

2016

COLUMBIA VALLEY'S

Vital Signs





Thank you Columbia Valley residents for lending your voice.

What is the purpose of Vital Signs?

Publishing Vital Signs is a strategic decision made by the Columbia Valley Community Foundation. Our goal is to build community knowledge around which issues are of greatest concern to our communities, what our most pressing needs are, and what strengths we must continue to develop.

Further, the Vital Signs report is a means to engage donors by identifying community priorities, and inform grantmaking to help make community impact where it is needed the most. Vital Signs provides an opportunity to delve deeper into issues of concern by inspiring and informing community conversations and testing prototypes. Vital Signs is more than a one-off snapshot of our communities; it provides a benchmark against which to measure our progress and results in the future.

We also hope that the information within Vital Signs may be helpful to a wide range of organizations and community residents, for a large variety of uses. It is our desire to share community information, to encourage community discussions, to evoke response and diverse opinions, and ultimately to foster the best possible decision making for the benefit of our communities.

THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS REPORT POSSIBLE.

Vital Signs Team

Laurie Klassen
Heather Rennebohm

Copywriter

Laurel Ralston

Design

Slumber Fight Design (Nathan Siemens)

Photography

Vanessa Jeakins Photography
Cover photo submitted

We appreciate the ideas and support from our Community Advisory Committee

Dawn Attorp	Pat Bavin
Kayja Becker	Susan Clovechok
Jonah Cooper	Jessica Fairhart
Deb Fisher	Jacque Frederickson
Roberta Hall	Spring Hawes
Jami Scheffer	Bill Swan
Klara Trescher	Rodd Weisbrodt
Lloyd Wilder	Karel Wood



COLUMBIA VALLEY'S

VitalSigns



2016

TABLE of CONTENTS

Letter From the Chair

5

Methodology

6

Implementation

7

Our Area

8

Community Snap Shot

9

Profile of Survey Respondents

10

Work and Earning

11

Housing

14

Environment

16

Getting Around

20

Learning

22

Belonging

24

Getting Started

26

Health and Wellness

28

Safety

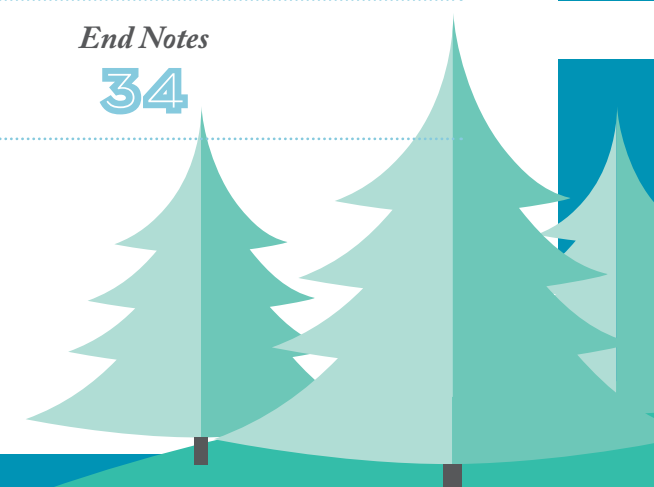
30

Community Survey Responses

32

End Notes

34



EACH DAY IS A
JOYFUL ONE.
It is a great place.

~Community Survey Respondent



LETTER *from the* CHAIR

Welcome to Columbia Valley Community Foundation's 2016 Vital Signs report. We have undertaken this report to raise awareness about important issues facing our community, and to connect caring people with causes that matter.

Information and knowledge are key elements in our goal to create the maximum philanthropic impact for our region. Vital Signs provides a wide range of factual and relevant indicators and statistics. This publication is unique because while the reader may be aware of some of the information that it contains, there is no single source for a comprehensive indication of all the factors affecting the quality of life we enjoy in our communities.

In terms of gathering information, this report will create a benchmark to which new data can be compared (2016 census material will be available for the next Vital Signs report).

We hope that you use this Vital Signs report to stimulate dialogue and learning related to policy and strategic planning, personally, at work, and at school. Each section contains ideas and thoughts about how we can improve our individual and collective quality of life.

Asking questions and taking a "vital" look at ourselves can only create an even healthier community. Deciding on competing priorities is a key philanthropic challenge. Vital Signs provides a focus for our community philanthropy; perhaps you might find it equally useful.

Respectfully Yours,
Scott Ferguson
Chair, Columbia Valley Community Foundation

Columbia Valley Vital Signs 2016 combines information from a wide variety of credible and reliable sources. This includes the following:

COLUMBIA VALLEY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Through the Columbia Valley Community Foundation website and hard copy survey distribution, 1031 regular surveys and 36 youth surveys were received. Of this total, 680 regular surveys and 28 youth surveys were completed fully (every question answered). The regular survey comprised 46 questions, including a combination of multiple selection and open-ended questions. The youth survey had 27 questions, also including multiple selection and open-ended questions. The surveys were open for 2 months from June 1 to July 31.

VANCOUVER FOUNDATION – PROVINCIAL VITAL SIGNS

A provincial Vital Signs survey was undertaken by the Mustel Group on behalf of the Vancouver Community Foundation. This survey was conducted online and obtained 7000 respondents from across British Columbia. 288 East Kootenay residents completed this survey. (East Kootenay is defined as Golden, Invermere, Kimberley & Cranbrook.) Several of the questions asked in this survey were identical to our local Vital Signs survey and thus, provide comparison data. This survey was open from June 14 to July 5.

RESIDENT ATTRACTION AND RETENTION STRATEGY FOR THE COLUMBIA VALLEY

The primary objective of this Strategy is to develop a comprehensive plan that increases Columbia Valley's skilled work force, local school enrollment, and grows the local economy. This report was published on March 24, 2016.

Statistical data provided by:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

Community Foundations of Canada, through their data partner, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, compiled Statistics Canada and Elections

Canada information and provided context statements for our community.

COLUMBIA BASIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Rural Development Institute (RDI), at Selkirk College in Castlegar, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support decision making by Columbia Basin communities through provision of information.

INVERMERE AND AREA 2013 HOUSING REPORT

KOOTENAY REAL ESTATE BOARD (KREB)

Provision of average sales price of residential single family detached homes for 2013, 2014, and 2015.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY (RDEK) COLUMBIA VALLEY TRANSIT RIDERSHIP REPORT

This report provides Columbia Valley Transit ridership statistics for 2013, 2014, and 2015.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY (RDEK) 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ANNUAL SOLID WASTE REPORT

This report, published annually for the last 7 years, provides information on the Central, Elk Valley, and Columbia Valley landfills.

Data included in this report were selected based on the following specifications:

- Current and relevant (the most recent data have been included in this report.)
- Straightforward and understandable
- Quantifiable

Nine (9) Community Vitality Areas and Indicators were selected and graded by the Community Advisory Committee on the basis of relevancy, measurability, and ease of future and current data collection.

Who Lives Here:

Of the 8500 people residing in the valley:

15% are under 19 years of age

22% are over the age of 65

Our median age is almost **47** years of age



2016 Columbia Valley Vital Signs Report Highlights

Our main findings across the 9 Issue Areas of this report are:

01: WORK AND EARNING

Economic development and increased job opportunities are the two (2) predominant priorities in this, our highest ranked Issue Area.

02: HOUSING

Finding affordable housing is a challenge for many Columbia Valley residents. Our communities would benefit from a greater variety of housing options.

03: ENVIRONMENT

Our natural environment is key to attracting and retaining residents. We take care of our environment, but could do more to reduce waste and ensure our land and water are used and managed responsibly.

04: GETTING AROUND

Columbia Valley residents rely heavily on personal vehicles to get around. There is a lack of public transportation options for disabled and senior residents, which may impact quality of life and connection to community.

05: LEARNING

Columbia Valley residents are well educated, but there is a disconnect between the education they've received and local employment opportunities available.

