Metro Vancouver's

VitalSigns® 2007

Our Region's Check-Up

VANCOUVER FOUNDATION

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A comprehensive version of *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs* with links to data sources can be accessed online at: **www.vancouverfoundation.ca**.

Message from the Chair and CEO

Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs 2007 is a multi-faceted snapshot of our region. It brings together factual information, perceptions, and ideas for addressing the key issues that affect the livability and wellness of communities within Metro Vancouver. It tells the story of what it is like to live here.

For this year's report, we have made two significant changes: first, we have broadened the focus beyond the city of Vancouver to the Metro Vancouver region; second, we have included brief stories about community organizations that are working to address community needs in the various areas examined.

We are also including two new key areas: Getting Around and Food.

The purpose of *Vital Signs* is not simply to capture information. *Vital Signs* is intended to inform the work of Vancouver Foundation. As a community foundation, the largest in Canada, understanding the needs of the communities we serve is critical to our success and to ensuring donated funds are used effectively.

Through *Vital Signs*, we are gaining a clearer sense of the needs and priorities of our region. We understand how Vancouver Foundation can have more impact as a funder, convenor, partner, and leader, using these priorities to guide our decisions. *Vital Signs* has also brought new partners, networks, and colleagues into our midst to help us address issues.

Besides the benefits to Vancouver Foundation's work, we know others have used *Vital Signs* to plan, learn, and stimulate dialogue. We hope our 2007 report will build on this and assist all of us in making informed choices and taking action to address issues affecting our communities.

Our sincere thanks to the many organizations and individuals who gave their time to this project by sharing information, participating in our citizen grading panel, or offering advice on key issues. We would also like to thank our lead partners: Vancity, *The Vancouver Sun*, and *Ming Pao Daily News*.

We encourage you to use *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs* as a tool to stimulate dialogue and learning around policy tables, in the workplace, in schools, in all aspects of your community, and at home. Copies of our *Vital Signs* newspaper insert are available in English or Chinese and can be obtained by contacting the Foundation.

Talk to us! Share with us how you plan to use *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs* and give us feedback on this year's report by going to **www.vancouverfoundation.ca**. We look forward to hearing from you in the year to come!

Jake C. Kerr, CM, OBC, LL.D.
CHAIR

Faye Wightman
PRESIDENT & CEO

Vital Signs® was started by Toronto Community Foundation in 2001. This year, community foundations in ten other cities across Canada participated in producing a *Vital Signs* report. To see all the reports, visit: **www.vitalsignscanada.ca**.

Report Highlights

While Metro Vancouver remains a desirable place to live, some of us continue to face significant and complex challenges, particularly in the key areas of Housing, Getting Started, and the Gap Between Rich and Poor. *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs 2007* tells the story of a region experiencing tremendous growth, challenge, and change.

> Compared to other major Canadian cities, our region generates lower emission levels of greenhouse gas from transportation.

> In 2005, 26% of children and youth under 18 years of age in Metro Vancouver lived in households with incomes below the poverty line, a higher percentage than the national rate of 17%.

> In 2007, 35.5% of Metro Vancouver's council members were women. This is above the national average of 28%.

> Feeding a family of four on income assistance requires 41% of household income.

> In 2006, 80% of Metro Vancouver's transit fleet was accessible to persons with disabilities.

> Metro Vancouver is experiencing its lowest unemployment rates in 20 years; our region's youth unemployment rate is also the lowest it has been in two years.

> An increasing majority of Metro Vancouver residents live in 'compact neighbourhoods' of more than 12 people per acre, an increase of 11% in one decade.

> The gap between rich and poor continues to grow in Metro Vancouver; the region has among the highest poverty rates in the country.

> Employment in cultural industries, as well as household and municipal spending on the arts, has increased over the past 20 years, with levels higher than the Canadian average.

> The cost of housing has risen significantly. This, coupled with diminishing available rental stock, makes finding affordable housing a challenge.

> While school completion rates are improving for urban First Nations and Aboriginal people, the rates remain lower than the rates of non-First Nations and non-Aboriginal people.

> Immigrants settling into Metro Vancouver still encounter barriers to employment, although many have high levels of education, resulting in high poverty rates compared to non-immigrant residents.

Metro Vancouver demonstrates encouraging trends with respect to falling crime rates, rising employment, increasing cultural diversity, and growing volunteerism; yet, there is still work to be done in a number of key areas. *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs* public opinion survey and key area grades and priorities tell us that our region's residents and *Vital Signs* citizen graders recognize the need to address these key issues.

Our Sense of Place

The Metro Vancouver region is home to more than 2.1 million people from an impressively diverse range of backgrounds and cultures. As of 2006, 16% of the population in Metro Vancouver was under the age of 15. The median age was 39 years, and 13% of the population was 65 years and older. Metro Vancouver's population is older than other major Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) in Canada. With the exception of Metro Toronto, it is also more ethnically diverse.

The beauty of our region and the uniqueness of its natural assets offer a valuable ecological resource along with important social, economic, and recreational opportunities. Metro Vancouver is comprised of 21 municipalities and one electoral area. Situated in the lower Fraser Valley, it is defined by the Strait of Georgia to the west, the Coast Mountains to the north, the Fraser Valley Regional District to the east, and the U.S. border to the south.

This report reflects the lived experience for many residents who live, work, play, and learn in different parts of the region on a daily basis and who consider themselves inhabitants of the region of Metro Vancouver.

The 12 key areas covered in this report cross the boundaries of all the municipalities within the Metro Vancouver region. Transportation, food, employment, safety, education, health, newcomer assistance, and the environment are among the complex issues that demand collaborative approaches in order to solve problems and identify opportunities aimed at achieving a good quality of life for all.

GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

Unless indicated otherwise, findings in this report are based on CMA data which is consistent with Metro Vancouver boundaries. This map illustrates these boundaries and those of the municipalities within Metro Vancouver.

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is a metropolitan statistical area's geographic area, consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a CMA, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. The boundaries of the Vancouver CMA are identical to those of Metro Vancouver.

For definitions of this and other technical terms used in Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs, go to: ***www.vancouverfoundation.ca****.*

SOURCE: METRO VANCOUVER, 2007

Our Research Methodology

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Vancouver Foundation has engaged a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the development of *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs 2007*. Their involvement has helped this report capture the essence of our region's current state.

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

The Foundation retained three organizations to undertake research for the 2007 report. The Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC) and the Regional Vancouver Urban Observatory (RVu) undertook the secondary research for both the hard copy report and the more comprehensive online version. The primary research components – citizen grading and public opinion surveys – were carried out by Ipsos Reid.

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) was retained by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) to undertake research for indicators being used by all 11 *Vital Signs* projects across Canada in 2007.

PRIMARY RESEARCH

Primary research is information that comes directly from the source. It is usually collected specifically for the particular needs of a research project.

Public Opinion Survey

This survey consisted of two waves of telephone surveying in June and July 2007, each with a randomly-selected sample, for a total sample size of 889 Metro Vancouver residents. (See survey on pages 16 and 17)

Key Informant Grading and Priority Setting

Hundreds of civic, non-profit, and business leaders and other informed members of our region were invited to participate in an online grading exercise. Over 400 responded – more than double the number of "citizen graders" participating in the 2006 report. Graders were asked to assign a grade for each key area using a five-point letter grade: A, B, C, D and F. Graders shared their knowledge and perceptions without awareness of the 2007 research findings. They were also asked to identify two priority issues requiring attention over the next year within each key area.

