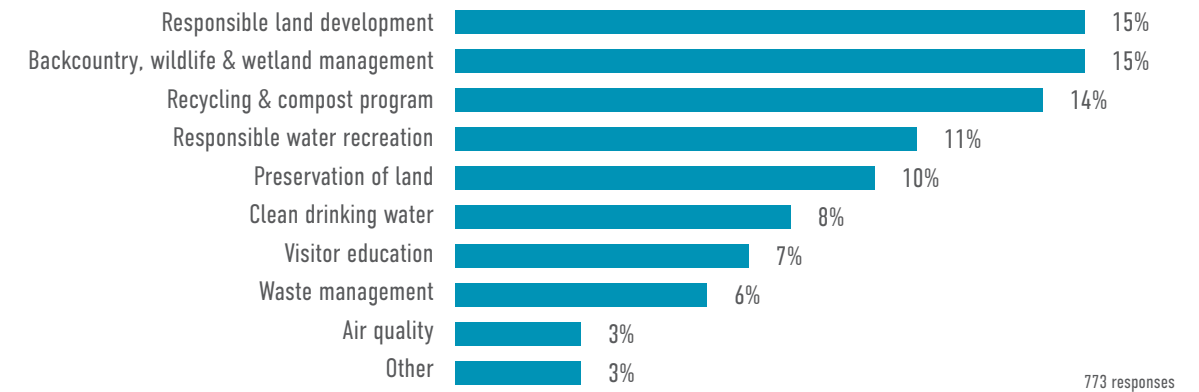


# CLIMATE

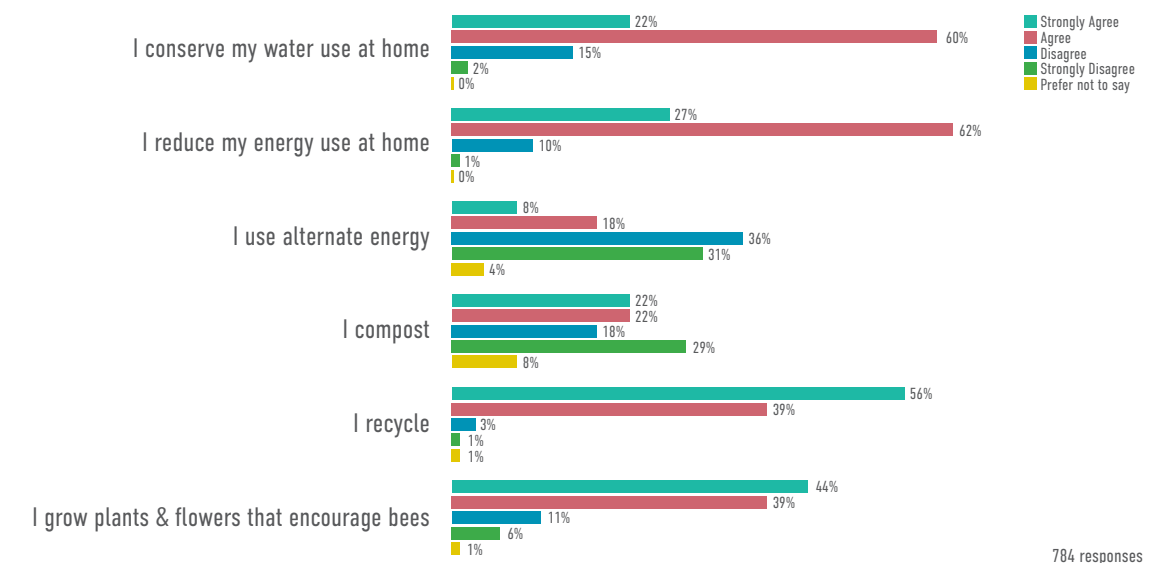


## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

### WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY?



### ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

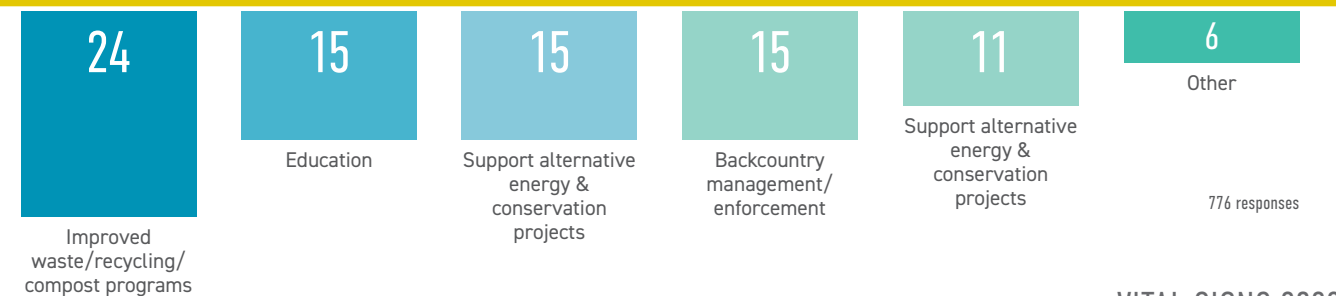


Overall this is a wonderful place to live and recreate. I am concerned about increased pressure from tourism and development and the lack of a backcountry management plan.



-Survey respondent

### WHAT COULD THE COMMUNITY DO TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION MEASURES?

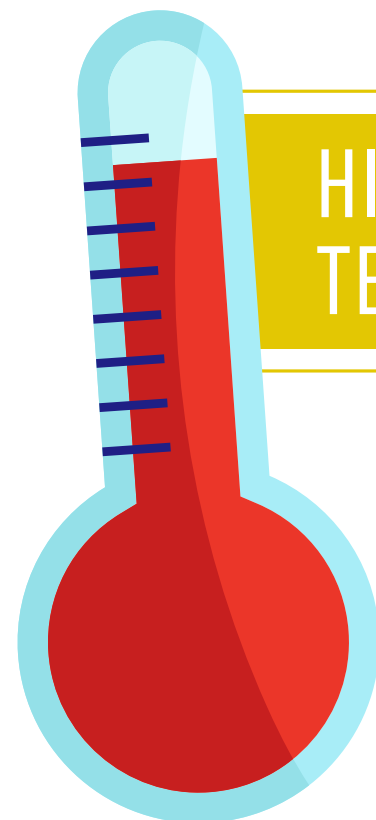


# LAKE WINDERMERE AMBASSADORS TESTING

“Water temperature is critically important to lake health as it has direct impacts on water chemistry (ex. Dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, water density) and influences the rate of chemical and biological reactions. This affects the ability for aquatic life to grow, survive, and reproduce in an environment (Alberta Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program, 2008).”

“To adjust for the naturally warmer temperatures in Lake Windermere, the Ministry of Environment set the maximum allowable average monthly water temperatures at 20°C, 25°C, and 23°C in June, July, and August respectively (Neufeld et al., 2010). These guidelines are based on the Ministry of Environment recommendation that lake water temperatures should remain within ± 1°C of natural conditions.”

- Lake Windermere Ambassador Community Based Water Quality Monitoring Program 2019 Final Report

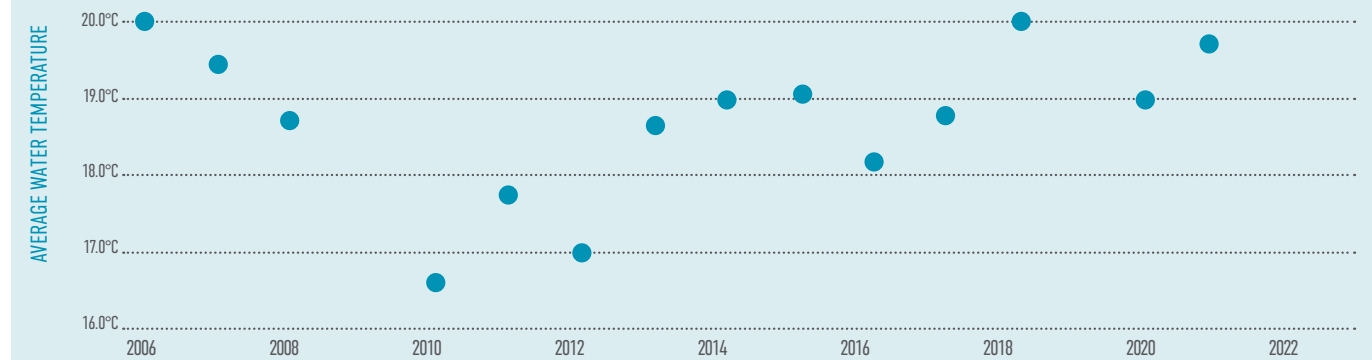


## HIGHEST LAKE WINDERMERE TEMPERATURES RECORDED

Source: Lake Windermere Ambassadors

2021	24.3°
2020	22.6°
2019	22.6°
2018	23.6°

## LAKE WINDERMERE WATER TEMPERATURES



The Lake Windermere Ambassadors measure water temperature at three sites on the lake. Data is collected once per week in the summer months (June–September). The points on the graph above represent the average of these measurements. Before 2011, data collection was less consistent, so values should be interpreted with caution. The average temperature of the water has been gradually increasing since about 2010.

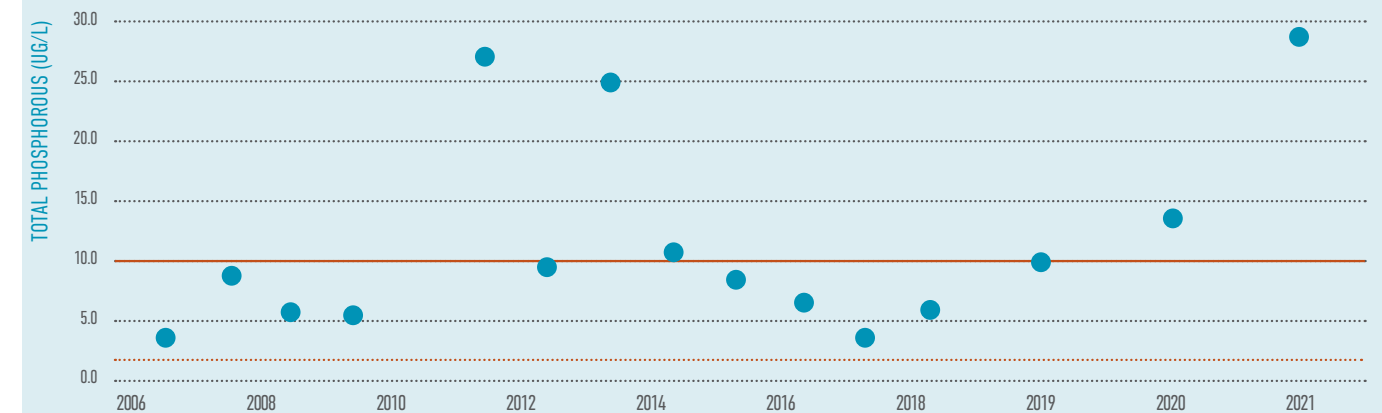
the water is not captured, just its average morning temperature. It's quite likely that on hot summer days, the temperature of the water has exceeded the Ministry of Environment recommendations for aquatic health.

Lake Windermere temperature results regularly exceed 15°C—the objective set by Health Canada for drinking water sources.

Data is collected between approximately 8 am–1 pm. The morning is when water is the coolest, while the afternoon to early evening is when it is the hottest; therefore, the maximum temperature of

Source: Lake Windermere Ambassadors  
Water Quality Monitoring Results

## LAKE WINDERMERE PHOSPHOROUS CONCENTRATIONS



This graph shows the average total phosphorous concentrations in the lake water since 2006.

during April (ice-off); however, these results are not included in this graph.

In 2011 & 2013, the values greatly exceeded the Ministry of Environment's recommended maximum. This is likely because of landslides and debris flows that occurred during these years. Total phosphorous is measured approximately once per month in the summer (June–September). Phosphorous is also measured

Excess levels of phosphorous can lead to excessive algae growth. Lake Windermere is naturally oligotrophic, meaning “low in nutrients”. Values above the recommended maximum for phosphorous put the lake at risk of developing algae growth, which could impact drinking water quality, recreation, and fish &

— MAXIMUM  
..... DETECTION LIMIT

Source: Lake Windermere Ambassadors  
Water Quality Monitoring Results

MODELED CLIMATE DATA: HISTORY & PROJECTIONS

Changes to mean annual temperature and total annual precipitation were projected for 33 communities in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region. Projections are presented for two periods (near future and far future) and two future scenarios (lower and higher global carbon emissions).

Source: State of the Basin

RADIUM HOT SPRINGS					
	Recent Past (1951-1980)	Near Future (2021-2050)		Far Future (2051-2080)	
		Low Carbon	High Carbon	Low Carbon	High Carbon
Annual mean temperature	3.3°C	5.0°C	5.5°C	6.2°C	7.4°C
Annual Total Precipitation	441mm	456mm	449mm	466mm	475mm

CANAL FLATS					
	Recent Past (1951-1980)	Near Future (2021-2050)		Far Future (2051-2080)	
		Low Carbon	High Carbon	Low Carbon	High Carbon
Annual mean temperature	5.4°C	7.2°C	7.7°C	8.4°C	9.5°C
Annual Total Precipitation	352mm	356mm	360mm	372mm	379mm

Low carbon scenarios assume global greenhouse gas emissions will be drastically reduced from current levels, while high carbon scenarios assume greenhouse gas emissions will continue increasing at current rates.

Source: State of the Basin

HEAT DOME

A heat dome occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap.

Source: Science.gc.ca



LASTED JUNE 25-JULY 1, 2021

**45°C** HIGHEST RECORDED TEMP IN COLUMBIA VALLEY

**49.6°C** HIGHEST TEMP IN BC

**619** HEAT RELATED DEATHS IN BC

**20**  
AVERAGE NUMBER OF FIRES PER YEAR  
TWO-THIRDS ARE LIGHTNING

Source: State of Climate Adaptation - Area F - RDEK 2017

**1,300**

Average of hectares burned annually between 1919-2017

**77,809** HECTARES BURNED

2021

**359** FIRES IN 2021

Source: Provided by Southeast Fire Centre Information coordinator

**13,317** HECTARES BURNED

2022

**409** FIRES IN 2022

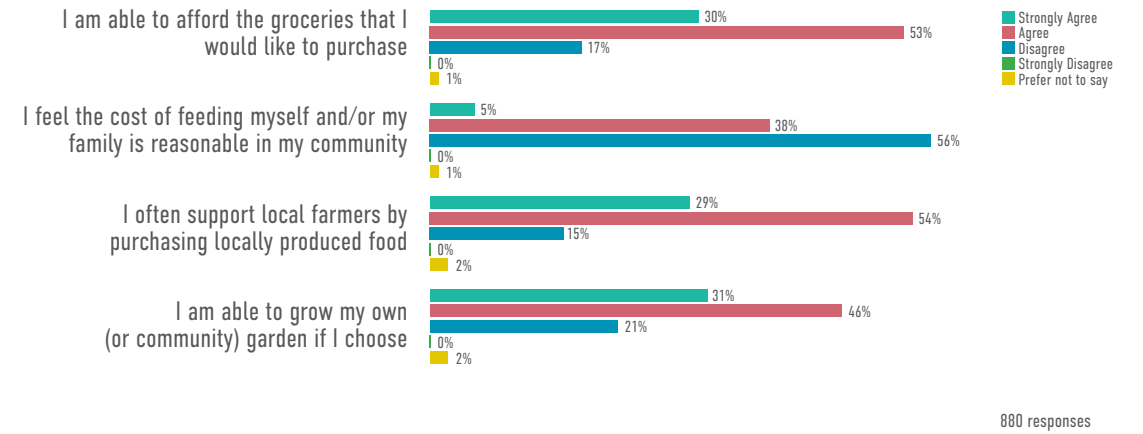
# FOOD & AGRICULTURE



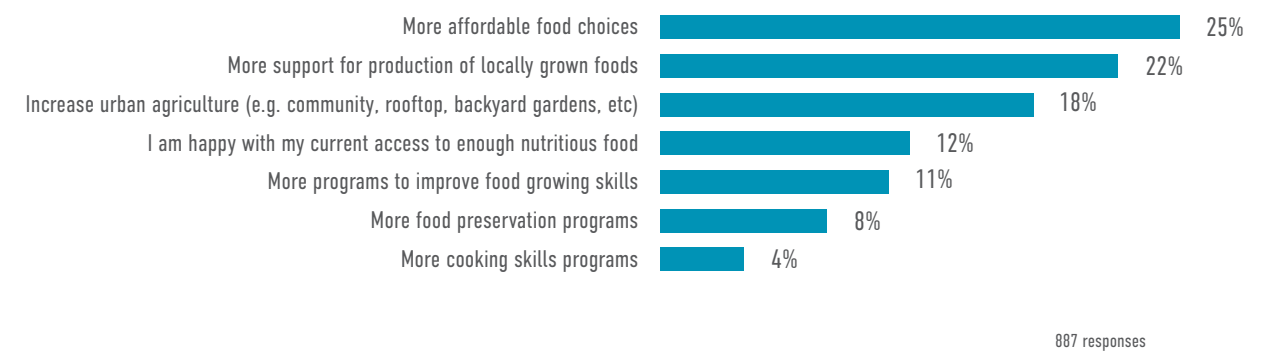
“ I would like to see a community commercial kitchen developed so individuals could make goods for sale but not have the massive overhead costs associated with installing a commercial kitchen.   
 -Survey respondent

## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

### FOOD PURCHASING IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY

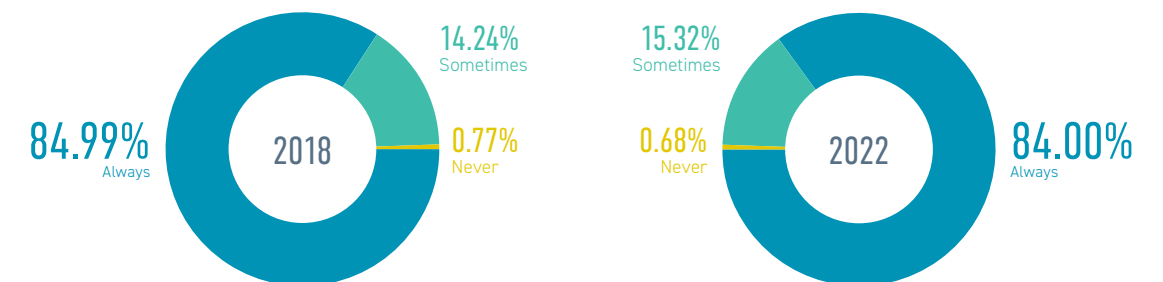


### WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ENOUGH NUTRITIOUS FOOD?



### ACCESS TO NUTRITIONAL FOOD

Do you have access to enough nutritious food to meet your dietary needs?



# 92

## GARDEN BEDS

**42** RADIUM ROTARY GARDENS BEDS

**50** GROUNDSWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN BEDS

Source: Radium Rotary & Groundswell

### GROWING SEASON

# 191

DAYS



Highest = 228 days 2015  
Lowest = 146 days 1982

### TOTAL LAND CROP AREA IN COLUMBIA VALLEY

Source: 2021 Census of Agriculture

# 1,951

HECTARES (AREA F AND AREA G)

### PERCENTAGE CHANGE OF CROP LAND FROM 2016 CENSUS

Source: 2016 & 2021 Census of Agriculture

# +17%

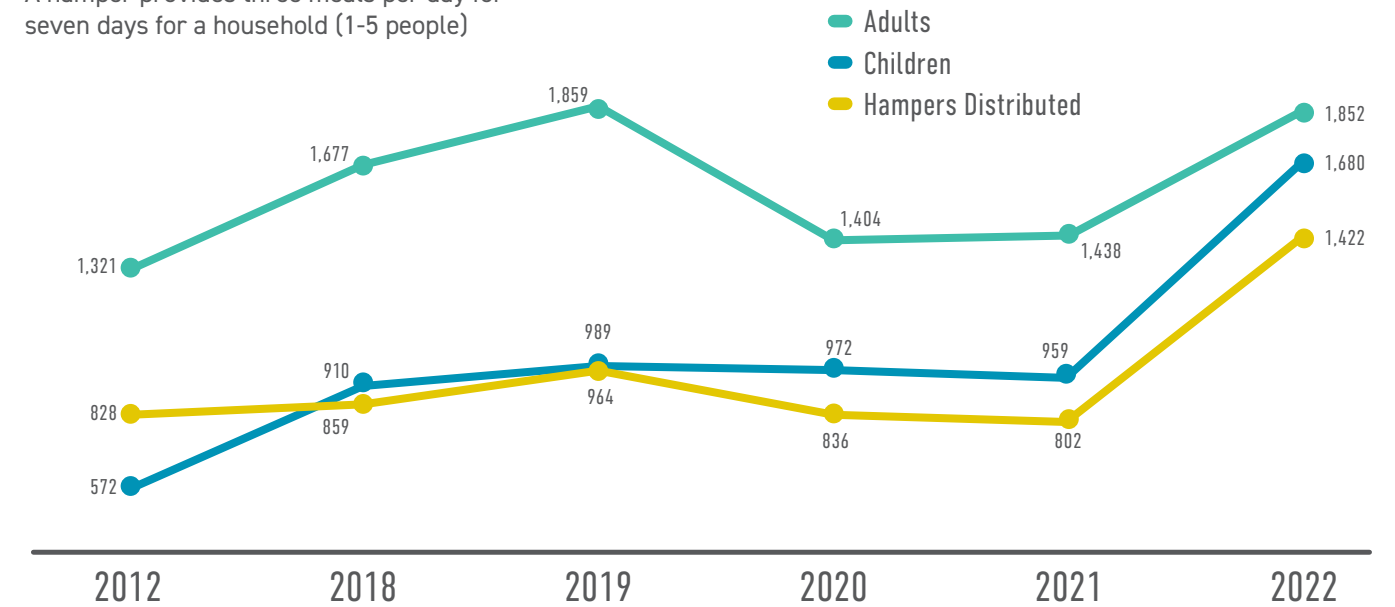
### TOTAL AREA OF CHRISTMAS TREES GROWN FOR SALE IN AREAS F & G

	FARMS REPORTING	ACRES	HECTARES
<b>2011</b>	12	1,281	518
<b>2016</b>	8	415	168
<b>2021</b>	3	234	95

Source: 2011, 2016, & 2021 Census of Agriculture

### COLUMBIA VALLEY FOOD BANK TOTAL VISITS

A hamper provides three meals per day for seven days for a household (1-5 people)



Source: 2018 Chair's Report, CV Food Bank

2018

**30** VOLUNTEERS AVERAGED 1,000 HOURS PER YEAR

2022

**40** VOLUNTEERS AVERAGED 150-200 HOURS PER MONTH

**2,100 HOURS PER YEAR**

### TOTAL MEALS DISTRIBUTED

2018  
**54,327**  
\$1.38/meal

2022  
**74,172**  
\$1.67/meal

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

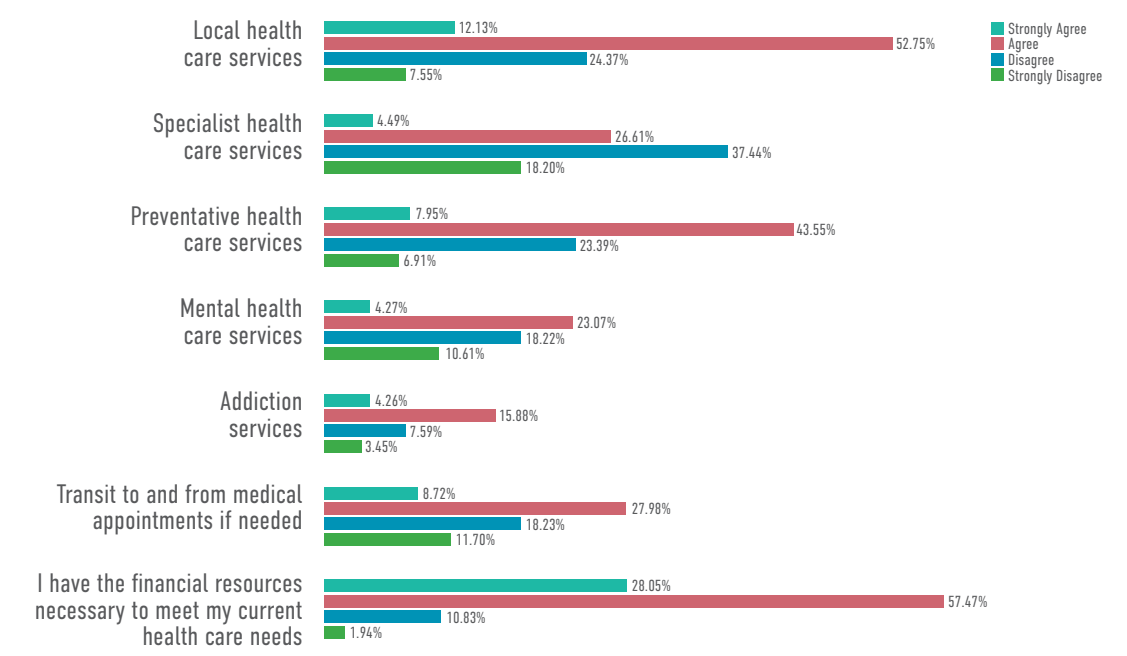


So glad we have access to health care including a family doctor and hospital in Invermere

-Survey respondent

## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

### I HAVE TIMELY ACCESS TO...



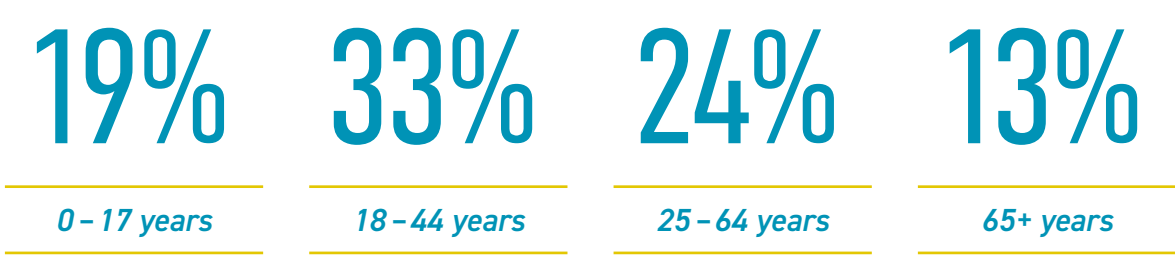
879 responses

# 15

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES AT INVERMERE DISTRICT HOSPITAL, 2021  
(THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 2 DELIVERIES FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR)

Source: Interior Health

### PERCENTAGE OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS BY AGE



Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2020/2021

# WINDERMERE LOCAL HEALTH AREA PROFILE

**11,135**

2021 Population of Windermere Local Health Area  
(does not include First Nations communities)

**83** **86** WOMEN  
**79** MEN

Life Expectancy in Windermere Health Area  
(this is the same as the life expectancy for BC, 2015-2019)

Source: Local Health Area Profile, Windermere 2020

**1.0**

## Population Density per square km

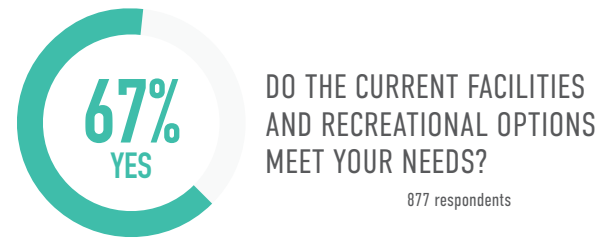
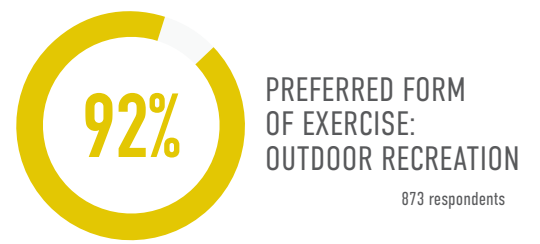
3.5 people per square km – Interior Health region  
5.1 people per square km – BC

(lower densities indicate a rural area that typically has lower access to health services)

Source: Local Health Area Profile, Windermere 2020

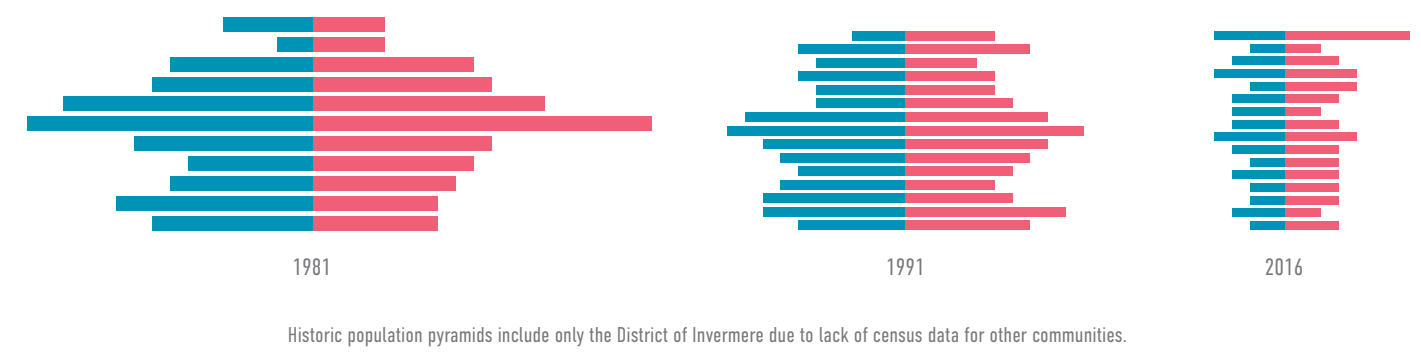
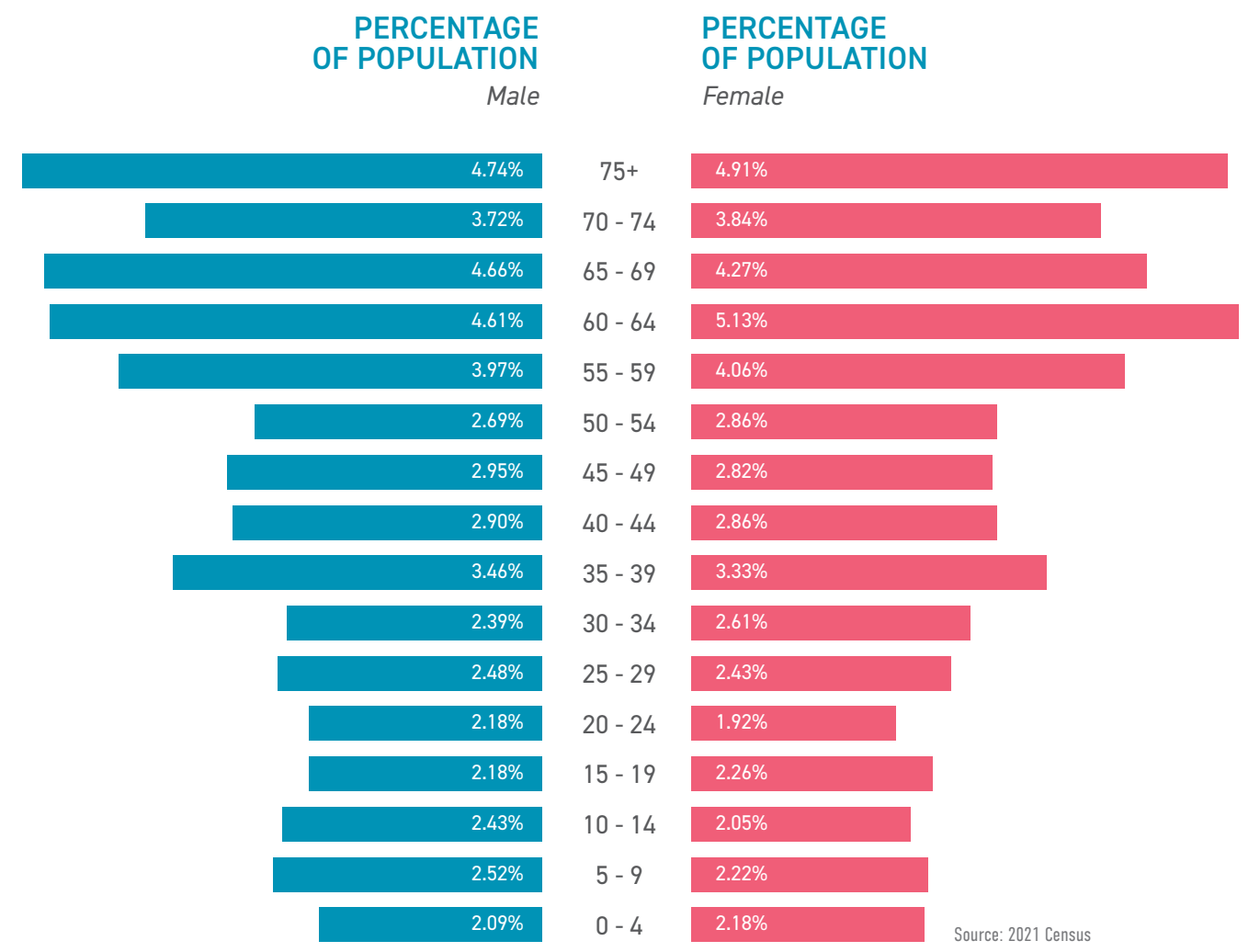


The Windermere Health Area encompasses the highlighted area shown in the map above



## POPULATION PYRAMIDS

Population pyramid for Windermere Health Area. A pyramid with a wide base indicates a younger population, while a top-heavy pyramid indicates an aging population with a longer life expectancy.