06: BELONGING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Philanthropy, volunteerism, and a sense of inclusion are strong in the Columbia Valley.

07: GETTING STARTED HERE

Columbia Valley residents want newcomers to feel welcome and to have opportunities to get involved in the community. Need to reach out to people at risk of isolation, who are single and lack family in the area.

08: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Columbia Valley residents noted a desire for more recreational opportunities.

09: SAFETY

Columbia Valley residents feel very safe in their communities, but violent criminal code violations and criminal code traffic violations are higher than in BC and the rest of Canada.

How to use this report:

READ

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

SHARE

Share this report with family, friends, neighbours, co-workers, and elected officials. This report is available in print or online at 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 or call 250.342.2845



COLUMBIA VALLEY

Community Snapshot

2011 CENSUS

8495

total resident population

{ 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.

17

UNIQUE COMMUNITIES

There are seventeen (17) individual communities across the Columbia Valley, each with its own history, lore, vibrancy, and concerns.

Spillimacheen is our most northerly community, and Canal Flats is the most southerly.

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.

8%

Decrease in School District Enrollment

BC Ministry of Education 2016

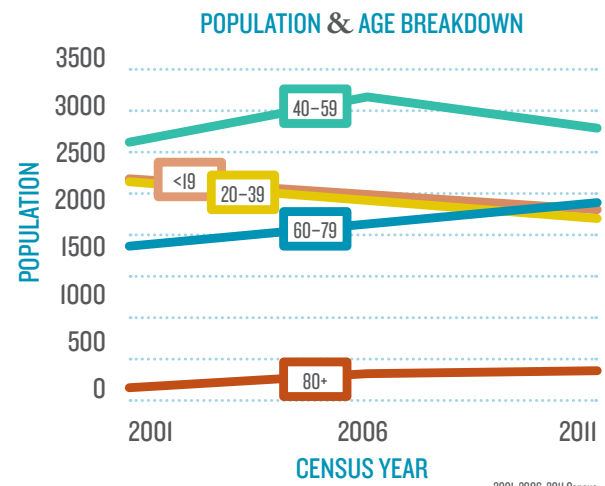
One of the best places in the world that I have seen in the 49 countries that I have visited.

Community Survey Respondent

Did You Know?

Between 2001 and 2011 the number of Columbia Valley residents changed 0.5%. (8430 to 8495).

The population increased in 2006 by 5.8%, but declined in 2011, almost back to the same population as 2001.



47

MEDIAN AGE OF COLUMBIA VALLEY RESIDENTS

Provincial Median Age: 42
National Median Age: 41

Two unique First Nations peoples reside in the Valley. They are the Shuswap Band of the Secwepemc Nation, and the Akisq'nuk Band of the K'tunaxa First Nation.

3

Three (3) communities in the Valley - Radium Hot Springs, Invermere, and Canal Flats - are incorporated. Twelve (12) unincorporated communities exist within Electoral Area F and Electoral Area G.

12



71

Percentage of permanent residents who indicated **Good Employment Opportunities** as the **FIRST** priority for attracting & retaining residents to the area.

Source: Resident Attraction and Retention (258)

LABOUR FORCE PROFILE

Top 5 Employing Industries (Columbia Valley)

Industry	Percent of Work Force	Provincial Comparison
Construction	16%	8%
Accommodation/ Food Services	12%	8%
Retail	11%	12%
Health Care	8%	11%
Arts/Entertainment/ Recreation	7%	2%

Source: Resident Attraction and Retention (1)

LABOUR FORCE PROFILE

Top 5 Occupations (Columbia Valley)

Industry	Percent of Work Force	Provincial Comparison
Sales and Service	20%	24%
Trades/Transport/ Equipment Operators	19%	14%
Business/Finance/ Administration	18%	16%
Management	15%	12%
Education/Law/ Government	7%	12%

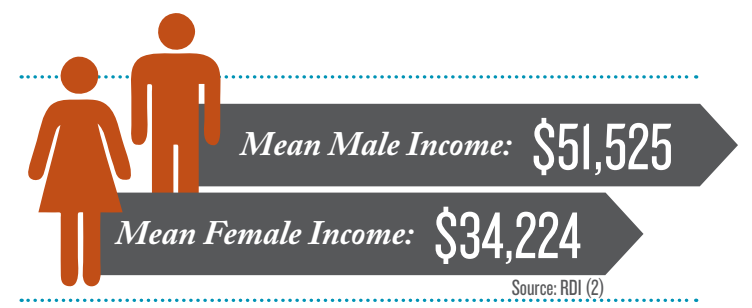
Source: Resident Attraction and Retention (1)

35

Percentage of East Kootenay residents who indicated **Employment Options** as the reason for moving away from the area in the past 5 years.

Across BC, 19% of residents cited this reason for moving.

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs (288)



Living Situation:



- 50%** Persons Living with Partner/Spouse (No Children)
- 30%** Persons Living with Partner/Spouse (with Children)
- 13%** Living Alone

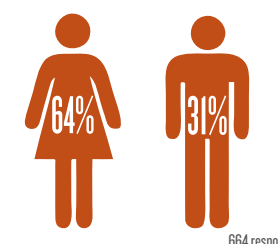
657 responses

Length of Time in Valley:

- 75%** More than 10 years
- 25%** Less than 10 years
- 88%** Primary Residents
- 12%** Part-Time Residents

868 responses

Gender:



664 responses

Age:

- 11%** < 34 years of age
- 39%** 35 – 54 years of age
- 50%** > 55 years of age

673 responses

Location of Respondents:

- 17%** Radium and North
- 57%** Invermere
- 22%** Windermere/Fairmont
- 4%** Canal Flats

558 responses

\$42,605

2012 Mean Income in the Columbia Valley.

This represents a **6.3%** increase over 2011.

Source: RDI (2)

Vital Actions:

Support initiatives aimed at diversifying the economy and creating quality jobs, such as those outlined in the Columbia Valley Attraction and Retention Report.

Support a thriving Columbia Valley economy by shopping local.

Support programs for entrepreneurs and new business owners.

Community Survey Responses

1 WORK and EARNING

Respondents earning a pay cheque in Columbia Valley:

56% YES
44% NO

1026 responses

How many hours do you work per week on average?

28% < 30 hours
32% 31 – 40 hours
40% > 40 hours

546 responses

Pay cheque comes from work that is:

47% Full-Time, Year Round
11% Full-Time, Seasonal
24% Part-Time, Year Round/Seasonal
27% Self-Employed
10% Casual/From Home

542 responses (Respondents selected all that applied)

How many jobs do you have (including self-employment)?

58% one **29%** two **22%** three **4%** >three

543 responses

Jobs in Canal Flats...to help young families stay or move to our community so we can keep our elementary school open.

Community Survey Respondent

Diversify the economy which will create more year round jobs

Community Survey Respondent

What is the most important thing our community can do to increase opportunities to work and earn here? 603 responses

Other Responses: **Improve Transit** 38 responses

Increase Education Opportunities 12 responses

Other: **Affordable Childcare** **Protect Environment** **Increase Population and Diversity** **More Welcoming Community**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

107 Responses

Less Regulation/ Provide Incentives

30 Responses

Increase Marketing of Area/ Support Tourism

75 Responses

BUSINESS SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

420 Responses

Shop Local

22 Responses

Increase Wages/ Improve Cost of Living

76 Responses

Diversify Economy/ Job Creation

217 Responses

COLUMBIA VALLEY RESPONSES

Community Survey Responses

BC Vital Signs Survey

EAST KOOTENAY RESPONSES

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES OR CONCERNS FOR YOU IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Issue	East Kootenay	Provincial
Employment/Economic Environment	63%	30%
Opportunities for Learning and Education	28%	8%
Environment/Sustainability	26%	24%

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs - (288 Responses-East Kootenay)

OF THESE, WHAT WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE?