Grader Profile

> 38% live outside the city of Vancouver in other parts of Metro Vancouver
> 89% have volunteered within the past year
> 66% are female
> 51% are between the ages of 35-54; 27% are over the age of 55; 21% are between 18 and 34
> 8% participated as graders for *Vancouver's Vital Signs 2006*

SECONDARY RESEARCH

Secondary research examines data that has been collected for another purpose, usually by a different organization. This year's research team collected data from a variety of sources, including Statistics Canada, regional data sources, libraries, TransLink, school boards, and various government ministries among other sources. Data was obtained through online searches, phone calls, and some custom-run data. The SPARC BC and RVu research teams, in collaboration with CSLS, endeavoured to secure the most current information possible.

INDICATOR SELECTION

Indicators within each of the 12 key areas were selected on the basis of:

> the relationship of the indicators to one another and the key area;
> availability of data for the Vancouver CMA;
> perceived public interest;
> currency of the data;
> ease and cost of data collection; and
> the possibility of future updates.

The indicators rely as much as possible on data at the regional level. In some cases, data was only available at the municipal, local health area, or provincial level. The research team has made an effort to ensure that the geographical context for each indicator is as clear as possible.

GETTING AROUND

The ability to get around is central to our quality of life and environment and the health of our local economy. The capacity, effectiveness, and efficiency of bus, boat, and rail systems play an important role in moving goods and people of all ages, origins, and abilities around our region.

Encouragingly, per capita service hours for transit and the coverage of bicycle routes are increasing in Metro Vancouver, and our transit systems are becoming more accessible. However, *Vital Signs 2007* public opinion research and citizen grading have identified improved transportation and better ways of getting around as our region's number one priority issue.

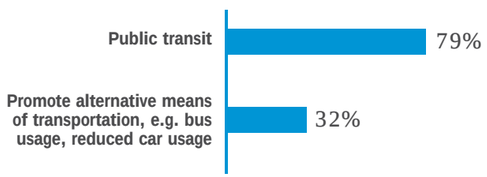
Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for getting around, transporting people and goods through our region, including factors such as traffic accidents, public transit, traffic calming measures, paths and walkways…

C–

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…



Public Transit Service Increases

Over five million hours of transit service were provided across the Metro Vancouver region in 2006. This represents an increase of 33% in total transit service hours since 1997. In per capita terms, service hours have increased 19.5% from 1.96 to 2.35 hours since 1997.

Public Transit Accessibility Is High

Four out of five public buses and shuttles in Metro Vancouver are accessible for people with disabilities. Other forms of public transit operating in our region, such as the SkyTrain, SeaBus, and West Coast Express, are fully accessible.

Costs of Traffic Congestion

A study by Transport Canada calculated the costs of time delays caused by traffic congestion, the cost of wasted fuel, and greenhouse gas emissions in all major cities across Canada. The estimated cost of traffic congestion in Metro Vancouver in 2003, based on slowing down to 60% of the unconstrained speed of traffic, was $517 million.

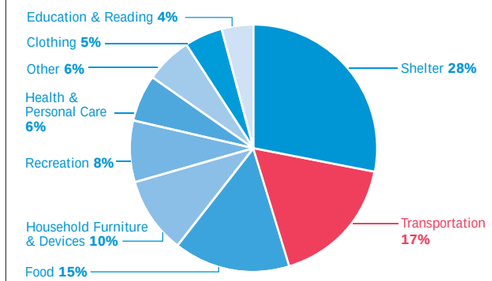
Decreasing Commute Times

Metro Vancouver is the only major CMA in Canada that has seen its average roundtrip commuting times decrease between 1992 and 2005. In 2005, residents spent an average of 67 minutes commuting to and from work. This is above the national roundtrip average of 63 minutes, but three minutes less than it was in Metro Vancouver in 1992.

Household Spending on Transportation

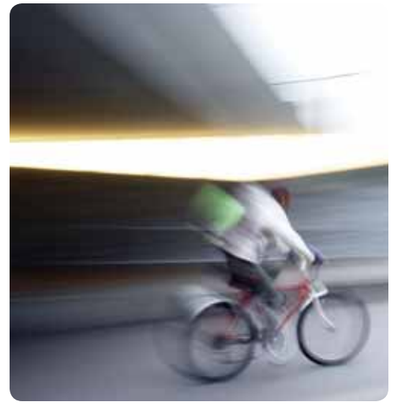
In 2005, the average household in Metro Vancouver spent over $9,000 annually on getting around, making transportation the second-largest household expenditure after shelter. The average household spent over $1,000 more on getting around than on food. Metro Vancouver households spent less on transportation annually than CMAs such as Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, and Edmonton.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES IN METRO VANCOUVER
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2005.



Vancouver Foundation Grant

The Better Environmentally Sound Transportation Association (BEST) was given a $25,000 grant to research innovative successes in transportation. BEST's programs aim to reduce greenhouse emissions and address climate change. This project will contribute to wider public understanding of, and support for, sustainable transportation.



FOOD

Access to affordable, healthy, and local food makes a difference to our individual health, the resilience of our community, and the integrity of our environment. Food resources such as community gardens and farmers' markets increase the availability of local food, create opportunities for community development, and facilitate a better connection between residents and their food sources.

Local food resources are unevenly distributed throughout our region. Access to healthy, affordable food presents significant challenges to those on low or fixed incomes.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for getting our food, including factors such as organic food, value of agricultural exports, costs of healthy eating, food banks, children at risk of poor nutrition, "ocean wise" sustainable seafood programs…

C+

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

High Cost of Eating

In British Columbia, the cost of eating each month has increased by 4% since 2001 to $653 in 2006 for a family of four, based on two adults and two children. This increase presents particular challenges to families receiving income assistance because welfare incomes have not kept pace with this and other cost of living increases. Feeding a family of four on income assistance in BC requires 41% of household income, whereas a family of four with an average income of $51,000 requires 15% of household income to purchase the same items.

Growing Our Own Food

In 2002, 44% of Metro Vancouver residents reported that they grow some or all of their own food. Over half of those living in households with annual incomes over $60,000 grow some of their own food compared to only 20% of people earning under $30,000.

Community Gardens and 2010

Community gardens provide access to affordable, nutritious food and opportunities for community development. In 2005, there were 21 community gardens and a total of 926 plots in Vancouver.

By January 2006, the City of Vancouver reported 950 community garden plots. In May 2006, its City Council issued a challenge to encourage residents to create 2,010 new garden plots by January 1, 2010 as an Olympic legacy. Since January 2006, 200 new community garden plots have been created, for a total of 1,150 community garden plots in Vancouver.

