

# Vital Signs Provincial Wide Public Opinion Survey

FINAL: June 14, 2016

Welcome to the BC Community Survey!

1a. First of all, what is your postal code?

b. What area of the province do you live in? → Which community do you live in or closest to?

5 REGION HEADINGS WILL PRESENT, WITH COMMUNITIES LISTED UNDER EACH HEADING.

FOR VAN ISL., NORTH AND SOUTH, ADD OTHER. IF SELECTED, ASK: C. Which community do you live in?

2. What do you like most about living in your community? (SELECT UP TO THREE)

Arts and cultural opportunities

Climate

Clean environment/good air quality

Cost of living/affordability

Cultural diversity

Festivals and events

Sense of community

Friends and family close by

Lifestyle/recreation opportunities

Local food and farmers markets

Natural beauty/scenery

Parks and public spaces

Restaurants and shops

Good place to raise a family

Safety

Physical/sports activities

Employment options

Overall quality of life

Learning & education opportunities

Walkability/easy to move around

Other: Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

3a. What are the three most important issues or concerns for you in your community? (SELECT UP TO THREE)

a. Economic equality (gap between rich and poor)

b. Safety of community (including crime)

c. Overall health and wellness of citizens

d. Opportunities for learning and education

e. Housing

f. Welcoming to newcomers

g. Opportunities for arts, culture and leisure

h. Environment and sustainability

i. Employment opportunities and the general economic environment

j. Connectedness of community (sense of belonging)

k. Seniors well-being

l. Children and Youth well-being

m. Transportation or getting around

n. Other (please specify)

o. None/no concerns → **SKIP TO Q4**



- b. And of these, what would be the most important issue or concern? **INSERT ISSUES SELECTED IN Q3a**
- c. **FOR RESPONSE SELECTED IN Q3b, ASK RELATED QUESTION A-M BELOW. IF “Other” SELECTED AS MOST IMPORTANT, ASK OPEN END: What specifically is your concern regarding (INSERT OTHER RESPONSE)**

**A. Economic Equality (Gap between rich and poor)**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving economic equality?

*SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Reducing homelessness
- 02 - Increasing the minimum wage
- 03 - Increasing financial and social support to those on income assistance
- 04 - Implementing a living wage
- 05 - Providing more social housing
- 06 - Providing more assistance to seniors living in poverty
- 07 - Making it more affordable to be a homeowner
- 08 - Providing more access to healthy food options
- 09 - Providing more affordable child care
- 10 - Making public transportation more affordable
- 11 – Increasing transportation options
- 12 - Improving citizens’ basic household financial skills
- 13 - Increasing opportunities for full time employment
- 15 – Improving sports opportunities for low-income families
- 16 - Addressing neighbourhood gentrification
- 17 – Increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**B. Safety –**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving safety in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Improving emergency preparedness response capability to natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes)
- 02 - Increasing the visible presence of police
- 03 - Reducing levels of violent crime
- 04 - Reducing levels of gang violence
- 05 - Reducing levels of street disorder (such as aggressive panhandlers, disruptive behaviour from intoxicated or mentally ill people, etc.)
- 06 - Reducing levels of property crime
- 07 - Improving traffic/road safety
- 08 - Reducing use of illegal drugs
- 09 - Improving workplace safety
- 10 - Reducing identity theft and other white collar crimes
- 11 - Greater citizen responsibility for neighbourhood safety (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch)
- 12 – Wild life safety (protection from bears, cougars etc.)
- 13 – Wild fire risk
- 14 – Increasing the number of transitional housing beds (homeless and women’s shelter etc.)
- 15 - Improving civic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, hospitals and schools (seismic upgrades)
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**C. Overall Health and Wellness of Citizens**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving health and wellness in your community?

*SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Ensuring everyone has a family physician
- 02 - Reducing Emergency Department overcrowding
- 03 - Shortening waiting times for surgical and medical procedures
- 04 - Shortening the waiting time for residential care
- 05 - Improving access to mental health services
- 06 - Improving access to addiction and substance abuse services
- 07 - Improving access to alternative and complementary therapies (eg acupuncture)
- 08 - Increasing physical activity levels
- 09 - Reducing tobacco, drug and alcohol use
- 10 - Reducing overweight and obesity levels
- 11 - Investing in the health and development of young children
- 12 - Reducing inequities in health
- 13 - Reducing preventable injuries
- 14 - Improving access to healthy food
- 15 - Increasing support for unpaid caregivers
- 16 - Reducing unwanted teenage pregnancy rates
- 17 - Increasing/improving support services for those suffering from illness/disease
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**D. Opportunities for Learning and Education**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving learning and education opportunities in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Improving the affordability of post secondary education
- 02 - Decreasing K – 12 classroom size
- 03 - Improving the overall quality of K- 12 education
- 04 - Expanding opportunities for experiential learning such as outdoor schools
- 05 - Improving access to higher education opportunities for low income families
- 06 - Improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal people
- 07 - Increasing opportunities for learning/improving English language skills
- 08 - Increasing continuing education opportunities/adult learning options
- 09 - Financially sustaining the public school system
- 10 - Increasing educational resources for students with special needs
- 11 - Increasing technical school or apprenticeship opportunities
- 12 - Increasing the high school graduation rate
- 13 - Increasing the number of education/training facilities
- 14 - Increasing the options for attending school/training closer to home
- 15 - Increasing opportunities for students to learn an Aboriginal language in school
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**E. Housing –**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving housing options in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Increasing rental vacancy availability
- 02 - Providing housing for the homeless
- 03 - Improving the affordability of rental housing
- 04 - Improving the affordability of ownership housing
- 05 - Providing more alternatives for housing such as co-ops
- 06 - Increasing the diversity and density of housing
- 07 - Increasing the availability of housing with various levels of assisted care
- 08 - Finding new ways to help people finance their homes
- 09 – Creating opportunities for co-ownership of homes
- 10 – Increasing the inventory of homes for purchase
- 11 – Easing regulations to encourage building and renting of secondary suites, laneway houses, etc.
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**F. Welcoming Newcomers (immigrants, refugees, those moving from another city in Canada)**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving options for newcomers in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 – More employment opportunities
- 02 – Decreasing the length of time to find desirable employment
- 03 – Availability of quality childcare
- 04 – Availability of housing options
- 05 – Informal opportunities to meet community members
- 06 – Increasing the support for accreditation of foreign professionals
- 07 – Increasing the general awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity
- 08 – Mentoring opportunities
- 09 – Services for youth adjusting to life in Canada
- 10 – Assistance accessing community services
- 11 – Increasing the access to cultural activities
- 12 – Increasing access to services for learning or improving English language skills
- 13- Increasing awareness of and access to available social services for those settling in a new community
- 98 – Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 – Cannot Say

## G. Opportunities for Arts, Culture and Leisure

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving your community's arts, culture and leisure options? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Providing more affordable arts and cultural activities
- 02 - Providing more street festivals/parades and community celebrations
- 03 - Providing more art in public places
- 04 - Increasing funding and facilities to support arts and culture
- 05 - Increasing funding for amateur sports
- 06 - Providing more affordable recreational and sports opportunities
- 07 - Upgrading existing sport and recreation facilities
- 08 - Improving appreciation of the arts
- 09 – Revitalization of Aboriginal Languages
- 10 - Providing more cultural celebrations
- 11 - Increasing the availability of community gardens
- 12 – Increasing the availability of parks and green space
- 13 – Increasing the access to multicultural/multilingual media
- 14 – Acknowledgement and celebration of Aboriginal culture
- 15 – Providing opportunities for access to art and leisure for people with disabilities
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