# INVERMERE & DISTRICT HOSPITAL

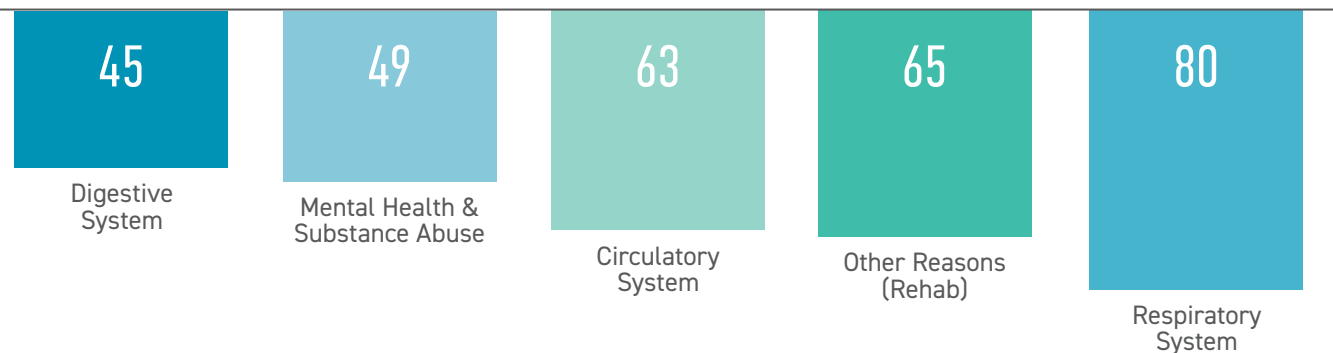
## NUMBER OF INPATIENT DAYS

Calculated from admission date until discharge date



Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2021/2022

## MOST COMMON MCCS FOR INPATIENT CASES



Major Clinical Categories (MCCs) are large groups related to body systems. This chart reflects MCCs that account for the most hospitalizations in our local health region.

Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2021/2022

## INVERMERE & DISTRICT HOSPITAL OCCUPANCY RATES

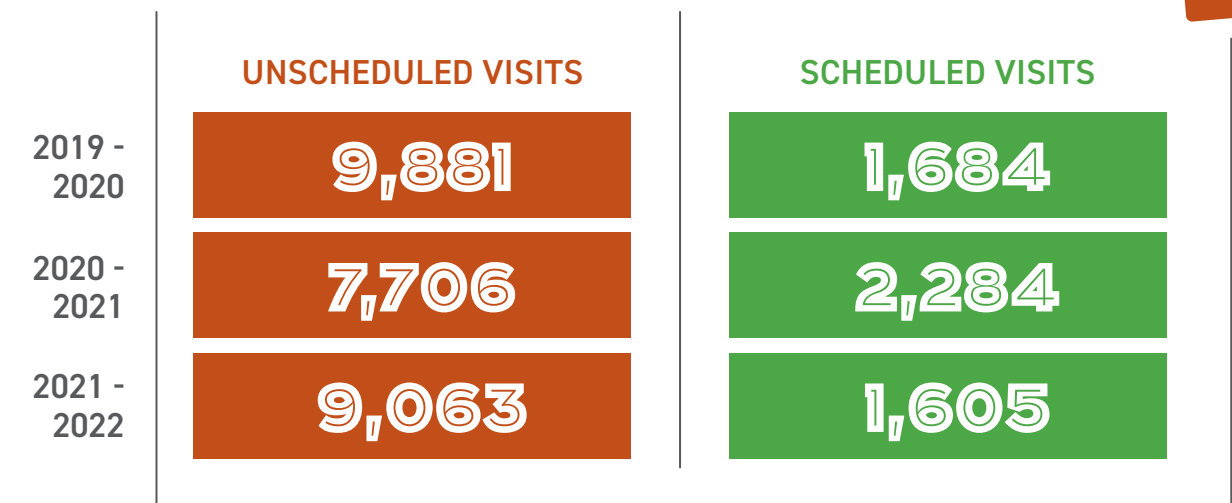
**72%**  
2019/2020

**60%**  
2020/2021

**82%**  
2021/2022

Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2021/2022

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS



Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2021/2022

## INPATIENT CASES BY RESIDENCE

**90%** Windermere  
**7%** Out of Province

Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2021/2022



Source: Facility Profile - Invermere & District Hospital 2020/2021



# COVID-19 COMMUNITY SURVEY

This data was collected from the BC Centre for Disease Control COVID-19 SPEAK (Survey on Population Experience, Actions, and Knowledge) Dashboard. The survey was conducted from May 21–May 31, 2020 with almost 400,000 respondents. The statistics provided on this page are drilled down to the Windermere sub-region.

The statistics provided on these pages reflect only the Windermere Local Health Area.

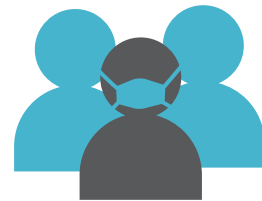
**89%**

WASH THEIR HANDS  
REGULARLY TO LOWER THE  
RISK OF GETTING COVID-19



**80%**

avoid gatherings to lower the  
risk of getting COVID-19



**25%**

were concerned about  
their own health

**54%**

were concerned about a  
vulnerable family member

**69%**

SAID THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO  
THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC  
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IS APPROPRIATE

**23%**

are eating more fruits  
and vegetables

**28%**

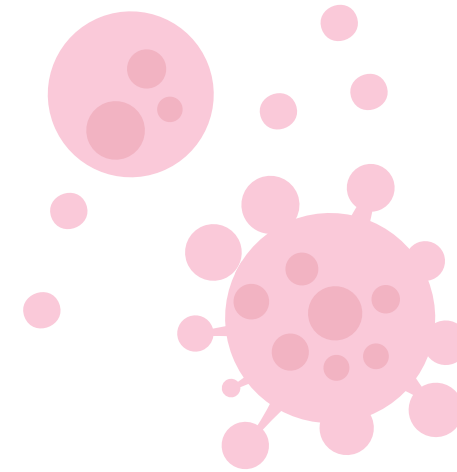
walk, run or  
cycle more

**71%**

have a strong sense of  
community belonging

**27%**

ARE CONNECTING WITH THEIR  
FAMILY MORE THAN BEFORE THE  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



**15%**

ARE DRINKING LESS ALCOHOL COMPARED  
TO BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**21%**

SAID THEY ARE DRINKING MORE ALCOHOL

**4%**

ARE USING MORE CANNABIS

**75%**

SAID THEIR WORK HAD BEEN IMPAIRED  
DUE TO COVID-19 AMONG THOSE  
CURRENTLY WORKING

**22%**

were not currently working  
because of COVID-19

**69%**

were comfortable visiting non-essential  
businesses if they had good COVID-19  
preventive measures

**29%**

avoided accessing health care  
since the coronavirus pandemic

**57%**

WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONNECTING  
WITH A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER  
VIRTUALLY AS APPROPRIATE

**82%**

with children aged 5–17 who said  
their children have less connection  
with friends since school closed to  
in-person instruction

**88%**

with children aged 5–17 said  
their children have more screen  
time since schools closed  
to in-person instruction

# BELONGING & QUALITY OF LIFE



“

Life here is amazing, which is why I moved. I am still settling in and finding my feet and figuring out how I can contribute and belong, but the place is paradise for me.

*-Survey respondent*

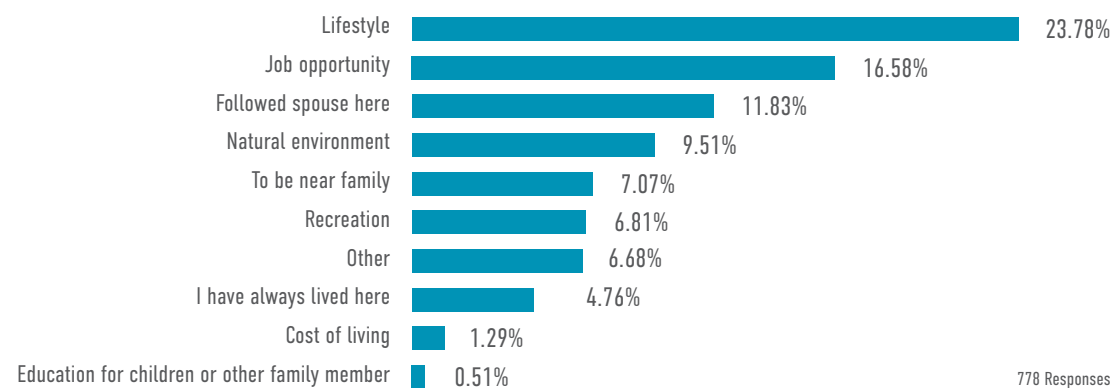
“

We love it here. This is an amazing place to live, raise kids and be part of community. We feel supported and have plenty of opportunities for recreation, for giving back and enjoying life here.

*-Survey respondent*

# COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

## WHAT WAS YOUR PRIMARY REASON FOR MOVING HERE?



## PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU HAVE DONE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.



**137,034** VISITS TO COLUMBIA VALLEY TRAILS IN 2021 (HIKING, CYCLING, & WALKING)



Source: Columbia Valley Cycling Society, Summit Trail Makers, Greenways

## FIRST NATION POPULATION:

Source: Census 1981 & 2021

### AKISQNUK FIRST NATION



### SHUSWAP BAND



## COLUMBIA BASIN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NETWORK EVERY CHILD MATTERS YEAR-LONG LEARNING CHALLENGE

**150**

COLUMBIA VALLEY RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN 2021/2022

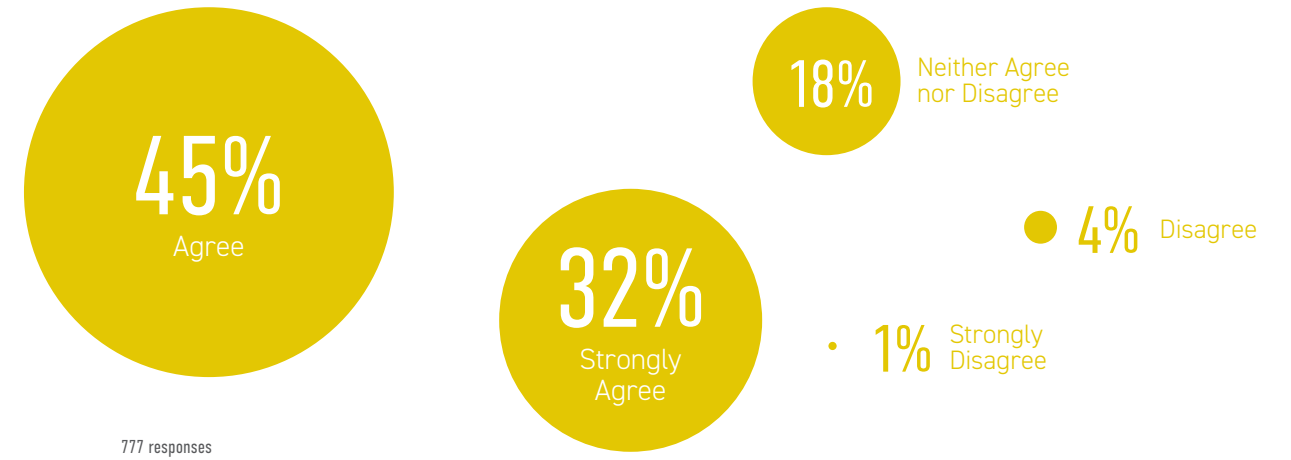
The purpose of this challenge is to help encourage learning going beyond just one day on September 30, and to provide support, resources and encouragement to make learning about Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, history and culture a deeper part of our lives in order to help enable real change over time.

Source: CBEEN

### WHAT CHALLENGES AFFECT YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE HERE IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY?



### I FEEL THAT I BELONG HERE AND THAT I'M ACCEPTED BY MY COMMUNITY

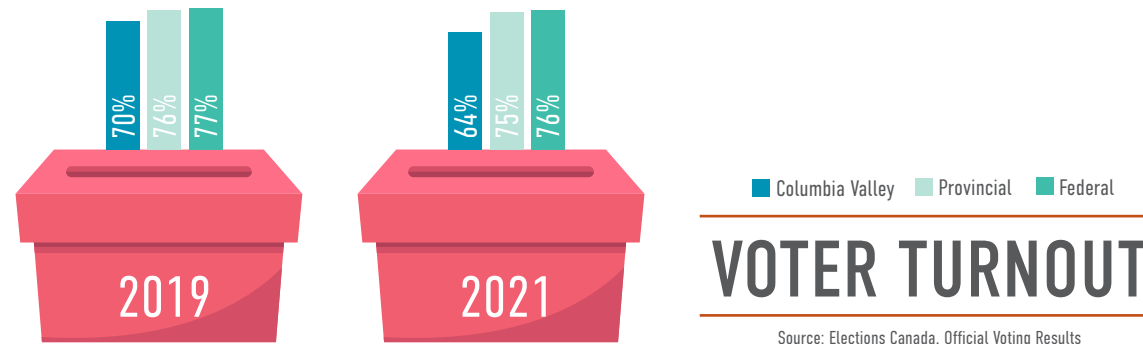


NO RELIGION & SECULAR PERSPECTIVE

59% COLUMBIA VALLEY

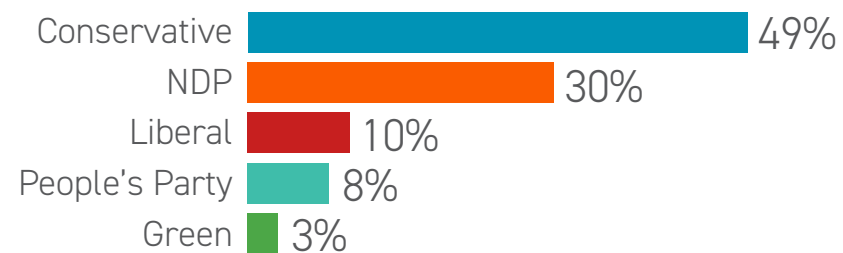
35% CANADA

Source: 2021 Census

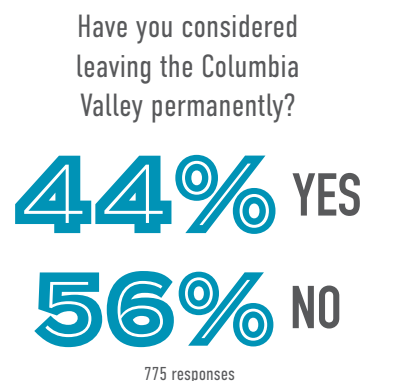
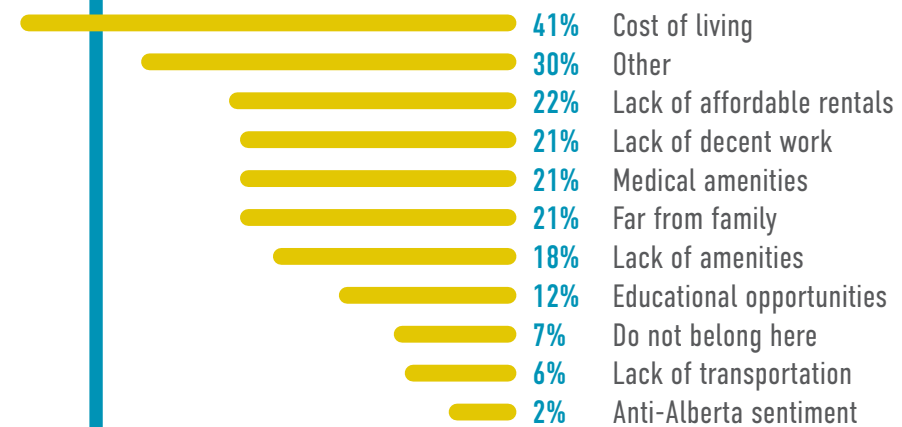


### HOW DID WE VOTE?

Source: Elections Canada, Official Voting Results



### WHY WOULD YOU LEAVE THE COLUMBIA VALLEY?



My comment about our valley is always the same—it is a wonderful place to live but a challenging place to find full-time employment that pays well enough to live here.