Food Bank Users

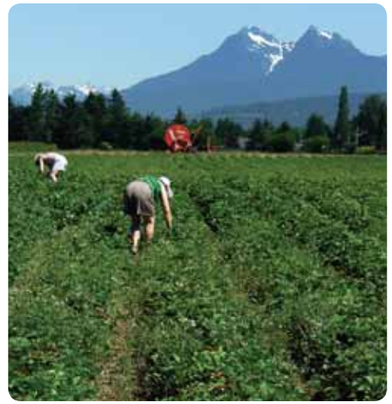
The Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society (GVFBS) provides access to emergency food for Metro Vancouver residents in need. The GVFBS feeds approximately 9,000 people each week through 18 depots located in Burnaby, New Westminster, Vancouver, and the North Shore. The GVFBS also provides access to food for another 16,000 individuals each week through aid to over 100 agencies in our region. Richmond, Surrey, Langley and Coquitlam also have independently-operated food banks.

Food Bank Donations

The Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society receives donations from a number of sources. Almost two-thirds (61%) of these donations come from the food industry, 8% from special events or food drives, and 6% from regular pick-ups at grocery store collection bins and fire hall drop-offs. The remaining 25% of supplies are purchased.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

Vancouver Foundation granted the DRS Earthwise Society $43,000 to establish a small scale, sustainable agriculture demonstration site in Delta. The project educates the public about how food is produced and the global implications of our individual food choices.



ARTS AND CULTURE

The arts have the power to enrich, educate, and inspire — enabling us to transform our environment and connect with our community. Cultural differences contribute to the vibrancy of our communities and our overall well-being. These elements craft our unique identity as a region and set us apart from other places.

Employment in cultural industries, as well as household and municipal spending on the arts, has increased over the past 20 years, with levels higher than the Canadian average and those of most other CMAs.

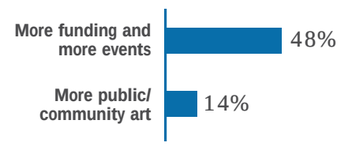
Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for the arts and cultural environment, including factors such as celebrations for diverse groups, employment in cultural industries, cultural spending, attendance at arts and cultural events…

B

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…



High Employment in Arts and Culture

The cultural sector encompasses a wide range of activities associated with the arts including publishing and broadcasting, film and video production, and the preservation of heritage. In 2006, this sector was directly responsible for just under 3% of employment in Metro Vancouver or 35,400 individuals, greater than the national average and the four other largest CMAs. Over 34% of our cultural workers were employed in the motion picture and video industries.

High Spending on the Arts

In 2005, the average household in Metro Vancouver spent $1,065 on arts and culture — purchasing artistic products, attending cultural events, and participating in artistic and cultural activities. This was 18% higher than the Canadian average of $900 per household, but lower than Ottawa CMA ($1,244) and Calgary CMA ($1,257).

At an average of $9.34 per capita, Metro Vancouver's 21 municipalities spent significantly more per capita on arts and culture initiatives in 2003 than municipalities in the other four major CMAs. The City of Vancouver spent $16.30 per capita in 2005.

Increased Diversity in Primary Language At Home

Vital Signs 2006 reported that a large proportion of Metro Vancouver residents speak a language other than English at home. Data for *Vital Signs 2007* refer specifically to the language spoken at home by students living in our region, with 38% speaking a language other than English. Chinese languages (Cantonese and Mandarin), spoken in 14% of households, were the most common foreign languages spoken while others included Punjabi, Korean, Tagalog (Filipino), Vietnamese, Spanish, and Hindi. In 2002/03, 35% of students spoke a language other than English at home.

Diversity in Religious Affiliation

While 73% of Canada's population is Catholic or Protestant, this is true of only 44% of those who live in Metro Vancouver. In our region, 21% of the population is affiliated with a religion other than Catholicism or Protestantism. The percentage of the population in Metro Vancouver with no religious affiliation, at 35%, is twice the national rate.

Arts Event Attendance Lower Than Other CMAs

Arts events are part of what Metro Vancouver's residents consider when engaging in cultural activities, but we do so less frequently than elsewhere in Canada. In 2005, 38% of Metro Vancouver residents attended a concert or performance, and 20% attended a cultural or artistic festival. These rates of attendance were below the national average and the rates of other CMAs, such as Toronto, Montréal and Victoria. Across the country, 44% attended a concert or performance and 26% attended a cultural festival.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

The Firehall Theatre Society received a $15,000 grant from Vancouver Foundation for the production of *Banana Boys*, a play which confronts stereotypes and breaks new ground in its portrayal of Asian men.

BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP

People contribute to their communities in many ways: volunteering at a local seniors' centre, voting in a municipal election, coaching a team, sitting on a Board of a community organization, or donating to the local food bank. Regardless of how people engage, the role we play in our community contributes to the level and quality of leadership and to the well-being of our region.

Our research shows that the most common way in which Metro Vancouver residents get involved is through volunteering.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for having citizens who are civically, economically, and socially engaged, including factors such as charitable donations, voter turnout, volunteerism, and inclusion of immigrants, First Nations and Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities…

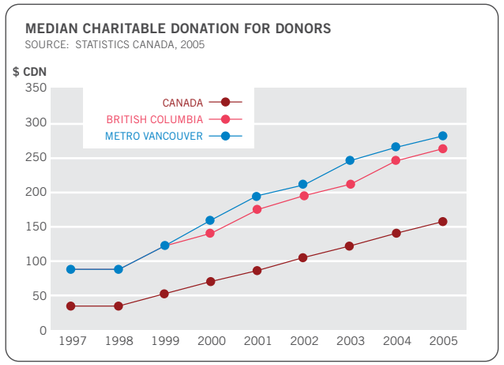
B–

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

Metro Vancouver Residents Give More

In 2005, the median charitable donation made by donors in Metro Vancouver was $310, rising from $300 in 2004. This was 29% higher than the national average and 3% higher than the provincial average. Since 1997, the median donation in Metro Vancouver has increased by 55%.



High Use of Recreation Facilities

In 2003, at 57% of the total population, Metro Vancouver residents' use of recreation facilities was one of the highest of the five largest CMAs in the country. In contrast, spending on memberships in social clubs and community organizations in Metro Vancouver falls below the amount spent by residents of most other CMAs.

Our Sense of Belonging

Approximately 63% of Metro Vancouver residents aged 12 and over feel a very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging within their community. This is marginally lower than the provincial average of 66%, and on par with the national average.

Rate of Volunteering

In 2004, the volunteer rate in Metro Vancouver for residents aged 15 years and over was 43%. Volunteering in Metro Vancouver is on the rise, but the 2004 rate was slightly below both the provincial and national rates of 45%.

Women in Politics

In 2007, 35.5% of Metro Vancouver's council members were women. This is above the national average of 28%.

Among the 21 municipalities of Metro Vancouver, there are five women mayors (24%), which is, again, more than the national average of 15%.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

Volunteer Vancouver was granted $60,000 for its GoVolunteer Probono Project, which links not-for-profit organizations with expert volunteers from the business world. Not-for-profit organizations benefit from the diverse skills and backgrounds of volunteers; employees develop leadership skills; and employers benefit from having employees who are engaged in community activity.

ENVIRONMENT

Metro Vancouver is home to a unique combination of ecosystems that make up our rich natural landscape. The environment is an important element of our regional identity and a key source of recreation and leisure. The quality of our air, water, and other natural environments is also closely linked to the health and wellness of our region's residents.