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs - (288 Responses-East Kootenay)

41% EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

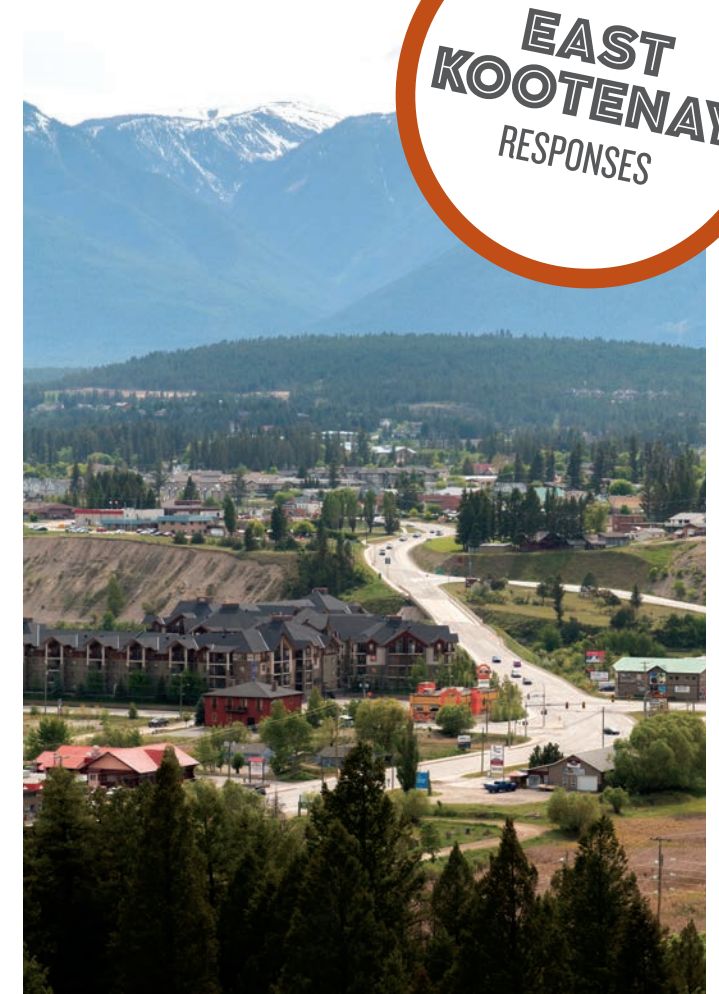
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT?

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs - (288 Responses-East Kootenay)

67% MORE FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

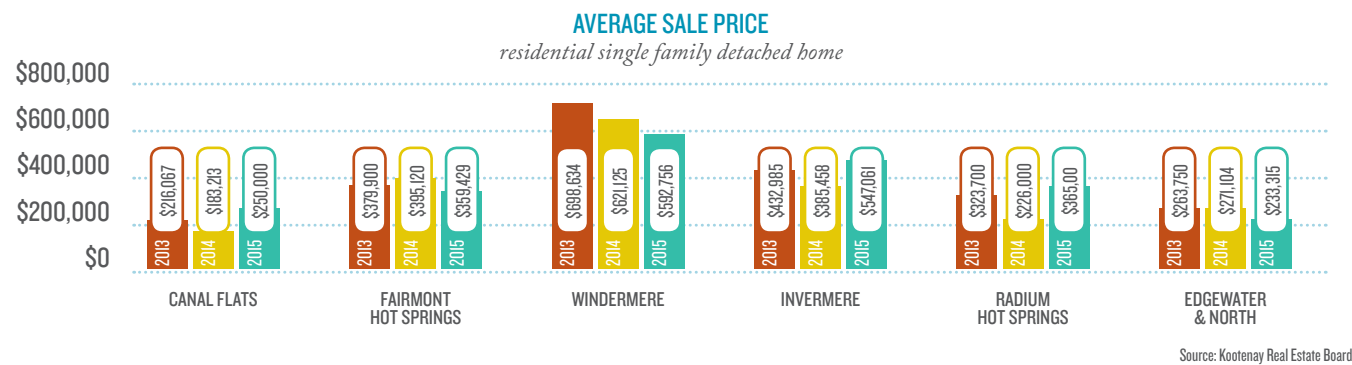
39% DECREASE NEED TO TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT REGION

26% MORE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT



Community Survey Responses

COLUMBIA VALLEY HOME VALUES



92%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated the **Chances of Finding a Decent, Safe Home in the Columbia Valley as FAIR TO POOR**

Source: Community Survey (774)

54%

Percentage of residential dwellings owned by "Recreational or other Property Investors."

Source: Invermere & Area Housing Assessment, 2013 BC Assessment

GROSS ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A HOME

*Based on 10% down, 25-year amortization, 5-year fixed mortgage term, 3% interest rate
*Assumed other monthly debt payments at \$500/mo., heating costs at \$100/month and \$2000 annual property taxes

- CANAL FLATS = \$54,950
- FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS = \$68,950
- WINDERMERE = \$104,675
- INVERMERE = \$83,010
- RADIUM HOT SPRINGS = \$74,830
- EDGEWATER & NORTH = \$52,815

Source: Kootenay Savings Mortgage Calculator

Is the home you live in the Columbia Valley?

86% Owned by You
14% Rented by You

733 responses

Smaller more affordable homes and more decent rentals. Not necessarily "affordable" but even people making an okay wage have a hard time find affordable rentals

Community Survey Respondent

How long have you lived in your current home?

57% > 8 Years
27% 3 - 7 Years
17% < 2 Years

735 responses

Affordable homes. I make good money but can't afford the home I bought

Community Survey Respondent

How would you describe your home?

79% Single Family Dwelling
17% Condo/Townhome/Duplex
4% Other (e.g., Mobile Home)