-Survey respondent

# WORK & EARNINGS



Photo: Cleanline Automotive

## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Paycheque comes from work that is:

- 57%** Full-Time, Year Round
- 7%** Full-Time, Seasonal
- 5%** Part-Time, Year Round/Seasonal
- 8%** Self Employed Full-Time
- 9%** Self Employed Part-Time
- 5%** Casual/On-call

703 responses

How many hours do you work per week on average?

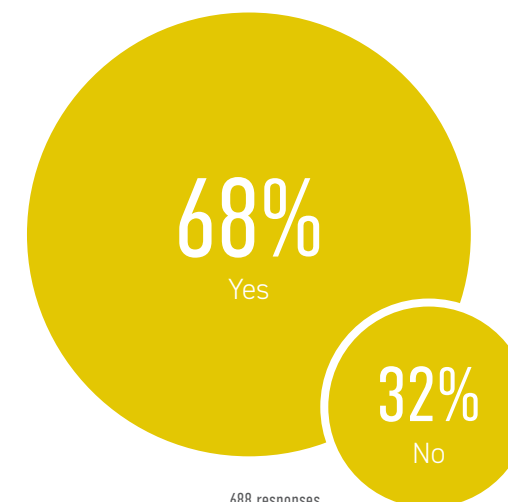
- 13%**
- 11%**
- 41%**
- 27%**
- 9%**

How many hours would you work given your financial commitments & goals?

- 20%**
- 17%**
- 45%**
- 13%**
- 5%**

703 responses

I am employed in my chosen career/vocation in my community:



688 responses

Respondents earning a paycheque from a business that is resident in the Columbia Valley:

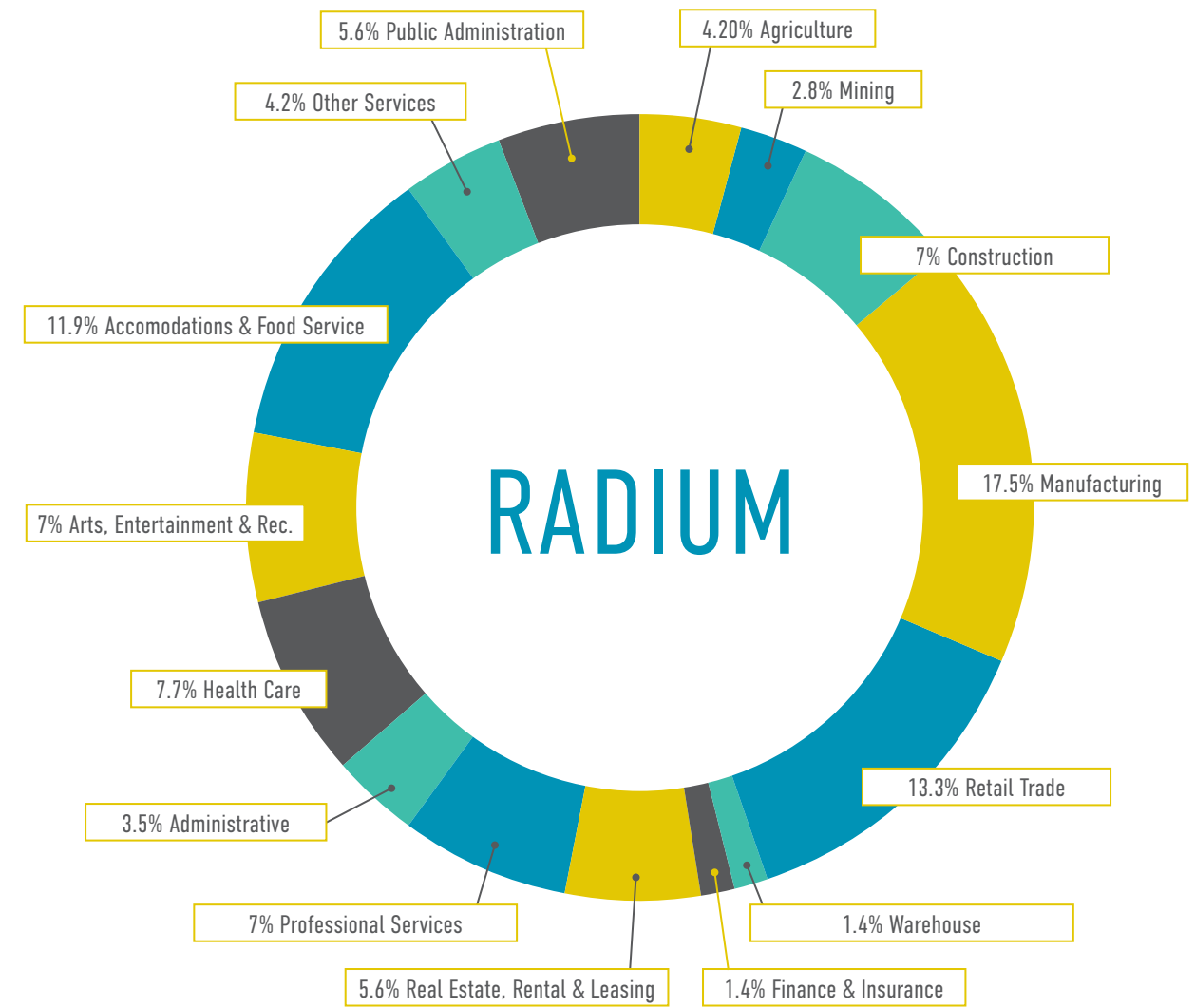
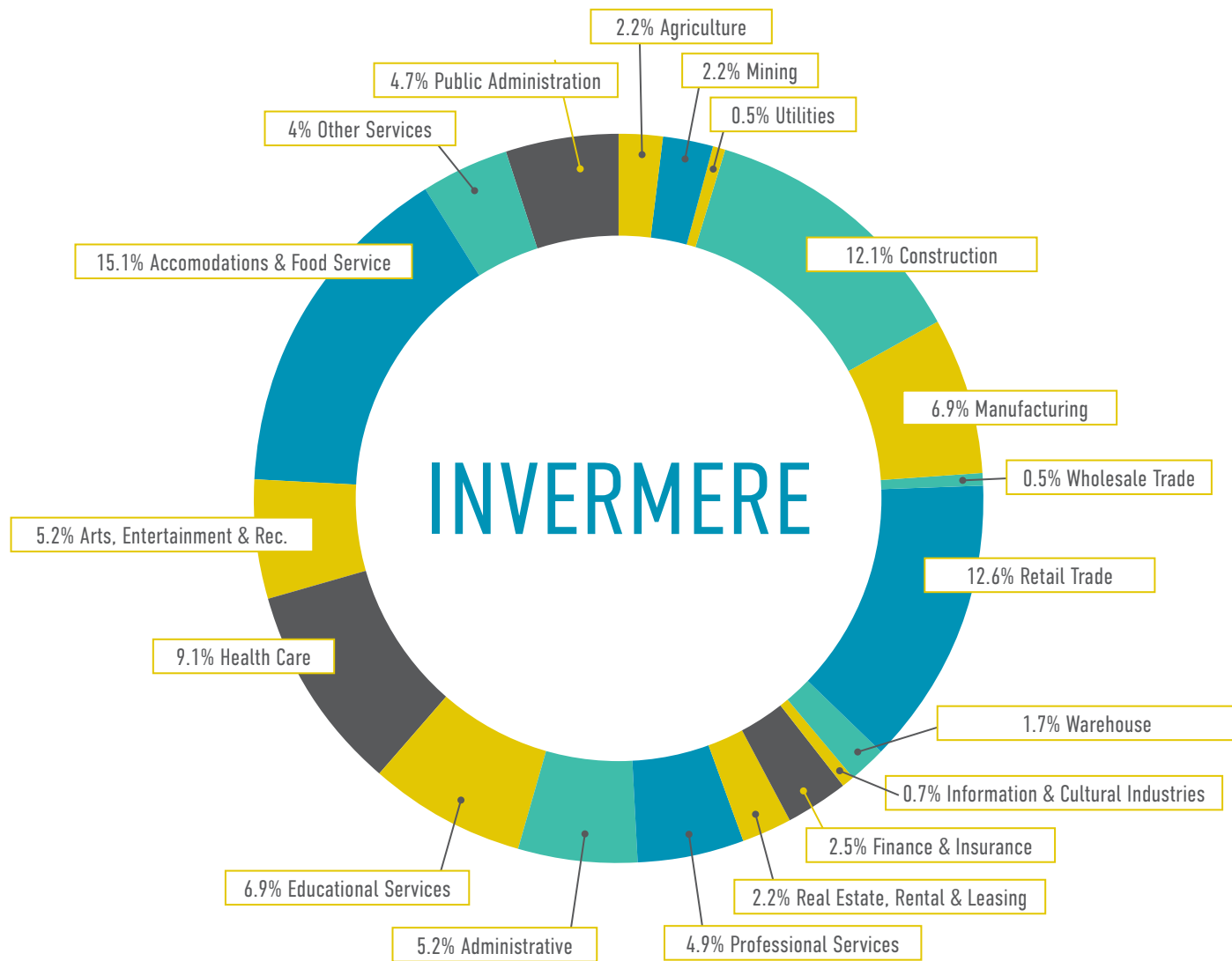


829 responses

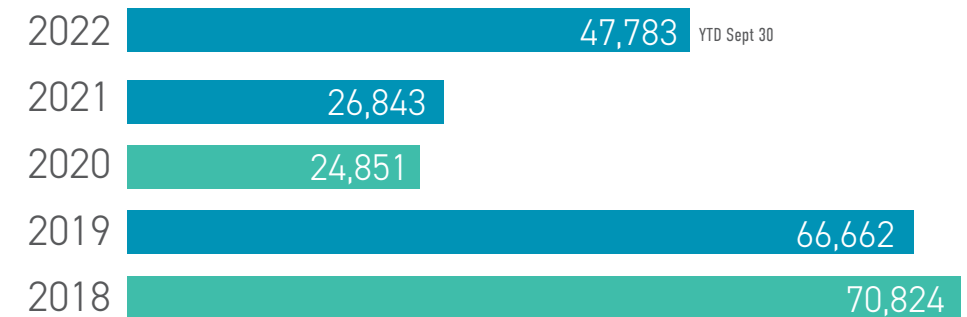


# LABOUR FORCE by INDUSTRY

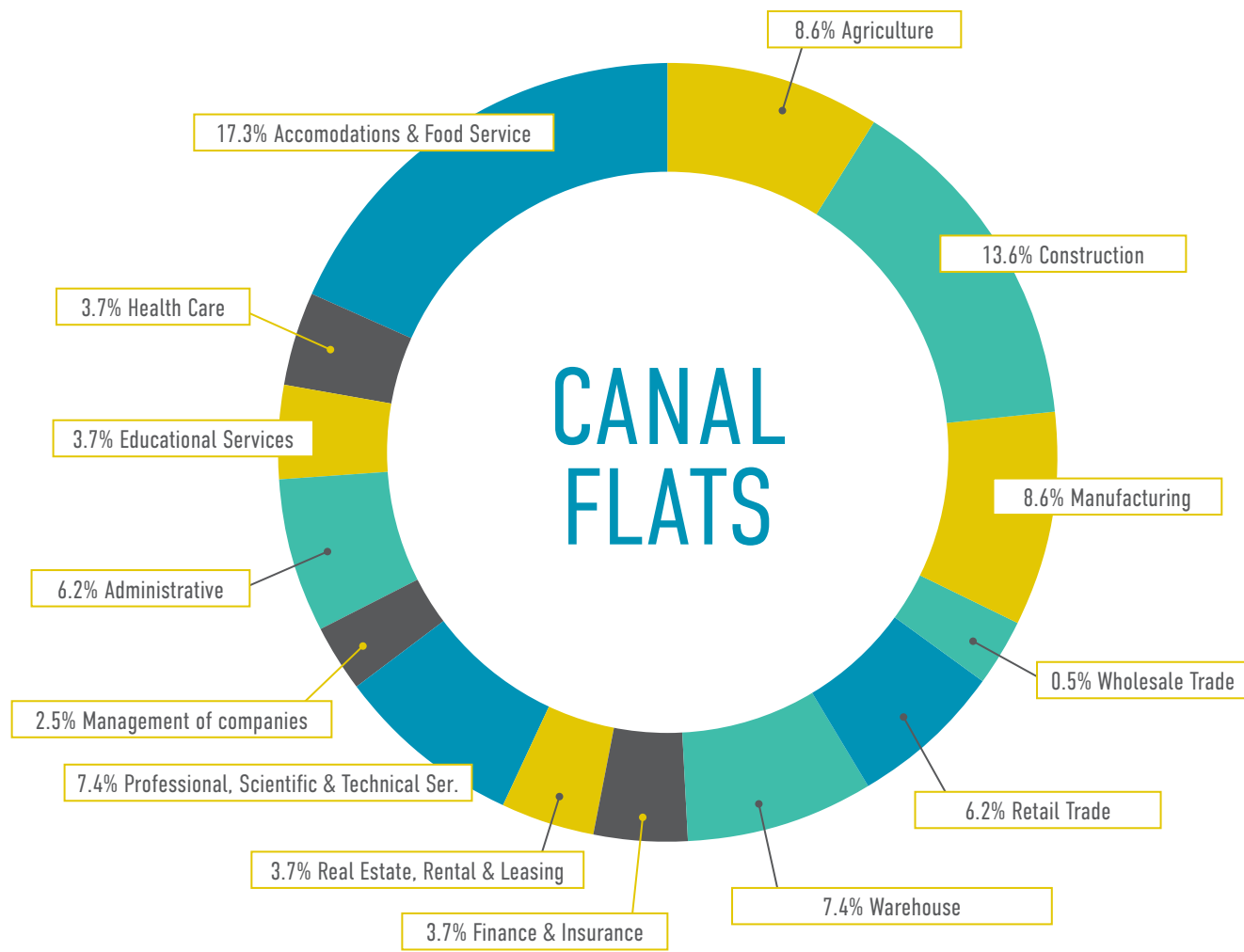
Source: 2021 Census



## VISITORS TO THE RADIUM VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



Source: Destination BC Network Stats



A LIVING WAGE IS THE HOURLY AMOUNT A FAMILY NEEDS TO COVER BASIC EXPENSES.