While our region has one of the lowest annual greenhouse gas emissions per capita, as compared to other Canadian CMAs, our production of solid waste is increasing. Our public opinion research shows that environmental issues are among the top five priorities requiring attention.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for the environment, including factors such as initiatives aimed at reducing impacts of climate change, the Agricultural Land Reserve, buildings with green technologies, carbon dioxide emissions, waste production, air and water quality…

C+

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

Protection of Agricultural Land

According to the 2006 Census, while the agricultural land in Metro Vancouver accounted for only 1.5% of the total farmed area across the province, it generated approximately 27.5% of BC's total gross farm receipts.

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) was established in the mid-1970s through cooperative efforts with regional districts and member municipalities to protect good agricultural land in the province.

In 2005, estimates put the ALR at 53,700 hectares. Between 2000 and 2005, within Metro Vancouver, 276 hectares of land were removed from the ALR and only two hectares were added.

Density and Smart Growth

Urban sprawl poses a direct threat to our agricultural land and other green spaces. In 1990, 51% of Metro Vancouver residents lived in 'compact communities' – communities with more than 12 residents per acre. By 2000, the number of individuals living in 'compact communities' had increased to 62%.

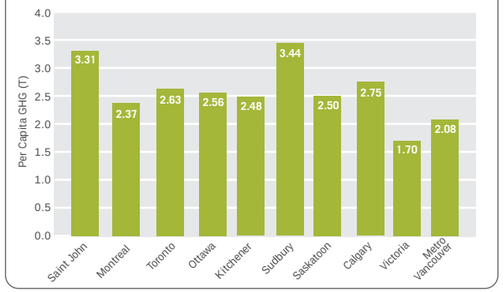
Decreasing Water Consumption

Last year, the annual average daily flow of water was 559 litres per capita in Metro Vancouver. This represents a 23% decrease in per capita water consumption from 20 years ago when the average daily consumption was 728 litres per capita. In 2004, Environment Canada estimated that 64% of this consumption was for residential use.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transportation

Transportation is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for approximately 40% of total emissions generated in BC. Metro Vancouver produced fewer greenhouse gas emissions from transportation per capita than the national average. In 2001, greenhouse gas emissions from automobile and truck transportation were 2.08 tonnes per capita in Metro Vancouver, compared with an average of 2.4 tonnes per capita across all CMAs surveyed.

ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORTATION PER CAPITA FOR SELECT CANADIAN CMAs, 2001
SOURCE: TRANSPORT CANADA, 2001



Waste and Recycling

In Metro Vancouver, the average resident produced 731 kg of waste in 2005, an increase from 692 kg of waste in 2004. This figure includes solid waste from residential and commercial sources. In 2004, the average BC resident disposed of 705 kg of waste of which 47% was diverted through recycling.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program at the British Columbia Institute for Technology (BCIT) received a $25,000 grant for a project that will engage, educate, and involve local business communities in enhancing the biodiversity of the Burnaby Lake System. This initiative will involve staff, students, and community partners and provide "hands-on" educational opportunities for all.

GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

Inadequate income increases the vulnerability of at-risk groups in our society: children, lone-parent families, newcomers, people with disabilities, seniors, and other marginalized populations.

In Metro Vancouver, the growing gap between the rich and the poor continues to be a pressing problem. Poverty rates among seniors and children remain a significant concern, particularly with over a quarter of our children living in poverty.

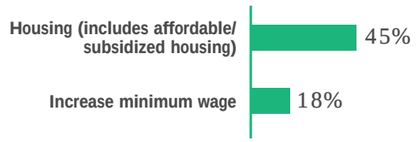
Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for economic equality, including factors such as income distribution, residents below the poverty line, child and elderly poverty rates, opportunities for newcomers and for First Nations and Aboriginal people, food bank usage…

D

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…



Minimum Wage and Basic Living Costs

The minimum wage in BC is currently $8.00 an hour. At this rate, a single person must work 38 hours per week to cover basic needs. A couple with two children needs to work more than 37 hours a week each to afford basic living expenses. While the minimum wage has not changed since 2001, the cost of living has increased 14% since then, making it more difficult to afford basic necessities.

Income Gap is Widening

The gap between the rich and the poor increased by 8% between 2001 and 2005.

In 2005, the average income for the richest 10% of the income spectrum in Metro Vancouver was $145,800, while the average income for the poorest 10% of Metro Vancouver's population was only $14,100. This means the richest 10% had average incomes 10.3 times more than the poorest 10%. In 2001, the richest 10% had average incomes 9.5 times higher than the poorest 10%.

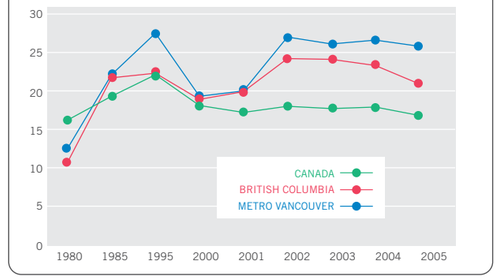
Declining Poverty Rate Among Elderly

In 2005, 18% of Metro Vancouver residents 65 years or older were living in poverty (below the pre-tax Low Income Cut-Off). This level decreased by 18 percentage points between 1980 and 2005. Now that the mandatory retirement age of 65 years is being eliminated by the provincial government, many seniors can opt to work longer in order to increase their income. Many seniors continue to live on a fixed income, however, which can make them vulnerable to poverty and rising costs.

Child Poverty Remains a Concern

In 2005, 26% of children and youth under 18 years of age in Metro Vancouver lived in families with household incomes below the poverty line (below the pre-tax Low Income Cut-Off). Although the proportion of children living in poverty in our region dropped slightly between 2004 and 2005, child poverty rates have more than doubled since 1980 when the rate was only 12.5%. The incidence of child poverty across our region is high when compared to the overall rate for Canada — 17% in 2005.

CHILD POVERTY RATE FOR CANADA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND METRO VANCOUVER, 1980–2005
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2005



Overall Poverty Rate

In 2005, the overall pre-tax poverty rate (the proportion of individuals falling below the Low Income Cut-Off) for people living in Metro Vancouver was 20%. Metro Vancouver, along with Montréal and Victoria, had the highest proportion of residents living in poverty among major Canadian CMAs. The overall regional poverty rate has climbed since 1980 but declined 8% from 2000 to 2005.