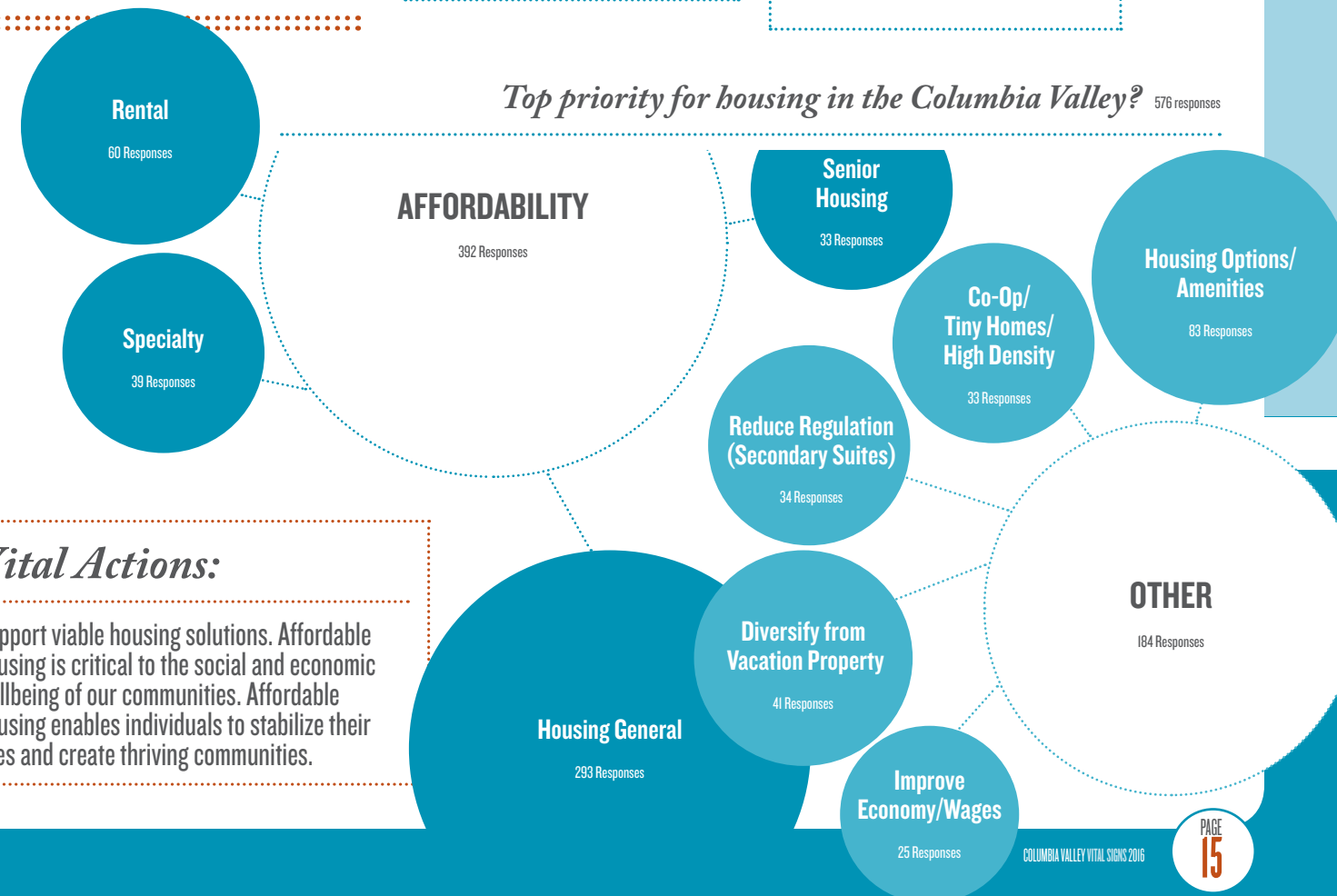
735 responses

What % of your household income goes to housing costs at your primary residence? (Mortgage, rent, utilities, insurance, etc.)

65% < 40%
26% > 40%

785 responses

Top priority for housing in the Columbia Valley?



Vital Actions:

Support viable housing solutions. Affordable housing is critical to the social and economic wellbeing of our communities. Affordable housing enables individuals to stabilize their lives and create thriving communities.



91%

Percentage of permanent residents who indicated the **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** already contributes to attracting and retaining residents.

Source: Resident Attraction and Retention (257)



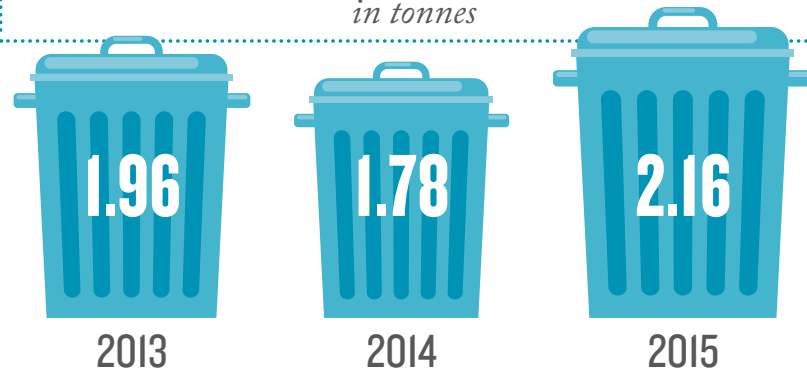
66%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who identified **NATURAL BEAUTY/ SCENERY** as one of the top 3 things they like about living in our community.

684 responses

WASTE GENERATION *per DWELLING*

in tonnes

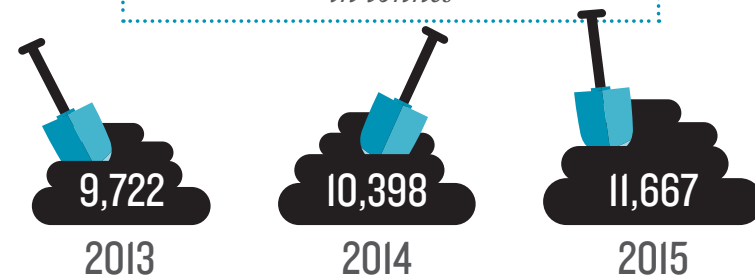


Source: 2015 RDEK Environmental Services vAnnual Report

Increase in Total Waste attributed to increase in municipal solid waste, clean-out of contaminated soil in Wilmer Wetlands and demolition of Radium Resort.

TOTAL WASTE BURIED

in tonnes



Columbia Valley Landfill

Source: 2015 RDEK Environmental Services vAnnual Report

44%

Percentage who identified **CLEAN ENVIRONMENT/GOOD AIR QUALITY**

684 responses

35-40

years

Life expectancy of the Columbia Valley landfill



Vital Actions:

- Support local waste-reduction initiatives, such as community composting and improving access to recycling facilities.
- Offer options and incentives for reusing and recycling construction materials.
- Support resource-sharing initiatives, such as children's toy and tool lending programs.

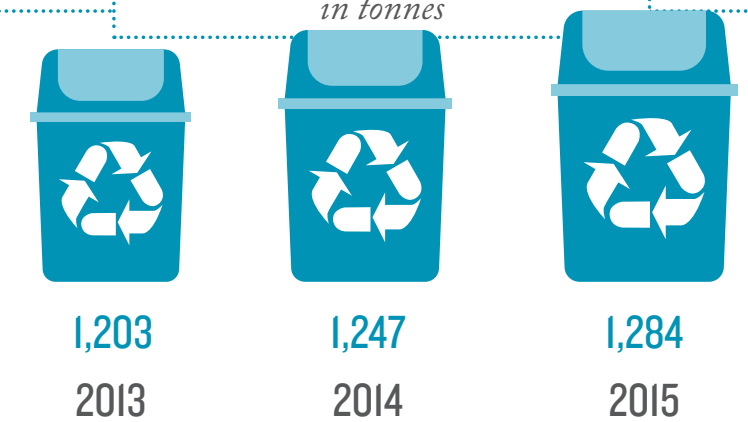
90%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated their progress to increase recycling/composting and to reduce waste as **MAKING PROGRESS, DOING REALLY WELL or AWESOME**

684 responses

TOTAL RECYCLING

in tonnes



Columbia Valley Recycling

Source: 2015 RDEK Environmental Services Annual Report

Community Survey Responses

3

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT GENERAL

230 responses

Preservation of Land/Air Quality

58 responses

Visitor Education

24 responses

Backcountry Management/Wildlife Management

40 responses

Alternative Energy/Alternative Transportation/Local Food Production

39 responses

Responsible Land Development

69 responses

Reduction of Waste

27 responses

Recycling

67 responses

WASTE MANAGEMENT

111 responses

Composting

17 responses

Drinking Water Quality

25 responses

Responsible Water Recreation

14 responses

Wetland Preservation

33 responses

Lake Preservation

95 responses

WATER

167 responses

What should be the Columbia Valley's top environmental priority?

508 responses

74%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated the Columbia Valley as "DOING WELL OR PROGRESSING" in helping to preserve/enhance the environment