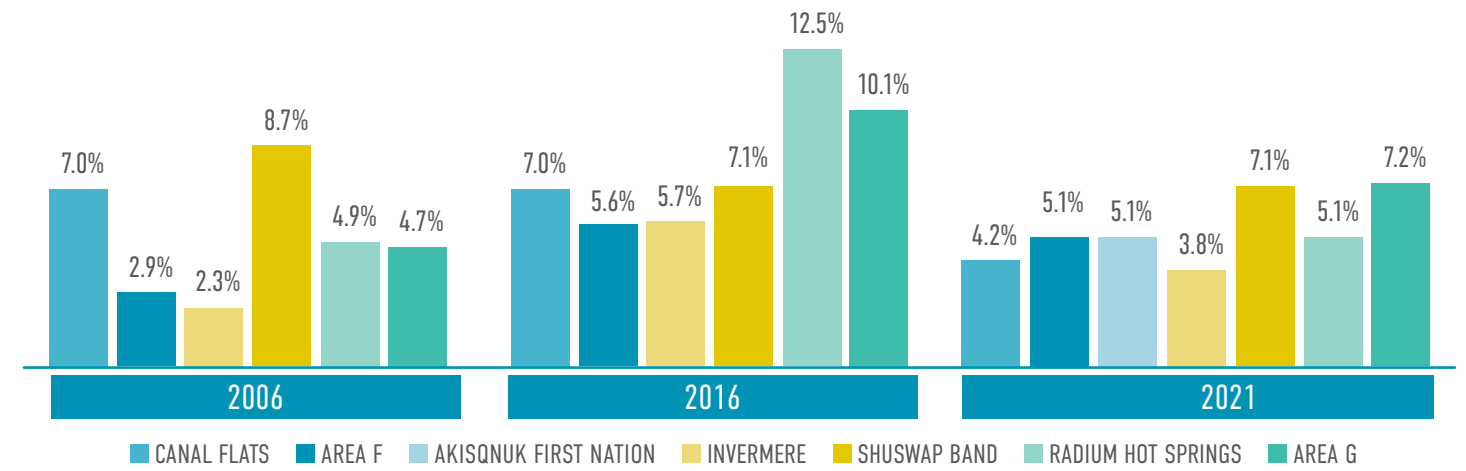
**\$21.85/hr** 2022 COLUMBIA VALLEY LIVING WAGE

\$24.08/hr in Metro Vancouver

Source: Living Wage for Families BC

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labour force.



Source: 2021 Census

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	2016	2021
CANAL FLATS	\$57,504	\$65,000
RDEK AREA F	\$70,967	\$75,500
AKISQNUK FIRST NATION	\$40,512	N/A
INVERMERE	\$65,331	\$75,000
SHUSWAP BAND	\$52,352	\$62,800
RADIUM HOT SPRINGS	\$78,976	\$73,500
RDEK AREA G	\$57,984	\$69,500

Source: 2021 Census

**\$73,000**

National Median Household Income

Source: 2021 Census

**\$76,000**

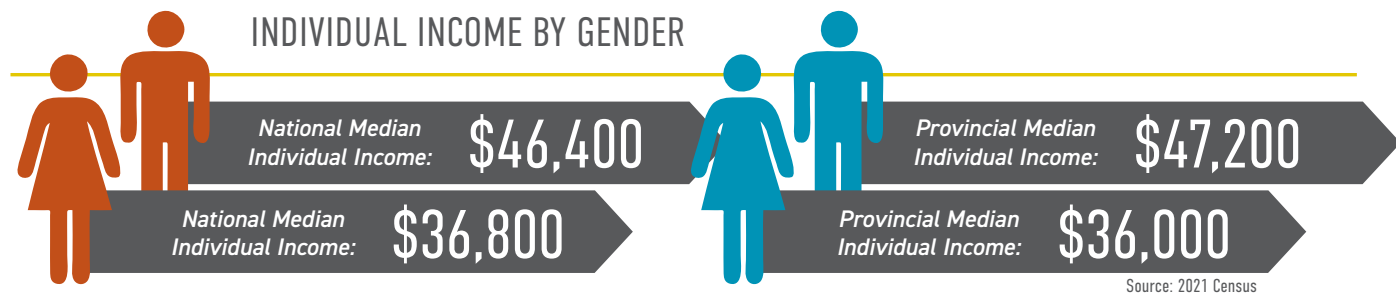
Provincial Median Household Income

Source: 2021 Census

MEDIAN INDIVIDUAL INCOME BY GENDER

	Male	Female
CANAL FLATS	\$44,800	\$29,800
RDEK AREA F	\$50,800	\$37,200
AKISQNUK FIRST NATION	N/A	N/A
INVERMERE	\$50,000	\$38,400
SHUSWAP BAND	\$44,000	\$40,400
RADIUM HOT SPRINGS	\$51,200	\$36,000
RDEK AREA G	\$51,200	\$34,800

Source: 2021 Census



# of SELF-EMPLOYED

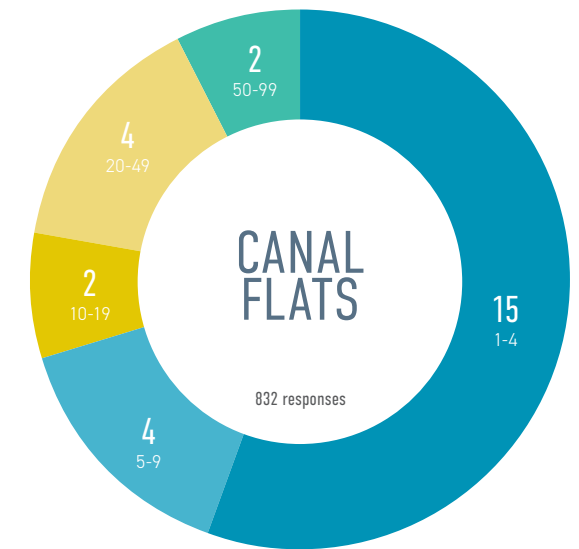
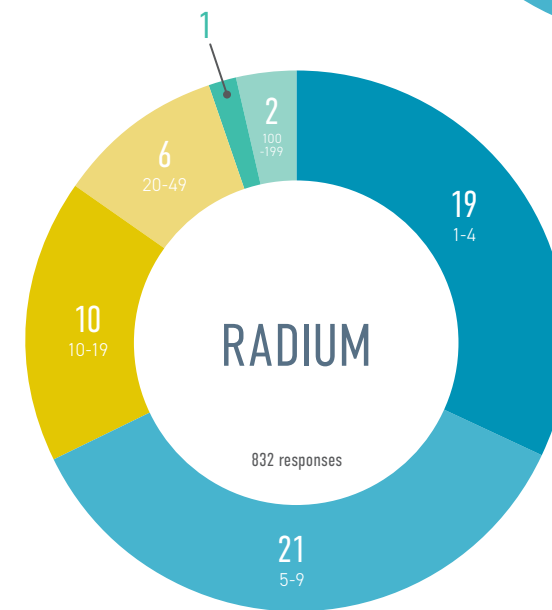
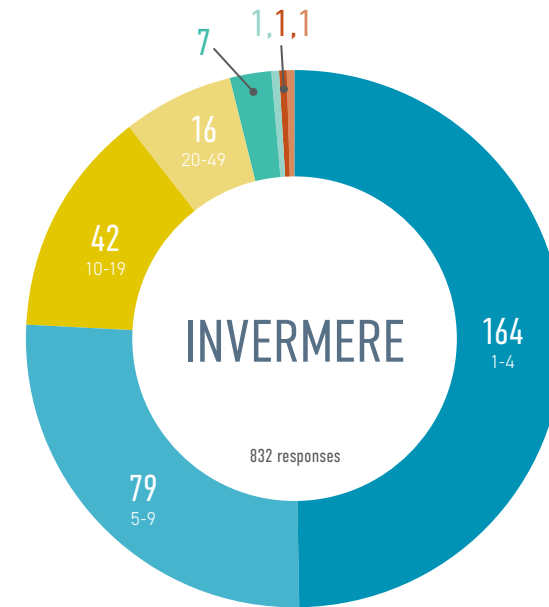
Individuals

CANAL FLATS	45
RDEK AREA F	365
AKISQNUK FIRST NATION	10
INVERMERE	365
SHUSWAP BAND	25
RADIUM HOT SPRINGS	50
RDEK AREA G	195

Source: 2021 Census

EMPLOYER SIZE

- 1-4 Employees
- 5-9 Employees
- 10-19 Employees
- 20-49 Employees
- 50-99 Employees
- 100-199 Employees
- 200-499 Employees
- 500-999 Employees



2021 LABOUR SHORTAGE SURVEY

292

Full Time Job Vacancies

64%

of businesses reduced operating hours due to labour shortage

71%

of employers were paying a living wage

Source: Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce Labour Shortage Survey



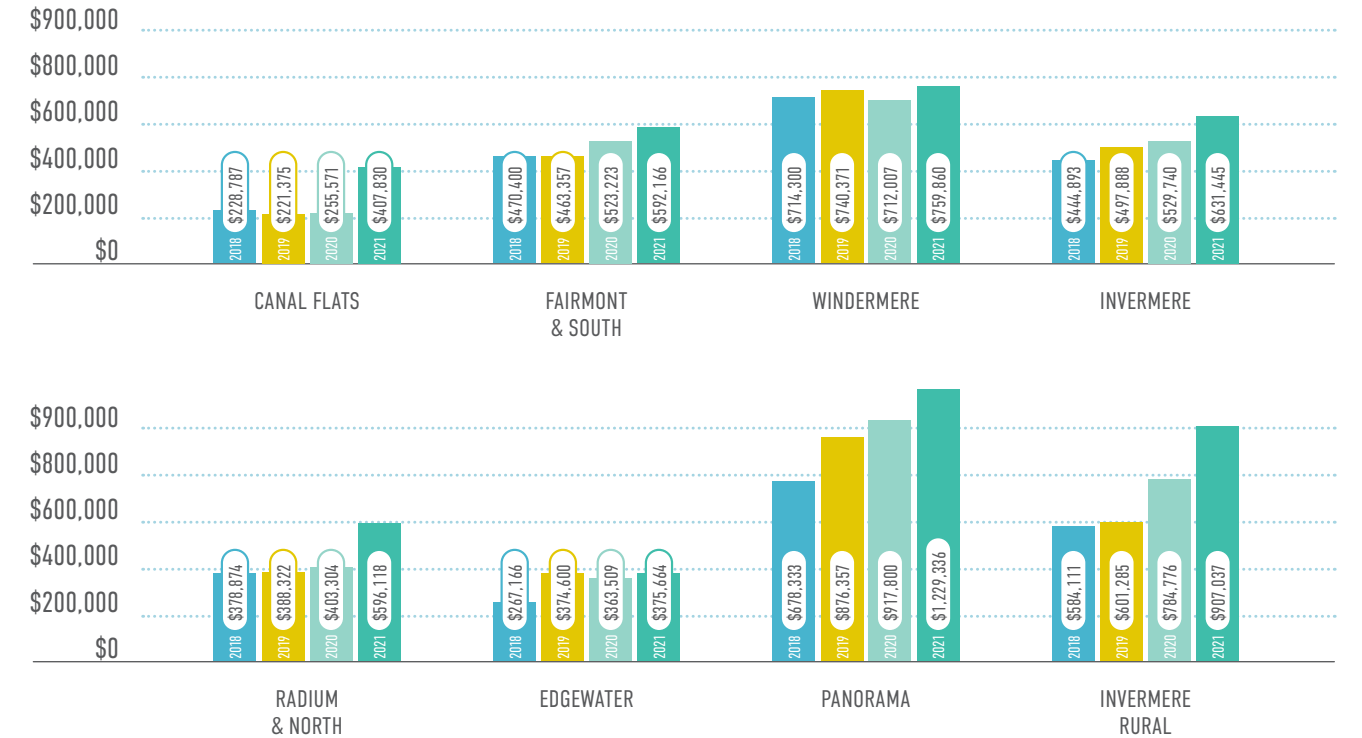
# HOUSING



## COLUMBIA VALLEY HOME PRICES

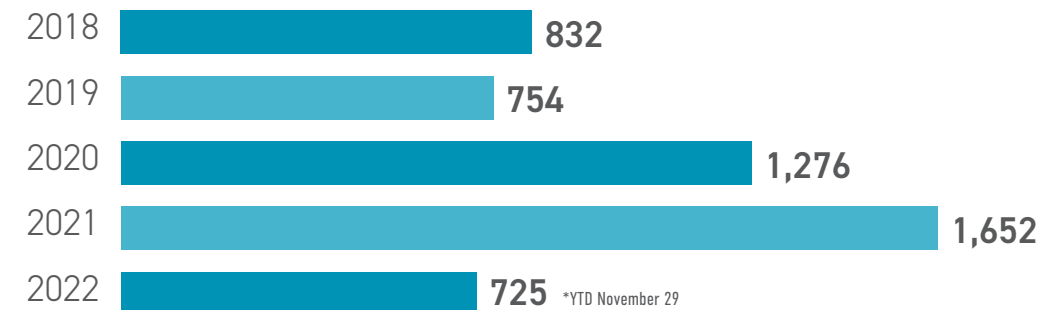
### AVERAGE SALE PRICE

Average sale price for the year in each community for a single family detached home (by Community (2018-2021))



Source: Interior Realtor Association. Courtesy of Gerry Taft Personal Real Estate Corporation, Royal LePage Rockies West Realty

## SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED SALES



Source: Interior Realtor Association. Courtesy of Gerry Taft Personal Real Estate Corporation, Royal LePage Rockies West Realty



“ Would love to stay and continue raising our family and working in our community but we will have to make the tough choice in the next few years to move if we continue to be unable to buy a home here.

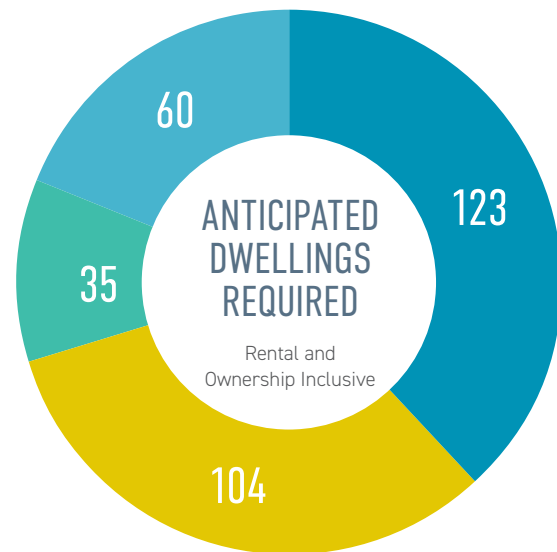
-Survey respondent

# HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

"Municipalities and regional districts in B.C. are required to complete housing needs reports by April 2022 and every five years thereafter. These reports will help local governments and the B.C. government better understand and respond to housing needs in communities throughout B.C."