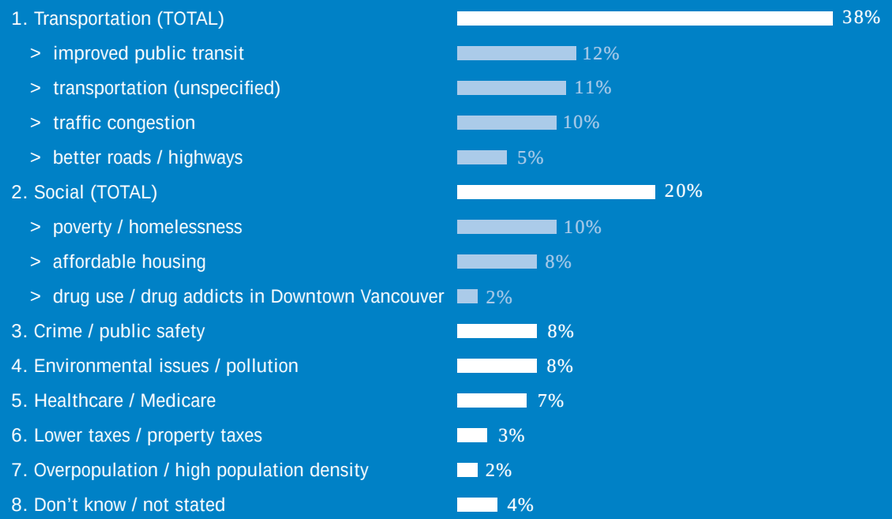
Vancouver Foundation Grant

To ensure that families facing severe social, economic, and health challenges are able to access community resources and services, the Mount Pleasant Inner City Network – Mount Pleasant Family Connections Project was implemented last year. The Project, coordinated through the YMCA and supported by a $21,000 grant from Vancouver Foundation, educates families on how to research and access the resources related to their particular needs.

2007 Public Opinion Survey

In June and July 2007, Vancouver Foundation commissioned Ipsos Reid to conduct a public opinion survey of Metro Vancouver residents to identify two things: issues that need to be addressed regionally; and how respondents themselves are contributing to the quality of life in their communities.

What is the single most important issue you would like to see addressed to improve the overall quality of life in the Greater Vancouver Regional District?*

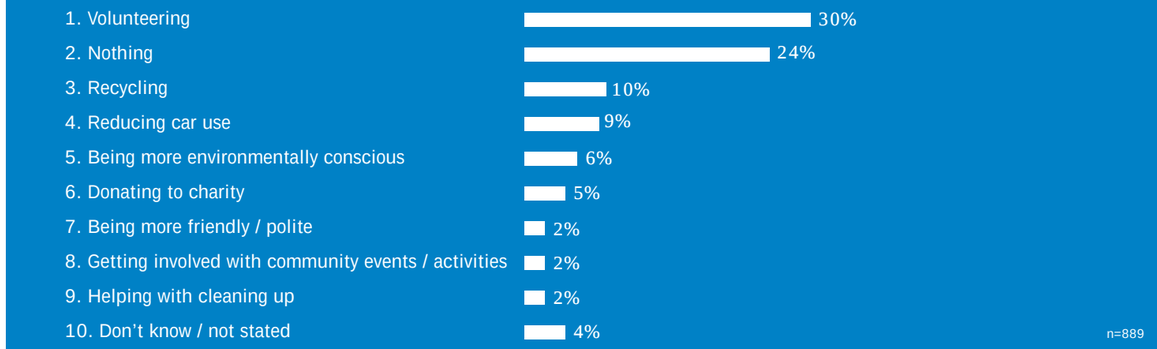


*now Metro Vancouver
n=889

Summary:

To improve Metro Vancouver's overall quality of life, respondents identified transportation as the single most important issue in need of attention (38%). Social issues were also perceived to be in need of attention (20%).

Over the last 12 months, what actions, if any, have you taken in your own life to make a positive difference in your community?



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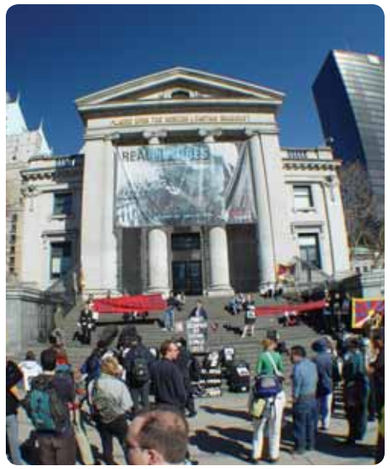
Summary:

Most citizens have made an effort to have a positive impact on their community over the past 12 months. However, one-quarter (24%) of respondents specifically say they have not done anything in this regard. Overall, the most common activity is volunteer work, mentioned by 30% of respondents.

METHODOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid telephone poll conducted between June and July 2007. The poll is based on a randomly-selected representative sample of 889 adult Metro Vancouver residents. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 3.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Metro Vancouver population been polled. The margin of error will be larger for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Metro Vancouver population according to the 2001 Census data.



GETTING STARTED

The future of our region relies on our children and youth and how they are supported during their formative years. Newcomers are also integral to our region's future. They contribute to its cultural richness, economic vibrancy, and are an essential source of labour and skills. Our ability to welcome and integrate these newcomers into our communities is critical to their well-being and to the cohesiveness of our region.

Employment prospects for youth are good in Metro Vancouver, but immigrants (including those arriving with high levels of education) are earning significantly less than their native-born counterparts.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for the ease of getting started in our community, including factors such as migration, employment opportunities for immigrants and youth, childcare and early childhood education, English as a Second Language (ESL) courses…

C

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

Growing Gap Between Average Household Income and Mortgage Qualification

In 2005, the household income required to qualify for an average mortgage, assuming a 10% down payment in Metro Vancouver, was $80,000. Homeowners are generally advised that their housing costs, or 'gross debt ratio' (GDR) cannot exceed 35% of their income. The average household income across Metro Vancouver is just over $51,000 or approximately 63% of what is required to qualify for the average mortgage, assuming a 10% down payment.

Immigrants Have High Education, Low Wages

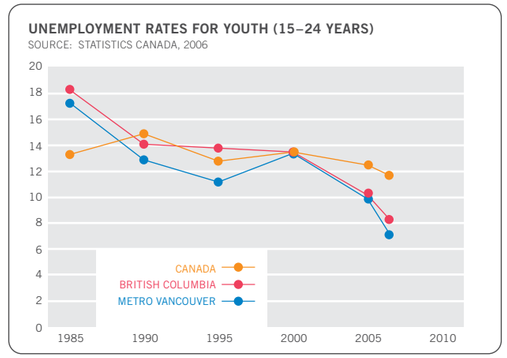
Immigrants arriving in Canada between 1996 and 2000 had higher levels of education on average than the Canadian-born population. Yet, in 2001, the unemployment rate of immigrants who arrived in Metro Vancouver during this period was almost double that of the non-immigrant population. The average individual income for immigrants was just over $18,000, or 52% of the income earned by non-immigrants. In British Columbia, the average income of recent immigrants was 59% of that of non-immigrants. At the national level, this figure was 66%.

Limited Licensed Child Care

In 2007, there were 9,900 licensed child care spaces in the city of Vancouver. This number was sufficient to serve 15.5% of children up to the age of 12 in the city.

Youth Unemployment Rates

In 2006, the unemployment rate for youth (15-24 years old) in Metro Vancouver was 7%, the lowest level recorded since 1987 when 17% of our region's youth were without work. The 2006 figure was 15% below the provincial youth unemployment rate and 40% below the national average.



Vancouver Foundation Grant

The recent influx of African refugees to Canada – often from war-torn countries – has seen the reunion of families that had once been displaced and separated. Young immigrants to this community often struggle with low self-esteem while coping with integration issues. Vancouver Foundation granted $25,000 to the Umoja Operation Compassion Society of BC to develop its youth services programs, with the goal of promoting leadership skills and self-esteem.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our health is influenced by the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, where we live, as well as the food we eat, our level of physical activity and other lifestyle decisions. Our well-being relates to feelings of confidence and control, relationships with others, opportunities to participate in public life, and community support.