709 responses

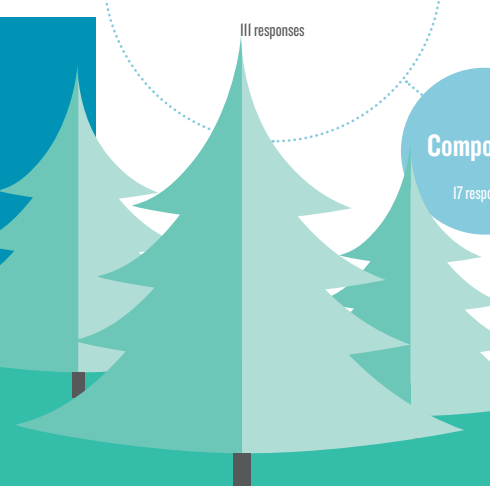
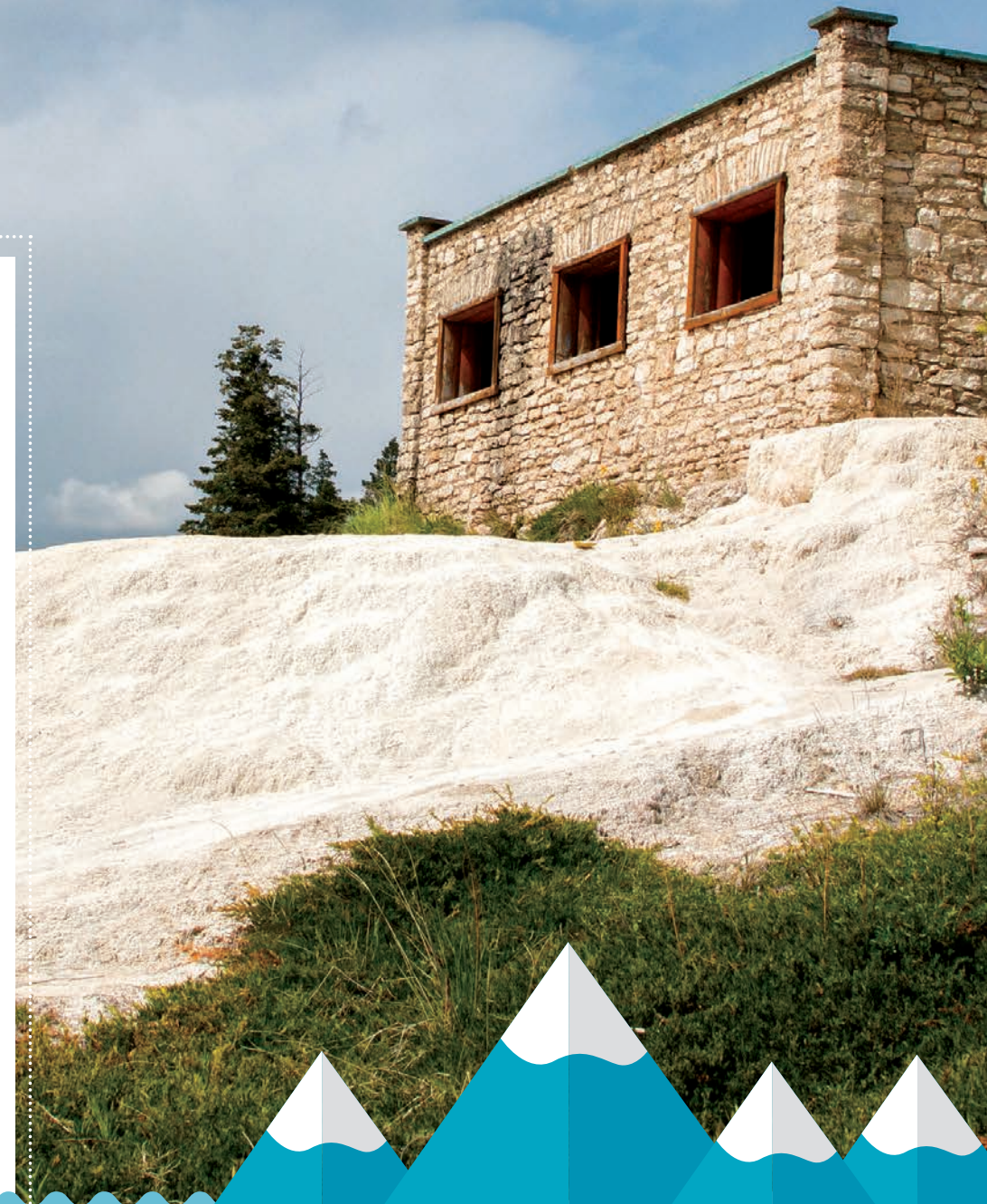
26%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who identified "I CAN'T DRINK THE WATER FROM MY TAP" as a challenge affecting their quality of life in the Columbia Valley.

460 responses

We are an outdoor recreational jewel. We must enhance it with smart investment

Community Survey Respondent



53%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated the Columbia Valley's progress in creating alternate ways to get around and between our communities as **AN AREA OF CONCERN, NEEDS CORRECTIVE ACTION** or **TERRIBLE WITH NO POSITIVE ACTION**

678 responses

Number of days of the year that the Columbia Valley Transit Service is provided on **EVENINGS, WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS.**

ZERO

Number of Columbia Valley Transit Service Routes that include the communities of **BRISCO and SPILLIMACHEEN.**

21%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents that **Agree or Somewhat Agree** that a lack of transportation **AFFECTS MY ABILITY TO GET TO SOCIAL EVENTS**

619 responses

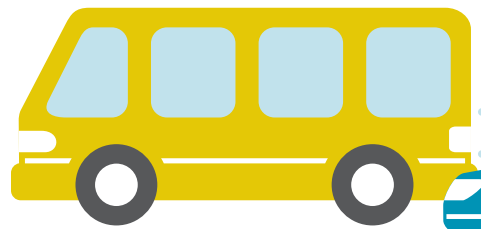
83%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who travel most of the year in a **CAR, TRUCK, VAN AS A DRIVER**

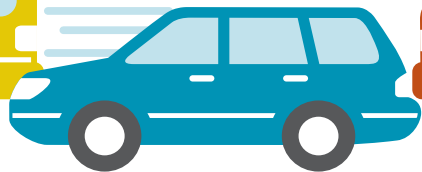
699 responses

Local Transportation Priorities

38% Partner with resorts to use their buses



21% Set up car share program



41% Increase Columbia Valley bus service



619 responses (multiple selection)

17%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents that **Agree or Somewhat Agree** that a lack of transportation **AFFECTS MY ABILITY TO GET TO WORK**

619 responses

29%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated **TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS** as the **#3** response to **WHICH SERVICES/PROGRAMS WOULD IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE?**

580 responses

Disabled people need to have access to a handicap van for around town and the valley.

Community Survey Respondent

Biggest drawback is lack of bus transportation. I would take a bus several days a week if the schedule fit my hours at work.

Community Survey Respondent

You are hooped if you don't drive or own a car in this valley.

Community Survey Respondent

We need a senior-friendly public transport option with door-to-door services.

Community Survey Respondent

There will come a time when I no longer wish or am able to drive in the winter. I will be happy to take transit if it's viable.

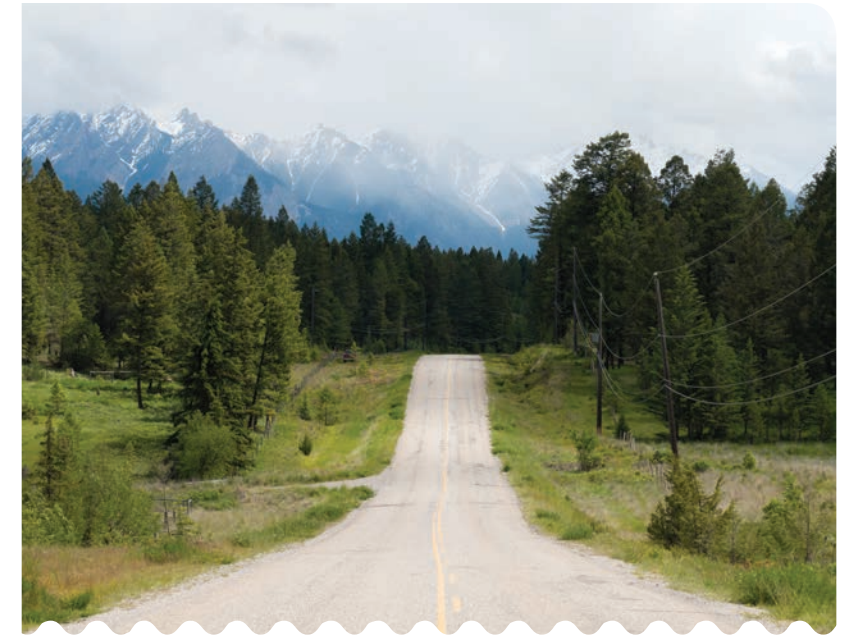
Community Survey Respondent

Disabled parking is inadequate or nonexistent, especially during special events like farmer's markets and Visitor Day.