Government of British Columbia

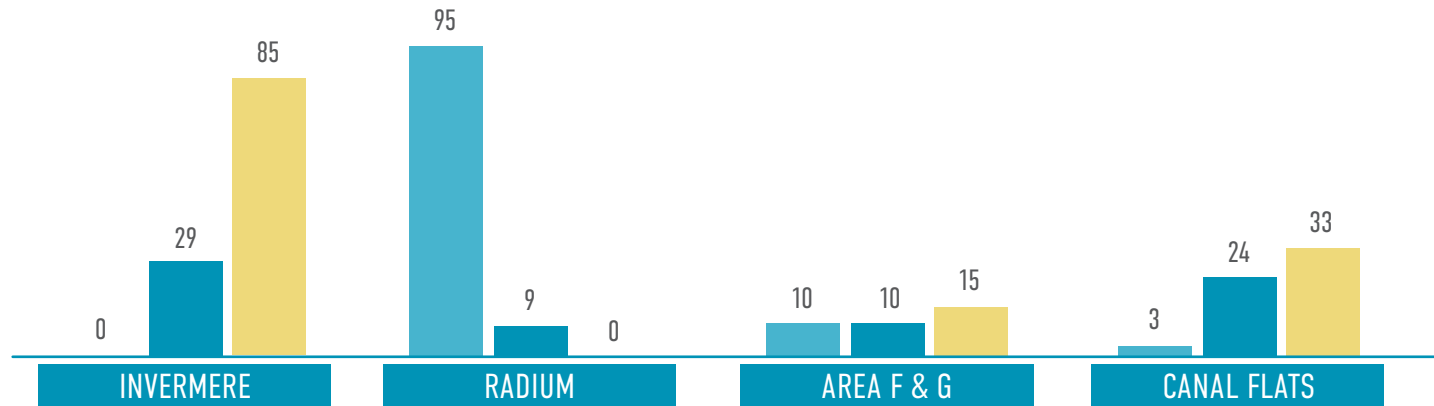
■ Invermere ■ Radium ■ RDEK Area F & G ■ Canal Flats



## ANTICIPATED DEMAND BY UNIT SIZE

■ 0-1 Bedroom ■ 2 Bedroom ■ 3+ Bedroom

Source: Housing Needs Assessments



**13%**

FEEL AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR HOME

799 responses



# HOUSING COMMUNITY SURVEY

## CURRENT LIVING SITUATION

- 36%** Person living with spouse or partner
  - 30%** Person living with spouse or partner, with children at home
  - 14%** Person living with spouse or partner, no children at home
  - 10%** Person living alone
  - 3%** Person living with parents/extended family
  - 3%** Single parent with children at home
  - 2%** Person living with friends
  - 2%** Other
- 802 responses

## IS THE HOME THAT YOU LIVE IN (HERE IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY)...?

- 81.50%** Owned by you or someone you live with
  - 14.63%** Rented by you or someone you live with
  - 1.88%** Other
  - 1.13%** Staff housing
  - 0.75%** Subsidized housing
  - 0.13%** Health or specialty care facility
- 800 responses

**49%**

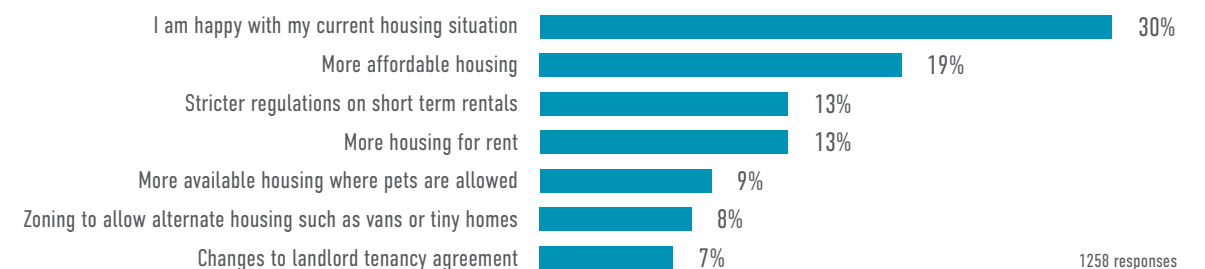
Number of survey respondents who spend > 30% of gross monthly income on housing costs

829 responses

## WHAT % OF YOUR GROSS MONTHLY INCOME GOES TO HOUSING COSTS AT YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE?

- 43%** Less than 30%
  - 29%** Between 30% and 40%
  - 12%** Between 41% and 50%
  - 9%** More than 50%
  - 7%** Don't know
- 795 responses

## WHAT IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY TO INCREASE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO FIND SAFE AND ACCEPTABLE HOUSING IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



# GETTING AROUND



Transportation is a big stumbling block that prevents outer communities (in getting) to Invermere for employment.

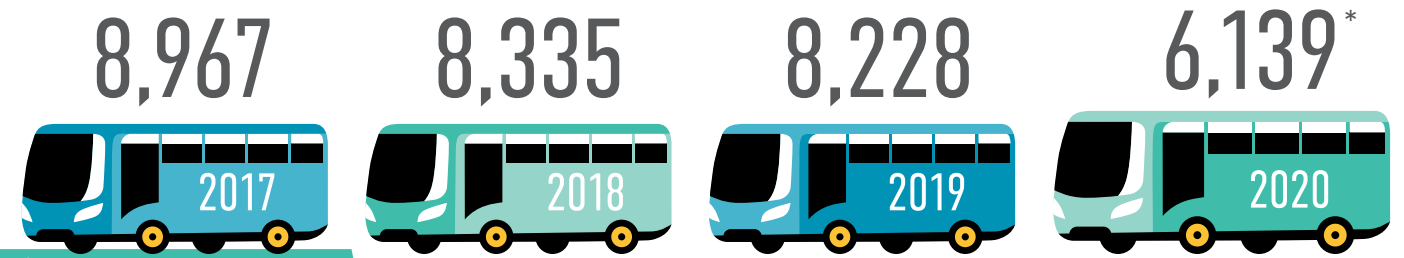
-Survey respondent



Photo: Wildsight's Spark electric car share. Pat Morrow

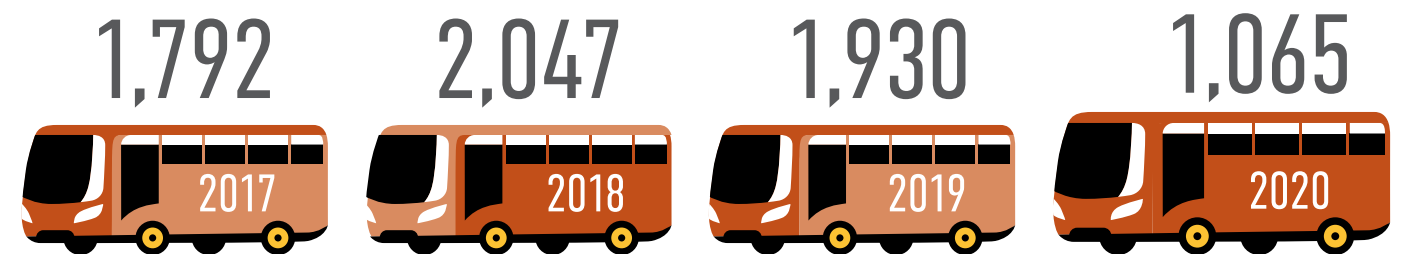
## COLUMBIA VALLEY TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

# of passengers annually



\*Ridership down possibly due to COVID

## COLUMBIA VALLEY HEALTH BUS RIDERSHIP



Source: RDEK

## WILDSIGHT SPARK ELECTRIC CAR SHARE

Source: Wildsight

**95,000 KMS**  
OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS

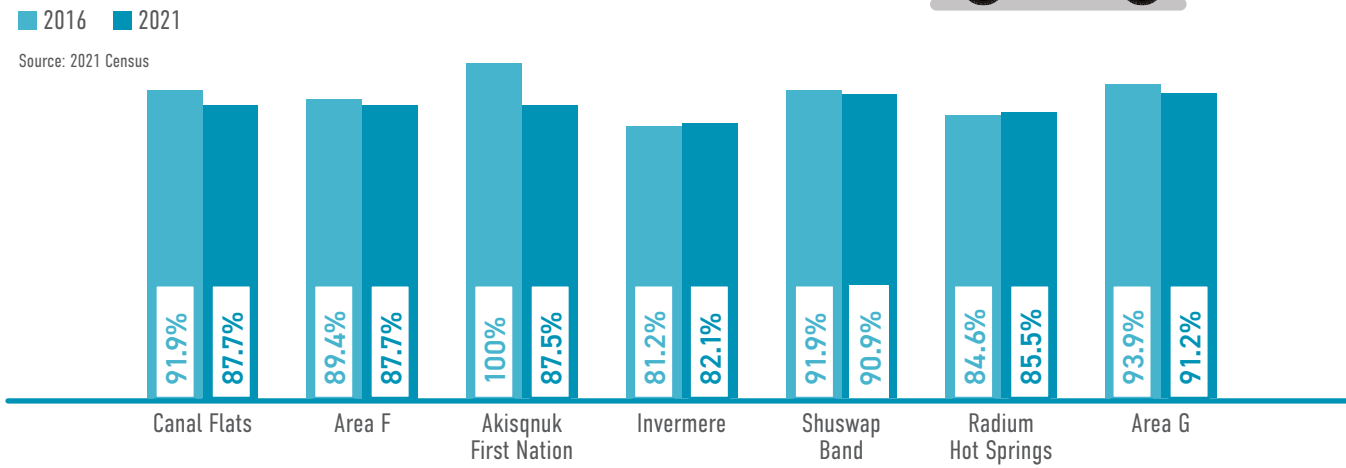
APROX.  
**19,142 KG**  
OF GHG EMISSIONS AVOIDED

**7,813 L**  
OF GASOLINE NOT PURCHASED

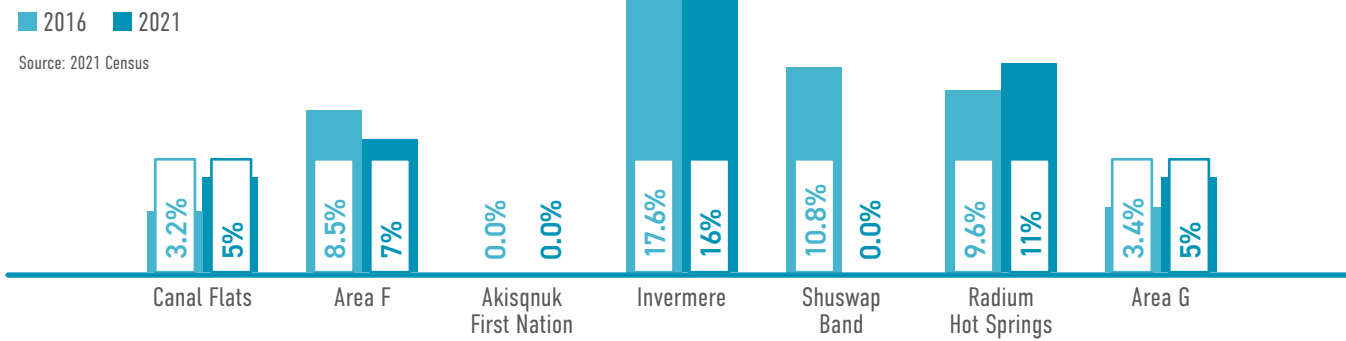
**\$11,720**  
IN FUEL COSTS AVOIDED  
(AT AN AVERAGE OF \$1.50/LITRE)



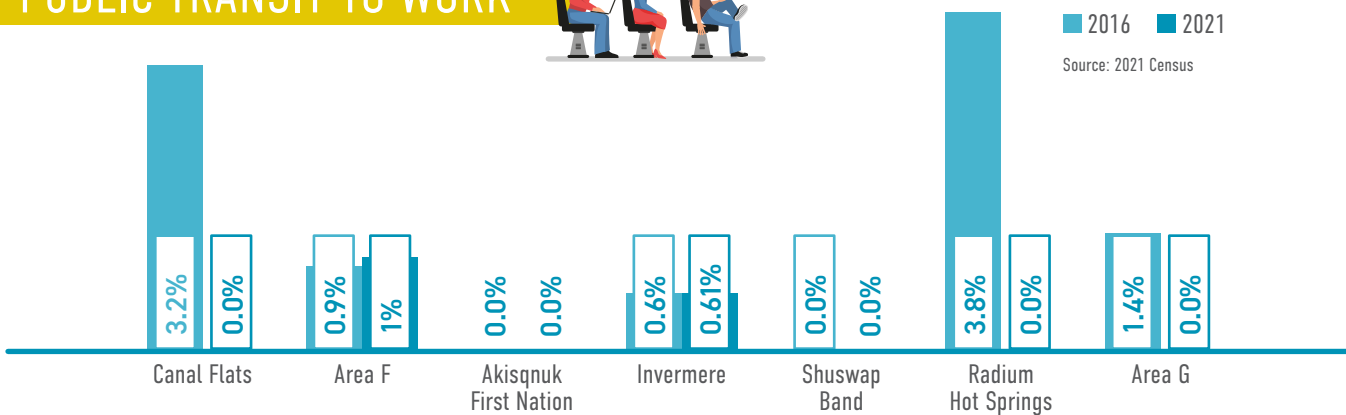
USING A CAR, TRUCK OR VAN TO GET TO WORK



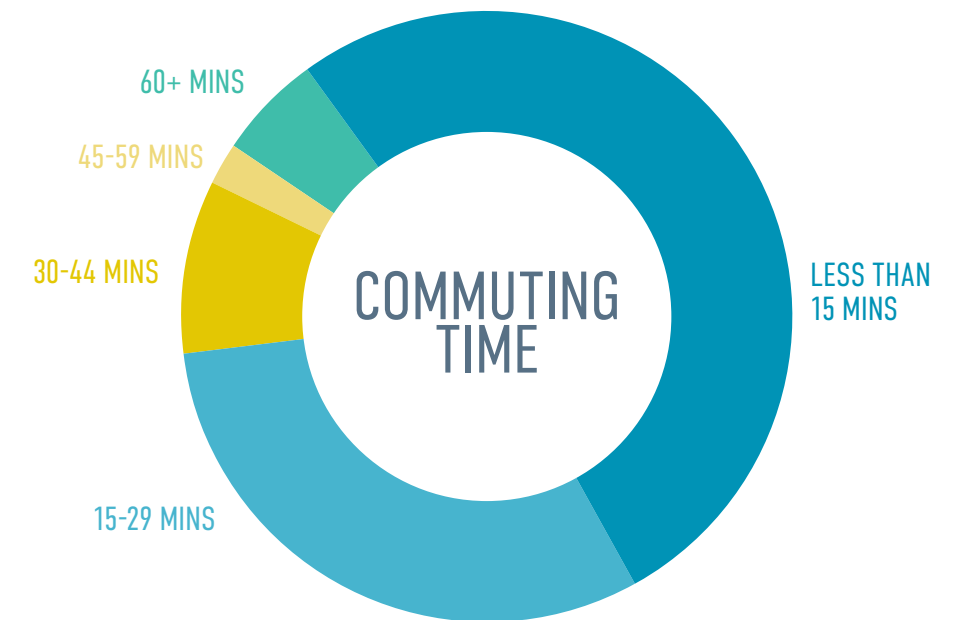
WALKING/BIKING TO WORK



PUBLIC TRANSIT TO WORK



HOW COLUMBIA VALLEY RESIDENTS GET TO WORK



**83%** Columbia Valley

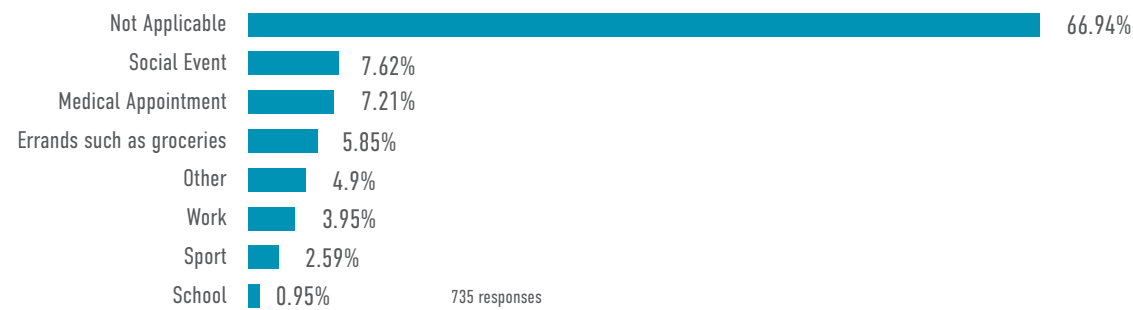
Percentage of population commuting less than 29 minutes

**67%** Canada



# GETTING AROUND COMMUNITY SURVEY

I MISSED... BECAUSE I HAD NO WAY TO GET THERE.  
(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)



ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES?

eg: Canal flats to Invermere

**46%** YES  
**54%** NO

640 responses

IS ACCESSIBILITY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES A BARRIER TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