Life expectancies in Metro Vancouver are among the highest in Canada and are climbing. Despite the fact that residents of our region are among the most physically fit in the country, we have the lowest self-rated health and mental wellness.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for the health and wellness of its citizens, including factors such as birth weight, life expectancy, obesity, substance abuse and smoking, mental health support programs, other health programs and services, physical activity…

B

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

Life Expectancy

As of 2006, the average resident of Metro Vancouver could expect to live to 82 years of age. Life expectancies in Metro Vancouver have increased steadily over the past two decades and are the highest of all of the other major CMAs in Canada. Women are living longer than men, but the gap has narrowed from a difference of six years in 1987-1991 to 4.4 years in 2002-2006.

Worrisome Obesity and Rates of Physical Activity Trends

Weight issues and obesity now rival smoking as a cause of illness and premature death. Two key factors contributing to this trend are what we eat and how often we exercise.

Metro Vancouver has one of the most active populations in Canada, but rates of physical activity have decreased in recent years. Furthermore, while rates of overweight individuals declined in Toronto, Montréal, and Calgary between 2003 and 2005, they increased in Metro Vancouver.

Self-Rated Health and Mental Wellness

In 2005, 58% of Metro Vancouver residents rated their general health as being either excellent or very good and 70% considered themselves in very good or excellent mental health. These ratings were below the provincial average and the lowest of all CMAs, despite the fact that Metro Vancouver residents are healthier than those in most other CMAs.

Avoidable Hospitalization Rates Down Slightly

The rate of hospitalization for conditions that might have been avoided with proper management and care in 2005 ranged between 190 and 285 per 100,000 people in the health service delivery areas of Metro Vancouver. Between 2002 and 2005, the average rate of such hospitalizations in Metro Vancouver dropped by 3%.

Number of Practicing Physicians

The number of active physicians (family practitioners and specialists) was 231 per 100,000 population in Metro Vancouver in 2005. This is 21% higher than the national ratio and represents a slight increase from 228 in 2000. This ratio must be considered alongside a number of related factors including distribution of physicians within the region, physician type, levels of service provided, numbers of other health care providers, and physician age.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

The World Health Organization has warned that a sedentary lifestyle is a serious yet insufficiently addressed public health issue. Vancouver Foundation granted the UBC School of Rehabilitation Sciences $50,000 to follow up its study of the relationship between chronic illness and physical activity in older individuals.

HOUSING

An adequate mix of safe and affordable housing benefits individuals, families, and the community-at-large. How and where our housing is built and organized in relation to employment, public amenities, transportation, and community services shape how we experience our region. Housing density and affordability also determine how far we must travel to meet our everyday needs.

The number of housing starts in our region doubled from 2000 to 2005. Meanwhile, homelessness – particularly the number of street homeless – more than tripled.

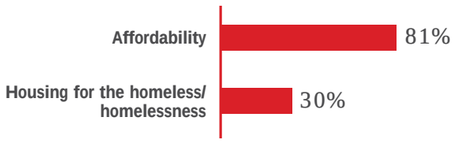
Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for housing, including factors such as density and cost of housing, housing affordability, levels of homelessness, rental vacancies and rates, subsidized housing, housing relative to work, recreation, learning…

D

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…



Residential Prices and Median Income

The ratio of average residential prices to median census family pre-tax income is used as a general measure of the affordability of home ownership. In 2005, the Metro Vancouver average house price was 7.2 times the median census family pre-tax income. This is significantly above the national average of 4.1. This number has continued to increase so that Metro Vancouver has the least affordable housing among all *Vital Signs* communities, based on this measure.

High Demand Reduces Rental Vacancy Rates

The vacancy rate provides a measure of the health of the rental housing market. A vacancy rate of 2.5% is considered to offer consumers a reasonable degree of choice and landlords a reasonable return on their investments. Metro Vancouver has continued to experience ongoing tight rental market conditions. The most recent conventional rental market data in early 2007 are: overall vacancy rate: 0.9%; one bedroom: 0.7%; two bedroom: 1.2%; and three bedroom: 3.2%.

Housing Starts

Housing starts are an important measure of the health of the housing supply sector and the economic well-being of our region. The number of housing starts across our region has continued to remain near capacity, with 18,705 new housing starts reported in 2006. This is slightly below the levels reported in 2005. Adding new housing stock is critical to meeting future demand as our population grows.

Households in Core Housing Need Remains High

Individuals unable to find housing that is suitable in size and in good repair without spending 30% or more of their household income on shelter are considered to be in "core housing need." In 2000, approximately 28% of all renters and 9% of all owners across Metro Vancouver were in core housing need. Of the households that were in core housing need, almost half were spending at least 50% of their income on housing.

Using a more moderate measure of affordability (excluding the criteria of size and level of repair), the proportion of households that paid more than 30% of their income on shelter was 43% for renters and 24% for home owners.

Street Homeless Population Increases

In 2005, during the 24-hour regional homelessness count, 2,174 people were found to be homeless across Metro Vancouver. This includes individuals living on the streets as well as those staying in emergency shelters. Between 2002 and 2005, there was a significant increase in the number of street homeless – going from 333 people in 2002 to 1,127 in 2005. These findings suggest that, of the homeless individuals identified in the 2005 survey, over 50% were not staying in emergency shelters but were living outside.

NUMBER OF HOMELESS
SOURCE: METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT AND SPARC BC, 2005

NUMBER OF HOMELESS	2002	2005	% CHANGE
SHELTERED HOMELESS	788	1,047	33%
STREET HOMELESS	333	1,127	238%
TOTAL HOMELESS	1,121	2,174	94%

Vancouver Foundation Grant

Vancouver Foundation made a $100,000 grant to the Phoenix Drug & Alcohol Recovery and Education Society to assist those who most often have difficulty finding housing. The grant was used towards construction costs of the Centre's multi-service housing facility in Surrey which offers shelter beds, short-stay drug and alcohol stabilization, and longer-term transitional housing.

LEARNING

Learning is central to our development as individuals and how we live. The learning we do in our early years establishes a life-long foundation. Access to opportunities to acquire knowledge is important throughout our lives.

Levels of learning are shaped by our home environment, our educational system, and other institutions such as libraries, child care facilities, workplaces, and community centres. Metro Vancouver's libraries are among the most heavily used in the country. Enrolment in continuing education programs is declining.

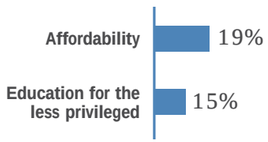
Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for learning and education, including factors such as literacy, educational attainment, high school graduation, skills development and lifelong learning opportunities, continuing education, programs for at-risk youth, immigrants, refugees, and First Nations/Aboriginal people, library usage…

B

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…



Learning Overall

The Composite Learning Index (CLI) is a national index that evaluates the state of learning in our community. The CLI is based on statistical indicators that reflect the different ways Canadians learn — in school, home, at work, and in their community. According to the 2007 CLI, the overall index score for Metro Vancouver was 82. This was higher than the Canadian score of 76 and a 9% increase from our region's score in 2006. Metro Vancouver is ranked eighth of the 11 *Vital Signs* communities; Calgary has the highest score of 93.