Community Survey Respondent

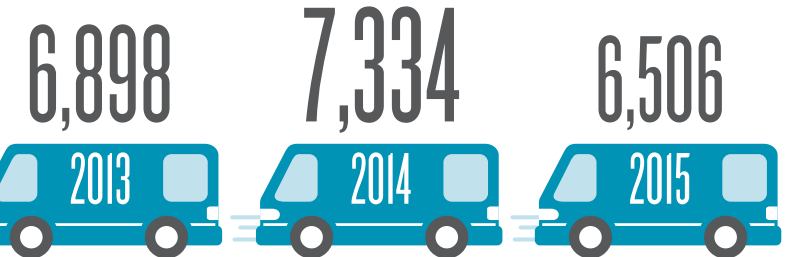
Growing up, I often couldn't participate in after school activities because I was an out of town kid and my parents didn't like to drive too much. The community bus does not help too much as it leaves Invermere so early.

Youth Community Survey Respondent



COLUMBIA VALLEY TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

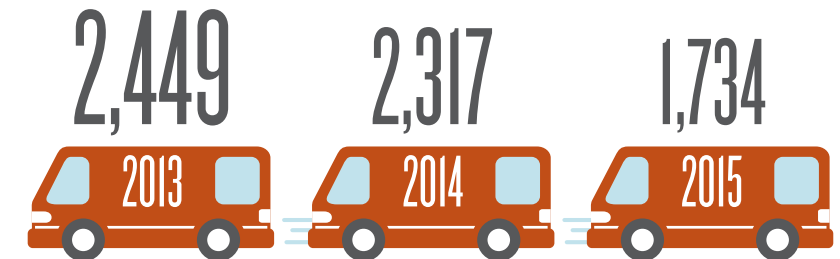
#of passengers annually



Source: RDEK

COLUMBIA VALLEY HEALTH BUS RIDERSHIP

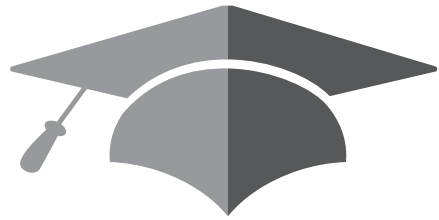
#of passengers annually



Source: RDEK

51% Percentage of Passengers on Cranbrook Health Bus that originate from Golden

58% Percentage of "Non-Medical" Passengers on Cranbrook Health Bus (2015)



80%

Average High School Completion Rate
School District 6 (2006 – 2014)

Source: RDI

58%

Proportion of population in the Columbia Valley with a Post-Secondary Education.

2.70

percentage points higher than the Provincial average.

4.10

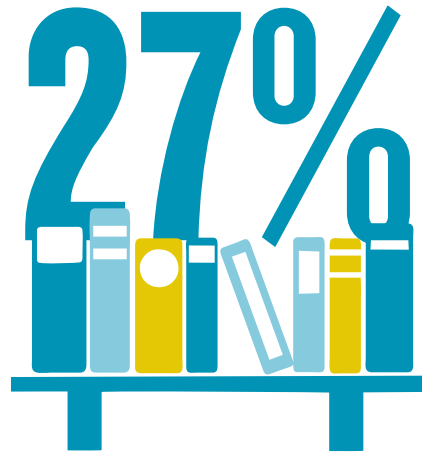
percentage points higher than the Canadian average.

Source: RDI 2011

82%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents with a Post-Secondary Education.

753 responses



Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who responded **NO** to *Are you content with your level of education?*



Number of Course Sessions offered by the College of the Rockies, Invermere Campus between 2006 and 2016.

2979

898 Leisure 2081 Professional.

Source: College of the Rockies

47%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated the Columbia Valley's Availability of Community Facilities & Programs to Encourage Education, Literacy and Job Skills Training as **PRETTY GOOD, AS THE VALLEY IS PROGRESSING IN THIS AREA**

727 responses

45%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated the Columbia Valley's Availability of Community Facilities & Programs to Encourage Education, Literacy and Job Skills Training as **FAIR, POOR or TERRIBLE**

727 responses

I work in forestry and would like to go back to tech school to get my designation as a forest tech. I would love if somewhere in the Columbia Valley offered forest tech courses.

Community Survey Respondent

I'm now retired, so I can take part-time jobs and select jobs that don't necessarily pay well but are of great interest to me. This could require a whole new skill set.

Community Survey Respondent

My education is not relevant to employment opportunities in town.

Community Survey Respondent

28%

Percentage of East Kootenay residents who rated **OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING & EDUCATION** as a **Top 3 Concern for Your Community.** (8% Provincial)

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs (288)



53%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who responded **NO** to *Do you think the Columbia Valley offers enough high quality learning opportunities to its young people?*

571 responses

Limited Course Offerings
113 responses

Limited Post-Secondary/Trades
101 responses

Lack of Relevant Courses for Job Opportunities
48 responses

WHY?

Vital Actions:

- Support re-training initiatives and training and employment counseling programs.
- Promote conversation between local employers and educational institutions to create recruitment and training opportunities.
- Support scholarship, internship, and exchange programs for local students.

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who did the following in the last 12 months:

73%

Donated to a Cause

71%

Visited a Local Library or Community Centre

65%

Volunteered Their Time to an Organization

56%

Provided Unpaid Help to a Non-Family Member

685 responses

10 YEARS

75% 25%

I have lived in the Valley for more than 10 years

I have lived in the Valley for less than 10 years

571 responses

Outdoor recreation—we are hikers. Culture and art—we participate in Wings over the Rockies and at events at Pynelogs. My husband golfs, and we enjoy the restaurants, farmers' markets, and small town friendliness.

Community Survey Respondent

Single people have a hard time connecting. Isolation.

Community Survey Respondent

I am a Ktunaxa Nation member. My people have been here for more than 10,000 years.

Community Survey Respondent

A big city girl bought a company in the CV and it changed her life forever!

Community Survey Respondent

38%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who indicated Lifestyle/Recreation as the primary reason for moving here.

619 responses

23%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who indicated Job Opportunity as the primary reason for moving here.

619 responses

IF YOU'VE LIVED HERE MORE THAN 10 YEARS ...

25% More than one generation of my family have lived here

I was born elsewhere, moved here and stayed 64%

29% More than two generations have lived here/Lived here all my life

487 responses

67%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated their Feelings of Belonging & Being Accepted as Part of Your Community as I AM DOING PRETTY WELL or AWESOME

697 responses

70%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated their Opportunities to Take Part In & Influence Community Decisions as OPPORTUNITIES ARE INCREASING or I AM DOING PRETTY WELL

687 responses

73%

2016 Voter Turnout for the Federal Election.

9.6% increase over 2011

3.0 percentage points higher than provincial average

4.7 percentage points higher than national average

Source: CFC (4)



78%

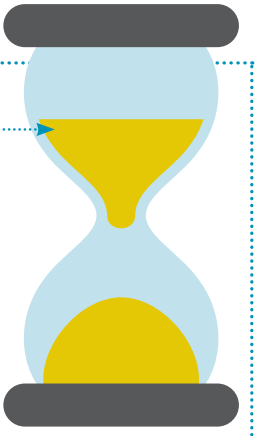
Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated their QUALITY OF LIFE as very good or awesome

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY?

THE REST OF MY LIFE AT LEAST 10 YEARS AT LEAST 5 YEARS

13%

14%



58%

Source: Resident Attraction and Retention 259 responses

33% 55%

Percentage of seasonal residents who feel VERY CONNECTED to the Columbia Valley.

Source: Resident Attraction and Retention 388 responses

Percentage of permanent residents who feel VERY CONNECTED to the Columbia Valley.

Source: Resident Attraction and Retention 263 responses

Vital Actions:

Support initiatives to match potential volunteers with organizations whose activities fit their interests.