## H. Environmental Sustainability –

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving environmental sustainability in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 – Improving/protecting air quality
- 02 - Reducing our reliance on cars
- 03 - Limiting urban sprawl
- 04 - Increasing reuse, repair, recycling and sharing economy
- 05 - Building more community gardens and bee/pollinator spaces
- 06 – Improving/ increasing bus and transit service
- 07 - Reducing use of bottled water
- 08 - Expanding composting programs and reducing food waste
- 09 – Preventing and reducing amount of waste generated
- 10 - Adding more and safer bike lanes
- 11 - Bringing more local food in stores and markets
- 12 - Protecting salmon habitat
- 13 – Improving/protecting water quality
- 14 - Protecting local wildlife and natural habitat sites
- 15 – Increasing walking paths and walkability
- 16 – Alternative energy options
- 17 – Diverting construction/building waste from landfill
- 18 - Supporting Aboriginal stewardship of local environment
- 19 – Increasing the sense of shared responsibility to environment
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**I. Employment and General Economic Environment**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving the economy and employment opportunities in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Increasing the minimum wage
- 02 - Reducing unemployment rates
- 03 - Providing more opportunity for skills training
- 04 - Reducing long commuting times
- 05 - Providing more support for small business development
- 06 - Encouraging consumers and businesses to buy local
- 07 - Lowering business taxes
- 08 - Providing more opportunities for full time employment
- 09 - Lowering personal debt rates
- 11 - Increasing participation and contributions to RRSP
- 12 - Increasing the economic competitiveness of the region
- 13. Decrease need to travel to a different community/region for work
- 14 – Increasing 'Green Economy' employment options
- 15 – Increasing the ability to work from home or tele-commute
- 16 – Increasing the ease of getting building permits
- 17, Support for employment transition from resource based employment
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**J. Connectedness of Community (Belonging)**

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving connectedness and sense of belonging in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Increasing volunteering
- 02 - Increasing civic engagement
- 03 - Increasing charitable contributions from individuals and households
- 04 - Improving voter turnout
- 05 - Increasing corporate philanthropy
- 06 - Providing new programs to increase involvement of marginalized groups
- 07 - Increasing community participation
- 08 - Expanding the diversity among elected officials
- 09 - Reducing isolation of seniors and persons with disabilities
- 10 - Providing more opportunities to interact with neighbours
- 11 - Providing more opportunities to celebrate our multiculturalism and diversity
- 12 - Providing more opportunities to welcome new immigrants and residents
- 13 – Increasing recognition of Aboriginal culture
- 13- More faith-based opportunities
- 14 – Opportunity to provide input/influence local community decisions
- 15 – Increased community participation access for people with disabilities
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

#### K. Seniors

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving the well-being of seniors in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Reducing seniors' isolation
- 02 - Reducing levels of elder abuse
- 03 - Reducing the poverty rate among seniors
- 04 - Improving the economic security of seniors
- 05 - Providing more social, recreation and arts opportunities for seniors
- 06 - Improving access to transportation
- 07 - Providing more affordable independent care housing options
- 08 - Providing more diverse seniors' housing options
- 09 - Improving seniors' access to nutritious food
- 10 - Increasing the support/resources for caregivers
- 11 - Increasing end of life support
- 11 - Opportunities for seniors to share their skills and knowledge
- 12 - Increasing disease and health care services
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

#### L. Children and Youth

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving the well-being of children and youth in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Increasing the number of licensed daycare spaces
- 02 - Providing more affordable childcare
- 03 - Decreasing the child poverty rate
- 04 - Improving readiness for kindergarten
- 05 - Providing more employment opportunities for youth
- 06 - Reducing bullying in schools
- 07 - Reducing child abuse
- 08 - Improving graduation rates for newcomers and Aboriginal students
- 09 - Improving services for child and youth mental health
- 10 - Improving access to nutritious food
- 11 - Providing more affordable opportunities for sports and recreation
- 12 - Providing more affordable opportunities for arts and creative development
- 13 - Improving access to affordable dental care
- 14 - Employment options for youth
- 15 - Increasing the ability to attend school closer to home
- 16 - Increasing the access to support staff for children with special needs within schools
- 17 - Increasing service learning and mentorship opportunities
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