Vulnerabilities in Early Childhood Development

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures the developmental well-being of kindergarten children over time. Approximately 30% of children in Metro Vancouver were considered vulnerable on at least one of the five scales measured by the EDI during the 2004 - 2007 data collection. This proportion increased from 27% vulnerability during the 2000 - 2003 data collection.

Continuing Education Participation Decreases

The number of adults attending continuing education programs in our region is one measure of interest in lifelong learning. In the 2006/07 school year, 10,753 students in Metro Vancouver school districts attended continuing education programs in public schools. This represents a 19% decrease in enrolment from 2002/03.

High Library Usage

Libraries in Metro Vancouver have among the highest visitation and usage rates in the country. In 2006, an average of 8.6 visits per capita were made to libraries in the region for which data is available, and an average of 16 materials were borrowed per capita. Average per capita circulation rates in Metro Vancouver increased by 10% between 2000 and 2006.

Slight Increase in High School Completion Rate

Students in BC who graduate within six years of starting grade 8 receive a Dogwood Diploma. Dogwood completion rates have increased in all school districts across Metro Vancouver since 2001.

Completion rates for First Nations and Aboriginal students continue to be troublesome. These rates are well below and, in some cases, less than half that of non-First Nations and Aboriginal students, although completion rates for First Nations and Aboriginal students are rising. The 2005/06 rates for these students were between 2% and 12% higher than in 2001/02, depending on the school district. In a number of districts, the rate of increase was higher than that for non-First Nations and non-Aboriginal students.

Increasing Rates of Post-Secondary Education

In Metro Vancouver, 51% of the population in 2006 had completed post-secondary education (university degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma). This is 5% above the national average and 9% above the provincial average. The proportion of the population with post-secondary education has been continuously increasing since 1990.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

The Vancouver Foundation awarded Options: Services to Communities Society a $40,000 grant in support of programs for youth who are most at risk of dropping out of school. Their programs are intended to facilitate the successful reintegration of youth into alternative school programs.

SAFETY

The way our neighbourhoods are planned, emergency preparedness, policing measures, and the extent to which we feel empowered to protect ourselves are key factors that influence our feeling of safety.

Property and violent crime rates have been decreasing across the region since the 1990s, although crime rates are still higher than the national average. Looking ahead, given emerging research on climate change, we face a greater likelihood of significant storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for safety, including factors such as violent crime, property crime, youth crime, policing, community perceptions of crime, emergency preparedness, workplace safety and accident prevention, traffic deaths and injuries…

B–

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

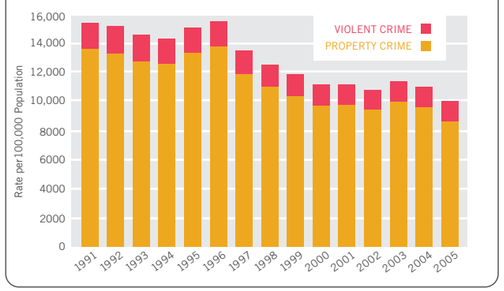
Sustained Levels of Child Safety

In 2005/06, 84% of students in grades 3 and 4 and 80% of grade 7 students in Metro Vancouver reported feeling safe at school. Less than 10% of students in both age groups indicated that they were bullied, teased, or picked on. Student perceptions of safety in school have remained relatively constant over time.

Lower Crime Rates

Crime rates have decreased significantly in Metro Vancouver over the past decade. Since 1996, the rate of property crime has decreased by 43% and violent crime has declined by 17%, but rates of both property and violent crime in Metro Vancouver have been considerably higher than both provincial and national averages since the early 1990s.

RATES OF PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIME IN METRO VANCOUVER (1991–2005)
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2006



Perceptions of Safety

Ninety per cent (90%) of Metro Vancouver residents are either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their level of personal safety. This is three percentage points below the provincial rate and lower than most Canadian CMAs. (In Calgary, 96% of residents are satisfied.) Thirty-eight per cent (38%) of Metro Vancouver residents feel that crime is less of a problem in their neighbourhood than it was five years ago.

Higher Risk in Flood Plain

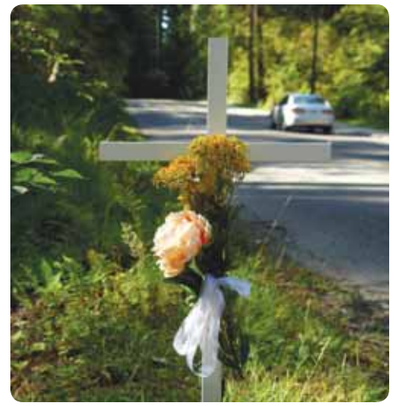
In 2001, 13% of the Metro Vancouver population lived in the flood plain area, the low-lying ground surrounding the Fraser River's arms and shorelines. Since 1981, this area has experienced greater population growth than other parts of the region, a trend that increases Metro Vancouver's vulnerability in the event of a major flood.

Youth Crime

Rates for crime committed by youth in Metro Vancouver are slightly above the provincial average for violent crime but below the BC average for property crime and crime rates overall.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

Research shows that older drivers are more likely than others to be involved in multiple-vehicle accidents. To help improve road safety, Vancouver Foundation issued a $30,000 grant to the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation in support of its Mature Drivers Workshop. The project trains volunteer seniors to conduct workshops for their peers, focusing on increasing awareness of road safety and strategies to improve driving skills.



WORK

Our ability to engage in adequate, meaningful, safe, and rewarding opportunities for work is central to our overall quality of life. The availability of secure work for living wages is essential to our regional economy.

The quality of our workforce contributes to Metro Vancouver's competitiveness in national and international markets. While unemployment is at a 20-year low, some sub-populations are experiencing barriers to entering our region's labour force, including immigrants and First Nations and Aboriginal people.

Citizen Grade

Metro Vancouver's grade for employment and work, including factors such as employment opportunities, unemployment rates, wages, new businesses, bankruptcies, part-time workers, competitive capacity…

B

Priorities

The top two priorities that need to be addressed in the next year, in the opinion of the *Vital Signs* citizen grading panel…

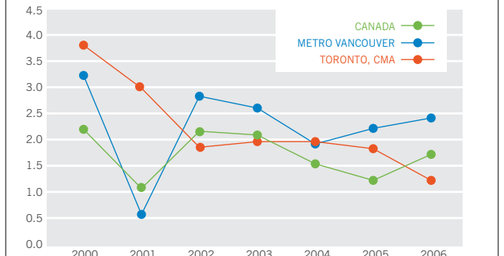
Days Lost Due to Illness/Disability

In 2006, 7.1 days of work were lost per full-time employee in Metro Vancouver due to illness or disability, a decline from 8.4 days in 2005. Men lost 7.5 days to illness or disability compared to 6.7 days lost by women.

Average Employment Growth

Metro Vancouver experienced average employment growth of 2.6% between 1987 and 2006. This was above both the national rate of 1.5% and the provincial rate of 2.5%. In 2006 the 2.7% employment growth in Metro Vancouver was almost double that of Toronto CMA where employment growth was 1.4%.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH FOR CANADA, TORONTO, AND METRO VANCOUVER 2000–2006
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2005



Involuntary Part-Time Workers

While some choose to work part-time, others must take part-time jobs involuntarily because they are unable to find full-time work. In 2006, 19% of Metro Vancouver's workers were employed part-time, most of this by choice.