Promote community events, including opportunities for input into local decision-making, through a variety of channels.

Support long-term funding for successful and signature events and organizations.

Helping Newcomers

GET STARTED

in the Columbia Valley

Since I am an older person alone, and do not have many family members here, and am widowed, I have problems integrating into the lifestyles of neighbors (most of them are close-knit only relating to family).

Community Survey Respondent

Let newcomers know what is "out there" for them. Communication and information.

Community Survey Respondent



What are the things our communities can do to help newcomers get started?



25%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who have lived in the Columbia Valley for LESS THAN 10 YEARS

62%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated **Opportunities for Newcomers to Get Settled & Become Part of the Community** as OPPORTUNITIES ARE INCREASING or there are a GOOD NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES

24%

Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated this as an AREA OF CONCERN

A welcome program. And it's important to note that the valley can be a very lonely place for singles.

Community Survey Respondent

Bring back the Welcome Wagon. And there used to be a welcoming ceremony at the Reserve.

Community Survey Respondent

If we had a network of volunteers who could be paired with newcomers and show them around the area and what's available, that might help to build the community.

Community Survey Respondent

Vital Actions:

Support local organizations with training in volunteer recruitment and retention strategies.

Support initiatives such as community dinners, inter-generational programming, and connecting schools and seniors' centres.

Support welcome programs to connect newcomers with local residents and organizations.

HEALTH INDICATORS

33%



Percentage of East Kootenay population (over 18) smoking. Compared to 14% in BC and 18% Nationally.

14%



Percentage of East Kootenay population (over 18) heavy drinking. (Consumption of 5 or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the last year for men & 4 or more drinks for women) Compared to 16% in BC and 28% Nationally.

16%

Obesity rates (percent) of the East Kootenay population (over 18). Compared to 16% in BC and 20% Nationally.

64%



Percentage of East Kootenay population (over 12) spends Leisure Time being MODERATELY active. Compared to 62% in BC and 54% Nationally.

Source: CFC (5)

35%

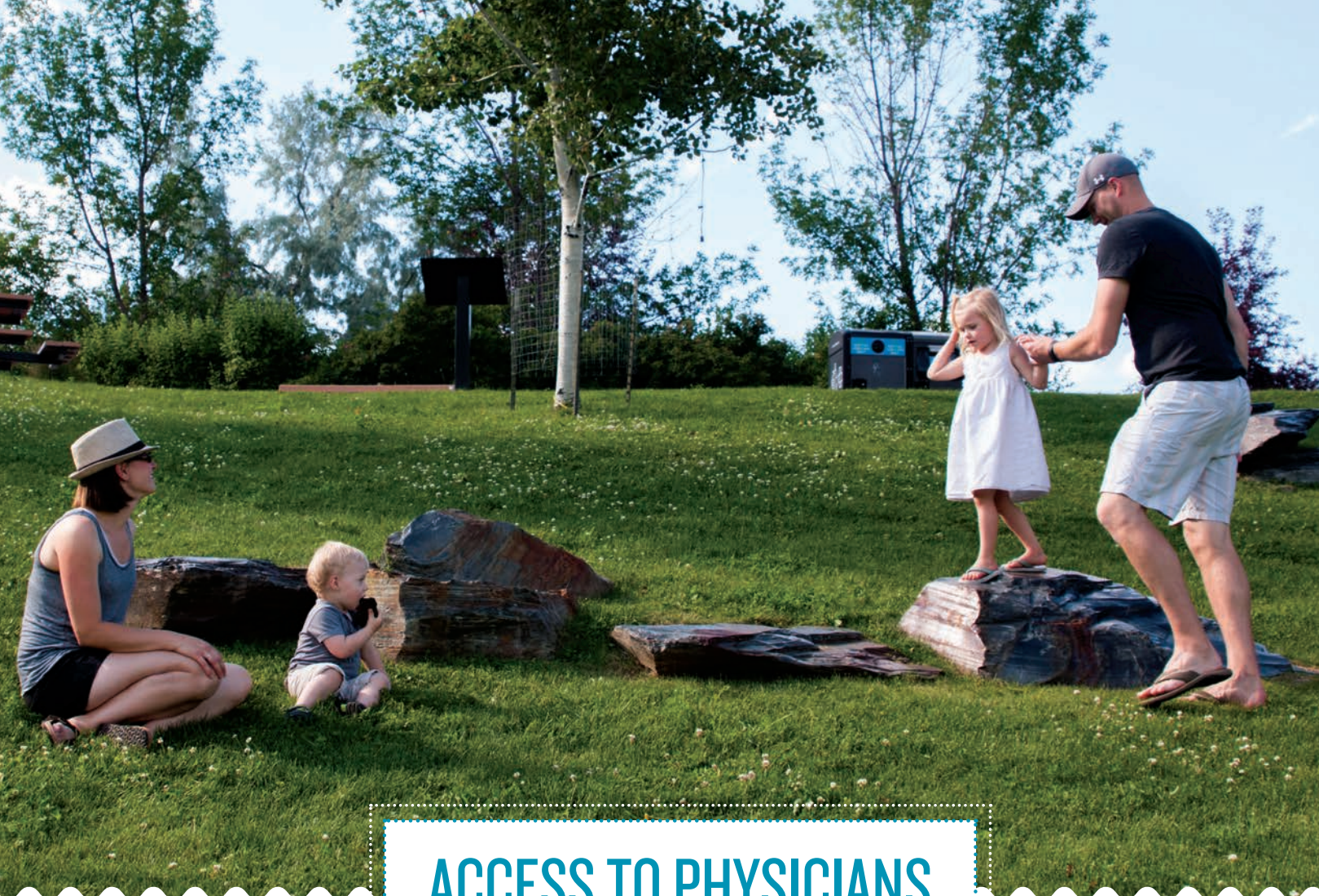
Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated **Recreational Opportunities** as the #1 response to WHICH SERVICES/PROGRAMS WOULD IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE?

580 responses

27%

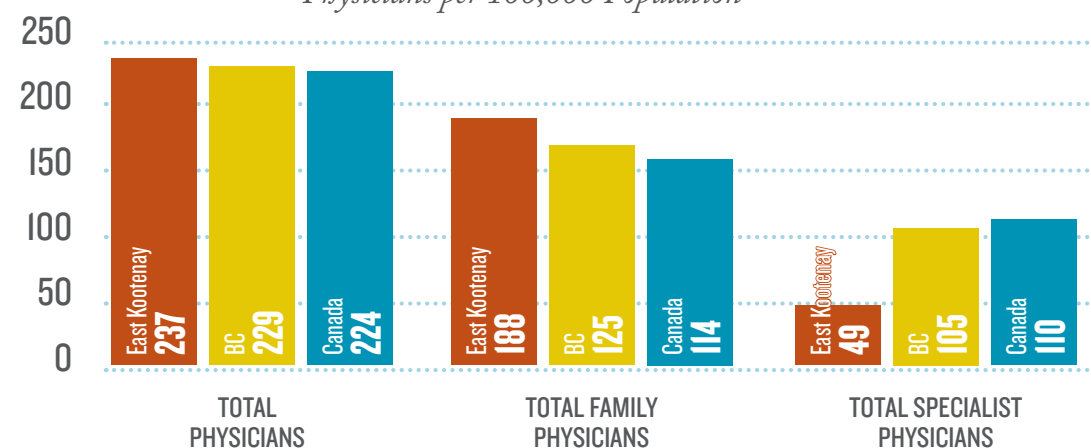
Percentage of Community Survey Respondents who rated **Specialty Healthcare Services** the #4 rated response.

580 responses



ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS

Physicians per 100,000 Population



Source: CFC (5)

Healthcare for aging seniors.

Community Survey Respondent

I'm a healthy senior, but I worry about what will happen if I get a chronic illness.

Community Survey Respondent

It takes over 1 month to get an appointment with my family doctor.