#### M. Getting Around (Transportation)

Which of the following do you believe is the most important priority for improving the ability to get around in your community? *SELECT UP TO THREE*

- 01 - Providing more and safer bike lanes
- 02 - Providing more accessible transit options for people with disabilities
- 03 - Improving or adding taxi service in the region
- 04 - Increasing use of public transit
- 05 - Increasing use of alternate personal transportation (e.g., biking, scooters, walking)
- 06 - Making public transit more affordable
- 07 - Improving the walkability of neighbourhoods
- 08 - Expanding the public transit system
- 09 - Improving quality of roads and bridges

- 10 – Adding to or encouraging car cooperatives and car sharing businesses
- 11 - Adding more “high occupancy vehicle” lanes on highways and bridges
- 12 – Regional coordination of transportation infrastructure
- 13 – Improving transit options for shift workers
- 98 - Other (Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- 99 - Cannot say

**4. This next question is about different things people may or may not do during the year. Thinking about the last 12 months, please indicate if you have done any of the following in your community. (Please choose all that apply)**

- a. Participated in a neighbourhood or community project such as a neighbourhood clean-up or community garden
- b. Attended a neighbourhood or community meeting
- c. Visited a local library, community centre or recreation centre
- d. Attended a cultural or ethnic event put on by a cultural or ethnic group different than yours
- e. Signed a petition
- f. Volunteered time to an organization
- g. Donated to a cause
- h. Provided unpaid help to a non-family member
- i. Attended a faith-based service/activity
- j. Other (please specify)
- k. I have not done any community activities in the past year

**5. How would you describe your sense of belonging to your local neighbourhood? Would you say it is:**

- Very strong
- Somewhat strong
- Somewhat weak
- Very weak
- Prefer not to say

**6. How would you describe your sense of belonging to groups/activities you are involved with (e.g., sports, hobbies, faith, etc.)?**

- Very strong
- Somewhat strong
- Somewhat weak
- Very weak
- Prefer not to say

**7. If you wanted to contribute or be more involved in your community, would you know what opportunities exist to do so?**

- Yes
- No



**8. If you wanted be more involved in your community and help strengthen your community, which of the following would you likely do? (Please choose all that apply)**

- Become more involved in the electoral process
- Donate to a cause
- Volunteer
- Attend a neighbourhood or community meeting
- Participate in a neighbourhood or community project
- Join a club or sports group
- Attend a faith-based activity
- Do not want to be more involved
- Other? (please specify)

**9. How many people do you have in your network that you could confide in, tell your problems to or call when you really need help?**

- No:
- Prefer not to say

**10. Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**11. IF NO: What is your main concern/fear? (Please choose one)**

- a) Traffic/road safety
- b) Violent attack
- c) Sexual assault
- d) Wild animals
- e) Limited vision/ lack of lighting
- f) Robbery
- g) Isolation/nobody else around
- h) Harassment/verbal assault
- i) Other (please specify)
- j) Cannot say

**12. If you lost a wallet or purse containing 100 dollars, how likely do you think it would be returned to you, with the money inside, if it was found by one of your neighbours?**

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely
- Prefer not to say

**13. In general, to what extent do you feel content?**

- 0 - Not At All                      10 – Completely                      Prefer not to say

**14. In general, how often do you feel positive?**

- 0 - Never                              10 – Always                              Prefer not to say

15. **In general, to what extent do you lead a purposeful and meaningful life?**  
0 - Not At All                      10 – Completely                      Prefer not to say

17. **When someone new moves onto my street, they are welcomed into the neighbourhood.**  
Strongly agree  
Somewhat agree  
Neither agree nor disagree  
Somewhat disagree  
Strongly disagree  
Prefer not to say

18. **Have you/will you consider a gift to a charity in your estate plans/will?**  
Yes, have included in will  
No, but plan to include in will  
No, will not include in will  
Do not have plans to create a will  
Prefer not to say