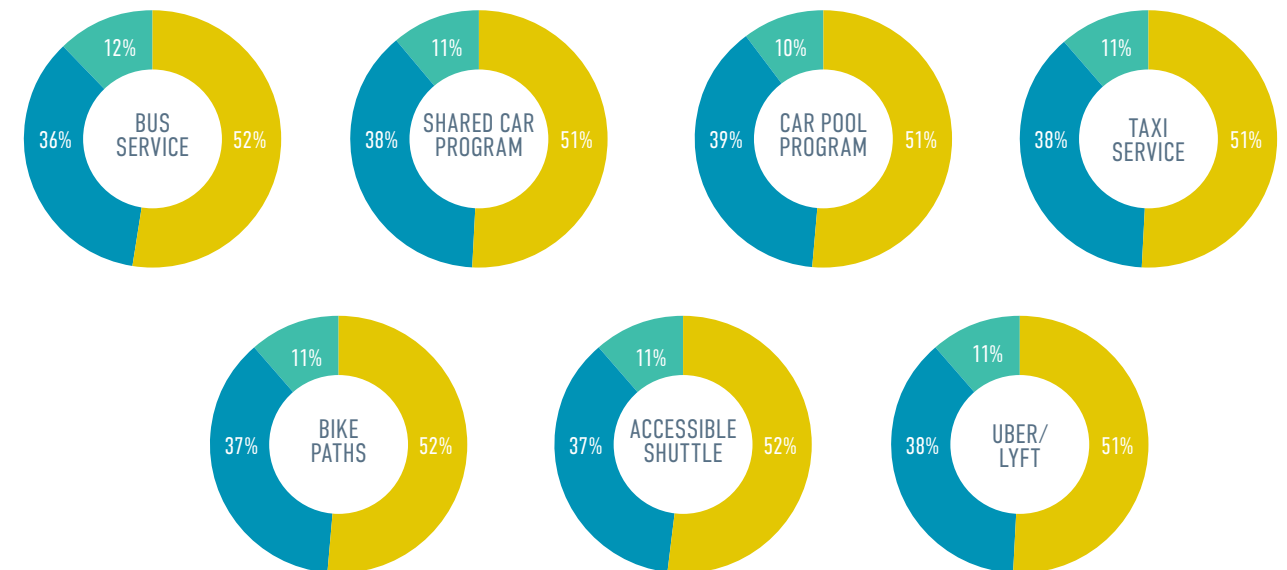
**54%** YES  
**42%** UNSURE  
**4%** NO

640 responses

IF THERE WAS A BETTER..., I WOULD MAKE USE OF IT

735 responses

Always Sometimes Never



## 2021 GRANT RECIPIENT—CYCLING WITHOUT AGE



Cycling Without Age volunteers visit care homes, senior centers and community groups to offer rides on specialized electric pedal-assisted trishaws. Being outdoors, reconnecting in the community and with the 'pilots' nurtures emotional well-being.



I love living here! I am nervous about the quality of education at the elementary and high school levels, based on what I've heard from other families and seeing the decline of music in those schools.

-Survey respondent

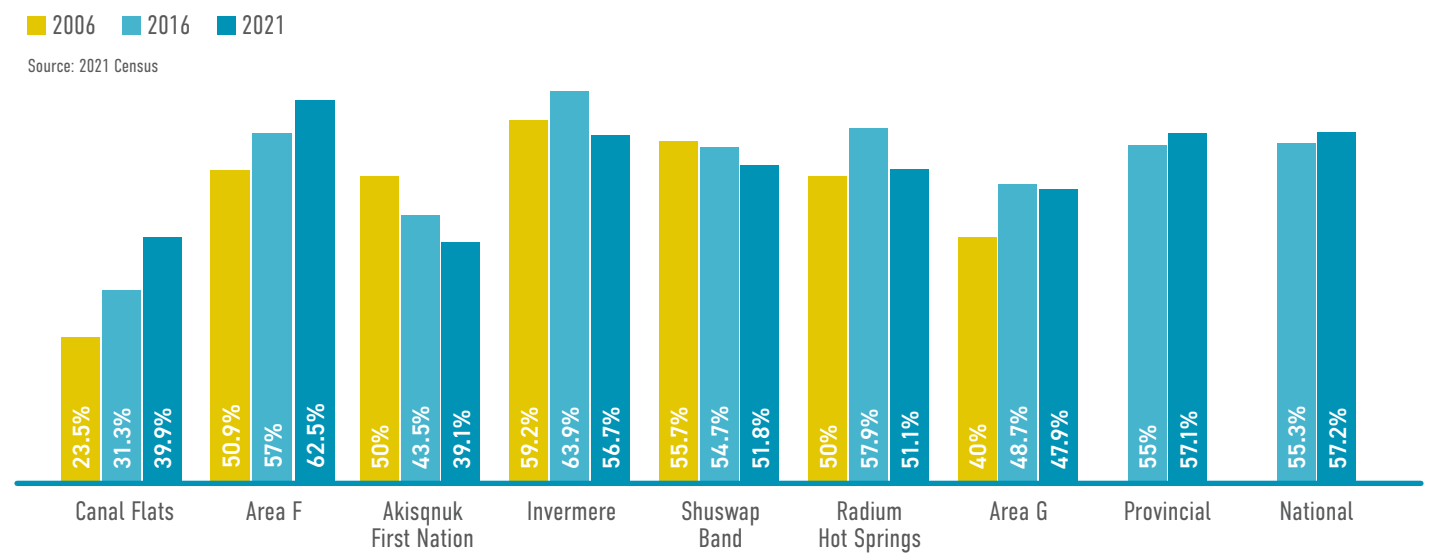


# LEARNING

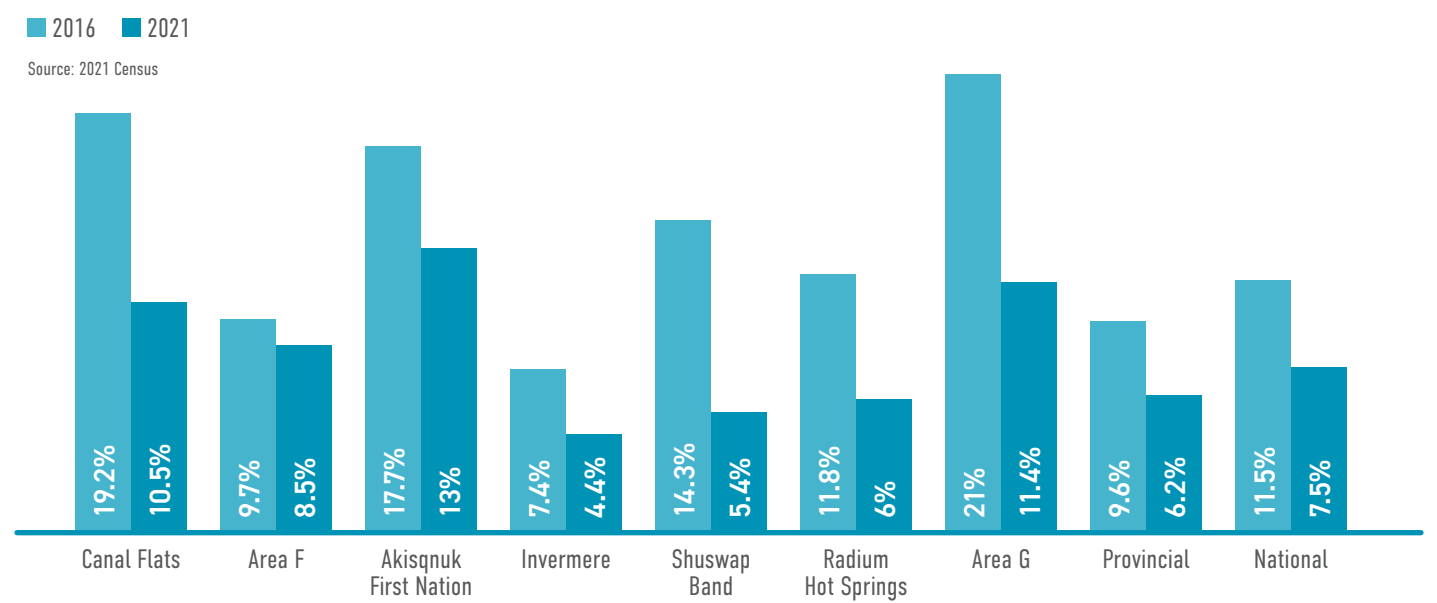
Photo: CBEEN



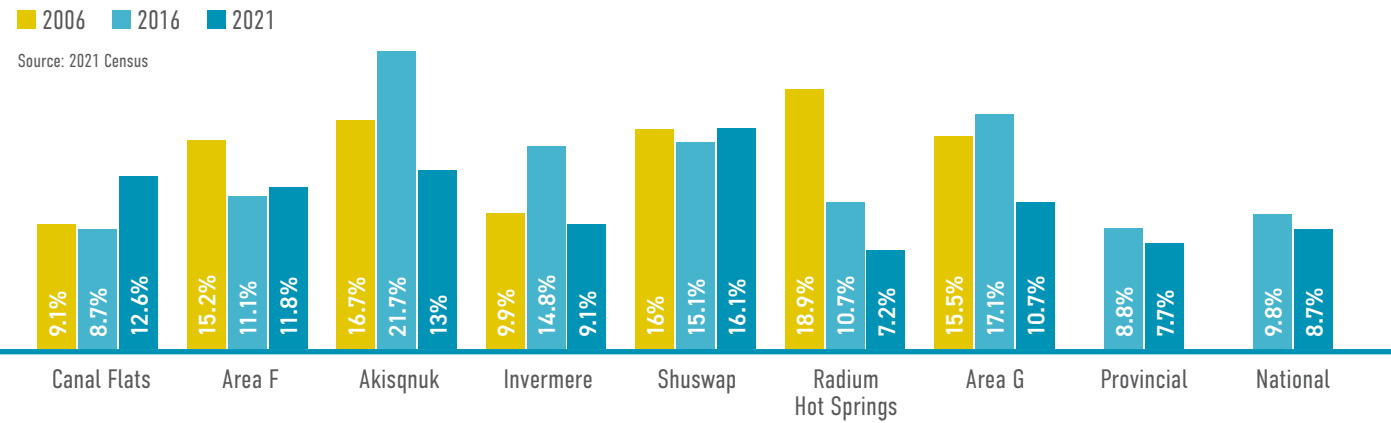
## PERCENTAGE AGED 15 AND OVER WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREE, POST-SECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA



## PERCENTAGE AGED 25-64 NOT COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATE



### PERCENTAGE AGED 15 AND OVER WITH APPRENTICESHIP OR TRADE AS THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION



### HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY



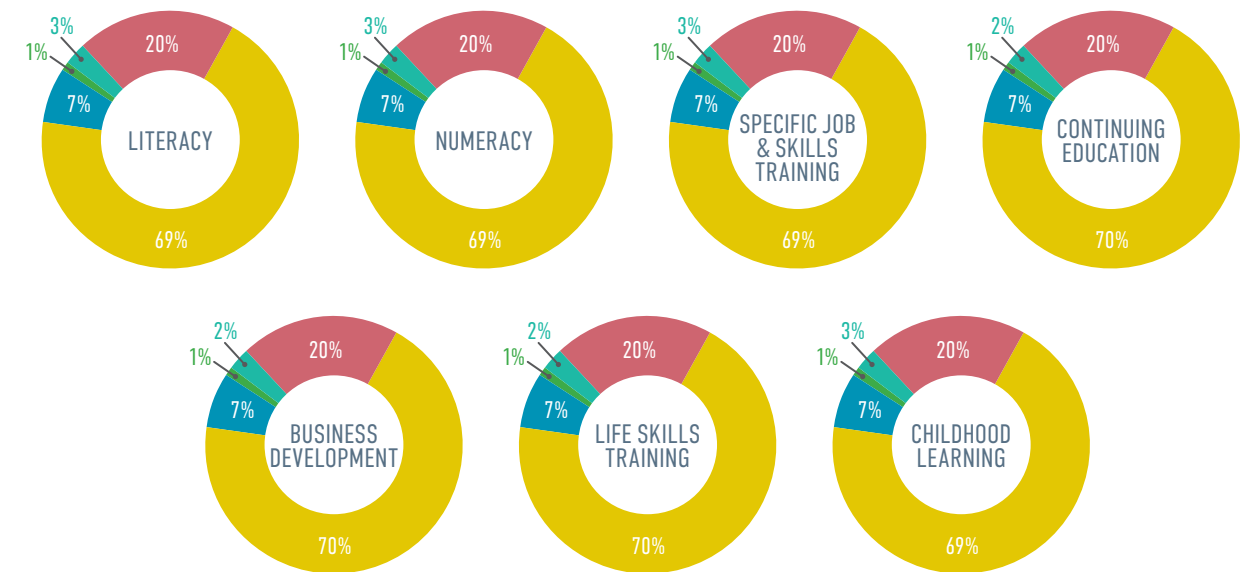
**1,289** STUDENTS ENROLLED IN K-12 IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY IN 2022



## LEARNING COMMUNITY SURVEY

I AM SATISFIED WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES:

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree 723 responses



**3,376** ACTIVE LIBRARY CARD USERS INVERMERE & RADIUM

**515** ACTIVE YOUTH LIBRARY CARDS

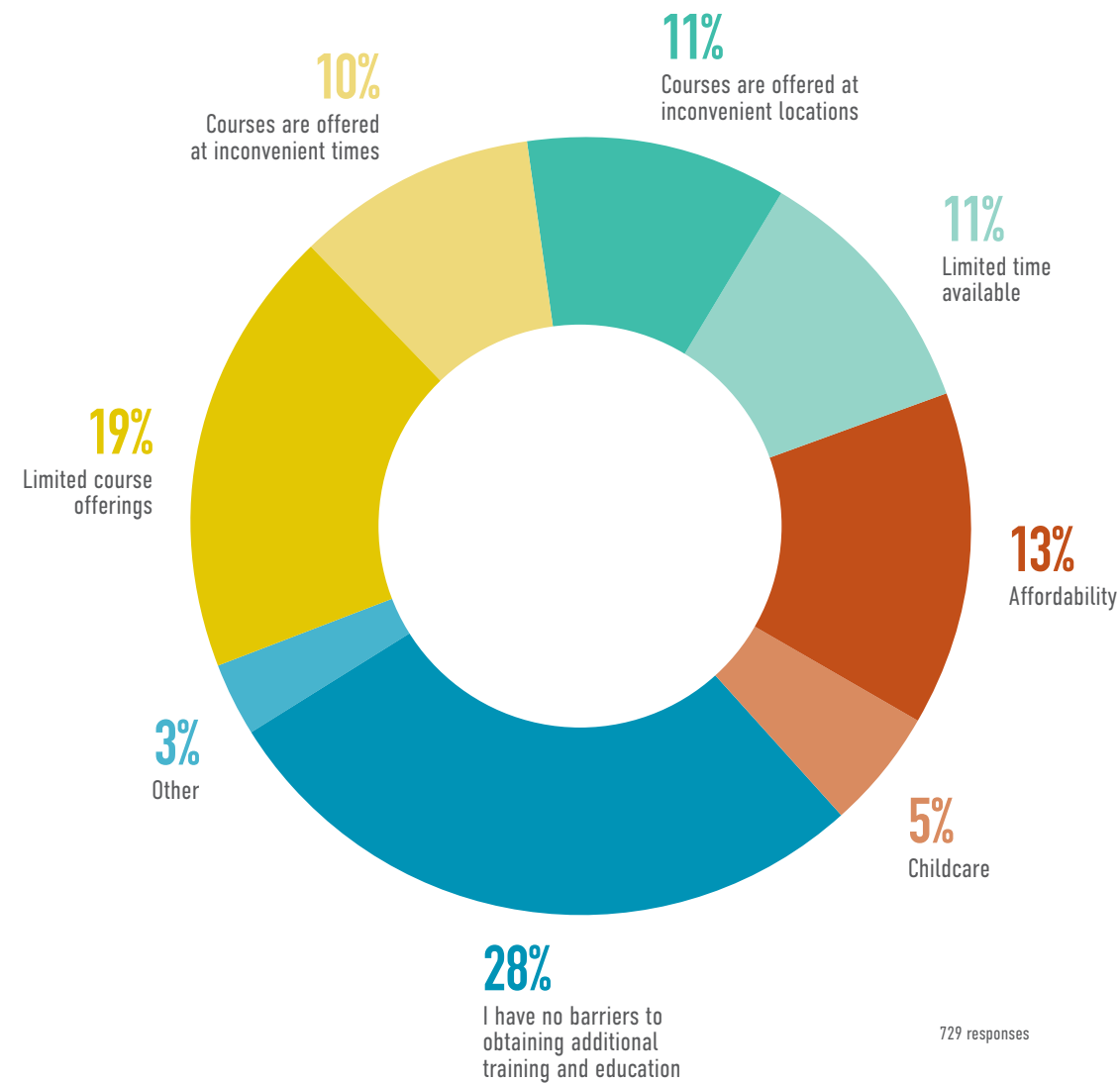
**64,404** ITEMS CIRCULATED IN 2021



Source: 2021 BC Public Libraries Open Data (2002-2020 BC Public Libraries Open Data (XLS) - v20.0)

# LEARNING COMMUNITY SURVEY

WHAT ARE YOUR BARRIERS TO OBTAINING  
ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION?



# COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

INVERMERE BRANCH

**114** CONTINUING  
EDUCATION COURSES

**1,010** CLASS  
REGISTRATIONS

Source: College of the Rockies Invermere Campus

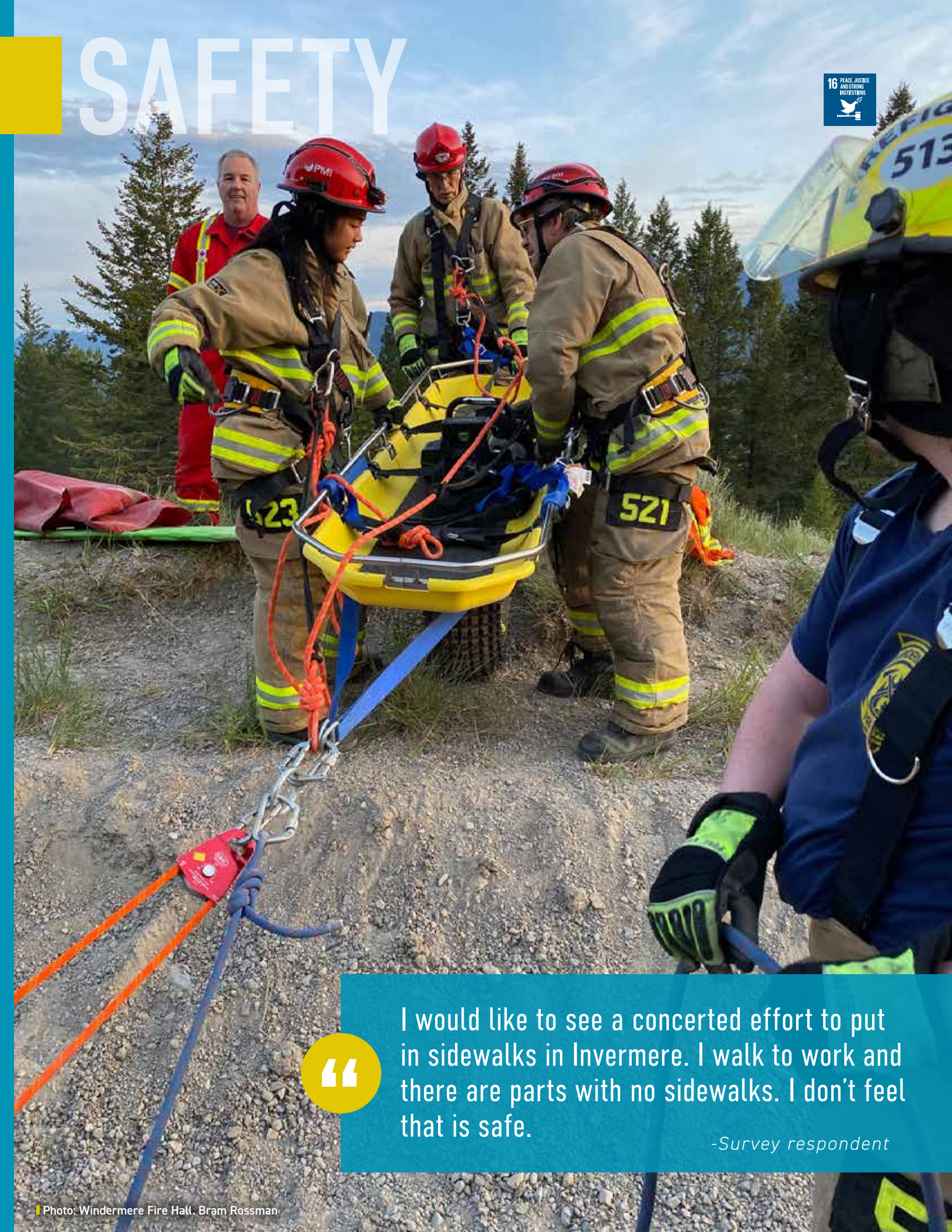
## TOP COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES COURSE CATEGORIES

1. FIRST AID TRAINING
2. BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
3. LIFESTYLE & LEISURE





# SAFETY

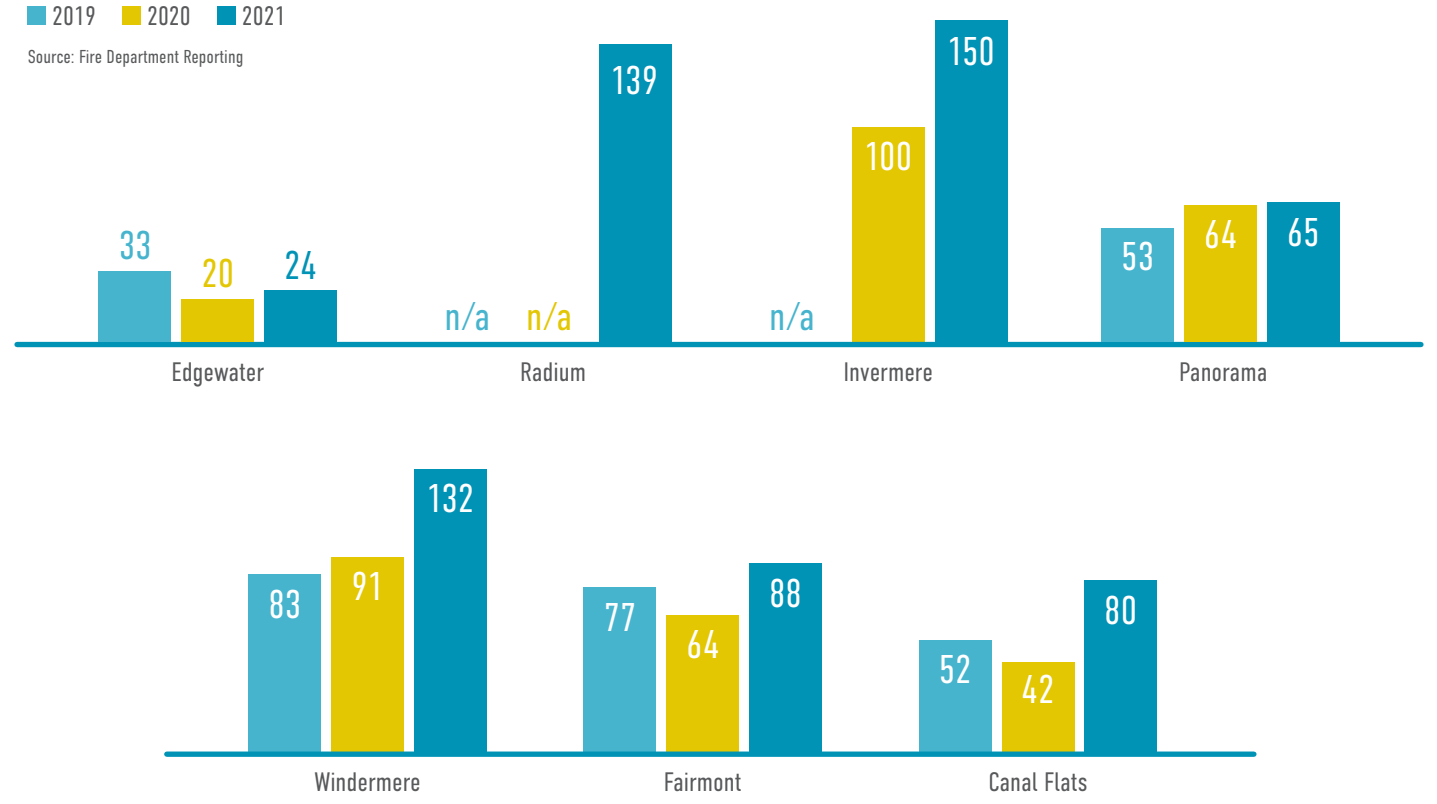
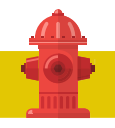


I would like to see a concerted effort to put in sidewalks in Invermere. I walk to work and there are parts with no sidewalks. I don't feel that is safe.

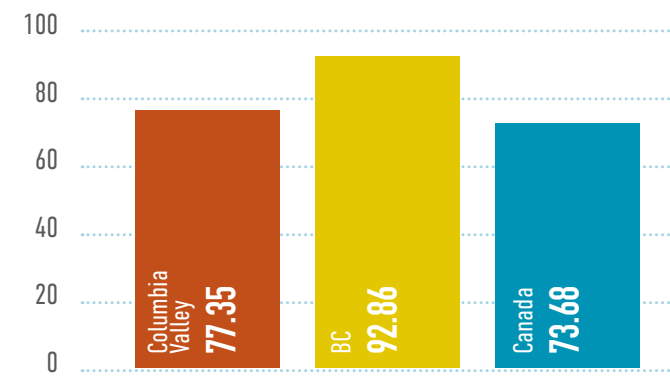
-Survey respondent

Photo: Windermere Fire Hall. Bram Rossman

## COLUMBIA VALLEY FIRE CALL OUTS



## CRIME SEVERITY INDEX COLUMBIA VALLEY 2021



Crime Severity Index is the number of police reported incidents for each offence x weight of each offence (all added together), divided by the population and standardized to 100. 1998 was the first year this calculation was used nationally.

Source: 2021 Census

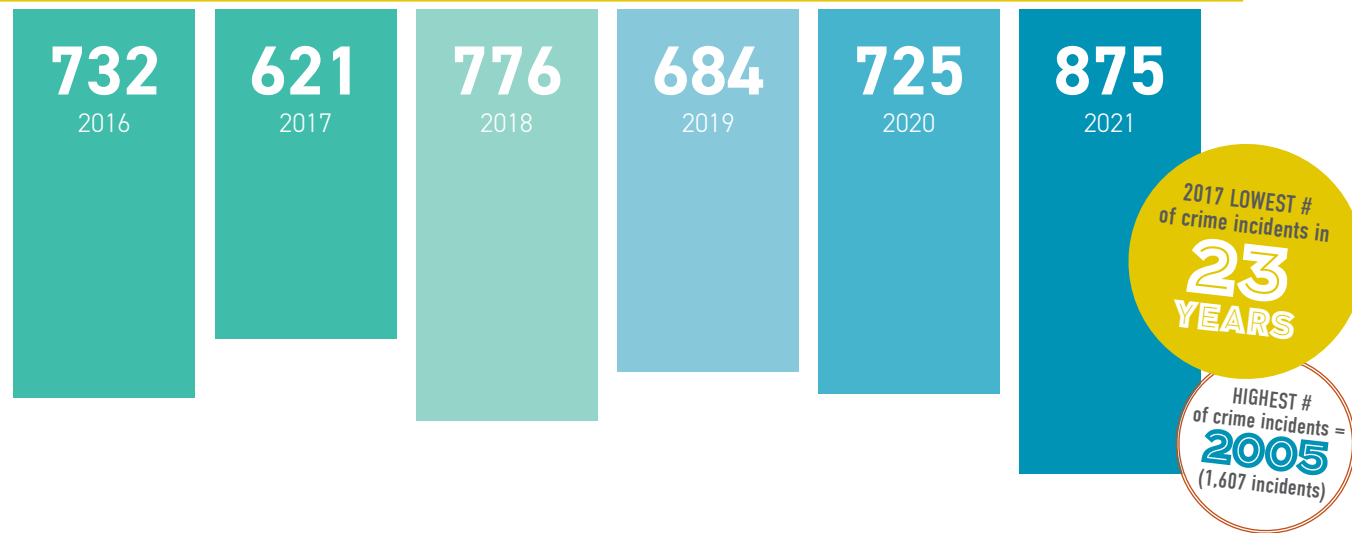


## CHANGE OF THE CRIME SEVERITY INDEX IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY FROM 2020

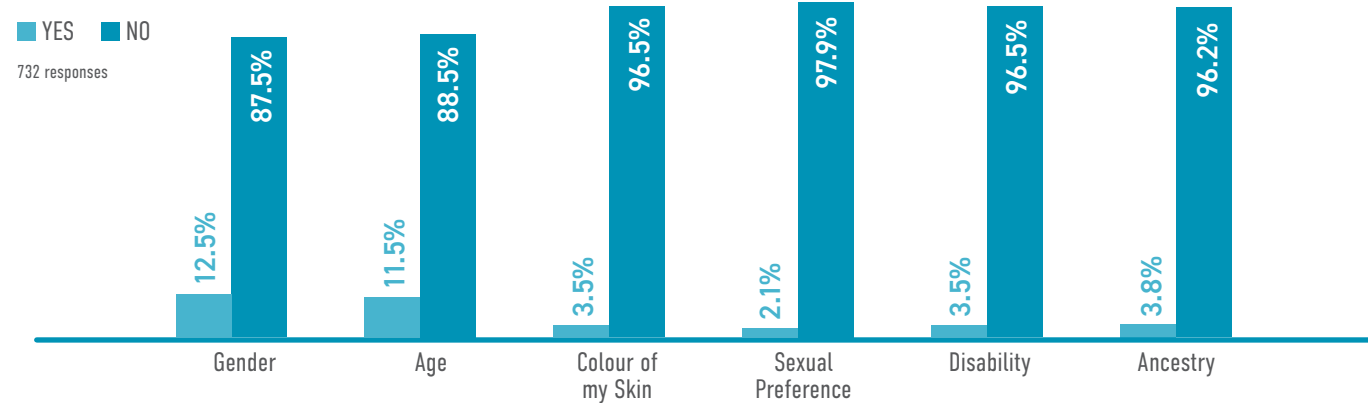
Compared to a decrease of -4.61% provincially and a change of -0.30% nationally

Source: 2021 Census

COLUMBIA VALLEY TOTAL CRIME INCIDENTS



IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, I FEEL I HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST MY...



DO YOU FEEL SAFE WALKING ALONE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER DARK?

88% YES  
12% NO

756 Respondents

48%

Percentage of respondents who stated "Wild Animals" as the reason for feeling unsafe walking alone after dark.

649 Respondents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Thank you to all of the survey respondents and other individuals who participated in the creation of this report by offering their opinions and stories. You are deeply appreciated.

About Vital Signs

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada and with special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept.

For more information visit: [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca)



COLUMBIA VALLEY'S VitalSigns

Data Availability:

Some data sets provided in this report can be downloaded from: [www.valleyfoundation.ca/trackingprogress](http://www.valleyfoundation.ca/trackingprogress)

THIS VITAL SIGNS PROJECT IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF:



About our Community Foundation "For Good. For Community. For Ever."

We have been bringing donors to the table as community builders since 2001. Together we are building a vibrant and caring community where everyone is valued, contributes and feels they belong. Through the Vital Signs research and reports, we identify important local issues and ensure our donors are investing in programs that create lasting impact and change.

Columbia Valley Community Foundation

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COLUMBIA VALLEY'S

# VitalSigns

2022