The proportion of total workers who were involuntary part-time workers in Metro Vancouver during 2006 was 3.9%. This is down from 4.5% in 1997 and is slightly lower than the national average of 4.3%.

Unpaid Care for Seniors & Children

In 2001, 18% of Metro Vancouver residents reported providing unpaid care to seniors, compared to 36% who reported providing unpaid care to children. This will be an interesting trend to watch over time as our population ages.

Unemployment Rate Declines

In 2006, the unemployment rate in Metro Vancouver was 4%, the lowest in 20 years. This was well below the national level (6%) and slightly below the provincial level (5%). The unemployment rate in Metro Vancouver has decreased by over seven percentage points from its 1987 peak of 12%.

Vancouver Foundation Grant

The Neil Squire Society was awarded a $155,000 grant by Vancouver Foundation for the Assistive Technology Employment Centres (ATEC) Network Project. Five centres will be established across BC to help more people with disabilities gain experience with "assistive technology." Once an assessment is done, appropriate devices can be provided, enabling individuals with special needs to work in a wider variety of employment situations.

Regional Indicators By Population Group

Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs reports on key areas and indicators that evaluate the overall wellness and livability of our region. This year, we take a closer look at issues and trends for five population groups: children and youth, seniors, immigrants, First Nations and Aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities.

Here are some highlights:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and youth are our region's future. It is important that we ensure their safety and their capacity to learn and grow as individuals.

Children Accessing Food Banks

> One-third of the Metro Vancouver Food Bank's clients are children under the age of 18 – 7,500 children use this resource every week (2007).

Child Safety

> The child abuse rate in Metro Vancouver (ages 0 – 18) is five per 1,000 population (2006). The rate has not changed since 2001. This is lower than the provincial rate of nine per 1,000 population.

> Eighty-four per cent (84%) of students in grades 3 and 4, and 80% of grade 7 students, reported feeling safe at school (2005/06).

SENIORS

While the number of seniors living below the poverty line in our region has decreased, a significant proportion struggle to keep up on a fixed income.

Poverty Rate for Seniors Living on Their Own

> Forty per cent (40%) of seniors living on their own in Metro Vancouver live below the poverty line (2005).

> Metro Vancouver had the second highest senior poverty rate in Canada in 2005, although this rate has declined over the years.

Cost of Eating

> Single older females spend on average $162 per month (30% of their disposable income) on food (2006). Food costs, plus the average shelter cost of $634 and the rising costs of living, present real constraints.

More comprehensive regional findings by population group can be found on our web site at **www.vancouverfoundation.ca**.

IMMIGRANTS

Newcomers to our region contribute to cultural vitality and economic growth, bringing skills and experience to all of our communities.

Immigrant Education Levels

> Nearly 55% of recent immigrants arriving in Metro Vancouver had some post-secondary education, compared to 49% of Metro Vancouver's non-immigrant population (2001).

Immigrant Unemployment

> The unemployment rate for those who entered the region between 1996 and 2000 was 13%, well above the national and provincial unemployment rates for immigrants.

FIRST NATIONS AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

While First Nations and Aboriginal people grapple with complex and challenging issues, current research points to some encouraging trends.

Employment Rates

> Between 1996 and 2001, unemployment rates decreased by one third for First Nations and Aboriginal people living in Metro Vancouver, while rates for the non-First Nations and non-Aboriginal population remained basically the same.

> During the same period, the employment rate for First Nations and Aboriginal people increased to 54% from 50%.

First Nations and Aboriginal People Speaking Traditional Languages

> In 2001, only 2% of First Nations and Aboriginal children could understand their primary language very well and even fewer could speak it very well, although this is higher than in the past.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Perceptions of inability is one of the greatest obstacles facing persons with disabilities, even though rates of achievement are often at the same level as non-disabled individuals in our region.

Education

> The proportion of persons with disabilities who have completed some level of post-secondary education is on par with that of the general population.

Employment

> Forty-four per cent (44%) of persons with disabilities in BC are employed, yet levels of unemployment remain higher than those of the general population.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of the organizations and individuals who have provided guidance, information and statistics, financial and distribution assistance, and other forms of support for *Metro Vancouver's Vital Signs 2007*.

Vital Signs® is based on a project originated by the Toronto Community Foundation and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC). Special thanks to the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation for its generous support of the national expansion of *Vital Signs*.

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Thanks to the 418 Metro Vancouver residents who responded to our invitation to participate as Citizen Graders.

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Regional Vancouver Urban Observatory (RVu), Simon Fraser University

Ipsos Reid

Centre for the Study of Living Standards

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Hangar 18 Creative

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Photo of the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) employee courtesy of the PNE

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MING PAO DAILY NEWS

PARTICIPATING *VITAL SIGNS* COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Vancouver Foundation acknowledges our partnership with ten other community foundations releasing *Vital Signs* reports in 2007: Victoria, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Ottawa, Toronto, Sudbury, Waterloo Region, Montréal and Saint John. To access their reports, visit **www.vitalsignscanada.ca**.

About Vancouver Foundation

Vancouver Foundation is the largest community foundation in Canada and one of North America's oldest.

We are driven by the goal "to create positive and lasting impacts in communities in British Columbia."

How do we do this? We bring together generous donors (large and small, individuals, organizations and corporations) and link their contributions to important work that addresses the needs and improves the lives of people in communities across the province.

As a foundation, we play many roles. We are a leader in philanthropy, encouraging new ideas and new ways of giving. We are a funder, working individually and collectively with our partners to provide financial support to important community organizations and projects. We are often a convenor, linking together individuals and groups that have a common desire to address an issue. And at other times, we are a partner, working hand-in-hand with others to make a lasting difference.

Our work is only possible because of our many donors. It is their commitment to giving back to the communities where they have lived, worked, and prospered that underpins the success of Vancouver Foundation.

It is our donors' gifts that help support the many projects that Vancouver Foundation funds each year, including this edition of *Vital Signs*.

We are proud to say our donors not only invest with Vancouver Foundation, but they also benefit from our knowledge of community issues; our connections with others who share an interest in an issue; our experience in evaluating and giving grants; and our flexibility in meeting their financial and philanthropic needs.

Currently, Vancouver Foundation manages endowments worth approximately $800 million.

In 2006, the income generated from the investment of those endowments allowed us to distribute approximately $40 million to communities.

To find out more about our work, our granting areas, or how you can make a donation to support important community initiatives, go to our website:

www.vancouverfoundation.ca

VANCOUVER FOUNDATION

Vancouver Foundation – Granting Areas

- > Animal Welfare
- > Arts & Culture
- > Children, Youth & Families
- > Education
- > Environment
- > Health & Social Development
- > Health & Medical Research
- > Youth Leadership

VANCOUVER
FOUNDATION

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TREES SAVED	WATER SAVED (gals)	NET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCED (lbs)	WOOD SAVED (lbs)	LANDFILL REDUCED (lbs)	ENERGY REDUCED (BTU)
26	8730	5285	8000	281	15 million

Vancouver Foundation, 2016

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