19. **Do you have any other comments on the topics discussed in this survey?**  
**Yes → 19a. Please enter below (OPEN TEXT BOX)**  
**No**

20. **Many communities across Canada have an organization known as a Community Foundation. Instead of supporting their own programs, these organizations pool the financial contributions of many donors to provide support and grants to local charities in order to improve the quality of life in their community or region.**

**Here is a list of the 54 Community Foundations in BC**

**Prior to this survey, were you aware if there was a Community Foundation that served your community or regional area?**

Yes  
No  
Not sure

**The following are demographic questions that will help us better understand the findings from this survey.**

**A. Which gender do you identify with?**

Male  
Female  
Other  
Prefer not to say



**B. How old are you?**

Under 18 years of age

18 to 24

25 to 34

35 to 44

45 to 54

55 to 64

65 to 74

75 to 84

85 years or better

Prefer not to say

**Ci. Which of these situations best fits your personal family situation at present?**

Person living alone

Person living with parents/extended family

Person living with friends

Spouse or partner, no children at home

Spouse or partner with children at home

Single parent with children at home

Elderly parent living with children

Other (please specify)

Prefer not to say

**ii. IF HAVE CHILDREN: Are your children under the age of 18 years?**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

**Di. How many years have you lived in your current community?**

**No:**

Prefer not to say

**Dii. IF 5 OR LESS YEARS: What was the primary reason for relocation?**

- Employment options
- Retirement
- To be closer to friends and family
- Overall quality of life
- Good place to raise a family
- Cost of living/affordability
- Friendly people/connected community
- Weather/climate
- Natural environment
- Recreation options
- Culture & Arts
- Education for Children
- Housing
- Wanted a fresh start
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say

**E. Which of the following best describes your home situation?**

- Homeowner
- Renter
- Live in co-op
- Rent in shared accommodations
- Live at home
- Live in collective dwelling (e.g., senior citizens home, school residences, group home, etc.)
- Staff housing
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say

**F. Which of the following categories applies to your total household income for the year 2015 (before taxes)?**

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000 to under \$40,000
- \$40,000 to under \$60,000
- \$60,000 to under \$80,000
- \$80,000 to under \$100,000
- \$100,000 to under \$150,000
- \$150,000 to under \$200,00
- \$200,000 or more

**G. Which of the following best describes your employment status?**

- Full time employment
- Part time employment
- Involuntary part-time
- Seasonal
- Self employed
- Homemaker
- Casual/on-call
- Student
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Income Assistance
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say

**H. What is the highest level of education you have obtained?**

- Grade school or some high school
- Completed high school
- Post-secondary technical school
- Some university or college
- Completed college diploma
- Completed university degree
- Post-graduate degree (e.g., Master's, PhD, MD)
- Prefer not to say



**I. Were you born in Canada?**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

**J. Which category or categories best describes the ethnic or cultural origins of your ancestors?**

*SELECT ALL THAT APPLY*

Canadian

British Isles (e.g., English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh)

French

Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)

Chinese

South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Punjabi, Pakistani)

Other East/Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese)

West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, Turk)

Caribbean

Latin American (e.g., Mexican, Central/South American)

Western European (e.g., German, Dutch, Austrian)

Northern European (e.g. Norwegian, Swedish, Danish)

Eastern European (e.g. Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, Czech)

Southern European (e.g. Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek)

African

Arab (e.g. Egyptian, Lebanese, Iraqi)

Oceania (e.g., Australia, Pacific Islands)

Other – Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer not to say

**K. What languages are spoken in your home?**

English

Mandarin

Cantonese

Other Chinese

Vietnamese

Japanese

Farsi

Hindi

Punjabi

Korean

French

Philippine (Tagalog)

Other Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer not to say

**L. What is the most common way you receive community information?**

- Newspaper
- Radio
- Television
- Posters
- Social Media
- Email
- Word of mouth
- Pamphlets in mailbox
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say

*This completes the survey. Thank you very much for your time and assistance.*