Community Survey Respondent

161

Number of Police Officers per 100,000 population in BC. Compared to 194 Nationally. **This has increased 16% from 2000.**

Source: CFC (6)

Crime is increasing. Much more patrols are needed.

Community Survey Respondent

I feel safe everywhere I go.

Youth Community Survey Respondent

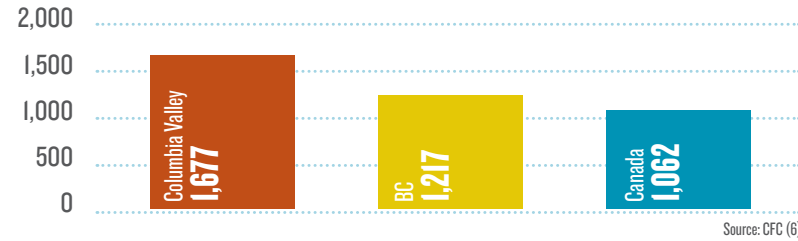
87%

Percentage of East Kootenay residents who indicated they **Feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark** (Compared to 78% provincially)

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs (288)

SAFETY IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY

Total Violent Criminal Code Violations per 100,000 Population



Source: CFC (6)

43%

Increase in Violent Criminal Code violations in the Columbia Valley from 2014. Compared to a 36% decrease in BC and a 2% increase nationally.

OVERALL, THERE HAS BEEN A 20% DECREASE SINCE 1998 IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY.

Source: CFC (6)

Total Property Code Violations per 100,000 Population



Source: CFC (6)

8%

Increase in Property Criminal Code violations in the Columbia Valley from 2014. Compared to a 2% increase in BC and a 4% increase nationally.

OVERALL, THERE HAS BEEN A 63% DECREASE SINCE 1998 IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY.

Source: CFC (6)

119

The Motor Vehicle Theft rate. (2015) Compared to 314 in BC and 220 Nationally. **This decreased 9% from 2014 and 57% since 1998.**

Source: CFC (6)

606

The number of Criminal Code Traffic Violations. (2015 per 100,000 population) Compared to 335 in BC and 351 Nationally. **This decreased 28% from 2014.**

Source: CFC (6)

Less traffic than the city. It's safer than the city so I can play in my community.

Youth Community Survey Respondent

90%

Percentage of East Kootenay residents that indicated if they **Lost a wallet with \$100, that it would be returned, with the money, by one of their neighbours.** (Compared to 70% provincially)

Source: Vancouver Foundation – Provincial Vital Signs (288)

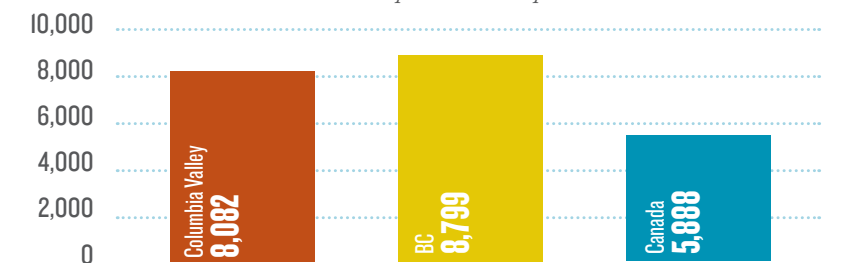


24%

DECREASE IN THE OVERALL CRIME RATE FROM 2014.

Source: CFC (6)

Overall Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: CFC (6)

50%

DECREASE IN THE OVERALL CRIME RATE FROM 1998.

Source: CFC (6)

Community Survey Responses

Any other comments about the Columbia Valley?

224 responses

Took 3 years to settle and feel like it was home, but now I love it here! Biggest drawback is lack of bus transportation - I would take a bus several days a week if the schedule fit my hours at work. Also feel lack of affordable housing is a serious issue.

Community Survey Respondent

There are many things I love about Invermere, and I'm happy to raise my children here. But, I am so tired of struggling financially even though I have 3 to 4 jobs at a time. When my youngest child graduates in 4 years, I am moving somewhere more affordable. I just can't keep struggling. It takes 1 and 1/4 paychecks just to pay my mortgage. It's exhausting working so much. There are so many things to do in the outdoors but I don't ever get to do them because I'm always working.

Community Survey Respondent

We have a great place here. We need to make sure our children and seniors are getting what they need so they can live, grow and love our valley!

Community Survey Respondent

This is an awesome place to reside even if it is only for the summer months. To make it easier I have found I have to be proactive in the community so I meet people and don't feel isolated. It is not easy to do however the little I have done has made a great difference.

Community Survey Respondent

Love it here! Love the small town vibe. Invermere is a vibrant happening community. Can we afford housing here when we both fully retire? That is the question.

Community Survey Respondent

Our family really loves living here. We had to give up income for lifestyle. My spouse and I both had to work as it was not possible to live off one income any longer. Saying that, we gained a community and a place that provides all the basic necessities. We can grow our own food, enjoy the outdoors, visit with family and friends and be in one of the most scenic places in the world.

Community Survey Respondent

Love it here, I think it is flourishing on many levels, positive growth. Could use more affordable housing for single dwellers, and I will always support more diversity in culture, food and the arts.

Community Survey Respondent

WE HAVE MANY INCREDIBLE PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS VALLEY. VERY PROUD TO CALL IT HOME.

Community Survey Respondent

OUR KIDS WHO WERE BORN, EDUCATED AND PARTICIPATED IN SPORTS HERE, LEFT FOR EDUCATION AND LIFE, FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN RAISED HERE AND ENJOY COMING BACK AS MUCH AS THEY CAN, ARE NOW TELLING US WE CAN NEVER LEAVE AS THEY ASSOCIATE THIS VALLEY AS THEIR FOREVER HOME.

Community Survey Respondent

Life here is great. We enjoy our nearby golf course and the club house for Friday eve dinners with neighbours, hiking with fantastic people from the valley, events at Pynelogs, lunches at Pynelogs, From Scratch, Blue Dog Cafe, Kicking Horse Coffee, Wings Over The Rockies and the friendly, helpful people who work in those shops.

Community Survey Respondent

I AM GRATEFUL TO LIVE HERE AND I TRY TO GIVE BACK AND PRESERVE WHAT IS OF VALUE.

Community Survey Respondent

I consider myself very fortunate to have found the Valley in my early thirties, and to have been able to call it home ever since. I would wish the same fortune for others, so if we can make it easier for them, bravo!

Community Survey Respondent



— { *End Notes* } —

- 1 Source: Statistics Canada. Class of Worker for the Employed Labour Force Aged 15 years. 2011 National Household Survey.
- 2 Canada Revenue Agency Taxfiler Data, by locality code 2012
- 3 BC Stats: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/BusinessCountsEmploymentByIndustry.aspx>. Contains information licensed under the Open Government License--BC.
- 4 Elections Canada – Official Voting Results
- 5 East Kootenay HSDA 2014
- 6 Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 252-0051 for 1998-2013 CMA data. Data by police service are available by province (CANSIM Tables 252-0075 - 252-0082). Data are based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Updated July 23, 2015

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.

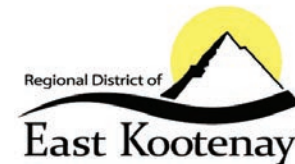
For more information visit: www.vitalsignscanada.ca



COLUMBIA VALLEY'S
VitalSigns

This Vital Signs project is only possible because of the financial support of;

Columbia Basin **trust**



About Our Community Foundation

"FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER"

Started in 2001 by a group of community philanthropists, our concept is simple: we create legacies for donors by investing their gifts and granting the investment income back to the community to causes that they care about. Over 15 years, we have supported 131 projects and granted over \$540,000 to the community. *We match donors with causes relevant to their interests.*

Columbia Valley Community Foundation

PO Box 991
Invermere, BC V0A 1K0

250.342.2845
info@valleyfoundation.ca
www.valleyfoundation.ca

2016

COLUMBIA VALLEY'S

Vital Signs

